Greetings and Happy Summer! I am delighted to write my first letter for the SWALL Bulletin.

First order of business: words of thanks to the team who made our 2015 Annual Meeting in Boulder, CO a success! Many thanks to Nick Harrell, Student Services and Outreach Librarian at the University of Colorado Law School, for leading a wonderful team of people who coordinated Local Arrangements for the meeting. Additional thanks to the members of the Program Committee who made sure we all had something to think and talk about in Boulder. Special thanks to Susan Nevelow Mart, Director of the Law Library and Associate Professor at the University of Colorado Law School, for ensuring that adult beverages were never in short supply. And last and most important: profuse thanks to everyone who presented a program at the 2015 Annual Meeting. Without members dedicated to sharing their expertise with their colleagues, we would not have an Annual Meeting worth attending.

I’d like to say a few more words about sharing: sharing expertise, sharing talent, sharing commitment, and sharing laughs. The Southwest Association of Law Libraries has a long tradition of its members sharing their gifts with others. Sometimes it takes the form of sharing the wealth. Sometimes it takes the form of sharing expertise at our annual meeting. Many times it takes the form of sharing time and commitment through committee or Executive Board service. Fortunately, opportunities abound to share laughs and forge new relationships.

Each person’s ability to devote time to professional service is different, and it varies from year to year depending on circumstances. If this is your year to get more involved, please head over to the SWALL Committees 2015-16 page (http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/swall/committees.html) and complete the Committee Preference Form. Committees are being finalized now, but your expression of interest is welcome at any time during the year!
There’s a wonderful opportunity upcoming to share good times and fellowship at the annual meeting of AALL in Philadelphia. DALL, HALL, SWALL, and the UNT will host a joint reception at Moriarty’s Pub on Sunday, July 19 from 6:00 until 8:00 pm. More information and the opportunity to RSVP for the joint reception was recently sent out.

Don’t forget that SWALL’s 2015-16 membership year began June 1, 2015. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible. You can find the membership form on the SWALL Membership Information page (http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/swall/membership/index.html). For a very small investment of dollars, you can maintain and strengthen your professional connections and benefit from multiple opportunities to share your expertise with your colleagues. If AALL seems a bit intimidating (and it definitely feels that way to me sometimes), SWALL provides a different, less stressful route to the professional connections we all crave.

Make sure your membership is current in advance of our massive joint annual meeting with SEALL, April 14-16, 2016 in Dallas! The working theme is “Big D: Discovery, Data & Dicta.” Save the dates on your 2016 calendar and make time to share in the wealth of expertise, mentoring, and support offered by your colleagues.

I’m looking forward to a productive and rewarding year of service to SWALL. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with questions and ideas at laws@law.unm.edu. I am always happy to discuss law librarianship and SWALL!

100 YEARS AND COUNTING

Save the Date
Harris County Law Library
Centennial Celebration
October 1, 2015 ★ 3 p.m.-5 p.m.
www.harriscountylawlibrary.org/100
Report from the 2015 SWALL Grants Committee

This has been a busy year for the Grants Committee, Boulder has come and gone and Philadelphia is almost here!

Once again, congratulations to the $500 grant recipients for Boulder:

Jill Henderson, Director, Taylor County Law Library;
Heather Kushnerick, Special Collections Librarian and Archivist, South Texas College of Law; and
Laura McKinnon, Director of Scholarly Communications, UNT Libraries.

Their conference reports can be seen in this issue of the Bulletin or on the SWALL web site. Also a special thanks to our recipients for participating in programs for the Boulder meeting!

A hearty congratulations goes to Kenton S. Brice, our $1000 Lung Scholarship recipient! Kenton earned a JD at the University of Oklahoma in May of 2009 and is currently completing his Masters of Science at the University of North Texas. Since the Boulder meeting, Kenton accepted a position as Digital Services Librarian at the University of Oklahoma College of Law Library.

Many, many thanks to Mon Yin Lung for her generous funding of the Lung Scholarship!

The AALL Chapter Registration Grant for Philadelphia was awarded to Jeff Woodmansee at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Kudos to Jeff on his grant and to him and his wife on the birth of a daughter, the day the application was due! And best of luck to our SWALL Grant recipient Fang Wang currently at St. Mary’s University Law Library who is returning this summer to Florida State University to finish a PhD.

Thanks to Christopher Dykes, Reference Librarian at the University of Houston O’Quinn Law Library; Kasia Solon Cristobal, Student Services Librarian at the University of Texas Jamail Center for Legal Research; and Cassie DuBay, Faculty and Research Services Librarian at Southern Methodist University Underwood Law Library for their service on the Grants (and Scholarships) Committee.
Opening Remarks

SWALL President Kathleen Bransford called the business meeting to order at 12:45 PM. Jennifer Laws moved that the minutes of the 2014 meeting be approved. Katy Badeaux seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Life Membership (Mon Yin Lung):
Sharon Wayland was recommended for life membership. Mon Yin Lung stated that Sharon was a past SWALL president and that despite hardship, she managed to keep her library open.

