



SCALL Newsletter

Volume 31, Number 1

a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

September 2003

President's Column

by Diana Jaque
djaque@law.usc.edu

As some of you may know, I am a sports fanatic who loves the game of baseball. During the AALL Annual Meeting in Seattle, I had the opportunity to enjoy a Mariners game with several of my esteemed colleagues. Sitting in the ballpark, I realized the value of teamwork in accomplishing organizational tasks. Much like a baseball team, SCALL relies on its members to step up to the plate and perform essential duties. This kind of team work allows our organization to function effectively.

At our June Business meeting, many of you heard that SCALL's current financial situation does not permit us to renew Belinda Beardt's contract. Over the last few years we benefited from her organizational skills and truly appreciate her dedication to SCALL. Belinda assisted all of SCALL's standing and special committees, but some of her larger responsibilities corresponded to the membership, newsletter, and program committees. Her tasks ranged from selling advertising for the newsletter to printing out labels for SCALL mailings. We are recruiting volunteers to fill all committees, but also encourage members to step forward and help the committees hit hardest by Belinda's absence. The most specific task we would like to fill is someone to manage advertising sales for the newsletter. Please contact me directly (djaque@law.usc.edu) if you would like to volunteer, I will find a place for your talents. Whether you are a new member, or a seasoned professional, join our team and volunteer for a committee today!

Finally, I would like to close by offering my gratitude to several members of SCALL. Many thanks go to

(Continued on page 2)

Inside This Issue

SCALL Awards Dick Spinelli	3
Inner City Youth Program	3
AALL in Seattle 2003	4
SCALL OCTOBER MEETING	7
Job Opportunities	8
SCALL Union List Eight Edition	16
Dealing with a Deficit at Los Angeles County Law Library	18
Getting to Know You: Lu Tuan Nguyen	18
Inner City Youth Committee Volunteer Form	19



(Continued from page 1)

our outgoing board members: Jacqueline Ayala, Larry Meyer, and Robert Wright. Their insight and dedication to the SCALL board will be missed. It was a pleasure working with each of you. Also, I would like to extend my appreciation to all SCALL members who attended the annual meeting and the joint reception in Seattle. It was great touching base with many of you. Ruth Hill was the 2002-2003 Chair of the Annual Meeting Program Committee and we appreciated and enjoyed the many wonderful programs selected by her committee. AALL's next annual meeting will take place in Boston on July 10-14, 2003. The program theme will be: Boston to Mumbai: The World of Legal Information, please save the date!

The SCALL Newsletter is published electronically five times per year (September, November, January, March and May) by the Southern California Association of Law Libraries, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries. Visit the SCALL website at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/scall>

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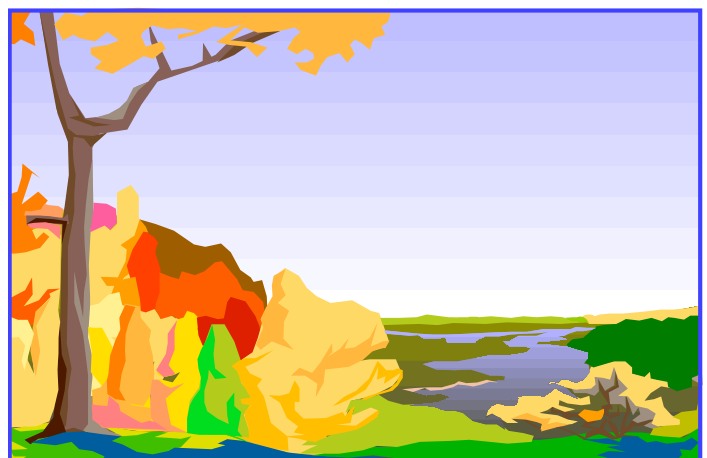


From the Editor

by Margot McLaren
mclarenm@ulv.edu

In this new fiscal year (2003-2004) of SCALL, I am looking forward to working with all of you again in producing a great newsletter. This issue includes two terrific articles written by William Ketchum and Victoria Williamson. In "AALL in Seattle, 2003," Bill Ketchum comments on the benefits of attending annual meetings and summarizes this year's sessions on teaching legal research to patrons and on disaster planning. Victoria Williamson's bio-profile article features one law librarian: Lu Tuan Nguyen from the Orange County Public Law Library. Also in this issue, Jan E. Goldsmith provides an update on SCALL's Inner City Youth Committee, and Leonette Williams reports on the presentation of the SCALL Vendor Service Award to Richard J. Spinelli, Vice President, Sales & Marketing for William S. Hein & Company for his valuable contributions to SCALL.

As a final note, I want to express my deepest appreciation to Belinda Beardt for all her hard work and her valuable contributions to the SCALL newsletter. On behalf of the entire newsletter committee, Belinda will be sorely missed.





