



**Michigan Association
of Law Libraries**

NEWSLETTER—FALL 2019



**MichALL President
Jane Meland
PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

Greetings everyone. It's hard to believe that the end of 2019 is just a few short weeks away. While the focus of much of our attention this fall was on the joint meeting with ORALL, we are gearing up for our spring education meeting and board elections. Here's an update.

ORALL & MichALL 70th Annual Meeting and Conference

The ORALL and MichALL joint conference held in October at the Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, Ohio was a tremendous success. The conference was well attended and included librarians from across the mid-west, even some coming from as far away as Iowa. The two-day conference featured plentiful networking opportunities and excellent programming. One of the highlights of the meeting was the keynote address by Professor Joshua A. Douglas from the University of Kentucky who spoke on election voting rights. His presentation featured real life narratives from his book, *Vote for US: How to Take Back our Elections and Change the Future of Voting*. Of interest to Michiganders, was his discussion of Katie Fahey, the activist who helped get Michigan's anti-gerrymandering amendment on the 2018 ballot.

I also want to recognize and thank MichALL members Robin Linkowski and Jan Bissett for serving as our representatives on the joint local arrangements committee for the ORALL-MichALL annual meeting. They did a great job helping with conference logistics and accommodations.

MichALL Spring 2020 Education Meeting

If you were unable to attend the fall education meeting, I have good news for you, we are already planning our spring education meeting which will take place on Friday, May 15, 2020 at the Michigan State University College of Law. The program agenda is starting to take shape and our featured speaker is University of Michigan Professor, Nina A. Mendelson. Professor Mendelson, co-authored an amicus curiae brief in the *State of Georgia v. Public.Resource.Org, Inc.* case, which is currently pending in the U.S. Supreme Court (see brief here: https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/18/18-1150/119114/20191016121945307_Mendelson%20Amicus%20brief%20-%20final.pdf). The case has to do with the copyrightability of state legislative codes and open access to state government legal materials. It should be an interesting discussion. Stay tuned for more details about the spring meeting.

MichALL Board Elections

The MichALL nominating committee will be forming early in January and will be seeking nominations for the following board positions: Treasurer, Vice President/President Elect and Member at Large. Look for a listserv announcement sometime in early February.

Wishing all of you a peaceful and happy new year!

Best regards,

Jane Meland

Interim Director

Michigan State University College of Law, Schaefer Law Library

MichALL 2019 SPRING MEETING

By Marlene Coir, Reference Librarian, Arthur Neef Law Library, Wayne State University

A successful MichALL Spring meeting took place on Friday, May 17, 2019 at Michigan State University College of Law. Clare Membiela, *Library Law Consultant, Library of Michigan*, spoke on laws governing libraries within the State of Michigan. Clare highlighted issues involving control and governance of local public and regional libraries. She also discussed the Library Laws Handbook. See especially p. 238 et seq. for links to legislation such as The Library of Michigan Act, Regional Libraries Act, Consolidation of Township Libraries Act, and Transfer of Public Libraries Act. Library Laws Handbook:
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/libraryofmichigan/LM_2013_MI_Library_Laws_Handbook_423082_7.pdf

Michelle Wu, Associate Dean for Library Services and Professor of Law at Georgetown Law School, spoke on Controlled Digital Lending (CDL). CDL is a method libraries can use to shift collections from physical/print formats to digital formats while complying with copyright and core library interests in ownership, access and preservation. CDL can be employed to increase discoverability and accessibility of library collections while also supporting preservation interests. For those interested in expanding their knowledge of CDL and the legal rationale behind it, additional information can be found at <https://controlledigitalending.org/>

Greg Lambert, past president of AALL (2017-2018), presented as the AALL chapter visitor. He spoke about activities and updates in law libraries and librarianship at the national level.