Treasurer Report (Katy Badeaux):
See the financial statement provided (see attachment) for details on cash on hand in Savings and Checking accounts. We made money last year in Austin, and it looked like we will be in the black for the Boulder conference as well. Jennifer offered big thanks to the vendors and to Nick for the Boulder conference. Stacy Fowler moved that the treasurer’s report be approved. Yvonne Chandler seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Nominations committee (Michele Rigual):
Notice of the new slate of officers went out later than it should have (should be out 45 days before the business meeting). There were no floor nominations, so, with no objections, the new slate of officers will be confirmed on May 26.

Archives committee (Heather Kushnerick):
Heather went through what is currently there and asked for more donations. She will write an article on managing the collection.

Legal Information Services to the Public committee:
The LISP program was not held in Austin, so one was held on November 19, 2014, co-hosted by Texas A&M Law School and Tarrant County Law Library. It went very well, and they have been asked to do it again. This year’s was a success as well, with 12 people attending in person and 12 attending by webinar. The website for the program was launched on March 16, and there were over 600 views, with 2/3 being new visitors.

Public Relations committee:
Don’t forget to tweet using #SWALL15.

Continued on next page
State, Court, and County Law Libraries committee (Joe Lawson):
   They focused on articles to the SWALL Bulletin this year. Everyone on the committee authored or helped with articles, so thanks to all of them.

Grants committee (David Gay):
   The committee wanted to acknowledge the three recipients for grants to attend the Boulder meeting: Jill Henderson, Heather Kushnerick, and Laura McKinnon. Many thanks to Mon Yin Lung for the Lung Scholarship, which went to Kenton Brice, a student currently attending UNT. The AALL Chapter Registration Grant for AALL in Philadelphia will go to Jeff Woodmansee.

Membership committee (Mon Yin Lung):
   Membership is at 158. Breakdown: Academic: 118, Firms: 10, State, court, and country: 20, Associates (vendors): 4, Special: 1; Life membership: 1, and Students: 4. All members need to encourage others to attend meetings and volunteer to serve on committees.

Special Handbook committee (Wendy Law):
   The revisions have been submitted to the board for review.

Local Arrangements committee (Nick Harrell):
   Nick thanked the local arrangements committee for their hard work and thanked the exhibitors for their support. He also reminded everyone about the vendor’s trivia contest and drawing.

Program committee (Jennifer Laws):
   Thanks to the presenters – please send your information to Emily Lawson if you want to share those materials. Special thanks to the committee for all their hard work.

New Business

   Ed Hart reminded everyone about the joint SWALL/SEALL meeting in Dallas. It will be held April 14-16, 2016. The hotel will be the Marriott Downtown, and meetings will be held at the Dallas Bar Building one block away.

   Monica Ortale suggested we examine the amount given for the AALL grant - $500 isn’t enough, so she wanted to propose that it be increased to $750 or $1000.

Passing of the Gavel

   With thanks for letting her be President, Kathleen Bransford passed the gavel to Jennifer Laws, SWALL president for 2015-2016. Jennifer then presented Kathleen with a gift in appreciation for her service, especially in reaching out to other county law librarians. Jennifer also gave special thanks to Mon Yin, stating that her involvement has been outstanding, literally putting her money where her mouth is. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Fowler
SWALL Secretary, 2015-2016
## Statement of Cash Flows

**SOUTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES**  
**Checking and Savings**  
**FOR APRIL 2014 - MARCH 2015**

### Savings Account Balance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No account activity</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$15,369.69</td>
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### Checking Account

#### Cash received

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash received from 2014-15 member dues</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash received SWALL 2014 Annual Meeting Registrations</td>
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<td>Cash received SWALL 2015 Annual Meeting Registrations</td>
<td>$12,550.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash received from SWALL 2015 Annual Meeting Vendor Sponsorships</td>
<td>$6,750.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash received from LISP 2014 Registration Fees</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash received from Mon Yin Lung for Lung Scholarship</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash received</strong></td>
<td>$23,545.00</td>
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### Expenditures

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<tr>
<td>Cash paid for SWALL 2014 Annual Meeting Grants</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash paid for SWALL 2014 Annual Meeting Expenses</td>
<td>$(19,788.88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash paid for AALL 2014 Joint Reception</td>
<td>$(500.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash paid for SWALL 2015 Annual Meeting (thus far)</td>
<td>$(1,159.90)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash paid for AALL 2015 Annual Meeting Grants</td>
<td>$(1,000.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash Paid for 2015 Lung Scholarship</strong></td>
<td>$(1,000.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net expenditures</strong></td>
<td>$(24,448.78)</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in cash during the period</td>
<td>$(903.78)</td>
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Hearsay: Membership News

Mon Yin Lung
University of Houston
Former Chair of the Membership Committee

2014-15 SWALL new members and retired members

Retired:
Beard, Evelyn (TSU), Jessica Alexander (STX), David Cowan (STX)