SCALL Awards Dick Spinelli

*Leonette Williams, lwilliam@law.usc.edu
Associate Director for Collections and Technical Services
University of Southern California Law School*

Richard J. Spinelli, Vice President, Sales & Marketing of the William S. Hein & Co., Inc., has been awarded the SCALL Vendor Service Award for his consistent and significant contributions to SCALL. His contributions include assisting in the development of the law library collections in Southern California, a consistent and high level of service, and regular and longtime participation as an exhibitor at the SCALL Annual Institute. The award was presented to Dick by Leonette Williams, University of Southern California Law Library, Chair of the 2002-03 SCALL Awards Committee, at the joint reception of the various Pacific chapters of AALL at the annual meeting in Seattle.



Leonette Williams and Richard J. Spinelli

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Inner City Youth Program

SCALL's Inner City Youth Committee has just completed its 13th year. For those of you not familiar with our program, we began after the LA Riots in 1992. Our way of addressing the situation was to help inner city kids learn about working in the law library environment. The program has expanded over the years to include a large variety of libraries, ranging from academic law libraries, general academic, government, and vendor libraries.

I have been on this committee since the first year, and I don't want to sound like I'm repeating myself, (after all, I am getting to that age!) but it's one of the most rewarding activities of my professional career. I feel like I'm helping our community, rather than just earning a salary. Meeting a new group of teenagers each year, and listening to their hopes, aspirations, and experiences, has been a truly enlightening experience for me. This year we had two girls who were best friends, one of whom has only been in the US for 7 years. They went to one of the most troubled high schools in Los Angeles, and yet are attend-

(Continued on page 19)

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AALL in Seattle 2003

by Bill Ketchum, Reference Librarian
San Bernardino County Law Library
williamk@sblawlibrary.org

As I always do with librarians' and lawyers' professional conventions and seminars, I came away from the 2003 AALL Annual Meeting in Seattle this year with renewed enthusiasm for my work and a sense that I can do more and do better. I also gained some current knowledge and information and met colleagues who became both friends and useful contacts. Among the educational programs and meetings from this year that make me want to go again next year in Boston were programs on teaching legal research to patrons, disaster planning, keeping track of vendor accounts, webpage re-design (and how to choose between Frontpage and Dreammaker for your webpage), handling cuts in funding, and the West luncheon for the State, Court, and County Law Libraries (SCCLL) where the vendor had to take hard questions from the librarians. I found the programs

on the first two of these topics particularly worthy of comment.

We all instruct our patrons on basic legal research whenever we show them how to find or use a law book or an online service, but the idea of organizing and presenting a class to members of the public is something most of us probably doubt we have the time and other resources to do. At the 2-day pre-conference Teaching Research In Court and Agency Law Libraries (TRICALL), Lexis staff members Cindy Spohr and Gayle Lynn-Nelson and law librarians Shirley David, Regina Smith, David Lockwood, and Terry Long showed us how. There were lectures, discussions, and group activities on user needs and learning styles, presentation skills, marketing, and evaluation.

Amy Hale-Janeke's and Judith Lihosit's presentation on teaching basic legal research and procedure to pro se litigants added to what TRICALL participants had

(Continued on page 6)



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(Continued from page 4)

learned. Focusing on law libraries open to the public, it was particularly interesting and well-presented and drew a large and enthusiastic audience. The presenters showed how to set up and conduct regular classes for the public in a county law library, how and to whom to market the classes, what to teach, and how to control the class and avoid giving legal advice. They explained how to find time to prepare and conduct these classes by obtaining a grant to pay substitute reference librarians. All this was based not on conjecture, but on the presenters' current experience at San Diego County Public Law Library. See their library's website at <http://www.sdcll.org/> and click on Classes to see their current offerings.

Disaster preparedness is far from the minds of many of us in predictable and mild Southern California, but an earthquake, a fire, a plumbing failure, or a power grid overload could hit us hard, so some of us attended one or both sessions on this topic. Alison Alfano, Associate Director of the Library of Sullivan & Cromwell explained how disaster planning reduced even 9/11's damage and disruption to the operation of that New York law firm. The library had designated a team of personnel with knowledge and fiscal authority, had collected essential contact information including staff and vendors, had pre-arranged other locations from which attorneys and library staff could work, and had listed and ranked essential services in case of need to eliminate some services. The written disaster plan fills 10 binders.

Jon S. Schultz, University of Houston's Law Center Librarian, showed dramatic videos of the basement level of his library filled with water from Tropical Storm Allison and how he and his colleagues have been dealing with the damage and destruction. He suggests at least what he calls "one-hour emergency planning." First, line up your consultants for emergency electrical systems, emergency dehumidification, and emergency air conditioning, because in a large-scale disaster, there will be competition for all services. Second, for insurance and replacement purposes, get a CAD drawing and an inventory of your shelving, furniture, and equipment. Note the manufacturers' and model numbers and who sells these items. Third, collect descriptions of every part of your collection, including non-computerized collec-

tion guides and locators. Fourth, quantify by type any part of the collection that is not cataloged, including serials. Review cataloging and inventorying policies. Fifth, make a video inventory of the library, to help when you try to recall items lost, including furniture and artwork. Include all departments.

