After being Law Librarian for Denton County for five plus years, the first question I asked my Administrator upon learning of my promotion still haunts me: how does my BA in English qualify me to be a Law Librarian? In reading Elizabeth Caulfield’s 2014 Open Member Division AALL award winning paper, “Is This a Profession? Establishing Educational Criteria for Law Librarians,” I learned that this question reverberates back to the beginning of this profession in the 1930’s and to this day, still no consensus!

Elizabeth Caulfield, MLIS, JD, is Head of Reference and Instruction Librarian at Texas Tech University School of Law and the Chair of the Publications Committee for the Southwestern Association of Law Libraries (SWALL), of which I am currently President. Had Denton County not supported me to join SWALL and the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), I would have remained ignorant to the fact that this question has been pondered by the best and brightest. Elizabeth peppers the paper with movie references so the reader has an historical entertainment context to the times. It is a fun read. I encourage all of you to read it.

Elizabeth is not the only SWALL member to have a paper published: Joseph Lawson’s 2014 New Member Division AALL award winning paper, “What about the Majority? Considering the Legal Research Practices of Solo and Small Firm Attorneys” is a revealing, albeit small,
survey that will make you question your attitude about the solo/small firm attorney. My understanding and respect for this group ballooned; I encourage all of you to read Joseph’s paper. Please congratulate and celebrate with Joe and Elizabeth that their scholarly work earned them recognition.

Thank you to all that worked on and attended the Annual SWALL Conference in Austin. It was a success both educationally and emotionally for me. Several new members were county law librarians which was encouraging but also a sign of the times. As the weight of the law shifts to the shoulders of self-represented litigants, sometimes all we, as librarians, can do is reach out for help. I have found law librarians to be the most under-appreciated but knowledgeable and supportive folks I have ever met.

In April I attended the Dallas Association of Law Libraries (DALL) Spring Institute at the new college of law. It was my first time to attend and it will not be my last. For a one day small gathering, I learned not only about my own bailiwick, county law librarians, but also what academic and firm librarians are facing in this constantly changing environment. Thanks to all of you that produced for me a memorable day in Dallas.

Which brings me to new news: the SWALL Board has agreed to meet in April 2016 for a joint SWALL/SEAALL Conference in Dallas held at what will then be a fully functioning school of law. All Texas law librarians should be able to attend a joint conference in their back yard.

Maybe not so close to home but still exciting is our upcoming conference in Boulder, CO, April 9 through April 11, 2015. The planning committee in Boulder and your SWALL Board are working now to bring yet another great conference for learning, camaraderie, and sight-seeing. Start planning your trip now!

SWALL Chairs are in place now – please go to the website and volunteer. Involvement = Satisfaction

Please welcome our new Chair for the Recruitment Committee: G. Patrick Flanagan, II, Assistant Professor and Assistant Director, Dee J. Kelly Law Library, Texas A&M University School of Law. This committee has not had a Chairman in a while so please volunteer to demonstrate our support for Patrick and for this vital committee.

I will be attending the Council of Chapter President’s Meeting on Friday, July 11th in San Antonio and report back to you in August on the AALL’s Conference and what I learned. Hope to see you there!

I want to thank the SWALL Board: Jennifer Laws, Vice President-President Elect; Stacy Fowler, Secretary; Katy Stein Badeaux, Treasurer, Caren Luckie, Immediate Past President, for their continued support and guidance and special thanks to Stephanie Bassinger for being the librarian here at Denton County that I am not.
Opening Remarks

Before the meeting was called to order, Caren Luckie offered thanks to those who helped put the conference together, and special thanks were given to Barbara Bintliff for doing such a wonderful job. She also thanked the vendors who sponsored our meals, programs, and the printing of the programs and introduced the current and new boards. The meeting was then called to order at 9:00 AM.

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of the 2013 meeting were approved through email.

Committee Reports

Archives committee (Heather Kushnerick):
Heather reminded the members that there is no magic archive fairy, so please forward items to her (papers, photos, etc.).

Constitution and Bylaws committee (Katy Stein Badeaux)
No new items to report on.

Finance/Treasurer Report (Jennifer Laws):
See the financial statement provided in this issue of the SWALL Bulletin for details on cash on hand in Savings and Checking accounts. Please note that many of the expenses for the 2014 Annual Meeting have yet to be paid.

Grants committee (Christopher Dykes):
The committee wanted to acknowledge the two recipients for grants to attend the Austin meeting: Debra Meleski and Cassie DuBay. The Lung Scholarship went to Jessica Haseltine. Thanks were also given to Mon Yin Lung for her generous scholarship.

Legal Information Services to the Public committee:
No report. The LISP program was not held this year.

Life Membership/Memorial committee: No report.
Local Arrangements committee (Barbara Bintliff):
There were 95 attendees and a record 8 exhibitors for the meeting in Austin. Barbara thanked her local arrangements committee for their hard work and thanked the exhibitors for their support.