New or returned members:
Brice, Kenton S. (UNT)
Bridges, Barbara (UT Tarlton)
Burress, Cynthia (TX A & M)
Burress, Debra (Thompson and Knight)
Campbell, Sara E. (Lubbock County Law Library)
Carroll, Sharon (U.S. Courts Library, 10th Circuit)
Cathey, Candace M. (Dallas, individual not associated with any law library)
Clark, Robert N. (U Houston)
Craig, Lori-Ann (Harris County)
DeFebbo, Dana (UT)
Gatz, Paul (TX Tech)
Gerber, Holly (Tarrant County)
Giles, Lewis (UNT)
Hatch, Amber (UT Tarlton)
Hirsch, Cindy (Elon)
Iqbal, Saadia (TX Tech)
Jones, Nathaniel (Baylor)
Lamar, Wendy (U.S. Courts Library, 10th Circuit)
Manning, Colleen (STX)
Martindale, Peggy (Tarrant County/returned member)
Matin, Faria (UNT)
McGuire, Leslie B. (U.S. Courts Library, 10th Circuit)
Miller, Rod (Arkansas Supreme Court)
Nelson, Melanie (Tulsa, returned member)
Pluta, Joshua (TX Tech)
Policastri, Joan (Colorado)
Rosebaum, Tabitha (Baylor)
Rowlett, Kristen (TX A&M)
Sifuentes-Martinez, Ana (Texas State Law Library)
Todd, Richard (Tulsa)
Vogel, Corrine (Illinois, student)
Wondracek, Jennifer L. (UNT)
Congratulations to Jill Henderson, Heather Kushnerick, Laura McKinnon, and Kenton S. Brice. Here are their reports:

Jill Henderson
Director of Law Library
Taylor County, Abilene, Texas

VOYAGE TO BOULDER

My first SWALL convention was Oklahoma City in 1995, and this trip was bittersweet for me because it will probably be my last one. I missed only a few SWALL conventions within this 20 year stretch, and from each convention I gained knowledge that made me a better law librarian.

The programming was superb, and to my delight it was not only (to mangle and parody a popular song…it’s all about the bass, etc.) about the law, the law, the law. I personally enjoyed the programming on Mindfulness, Visioning the Future, Why you should not take Marijuana back to Texas (LOL), and Zen Meditation. Thank you to Deborah Cantrell, Natalie Martin, Robert Linz and Blake Wilson.

Thanks to Robert Linz and the staff at the stunning University of Colorado at Boulder for the LISP programming. I hope his model sets the norm for future LISP programs. We had a webinar, which not only was designed to help the public, but also reached out to public librarians. As someone pointed out, not every city or county has a law librarian. It was our goal to help any librarian interact with the public without crossing a line to practice law without a license. As a plus, now a webinar program exists which can be accessed by public librarians who can use it as a training tool to educate their staff about the law and legal research.

I learned a new acronym. IoT, or the internet of things. Thank you very much, Stephanie Noble, for scaring us about the intrusion of the internet into our lives. LOL. Why do we so easily give faceless internet entities private information? If a person knocked on our door and asked personal questions about your waist and bra size, would we call the police? How easily we are being assimilated into the mind-set of connectivity. How easily we give our privacy away: to the internet, to the general population, to The Borg. Resistance may be futile.

Boulder would be a nearly perfect town if not for those pesky bicycles whizzing by you nearly every step you take. I nearly got wiped out several times because, in Boulder, Colorado, one needs to walk a straight line-with or without alcohol or Robert’s brownies.

“The SWALL 2015 theme was Go Bolder, and beautiful Boulder, Colorado, you nailed it.”
-Jill
Heather Kushnerick,  
Special Collections Librarian & College Archivist  
South Texas College of Law/Houston.

“I will say that the one problem I had with this conference is that I often wanted to be in two places at the same time.”

SWALL is, hands down, my favorite conference to attend, but I usually only go to the Texas conferences. Thanks to a travel grant I was able to go to an out of state conference – and not to any old state, but to Colorado! Confession: I LOVE Colorado. As a long-time skier (who lives at sea level where they do the wrong kind of skiing), just being able to see mountains makes me smile and relaxes a part of me I forgot existed. I was therefore in the perfect frame of mind for the first day of the conference with back to back sessions on mindfulness.

Deborah Cantrell, Associate Professor of Law and Director of Clinical Programs at the University of Colorado Law School, started us off on the right foot at the opening luncheon with a discussion of mindfulness and the practice of law. A mindfulness course was approved by our curriculum committee just last semester, so I was curious and not sure what to expect. It sounds a little too hippy-ish to fly in Texas, you know? However, I quickly realized that this may well be the missing piece of the law school puzzle. It’s a way for law students, and the lawyers they will become, to relieve stress, clear their heads, and make themselves more productive. I think the wider implication, that this is a way to assist them live a healthier, more productive life by providing mechanisms to help them relax, is crucial to the long-term success of our students. Law is a stressful career and it can be easy to burn out. The benefit I see with mindfulness is teaching law students how to be present in all aspects of their life, both professional and personal. These days we are all too busy, too connected, and too tired. Mindfulness training gives students a different, yet no less critical, set of tools to help them succeed by showing them how to combat all the “toos” they encounter in their daily life. Nathalie Martin’s Plenary Session dovetailed nicely with Professor Cantrell’s talk. Plus, we got to do yoga! (Note for future program committees: next time give us ladies a heads up so we won’t wear skirts, dresses, or heels.)