MichALL FALL MEETING:

By Kathryn Polgar Collection Development Librarian, Arthur Neef Law Library, Wayne State University



Ohio Kentucky Indiana and Michigan

The MichALL Fall meeting was a joint meeting/conference with ORALL (Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries) and was held at the Kalahari resort in Sandusky Ohio with a theme of Make a Splash: Advocate, Educate and Innovate. The meeting/conference was well attended and consisted of presentations by both ORALL and MichALL



Photo by Jan Bissett

members. Joshua Douglas, Thomas P. Lewis Professor of Law at the University of Kentucky opened the conference with a Program on voting: “Vote for Us: How to Take Back our Elections and Change the Future of Voting”. He discussed positive initiatives toward voting rights reform including ways to expand and empower the electorate, voter registration reform and gerrymandering. For more information here is a link to his website:

<https://joshuaadouglas.com/>

Insightful presentations by MichALL members included: ***Rethinking Law Reference Services: Who, Where, What, When, & How?*** -- Virginia Thomas, Patrick Meyer, & Jane Meland; ***Crowdsourcing Your Problems*** -- Michelle Graff, Erin Waltz, & Robin Linkowski; ***Faculty Scholarship in the Life of the Library – Come On In, the Water’s Fine!*** – Jan Bissett, Kathryn Polgar, & Michael Samson. Other topics covered during the conference were weeding a collection, how collaboration increases student participation in voluntary library training, learner centered teaching, staying relevant in your profession, experiences as an international observer at Guantanamo, essentials for legal research, navigating workplace culture, and much more. Presentations were educational and all were well attended. Here is a link to the presentation materials:

https://orall.org/?page_id=2371

The conference afforded MichALL members an opportunity to meet and network with law librarians from Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. The conference ended with a choice between a tour of the Merry Go Round Museum or of the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential library and Museum. Members also got to enjoy game night, dine arounds and the Kalahari resort spa and waterpark.



Photo by Jan Bissett



Photo by Jan Bissett

2019 AALL ANNUAL MEETING, “CAPITALIZING ON OUR STRENGTHS”- Washington, D.C.

By Jan Bissett, Reference & Faculty Liaison Services Librarian, Arthur Neef Law Library, Wayne State University



Library of Congress photo by Kathryn Polgar

I enjoyed the ‘Capitalizing on our Strengths’ theme at the annual conference in Washington, D.C. The educational programs I attended focused mainly on faculty scholarship, research tools, and legal research competency, all directly related to my job responsibilities. But I also explored programs specific to the District of Columbia - the Host City Roundtable: *Capital Lawyers – The Supreme Court Bar in the Nation’s History*, as well as *To Catch A Thief: How the Librarians and Archivists at the Folger Shakespeare Library Masterminded the Recovery of the Durham First Folio*. In addition, *Embracing Sustainable Innovation Initiatives to Build a Future-Focused Library* and *The Search Committee: An Effective Approach to Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in Library Recruiting* rounded out my program attendance.

These sessions, as well as those addressing topics I routinely attend, help me evaluate where our library, and my skills and interests fit into a particular area or service. They provide fresh and appealing ideas that may potentially engage our students, faculty and community users.

Attending the conference also allowed me to participate in service opportunities. As a member of the AALL Annual Meeting Poster Award Jury, I worked with the other jury members to evaluate the over twenty submissions. The evaluation process was electronically accessed, well organized, and well led. It’s fascinating to see what others are working on and the creativity used to communicate outcomes to association members. Congratulations to Benjamin Keele and Susan David deMain for their thoughtful, well done and well- presented poster, “Stepping Up Access to the Indiana Code”.



The Capital Photo by Kathryn Polgar

I regularly attend the AALL *Conference of Law Library Educators* (COLLE) on the last morning of the conference. This group, while varying from year to year, includes those who teach in library/information sciences programs and communicates what's been going on with our colleagues and the schools – courses offered, resources used in teaching law library related subjects, anecdotes about student interest as well as educational trends. Led by Penny Hazelton until her retirement, the group has been coordinated for the past few years by Dr. Yvonne Chandler, Department of Information Sciences, College of Information, University of North

Texas. In March 2019, the Private Law Librarian and Information Professionals (PLLIP) My Communities list had a lively discussion on “Discontinued law librarianship courses or programs at library schools” culminating in an Executive Agenda Item re library student outreach, a proposal for a task force to “...Create recommendations for increasing interest in law librarianship through outreach and/or enhanced education in legal research”. [AALL Executive Board Agenda Item for Consideration (March 11, 2019), PLLIP community.aallnet.org]. PLLIP members were concerned about students without law degrees being made aware of law library employment opportunities and the seeming receding availability of legal information related resources and administration courses. I was eager to hear about the status of this request as well as any interaction with COLLE. A special committee has been approved, [the Law Librarianship as a Career Guidance Review](#), chaired by Heather Braithwaite Simmons, and includes two members from the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. Heather attended the COLLE meeting and I look forward to hearing about the work of this special committee in the next year.



