From the President... Brian Raphael

With Thanksgiving in our sights, it seems like an appropriate time to reflect on and express appreciation for all the work that our SCALL members have been doing this past year to help further the mission of our association. I am very thankful that we have so many members willing to take the time to volunteer to help us accomplish our goals. In this column, I would like to highlight some of our committees’ most recent successes and initiatives and give special thanks to those largely responsible for bringing them about.

(continued on page 4)
We welcome the submission of any articles of interest to the law library community. Contact Patricia Pelz Hart, SCALL Newsletter Editor: hart@chapman.edu

All submissions should be received by the following dates:

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The November / December 2009 issue of the SCALL Newsletter illustrates the seasonal themes of thanksgiving and celebration. Librarian authors were generous in writing articles, taking photographs, and sharing knowledge.

Readers will find many “gifts” under the newsletter tree. Last-minute reminders will let you attend our holiday party or vote in the AALL online election. Articles and updates on federal or state documents add to your knowledge. News items of various sorts are a fun way to keep up with colleagues. Two SCALL members wrote about annual meeting pastimes. Read A Capitol Hill Adventure and My Hobby: Visiting Presidential Gravesites while you are curled up in an easy chair with a blanket. Best wishes for a fine end of 2009 and a happy and healthy 2010.

SCALL 2009 Holiday Party

Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2009
Place: Anna’s Italian Restaurant
100929 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles
(corner of Pico and Kelton Ave., between Westwood Blvd. and Sepulveda Blvd.)
Time: 5:30 Meet and greet (no host bar)
6:30 Dinner

Reservation deadline: Nov. 30 at 5 p.m.
Questions? Contact SCALL Programs Chair, Galeen Roe, at groe@winston.com or 213-615-796.

AALL’s Online Election ends Dec. 1, 2009
Last chance to vote

Ballots must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Central Time, Tuesday, December 01, 2009.

Ballots will be tabulated and the results will be announced once the candidates have been notified.
One of our greatest accomplishments this Fall was the publication of the fifth edition of *Locating the Law: A Handbook for Non-Law Librarians*. The Public Access to Legal Information (PALI) Committee, under the leadership of its chair, June Kim, worked extremely hard on this publication, and their efforts are well reflected in the new edition they produced. I applaud the committee’s decision to make this resource freely available on the internet and therefore more accessible to a larger audience, particularly during these tough economic times. The online format enables one to quickly link to the many websites that are referenced within the publication. I have no doubt that both law and non-law librarians will find this a useful resource for many years to come. I encourage those of you who have not yet looked at the new edition to go to the SCALL website and check it out!

We had a successful Fall meeting in October, and I would like to thank our Programs Committee chair, Galeen Roe, and her committee members for their hard work in planning this event. I would also like to thank Marcia Koslov and her team at the L.A. Law Library for hosting our meeting and providing library tours for the attendees. It was a great venue, and I know many of our members enjoyed getting a behind the scenes view of one of the largest law libraries in the country! Special thanks is also in order for the wonderful speaker we had that evening, Mark Smith, attorney at Winston & Strawn LLP, who gave a very engaging and entertaining presentation on recent trends and issues related to e-discovery.

Our Library Liaison Committee continues to be very active in supporting library school students interested in law librarianship and connecting them to our association. This year, in addition to continuing the mentorship, scholarship, and other programs that have been so successful in the past in helping to support and orient the newest members of our profession, committee chair Cheryl Kelly Fischer initiated a shadowing program whereby library school students have been invited to “shadow” (i.e. observe) a law librarian for an afternoon. Cheryl perceived a need for this type of program after learning that in some of the San Jose library school reference courses, the professors require their students to spend part of a day shadowing a working reference librarian. I thank Cheryl for responding to this need and providing an additional opportunity for library school students to learn more about our profession.

Another new initiative came this year from our Government Relations Committee, which is currently working on a web page focused on government advocacy. The new web page will contain information about pending federal and California legislation on issues affecting our profession as well as provide links to various advocacy resources. The new page should make it very easy for our members to contact their legislators on matters that concern them as well as connect to the advocacy resources and activities sponsored by the AALL Government Relations Office. Special thanks goes to our Government Relations Committee chair, Esther Cho, and her committee as well as our Information Technology Committee co-chair Ramon Barajas for their efforts in putting together this site, which will likely be launched in early 2010.

On a personal level, I am very appreciative that I have been given the opportunity to serve as SCALL President this year and work with so many dedicated individuals. I look forward to continuing to work with our committee chairs and other volunteers in the new year as we plan upcoming activities, achieve additional goals, and generate new ideas for the benefit of our association.

**I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our December 2 holiday party, and I wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season.**

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*Brian Raphael* is Assistant Director, Law Library, USC Gould School of Law.
AMENDED REVOLVER?
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Registration information is under Continuing Education at [www.law.lexisnexis.com/infopro](http://www.law.lexisnexis.com/infopro)

The deadline for applying is December 31, 2009.
The Impact of Court Furloughs on Calendaring Systems: Legal Liability Tsunami Waiting to Happen? ... by Daniel Raphael

May I take this opportunity to start a discussion topic?

