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Southeastern Law Librarian Summer/Fall 2009

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Southeastern Law Librarian

Summer/Fall 2009

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Pondering the "Oh" Factor

SEAALL President

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No, for those of you who are still staggering under Oprah's announcement, this is NOT about the "O" factor. Instead this is about one of those moments when you are so caught by surprise that your only utterance is the word "oh." This happened to me when I received a call from a member of the nominations committee. Having been an involved SEAALL member for a number of years, once I knew my call was from Nominations, I was expecting to be asked to serve as a Member-at-Large, a role that I had not yet played. To my surprise, I was asked to run for SEAALL Vice-President/President Elect. My initial response was a surprised "oh," to which the committee member replied "please don't say 'no'." It was not that the request was unwelcome. In fact, during my career I had often thought that I might "someday" have the opportunity to run for and even hold the offices. But that was something I would do in the "future," when I was "older." While I had no specific age in mind, I thought of SEAALL Presidents as the senior librarians, the ones who had been in the profession and had served SEAALL for years. Then it hit me (this time only a mental "oh"), I have been in the profession for over 15 years, the last three SEAALL Presidents were librarians whom I had known for years, and with whom I had professionally "grown up." Two of these librarians are now directors, and one had even served an AALL President. I saw these "senior," "older" librarians and they were me!

So what does this personal realization mean to the rest of you? Well, it led me to reflect on how SEAALL has or has not changed since I was a newbie librarian (back before they coined the term "newbie.") Just as successful law libraries have embraced technology, SEAALL, as a suc-

cessful organization, has worked to adopt technology and to provide new ways of doing old tasks. Minutes, budgets, newsletters, programs agendas, and job openings are e-mailed, posted on websites, or circulated via listservs. Now that elections are done on-line, the current and future SEAALL Secretaries will never experience the dubious delight of getting all the ballot envelopes stuffed, addressed, and mailed to all the SEAALL members or receiving and tabulating the returns. Program speakers have appeared via Skype and donations to the social programs can be made online. Unquestionably these examples are only the beginning of ways in which SEAALL will continue to adapt and stay relevant.

However, as some things change, others seem to stay the same. When I was young, innocent (those who know me, stop laughing this instant!), and trying to join a SEAALL committee without success, I became very frustrated and was venting to a more experienced member. There's the President s/he said, why not go and ask to be on a committee. I approached the then President and basically said "Hey, I volunteered twice and after two years am still not on a committee, what gives? Admittedly it was phrased more politely, but the meaning was the same. He told me to remind him next year and that I would be on a committee. I did. I was. The following year I was the committee Chair. Now to someone as impatient as I, waiting was a lesson in itself, but from then on I served on committees, spoke at programs and have become a SEAALL "regular". Unfortunately, this is still a frustration for new members.

If you are young or if you are starting a second career as a law librarian, there is room for you! More experienced members slow down, ramp up for other challenge, or

continued on page 2

Contents

Presidential Postings	1
Editor's Note	1
IP Institute Recap	3
Government Relations	
Committee Update	4
Scholarship Report	5
SEAALL Business	
Meeting Minutes	5
Confessions of an IP Addict	7
SEAALL Briefs	8
Renew, Refresh, Rethink in Athens, Georgia	10
SEAALL Committees	10

Pondering the "Oh" Factor *continued from page 1*
move over to make room. Sometime it can be difficult to break in, and it can seem that the same faces are always doing everything (it certainly seemed that way to me) but hang in there. It may help to realize that the number of factors that go into committee assignments. Most committees are two year appointments so you will see the same names/faces at least two years. Also, some years there are not enough volunteers in general or enough volunteers for particular committees. This leads to Officers calling in favors from people they know on the assumption that they will find it harder to say "no" than a stranger. It is also appropriate to thank a volunteer who served on a less desirable committee by appointing them to a committee they (and perhaps you) requested the next time.

Mail can go AWOL, past volunteers who have taken less popular assignments should get a chance to serve on a preferred committee. Also remember, every Vice President and President serves only one year. Just when you think you have mastered the details, it is time to pass the gavel to the next person and it is possible to make a less than stellar decision. Speak up and ask for what you want; like a job search you may want to follow up. Be patient (this was the hardest for me) and be flexible. One of the best things I did was, after indicating my top preference on the volunteer form was to add a note saying "although I have listed my preferences, I am willing to serve on any committee except B, F, and K." I have included similar notes on other volunteer forms and have received very positive feedback from those making committee assignments. As President, I now better understand why.