I started Friday off with Chris Dykes and Dan Donahue’s presentation on Hydraulic Fracturing Research. This is such a hot topic right now and I was really fascinated by the whole presentation. I’m from Arlington, Texas, and I was quite shocked a few years ago when earthquakes started being reported. I hadn’t been paying attention to the fracking trend or its rise in North Texas. I’d like to say that based on 30 years of living in the DFW area, I firmly believe that fracking causes earthquakes. I was therefore a little surprised to learn that the National Academy of Sciences concluded that fracking does not “pose a high risk for inducing felt seismic events.” To prevent myself from blathering on about what is most likely considered a political hot topic by many, I’d like to say that this presentation was full of useful information, and that this was, in my opinion, the most substantive session at SWALL this year. Doing research on this topic is challenging, but Chris and Dan not only made a great cheat sheet for all of us, they explained the process of hydraulic fracturing making it easier for us to see all aspects of potential litigation, and the different aspects to consider when undertaking our own research.

I have to commend Michelle Rigual and Jenn Laws for their presentation on the ABA standards on setting and assessing learning outcomes. Let’s face it, the ABA standards are not the most interesting of
topics. Presentations on them are, by definition, dry and factual. Jenn and Michelle, however, broke the pattern and gave a presentation that not only laid out point by point what the ABA expects of us, but what other schools are already doing and the role law libraries play.

I will say that the one problem I had with this conference is that I often wanted to be in two places at the same time. That clearly speaks well of our membership for coming up with the presentations, and the program committee for putting together such a dynamic conference. I’d like to thank the Grants committee for allowing me to attend. I hope to see everyone in Dallas next year. The scenery isn’t as pretty, but there’s so much to do and see that you won’t be disappointed.

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Laura McKinnon
Director Scholarly Communications
UNT Libraries

SWALL 2015

I consider SWALL to be the most valuable professional organization to which I belong. The close knit community is second to none. Networking is easy. Getting involved a breeze. I always look forward to attending SWALL. Between the wonderful programming and fantastic location (seriously, if you have not been to Boulder in the spring, go!), this year’s meeting definitely did not disappoint. I was fortunate to receive a SWALL meeting grant this year, which made traveling to Colorado from Texas a bit more manageable (giving back to its members is another reason SWALL is so great). I enjoyed and learned from every program that I attended and I included some highlights below.

Opening Luncheon: Mindfulness
This was an excellent way to start the conference. The speaker, Professor Deborah Cantrell from CU Law, was dynamic. She discussed several ways mindfulness is being incorporated into legal education and also in lawyers’ lives, from mindfulness retreats to part of a firm’s programming. She discussed the benefits of mindfulness (lower stress, higher productivity) and mentioned ways to incorporate it into teaching.

Plenary Session: Mindfulness
The opening luncheon was followed by a plenary session on mindfulness that took the concepts that Professor Cantrell discussed and put them into action. Professor Nathalie Martin from the UNM School of Law walked participants through several mindfulness techniques. These were very useful and I plan to incorporate some of these into my daily routine.

Experiential Learning: Developing a Business Legal Research Class
As a member of the Program Committee, I moderated this program, though I likely would have attended anyway. Mark Popielarski from the Westminster Law Library at DU College of Law discussed his process for creating an experiential legal research course. It was really interesting to hear about his thought process and what he wanted to accomplish with the course. DU has an institutional philosophy that favors experiential learning, so it was fairly simple for him to propose such a course and have it accepted. I think one of the best parts of this program was that he discussed what didn’t work in his first couple of iterations of the course and how it plans to continually evolve the course each semester to better fit his students’ needs.
Breaking New Ground: Marijuana Law

This presentation, given by Robert Linz of CU, was an interesting look at current and local legislation. Based on his book, The User’s Guide to Colorado Marijuana Law, Linz’s presentation touched on the law itself and also on writing as a law librarian. He discussed unintended consequences of the law (overdoses in children, pot tourism) and also the gray areas (what does “treated in a manner similar to alcohol” actually mean?). I learned quite a bit from the discussion, and the brownies he provided were delicious.


Michelle Riguall from UNM and Madeline Cohen from the 10th Circuit discussed security set ups and measures at their libraries. It was interesting to see how different security can be depending on library type and location of the library. For example, the 10th Circuit library has extensive security measures and personnel since it is a federal building and is inside the court. The audience participated in the program by discussing security measures at their libraries. For the most part, academic libraries have similar measures in place, though private institutions tend to be stricter as to who is allowed in the building. Riguall and Cohen stressed the importance of staff training (knowing what to do in an emergency) to ensure the safety of patrons and staff.