Supreme Court photo by Kathryn Polgar

The AALL annual conference provides interaction with colleagues from different geographic areas and types of law libraries with experiences other than my own. I was able to meet new colleagues and catch up with those I see only at the annual conference. These interactions are extremely valuable to me because I'm exposed to what others are doing in areas of interest to me, as well as being able to gain insights about ways to approach issues that may have been challenging in my library. It allows me the opportunity to evaluate professional priorities outside of my library and it's a way to see another side of our profession.

*Originally published in [2019 \(No. 3\) ORALL Newsletter 18 \(2019\)](#), this entry has been edited for the MichALL Newsletter.

RECAP: 2019 MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

By Michelle LaLonde, Librarian, Arthur Neef Law Library, Wayne State University

The 2019 Michigan Library Association chose “Open Doors” as the theme for its 2019 Annual Conference. It was intended to get librarians to think about ways we can make our libraries more inclusive for the patrons and user groups we currently serve—and for others we could also be serving, but currently do not.

Wednesday morning’s opening keynote address was by Dr. Steve Robbins, who gave a talk called “Your Brain is Good at Inclusion...Except When It’s Not.” He discussed some of the barriers our brains put in the way to prevent us from being fully inclusive, and how we can consciously work to get around those biases against people different from ourselves in some way.

Following the keynote, I attended an excellent session by Karen McCloskey and John Stauffer of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (<https://www.michiganveterans.com/>) They discussed the agency’s programs, what they do (including providing free gun-locks), and suggested ways for librarians to reach out to local veterans’ groups. Being completely unfamiliar with veterans’ issues and the application process for veterans’ benefits, I found this session incredibly helpful.

Another high point of the conference was Friday morning’s Spotlight session on “Code Switching” by WSU librarians Serena Vaquilar, Joshua Neds-Fox, and former Neef Library graduate assistant Janelle Manuel. They discussed why people move between two or more actual languages or ways of speaking, and how it is necessary in library public services. For example, “code switching” can be used to make patrons feel more comfortable or as a way for librarians to convey information in ways patrons more easily understand than in using technical jargon.

The closing keynote talk by Dr. Derrick Gay on “Reframing Diversity for the 21st Century: Mirrors and Windows in Our Library Collections”, an advisor for “Sesame Street”, talked about the importance of creating collections that reflect all a library’s users, particularly for those libraries that serve children. Parts of his talk are available on the PBS Books website at:

<https://www.pbsbooks.org/pbs-books-presents-dr-derrick-gay/?fbclid=IwAR2Nd9wqN7CQUXjSmzvlwSML4MOT-UTC-T5G8aED9oiFuuFcCIqnFEQQ37k>

Other sessions I attended over the three days and found informative included:

- “Mental Health in Libraries: Staff Focus” (presented by Wayne State colleague Monique Oldfield) which included a robust discussion with attendees about staff

coping with particular mental health issues, and accommodating staff in ways that don't overburden coworkers.

- “Cents and Census-ability: A Guide to the 2020 Census and Michigan Libraries” by staff from the Library of Michigan, including Clare Membiela, who spoke about the legal implications of the census.
- “Decolonize your Library”, on mindful collection of Native American materials in (primarily) public and school libraries by Randi Dalton of the Caro Area District Library.

Finally, the closing ceremony featured a beautiful spoken word performance by artist-in-residence Suban Nur Cooley about the importance of her community's public library having “open doors” to welcome her, after arriving in the United States.

