Top stories in this newsletter

From the President
Mentoring is such an important aspect of the library profession. I have always been inspired by librarians. My first librarian mentor came into my life before I could even read. Mrs. Levey, of our small-town library, was my favorite adult to interact with; I loved when she would lead me through the stacks and help me bring books to the desk to check out. So much so that I would often play librarian at home: hosting story-time with my stuffed animals and charging my brothers imaginary late fees...

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SCALL Institute 2021 Preview
It is traditional for the newsletter before the Institute to include an article discussing fun and interesting things to do in the host city. However, this year’s Institute is virtual, so instead of discussing venues, I’ve decided to list some interesting web sites about data privacy and protection...

continued on page 3

Distracted: Accessible Strategies to Strengthen Attention and Learning
“He Finished His First Marathon. Then His Arm Felt Weak.” You might be thinking, oh no, is this another Covid symptom I need to be concerned about? Don’t worry; it’s not. This instead is a headline from one of my favorite sections in the New York Times Magazine, “Diagnosis” by Dr. Lisa Sanders. Every two weeks or so, Dr. Sanders shares a riveting story of a person with a mysterious ailment...

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Member Spotlight: Getting to Know Tiffani Willis
Tiffani Willis is a SCALL Executive Board Member and one of my fellow reference librarians at the Rains Law Library, Loyola Law School. I recently talked with Tiffani about her path from law school to law librarianship. She also shared her favorite books and tips for people who want to run a marathon, but hate running...

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Membership News
Pauline Aranas, retired director of the USC Law Library, was awarded the Section on Law Libraries and Legal Information Award at the American Association of Law Schools 2021 virtual meeting. Well deserved, Pauline!

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</tbody>
</table>
From the President
By Margaret Hall
Associate Dean and Law Library Director/Associate Professor of Law
Southwestern Law School

Mentoring is such an important aspect of the library profession. I have always been inspired by librarians. My first librarian mentor came into my life before I could even read. Mrs. Levey, of our small-town library, was my favorite adult to interact with; I loved when she would lead me through the stacks and help me bring books to the desk to check out. So much so that I would often play librarian at home: hosting story-time with my stuffed animals and charging my brothers imaginary late fees. When we moved to the “city” in the middle of 3rd grade and I was having trouble adjusting, Mrs. Levey sent me a letter listing all kinds of books to read to help me with different things I was feeling. My high school librarian was twice as important to me because she was also one of my English teachers. Who knew a librarian could also teach full classes?! In library school I met my first law firm librarian. She was going back to school to become an academic law librarian and suddenly my library world became much bigger and I knew where I fit.

This dedication to mentorship has continued throughout my career, with no shortage of nurturing librarians who offer to guide me through new challenges as they arise. They have guided me in interviewing skills and projects. They have shown me how to create ALR syllabi. They have offered advice on how to handle difficult situations. Since I have ventured into my new role as a Library Director, I found new mentors; this made me wonder if this experience has been different because of COVID?

I will most likely be known as the COVID SCALL President. Each of my articles has fallen into the shadow of COVID and raised questions like, “How do we evolve our profession in these trying times?” and “How do we engage our members in this new (but hopefully temporary) world?” These are chaotic times with few aspects of the profession untouched; mentoring is one of those affected. In the past we used our social gatherings and committee work to connect with mentees. AALL has entire programs and committees that match regular attendees with first time attendees to “show them the ropes.” Chatting before and after programs to connect was commonplace. I can’t tell you how much I miss my lunches out to catch-up and seek or offer advice with fellow librarians.

In this time of social-distancing, we need to ask, “What can we do to replicate past experiences and create new methods for mentoring?” Here are a few things I have tried to implement and to be conscious of during this difficult year:

1) Make an effort to proactively contact people. With social-distancing we do not have the same visual clues we had in the past. We do not see the nervous expression on our coworker in the staff lounge. We do not notice the late hours our colleague remains in the office to complete a project. Therefore, we must take the time to check in with folks. Often the only people checking in are the task assigners. Just like before the pandemic, we need to be able to talk with people not connected to a project or task.