I’m very curious to hear how the court furlough holidays have affected your in-house legal calendaring systems. My own experience with getting my law firms up to speed has been quite challenging. I had naturally presumed that the calendaring programs were taking the furlough holidays into account, but quickly discovered that with some programs, unless the end users are actively updating their systems regularly, many law firms aren’t registering these holidays in their calendar.

Question: Is this a legal liability tsunami waiting to happen?

Daniel Raphael is President, Answer Key LLC. He may be contacted at www.info.AnswerKeyResearch.com
A Capitol Hill Adventure  ... by Tanya Cao

Three Chapman Law School librarians, Sheryl Kramer, the Director, Patricia Hart, Lawyer / Librarian, and I planned to visit the White House during the 2009 AALL annual conference in Washington D.C. Patricia began to contact Senator Dianne Feinstein’s staff as early as January 2009, hoping to get us visitor permits. A long six months passed, Patricia had numerous e-mail exchanges with the Senator’s office but no luck. We went to D.C. knowing that our chance of visiting President Obama’s new home was slim but we were not ready to give up our hope yet.

There were no conference programs scheduled between 11:45 am and 4:00 pm on Monday, July 27. I suggested that we take advantage of the break and go to Senator Feinstein’s office on Capitol Hill where we could ask for visitor permits in person. Two determined law librarians took a taxi and headed to Capitol Hill. We had no idea where Senator Feinstein’s office was.

It was very hot and humid in Washington D.C. Absolutely not my type of weather to walk around. We were directed by police officers near the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center to go to the Senate office building. We saw a white marble statue as we entered the rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building. It was the late Georgia Senator Richard B. Russell, Jr. whom this senate building was named after. We were so disappointed to learn that Feinstein’s office was located in the new Hart building instead. The three Senate office buildings are the Dirksen, the Hart, and the Russell. The good news was we could walk there through a basement tunnel!

It was very interesting to explore the two senate buildings and observe the distinctive Capitol Hill culture. This is definitely a young people’s world. They all walked fast in suits and dress shirts, with one or two badges. They all had this ambitious and self-important look on their young faces. Some of them may become politicians in the future. This is a good place to start one’s career.

We walked past offices of many Senators. Senator John Kerry’s office was in SR-218. The Senate stationary room was in SD-B43 (in the basement). The office of the newest Senator, Al Franken, was in SH320. No visitors could walk by without noticing the heart-wrenching easel poster display outside Senator Frank R. Lautenberg’s office. “Let Us Never Forget” the somber sign on top of the posters said. There were names and faces of each fallen U.S. soldiers from the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

Senator Feinstein’s office was located on the 3rd floor, in Room SH331 in the contemporary-style Hart Senate office building. Her staff told us they were unable to get us permits to visit the White House due to high demand and tightened security after September 11. But our quest did not go in vain. The Senator’s staff gave us three sets of passes to visit the Senate and the House galleries. We walked out the Hart building satisfied and headed back to the U.S. Capitol building.
We toured the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. I noticed that many of the twenty-four state statues on display in the Center were originally from the National Statuary Hall Collection in the Capitol Rotunda. Since Patricia had to go to a meeting at 6:00 pm, we only had time to visit the Senate gallery. It was my first time seeing a legislative session. The Senator floor was almost empty. There were only three or four senators, but several staffers on the floor. The debate on health care reform was going on. Patricia recognized the speaker was Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) the Senate Minority Leader.

As we walked towards the front entrance of the U.S. Capitol, I noticed that the flags on top of the Library of Congress and other federal buildings were all flown at half staff. My heart sank and my first thought was: “Oh my god, please don’t tell me that’s Senator Kennedy!” It turned out that day was the 59th anniversary of the end of the Korean War, and the flags were lowered in commemoration.

We walked to the back of the United States Capitol to have a better look at the portico where presidential inauguration ceremonies took place. We enjoyed the magnificent view of the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial, National Mall, and the Washington Monument. Contrary to most people’s beliefs, the well known side facing west across the National Mall is actually the back of the U.S. Capitol. Before the 1981 inauguration of Ronald Reagan, the ceremonies had been held at the Capitol’s east portico which is the front of the building. Reagan preferred the view on the back side and moved the ceremony there. Subsequent presidents have done the same.

The Capitol Hill tour was the highlight of our D.C. experience. I missed one afternoon conference session, but probably learned more about the U.S. history during our adventure. We never got the chance to visit the White House. Well, there is always a next time.

Tanya Cao is Catalog Librarian at Chapman School of Law Library in Orange
SCALL’S TABLE DELIGHTED AT 2009 ANNUAL MEETING SMILING TO ALL AT AALL

Happy faces and happy smiles abounded at the SCALL table at the 2009 AALL annual meeting, in Washington, D.C. The table was in the Chapters room, next to the exhibit hall.

Carolina Rose of Legislative Research, Inc. was the table’s designer and creative force. SCALL members took turns manning the table.

