From the President

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Membership News

Michael Saint-Onge of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP climbed Half Dome in Yosemite National Park! Congratulations, Michael!

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From the President

By Erik Y. Adams

The Board has approved the SCALL budget for the 2019-2020 year, and I wanted to use this column to discuss some of the changes from the previous year. SCALL is in very good shape financially, and we have been able to increase spending in areas that are important to the association. Thanks to cost savings in other areas, the overall budget is only increasing $370.

The SCALL budget is allocated on a committee by committee basis, plus the expenses of the Executive Board and other administrative functions, like the mailbox. Most years the Board’s biggest expense is the annual west coast reception at AALL. This year it is SCALL’s turn to host the event, which means I will need to find a venue in New Orleans. I have never been to New Orleans, and if anyone wants to make a suggestion for a good place to host around 100 librarians looking for free drinks, I will be glad to hear it.

Historically, most of SCALL’s income comes from membership dues and the proceeds from the Institute. There is also income from advertising in the newsletter, and from the regular meetings. However, the regular meetings are generally revenue neutral; the Programs Committee works very hard to price tickets to just cover costs.

SCALL’s biggest expenses should come as no surprise. The Institute, although the biggest money maker for the association, is also our biggest expense. It turns out that it costs a lot of money to host a conference. After the Institute, our largest expenses are the Grants Committee and Inner City Youth Internship Program.

Some committees have requested smaller budgets, including the Executive Board and Membership. SCALL’s recent transition from Memberclicks to Wild Apricot to manage membership has yielded significant savings. The Executive Board’s expenses have been well below budget, so it made sense to lower the amount.

Most committees’ budgets remain the same. For example, Archives, Government Relations, and PALI are all receiving the same budget as last year. Their costs are minimal. I believe Archive’s biggest expense that year was for paper to print a copy of the new edition of Locating the Law.

Two committees asked for more money in the new year, and the Board voted to give it to them. The Grants committee believes there will be more applicants this year to help cover costs to the annual AALL Meeting, and therefore will be a need for extra money. We expect New Orleans to be a popular destination. On the other hand, although I am sure that Cleveland is a lovely city, I think it does not have quite the allure of New Orleans and believe Grants may not see as many applicants for the AALL Annual Meeting in 2021.

(By the way, the Grants Committee is looking for members. If you are interested, please reach out to me or to the committee chair, Cynthia Guyer.)

The other committee receiving a larger budget next year is the Inner City Youth Internship Program, or ICYIP. In last month’s newsletter we profiled some of the high school age students who participated this year in the program, and I encourage everyone to read the article and learn more about this committee’s work. SCALL works with Los Angeles Education Partnership, or LAEP, to coordinate placing the students, and I have heard from both ICYIP committee members and people who work for LAEP that they can place as many students as we would like to fund.

Every issue of the newsletter has a current accounting of SCALL’s finances, and I encourage all members to look at it. If it seems that the cost of events is going up and you wonder where the money is going, all the details are available. But the news is good: we have money in the bank, and can afford to put a little more where it will do the most good.

2019 IDEAS SoCal AI & Data Science Conference

By Erik Y. Adams

I recently attended the IDEAS SoCal AI & Data Science Conference. Held at the Los Angeles Convention Center on October 26th, this one day conference was “designed to connect data science enthusiasts.” Some of the sessions were technical, but the majority were business case studies and well within the grasp of anyone with an interest in the subject.

Data Science is a relatively new field. It is frequently described as the intersection of computer programming, statistics, and domain expertise. In practice, data science is about gathering raw data, manipulating the data into a form where it can be used to generate statistics, and then analyzing the statistics for insight. Machine learning and artificial intelligence are used during the manipulation and statistics phases to help deal with large amounts of data, and for getting insight from natural language documents and other unstructured forms of data.

Practitioners of data science tend to come from a variety of backgrounds, though the speakers at the conference tended to come either from computer programming or from business.