I highly recommend attending a SWALL meeting. It is a great way to get involved in the profession and you will not regret it. I am certainly looking forward to seeing my friends and colleagues next year in my neck of the woods, Dallas!

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Kenton S. Brice
Digital Services Librarian
University of Oklahoma College of Law Library

SWALL 2015 was my first, and definitely not my last, professional law librarian conference. This conference was a pivotal moment in my transition from practicing attorney to law librarian. While the seminars and programming were great, especially untucking my shirt to do yoga in Nathalie Martin’s Plenary Session, meeting fellow law librarians helped confirm that evolving from attorney to librarian was the right thing to do. Without the networking opportunity that SWALL is, I feel that I may still be unsure about my transition. However, by receiving the generosity of the Lung Scholarship to travel to Boulder and meet a host of wonderful professionals, I am now convinced more than ever that law librarianship is exactly the professional course that my legal career should be and is now on.

My conference started with Deborah Cantrell’s opening luncheon Mindfulness and the Practice of Law. Her luncheon was wonderful, and I had the opportunity to start meeting various law librarians from all over the Southwest. This pattern continued throughout the day with Nathalie Martin’s yoga induced session and a follow-up a seminar from Wendy Lamar on governmental activities affecting libraries. Rounding out my first day was a great pint of beer and tacos at Sanitas with great conversation provided by Ed Hart, Charles Finger, David and Karen Selden, Erik Beck, Nickolas Harrell, and Youngwoo Ban. Looking back on the first day, I can now see that I was going to enjoy law librarianship. The people – the professionals – that I had been meeting seemed more vibrant, happier, and friendlier than most others I have met at other professional conferences, meetings, or CLE events. As the conference continued, this pattern also continued.

The second day was more of the first – meeting wonderful people and attending intriguing
seminars. Being from Denton, Texas, I had to start my day at Dan Donahue and Chris Dykes’ seminar on hydraulic fracturing. From the conservative world of oil and gas, I then ventured to Robert Linz’s “marijuana talk”, which was less on marijuana, and more on how to think and write like a law librarian. I appreciated Robert’s seminar as he helped me frame my understanding of what it means to be an effective law librarian in an ever changing legal world, no matter how one might vote or stand on any given issue. Thank you, Robert! My day continued with Heather Kushnerick’s rendition of Thursdays, the business luncheon, and then rounded out with Jennifer Laws and Michelle Rigual’s seminar on meeting the new ABA Standards, which I have since learned more and more about in approaching the start of my career. My day ended with a wonderful reception hosted by Colorado Law (thanks to Susan Mart!) and subsequent dinner at T/ACO, which provided gracious and welcoming conversation with Anne Lueck, Madeline Cohen, and Danny Norris at the helm.

As stated, the seminars were great at SWALL, however, they were not where the value of SWALL really was for me. The greatest value of SWALL to me was in gleaning the seemingly high career satisfaction and happiness from every single person I met. Networking and meeting new people is not only for finding a job or finding out “who knows who”, at SWALL it also became a confirmation of making my career transition. Since SWALL, I accepted a position at the University of Oklahoma College of Law Library as the Digital Services Librarian. I look forward to continuing involvement in SWALL in this position and developing relationships with some of the greatest and most seemingly satisfied professionals I know – law librarians.

Headnotes: SWALL Archives—where are they?

Heather Kushnerick
South Texas College of Law Fred Parks Law Library
Houston TX

Archives Report 2015

[Former] President Kathleen Bransford asked me to talk a little bit about the archives. So:

The archives are real. They consist of approximately 14 linear feet which contains the articles of incorporation, bylaws, constitution, history of grants and grant recipients, list of officers, annual reports, executive committee minutes, newsletters, tax info, annual meeting information, photos and more. If you have any of these things they should be sent to me for inclusion.

According to the Handbook, the archivist is appointed by the president for an unspecified amount of time. This is because the archivist has to be at the institution that holds the archives. The archives are currently housed at the South Texas College of Law in Houston, so the archivist must be at STCL as well, therefore, I am the current SWALL archivist.
To those of you attending: Please take lots of pictures and make notes for a report for the FALL issue of the Bulletin!

Mark your calendars NOW:

SWALL—April 14-16, 2016—Dallas
AALL—July 16-19, 2016—Chicago
QR Codes: The Black Swan of Law Library Digital Marketing

As you may know, QR Code is the shortened form of Quick Response Code invented by Denso Wave in 1994 in Japan as a two dimensional barcode in the form of a square created to be more efficient than the UPC or one dimensional barcode. It was first used in the automotive industry, but quickly spread to other industries in Japan and around the world due to the greater storage capacity of the QR Code over the standard UPC. While Denso Wave owns the patent rights globally to the codes, he chooses not to enforce them. Likewise, he owns the trademark to the term QR Code in the UK, EU, and US. With the coming of age of the smartphone and QR reader, the technology is there for an explosion of digital marketing, but libraries have been slow to take part. Usually, libraries say the QR Codes are 1) too ugly to display in libraries, 2) too complicated to be used in libraries, or 3) that users don’t know what to do with these funny looking pixilated square boxes. I challenge all three issues as I experienced choosing a QR Code generator, then had a QR Code screened on my fabric poster #16 for the 108th AALL Annual Meeting & Conference to take place this summer in Philadelphia, PA.