Locations for Future Meetings committee:
2015 in Boulder, CO
2016 in Dallas
2017 in Albuquerque

Nominations committee (Michelle Rigual):
Two positions needed to be filled – treasurer and vice president/president-elect. Michelle thanked the membership for nominations and those who accepted the nominations.

Private Law Libraries committee (Saskia Melhorn): No report.

Program committee (Kathleen Bransford):
Kathleen thanked her committee for their hard work putting together the Austin conference.

Public Relations committee (Fang Wang):
Fang worked on the Twitter feed for the conference and encouraged members to join the SWALL group on LinkedIn. See the committee’s goals for this year and next year provided as an attachment to these minutes.

Publications committee (Elizabeth Caulfield):
Please send submissions for the SWALL Bulletin.

Recruitment committee: No report – chair needed.

Special Government Relations committee: No report – chair needed.

Special Handbook committee (Wendy Law):
The committee is continuing to work on the edits to the SWALL Procedures Manual, which are almost done.

State, Court, and County Law Libraries committee (Kathleen Bransford):
Kathleen wants current members to encourage membership among any others they may know.

Webmaster (Emily Lawson): No report.

AALL Updates (Femi Cadmus):
See Femi’s PowerPoint presentation provided as an attachment to these minutes for information on AALL’s vision, the adoption of ULEMA in several states, and the location of future AALL meetings.
New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Passing of the Gavel

Caren Luckie introduced the new board and passed the gavel to Kathleen Bransford, who is the SWALL President for 2014-2015. Kathleen presented Caren with a certificate and gift in appreciation for her service. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Fowler
SWALL Secretary, 2014-2015

Femi Cadmus
Edward Cornell Law Librarian, Associate Dean for Library Services & Senior Lecturer in Law
Cornell University Law Library
Cornell Law School

AALL Updates

Strategic Plan 2013-16
Vision:
AALL members will be the recognized authority in all aspects of legal information

Goals:
Authority, Advocacy and Education

Special Committees
• Access to Justice
• Digital Library Initiatives
• Economic Value of Law Libraries

Advocacy and Government Relations
• UELMA successfully adopted in several states including California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Minnesota...
• Privacy rights of library users in light of the revelations of NSA surveillance.
• AALL is a member of the Digital Due Process coalition, the goal of which is to enact an update to the 1986 Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) to provide stronger privacy protections for email, cloud computing and social networking.
Vendor Relations

- First vendor relations policy adopted
- Procurement Toolkit and Code of Best Practices For Licensing Electronic Resources

Finances

- Ended Fiscal Year 2013 in a strong financial position, with income after expenses of $179,540.
- Increased subscription revenue for the AALL Index to Foreign Periodicals with Wm. S. Hein as the publisher

Meetings & Educational Programs

- Deep Dives: longer time for targeted programs spanning more than one educational time slot
- Monday Recharge: Multi-purpose morning slot with alternative format educational opportunities

Future Meetings

- 2015 – Philadelphia
- 2016 – Chicago (where we will be in one hotel for meetings, exhibits, everything; first time since San Francisco in 1992)
- 2017 – Austin

Other News

- Salary Survey
- Gender Identity Bylaws Amendment Vote
- The Mindfulness in Law Librarianship Caucuses formed.
- Gen X Gen Y SIS
- New AALL Social Media Policy

Executive Board Books

- Wondering what the Board considers?
  Check out the Board Books on AALLNET.
# Pro Forma: Treasurer’s Annual Report

Katy Stein Badeaux, SWALL Treasurer  
Law Reference/Research Librarian  
O’Quinn Law Library  
University of Houston Law Center  

Report at March 2014 Austin, TX SWALL Annual Meeting

## Statement of Cash Flows

**SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES**  
**Checking and Savings**  
**FOR APRIL 2013 - MARCH 2014**

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td><strong>Savings Account Balance</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>15,364.78</td>
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<td><strong>Cash received</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash received from 2013-2014 member dues</td>
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<td>Cash received SWALL 2013 Annual Meeting Registrations</td>
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<td>Cash received from Mon Yin Lung for Lung Scholarship</td>
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<td>Cash paid for SWALL 2013 Annual Meeting Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash paid for SWALL 2013 Annual Meeting Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash paid for AALL 2013 Joint Reception</td>
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<td>Cash paid for SWALL 2014 Annual Meeting (thus far)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash paid for SWALL 2014 Annual Meeting refunds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash Paid for 2014 Lung Scholarship</td>
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<td><strong>Net expenditures</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Cash balance at the end of the period</strong></td>
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W. David Gay, Chair, Grants Committee  
Reference Librarian  
Ross-Blakley Law Library  
Arizona State University

News for Travel Grants

Congratulations to our two $500 grant recipients for San Antonio:

Joseph D. Lawson, Deputy Director, Harris County Law Library

Tamsen Conner, Public Service Coordinator, Texas State Law Library

Thanks again to Christopher Dykes, Reference Librarian at the University of Houston O’Quinn Law Library, and Kasia Solon Cristobal, Student Services Librarian at the University of Texas Jamail Center for Legal Research for their continued service on the Grants Committee.