2) More than ever empathy is needed. This is a very stressful time. Whereas in the past mentoring may have been solely job-related, now conversations may need to fall outside the work world. Be aware of the mental health resources that your school, firm, and organization have available. Encourage people to utilize these resources and remind them they are not alone. People sometimes need someone to listen rather than try to fix things.

3) Lead by example. Take vacation time, even if it means binging a TV show and not checking the computer (now set up on your dining room table) on a random Wednesday. Talk positively about doing the atypical things you can now do during the pandemic: taking a walk in a new neighborhood, ordering from a restaurant you have never been to, or trying a new indoor hobby like jigsaw puzzles or Sudoku.

4) Lastly, more people than ever need extra mentoring during this time. You may want to reach out to local organizations not affiliated with your work. Many children and teens are especially vulnerable during this time. They need mentors for all kinds of hurdles they are facing. National Mentoring Resource Center offers information on a wealth of places that currently need mentors. You might find becoming a mentor to someone in your community makes your work/home life balance better.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming SCALL Institute. There is light at the end of the tunnel for Southern California, and I am ready to bask in its glow!
SCALL Institute 2021 Preview

By Erik Y. Adams
Sidley Austin LLP

It is traditional for the newsletter before the Institute to include an article discussing fun and interesting things to do in the host city. However, this year’s Institute is virtual, so instead of discussing venues, I’ve decided to list some interesting web sites about data privacy and protection.

My Google Activity, https://myactivity.google.com/myactivity

After logging in, you can see web and app activity, location history, and videos you have viewed in YouTube. I found the YouTube history particularly amusing: it seems that I have spent a lot of time while over the last 10 months watching videos about working model steam engines and parody commercials from “Saturday Night Live”.

Google Ad Settings, https://www.google.com/settings/ads/

Google personalizes the ads you see based on your searches and the web sites you visit, making the ad personalization web page an interesting peek into what Google thinks about you. I see that Google thinks I am interested in “Action & Platform Games”, which is true enough: I spend a fair amount of time with my PlayStation. Curiously, Google also seems to think that I want to buy a boat, which I find baffling.

Facebook Ad Settings, https://www.facebook.com/adpreferences/advertisers/

Facebook’s list of “ad topics” is not as extensive as Google’s (at least, not for me). Only four subjects were listed for me and most were baffling though Facebook seems to have figured out I have a pet. You can also view the advertisers you have seen recently, which I found very interesting, mainly because I have become so used to skipping over ads I found some businesses surprising. I don’t know why Facebook thinks I am interested in a trucking company in Indiana, but apparently I have seen ads for it lately.

Instagram Download Your Data, https://www.instagram.com/download/request/

Like Twitter, Instagram has you request your data, which you can then download. The download can take up to 48 hours to generate. In addition to all the photos you have uploaded, you get all the comments you have made, searches you have run, and other activities. Sadly, the data does not explain why my Instagram account is so popular in the Middle East.

Amazon “Your Browsing History”, https://www.amazon.com/gp/history/

This is, at least to me, not quite as interesting as the other sites. There is no presentation of what Amazon’s Artificial Intelligence has figured out from my browsing habits. But it is interesting to look at: I remember looking at the information for “Calculus For Cats”, though I didn’t buy a copy.

Twitter “Your Twitter Data”, https://twitter.com/settings/your_twitter_data

The programmer in me likes Twitter’s approach, though I think most people will find it off putting. Twitter makes it easy to request a “zip” file with all your data, which takes a day for them to prepare. Once downloaded you have a simple web page you can view all your tweets, likes, direct messages, and so on, formatted in “JSON”. It also includes all the ads you have seen on Twitter. I see that Twitter really thinks I would be interested in a subscription to the Wall Street Journal.


