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Crossroads: Strategic Partnerships and Collaborative Programming

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of another program, "Technology in the Classroom: Integrating Electronic and Print Research into an Analytical Legal Writing Program," was presented at the June 1998 Conference of the Legal Writing Institute at the University of Michigan Law School. The AALL program will demonstrate how librarians at the Boston College Law School

as the Legal Writing Institute, can impact law school curriculums.

A significant number of judicial personnel likely will attend the Annual Meeting. A grant from the State Justice Institute will fund the attendance of judges, court administrators, and other court personnel as well as representatives from the major judicial associations who would benefit from the educational opportunity offered at

the Annual Meeting. The State Court and County Law Libraries SIS and individual AALL Chapters are working together to identify and nominate appropriate individuals for

attendance. The presence of these members of the judiciary will make the three-part program on courts, technology, and access to electronic legal information even more valuable to AALL's members working in the judicial sector. The Chapter VIP program recently adopted by the AALL Executive Board will assist Chapters in funding the attendance of legal information

partners at the Annual Meeting. This will allow AALL to demonstrate the expertise of its members to lawyers, judges, law school professors, and deans, legal administrators, and the like from across the country.

Other programs and workshops also will emphasize the significant benefits

of relationships with related associations, organizations, and groups. For example, three workshops, "Law Librarians Meet the 106th Congress," "Meet the Legal Specialists: Expert Advice on Research and Acquisition of Foreign Law in the Vernacular," and "GPO Depository Library Workshop," will illustrate the strength of the relationships of AALL and its members with the U.S. Congress, the Law Library of Congress, and the Government Printing Office. Moreover, other programs not discussed here will focus on the relationship of law librarians with legal publishers and the legal information vendors.

We encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity, the 1999 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., not only to meet with your AALL colleagues and to learn more about issues facing all of us, but also to strengthen relationships with individuals from other associations or groups who are involved in similar concerns and issues. See you in Washington, D.C., for "At the Crossroads: Information Management, Technology, and Policy," July 17-22, 1999.

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Examples of AALL Entity Partnering

AALL President and Executive Director are active in other organizations.

Association Official Representatives actively participate in other library, legal, and information organizations.

AALL Washington Office is a strong voice in the library and legislative policymaking arena.

Special Interest Sections target and work with relevant partners on joint activities.

AALL Chapters establish ties to local, statewide, and regional organizations in their areas including state and local bar associations and other library associations.

Individual AALL members actively promote law librarian issues through membership in local bar associations, library friends groups, and similar organizations.

collaborated with Legal Reasoning, Research, and Writing faculty to create and co-teach a first-year legal research, reading, and writing course that fully integrates instruction in electronic and print research with analytical writing and how AALL members, working with groups such

Delivery of Services continued from page 9

give basic assistance about small claims court. In July of this year, the official Web site California Administrative Office of the Courts inaugurated the California Small Claims Courts Information Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/smallclaims). This site has both valuable information and useful links to other consumer-oriented legal sites.

Advances in technology have enabled pro pers to retrieve legal information online. This is a particular boon to people in rural areas or others who may not have easy access to a well-stocked county law library. In addition, some Web sites are available

in multiple languages. For instance, the Los Angeles County Courts' information Web site (www.co.la.ca.us/courts/superior-auc/lawday/main.htm) for pro pers, students, and other interested persons is available in English and Spanish. Translations into Korean, Mandarin, and Vietnamese have been completed and will be posted shortly.

In an age of increasing diversity and the resultant demands on law library resources coupled with shrinking library budgets, the Internet and other technology may be the tools that rescue all of us. The material available on such we sites as findlaw

(www.findlaw.com) and hieros gamos (www.hg.org) enable researchers to access far more resources than any one library could ever contain. The availability of information over the Internet in languages other than English enables libraries to serve patrons despite a language barrier.

As we enter the twenty-first century, it is reassuring to realize that technology is emerging daily to enable law librarians meet the challenges of diversity!

Cossette T. Sun, Director of the Alameda County Law Library (Oakland, California) since 1977, was the 1996-97 Chair of the AALL Committee on Diversity.

Partnering with other entities has been a hallmark of the American Association of Law Libraries throughout the Association's history. AALL formalizes the importance of partnering with other organizations and groups in Strategic Direction IV of the 1998-2000 Strategic Challenge. The directive states that AALL will "... encourage and support strategic partnerships and purposeful exchanges with others." One of the rationales supporting this challenge is that "... this area of activity ... will enable the profession to be recognized as a preeminent source of expertise in the field of legal information." (pp. 407-408 in AALL Directory) As President Jim Heller stated recently, "We can advance our professional interests by working closely with other groups within the legal and information communities. We will use the Washington meeting to strengthen existing and create new ties with other organizations" (AALL Spectrum 11/98:4)

A number of the educational offerings at the 1999 Annual Meeting will support the Association's interest in partnering through active participation in programs by groups associated with AALL. The Annual Meeting program planners, at the direction of President Heller, identified specific groups and associations that should be represented at the 1999 Annual Meeting. President Heller directed the planners to propose programs for the Annual Meeting featuring representatives from both AALL and our legal information partners that would appeal to members from both groups and would focus on the issues that affect all of us. The conference theme, "At the Crossroads: Information Management, Technology, and Policy," not only represents the many issues facing law librarians at this crucial time, but also reflects the interconnectedness of all the players involved in the legal information arena.