LOCATING THE LAW
SCALL PUBLISHES LEGAL RESEARCH GUIDE

Locating the Law, 5th edition (2009)


The 250-page, online-only resource was posted on SCALL’s Web site (http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/scall/locating.htm) on October 22, 2009 and is freely available to the public for download.

In our country there is a very exclusive fraternity. Many individuals have tried to join this group, but only 43 have been able to use this title: President of the United States of America. A hobby that I have undertaken is to visit the gravesites of the past presidents. Gravesites often tell a story of the president, and how the nation sought to honor him.

I have spoken at the Conference of Newer Law Librarians during the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries. One of the suggestions I give to attendees is to do something fun during the Annual Meeting. I try to see if there is a gravesite near the city the Association is meeting (I hated when we went to New Orleans and Portland. Two years in a row with nothing). The best meeting for indulging in my hobby was during the 2009 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C – eight during one trip.

My hobby was simple to start. During the 1995 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh I wanted to go to Ohio. I wanted to visit all 50 states. Going through Ohio, I passed through Columbus. There was a sign to William McKinley’s gravesite. I detoured to the gravesite and was struck by the grandeur of the plot. I thought, “You must get nicer eternal digs when you die in office.” I was hooked. Later in the day I went to Cleveland to Lake View Cemetery to visit James A. Garfield and John D. Rockefeller yes, not a president but still important to our nation’s history. Both have interesting sites. Garfield is the only president not actually buried. His coffin lays in repose, next to his wife, in an extremely large mausoleum with the United States flag draped over the coffin. It pays to die in office, and have money. My family is in the funeral business in Los Angeles, and I have seen how families seek to honor their loved ones when they die. Presidential gravesites are a manner in which the nation honors their patriarch in death.

In 1996 the Annual Meeting was in Indianapolis, Indiana, the burial ground of Benjamin Harrison. Jennifer Berman, the librarian at McDermott, Will & Emery decided to accompany me to his home and gravesite. A hobby buddy was made! We drove for about 30 minutes trying to find the entrance to the cemetery. A lesser person would have given up, but now I was determined. We located a simple grave with a medium sized headstone. I wondered “was that the penalty for being a one term president?”

We were on hiatus in our adventures together until 2004. AALL was in Boston!! John Adams & his son John Quincy Adams are both in the same spot. How could we pass it up? We visited the United First Parish Church in Quincy. The docent thought Jennifer was my wife and he asked me how many children I had. I have two girls. The elderly docent had to let me know that a wife during the Adams’ time usually lost a tooth after the birth of a child. I’m glad when my wife and Jennifer smile they are not missing any molars. That’s not an honor one can be proud of.

After Boston I took an extra day to go to New York. September 11th was still fresh and I needed to see the spot where such a terrible tragedy occurred. On the journey there I could take a slight detour to Hyde Park, the home of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Twelve years as President and a simple plot in the side yard of his home. Roosevelt was quoted as saying he did not want a memorial larger than his desk. In death he got his wish. On to Sagamore Hill and Theodore Roosevelt. Too bad I made an early flight to leave New York. I could have gone to see Martin Van Buren and Ulysses S. Grant. They are not going anywhere, so I guess I can go back.

In 2005 AALL meets in San Antonio. A quick 75 minute drive to Stonewall, Texas. I could not pass it up. As a native Texan, you always love a fellow Texan. I could go after my committee meeting in the morning, and before the Opening Reception.
Jennifer and I would have to move quickly. We arrived at the LBJ Ranch to discover the Park Service conducts tours. WHAT? I don’t want to tour the place; I just was to see LBJ’s final resting spot!! We are forced to take the tour, and to our surprise get to see a live First Lady: Lady Bird Johnson. We were told Lady Bird comes for weekend visits—complete with Secret Service. The Park Service says we can drive through after 5:00 when the tours are over. I got my picture of the grave, but it is from far, far away. If we wait 30 minutes I think I could get a closer picture. We drive back to the grave after closing. I sat on the fence surrounding the graveyard. My potassium must have been low because I got an awful cramp in my leg. I went to massage my calf and fell over the fence into the cemetery. I tried to walk the cramp out, and ended up standing next to the grave about 30 feet away. What good fortune? I can take an up close picture. SNAP – SNAP – SNAP. What is the Secret Service doing coming back down the road? My cramp was quickly healed and I was on my way. I could see the headline in the newspaper: Los Angeles Law Librarian Arrested At Johnson’s Grave. What shame that would bring to the profession.

In 2006 AALL celebrates its Centennial. St. Louis, Missouri—almost the center of the nation. A drive across the state of Missouri and we can visit Harry S Truman, and three hours from there to Dwight D. Eisenhower at Abilene, Kansas. Truman must have been a pack rat because he has a full library. Eisenhower remained true to his military heritage and threw away everything. Truman’s library was great; Eisenhower was minimalistic (although Mamie’s dresses and hats are cute. What a woman can do with a pillbox hat and pink!!). Either way, we visited two more dead presidents.