I wanted to print the QR Code linking my poster to my website on the cotton linen blend fabric for easy scanning by conference goers, and I also wanted to print business cards with the QR Code to be placed in sewn on pockets, so that people could take a card with them, if in a hurry, to scan the code later. The website would include further information that was more in depth, which would not fit on the fabric poster in the exhibit hall. My first concern was whether people would know what to do with the QR code to make it worth my time testing different QR code generators for the qualities I was looking for. Since I am an INTJ on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Test, my first inclination is to set up some sort of survey or find journal articles. I chose to go with the “Mom Test” instead, against my better judgment. My Mother is a music teacher by training, but more recently has been the Assistant Store Manager at the local Pier 1 Imports. Many of her customer interactions or pop culture references from the product lines relate to my quandaries in a way that I can settle inquiries with the “Mom Test”. My Mother did not know the formal name of the QR Code, but she knew exactly what they were for, and she gave me an example where the store registers were fairly new, but were meant to scan UPC codes rather than QR Codes. The new receipts the registers print, have QR Codes automatically. Customers and employees are frustrated when processing returns because the QR codes do not scan easily on the registers when making returns. This story let me know that the average customer understands what QR codes are and expect them to scan and give their receipt information. This means the average librarian or library patron seeing a QR code in a library should expect to be able to scan the code and get useful information out of it. It might link to a libguide, website, or other handy tool. This was progress.

I browsed a couple of QR Code generator sites and they had no tech support, were too expensive, or were unreliable. Then I found Kaywa. The URL is http://qrcode.kaywa.com/. This is a company partly based in Switzerland partly based in San Francisco that claims, “First on google, first to bring QR Codes to the West, solid in QR Mgmt since 2005. All reasons why big name brands work with us—Universal, Fox, Citibank, Red Bull, and the European Parliament among them.” They offer both standard and dynamic codes making them secure. You can upload pictures, like a county seal or a school mascot, to a cloud and have it superimposed over the QR Code to fix the “ugliness” issue and the code will still go to the digital
destination of your choosing. The site gives step by step easy to follow instructions on how to do this. This web site has great support and if you ever terminate your account the QR Codes you created stay in working order, you just can’t access the account controls or the analytics anymore. The website has a lot of information about the plans and how the site works. The analytics are great because you can see if the QR Codes are working for you to get your content out there. They also have sections on how to get more scans and they have been in the business for over 10 years. They give solid advice on their site or if you chat, email, or call. Their customer service representatives were really nice and extremely knowledgeable even when it came to the dilemma as to deciding whether to impose the Lubbock County Seal over the QR Code before having it enlarged and printed on a cotton linen blend fabric that is 48” x 96”. I also wanted the same QR Code printed on business cards in a blue less than an inch size to match.

Kaywa was helpful for my small DIY project and they handle big jobs for the European Parliament so I can honestly recommend them. You can check out their web page for more information or drop by my poster session at AALL in Philly to see it all in action. I’d be more than happy to give demos of the QR system or give you my poster talk as well. I think even large institutions could use the free plan I used so long as you make wise use of the 5 dynamic codes and then you get unlimited static codes with unlimited commercial free scans. Try it and you’ll see that QR codes can be a beautiful thing.

### SWALL Committees

The 2015-16 Committees are currently being formed. If you have an interest in service on a specific committee, please contact Jennifer Laws at laws@law.unm.edu. Thank you!

**Current SWALL Committees:**

- Archives
- Constitution and Bylaws
- Finance
- Grants
- Legal Information Services to the Public
- Life Membership/Memorials
- Annual Meeting Local Arrangements
- Locations for Future Meetings
- Membership
- Nominations
- Private Law Libraries
- Annual Meeting Program
- Public Relations
- Publications
- Recruitment
- State, Court, County Law Libraries
Mariann Sears, JD, MLS  
Director, Harris County Law Library  
Houston, TX

On May 18 and 19, between the deluges that came before and after, I was privileged to attend the precipitation-free 2015 Open Access Symposium, hosted by the UNT Dallas College of Law in collaboration with the UNT University Libraries. The theme this year—Open Access, the Law, and Public Information—examined aspects of how the law relates to the open access movement, including the relationship of open access to copyright law, privacy, access to government information, and access to and use of legal literature online. Each of those topics seemed to speak directly to some aspect of the issues I’d been facing lately in one way or another at the Harris County Law Library, so I was pleased that I could attend the symposium.