Deborah Meleski  
Self-employed Law Librarian  
Austin, Texas

SWALL Grant Recipient: 2014 SWALL Annual Meeting Report  
56th Annual SWALL Meeting – Mapping the New Normal

First, I would like to profusely thank David Gay and the SWALL Grants Committee for awarding me with a travel grant! It’s wonderful that grant money is part of the SWALL budget to assist those who would not otherwise be able to attend. At one time I was on the SWALL Grants Committee many years ago.

Dr. Andrew Dillon, Dean of the University of Texas iSchool was our opening speaker. While we munched on a scrumptious lunch sponsored by Bloomberg BNA, Dr. Dillon did his persuasive best to justify: changing the name of the school, and turning the iSchool into an elitist program with a mere one hundred students. He has hired professors from a variety of disciplines including mathematics, anthropology, and philosophy. I highly recommend looking at the iSchool website to check out the core course offerings if you graduated from the school prior to Dean Dillon’s time there. Many of the courses sound absolutely fascinating and unfamiliar. I would like to re-enroll in the iSchool.
The first program I visited was on environmental law in the Gulf of Mexico with Dan Donahue and Chris Dykes, from the University of Houston. If this topic interests you, I encourage you to contact either one of these gentlemen for a copy of their handout. The talk was extremely informative. I did find humor in Dan’s comment, that he didn’t expect us to remember anything he said! I always said the same thing when I trained new associates. But we know where to contact you, Dan!

The next program I attended was entitled, “Revamping the Law Library Rare Books and Special Collections” presented by Fang Wang and Wilhelmina Randtke, from St. Mary’s University. This is not a topic I know so I went to learn. Did you know silica gel, found in paper packets in shoe boxes, is also extremely important in the preservation of rare books? Fang shared that silica gel absorbs damaging humidity. However, they use a much larger quantity than the little packets found in shoe boxes and the silica gel needs to be replaced every so often. We enjoyed a photograph of the very attractive, nicely furnished room used to house the rare books. Fang discussed cataloging the collection. Wilhelmina is an absolute dynamo at utilizing technology to electronically store documents. She discussed when to outsource this work as well. Wilhelmina also promotes the library by working with faculty to provide old university photos or university publications as needed.

The exhibit hall was open throughout the conference including the following vendors: Bloomberg BNA, HeinOnline, Jones McClure, Thomson Reuters, Proquest, West Academic (US-based spin off from Thomson Reuters), Wolter Kluwer, and LexisNexis. Proquest has bragging rights to all versions of US public and private bills and resolutions from 1789 to present. Several of these vendors enabled the SWALL budget to remain in the black by sponsoring meals and break treats which was extremely generous and for which everyone was grateful.

Then it was on to happy hour sponsored by Jones McClure Publishing and The University of Texas School of Information. A delicious dinner, sponsored by LexisNexis followed. Both were held on the 18th floor of the Hilton Garden Inn where we had a beautiful view of the city and the sunset. After dinner we played a trivia game pitting the people sitting at each table as teams in competition with questions such as: how many states are included in SWALL, and what year did the SW3rd Reporter series begin. It was good, light-hearted fun!

On Friday, I attended a program entitled, “North American Courthouse Libraries Adapt to Change” by David Whelan and unfortunately it’s not because someone is increasing their budgets and begging them to hire more staff. Laura McKinnon from the University of North Texas presented “Beyond Instruction: Tech Tools & The Law.” She plugged LIBGUIDES which provide a lot of interactive features for users, though they can be pricy. Look for the entire presentation at haikudeck.com.

Our delicious lunch was sponsored by Thomson Reuters. The Honorable Nathan Hecht, Chief Justice for The Supreme Court of Texas was the keynote speaker and his talk was entitled, “Access to Justice and the Rule of Law.” He informed the group that Texas has the second largest group of
impoverished citizens of any state in the union. He feels passionately about fair representation of all people but, the listeners realized, it is impossible to achieve, as the legal system is completely overwhelmed. The court has figured out how to expedite the divorce process of the poor through the use of forms.