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This said, I do not expect all the responsibility for getting involved should fall on new members - absolutely not! This year at AALL's annual meeting in D.C., I was stuck by the large number of young SEAALL members who were active in all aspects of the meetings, programs and social activities. While wondering if I was every that energetic, I heard great enthusiasm and wonderful ideas. I also heard concerns about employers cutting travel and professional development budgets. Experienced members have equal, if not more, responsibility to see that SEAALL can attract and retain this promising new talent. In order to do this, we cannot assume that all new Southeastern members in AALL will automatically join SEAALL. We need to encourage and welcome them. Persons of my years and more need to make sure that we are not shutting out new members or new ideas. We have learned to adapt at work and we also need to take a look at why we are doing what we do within our organizations. As with our work environments, the answer to why we do something in a particular way should never be "because we have always done it that way" or "we tried X 10 years ago and it did not work."

Another request/plea: when at conferences -- MINGLE!! We are law librarians, not wolves and should not travel in packs, particularly in packs of co-workers. Of course we want to touch base with old friends and colleagues, and there is nothing wrong with having a co-workers night or meal. However if you spend the entire conference sitting, eating, and traveling with co-workers, not only are you not setting a good example for new librarians, but you could just buy tapes and stay home. Networking is a large part of what makes it worth the travel expenses. You may think that you are providing your newbie with a ready-made group,

but it does not help her/him make connections with persons who can offer different perspectives, advice and support. When you are with your new hire, introduce her/him to your colleagues. It does not matter if the new hire is a reference librarian and your friends are assistant directors or catalogers, they can talk with your new colleague and perhaps s/he will find a mentor or someone who will introduce her/him to yet another person. If you are introduced to a new member, do be welcoming even if you do need to pause a conversation with an old friend for a minute or two. You do not have to adopt the person; just become a familiar, friendly face and perhaps, pass along the introduction. At some time in our lives most of us have been the odd person out in the room and have been "saved" by a kind soul. Even if you are not one, you can fake it for a few minutes.

I hope that this does not sound like scolding but will simply serve as a reminder that all of us, myself included, should keep in mind. With the economy and the pressure to do "more for less" most of us are working both smarter AND harder. Therefore it is more important than ever that we have many people involved. And remember, not only is it true that "many hands make light work," it also makes many members with whom to network and socialize.

Have I offered perfect solutions? No. Good suggestions? I hope so. All of us, me, other officers, and all of our involved and wishing to be involved SEAALL members can only try our best. After all, if I was perfect, I would not be here as a librarian and SEAALL President. I would be having a scotch with St. Peter and insisting that the celestial harps play Simon and Garfunkel. At the very least, I'd be ending my show on CBS in order to form a new network.

Vendor News

10-K Wizard is now Morningstar Document Research. The new Document Research platform goes beyond the US annual filings (10-K form) to enable streamlined global company research. Its new name is intended to reflect the breadth of the offering.

While the name has changed, Morningstar

Document Research continues to provide the full-text search capabilities, real-time alerts, and robust data extraction tools that are a vital resource for clients who conduct in-depth research. We are also planning to take advantage of additional features and functionality we'll be able to offer as part of a larger, global organization.

Libraries as Dopplegängers: A Meditation on Collection Development

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Collection development may be the most important responsibility of the librarian. Every other task presupposes that new materials have been carefully chosen and added to the library's holdings. When expanded to include managing existing materials, collection development—while perhaps lacking some of the glamour of other services like reference and classroom teaching—poses some of the central dilemmas of today's librarianship.

Arguably the most heated of the current debates concerns the relationship of electronic materials to traditional paper. In a time when many librarians are unembarrassed to dream of a future "paperless" library, even moderate members of our profession increasingly share the conviction that digital copies, in at least some instances, can serve as well as paper. A consensus is most likely to emerge concerning law reviews, those proliferating, shelf-eating serials that some hope have been supplanted by HeinOnline. If AALL annual meeting programs and hallway conversations are any indication, law librarians would love nothing more than to pitch their hardcopy collections in exchange for access to copies they often only lease, beginning with the law reviews.

Many, frankly, have no problem with this solution in part because they rarely use these materials themselves. How many law librarians can recall the last time they read a law review issue cover to cover for either research or curiosity? They thus approach the question about how others should be able to use these materials from a detached perspective that would do any Kantian proud. One wonders whether the bland economic reasoning so determinative in these discussions would be as persuasive were the problem posed closer to home, concerning materials in which the librarian had a more personal stake.

By chance, I faced this choice in what prodigital librarians might consider the easy case. Space in my personal library could be freed by discarding my run of SOLGAN, the

newsletter published by the Society for Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists, now available through AnthroSource, the American Anthropology Association's journal database.