Among the programs selected for the 1999 Annual Meeting are some that feature AALL's partners in the legal and information communities and focus on issues central to the work of AALL members and related organizations. One of the best examples of partnering with other groups is the inclusion in the 1999 Annual

Meeting of two programs that are co-sponsored by one of our partners, the Law Practice Management Section of the American Bar Association. AALL's Official Representative to LPM worked closely with the LPM Section Chair to develop programs that would appeal to law librarians, practicing attorneys, and law firm administrators. "At the Crossroads: Law Firm Management Speaks Out about Law Library Expectations" will focus on the evolving roles and responsibilities of law librarians as we approach the millennium. The program will feature a partner and an administrator from two major law firms discussing their expectations for the law firm library of the future. "Legal Resources at the Crossroads: What Will the Millennium Bring?" will address the proper mix of electronic and print products in law libraries. The program speakers will discuss how to balance retrieval costs, space costs, ease of access, and training issues. It will offer some examples of small law firms that have opted to eliminate print resources completely. Join your attorney and law firm management colleagues for these two discussions.

AALL's Official Representative to the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association and other court law librarians played a significant role in the development of "The National Action Plan to Improve Public Trust and Confidence in the Justice System: Defining a Role for Law Librarians." This program will focus on a national plan to improve the public's perception of and trust in the U.S. justice system. The plan will be developed at the National Conference on Public Trust and Confidence in the Justice System in May 1999. During the AALL Annual Meeting, a leading participant from the National Conference will recap the conference proceedings. Program

participants will then work in small groups to discuss specific action plans and make recommendations for library activities that would enhance and be incorporated into the national action plan.

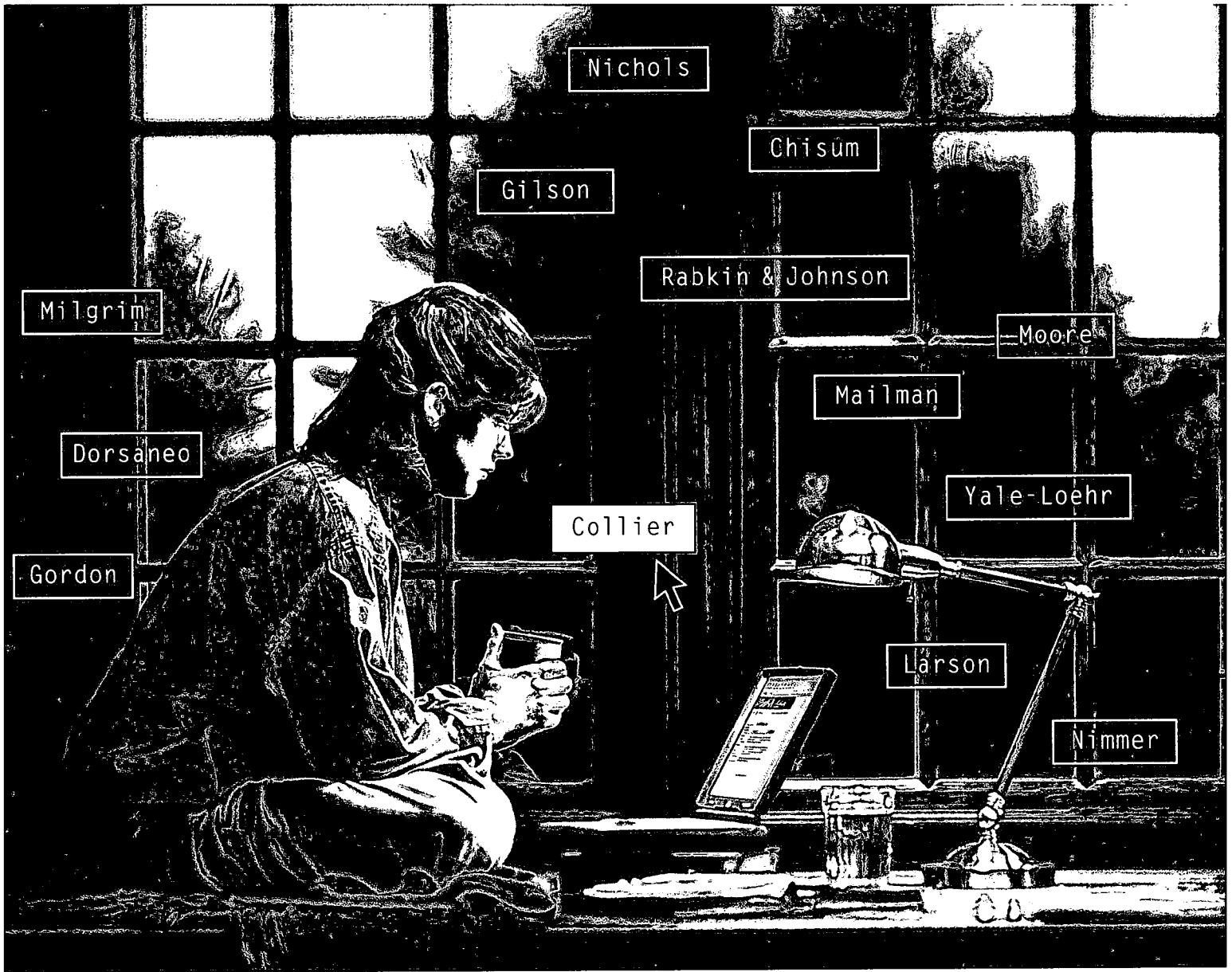
Examples of library associations working together and with other groups will be the focus of "Shared Efforts: Library Association and Consumer Groups Working Together to Affect the Law." Members of AALL's Government Relations Committee and Copyright Committee developed this program to focus on several cooperative activities. In recent years the AALL has taken the leadership role in working with library and other associations, particularly on copyright and related legal issues. Speakers from the Shared Legal Capability, the Digital Future Coalition, and the Inter-Association Working Group on Government Information will discuss collaborative efforts with AALL to affect legislation. The program will illustrate how library associations, working with partners, can significantly impact information access and policy issues.