I arrived at Love Field from Houston Hobby in the late afternoon of May 18, got myself reacquainted with Downtown Dallas and the skyline from the backseat of my Cowboy Cab, and settled into my room at the quaint hotel I’d booked, which just happened to be adjacent to the UNT Dallas College of Law on Main Street. I arrived early enough to hobnob with other participants at the opening reception in the lobby of the law school. The UNT Dallas College of Law is housed in what once was the Titche-Goettinger (later Joske’s) Department Store. After we’d had a chance to quench our thirsts and quiet our rumbling stomachs, we headed to the 6th floor to take a tour of the UNT Dallas College of Law Library. (Sidebar: I loved riding the escalators to the 6th floor. Like so many of the moving staircases in other big city downtown department stores, these started on the lower floors as wide platforms that allowed passengers to ride two-abreast and then narrowed on the upper floors to platforms that could accommodate only single-file passengers. I don’t know why, but I’ve always found this to be a curious and amusing thing. What merchandise was displayed on those upper floors that would make retailers seemingly want to limit access to fewer people? Menswear? Furniture? Certainly not Ladies Shoes.)

But I digress. Our guide for the law library tour was Edward Hart, Assistant Dean for Law Library. Ed showed us the front end and back end of his beautiful facility and told us about the historic gift of former Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Jack Pope. Chief Justice Pope donated his personal law library to the UNT Dallas College of Law Library, including signed copies of his set of Southwestern Reporters, collected over his 35 years of service on the Texas appellate bench. Below are some photos of the new law library, shamelessly snagged (but with permission!) from the UNT Dallas College of Law Library website.
Check out the cool lamps made from law books in the background. We also saw a neat coffee table made from reporters. Now the rest of us know what we can do with superseded or unwanted volumes! Thanks, Ed, for showing us around your place. It’s lovely!

The symposium commenced the next morning with warm welcomes to the attendees from Lee Jackson, Chancellor, University of North Texas System; Martin Halbert, Dean of Libraries, University of North Texas; Ed Hart, Assistant Dean for Law Library, University of North Texas Dallas College of Law; and, by video, John Cornyn, United States Senator for Texas. A poll of the attendees surprisingly revealed that only about half were librarians. Others in attendance included government employees, business leaders, scientists, educators, and interested members of the public. After our welcomes, we were ready for the first of six presentations slated for the day.

Kevin Smith, Director of the Office of Copyright and Scholarly Communication at Duke University, started the conference by asking all of us this burning question: “Can We Rescue The Vanishing Public Domain?” He defined open access as “digital online availability of a work without charge and without most restrictions.” Public domain works were defined as those not protected by copyright, either because of a lapse of time or lack of formality, or because, like government works, they were never protected under the law. Mr. Smith posited that public domain works are withering for these reasons:

1) No public works have entered the public domain since 1989, the year the “public internet” was born, and none published since 1989 will be in the public domain until 2019. Additionally, 1989 was the same year that the United States did away with copyright formalities—works no longer have to have the copyright symbol, ©, to be protected. So, just as the internet was born, copyright protection was basically extended to all works.

2) The Berne Convention, which the United States joined in 1989, extends copyright protections to works for the life of the author plus 70 years. This extended period makes it difficult to locate rights holders after the expiration of the initial term. When no rights holders can be located, the
3) Although works of “regular” federal government employees are in the public domain, the works of state and local governments are not. Neither are the works of contractors for the federal government.

Mr. Smith described the public domain as the engine that drives creativity, scientific progress, and economic development. These can move forward only if researchers and others are able to “stand on the shoulders of giants” that came before them. But the engine comes to a grinding halt if current thinkers cannot access the works of others because they are not in the public domain. He offered these solutions to stem off the withering public domain:

1) Discover what’s actually in our public domain by supporting organizations like the HathiTrust, a partnership of major research institutions and libraries working to ensure that the cultural record is preserved and accessible long into the future. The HathiTrust mission is “to contribute to research, scholarship, and the common good by collaboratively collecting, organizing, preserving, communicating, and sharing the record of human knowledge.”

2) Get the Berne Convention back on track by including a provision that copyright limitations and exceptions should trump or preempt contract provisions. According to Mr. Smith, the United Kingdom has taken steps in this direction and the World Intellectual Property Organization is looking into moving in this direction as well.

3) Reintroduce a limited kind of copyright formality requirement, perhaps in the final 20 years of the current (life-of-the-author plus 70 years) term of protection.

4) Consider a renewal right that would apply to U. S. authors.

5) Treat copyright differently in the hands of the creator as opposed to those of an intermediary by putting the onus on the secondary, intermediary owner to determine whether a work should still have copyright protection after the initial term expires.

The second session was a panel presentation about “The Open Access Advantage For American Law Reviews.” Carol Watson, University of Georgia Law Library Director, was the first presenter. She discussed the nature and history of legal scholarship as it relates to law review publications and their citation. Importantly, Ms. Watson enunciated three reasons why we should advocate for open access to legal scholarship:

1) Open access to legal scholarship promotes access to justice;
2) Open access advances knowledge; and
3) Open access favorably impacts legal scholarship.