There were several good programs in the afternoon but since these grant reports do not typically go on for many pages, I will cut to the chase by moving on to the Saturday breakfast talk by Dr. Yvonne Chandler, President of Texas Library Association, which in my opinion pulled together many of the ideas I heard throughout the conference. Dr. Chandler talked about how important it is for librarians to promote themselves and their libraries. She pointed out that a university had hired someone to do nothing but “community engagement.” To me it was a clear message that there is no substitute for building relationships, which requires face to face communication. In the spirit of access to information for all, she encouraged attendees to sign ALA President Barbara Stripling’s Declaration for the Right to Libraries.

The attendance at SWALL this year was 95 people. Barbara Bintliff, Director of the Tarlton Law Library, Jamail Center for Legal Research, did a terrific job hosting this year’s SWALL Conference with the assistance of her staff and also with the assistance of other Austin law librarians. Our schedule program was printed compliments of Texas Lawyer and they did a great job. Barbara and her team kept things running smoothly throughout, from helping the directionally-challenged to keeping the equipment running smoothly for the speakers. Well done, everyone!

Cassie Dubay
Research and Faculty Services Librarian
SMU Law Library

SWALL Grant Recipient: 2014 SWALL Annual Meeting Report

Having just moved to the great state of Texas only eight months prior to the SWALL Annual Meeting, I was already in a delighted mood driving from Dallas to Austin—a perfect opportunity to explore more of my new home state. I was only further delighted once I arrived at the conference hotel as many new faces cheerfully welcomed me to my first SWALL conference.

My summer before library school I had volunteered at the Tarlton Law Library for the month of August (I hadn’t exactly considered the weather when accepting the volunteer opportunity). One of the first people I ran into upon arriving was Barbara Bintliff and it sure was wonderful to see her again since that very hot summer in Austin. Despite being on high alert, ensuring a smooth start to the conference, Barbara greeted me with a warm welcome; I knew immediately the SWALL conference would turn out to be a great weekend to meet both old and new friends. A big thank you to her for organizing such a great program!
The first program I sat in was led by two fabulous folks from the University of Houston, Chris Dykes and Dan Donahue. Their topic covered research in the area of environmental law and the Gulf of Mexico. Although Dallas seems a continent away from any coastline (to me at least), the program was exceptionally helpful in understanding the issues affecting many of my SWALL neighbors. I appreciated the care taken to explain the jurisdictional issues as well as the environmental issues.

Another memorable program was that held by South Texas College of Law librarians about their inadvertent endeavors to establish a technology skills institute. I thought this program was particularly insightful: it reminded me how, as the eager professionals we are, one great idea can turn into ten more great ideas. As a newbie to this profession, the program invigorated me to think big!

Aside from the educational programming, I had a wonderful time socializing and meeting new people. Everyone I met was encouraging and excited to be there. I also met many people from Dallas or just down the road, which served as a reminder of how important these conferences can be: we often need to travel many miles just to reconnect with professionals across town. I was even surprised to find that many members of SWALL might just be more outgoing than me (thanks to a great trivia game hosted on Saturday night)!

A HUGE thank you to SWALL for putting on such a great event and an even bigger thank you for the grant money which allowed me to attend. This will definitely not be my last SWALL conference!

Headnotes: Lung Scholarship Recipient Report

Jessica Haseltine
MLS candidate and Research Assistant
Texas Tech University School of Law Library


I had an incredible time at my first SWALL meeting, thanks to the generosity of Mon Yin Lung and the Grants Committee. I have been to conferences in other fields, and what struck me the most about SWALL is how friendly and collegial everyone is. Everywhere I turned, someone was excited to meet me or introduce me to their friends and colleagues. I had some amazing, thoughtful conversations, which may lead to my first presentations and publications over the coming year.

When I arrived, I reconnected with my first law library boss (Fang Wang, now at St. Mary’s University School of Law) and got to meet the rest of her current colleagues. I sat with them during Andrew Dillon’s opening talk about the revolutionary changes occurring in library and information schools, which really resonated with me. My background is in physics and math, so hearing how Dean Dillon is proactively incorporating a wide range of fields into the study of information was inspiring. It also gave me a new perspective with which to approach my own
library school classes.

I attended sessions all weekend, and I learned something new in each and every one (usually a lot!). The sessions that really made an impact on me, based on my interests, were David Whelan’s “North American Courthouse Libraries Adapt to Change,” Laura McKinnon’s “Beyond Instruction: Tech Tools and the Law,” and “Down the Rabbit Hole: Teaching Technology Trends in the Digital Age,” presented by Joseph Plumbar, Heather Waltman, and Heather Kushnerick. Mr. Whelan’s presentation addressed courthouses throughout the United States and Canada, describing different access schema, sample libraries using each scheme, and how these access structures are changing. I have a particular interest in Canadian legal research, so it was fascinating to hear about how Canadian courthouse libraries differ from the majority of ones in the United States. I never expected to attend a meeting of the Southwestern Association of Law Libraries and hear a presentation on Canadian law libraries!