The conference was structured somewhat differently from other conferences I have attended. Each session was limited to half an hour, with no time allotted between sessions. This meant that each speaker had 25 minutes to speak and for questions, to be divided

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as they saw fit. For some presenters this meant all twenty-five minutes (and perhaps a little more); for others it meant ten minutes of concise presentation, followed by 15 minutes of rambling question and answer.

The sessions were divided into six tracks: Artificial Intelligence, Big Data & The Cloud, Blockchain, Data Science / Data Analytics and Business Intelligence, Industrial Application, and Machine Learning & Deep Learning. It should come as no surprise that I favored the Big Data and Machine Learning sessions, though attended sessions in all tracks.

There were a few sessions that I think would be particularly of interest to legal professionals. The first was a discussion of knowledge graphs. If you have ever searched for a celebrity on Google you have seen knowledge graphs in action: the box with a summary of the celebrity’s information and links to other web sites with greater detail is an example of a knowledge graph. They were described as a way to link together “heterogeneous data.” There is a very accessible blog post about knowledge graphs available on the Google blog at: https://www.blog.google/products/search/introducing-knowledge-graphs-not/

Another session described a technique for explaining how an AI system arrived at a decision. The thrust of the session, in my opinion, was to use AI to figure out how an AI system arrived at a decision, which feels a little circular but was done in a very clever way.

A third session described how natural language had been used to create a virtual assistant similar to Siri, but with subject area specific knowledge, like a chat bot. The speaker presented an interesting idea: just as computers moved from command line interfaces to windows based ones, and have more recently moved from keyboard and mouse to touch, we are now seeing a transition to voice as the primary interface of an information system.

I think there is a role for librarians in this field. Most of us are not computer programmers and probably don’t remember very much from our college statistics courses. But we clearly have domain expertise, and a set of skills suited to feeding data science needs. On more than one occasion I have been asked to find statistics on various subjects, ranging from trends in investment activity to relative market share of businesses. Generally my efforts were limited to finding already digested forms of this information. But the idea of data science is that you find the sources of raw data, and then determine those numbers yourself. Or, perhaps more realistically, work with someone else to do the math.

I know some large law firms have hired programmers, designers, and statisticians to analyze data in complex litigation and produce graphs that are used at trial. It’s reasonable to assume that this is a trend that will continue. We, as librarians, should prepare ourselves for the day we will be asked to provide not the digested reports, but the raw data to be fed into a data science mill. We should get familiar with the sources of data now.

IALL 2019 Recap: George Williams AO, Australia's Constitutional Quirks
By Jessica Pierucci

The International Association of Law Libraries hosts annual courses in different locations around the world. I was lucky enough to attend the 38th Annual Course, Law Down Under: Australia’s Legal Landscape, held October 27-30, 2019 in Sydney, Australia.

continued from page 2 (2019 IDEAS)
The course included fascinating presentations from Australian lawyers, scholars, judges, and more. Among them were George Williams AO, Dean of the Law School, Anthony Mason Professor, and Scientia Professor at the University of New South Wales. An expert on Australian constitutional law, Williams engaged the audience with an eye-opening presentation titled Australia’s Constitutional Quirks.

Misunderstandings

Williams opened with some alarming statistics about misunderstandings of the Australian Constitution. On a survey several years ago, 47% of respondents said Australia has no constitution. This is incorrect. In another survey, 61% believed Australia has a national Bill of Rights. This is also incorrect. According to Williams, Australia is the only democracy without a Bill of Rights in its federal constitution.

When working on Victoria’s Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, Williams frequently came across people who believed they could “plead the fifth” in court, a concept they likely learned from U.S. television, but does not exist in the Australian Constitution. These conversations furthered Williams’ concern about the apparent lack of understanding of the Australian Constitution by many Australians.

Aboriginal Discrimination

One major issue with the Australian Constitution is its treatment of Aboriginal people. Current and former articles of the Constitution illustrate the discrimination ingrained in this document, which was created without the input of Aboriginal people.

Shockingly, Article 25 allows people to be disqualified from voting based on their race. While not currently in use, the fact that this article is still in the Constitution is deeply concerning. Williams does not know of another country with a similar constitutional rule. Aboriginal people only gained the universal right to vote at the federal level in 1962, less than 60 years ago.