LLMD: THE 2019 FALL SEASON

By Kathleen A. Gamache, Librarian, Clark Hill PLC & Jan Bissett, Reference & Faculty Liaison Services Librarian Arthur Neef Law Library, Wayne State University

LLMD September meeting was held at Clark Hill and was arranged by Kathleen Gamache. The topics included a summer conference season Round Up, a Look ahead to the ORALL/MichALL joint meeting in October, and planning for future LLMD meetings for 2019-2020 season. Several members attended AALL and reported their overall impressions of the meeting and mentioned several of the sessions that were thought provoking and challenged the status quo. We received a preview of several presentations planned for the ORALL/MichALL meeting, Virginia Thomas, Patrick Meyer, Jane Meland, Robin Linkowski, Jan Bissett, Kathryn Polgar, and Michael Samson were all scheduled to present programs at “Make a Splash: Advocate, Educate, Innovate.”

The October meeting was hosted by Dickinson Wright PLLC. Mark Heinrich arranged for a plethora of Thompson Reuters representatives to present on Westlaw Canada and Practical Law. A lively discussion of content, access, availability and pricing ensued.

The November meeting was hosted by Miller Canfield. Catherine Mulla provided the locale, ICLE's Beck Bloechle provided information about their materials and the availability of services to firms and academic law libraries.

The December meeting was hosted by Butzel Long. Don Killinger graciously hosted the holiday gathering. The highlights of the luncheon were meeting with colleagues and the recent changes in employment for some of our members. Congratulations all!

Thanks to our hosts and members for the convivial, collegial and thoroughly enjoyable meetings. We look forward to next year!

MEMBER PROFILE

DON KILLINGER

LIBRARIAN/ INFORMATION
SPECIALIST

BUTZEL LONG



Typical Day?

Send a daily news email, prepare invoices for payment, answer research questions, prepare for professional development “lunch and learns”, work on budget/vendor questions. I really enjoy researching questions across a variety of practice areas. Since I am a “one person” department, it is sometimes tough finding enough hours in the day!

Bucket List?

I am a boat and train nerd so I would have to say taking a transatlantic cruise or the Orient Express

Super Power (If you had one?)

I would like to be able to fly so I would never have to fold all my 6’6” into an airplane seat again!

In Your Spare Time?

Cooking—especially my BBQ smoker in our yard

People would be surprised if they knew...I went to Undergrad on a tuba scholarship

Favorite.....?

Newspapers: *Washington Post, Detroit Free Press*

Blogs: *A.V. Club, Lifehacker, The Verge, Book Riot*

Podcasts: *Overdue, Disgraceland, The Flop House*

Movies: *Jaws, North by Northwest, Lawrence of Arabia*

Books: *The Power Broker, “Master and Commander” series, The Right Stuff.*

WINTER 2019 UPDATES FROM THE JOHN F. SCHAEFER LAW LIBRARY, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

By Brooke Moynihan Minore, Assistant Director for Collection Management

After a nationwide search, Jane Meland has been selected as the new Director of the John F. Schaefer Law Library at the MSU College of Law. Jane has done a wonderful job as interim director, and she has exciting plans for the library as we enter a new phase of full integration with Michigan State University.

The integration process with Michigan State University continues to move forward. Law College faculty and staff will become full employees of Michigan State University on January 1, 2020. The integration process has kept us all very busy, in addition to our regular jobs. Both MSU and the Law College have evaluated the services provided by the Schaefer Law Library, and we are discussing how the relationship will look going forward. I am sure we will have much to report on at the Spring 2020 meeting.

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY COOLEY LAW SCHOOL LIBRARY NEWS

By Duane A. Strojny Associate Dean for Library and Instructional Support, Western Michigan University - Cooley Law School

Students have access to a growing number of digital collections and we are working on developing a good use report that works on compiling numbers so we can compare and contrast daily, monthly, and yearly use. We have had a lot of success with students using ICLE online in a number of classes.

Librarians will be teaching three one credit Advanced Legal Research classes next semester; Administrative Law and two sections of Computer Assisted Legal Research. Courses are taught live, but a students may attend class via distance education either through a location at another campus or Webex.

The school will close the Auburn Hills location in December 2020. Plans are being made for how the closing of the Library will affect our other locations concerning holdings. Unique titles in Auburn Hills will move to other campuses.

Beginning in January, New Student Orientation will take on a new look. Much of the time will be spent with Academic Resource Center staff. Other departments, including the Library, will continue to make the move to online modules that require students to view and participate in assessments before the in-person orientation even begins.