Making this decision unique was that the paper on my shelves served as the source material for AAA's database. Because my private collection is one of the most complete for this title, AnthroSource relied upon my holdings to create its files. Should I choose, I could literally print out from the database exact replacements for the issues now on my shelf. If ever there is a good excuse to discard the paper, here it was. Paper and digital were not merely versions of the same content, they were exactly the same content. Yet still I hesitated.

The question I had to ask myself was whether this reticence was rooted in old-fashioned conservatism (in which case the paper should go, albeit with much regret and not little ceremony), or whether it arose from an intuition that down this path—perhaps not with this step, but with this rationale—lay the unraveling of my library, and by extension, many others. Even I wasn't sure.

For many librarians there would be no question: discard the paper based upon access to any copy, much less the same copy. Members of our profession have grown bold in their disaffection with the traditional format of our calling. Few librarians can contradict at least one argument from Nicholas Baker's controversial *Double Fold*: that given the promise of access in an alternative format we are eager, often over-eager to discard our paper volumes to free up limited shelving. Some have become so enamored of the benefits of digital technology that they grow impatient for the arrival of the all-electronic library, and in some instances, as with the Durham Statement, they even seem determined to hurry it along.

We feel justified in taking such actions because the advantages of digitals are obvious and recognized even by skeptics, while

their drawbacks tend to be hypothetical, vague, and poorly articulated. In short, so what if the library becomes all electronic? If every book, pamphlet, and whatnot were available only and exclusively electronically, what, exactly, would be lost?

Contrarian arguments tend to focus on either of two objections to the quest for universal digitization of libraries. The first fear is that rare or one-of-a-kind items will be lost. How many additional Gutenberg Bibles are likely to be scanned after the first is made available? But this is a consideration with which few of us must deal, and which can be resolved on a case-by-case basis without heavily influencing the broader principles that librarians should adopt on the problem. The second worry concerns the inevitable loss of content during the transition as some items are judged of insufficient interest to warrant the cost of digitization. A similar data loss occurred during the change from manuscript to codex.

Those are valid concerns, but as objections they imply that the pro-digital argument is somehow erroneous, misleading, or at least overinflated. If we knew the true costs and ramifications, runs the retort, fewer librarians would be rushing to compost the collections entrusted to them by previous generations. But we can ask a different question, one that grants everything claimed in the case for digitals and then wonders whether, even in that most favorable context, there might not still be some reason to remain wary of the all-electronic future.

Arguably the confusing feature of the e-advocate defense is not that it is wrong in its claims about the advantages it champions, but that it errs in the unit of primary interest. The argument prioritizes books and their informational contents as the relevant units, with little explanation as to how these relate to the library that contains them.

In the minds of some, perhaps, the two are equivalent, libraries being nothing more than aggregates of books. Digital defenders then move from this premise to another involving the benefits that accrue with a change of formats, to reach conclu-

sions about improvements in the libraries that contain them. Electronic libraries will do everything traditional libraries can do, only more. But the two claims supporting that tempting result are incompatible.

If we begin with a belief that libraries are reducible to the books they contain ($B=L_b$), and add to that the above concession that the universe of digital information will be the equivalent of its paper original ($D=B$), then advocates are indeed justified in their assurances that libraries suffer no loss through the substitution ($D=L_d$; therefore $L_d=L_b$). But note that under this reasoning they also accrue no benefits, which is what advocates really want to be able to claim (i.e., that $L_d>L_b$). Some part of the digital argument must be flawed.

So long as we entertain the strong claim that the transition to digitals will be costless in terms of the total universe of information—a needed premise to avoid the objections of the negative and practical type mentioned earlier—to hold out the promise that the change will render improvements to libraries, these advocates cannot assert a belief that libraries are reducible to their information units. That is, $B=D$, but because $B\neq L_b$ and $D\neq L_d$ it becomes reasonable to posit that $L_d>L_b$. Whether the result is true or not is another matter, but at least the argument is no longer self-contradictory.

Perhaps some digital proponents would have conceded this premise. But once the reductive equation of libraries with books is discarded, as it must be, the door is open to inquire about the details of any sui generis characteristics of libraries, and to ask further whether the digital revolution supports or undermines that core nature of the library (qua library, and not as information aggregate).

Uncovering at least one of the library's essential properties begins with the obvious but undertheorized fact that libraries are not interchangeable. Each seems uniquely suited to its users, its mission, its intellectual niche within the local information economy. Yesterday's decisions influence today's options. Patterns emerge, traditions evolve, long-term paths followed until, in the end, each library becomes the

continued on page 4

expression of the institution's history and self-understanding.

