



10-20-1972

Letter to Peyton Neal, Jr. regarding the SEAALL Institute, October 20, 1972

Frederick Smith

Right click to open a feedback form in a new tab to let us know how this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/seaall_cor

 Part of the [Law Librarianship Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Smith, Frederick, "Letter to Peyton Neal, Jr. regarding the SEAALL Institute, October 20, 1972" (1972). *Correspondence*. 1508. https://uknowledge.uky.edu/seaall_cor/1508

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the SEAALL Archive at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in Correspondence by an authorized administrator of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

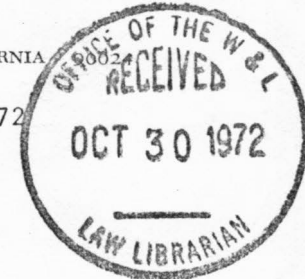
BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ



LAW LIBRARY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

October 20, 1972



Professor Peyton R. Neal, Jr.
School of Law
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, Virginia 24450

Dear Peyton:

I am sorry to be so slow in responding to your letter of September 25th, but there has been the usual rush of business at the opening of school here.

I think that your recognition of a special area of interest in the general topic of reclassification and use of LC, namely the administrative concerns which are involved in the decisions to reclassify etc, is important and timely. I would think that this approach would be of interest to many and extremely significant for virtually everyone.

Because of the general significance of the administrative problems and most obviously I am thinking here of costing and funding of such a project, I wonder if it would not be beneficial to include some of this in the institute section designed for the catalogers. In other words, if a library has not yet made a definite commitment to adopt LC, I think it would be instructive for catalog staff to have some exposure to the kinds of factors which must be weighed by administrators, (either their own head librarian, or the next higher administrative authority which supervises the work of the librarian), so that a genuine understanding of ramifications of such decisions is achieved beyond technical problems of how to apply the schedule to the books in their library. If the law library has made the decision to adopt LC, it seems to me this administrative content, unless it pertains to setting up task force staff and the like, need not be included. What I am suggesting is that rather than divide the institute into sections for catalogers and sections for administrators which would tend to protect the ignorance of each group of the problems of the others, I would propose that you divide the institute into sections for those who have made the decision and received funding for adoption of LC and a section for those where that decision and commitment has yet to be made. By using this kind of a division, it might be possible to run both sections simultaneously with a good deal of overlap in sessions attended.

I do think that the recognition of an administrative aspect to the question of adoption of LC has probably been undervalued in most of the institutes and literature of which I am aware. I think that this element in your institute would be extremely significant in giving recognition to this aspect of the problem. In spite of my great interest in this topic and my feeling of its great importance I really don't feel that I should make any commitment to be involved formally in the program at this stage. If you had in mind my being responsible for some aspect of the presentation, I just feel that I am not well enough informed at the moment to make the commitment now. It is true that I intend to give this matter serious consideration this winter

if I can get public service responsibilities off my back, and that I would hope to be at least partially informed on this issue by that April date. However, at this stage I think I had better forego making any commitment. I will, however, be interested to know how the plans for the institute progress and particularly how successful you are in introducing this theme of administrative concerns in the area of reclassification and adoption of LC.

I hope things are going well with you and I appreciate your thinking of me in connection with this project.

Cordially yours,

Fred

Frederick E. Smith
Law Librarian

FES:bjd