Ms. McKinnon’s presentation, based on a book she has written with Kris Helge, covered a broad range of technologies and how they could be used in the classroom. She discussed new ways to use old favorites and provided information about several new programs I’ve never used—I’m definitely going to look at using Haiku Deck for some of my future presentations! I was also inspired by the way South Texas College of Law has run full speed ahead into a digital skills institute. In their “Down the Rabbit Hole” presentation, they talked about the impetus behind the institute, the initial meetings, and how it all came together into something that is benefiting current students, alumni, and local attorneys.

I made great connections at SWALL, with both law librarians and vendors. Throughout sessions, meals, and breaks, I met so many new people, all of whom were enthusiastic, welcoming, and helpful. I’m incredibly grateful for the experience, and I hope that my future in law librarianship will be worthy of the financial gift I received to enable my attendance.
2014 SWALL Annual Meeting photos by Robert H. Hu
Robert H. Hu  
Director and Professor of Law  
Sarita Kenedy East Law Library  
St. Mary's University School of Law

On Thursday, April 17, 2014, the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library at St. Mary's University celebrated its 30th anniversary of the dedication of the library, as part of the National Library Week program. Library director Robert Hu presided over the ceremony, where the Dean of the School of Law, President of the University, and a representative of the Kenedy Memorial Foundation were among the speakers. Employees of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library, librarians of the University library, law faculty and staff members attended this celebration and reception.

Built with a $7.5 million grant given by the Kenedy Memorial Foundation in south Texas, the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library is the largest law library in South Texas, featuring a collection of over 400,000 volumes and a number of digital resources. Librarians and paraprofessionals offer a range of services to the University and public users.
AALL2go Pick of the Month

AALL’s Continuing Professional Education Committee presents the AALL2go pick of the month: Amping Up Library Orientation

Summer is a transitional time for many of us. Firms may see new summer associates or other new hires while academic libraries may already be planning for the coming fall semester. With these transitions and integration of new people comes orientations. This program from the 2012 Annual Meeting in Boston gives great ideas for revitalizing library orientation programs. The speakers, who represent academic and firm libraries, give examples from various orientation settings and share different methods and tips that have worked well for them. The orientation program examples covered in this session range from multimedia presentation to Libguides, in-person sessions, and other interactive programs. Be sure to check this out for new ideas as you are planning your upcoming orientations!

Find this and more free continuing education programs and webinars for AALL members on AALL2go!

http://www.aallnet.org/conference

AALL 2014 is on the horizon—register now! Check out the fantastic lineup of educational programs—including the keynote address by Andrew Keen—and start building your schedule for San Antonio. You’ll find the content you need, wherever you work.
Kathleen Bransford  
Law Librarian  
Denton County Law Library

Friday, April 25, 2014, I rode the light rail from Denton to Dallas to attend the DALL Spring Institute at the UNT Dallas College of Law. The day could not have been more perfect. Virginia Eldridge, Law Librarian from Grayson County, was also able to take the light rail from Plano (she drove to Plano from Sherman, Texas) and we met at the St. Paul Station and walked a few blocks to the UNT Dallas College of Law. There we were greeted by Assistant Dean Edward Hart in the newly renovated Law Library on the 6th Floor.

Dean Hart gave us a video tour of the many transformations the space had gone through and a walking tour of the library. Natural light floods from the many windows highlighting still empty shelves bookended by tables with lamps and a large circulation desk. Many of us took pictures of the coffee tables made from stacks of old Texas Cases books.

After a delicious Tex-Mex Buffet, we gathered in a lecture room within the library and proceeded with an excellent program featuring something for everyone. The Honorable W. Royal Furgeson, Jr. welcomed us as an inaugural class. Several librarians attended from out of state. Kathleen Brown, J.D., M.L.I.S, Associate Dean for Library Services, Charlotte School of Law, and an Executive Board Member of AALL, engaged us for a look into the future of Law Schools. Jennifer Laws, Vice-President/President Elect of the Southwestern Association of Law Libraries and the Electronic Resources Coordinator at the University of New Mexico School of Law flew in for the day’s event.

Karen Dibble from the Dallas County Law Library and Ginger Fearey from the Underwood Law Library at Southern Methodist University presented “The Big Tent: How Academic and Court Libraries Serve the Legal Community.”

Blythe McCoy, J.D., M.L.I.S., Library Relations Manager from Thomson Reuters gave a spirited presentation with her “Marketing Research Services in the New Normal” causing much discussion within the group. Greg Lambert, J.D., M.L.I.S., Director of Library and Research Services at Jackson Walker, LLP in tandem with Donna Bostic, M.L.S., Library Manager of Strasburger and Price, LLP discussed “Solo Provider: Weighing the Pros and Cons” as many laws firms are choosing one preferred provider over all others.
My appreciation and thanks to Thomas Reuters and the UNT Dallas College of Law for their support of an educational and entertaining mini-conference. I personally thank Candace M. Cathey, President of DALL, along with Charlotte Thomas, First Vice President/President Elect/Program Chair of DALL, former President Donna Bostic and the entire DALL Executive Board for all of your hard work and collaboration with UNT Dallas College of Law to hold this Spring Institute. Thanks also to Yvonne Chandler for attending and being the “glue” that holds all librarians, in attendance or not, together.