Alberto Manguel offers a startling image for this process in *A Reading Diary*. While unpacking his library in the surroundings of his refitted fifteenth century French barn Manguel muses that he can "trace all my memories through these piling-up volumes. Then suddenly everything seems redundant, all this accumulation of printed paper." He makes a note to write a future essay, "The Library as Doppelgänger," a theme he takes up in revised form and vocabulary in *The Library at Night*. The "identity of a society, or a national identity, can be mirrored by a library, by an assembly of titles that, practically and symbolically, serves as our collective definition." The fruitfulness of this idea of library as identity and other-self inspired *Logos: Journal of the World Book Community* to initiate a series under the title, "The Personal Library as Doppelgänger," in which contributors such as Nicholas Basbanes describe how their private collections serve as a "counterpart to the person," as an expression of their own "personality, work, and life." From this perspective a library is not merely a collection of information, but rather a material manifestation of the library owner's self-identity, be that owner personal, national, or institutional. How else to explain the Library of Congress' interest in reassembling the 6,487 volumes Thomas Jefferson sold to reestablish its collection in 1815, if not to see what it will tell us about Jefferson himself?

This view can be counterpoised against that which appears to dominate the digital perspective. Digital projects treat books as generic objects, any one interchangeable with every other copy. In libraries there are no books in the abstract, but only that library's particular books, each with an explanation of how it came to be in this collection, reasons why it belongs there while others do not, traces of use by its readers, all stories that collectively bring a reflective understanding to the library's mission over time.

The idealized intention of the digital revolution (in tandem with the push for open access) is to make all information available

to anyone, anywhere, anytime. In the cyber world information will be loosed from the bonds of the author's intentions and freed from the confining shackles of the bound volume, "miscellaneous" bits (to use David Weinberger's term) free to coalesce in infinitely different sets tailored to the immediate queries of each user. This will be an exciting and powerful tool, but it will not be a library. Universal access entails informational homogeneity, the antithesis of the value of particularity embodied in the library. For this reason, while the exact relationship between these two domains has yet to be determined, supersession is not on the table. If libraries disappear, it will not be because they have been "replaced" by digital analogues, but because we no longer deem important the intrinsic, nonreducible values represented by the library, and are thus willing to make do with something less.

At this point an analogy may be helpful. It has been said that a perfectly detailed map of the world will be indistinguishable from the world itself, and therefore useless as far as serving the conventional purpose of a "map." Maps become helpful only to the extent that they ignore some information, reduce scale, and synthesize large data chunks into a comprehensible format. Similarly libraries become "libraries" only when from the universe of information they select some parts, exclude others, and through their ordered interrelationship transform the information into a cohesive view of the world (i.e., "knowledge"). Such a process has no predetermined outcome; the resulting view of the world represented by the library is specific, perhaps even parochial, but by its nature reflective of and in dialogue with the needs of the community served. The community is the library; the library is the community. Archimboldo's *The Librarian*.

So I will be returning my issues of *SOLGAN* to the shelves. It is good to know that their digital descendants are out there in case the need arises for the words on those pages. But my copies serve an additional, altogether different purpose. Together with the other items in the bookcases, they form the kind of library that the person that I am

continued on page 7

(or would like to be) should have. It is my doppelgänger.

The same is true of the collections we build for our institutions, be they law schools, courthouses, or law firms. To ask whether your patrons have access to the Harvard Law Review is only part of the equation when deciding whether to discard paper

journals; an additional one, and perhaps the more important one, is to ask whether the institution served by your library understands itself as the kind that will preserve and control its own copy of the Harvard Law Review, or whether it will be content to look over the shoulder of someone else (like Hein) to read their copy.

Unexpected Preservation

At the AALL Annual Meeting in Washington, one program fostered preservation; but it did not advertise itself as a preservation program. This program promoted tables of contents (TOC). I unabashedly advertised The TOC Market Report, and its outstanding speakers, Mary Whisner, Christine Mitchell of Blackwell, and David Williamson of LC.

Preservation is all about access, as I have probably preached before. TOCs add to access by enabling users to find information buried in books. Users can search chapters in addition to book titles. An ancillary benefit of The TOC Market Report was the demonstration of the symbiosis between Reference and Cataloging. Mary Whisner helped inspire the program by her excellent demonstration of the value of TOCs. Readers can find Mary's handout on the OBS website. She also showed how Reference helps Cataloging determine important access points and users' information needs.

Christine Mitchell described TOCs from a vendor's viewpoint. She further advocated the importance of TOCs by quoting librarians who depend upon them for access. Since providing contents notes is an expense, Chris emphasized the need for

priorities.