Apple has many pages on its web site devoted to how seriously they treat privacy. However, unlike the other web sites listed here, there does not appear to be an easy way to download that data from the Apple web site. At least, not for residents of the United States – I have read that under Europe’s General Data Protection Regulation they must make that information accessible.

California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), https://oag.ca.gov/privacy/ccpa

A web page on the web site of the California Office of the Attorney General. Describes California’s answer to GDPR. Describes in plain English how the law impacts individuals and businesses, including the right to know what information is collected, the right to delete personal information, the right to opt out of the sale of information, and the right to non-discrimination for exercising CCPA rights.


Home page of the European law. The law spells out the rights of the “data subject”, including transparency, access, rectification and erasure, and the right to object to automated decisions. The web site includes a variety of pamphlets discussing the law, available in all 23 of the official EU languages.


An article that includes a nice infographic of all the ways that Google tracks your interests. A very interesting read.
Distracted: Accessible Strategies to Strengthen Attention and Learning

By Sherry L. Leysen
Hugh & Hazel Darling Law Library Director
Chapman University Fowler School of Law

“He Finished His First Marathon. Then His Arm Felt Weak.” You might be thinking, oh no, is this another Covid symptom I need to be concerned about? Don’t worry; it’s not. This instead is a headline from one of my favorite sections in the New York Times Magazine, “Diagnosis” by Dr. Lisa Sanders. Every two weeks or so, Dr. Sanders shares a riveting story of a person with a mysterious ailment. The story will usually tell us when and where it began, “It was his first marathon . . . an energy drink was put in his left hand. It felt strangely heavy.” Diagnoses are made (“This isn’t a surgical problem”), treatments are sought and tried. Eventually, though, an accurate diagnosis is made for the confounding condition.

In the case of the marathon runner, Dr. Sanders shares the diagnosis was Parsonage-Turner syndrome, a rare but likely underdiagnosed illness involving nerve inflammation. While I do enjoy reading about the human condition, what draws my attention to this column is curiosity about an ultimate diagnosis, Dr. Sanders’ ability to concisely describe and explain a puzzling ailment, and ultimately the solving of the medical mystery. And in the end, I always learn something interesting and new.

Instruction is an essential part of our work as librarians. Whether teaching students for one hour or one semester, training summer and first year associates, or conducting legal research training for community members, engaging curiosity and sharing information through stories are strategies we employ to keep audiences interested and attentive. I recently examined a popular work by English Literature Professor and contributing Advice columnist for the Chronicle of Higher Education, James M. Lang. In Distracted: Why Students Can’t Focus and What You Can Do About It (2020), Lang engages more fully with the concept of attention to reach sustained learning. Throughout the work, he returns to his central question, “What helps students pay attention?”

Having familiarity with Lang’s prior book -length works such as Small Teaching (2016), and with Flower Darby, Small Teaching Online (2019), I heard more about Distracted on Bonni Stachowiak’s Teaching in Higher Ed podcast, episode 332. Around minute 16, Stachowiak asks Lang to share his ideas about how learning can be structured to “grab people through curiosity.” Just like Dr. Sanders’ Diagnosis, Lang notes that “great lecturers . . . start with the description of

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an intriguing problem or question” that will engage “the curiosity of students.”

Lang develops this concept further in chapter 5 of Distracted, “Curious Attention.” He suggests that instructors must identify the “mystery” of their disciplines and think about what drew them to the fields of study in the first place. To stoke curiosity, he challenges instructors to “find your way back to that original moment” and “then evoke it for your students.” Throughout the chapter, Lang offers several ways to inspire attention with curiosity (which he describes as situational and individual curiosity). An interesting passage is when Lang briefly describes how he incorporates the peer instruction method in his teaching, pioneered in the 1990s by Professor Eric Mazur, to build student curiosity and ultimately attention. While reading this section, I was reminded that Mazur’s method of interactive learning pedagogy works well even in a Zoom classroom, with its integrated polling tool and breakout rooms to facilitate peer-to-peer discussion.