The evolving and often controversial issues surrounding the explosion of electronic publishing will be the focus of "At the Crossroads in the Age of Electronic Publishing: the Potential Impact of Electronic Publishing on Law Libraries, Legal Education, and Legal Scholarship." The program will present the intellectual and philosophical issues of this revolution and the practical issues of electronic publishing such as archiving, permanency, citation concerns, hypertext linking, security, and the ramifications for library budgets. One of the speakers will be the primary author of a report by the Association of American Law Schools Committee on Libraries and Technology on its investigation of the impact of electronic publishing. A version

1998-2000 AALL Strategic Challenge

Strategic Direction IV Initiatives

1. Forge partnership with groups in the legal, library and information communities that have value and relevance to the AALL mission and strategic directions.
2. Establish relationships with the publisher and vendor communities that promote a dialogue on the evolving information environment, improved information products, and fair and reasonable access to information.

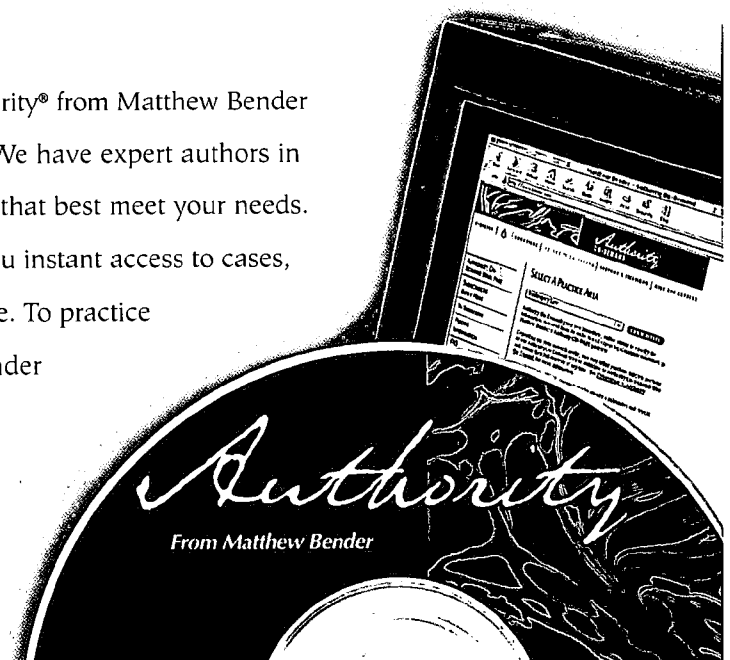


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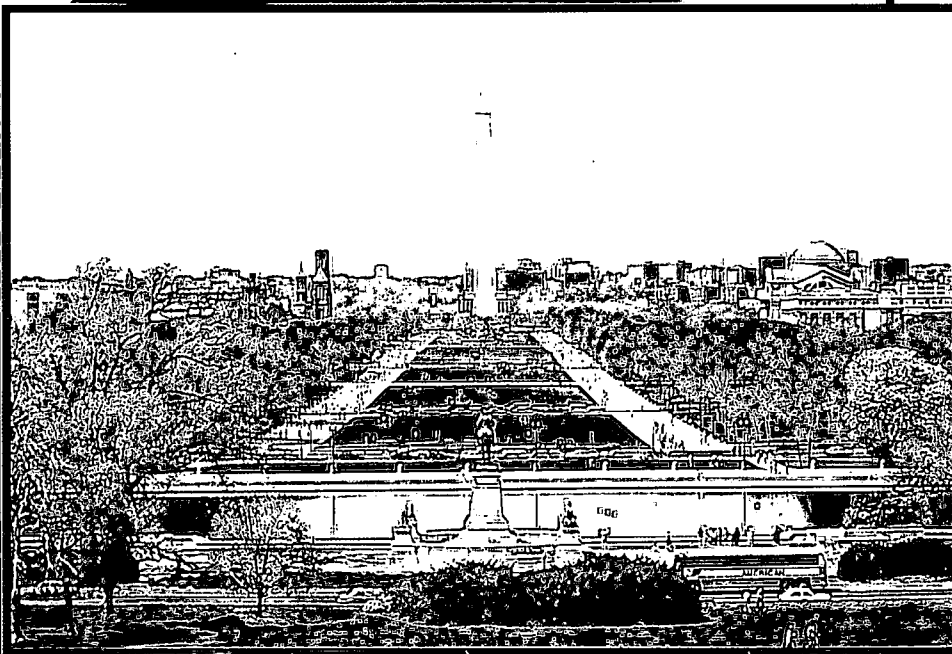


AALL

SPECTRUM

Washington, D.C.

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a nation,
and the world.

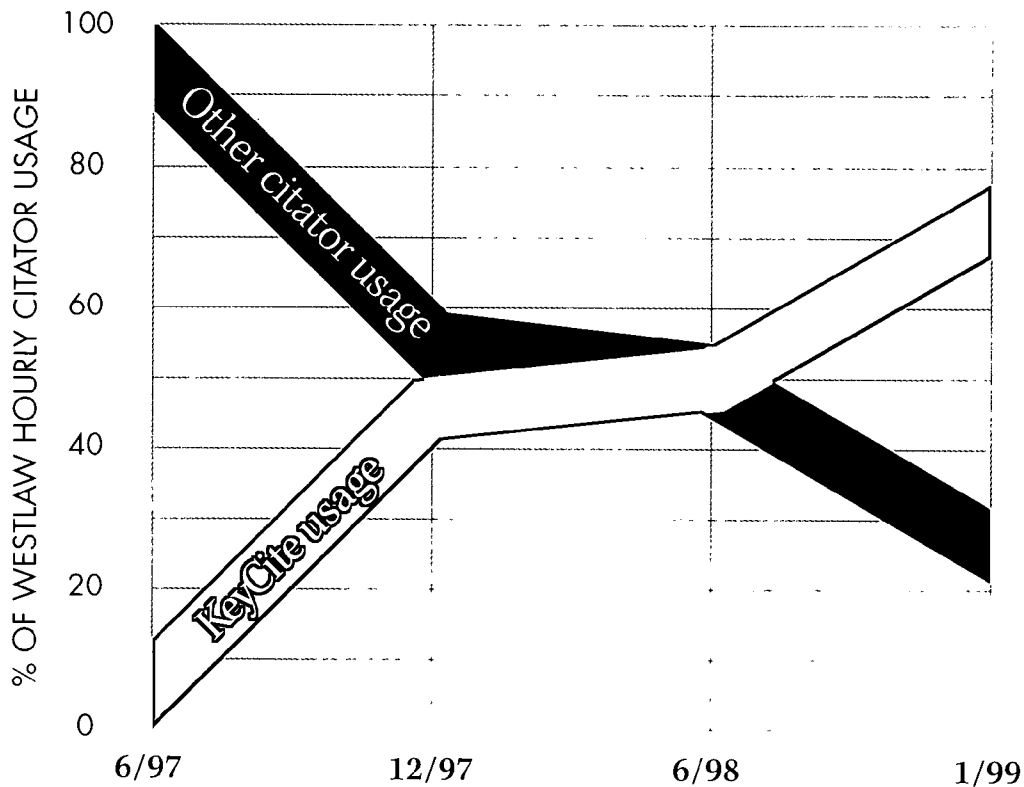


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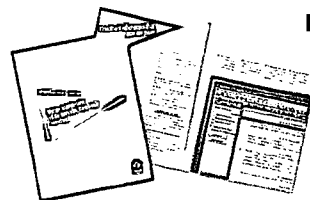
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