My first visit to DALL was an exceptional experience and I encourage all who visit Dallas to stop by the UNT Dallas College of Law and the Law Library located at 1901 Main Street, Dallas, Texas, 75201.

**Briefing the Case: Do You Have What It Takes to Become a Leader? My Experience at AALL Leadership Academy**

Fang Wang
Reference and Special Collection Services Librarian
Sarita Kenedy East Law Library
St. Mary’s University School of Law

Do You Have What It Takes to Become a Leader? My Experience at AALL Leadership Academy

I had the pleasure to be selected to attend the 2014 AALL Leadership Academy on April 4th-5th at the Hyatt Lodge at McDonald's Campus in Oak Brook, Illinois along with 33 other fellows.

I heard about the Leadership Academy from two colleagues who participated a few years ago. They both provided very positive feedback and said it was definitely worthwhile. I had since wanted to be a part of the Academy. The application process includes submitting a personal statement and two recommendation letters. The selection process is competitive so attendance is not guaranteed. I submitted my application at the end of October 2013. When I received the email of acceptance to the Leadership Academy at mid-December, I almost jumped for joy.

April 2014 finally came and it was time for AALL Leadership Academy! The day I left San Antonio, the temperature was in the lower 90s. When I arrived in Chicago, it was in the lower 30s! But the AALL Leadership Academy certainly made up the 60 degree difference if not more! My experience is so memorable that it still feels like it was yesterday.

On April 4th, I woke up early and walked into the meeting room promptly at 8am. Everyone was all so excited about the two-day leadership training ahead of us. I saw several familiar faces but the majority of participants were new to me. Gail Johnson and Pam Parr were the presenters and facilitators who led all the sessions and activities. Gail and Pam have lots of leadership training experience and have designed and delivered hundreds of leadership and communication related
workshops throughout the United States. They had previously conducted training programs for AALL and ALA so they are well aware of many key issues in libraries. They were very energetic, engaging, and knowledgeable of the subject matters we discussed. They were a wonderful duo with a great sense of humor.

We started off by introducing ourselves and talking about what we hoped to achieve at the Academy. Then we broke into small groups to do several exercises to break the ice and get to know other participants better. Members in each group were told to line up based on things like our height, how many pair of jeans we own, and the number of year we graduated college. The competition was fun and also thought-provoking which made me think how people lead, collaborate and communicate during this process. Gail and Pam talked about several misconceptions of leadership: 1) you have to be in a management position to be a leader; 2) there is a menu of traits for leaders; 3) leadership and management are two separate functions; 4) leaders need followers. After a lively discussion of these misconceptions, we concluded that “leaders are people with influence who think creatively and are passionate about what they do.”

We spent a great deal of time focusing on communication which is a key component of this leadership training. Before the Academy, we were asked to have four of our family, friends, or co-workers complete a communication style assessment for us and turn it in to Gail and Pam via email. The questions in the assessment range from facial expression, body language, voice to gestures. Later we were asked to complete the same communication assessment by ourselves and compare the results. Based on the results of the assessment, communication styles are categorized as Analytical, Driver, Expressive, and Amiable.

The results from my co-workers were actually pretty close to my own assessment. Both their results and mine indicate my communication style is Driver which is more assertive but less responsive. Then we talked about the traits of each style, the most important thing each style can do to adapt, and how to communicate effectively with each style. For instance as a Driver, I am more confident, business-like, straight forward, and result-orientated. The most important thing I should do to adapt when communicating with others is to listen more. Amiable, on the other hand, is more quiet, warm, and supportive. When communicating with an Amiable, I should speak at a moderate pace, avoid harsh language and vocal tones, and ask more about their opinions. I find this assessment fascinating and think it is very helpful to understand other people’s communication styles as well as my own.

Besides the discussion on communications, we also learned different communication techniques such as how to master tough talks. We were asked to talk to our table partner about one thing we do not like regarding their outfit. It was certainly very uncomfortable and difficult just as any tough talks we have to have at work. Then we were offered great advice on handling these tough talks. Begin the conversation with direct and neutral sentences such as “Are you aware…?” or “Did you know…?” Listen and hear their side. Seek agreement on a resolution or clearly state the
consequences if the issue rises again. And always follow up.