David Williamson illustrated how he provides a large volume of TOCs with the aid of ONIX records. The morning of the program, David had loaded well over 1000 tables of contents into the catalog at the Library of Congress. He ascribed his ability to manipulate computer data to his facility with languages. (He has a degree in Spanish.) Those of you with language ability, take notice!

Just a note about practice at the University of Richmond: we create TOCs for Virginia titles quite frequently. If a series has titles routinely cataloged with TOCs, we continue the practice; the series Scandinavian studies in law is an example. New Appleman on Insurance: Current Critical Issues in Insurance Law has issues filed in a loose-leaf binder. Each issue has two or three individually authored articles. We provide a TOC for Appleman and list each article with its author.

The clear parallel between preservation and tables of contents is the great demand of time and money, but access is our business!

Stay well preserved!

Sally Wambold
University of
Richmond

After the Digital Revolution: Law Libraries in a World Turned Upside Down

SEAALL 2010 Annual Meeting

Williamsburg, Virginia - April 22-24, 2010

The SEALL 2010 Local Arrangements Committee looks forward to seeing you in Williamsburg next April for our annual meeting. We have already set up a website for the Annual Meeting, where we will be joined by our colleagues from VALL. Access the website from the SEAALL homepage <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/seaall/meeting/index.htm> or at <http://web.wm.edu/law/lawlibrary/seaall2010/>.

The historic setting of Williamsburg will give you ample opportunities to reflect on our nation's past and to appreciate what the future will hold. We will use this column to share with you the wonders of Williamsburg, from its history as the capital of the Colony of Virginia, to the cuisine that awaits you (from burgers and fries to steaks and fine seafood), to the modern conveniences and attractions in the city and surrounding areas. This article will focus on what awaits you outside of Colonial Williamsburg.

Williamsburg is the center of what we call the Historic Triangle that also includes Jamestown and Yorktown. The 23-mile Colonial Parkway, a beautiful roadway that abuts the James and York Rivers, connects the three cities.

Jamestown Island is the site of the first permanent English settlement in the New World. Here you will see the remnants of the original fort, and there are two museums that document the settlement by the 104 men from the Virginia Company. Adjacent to the Island is Jamestown Settlement, where you will find a re-creation of

the original fort, an Indian Village, and the three ships that carried the settlers here in 1607 – the Discovery, the Susan Constant, and the Godspeed. You won't want to miss the Visitor Center/Museum, which was built to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown. At Yorktown, visit historic battlefields and the site of the Cornwallis's surrender to George Washington. The Yorktown Victory Center chronicles American's transition from colony to independent nation. If you've already had enough history, visit Yorktown's quaint shops, or just stroll along the beach.

But you don't need to drive anywhere. The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held at the Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel and Conference Center. Adjacent to the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center, we are a short walk to the Historic Area and great shopping and dining at Merchant's Square, Williamsburg's Downtown. The College of William & Mary, established in 1693 as the second university in America, is right across the street from Merchant's Square.

Of course there are many other attractions in the Williamsburg area that are more in tune with the modern world. These include Busch Gardens, shopping at the Prime Outlets, visiting the Williamsburg Winery, or taking a stroll or a ride through one of Williamsburg's many parks. If you're staying in the Williamsburg area, be sure to check with your hotel for any special deals they may have with the area attractions!

The following are some useful and informative links for planning your trip to Williamsburg:

Colonial Williamsburg: <http://history.org>

Historic Triangle: <http://www.historictriangle.com/>

College of William & Mary: <http://www.wm.edu>

Busch Gardens: <http://www.buschgardens.com/BGW2/>

Prime Outlets: <http://www.primeoutlets.com/locations/williamsburg.aspx>

Williamsburg Winery: <http://www.williamsburgwinery.com/>

Williamsburg Area Parks: <http://www.visitwilliamsburg.com/williamsburg-attractions/outdoor-recreation-and-parks/index.aspx>

Visitor Information: <http://www.ci.williamsburg.va.us/Index.aspx?page=5>

From Dani to Ma'am

"Ma'am, can you help me?" I looked around for the "Ma'am" to whom the student referred. After a moment I realized "Oh, he's addressing me." I have to admit that being called "Ma'am" on a regular basis has been a big transition going from full-time law student/part-time student worker to a full-time reference librarian. Being called "Ma'am" at the age of 25 will never sound quite right; however I feel I will get use to it at some point.

This would be a good time to explain what I mean by transition. In August 2006 I began as a full-time law student at Florida Coastal School of Law. At the same time, I started working part-time at the circulation desk in the law library. I was a traditional student that came directly from undergraduate to law school. Before law school I had not so much as looked at a library let alone thought about working in one. But in law school the library quickly became my second home. Aside from working my 20 hours a week, I also did a novel thing, I studied in the library.