I was elected to the AALL Executive Board in 2006. How can this help with my hobby? Board Members do chapter visits. Board meeting are in Chicago. Who is close? There has got to be a law library in West Branch, Iowa near Herbert Hoover. Can I sweet talk the AALL President? Will my charm and good looks benefit me one more time? 2006 – 2007 term – NOTHING. 2007 – 2008 term – NOTHING. Hope is fading fast. My term expires soon. The Fall Board meeting is in Chicago Wednesday – Saturday. It’s only three hours to Iowa. I may not get this opportunity again. Jennifer agrees to come along. What will my fellow Board members say? What will they think? James Duggan the AALL President asks, “Why did you corrupt someone else in this adventure?” There are giggles as we leave the Hyatt Hotel at Hamburger University, but success is our quest. I wonder if Columbus was this excited when he reached the new world?

Success in reaching another dead president. We leave West Branch for Springfield, Illinois. Abraham Lincoln is at the Oak Ridge Cemetery. He died in office, and I knew from pictures what the grave looked like. I can’t wait to get there. The excitement is in the air!! We locate the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and get directions to the cemetery, but the information guide calmly states, “Illinois is having budget problems and the grave is closed on Sunday and Monday.” WHAT???????? That sorry—crooked—no good governor!!! Why couldn’t he balance a budget and keep the cemetery open? Has he no shame? Is there an honorable bone in his body? We go to the cemetery anyway. I see the grave site and go to the door. Perhaps they forgot to lock it. It might be open anyway. I look to the left. I look to the right. I pulled on the door handle. Locked!! We must settle for peeking through the small window in
the door and the outside view of the burial site. I decided to climb the stairs of the mausoleum and get a view of downtown Springfield totally ignoring the “Do Not Enter” sign. There was no one around to stop me.

In April I had the honor of representing the Board at MichALL’s [Michigan Chapter of AALL] meeting in Lansing. Would Jennifer be crazy enough to join me??? Yes, why not. So after their wonderful meeting we hopped in a car and drove to Grand Rapids, home to the Museum and burial site of Gerald R. Ford. Just to make sure we did not get lost in the morning, and to make sure that the museum follows the rules and locks the gate at closing time, we took a dry run out to the burial site, and wouldn’t you know it, the security guard locked the gate…foiled again. But Sunday morning the Museum opened, as well as the gravesite. Another successful adventure.

In July my wife joined us for the conclusion of the 2008 – 2009 Dead Presidents Tour (and she swears never again). AALL in D.C.!!! What could be better? Our first day we went to Taft and Kennedy’s gravesites in Arlington Cemetery. We ventured to find a few Supreme Court Justices, but I vowed that will not be another quest after we complete the dead presidents.

Leaving Arlington we then took a quick cab ride up to the National Cathedral to pay our respects to Woodrow Wilson. After the conference, in a two day span we drove through Virginia visiting Washington, Tyler, Monroe, Jefferson and Madison. If I had an extra day we could have detoured to Andrew Johnson in Tennessee. I’m grateful for unlimited miles on rental cars.
Oddly enough, the two closest to our homes in Southern California are the two we visited very recently. A trip to see the Magna Carta was a must when we saw that it was going to be at the Reagan library, and a trip to Yorba Linda (Nixon) in September completed the 2008 – 2009 Dead Presidents Tour. Could life get any better than this?

To date I have visited 28 sites. Jennifer and I have visited 13 in the last 11 months. Only 10 more dead presidents to go. The fraternity is small so I hope there will be no additions to the list soon. AALL keeps returning to the same places. When will the Annual Meeting go to Ohio and upstate New York? Don’t they know I have a mission to fulfill?

Special thanks to Jennifer Berman for her assistance with this article.

Cornell H. Winston Law Librarian, United States Attorney’s Office Central District of California. The opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors. They do not constitute endorsement from the United States Attorney’s Office or the United States Department of Justice.
Statistics are a hot topic and are very important, especially when making a case to library directors on the value of government documents. Are librarians prepared to give their directors use statistics from electronic documents? What documents are being accessed from the online catalog? How is online usage tracked? Are users still using print resources with more online document content?

This topic was explored during the 2009 Fall Federal Depository Library Conference and Depository Library Council Meeting. Six libraries that have been tracking usage were featured in an Oct. 19 panel. Four librarians: Christopher C. Brown (University of Denver), Stephanie Braunstein (Louisiana State University), Jennifer Gerke (University of Colorado at Boulder), and Susan Kendall (San Jose State University/San Jose Public Library) discussed how libraries can track online usage from their OPAC using clickthrough statistics, showing trend lines.

San Jose State University uses traditional ways of tracking print material: circulation records and in-house shelving counts (counting materials left on tables). To track usage of electronic government publications, a tracking program for e-govpubs was developed. The program is easy to use, records can be either sorted by SuDocs number, by title or by the highest number of hits, and reports can be run either monthly or by year. The highest usage of e-govpubs was in the spring semester. The reasons are: SJSU offers an online government documents course, and justice studies & social work students are increasing users of e-govpubs for their class assignments. Also, SJSU has an aerospace engineering program and is actively participating in International Year of Astronomy (IYA) which is supported by NASA. E-govpubs circulate more than print, and request for print materials is decreasing because of the convenience of using electronic government publications.