The second panelist was Carole Osborne, Assistant Dean of Legal Information Services and Professor of Legal Research at Washington and Lee University, who spoke to us about the benefits to law review authors of the “SSRN Factor” when considering the citation statistics for their articles. Finally, James Donovan, University of Kentucky Law Library Director, crunched the citation numbers for us. As it turns out, the citation advantage for law review articles available in open access platforms can be quantified at 58%, according to the panelist. Who knew?
Next, Mary Alice Baish, the U. S. Superintendent of Documents and Assistant Public Printer, spoke to us about “FIPNet And The Transformation Of The GPO.” FIPNet is the Federal Information Preservation Network, a part of the National Plan for Access to U.S. Government Information. Still early in its evolution, FIPNet’s goal, in collaboration with other information professionals, is to ensure access to the national collection of government information, both print and digital, for future generations. Ms. Baish noted that government information, unquestionably an asset to Americans, is vulnerable to decay, neglect, obsolescence, damage, theft, and content degradation. FIPNet partners will work towards ensuring that this information asset will remain freely accessible to all of us now and for future generations.

The fourth session of the day centered on the topic of “Legal Information In Digital Form.” This is the session that most intrigued me. Barbara Bintliff, Director of the Tarlton Law Library and Joseph C. Hutcheson Professor of Law at the University of Texas—Austin, spoke passionately and optimistically about the progress of UELMA, the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act, in the Texas Legislature. UELMA’s goal is to make the basic, official documents of democracy that are published online permanently available to the public in a trustworthy, unaltered form. To date, some twelve states have adopted UELMA. At the time of her presentation, Barbara was hopeful that the Texas Legislature also would adopt the measure. Things looked good in the last few days before the 84th Texas Legislature adjourned. But, alas, it was not to be. Barbara reported after the conference that UELMA stalled in the Texas Senate when the chair of the State Affairs Committee declined to put the bill on the committee’s agenda. Barbara vowed to battle for the bill when the 85th Legislature convened. We’re behind you all the way, Barbara!

The second presenter for this topic was Aussie Michael Green, the founder and director of JADE, a legal research system and citator for Australian common law. Mr. Green enthusiastically described JADE as a crowd-sourced environment that promotes open access to Australian law. In the eight years since JADE’s founding, it hosts more than 1.5 million citations, receives almost 4,000 sessions every day, and services more than 24,000 users in Australia alone.

The next group of presenters talked to us about “Producing, Using, And Preserving Public Information.” Kevin Hawkins, Director of Library Publishing for the University of North Texas Libraries, spoke to us about the Library Publishing Coalition (LPC), where he serves as president of the board of directors. LPC promotes the development of innovative and sustainable publishing services in academic and research libraries. Its mission is to support scholars as they create, advance, and disseminate knowledge. LPC hosts an annual forum where libraries interested in digital publishing services can communicate their strategies and goals with others.

Mark Phillips, Assistant Dean for Digital Libraries at the University of North Texas, described how he is involved with collecting and archiving the “Federal Web,” noting that government entities typically reach their constituents through the web. Mr. Phillips also spoke about his work with the International Internet Preservation Consortium, whose mission is to acquire, preserve, and make accessible knowledge and information from the internet for future generations everywhere.

John Mayer, Executive Director of the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI), enthusiastically gave us a fascinating look at the inner-workings of CALI, a non-profit consortium of law schools that works at the intersection of legal education, technology, and access to justice. Who knew that CALI’s A2J software is as big as LegalZoom? Mr. Mayer would like to see the development of a citator of sorts to check the currency of the content on the A2J software. He would like to see all law, old and new, available and openly accessible.
The final session, delayed a bit by technical difficulties, concerned “Open Access And Public Information In Context: Trends in Law and Ethics of Digital Information.” Gretchen McCord was the presenter. Ms. McCord is a Texas attorney specializing in privacy and copyright law and is the editor of the quarterly journal, *Copyright & New Media Law*. I had to leave before Ms. McCord finished her presentation, but I was able to jot down the following trends she enumerated as affecting open access:

1) Fear and uncertainty of rights holders;
2) Rights holders lives are being contracting away;
3) Data has become a commodity;
4) Consumer-generated content;
5) Trolls and takedowns; and
6) Attacks on Fair Use.

Whew! The day was chock-full of thought-provoking presentations, ideas, and comradery. And the hospitality of the UNT Dallas College of Law was second to none! I’m glad I made the trip and look forward to what’s on tap for next year’s symposium. Congratulations to UNT Dallas College of Law and the UNT University Libraries. Well done!

[From the editor: Kathleen Bransford (Denton Co.) and Virginia Eldridge (Grayson Co.) also attended and thank Mariann for writing this wonderful review.]

**Seen in Boulder**

Eric Beck found his twin in Boulder. But, which one is which?
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Always wanted to be a Committee Chair or on a Committee? See page 15 for a list of SWALL Committees.

If you are interested in writing for the SWALL Bulletin, please contact Publications Chair, Virginia Eldridge at eldriggev@co.grayson.tx.us