Early on in my library career as a part-time worker I realized I had a natural talent for the job I was doing. I caught on quickly to all of the policies and procedures and enjoyed assisting the students. This made me more and more interested in the operations of the library. I wanted to know more about my job as a circulation desk attendant, as well as the jobs of the librarians around me. I wanted to understand what made the library work. At this point my boss took me under his wing.

After two years of working at the circulation desk I was ready for more. I asked the Assistant Director if I could also work the reference desk a few hours a week. She was more than happy to provide me the opportunity. She definitely had a lot of faith in me in that I knew almost nothing about reference and that my law school writing and research class was not my strongest grade. But with lots of faith and a whole lot of luck I was working the reference desk 10 hours a week. I was a Student Reference Assistant! I held that title with pride because

it meant a lot to me. To know that I was trusted to impart knowledge on the lives of upper classmen and of course our first year students were a big deal to me.

As I did at the circulation desk I caught onto reference quickly and immediately fell in love with it. The feeling you get when you help a student realize an answer is what I like to call the "librarian high." There is no better feeling then getting a struggling student to that "ah ha" moment. After about six months the realization finally hit me: I did not want to be a lawyer; I want to be a law librarian. I had gone from wanting to be a hardnosed criminal defense attorney to wanting to become a full fledged law librarian. After many talks with my supervisors, an exhausting full day interview, and a couple months of waiting by the phone – Florida Coastal provided me my first opportunity at being a librarian. Florida Coastal hired me as their first reference librarian fellow. The fellowship was created to allow aspiring law librarians to work while attending an online M.L.S. program.

That is the story of my transition. I am now a full-time reference librarian at the institution where I went to law school and worked as a part-time student worker. The fact that students now call me "Ma'am" is a funny side effect of my new position, but also an interesting one. The first year students never knew me as a student worker, so there is an automatic acceptance of knowledge and authority. With the students that knew me before as a student worker I thought the transition would be a lot more difficult. I did not think the respect would come naturally, but it did. Students that do know me as Dani the circulation desk attendant now respect my position as a reference librarian and appreciate that I have something to offer them in the form of research assistance and experience.

My perceptions of what a librarian is and does have completely changed. The librarian is not just the person sitting at the reference desk waiting to answer your questions; they are researchers and problem solvers behind the scenes. They are stat-

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continued on page 10

isticians and writers. They are teachers. Librarians are constantly keeping up with technology and making the library and its services more user friendly. They are always working on learning new information and exploring their own specialties more in depth. The number one thing I realized about reference librarians is the work that goes into putting together a module. Here at Florida Coastal our reference librarian team performs a number of research workshops for the students. I was under the impression that the reference librarians just knew the information and taught it. I had no idea that it takes a couple of days to prepare a module. From creating a problem, running the problem to make sure it works in a particular resource, re-working the

problem if it does not work in that resource, to finally portraying it correctly to the students so that they get the information they need to do the research on their own. It was eye opening and extremely educational for myself and the students.

Overall, there is much more that goes into being a reference librarian than just sitting at the reference desk. Obviously I have not explained every facet of the reference librarian's daily job and I am not going to even touch on what my boss does on a regular basis. But I wanted to address the key differences in the transition of part-time student worker to a full-time reference librarian. Needless to say I am working hard and enjoying every minute of it. Law librarian is the right fit for me.

SEAALL Scholarship Report

I was fortunate enough to receive a SEAALL scholarship for the year 2008-2009, and as part of that award I was expected to write an article for the SEAALL newsletter about a topic I learned about in library school. While I have taken several interesting classes as a result of this award and in pursuit of my M.L.I.S., my favorite class to this point, Computer Applications in Libraries, has taught me several things that will be beneficial to me and perhaps you in your law library.

The first thing I learned is a quality way to incorporate different methods of online education, as this class was in an all-online format. This class mixed together asynchronous meetings via message board, synchronous chats at specified times, projects, timed multiple choice tests and even a research paper. A second thing I learned in this class was something none of my other library school classes developed in much depth -- the basics of computer networking and computer hardware. On some level I am considered one of the "tech guys" by the administration since I edit the library webpage, but this class went into networking and hardware levels that I had no idea of before this class. A class like this better allows me to understand what our IT staff faces when librarians make requests. This class also spent a couple of weeks reading and discussing computer security ranging from firewalls to Trojans and worms and

how they endanger library computing and computing in general. The class involved much more than these select topics but I will focus on these and how they may affect your library for this article.