There are several benefits for using e-govpubs statistics: internal training focuses on professional development on most used areas; external training offers workshops for the community based on requested materials; alerts librarians to class assignments; provides opportunity for displays and other outreach activities; provides opportunity for displays and other outreach activities; provides opportunity for displays and other outreach activities; provides opportunity for displays and other outreach activities; and shows the ongoing need for multiple sources in locating complex documents.

For detailed information on SJSU’s usage and circulation statistics: see the following references:


University of Denver’s Penrose Library has been tracking clickthroughs (links) since 2003, and tracking clickthroughs in relation to number of records since 2004. In 2009, there were 7660 clickthroughs to government documents. Statistics are logged, and user is redirected to desired URL. Clickthrough allows the library to provide meaningful statistics to the director; tracks high and low-use areas; can determine if users are benefiting from special projects; and enables staff to perform reactive URL maintenance and view search engine attacks.

At the University of Colorado at Boulder, if patrons have access to hearings in both print and electronic format, which format would they use? To determine this, the library tracks usage on a title level. Circulation statistics are tracked on paper, and online usage is tracked from clickthroughs. Statistics of in-house use of government documents and shelving of materials are collected. Date and time of clicks and IP address of the patron who clicked are tracked. Online usage of hearings in electronic format was used more frequently than print. Print was tracked 267 times and online was tracked 1667 times.
Regional Perspective

Louisiana State University uses SIRSI Dynix in LOUIS consortium to monitor URL usage for federal and state documents. Stephanie Braunstein mentioned that it is hard to determine statistics from each state library form GPO’s Purl Referral Reports. Last August, there was no data available due to technical problems. LSU had 480 hits for URL usage statistics. Why does it matter? For one, technical tools make it possible to count hits, numbers are becoming more important, and lastly, resources and expertise are being called into question. Contrary to received wisdom that no one uses print materials anymore, tangible materials are used more frequently at LSU because patrons need access to older materials for historical research which is not available online. The depository collection is a vital part of the library’s mission, and the value of the collection is proven with statistics.

Selective Perspective

Auburn University Libraries, a selective depository since 1907, holds 2.6 million documents. AUL has been using MARCIVE records since 1990 and Documents Without Shelves for three years. Documents Without Shelves automatically provides libraries MARC records containing URL/PURL addresses of government documents on the web, and libraries receive hundreds of new customized records in their local system every month.

Online usage of government documents, ERIC and OSTI (Office of Scientific and Technical Information) records, and Readex Serial Set are tracked from library’s catalog. AUL tracks links (clicks) and maintains a click tracker log in real time. Results show an average of 30-60 clicks a day. ERIC documents (38 percent) and GAO reports (15 percent) are used most frequently. Technical reports (NASA and OSTI) account for 10-12 percent of clicks, and congressional hearings are used less frequently (<5 percent).

There are several advantages of using click tracker: it puts a small patch on the javascript files the catalog assesses; searches for text in catalog web pages that matches: Web Link: <link>; automatically rewrites the link to route through the click counter resulting in less work for systems personnel; can track another 240,000 document links; cuts down on spiders and bots; and tracks documents, e-books, journals and LC materials.

BYU-Idaho Experience

BYU-Idaho pre-pends a redirect script written in Perl to those tracked links. When a browser requests or clicks on those links, the script writes the IP address of the requester, the URL requested, and a date stamp to a weblog file on a Linex server. Server logs are analyzed using the Webalizer, a fast, free web server log file analysis program which produces a highly detailed usage reports in HTML format for viewing in a standard web browser. The Webalizer can be located at: http://www.mrunix.net/webalizer.

Last month, access to GPO’s purl address from the library’s online catalog had the highest number of hits (14697), followed by WorldCat (263). The top ten documents searched were the US Census Bureau, GPO, FedStats, Bureau of Labor Statistics, CIA, US House of Representatives, Library of Congress, US Dept. of Education, US Dept. of Health & Human Services, and US Dept. of Agriculture.

This session was well attended. It was interesting to hear various methods on tracking online usage of government documents from six different libraries.

Margot McLaren is Serials/Documents Librarian at Whittier Law School Library in Costa Mesa.
State Documents in Digital Format from the California State Library …
by Bill Riddle

Reprinted here, with minor changes, is a message originally issued by the State Library.

The State Library's Government Publications Section has introduced a new webpage that will house selected digital state publications that are not otherwise being made available on the websites of the agencies that issued them. This new page may be accessed at http://www.library.ca.gov/gps/cal-pubs.html.

A bit of background, for those of you who haven't been following the saga. This page was created to make more readily available the transcripts of gubernatorial appointment hearings conducted by the Senate Rules Committee, which were formerly issued to some depository libraries in print format. These publications will no longer be distributed in print, and are now only made available by the Rules Committee to depositories via e-mail subscription. Since these important documents are often sought after by researchers, the State Library decided to mount them on the Web.

