

President's Message

Hello, Everyone!

The first thing I would like to do is thank everyone for their continued support and participation. We really are only as good as our members, and all of you are valuable parts of our group.

Looking Back

Since the pandemic began, things have been a little quiet. Meetings in 2020 went virtual and our programs were shorter (though our guest speakers were as good as ever!). Our most recent meeting was on Friday, November 12, 2021. Originally scheduled in-person at the University of Michigan, the meeting went virtual with a new pandemic surge and safety and attendance worries that followed. Although we are all growing weary of online meetings, I would like to thank Daryl for putting together an equitable and efficient process for deciding on format; it considered a variety of perspectives and it also allowed us to pivot quickly enough to protect our hosts from unnecessary expense.

The virtual meeting went really well and we had excellent presentations; the first was from Virginia Thomas, Jamie Chmara, Jim Sechelski, and Kathryn Polgar on their Michigan Supreme Court Records and Briefs digitization project at Wayne State University, and the second was from Joel Scheuher on tax and legal research resources along with tips on optimizing tax vehicles typically available to law librarians. Our business meeting was short and there is nothing groundbreaking to report.

Before moving on, I would again like to extend our thanks to our presenters and especially to Joel Scheuher at the University of Michigan Business Library and to the library's director, Corey Seeman. In addition to Joel's presentation, he and Corey put a lot of hard work into hosting our event at their facility and were very generous in doing so.

Our meeting was also scheduled to tour the University of Michigan Law Library with Kincaid Brown and I would like to extend our thanks to him as well.

Looking Forward

We are beginning to think about our next meeting and our president-elect, Daryl Thompson, is spearheading that effort. We don't have any specific plans yet but are again looking forward to returning to in-person events.

Recently, I reached out to Wayne State University to extend a membership invitation to any library program student interested in special libraries. If you have any similar ideas for outreach, please let me know. Membership has decreased in our organization for several years, and although it seems to have steadied a bit, we would like to see it start growing again. And, as always, our membership levels have affected our committee participation. I would like to especially thank Kathryn Polgar and Maria Kuechler for continually championing and producing our newsletter.

Other projects that we are pursuing include some revamping of the website's look and the production of checklists or policy manuals for our leadership positions. Especially with so many of us working or attending meetings remotely, it has been hard to maintain some of our institutional memory. Contributions to either project are welcome – you can email any interesting photos of your libraries to me for inclusion on our website (please take them yourself and know that you are granting us a license

to use them on the website – *not legal advice!*), and if you have any special knowledge from serving in a leadership position in the past, please reach out.

I would like to conclude by wishing you all happy holidays and a healthy, enjoyable, and prosperous new year. Thanks for being valued members of MichALL!

Brent Domann

President, 2021-2022