The first short topic I will discuss is networking. This was rather difficult to pick up for me because of the verbiage so I will just try and explain a bit of it to make you more aware of what the IT guys are rattling on about when they say they can or cannot do something for the library. First is the difference in LAN, MAN, and WAN: LAN is local area network (think computers close to each other, perhaps in an office suite or perhaps the entire library), MAN is metropolitan area network (connects two or more LANS, think networking a North and South campuses together as provided by the phone company or as in Mississippi College's case, networking the law school and the main campus together despite being thirteen miles apart), and WAN is wide area network (extended over great distances, think of how FBI computers in LA, New York, and Miami would be networked together). I will also give an introduction to hubs, switches, and routers. Hubs are the "thing" that allows one node on the network to connect to another node. Switches are the more modern version of hubs that are more efficient. In many places switches have replaced all hubs as it connects users directly as opposed to a more free for all

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nature of hubs. Routers are the devices or software that direct messages where to go between networks, making jumping from a computer on one network to another on a different network through a third party line all possible because of protocols and routing instructions.

Second is dealing with firewalls and destructive computer elements such as worms, Trojans, and viruses. Many law libraries have public access computers and with public access too often patrons begin visiting some less than reputable web sites. Solutions to this issue can include: the use of workstation protection software such as Deep Freeze; browsing restrictions such as parental controls or editing "host files" at the Windows level, having effective anti-virus software; and keeping the computers and their operating systems continually updated. Now in this list you probably recognize the last couple but have no clue about the first several, just as I was before this class. Deep Freeze or similar programs are workstation protection software that locks in a certain state of the computer that the library wants. Then users can use it, visiting where they want and perhaps surfing dangerous websites. Then all an administrator has to do to return the computer to the "frozen" state is to reboot the computer resetting the computer to its base state. This clears off any viral or unwanted files from the computer with a simple action.

Another interesting tool we learned about was the effective use of parental controls or host files to restrict website access which I generally referred to as browser restrictions. Parental controls have developed far beyond what early internet users were exposed to and for this discussion I will address Internet Explorer (still the most used web browser, although I recommend Google Chrome) and its tie in with Windows Vista. Using the parental controls feature in Windows Vista one can restrict access to sites, create activity reports, and even restrict the time the computer will be available for use for a certain log-in. While I obviously respect the privacy of our patrons and hope you and your library do also (thereby making the activity report somewhat heavy-handed) these are all features that a library can use to best restrict their

property, thereby staying within legal perimeters and requiring less administrative costs than perhaps previously available.

Host files are files built into computer operating systems that are basically the document that charts the path of hostnames to IP addresses. To not overwhelm you with too much detail, to change the text in the host file allows the computer administrator to filter undesired IP addresses at the individual computer level. This can be useful for many things, including filtering out undesirable websites, malicious material, advertisements or other bandwidth stealing pages that patrons might attempt to access either knowingly or unknowingly. This can, if used effectively, speed browsing and increase the usefulness of computer caching. This process is actually quite a bit easier than it might sound and simply Googling a how-to on editing cache files may well be worth a librarian's time.

In addition to discussing and reading about these skills this class also created the opportunity to learn through several projects. These projects included contemplating computing in libraries generally, database maintenance and accessibility, sought after library features and notable library blogs and podcasts, how to design networks or develop network security systems for certain scenarios and looking forward to the expansion of computers in human life with regards to inventory, science and even the future of print libraries. Each of these projects helped bring about a focus on the larger picture of the computing technology and develop learning skills for these ideas.

I hope that I did not delve too deeply into some of the tools and ideas I learned in this class and that you have learned something from my experience. I feel fortunate to have been selected as a SEAALL scholarship recipient and am grateful to have quality teachers in my M.L.I.S. program to help guide me to being a well rounded and better informed librarian. Skills such as understanding new educational techniques, networks, malware, and computer control programs have all already begun to be of benefit to my library. I hope they can be of use to you in your setting as well.

SEAALL Committee List

Articles and Bylaws: Reviews and revises Chapter articles of incorporation as directed by the Executive Committee.