The first three digital transcripts issued by the Committee (from hearings conducted Aug. 31 and Sept. 4 and 9) are now available, and bibliographic records have been created in OCLC (record nos. 459797423, 459820211, and 459797426) for adding to a library's OPAC. Note that these records have Caldoc classification numbers (beginning with L500.R9…) as well as extensive name and corporate body subject headings for all of the individuals being confirmed--as well as for the agencies/offices to which they are being appointed.

For those of you who are not familiar with this series of transcripts, here are highlights of a few of the individuals who are up for confirmation. The August 31st hearing contains testimony from (among others) Jan C. Sturla, Director of the Dept. of Child Support Services, while in the Sept. 9th hearing one may follow the confirmation process of Board of Equalization member Jerome Horton as well as that of Undersecretary Scott M. Kernan of the Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation. In the Sept. 4th document, is the written response to the Committee (she was not required to appear in person) of Carol A. Muske-Dukes, the current California Poet Laureate.

The State Library will also mount other digital state documents on this page from time to time--important or topical publications that are not easily accessible elsewhere. As a start, is a Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training report on law enforcement officers killed or assaulted in the line of duty--a document that is not readily available from the Commission on POST website.

The plan is to send out further updates to Caldoc-L as new digital documents (Rules Committee hearings or otherwise) are added to this web space. Please contact the library with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Bill Riddle is Senior Librarian, California Documents, Government Publications Section, California State Library. He may be reached at (916) 376-3974 or briddle@library.ca.gov
An Update on GPO’s Federal Digital System ... reported by Margot McLaren

The Government Printing Office (GPO) is continuing to migrate its content from GPO Access to its state-of-the-art federal digital system (FDsys), and is digitally signing many of the collections that are available on FDsys. Since April 2009, the following collections have been added: Congressional calendars from the 104th Congress, Congressional Committee Prints from the 105th Congress, List of CFR Sections Affected from 1997, Economic Indicators from 1995; Congressional Directory from the 105th Congress, the bound Congressional Records from 1999-2001; Congressional Record Index from 1993, Economic Report of the President from 1995, GAO Reports and Comptroller Decisions from 1994-2008, History of Bills from 1983, US Government Manual from 1995/1996, and the United States Statutes at Large from 2003-2006. Complete migration is expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

The following six documents have been signed digitally on FDsys: List of CFR Sections Affected, bound Congressional Record, the United States at Large, the Federal Register, Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents, and Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents. In July 2009, the FDsys was named as one of the top ten government web sites by Government Computer News (GCN) for providing interactive tools for the public and for assisting the Obama administration in creating a more open and transparent government.

On October 5th, 2009 GPO and the Office of the Federal Register (OFR) achieved a breakthrough by having government information become readable available and usable to the public. GPO converted the text of the Federal Register from 2000-2009 into XML format to increase its usefulness to the American people. The XML version of the Federal Register is available on FDsys, the Federal Register Web site, and Data.gov.

On October 20th at the 2009 Fall Federal Depository Library Conference and Depository Library Council Meeting, Lisa LaPlant and Kate Zwaard of GPO’s Program Management Office gave a live demonstration of FDsys, including in-depth advanced searching. They discussed the MODS (Metadata Object Description Schema) and PREMIS (Preservation Metadata Implementation Strategies) and their use within the system. MODS is a schema for bibliographic element set that may be used for a variety of purpose, including library applications, and PREMIS is referred to as a data dictionary that defines a core set of semantic units that repositories should know in order to perform preservation functions. The federal digital system can be accessed from GPO’s web site at: http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/home.action

Margot McLaren is Serials / Documents Librarian at Whittier Law School Library in Costa Mesa.
Those of you who know long-time SCALL member Fay Henexson may not know that she has a secret passion away from her daily toils at the Department of Justice office in San Diego. Rather than keep everyone guessing, I will let you all in on her secret: It is photography. If you want to see Fay’s wonderful handiwork visit: http://henexson.zenfolio.com. Like yours truly, I think you will enjoy some really remarkable photos.

Speaking of our away from work passions, Mary Dryden is currently appearing in “Things We Do for Love” at Theater Palisades. Attendees have indicated they really loved the production and Mary’s character of Barbara. If you would like to catch the show, it plays through December 13th (http://www.theatrepalisades.org/currentseason.html). If you would like to know more about the show, feel free to visit: http://thingswedoforlove.alanayckbourn.net/ThingsWeDoForLoveSynopsis.htm.

Proud mother Donella Johnson recently shared the news that Boodles Johnson won the annual West Hollywood Dog Costume Contest. Boodles, a Bedlington Terrier, won the honors dressed as a “Sheep in Wolf’s Clothing”. Congratulations to both mother and terrier on the honor. Hopefully, Boodles received a proper treat for his victory. In addition to his duties at Whittier Law and as SCALL Vice President and Institute Chair, Hugh Treacy and his wife Antonietta have recently found time to become foster parents. Hugh indicates that while the task can be challenging at times, that both he and his wife are enjoying the experience. We wish them and the children they host in the Treacy household our very best.