NEWS FROM DETROIT MERCY

By Patrick Meyer Library Director & Associate Professor of Law, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Alicia Dyer has left our employ after 10 years of service. She accepted a job as a librarian at the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals branch library in Detroit. She will be missed. We are currently looking for a replacement.

Patrick Meyer taught all 1L students this fall semester in the Introduction to Legal Research course. Two sections of nearly 60 students in this required course met for two hours per week for the duration of the semester. The basics of legal hierarchy, hierarchy of authority, types of legal resources, and basic Bluebook formatting (via the *ALWD Guide*) were taught. We included modules on secondary sources, case law and digests, legislation, administrative law, and citator services. Although primarily focusing on Westlaw, Lexis, and B-Law, a portion of two classes and one workbook assignment focused on print resources. Throughout the semester, students completed several workbook exercises. The semester ended with students becoming certified in Westlaw and Lexis.

For the last four years, the course was worth two credit hours. The format of the course will change next year with one credit hour being required in each semester. Jennifer Hostetler and Alicia Dyer provided valuable administrative support throughout the semester.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS: WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY ARTHUR NEEF LAW LIBRARY

By Jan Bissett, Reference & Faculty Liaison Services Librarian Arthur Neef Law Library, Wayne State University

The calendar year is almost at a close. This semester has flown by - we welcomed a 1L class of 125 and 6 transfer students in August and are now in the midst of final exams, deep into our evening coffee house service to sustain our study-bound scholars.

Our valued colleague, Beth Applebaum, retired at the end of November.

Michael Samson and library system colleagues continue their project of adding law faculty research publications to the DigitalCommons@WayneState with entries covering 2006 to the present being processed.

Virginia Thomas will be teaching Topics in Advanced Legal Research during the law school's Winter 2020 session. Michelle LaLonde has wrapped up her Fundamentals of U.S. Legal Research for the Fall 2019 semester.

Our law librarians have been working on presentations and publications...

Marlene Coir authored [*An Overview of LGBTQTA Rights in Michigan*, 98 Michigan Bar Journal 38 \(December 2019\).](#)

Jan Bissett, Kathryn Polgar and Michael Samson presented [*Faculty Scholarship in the Life of the Library – Come On In, the Water's Fine!*](#) at the ORALL-MichALL Joint Annual Meeting on October 24, 2019. Virginia Thomas, joined by Jane Meland and Patrick Meyer, explored *Rethinking Reference Services: Who, Where, What, When and How?* on the same day of the conference.

Virginia Thomas authored [*From the Horse's Mouth: What Research and Other Lawyering Skills Do New Lawyers Need to be Successful?*](#) 98 Michigan Bar Journal 56 (October 2019).

Jan Bissett and Margi Heinen authored [*Here Comes the Judge: Judicial Analytics*, 47 Colorado Lawyer 22 \(August/September 2019\)](#) and [*Tribal Law Resources and American Indian Research Guides*, 98 Michigan Bar Journal 52 \(August 2019\).](#)

Michelle LaLonde presented a poster, *The 2013-2014 Detroit Municipal Bankruptcy: Reflections, Five Years Later* at the AALL Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., July 2019.

...and continue their professional association committee/service work.

Michigan Association of Law Libraries (MichALL): Archives (Virginia Thomas, Chair); Education (Jan Bissett); Newsletter (Kathryn Polgar). Marlene Coir and Kathryn Polgar, Members at Large.

Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries (ORALL): Grants (Jan Bissett); Publications (Virginia Thomas, Chair).

American Association of Law Libraries (AALL): Law Library Journal Article of the Year Jury; ALL-SIS Continuing Education Committee (Jan Bissett)

A note from the Editor: I'd like to Thank Beth Applebaum for her service to the MichALL newsletter. She will be missed, I hope she enjoys her well deserved retirement and the time she now gets to spend with her family. ----Kathryn Polgar

MichALL Michigan Association of Law Libraries A local chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

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Vice-President: [Robin Linkowski](#)

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Member at Large: [Marlene Coir](#) (2018-20)

Member at Large: [Kathryn Polgar](#) (2019-21)

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Nominations Committee: Marlene Coir & Joann Rutkowski

Public Relations Committee: Brent Domann

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Unsolicited material is encouraged.
Contributions submitted for publication are subject to editorial review.
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