Amy Osborne, Immediate Past President (2010)
Maureen Eggert, President (2011)
Karen Douglas, Vice President/President-elect (2012)

Community Service: Identifies, promotes, and implements nonpolitical volunteer and community service activities. (2 year term)

Anne Burnett (2010)
Marin Dell (2010)
Ismael Gullon (2010)
Sally Irvin (2010)
Joyce Janto (2010)
Dona Bausch (2011)
Rebecca Maxwell (2011)
Elizabeth Outler (2011)
Nichelle Perry (2011)
Sally Wombold (2011)

Education and Publications: Responsible for the development of publications for the benefit of the Chapter's members; also, responsible for developing SEAALL program proposals for the AALL annual meeting. (2 year term)

Phebe Poydras (2010)
Lillian Weeks (2010)
James Donovan (2010)
Adeen Postar (2010)
Jennifer Behrens (2011)
Kate Irwin-Smiler (2011)
Patricia Morgan (2011)
David Lehman (2011)

Government Relations: Monitors legislative, regulatory and judicial developments that affect SEAALL, the practice of law librarianship or the creation and dissemination of information for the states in the southeast region of the U.S. This committee keeps the membership informed by print and electronic means. (2 year term)

Pam Brannon (2010) - Georgia
Kevin Butterfield (2010) - Virginia,
Melane Sims (2010) - Louisiana
Marilyn Estes (2010) - D.C.
Dee Dee Bradsher (2010) - Alabama
Jennifer Behrens (2011) - South Carolina
Carol Bredmeyer (2011) - South Tennessee
Ryan Saltz (2011) - Florida

Local Arrangements: Williamsburg, 2010

Jim Heller, Chair (2010)
Stephen Blaiklock
Eva Brooks
Christopher Byrne
Fred Dingley
Shelly Dowling
Paul Hellyer
Janey Janson
Doris Kappes
Betta Labanish
Rebecca Mazzarella
Jennie L. Overstreet
Martha Rush
Jennifer Sekula
Lauren P. Seney
Sharon J. Smith
Linda Tesar

Membership: Promotes chapter membership and vitality within the region, maintains and distributes a biannual membership directory and coordinates activities for new members, retiring members and the organization. (2 year term)

Karen Nuckolls, Chair (2011)
Cathy Wagar (2010)
Reba Best (2010)
Edward Hart (2011)
Maureen Cahill (2011)
Billie Jo Kaufman (2011)

Newsletter and Public Relations: Responsible for the publication of the "Southeastern Law Librarian" four times a year. (2 year term)

Carolyn T. Santanella, Chair (2010)
Ryan Valentine (2010)
Elizabeth Farrell (2010)
Jessica de Perio Wittman (2010)
Brian Barnes (2011)
Charlene Cain (2011)
Ismael Gullon (2011)
Renee Weatherholt (2011)

Nominations: (1 year term)

Nancy Johnson, Chair
Michelle Cosby
Jason Sowards
Georgia Chadwick

Placement: Communicates the availability of new positions in the southeast; also, responds to potential employers with information about SEAALL members who are interested in new employment opportunities. (2 year term)

Denise Gibson (2010)
Michelle Cosby (2010)
Trina Holloway (2010)
Jack Bisset (2011)
Christine Sellers (2011)

Program: Plans and implements the educational program for the chapter's annual meeting. (1 year term)

Karen Douglas, Chair
Donna Nixon (2011)
Pamela Deemer (2011)
Catherine Dunn (2011)
Carol Watson (2011)
Olivia Weeks (2011)
Billie Blain (2011)
Carmen Melendez (2011)
Patricia Kidd (2011)
Paul Hellyer (VALL)

Scholarship: Publicizes, manages and awards the annual Lucille Elliott scholarships. (2 year term)

Kathleen Brown, Chair (2010)
Lorelle Anderson (2010)
Masako Patrum (2010)
Sally Irvin (2011)
Carol Avery Nicholson (2011)
Colleen Manning (2011)
Ronald Wheeler (2011)

Service to SEAALL:

Nancy Johnson, Chair
Bill Beintema (replacing Ken Hirsh who has left the SEAALL region)
Ann Kleinfelter

SEAALL Financial Report

Prepared for 2009 AALL Annual Meeting

OPENING WORKING BALANCE		\$91,197.70
INCOME		
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS	5,100	
SEAALL 2009 ANNUAL MEETING	7,689.50	
TOTAL INCOME	12,789.50	
TOTAL WORKING BALANCE		103,987.20
EXPENSES		
SEAALL 2009 MEETING		25,921.85
Copying and mailing	569.88	
Food & Beverages	19,390.92	
Donations	503	
Transportation tion	1,609.60	
Registration refunds	1,607.50	
Gifts for speakers	61.99	
Misc. reimbursements	2,178.96	
Accountant - 2008 taxes	445.00	
Reimbursements		556.82
SEAALL @AALL 2009		
Renaissance Hotel		4,852.50
TOTAL EXPENSES	30,774.35	
CLOSING WORKING BALANCE		73,212.85
INVESTMENTS AS OF JULY 1, 2009		
Bank of America CD	3,602.29	
Fidelity	6,378.87	
TOTAL ASSETS		83,194.01