Congratulations and best wishes to SCALL members Robert Riger (San Diego County Public Law Library), Karla Castetter (Thomas Jefferson School of Law), and Alan Schroeder (Stroock & Stroock & Lavan) as they leave their positions and pursue other endeavors.

Who will be the first person to correctly respond to the following question? Karla Castetter has over her many years of SCALL membership been actively involved with the Public Access to Legal Information (PALI) Committee. That committee recently produced the Fifth edition of “Locating The Law.” In what year was the first edition published?

As always, please feel free to send me items for inclusion in future “Heard Around Town” columns at lawrym@sblawlibrary.org

Lawrence R. Meyer is Director of the Law library for San Bernardino County, in San Bernardino, California.
BUDGET-MINDED RESEARCH: CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY ... by Carolina Rose

Free, online research. It is great that the free online legislative database at http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html provides key legislative history materials on California bills enacted from 1993 to current. More and more attorneys and researchers are turning to this exciting and easy-to-access resource. Westlaw and LexisNexis are also downloading and reselling the data which generally consists of:

1. the final calendar (procedural developments), all proposed bill versions (introduced, amended, enrolled/Governor).
2. the final chaptered/session law.
3. Assembly and Senate legislative committee analyses (policy and fiscal).
4. Assembly and Senate Floor analyses.
5. voting records, and
6. veto messages.

However, additional critical research is available from offline sources as well. Unfortunately, some researchers make the mistake of thinking that if the legislative history of a bill is not available on the free website or from Westlaw or LexisNexis, the records simply do not exist. Nothing could be further from the truth. There are many other records that are not included in these databases that can be obtained from other offline sources and that the courts routinely rely upon. For example, in one case I worked on the court relied upon two records to support its plain reading of a statute: (1) An unpublished letter from Pacific Gas and Electric Company dated March 8, 1974, found in Assemblyman Charles Warren’s author’s bill file, and (2) a subsequent bill version apparently incorporating the amendment that had been proposed and explained in the letter.1 Notably, legislative authors’ bill files – among other source files – are not available on the free legislative website or from Westlaw or LexisNexis.

Here is a thumbnail sketch of the available offline research sources that the serious researcher should not overlook:

Before 1993. All bills dated before 1993 generally require onsite research in Sacramento for similar information.2 The State Archives, State Capitol Building, and the State Library are the primary go-to depositories of the key records. (Although selected collections can be found in other libraries as well.) For example, unpublished source files such as authors’ bill files, partisan caucus bill files, committee bill files (policy and fiscal), floor bill files, Governor’s chaptered bill

2 Research methodologies vary for different epochs. In particular, legislation dated before 1943 suffers from very poor record keeping practices. Additionally, there are other sources of legislative history besides primary source files such as Senate and Assembly Journal statements of intent, bill versions, contemporaneous commentary – especially by proposing commissions, etc. (See LRI’s complimentary online research manual. It is referenced further on in this article, including the URL for how to access it.)
files and agency bill files can yield critical information that the courts routinely rely upon, including legislative committee bill analyses, partisan caucus bill analyses, agency bill analyses, Governor enrolled bill reports, correspondence, background materials, etc. Government Code §9080 establishes that the specified legislative source files are appropriately relied upon by the courts to divine legislative intent.\(^1\)

1993 forward. Ditto – onsite Sacramento research is generally \textit{de rigueur}. In particular, unpublished source files that are not included in the online databases can be obtained the old fashioned way, from offline research sites – most of them in Sacramento.

**Help for the budget-minded.** Whenever possible, it is best to assemble a legislative history research report that includes all available offline source files such as those listed above.\(^2\) (The last thing you want is to be blind-sided by opposing counsel’s use of them.) However, here are suggestions for accessing more expansive research within severe budget constraints.

**Do your-own research.** Plenty of research guides abound for the do-it-yourselfer who has the time to follow up on all the leads. For example, Legislative Research, Inc. (LRI) publishes a free, how-to-do-your-own research manual on the “Resources” page accessed at \url{www.lrihistory.com}. Keep in mind that phone orders at State Archives take a second seat to walk-ins, and often must stand in line behind a backlog of requests.

**Explore special commercial pricing options.** Contracting with a commercial research company for a full blown report\(^3\) at the standard rates may not be an option when budget constraints are a problem. In that case, you might want to consider finding out if any of them are offering any special pricing programs. For example, a few companies – my own included – offer discounted rates for pre-compiled reports. My company is also offering special pricing on the following budget-minded research:

- **Governor’s Chaptered Bill Files (1943-2003):** The Governor is considered part of the legislative enactment process and valuable Governor’s Chaptered Bill Files are available offline from 1943 through the last sitting governor (Davis, 2003).\(^5\) Such files can contain key information that the courts take judicial notice of. In particular, correspondence and the enrolled bill reports by state agencies often provide a level of detail that the legislative committee and floor analyses do not. LRI can provide an authenticated, digital Governor’s Chaptered Bill File on a bill of interest dated 1943-2003.