The main lessons from these talks on disaster planning are: Compile and regularly maintain offsite contact information for staff and suppliers of materials and services that would be essential in a disaster. This will help you to be at the head of the line for scarce supplies and services in a community-wide disaster. Plan who among the staff will do what and who will have what authority, such as (1) to speak to the press ("Everything is ruined!" or "We already have the following services up and running in an alternate location..."), and the insurance adjuster ("Those books were never used," or "Those books carry a replacement cost of x and are essential to their users..."); (2) to disburse funds for emergency supplies such as tarps, batteries, and drinking water and emergency services such as freeze-drying wet books in the absence of the usual custodian of funds; and (3) to determine what functions and services you will be able to maintain, at what level, and where. Know in detail before a disaster what you have and how, where, and at what cost you will replace it and what you will do without. Know what your essential services are and how, where, and to what extent you will continue to provide them during the emergency.



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SCALL OCTOBER MEETING

Topic: Condition of Juvenile Courts in California

Speaker: Judge Michael Mash
Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court
Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court

When: Wednesday, October 29th

Where: Taix Restaurant
1911 Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA. 90026
The restaurant is located one block
east of Alvarado on Sunset

Parking: Valet \$1.25

Cost: \$21.00

Program: 6:00 p.m. Registration
6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Program

Send completed form and check payable to SCALL. Attn: Belinda Beardt. Advanced Information Management. 900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1424, Los Angeles, CA. 90017. RSVP by Friday, October 24th to supply an accurate count for the restaurant. No refunds after October 24th. Questions? Contact Belinda Beardt at 213-489-9800 or bbeardt@aimusa.com.

Menu (check one):

☐ Chicken Tarragon ☐ Roast Pork ☐ Vegetarian

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Phone/Email: _____



Job Opportunities

Compiled by:

Paul Howard
Foreign & International Law Librarian
Loyola Law School, Los Angeles
Paul.Howard@lls.edu

and

Don Buffaloe, Reference Services Librarian
Pepperdine University School of Law, Malibu
Donald.Buffaloe@pepperdine.edu

Network Technician, Orange County Public Law Library, Santa Ana

The Orange County Public Law Library is seeking a full-time Network Technician to support, maintain, repair and install PCs on a Windows network running MS Windows 2000/XP, as well as supporting peripherals, copier and printers and various other software applications. This position will provide technical support, helpdesk support, training, and backup support. Excellent communication skills and the ability to support and train users required. Thorough knowledge of Windows NT 4.0; 2000; XP, Microsoft Office 2000 Professional, Symantec Ghost and Antivirus. Some experience with networks and servers required. A+ certification preferred. Schedule is Monday – Friday 8:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M. with occasional evening or weekend work.

Starting salary: \$44, 907 per year. Excellent benefits including 100% paid medical insurance.

Apply in writing by sending a resume to:

Orange County Public Law Library
515 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

Serials/Documents Librarian, Whittier Law School, Costa Mesa

The Serials Librarian is responsible for management of the Serials Department and maintenance of the serials collection in the Law School Library, including the Federal and State Depository items. The Serials Department processes paper and fiche updates to continuation titles in the law library collection from the time the update arrives at the library until the update is made available to the public. The Serials Librarian is responsible for establishing, maintaining and developing serials and periodicals control, records and access.

The primary job duties include: Designing, implementing and overseeing Library systems for serials and periodicals; Providing daily management supervision of Serials Department personnel including student assistants; Managing the serials entries in the Innovative Interfaces database, including maintenance of existing records and establishing records for new titles; Communication with publishers and vendors; Serving as primary point of contact with the Federal and State Depository Agencies; Bindery and mail processing; Assisting with circulation and legal reference service, for the faculty, law students and the general public; and Developing new serial services.

Requirements include: Master's degree in Librarianship from an ALA accredited institution and some knowledge of legal resources; Requirements also include the ability to identify and analyze complex issues and implement solutions, the ability to motivate and lead a professional staff, and the interpersonal skills necessary to provide information through written and oral communication with service oriented courtesy and tact.

Salary and Benefits include: A minimum annual salary of \$37,000; Medical, dental and life insurance; Paid vacation and sick leaves; Employer contribution to TIAA/CREF retirement plans; and Support for professional development.

This position is available immediately and will remain open until filled. The starting date is

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)

negotiable.

For further information write or call J. Denny Haythorn at dhaythorn@law.whittier.edu or (714) 444-4141 ext 494.

Please send a letter of application, resume and references to:

Business and Human Resources
Whittier Law School
3333 Harbor Blvd.
Costa Mesa, California 92626

Technical Services Librarian, O'Melveny & Myers, Los Angeles

O'Melveny & Myers LLP, an international law firm located in downtown Los Angeles, has an immediate opening for a Technical Services Librarian.

This position is responsible for coordinating and performing original and copy cataloging of law library materials in all formats, maintaining integrity and quality control of the online library catalog, serving as systems administrator for the integrated library system, overseeing implementation, system upgrades, troubleshooting, report generation, training, documentation and day-to-day system maintenance. This position also assists in developing policies and procedures and integrating technology to enhance technical services processes.