In addition, former Article 127, repealed in 1967, excluded Aboriginal people from the population count. This former exclusion is emblematic of the view that Aboriginal people were not part of the country. An active debate at the federal government right now focuses on Aboriginal people, responding to the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart requesting voice, treaty, and truth. But only time will tell if Aboriginal people will be appropriately incorporated into the Constitution, among other proposed reforms.
Challenges for Reform

Constitutional change is slow and difficult. The federal Parliament must initiate constitutional changes and Williams has seen a frequent disparity between the will of the people and Parliament’s actions. Further, constitutional amendments require referendum and only eight constitutional referendums have passed, most recently in the 1970s. Many more have not passed and the most recent attempt at a referendum was two decades ago.

Compulsory voting requirements mean that uninformed voters may vote against a referendum even if they agree with the idea proposed, due to lack of understanding.

Williams writes a regular newspaper column in The Australian hoping to increase awareness of the government and the Australian Constitution among the public, but he wonders how effective this is as he is not sure how many people are still reading the newspaper.

Encouragingly, many state constitutions throughout Australia have undergone changes to include a Bill of Rights and acknowledge Aboriginal people, among other reforms. But it is a different story at the federal level.

Conclusion

Ultimately, Williams’ presentation showed the Australian Constitution has a disturbing history and substantial changes may still be quite a ways off. Remedy Australia collects United Nations cases finding Australia in violation of human rights. The data shows Australia has failed to remedy the vast majority of these violations. This falls in line with Williams’ understanding of Australia’s constitutional history and the resistance to change at the federal level.

Legal Research Instruction for Library Assistants

By Laura Fouladi, Acquisitions Librarian, UCI Law Library

Three months after I graduated with my M.L.I.S. degree, I became a student again. This time, instead of taking online courses designed for busy professionals with full-time jobs, I sat in a real classroom alongside brand-new law students, all of us more-or-less ready to learn about legal research.

I was hired for my first position in an academic law library with no experience working with legal material. As a library assistant in the Collection Services department at UC Irvine’s Law Library, I quickly learned how to check in pocket parts, file releases, and operate in the always-changing world of legal publishing. But my understanding of how the resources passing through our department were actually used was patchy at best. When I helped law students and visiting attorneys at our front desk, I regularly felt out of my depth. The shorthand titles they asked me about often didn’t match the official titles recorded in our bibliographic records, so I struggled to connect these patrons with the resources they needed, even when it was material I personally processed or helped pay for.

I realized soon enough that students generally wanted course
All of UCI's 1L students take Legal Research Practicum in their first six weeks of law school. Thirteen hours of instruction introduce them to the major sources of US law, give them practice navigating Westlaw and LexisNexis, and require them to develop a thoughtful, logical approach to the legal research process. The course begins with a civics lesson to ensure everyone has the same basic understanding of how the US government works. This was the first time since high school that I had learned in detail about where laws come from, and I gained a new appreciation for the complexity of keeping our library's collection up-to-date. My coworkers and I, who unpack and file bundles of pocket parts and loose-leaf pages, have much greater exposure to the remarkable process that updates our codes, digests, and treatises than the 1Ls in my class, using only Westlaw or Lexis. I felt a sense of pride for the small role we play, after the lawmakers, editors, and publishers have their turn, and that is something I hope to share with other library assistants working in our Collections Services department.

It was also while I was auditing this course that much of the ambiguity surrounding the titles in our collection finally cleared up for me. I had learned early on to be very careful with my search terms when checking in updates—always be sure to distinguish the United States Code from the United States Code Annotated, and distinguish that from the United States Code Service. Although MARC data informed me of the basic distinctions between similar titles like those, I finally got a clear picture as I puzzled through research assignments on my own. Now I take our department’s new library assistants out to the shelves where our small primary law collection lives, and we look at the books side-by-side to see the differences between statutes, codes, and annotated codes, or between case reporters and digests.