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\(^1\) Government Code § 9080 was added by Stats. 1996, c. 928, § 2, S.B. 1507. This section has not yet been applied by the court in a published opinion, so it is somewhat of a sleeping giant. (Again, per footnote 2 there are other sources of legislative history research as well.) On a personal note, I proposed this statute to the California law librarian community and helped guide it through to successful enactment under the authorship of my former boss, Senator Nicholas C. Petris.

\(^2\) Again, per footnote 2 there are other sources of legislative history research as well.

\(^3\) There are a number of commercial research services operating in California. State Archives has compiled a list you can ask for. LRI, has been providing in-depth legislative history research services since 1983.

\(^4\) For further details call LRI at 800.530.7613 or visit \url{http://www.lrihistory.com/SelectResearch.htm}. This is just one example. Other accommodations are also available.

\(^5\) The currently sitting governor’s records are not available to the public.
Bill Versions (1850-1992). Understanding how your bill of interest evolved over time in the enactment process can be extremely valuable. For example, if opposing counsel is trying to read terms into the statute that had one time been proposed but were later deleted, you can persuade the court that the Legislature did not intend for the stricken terms to apply. Additionally, Legislative Counsel’s Digests appearing on the face of each bill from 1959 forward operate as mini-bill analyses that the courts are quite fond of. It is recommended that the Governor’s bill files be accompanied by authenticated bill versions.

Additional follow-up: The above two avenues provide a budget-wise way of getting a head’s up on the ultimate usefulness of a fuller report. You just might decide that it is not worth it to spend additional time or money for more research after reviewing the Governor’s Chaptered Bill File and/or the bill. If, however, you reach the opposite conclusion, you can either undertake your own additional research or contact a commercial research company to fill in the gaps. Some commercial companies, such as LRI, provide hand’s-on guidance on a complimentary or discounted basis. LRI will also roll the fees paid for the above research into its standard services and rates.

In short, free online California legislative history research from 1993 to current can be a boon to the budget-minded researcher, but it can also give a false sense of security. Additionally, the absence of valuable legislative history materials from the free online website or the costly, subscription-based online services does not mean that they do not exist. It is important to be aware of and access additional research avenues that can yield valuable information for your client’s case and that the courts are comfortable relying upon. But when budget is a problem, you can either give yourself plenty of time to do your own research, or consider seeking out special commercial pricing options and services.

Carolina Rose is President of Legislative Research, Inc.

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1 To obtain free bill versions from 1993 forward go to http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/billinfo.html
2 Carolina Rose’s background statement is available at http://www.leghistory.com/Expert_Witness.htm and details how she worked in the California Legislature from 1976 – 1984 and was responsible for over 200 bills. Afterwards she founded her legislative research firm in 1983.
SCALL Membership Directory

The SCALL 2008-09 Membership Directory is available on the web. As a reminder, the directory is password-protected. If you do not have a password, please complete the password request form (see http://aallnet.org/chapter/scall/pdf/membership.pdf, page two) & submit to Ramon Barajas. If you are not listed in the current directory, please send your renewal form and a check payable to SCALL to: SCALL Membership, PMB 334, 8391 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048.

Any corrections, changes, or additions to your membership information should be sent to:

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June Kim, formerly Reference Librarian is now Senior Reference Librarian at UCLA Law Library
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Karla Castetter to Retire from Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Retirement News: Karla Castetter
Dean Rudy Hasl of Thomas Jefferson School of Law has announced the retirement of a library director known to many SCALL members.

I wanted to share some news that will have an impact on our entire community. After 26 years as Library Director for Western State University and Thomas Jefferson School of Law, Karla Castetter has decided to resign from her position and from the faculty, effective January 1, 2010. There will be occasions in the next few months to celebrate her accomplishments over the past years. All of us will miss her professionalism in the management of the library and her wonderful collegiality. She has determined that this is the right time for her to leave the School because she has in place an excellent staff and the transition should be as smooth as possible. I speak on behalf of the faculty, staff, students, and graduates in thanking her for her dedicated service, in wishing her well for the future, and in expressing our sadness in her departure.
Law Library Director; Chapman University School of Law; Orange, November 16

Law Cataloger; Library Associates; Telecommute, November 13

Legal Reference Librarian (Part-Time); Library Associates; Los Angeles, November 10

Library Assistant IV/Acquisitions/Cataloging Assistant; University of San Diego Legal Research Center; San Diego, October 6

Head of Research Services; University of California, Irvine School of Law; Irvine, October 5

Director; University of San Francisco School of Law; San Francisco, October 5

Assistant Law Librarian; Southern California Edison; Rosemead, September 15

Pool of Temporary Reference Librarians; Western State University Law Library; Fullerton, ongoing

Librarians & Library Technical Assistants, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Statewide, ongoing

Jodi Kruger is Research Services Librarian at Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu. She is currently Chair of the SCALL Placement Committee.
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