Requirements for this position include knowledge of current cataloging standards, MARC formats and LC classification, experience with bibliographic utilities, preferably RLIN, extensive demonstrated experience with automated library systems, preferably Horizon, fundamental knowledge of overall technical services operations and familiarity with legal materials. Must have excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills, the ability to work in a team-environment, and the ability to take initiative. A four year college degree and MLS degree are required.

We offer an excellent salary and benefits package.

For immediate consideration, please send your resume to O'Melveny & Myers LLP, 400 S. Hope Street, Suite 2001, Los Angeles, CA 90071, FAX: (213) 430-7857, E-mail: hr@omm.com. Visit us at: www.omm.com. Response will be given to candidates who closely meet our qualifications. EOE M/F/D/V. No phone inquiries, please.

Legal Reference/Technical Services Librarian, Palo Alto

Our client, a prominent national law firm, is looking for a Reference/Technical Services Librarian for their office in Palo Alto.

Responsibilities:

- Provide research and reference support to attorneys and other staff utilizing online and print resources.
- Catalog materials, create records for online catalog.
 - Train staff to use library automation systems.
 - Assist manager with collection development, budget and other administrative duties.

Qualifications:

- MLS from ALA-accredited library school or equivalent experience in a law firm environment.
- 3-5 yrs law library experience.
- Excellent online research skills using LexisNexis, Westlaw, Dialog, Public records and Docket databases as well as printed legal and business sources.
- Familiarity with SydneyPlus or other automated library system.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, both oral and written.

Salary will be commensurate with experience. Local candidates only.

Resumes as WORD document only with cover letter and salary requirements to:

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(Continued on page 10)



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Legal Reference/Technical Services Librarian, San Diego

Our client, a prominent national law firm, is looking for a Reference/Technical Services Librarian for their office in San Diego.

Responsibilities:

- Provide research and reference support to attorneys and other staff utilizing online and print resources.
- Catalog materials, create records for online catalog.
- Train staff to use library automation systems.
- Assist manager with collection development, budget and other administrative duties.

Qualifications:

- MLS from ALA-accredited library school or equivalent experience in a law firm environment.
- 3-5 yrs law library experience.
- Excellent online research skills using LexisNexis, Westlaw, Dialog, Public records and Docket databases as well as printed legal and business sources.
- Familiarity with SydneyPlus or other automated library system.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, both oral and written.

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Reference/Electronic Services Librarian, Pepperdine University School of Law, Malibu

Pepperdine University School of Law is seeking a Reference/Electronic Services Librarian who will be responsible for managing the library's electronic resources and training members of the law school community in their use.

Duties:

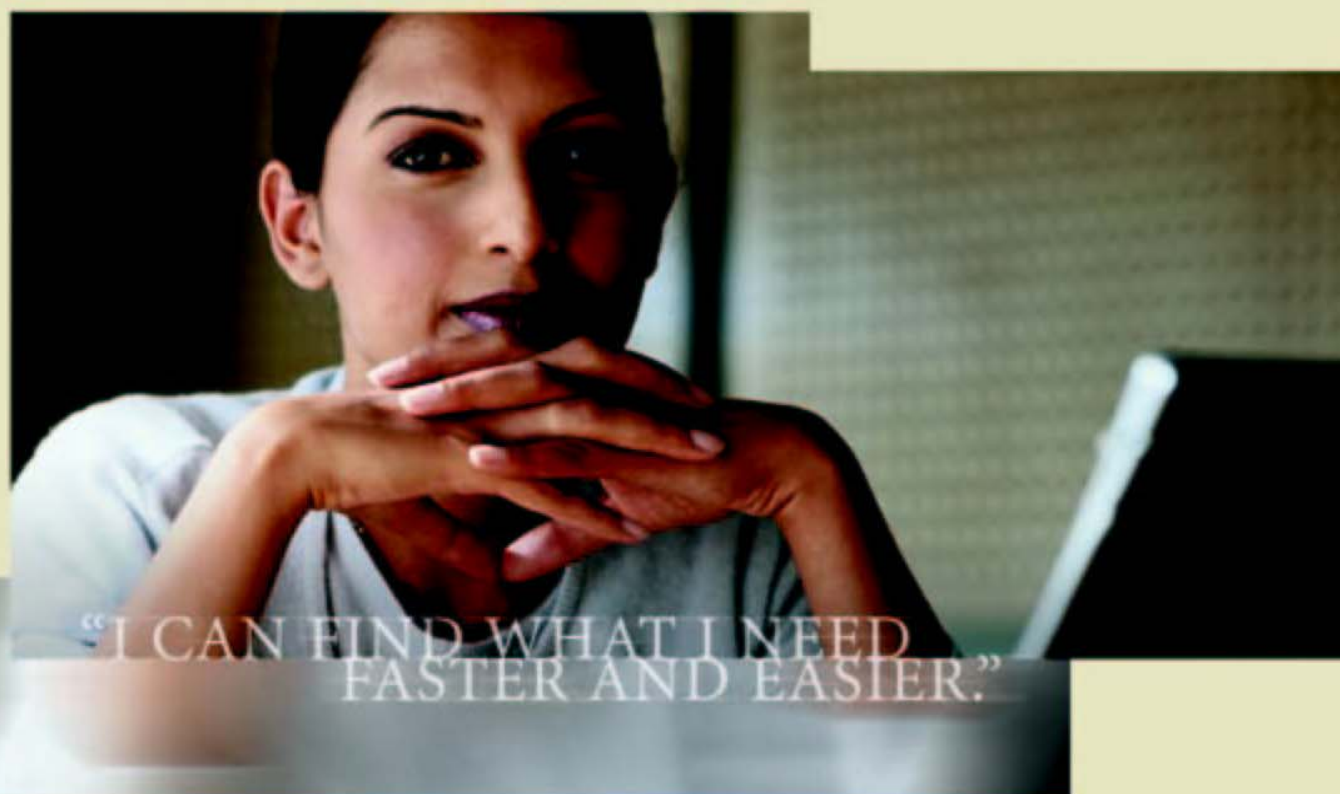
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Qualifications:

Required: M.L.S. from an ALA-accredited institution; thorough knowledge of traditional legal bibliography and legal research techniques as well as electronic legal resources and formats, including the internet, cd-rom, Lexis, and Westlaw; working knowledge of web design, current authoring languages, editing and authoring tools; experience with an integrated library system; strong service orientation; excellent communication and interpersonal skills; team player; ability to work with diverse individuals at all levels of an organization; energetic; creative.

Preferred: J.D. from an ABA-accredited law school strongly preferred; academic law library experience;

(Continued on page 12)



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familiarity with Endeavor's Voyager library system; teaching experience.

Compensation:

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Available immediately.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Applicants should provide a cover letter, a resume, and names and contact information for at least three references. Applications will be reviewed immediately. Please send applications by email (preferred) to katie.kerr@pepperdine.edu, or by mail to Katie Kerr, Associate Director for Library Services, Pepperdine University School of Law, 24255 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, CA 90263.

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Head of Technical Services, Pepperdine University School of Law, Malibu

Pepperdine University School of Law is seeking a Head of Technical Services. This position reports to the Associate Director for Library Services.

Duties: The Head of Technical Services will handle all technical services operations for the Law Library, including ordering, receipt, payment, cataloging, processing, and routing of books, serials, and other library materials; oversees the library's Endeavor Voyager library system; supervises 3.5 FTE paraprofessional staff; other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

Required: M.L.S. from an ALA-accredited institution; at least three years increasingly responsible professional experience managing technical services functions; significant experience with integrated library systems; demonstrated experience with standard budgetary practices; excellent project management skills; strong organizational skills with meticulous attention to detail; excellent communication and interpersonal skills; team player; ability to work with diverse individuals at all levels of an organization; energetic; creative; strong service commitment.

Preferred: Demonstrated knowledge of legal publishing industry; demonstrated proficiency in standard PC applications and ability to learn new technologies; knowledge of Endeavor Voyager system.

Compensation:

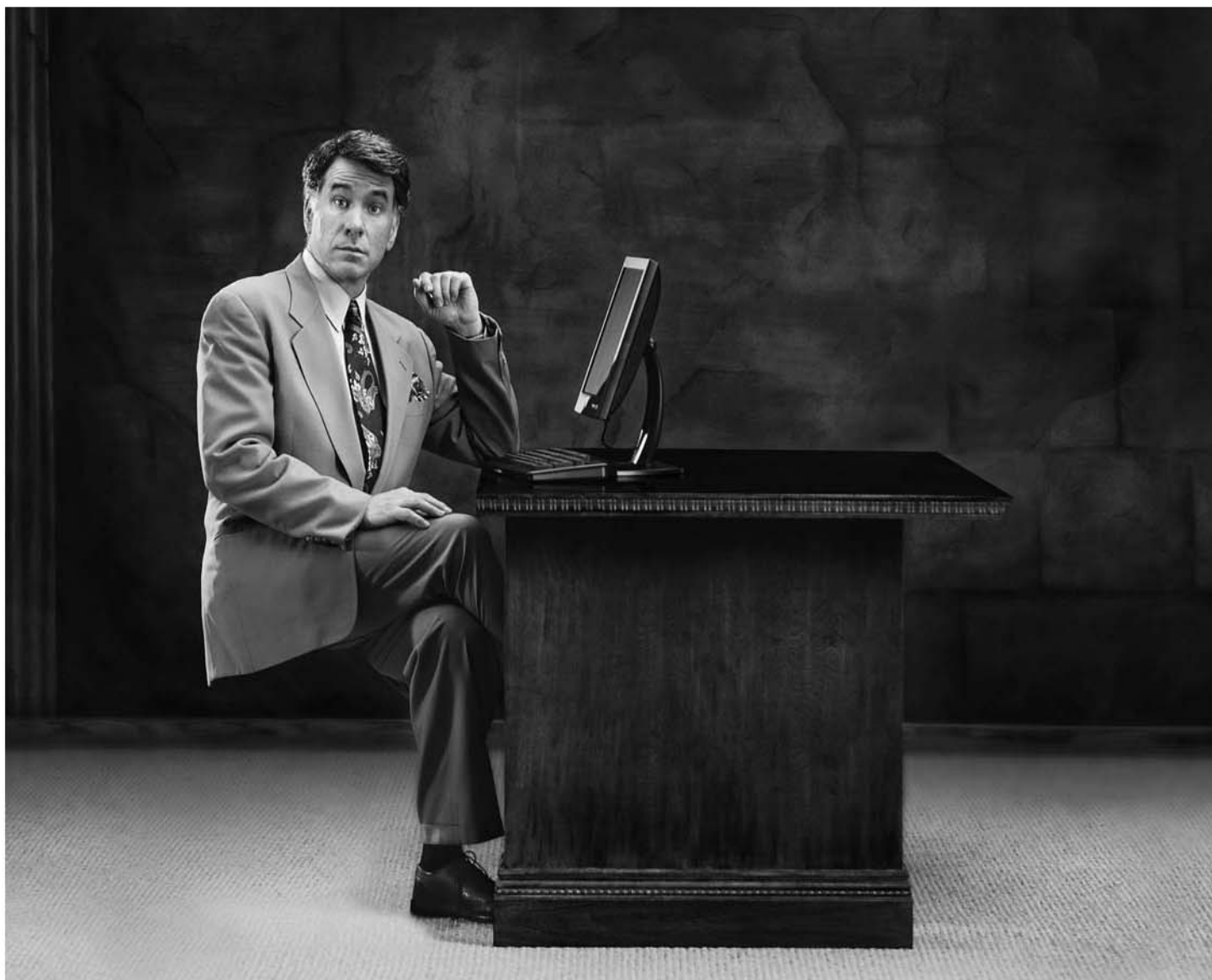
Commensurate with experience. Pepperdine University offers a full benefits package, including retirement programs with TIAA/CREF, health care coverage, and a generous vacation allowance.

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Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Applicants should provide a cover letter, a resume, and names and contact information for at least three references. Applications will be reviewed immediately. Please send applications by email (preferred) to katie.kerr@pepperdine.edu, or by mail to Katie Kerr, Associate Director for Library Services, Pepperdine University School of Law, 24255 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, CA 90263.

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(Continued on page 14)



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(Continued from page 12)

Librarian Lawyer, Chapman University School of Law Library, Orange

Chapman University is the largest, most comprehensive independent university in Orange County, California. It is comprised of six schools, including an ABA-accredited law school that opened in 1995, a liberal arts college, and a distance learning division, in an academic structure that offers both professional studies and liberal arts education. Known for its blend of liberal arts and professional programs, Chapman offers a breadth of fields that is typically reserved for much larger institutions.

Responsibilities: Provide reference and instructional services to the law school community, including assisting faculty, staff, students and patrons of the law school in conducting online searches and finding research materials. Instruct Advanced Legal Research courses and the use of computers for legal research. Provide legal instruction for outside groups. Prepare bibliographies for faculty and staff. Draft research guides and study aids. Participate in collection development and evening and Saturday reference desk assignments. Conduct library tours and produce library newsletters. Serve as a liaison to the faculty for the library. Assist in the planning and reviewing of library goals, procedures, policies and manuals. Supervise and coordinate work for information services technician. Participate in professional organizations and attend conferences and training as needed. Require travel to off-site events and meeting locations. Maintain flexible work schedule, including some evening and weekend hours. Perform additional duties as assigned to support business needs.


Qualifications: Required: M.L.S. and J.D. from accredited institutions. Working knowledge of traditional and computer assisted legal research methods. Experience in conducting searches on a bibliographic utility, preferably OCLC and INNOPAC. Proven ability to use Lexis and Westlaw. Prior supervisory experience. Ability to work independently and evaluate data, assess alternatives and formulate logical and sound decisions and/or recommendations. Ability to plan, prioritize multiple projects and complete them in a timely manner. Ability to use tact

and diplomacy. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to interact with diverse individuals and groups at all organizational levels, both inside and outside of the university. Strong writing and editing skills, including the ability to prepare and proofread clear, concise and grammatically correct documentations. Strong commitment to the concepts of customer service and teamwork. Computer skills in the use of word processing, legal research, internal and electronic mail software.

Desired: Knowledge of issues relevant to higher education and other multi-disciplinary projects. Working knowledge of Chapman University policies and procedures pertaining to the duties of the position.

TO APPLY: Please submit 2 copies of resume and/or application with Job No. 31-03, in addition to 2 copies of salary history to HR, 1 University Dr, Orange, CA 92866. A copy of the application can be

(Continued on page 15)



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- rules of court
- rules of professional conduct
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*The thing speaks for itself.