Throughout the training, we did a number of interesting and interactive group exercises. One of my favorites is the poker cards exercise. The 34 of us were divided into several groups. Each group was given the same number of poker cards that were cut into pieces. These pieces don’t belong together so we had to go around the room and find pieces to put together a complete card. The team that finishes with the most completed cards wins the game. Before starting the process, our group discussed our strategy. We decided to leave all of the pieces on the table, one person would watch the table and trade with other groups for the pieces they want, and the rest of the group would write down the pieces we needed and look for them. Because of the good communication among our team members, we completed the most cards and won the challenge. There was one group that did not complete any cards at all because they did not communicate with each other at all through the process. Another interesting exercise we did was the marshmallow challenge. We were asked to build the tallest marshmallow free-standing structure in 18 minutes with only 20 sticks of spaghetti, one yard of string, one yard of tape, and one marshmallow. Our group failed this time because we could not come to an agreement and we lacked a good strategy. From these exercises, we learned how important communication is and how to be a good leader as well as a team player.

Besides the leadership training sessions, the networking opportunities were exceptional. Through group exercises, reception, lunch and dinner, I was able to build connections with other law librarians who have the same passion about law librarianship and the drive to become future leaders in the profession. As part of the Leadership Academy experience, I was also assigned a mentor who is a veteran librarian with leadership experiences in the profession and also shares similar backgrounds. My mentor and I will be working closely together to discuss given topics each month for one year following the Academy.

I came back from the 2014 AALL Leadership Academy with lots of valuable information and great ideas. I feel more prepared and ready to take on more challenges. I plan on applying some of the leadership and communication tools and techniques to my daily job and prove that I have what it takes to become a future leader!
In an era of constrained budgets, diminishing space, and increased need for services, public law libraries may sink or swim based on their ability to form partnerships and collaborate with local organizations. As such, any attempt to map the New Normal—the theme of the 56th Annual SWALL Conference—will necessarily include a discussion of substantial and ongoing collaborative efforts between law libraries and other community resources. During our conference program, titled “Collaborating Locally: Expanding Services through Community Resources,” we sprinted through several collaborative efforts we have implemented in our respective counties involving public libraries, local bar associations, legal aid organizations, and local government entities. Although the program met our goal of providing an overview of possible collaborations, we realize it might also be useful to provide more detailed information as well. As such, we have selected three examples of our collaborative efforts and present them as case studies below.

**Case Study #1: Collaborating with a local Legal Aid Organization and a County Bar Association for Patron Workshops**

In an effort to expand services to indigent patrons filing for divorce in Collin County, the Collin County Law Librarian met with representatives of Legal Aid of Northwest Texas and attorneys from the Family Law and Law Practice Management sections of the Collin County Bar Association to discuss a potential monthly workshop to assist self-representing litigants with completing their divorce petitions, responsive documents, and final decrees.

Members of the local Bar Association stated that if the financial status of a patron was verified in advance, the Bar Association could provide volunteer attorneys to assist patrons with completing standardized forms available from the Texas Law Help website. Logistical issues such as where and when to hold the workshop, how to “advertise” the workshop, how to verify financial status of patrons, and what services would be offered during the workshop were considered. Some of the answers to these questions included:

- Identify potential participants through the legal clinics offered twice monthly by Legal Aid;
- Verify indigency through the county collections office using the Affidavit of Indigency available through Texas Law Help’s website;
Schedule the workshop one evening a month for drafting the petition for divorce, related forms, and the final decree of divorce.

Pro bono family law attorneys provide explanation of terminology and guidance in completing forms; and

Schedule final prove-ups so that they can be done by a Judge that same evening.

Some of the issues considered were:

- Location of the workshop: the best location for the workshop would be the Law Library as forms, computers, copiers, and work space is available for free. As the Law Library is in the Courthouse and the workshop would be held in the evening, security issues would have to be resolved; and
- Concerns that other non-indigent self-representing litigants would also want to participate in the workshop: the local Bar Association made it very clear that volunteers would only be provided if the participants' indigency had been verified. If other patrons hear about the workshop, they may be upset that a service is being offered to some patrons and not others.

Some of the benefits considered were:

- Providing hands-on experience for new attorneys in family law;
- Helping patrons with children draft better decrees with appropriate conservatorship, visitation, and child support provisions; and
- Helping to alleviate congested Courts by having final pro se prove-ups done in the evening once a month.

Although the program has not yet been implemented, it has opened a dialogue between the Law Library, Legal Aid, and the Bar Association as to the unique issues faced with the growing pro se population and the need for collaboration among community associations. It also provided information on workshops being conducted in other counties by groups such as the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program.