Finally, my time in the classroom has allowed me to better serve our library's patrons. As a new librarian with a keen interest in information organization and description, my experiments navigating and searching the legal databases were perhaps more enthusiastic than those of the 1Ls in my class. As a result, I have been able to do rudimentary troubleshooting for students at the front desk when the reference librarians aren't available. Having explored our library's treatise guide, I can more easily direct attorneys and answer their questions about our resources over the phone. Overall, I feel more confident talking about our collection; I've been helping maintain our bibliographic, holdings, and order records for three years, and having completed some introductory research assignments, I feel and for new librarians without legal expertise. Those paraprofessionals responsible for running the library outside regular business hours might have the most to gain from such training and perhaps the most time to complete it. In turn, they could provide feedback to their reference colleagues on new assignments and even suggest examples for the students. The opportunities for improved communication between students and library staff, and for greater job satisfaction for library assistants, are well worth the effort.
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
By Patrick Sullivan

A regular meeting of the SCALL Executive Board was held on July 10, 2019, at Alston & Bird in downtown Los Angeles.

In attendance were:
- President Judy K. Davis
- Vice President Erik Y. Adams
- Treasurer Caitlin Hunter
- Secretary Patrick Sullivan
- Past President Ramon Barajas
- Executive Board Member Margaret Hall
- Executive Board Member Jessica Pierucci (present via telephone)
- Future Executive Board Member Tiffani Willis

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by President Judy K. Davis at 4:40 PM.

1. The minutes of the last session of the regular board meeting were presented for review.
   a. Ramon Barajas moved to approve the minutes as amended and Maggie Hall seconded. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

2. Secretary’s Report
   a. Secretary Patrick Sullivan reported that:
      1) mail forwarding continues in a timely fashion;
      2) the Wilshire mailbox account has a credit of $151.30; and
      3) the 2019 SCALL election was completed with the following results:
         - Maggie Hall was elected as Vice President/President-Elect.
         - Caitlin Hunter was elected as Treasurer.
         - Tiffani Willis was elected as Board Member.
   b. Erik Adams moved to approve the report and Jessica Pierucci seconded. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

3. Vice President’s Report
   a. Vice President Erik Adams reported that the Institute Report is ready for AALL.
   b. A discussion was held about Past Presidents being involved in the Nominations Committee going forward, to facilitate recruitment of Board Members. It was noted that capturing SCALL’s institutional knowledge should be among our succession planning concerns.

4. President’s Report
   a. President Judy Davis acknowledged Tiffani Willis as a new Board member and noted that all of the President’s agenda items appear today under Old Business.
   b. Jessica Pierucci moved to approve the President’s report and Maggie Hall seconded. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

5. Committee Updates
   a. Membership Committee -
      (1) Membership Recognition Points (5 year intervals) - The Board discussed recognizing SCALL members for every 5 years of SCALL membership.
      (2) Wild Apricot Fees - The Treasurer informed the Board that SCALL’s membership management and event registration software, Wild Apricot, will begin charging a 20% fee for those who do not use Wild Apricot’s payment processing system, effective at our next renewal on May 25, 2020. Assuming that SCALL continues to use PayPal for payment processing and pays the 20% fee, our total cost for using Wild Apricot would be $1,166.40 per year. This is still less than half of the $3,000.00 per year SCALL paid for the membership management software SCALL used prior to switching to Wild Apricot. The Treasurer recommended continuing to use Wild Apricot and emailing the AALL Chapter Treasurer’s listserv in the spring to ask if any other chapters had switched from PayPal to Wild Apricot for payment processing and whether switching was worth the savings. Based on this information, the board can decide at the spring board meeting whether to continue using PayPal for payment processing and Wild Apricot for membership management and event registration (for a fee of $1,166.40 per year) or to switch to using Wild Apricot for membership management, event registration, and payment processing (for a fee of $972 per year).
   b. Public Access to Legal Information Committee - PALI Contract with Hein - Caitlin Hunter moved that the Board vote to sign the proposed contract with Hein and Maggie Hall seconded. A vote was held, and the Board voted to sign the contract.
   c. Archives Committee - The printing of two copies of Locating The Law for the Archives was approved.