(Continued from page 14)

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Library Assistant, Greenberg Glusker, Los Angeles

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 REPORTS TO: Head Librarian
 HOURS: Part-Time or Full-Time
 PAY RATE: \$12.00-\$15.00 per hour

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

Responsible for the daily maintenance of the law library, including reshelving and shifting of books. Conducts mail check-in and periodicals routing. Processes and files new materials. Updates looseleaf services. Corresponds with publishers as needed. Processes interlibrary loan requests. Handles photocopying requests including articles and cases for attorneys and staff. Answers routine reference and informational questions. Additional projects as assigned. Room for growth and expansion of duties.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Bachelor's degree and experience working in a law library or law office required.

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Ability to operate standard office equipment including computers, printers, and photocopiers. Experience with pc applications including word processing and data input and retrieval.

Ability to retrieve and distribute print volumes, push and pull carts of mail, packages and books weighing up to 20 pounds, and ability to retrieve and replace objects from shelves of up to eight feet high.

CONTACT:

Fax (310-557-2975) or e-mail (hr@ggfirm.com) resume to. No phone calls please.

Reference Librarian, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

Job Description Summary: Provide all users quality access to all parts of the Library's collection. Assist students, faculty, and the public with tools, methods, and strategies necessary for effective legal research. Conduct searches of online non-legal databases on the Internet for users. Participate in collection development. Serve as library liaison to several faculty members. Keep abreast of research areas of assigned faculty in order to provide selective dissemination of information services. Provide general assistance and facilitate effective use of the library's service. Possibly teach legal bibliography, as part of the Law School's Legal Research and Writing program. Conduct library tours. Provide weekend and evening reference services.

(Continued on page 17)

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(Continued from page 15)

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Knowledge/Ability: Knowledge of Anglo-American legal system, legal and other reference sources, bibliographic description, and library practices and procedures. Ability to set priorities, meet deadlines, and work with a minimum of supervision. Ability to work as a team member. Keen analytical ability. Excellent oral and written communication skills. Demonstrable commitment to providing service to library users.

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SCALL Newsletter Submission Deadlines

If you would like to submit something for publication in the SCALL Newsletter, the deadlines are the following:

October 13, 2003	November 2003 issue
December 8, 2003	January 2004 issue
February 9, 2004	March 2004 issue
April 12, 2004	May 2004 issue

We welcome the submission of any articles of interest to the law library community. Contact Margot McLaren, SCALL Editor at mclarenm@ulv.edu

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Dealing with a Deficit at Los Angeles County Law Library

All of us who use the Los Angeles County Law Library or refer patrons to it need to be aware of some changes. Hours and branch book budgets are cut, fees are to be added or raised, and additional funding is sought.

*by Bill Ketchum, Reference Librarian
San Bernardino County Law Library*

Director Richard Iamele wrote to all SCALL members on August 26 about measures his board is taking in response to a projected deficit of \$902,000 for FY 2003/2004. Here are some of the details, from his letter to us, his article in the current LACLL newsletter (available at <http://www.lalaw.lib.ca.us>), and a front-page Los Angeles Daily Journal article on September 5. The main library will no longer be open past 6 p. m., the 9 branches will be open only 10 a.m. to 2 p. m., weekdays, and each branch's book budget is reduced. Registered borrowers will have to pay an annual fee in addition to their required deposits, subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors for borrowers who are lawyers resident in the county (Bus. & Prof. C. §6360). LACLL is also requesting that its portion of each civil filing fee be raised from the current \$14 to \$16 beginning January 1, 2004.

In addition, a new Friends group is being formed, and a fundraiser will be held November 6 – celebrating the 50th anniversary of the main library building, which will be re-named for Justice Mildred L. Lillie. Mr. Iamele requests our support when, in the coming weeks, the Board of Supervisors considers the filing fee measure and the new borrowing fee for lawyers.



Getting to Know You: Lu Tuan Nguyen

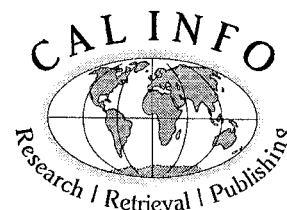
*by Victoria Williamson
williamv@ulv.edu*



When I first met Lu Tuan Nguyen, the one thing that stuck in my head was his warm and welcoming smile. He showed a natural ability to put me at ease and to feel comfortable to chat with him. I actually did feel comfortable enough that I asked him to be the subject of the "Getting to Know You" article for this issue of our newsletter. Behind Lu's warm and welcoming smile is an impressive list of prior work experiences, credentials and an impressive range of professional associations' involvement. I have to admit

that it was quite a challenge for me to write up a profile that encapsulates his entire work history and volunteering activities

(Continued on page 20)



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(Continued from page 3)

ing Harvard and Yale in the fall. All applicants came recommended by their high school counselors. They are highly motivated, success-oriented young people who yearn to make something of their lives. I even look forward to reading their application essays each year, to hear their experiences; they are always an exceptional group. Most of those who were graduating this year were going to universities and colleges, and many were the first in their families to go to college. Many of our former interns have gone on to successful careers, sometimes in the libraries they started in as interns. I have known all the interns who have come to UCLA over the years, and their supervisors have raved about them, as have most of the firm librarians who have had them. Each year's group has opened my eyes further to the capabilities and empowerment of these teens, and I have felt privileged to be a part of the committee which helps them on their way.