Case Study #2: Offering Educational Opportunities with the Fort Bend County Bar Association

The Fort Bend County Bar Association provides a variety of useful services to its members, including networking events, news and information resources for the local legal community, and advocacy on matters of interest to local attorneys. Additionally, it is an important source of CLE credit for the local bar. The Bar Association hosts monthly luncheons featuring a variety of speakers, from local attorneys, to State Bar of Texas officers, to appellate justices. Like many professional organizations that provide educational programs, the Bar Association is often in need of speakers to fill its CLE calendar, which is announced at the beginning of each year. Additionally, it often needs stand-in speakers when scheduled presenters are unable to attend the luncheon.
In late 2013, the Bar Association approached the Fort Bend County Law Librarian about the possibility of speaking at a monthly luncheon about resources at the Law Library. This was not necessarily breaking new ground—the Law Librarian had participated in a monthly CLE before, but as one of several speakers. As the sole speaker, the task of creating a program that would be worth the time and expense for attendees, as well as sufficient to meet the State Bar of Texas’s Accreditation Standards for CLE Activities, became a more significant undertaking. The presentation was scheduled for the October luncheon—the last CLE of the year with holiday parties to follow—which, in theory, was plenty of time. Nevertheless, the Law Librarian offered to speak at an earlier event if another speaker cancelled. The Bar Association appreciated the offer and by late January, the February speaker had cancelled and the Law Library program was up next.

Now under time constraints, it became imperative to give the people what they wanted. The title of the program was taken from a suggestion made by a Bar Association officer—“Hidden Gems of the Law Library.” In that spirit, the program included discussion of new and lesser-known resources that would be of particular interest to local attorneys. For example, rather than speaking at length about the availability of case law, the basics of the Law Library’s WestlawNext subscription were briefly touched on and the Law Librarian moved quickly to a discussion of jury verdict research and accessing Texas Form Finder. The pattern was repeated for three categories of resources—titled Productivity, Staying Current, and Tech Savvy—which were geared toward practicing-attorney interests. The presentation was supported by a screenshot-laden PowerPoint and a single-page handout. It was approximately 45-minutes in length with an additional ten minutes for questions. Additionally, it was recorded to create a podcast that was made available to members on the Bar Association’s website.

All in all, the reaction to the program was positive and attendees expressed a combination of interest and pleasant surprise at the breadth of resources. During the question and answer period, several attendees inquired about specific resources that were not part of the presentation, but which were also available. Following the program, several attorneys visited the Fort Bend County Law Library—some for the first time—and mentioned that they attended the program and were interested in a particular resource. Finally, Bar Association officers and directors were generally pleased with the presentation and expressed interest in having the Law Librarian speak at other events.

Case Study #3: Collaborating with Other County Offices to Facilitate Proper Procedure

In addition to the forms provided by the Law Library, the District Clerk and County Clerk also provide standardized forms for use by county residents. To consolidate efforts and assist in facilitating the submission of the correct paperwork, the Collin County Law Librarian has met with representatives from the District Clerk’s and County Clerk’s offices to discuss the services they provide to patrons. By communicating with the District Clerk’s office, the Law Library now includes the following forms in their family law packets:
As these forms are updated, the District Clerk will send notification to the Law Library and will provide copies as needed.

After meeting with the County Clerk, the library staff can now accurately field questions regarding obtaining a marriage license, informal marriages, amending birth certificates, and recording documents. This saves patrons time as they are not being bounced around to different departments to answer simple questions or find specific information.

In addition to establishing relationships with the District Clerk’s and County Clerk’s offices, the Law Librarian has also met with the District Attorney’s Victim Advocate Attorney to discuss best practices for protective orders filed pro se. By working with the District Clerk’s office and the District Attorney’s office, the library now offers confidential protective orders to patrons as well as the standard protective order paperwork promulgated by the Texas Supreme Court. The Victim Advocate Attorney was also helpful in updating a useful handout that explains the differences between the different types of emergency relief and different methods of obtaining assistance.

As an outgrowth of these relationships, when local law enforcement brought up issues with the protective order paperwork and the accompanying data entry form for the Texas Crime Information Center, a representative from the District Clerk’s office, the Law Librarian, the Victim Advocate Attorney, and law enforcement representatives were able to meet and discuss the issues, coming up with a viable solution to the problems. In the instance where the District Attorney’s office is unable to assist with obtaining a protective order for a patron, the reference librarians can provide more thorough guidance to the individual on preparing the paperwork for filing on their own.

Understanding what services other county offices offer and interfacing with the staff provides a rich resource for collaboration. Once relationships are developed with various departments, the Law Library has a point of reference and names of contacts for speedy resolution of problems as they arise.

**Conclusion**

Collaboration between law libraries and other entities has the potential to be beneficial for all parties involved. In the case studies above, we have described efforts that turned out positively for patrons and stakeholders alike. However, these are just a few of the many ways collaborative efforts might take shape. Whether or not the same programs will work in other settings or the considerations we have described are useful for different endeavors, we hope the preceding information will help spur collaborative efforts in a variety of settings.
### SWALL Officers and Committee Chairs

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