6. Treasurer’s Report
   a. Treasurer Caitlin Hunter reported that SCALL ended the fiscal year with $36,433.08 in the SCALL bank account, $94.41 in Petty Cash and a PayPal balance of $1,336.74, for a total of $37,864.23.
   b. The Treasurer was given a signed copy of the June Meeting Minutes by the Secretary.
   c. Ramon Barajas moved to approve the Treasurer’s report and Patrick Sullivan seconded. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

7. Old Business
   a. 2020 Institution Venue - The Horton Grand Location (03/06/2020) has been finalized.
   b. 2021 Institute Venue - The Hyatt Centric is being investigated as the 2021 location. The Board discussed the advantages of a San Diego/Santa Barbara “orbit” versus other future venues such as Palm Springs, Ventura, Lake Elsinore and Long Beach.

8. New Business
   a. Southwestern Career Event Table - A Career Fair event will be held at Southwestern Law School on September 19th. The Vice President promoted this Fair as an opportunity to expose law students to the possibility of being a law librarian. There would be no cost to SCALL.

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Ideally, Erik would like to organize librarian participation from academic and government entities as well as firms. The Board decided to send representatives to the Fair.

b. 2019-2020 Budget Discussion - Since the SCALL bank balance is positive, the Board discussed the potential of a new kind of program. This new program would have no fee associated with it, as a way to give back to SCALL members. Erik agreed to bring this idea to the Programs Committee.

c. AALL Joint Chapters Receptions - This will be sponsored in part by Thomson Reuters. It is not known at this time whether the cost to SCALL will be split evenly among AALL chapters present, or divided up by attendance. We will be informed if the cost changes from the current estimate, which is $281.06. It was noted that SCALL needs to plan next year’s Joint Chapter Reception at the AALL annual meeting.

b. Motion to Adjourn

a. A motion to adjourn was made by Maggie Hall, and seconded by Erik Adams.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patrick Sullivan
SCALL Secretary 2018-2020

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Membership News
By Judy K. Davis and Karen Skinner


Welcome new members!

Refugio Acker-Ramirez is with Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Laura Fouladi is with UCI School of Law

Julia Seiter is a Librarian with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals

Any corrections, changes, or additions to your membership information, as well as any announcements for Membership News, should be sent to:

Judy K. Davis
Co-Chair, SCALL Membership Committee
Law Librarian, Head of Access Services and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Law
USC Gould School of Law
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0071
(213) 740-2189
jdkavis@law.usc.edu

Karen Skinner
Co-Chair, SCALL Membership Committee
Law Librarian, Research Services, and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Law
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University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0071
(213) 740-2615
kskinner@law.usc.edu

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Michael Saint-Onge of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP climbed Half Dome in Yosemite National Park! Congratulations, Michael!
# Career Opportunities

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By Don Buffaloe  
Chair, SCALL Placement Committee  
View complete job descriptions at scallnet.org/career-opportunities/  
donald.buffaloe@pepperdine.edu
Treasurer’s Report
By Caitlin Hunter, Reference Librarian, UCLA School of Law

SCALL Balances
Bank Balance as of October 27, 2019 $36,081.15
PayPal Balance as of October 27, 2019 $2,288.90
Total Balance as of October 27, 2019 $38,370.05

Committee Income and Expenses Since July 1, 2019

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</table>

*Final budget numbers for 2019 have not yet been approved. These numbers are the numbers for the 2018 budget.

**The Board approved a one-time additional expenditure of Awards funds, in order to give the Rohan Chapter Service Award to the entire PALI committee.

Submission Deadlines
The SCALL Newsletter team welcomes submission of any articles of interest to the law library community. Contact Christina Tsou, SCALL Newsletter Editor: ctsou@law.uci.edu

All submissions should be received by:
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Mar/Apr 2020 March 16, 2020
May/June 2020 May 4, 2020
Sept/Oct 2020 September 8, 2020
Nov/Dec 2020 November 16, 2020
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