You too can be a part of this program! I urge you to join the committee; we need more people to work with us. But more than that, you will broaden your experience, and give back to the community. You will be very glad you did. Contact Brian Keefe at (213) 633-6800 or Arlene Junior at (213) 612-7822 if you are interested in joining us.

By Jan Goldsmith, UCLA

Advertiser's Index

Advanced Information Management	15
CAL INFO	18
Global Securities Inc. (GSI)	11
InMagic	3
Legislative Intent Service	14
Legislative Research Incorporated	4
LexisNexis	5
Library Associates	3
Loose Leaf Filing Services, Inc.	4
Moon Elliot	6
Research Solutions	17
West Group	13



Inner City Youth Committee Volunteer Form

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Committee participation _____

Teaching, training, workshop assistance _____

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(Continued from page 18)

without leaving out the interesting, warm and caring personality of Lu.

Lu Tuan Nguyen, a 1996-97 SCALL Scholarship recipient, is a graduate of San Jose State University School of Library and Information Science. He earned his J.D. from Northrop University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from UCLA.

Lu is what I call a full-fledged “24/7 reference librarian,” he virtually lives and breaths reference work 24 hours, 7 days a week. He works full-time as a reference librarian at the Orange County Public Law Library, serves as a “pool librarian” providing professional reference library services at Cal. State University in Fullerton, and works part-time as a reference librarian at Western State University College of Law Library.

Lu’s law librarian career had its beginnings at the Northrop University Law Library in Inglewood where he worked as a student assistant helping the librarian at the reference desk with shelving books and loose-leaf filing. From librarian aid to reference librarian, he gained tons of experience handling legal materials and serving the legal information needs of library users both in the academic and public law settings. He has dedicated himself to providing public access to information and assisting the public to find information. His reason for becoming a librarian is, he stated, “*Pursuing a goal of making information available freely to the public.*” He has focused on his goal consistently not only through his daily work but also by getting involved in various professional organizations namely: ALA, AALL, CLA, SCALL, ABA, LACBA, CALA (Chinese American Librarians Association) and Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity. He has a history of community involvement, which include serving as Vice-President of El Camino College Rotary Club in 1978 and as Volunteer in the VITAS, hospice program in 1998. He received two California State Grants: the California Library Grant (1999-2000) while he was attending San Jose State University School of Library and Information Science and the California State Grant A (1979-1981) while he was attending UCLA. In 1985 he received the Delta Theta Phi International Professional Law Fraternity Service Award.

With three reference librarian positions to juggle, mixed in an alphabet soup of professional organizations involvement, and a dab of community service here and there, I wonder where does Lu find the time to pursue his interests in reading, classical music, and yoga?

Lu is a native of Vietnam, “*born in the North but raised in the South.*” He came to America in 1975 with a spirit filled with awe and gratitude for the opportunity to pursue his education in a free and democratic environment. He has come a long way, from Hanoi to California, and throughout his journey, he has shared his time, knowledge and talents to those in need.

Lu confides that his number one passion in life is “*to assist the needy*” and that one of his personal interests is “*to bring joy*

and comfort to others.” These words are clearly reflected in Lu’s demeanor, actions and dealings with library patrons, his colleagues, friends and family. For instance, he spent several hours of volunteer work in a nursing home/hospice care and in his local Buddhist Temple. When I asked him to describe the craziest thing that he has ever done outside his professional circle, without any hesitation, he shared:

“Attending the training seminar to sell cemetery properties. My grandmother first intended to be buried close to her friends at the Rose Hills Memorial Garden. So, I thought that attending the training would give me knowledge to be helpful to my grandmother and her friends. I did not feel comfortable being a sales counselor at all.”

With an attitude of giving and a natural affinity to helping others, Lu possesses the most important quality of an ideal reference librarian; a genuinely warm and enthusiastic desire to assist and fulfill the information needs of the patrons. From students to faculty, from pro se patrons to judges, Lu gives them the same personal attention and helps them find the information they need. No wonder, he enjoys his work so much that he does it 24/7, or at least it seems that way with his schedule. Getting to know Lu is yet another proof of how our profession can be enriched by a single act of mentoring.

Lu credits Mora Prestinary, Reference Librarian at the Orange County Public Law Library, for encouraging him to pursue a career in law librarianship. He adds: “*She told me that I should go to Library School since I enjoy helping patrons find information at the library. She gave me the application package, and encouraged me to apply at the San Jose State University, School of Library and Information Science extension program at California State University in Fullerton. She went to the Library School orientation with me. She also said that she will never give up encouraging me to go to Library School.*”

Lu’s commitment and dedication to providing access to information for the public and assisting the public to find information places him in an ideal position where he is and sees himself five years from now “*At the Orange County Public Law Library as Reference Librarian.*”





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Date

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