Chapter 6, “Structured Attention,” focuses on organizing instruction so variety is built-in. Lang writes, “I think teachers need to think more like composers or playwrights, envisioning the classroom experience as an unfolding one, featuring change and variety.” In this chapter, he mentions Stephen Kaplan’s ideas on attention restoration theory (where nature is restorative for directed-attention fatigue) to instruction and learning. Noting that periods of attention followed by periods of pause and renewal lead to greater engagement, Lang offers several suggestions to accomplish this. One advantageous approach for both student and instructor he reviews and discusses is modular teaching. With this method, different activities are organized as “modules” used to build and vary a class period.

The subject of chapter 7, Lang describes “signature attention activities” as an “opportunity to think as creatively as possible about your teaching” and “the highlight of your course.” This chapter is organized around three main themes or pathways to attention: the act of focusing, space for creating (examples included here are polls and worksheets), and connecting content with experiences. Lang provides several examples of signature activities he and other instructors incorporate into their instructional methods.

Distracted is an accessible book. Part one (“Theories of Distraction”) is foundational and readily absorbed. Part two (“Practices of Attention), which includes the above-described chapters, nicely revisits familiar instructional methods while offering instructors fresh ideas to consider. A short Notes section directs interested readers to various popular press books, news items, and scholarly literature.

Lang notes in the Preface he finished writing one month before the pandemic affected the U.S. Its title is prescient with the rapid shift to remote modalities at all levels of education in 2020. Whether teaching online or in-person, Distracted offers many ways to make one’s teaching methods more thoughtful and effective, with the ultimate goal of fostering meaningful and sustained learning for students.

Member Spotlight: Getting to Know Tiffani Willis

By Lisa Schultz
Reference Librarian
Loyola Law School

Tiffani Willis is a SCALL Executive Board Member and one of my fellow reference librarians at the Rains Law Library, Loyola Law School. I recently talked with Tiffani about her path from law school to law librarianship. She also shared her favorite books and tips for people who want to run a marathon, but hate running.

Like many of us, Tiffani did not enter college with the goal of becoming a law librarian but as we talked about her career trajectory, it was easy to see why law librarianship is such a good fit. Tiffani’s first library job was in college, where her primary job was to listen to foreign language tapes and time stamp them for students who needed to listen to specific sections for their classes.

Tiffani Willis visiting Australia. (Photo courtesy of Tiffani Willis.)
about an emerging area of law. Tiffani is also an Adjunct Professor at Loyola, teaching multiple sections of First-Year Legal Research and Legal Research for the Transactional Lawyer. Her favorite part of teaching is witnessing the moment that students “get it.” I have had the privilege to see Tiffani’s approach to teaching, and it’s clear to me that she remembers the new associates from the law firm and strives to ensure that her students enter the workforce with a solid understanding of the research skills necessary to be successful attorneys.

Her quest for knowledge and new experiences extends beyond the walls of the law library. I asked her to tell me something about herself that might surprise people. She has backpacked across Europe multiple times … by herself. She bookended her law school experience with these trips; she backpacked across France prior to starting law school and then spent a month traveling all over Western Europe after graduation. She speaks French; better back then, she says, and she absorbed some German during the endless hours of time stamping foreign language tapes! She says that Paris is her favorite city because everyone has it in photographs and in movies, but seeing it in person is simply amazing and even the cheapest food is incredible. She offers the following travel tip: while the Louvre is excellent, the Musée d’Orsay is better.

Tiffani is a voracious reader, so I asked her to pass along some book recommendations. Right now, she recommends Malice by Keigo Higashino, The Murderbot Diaries by Martha Wells, the Lady Sherlock series by Sherry Thomas, and anything by Walter Mosley.

Tiffani is also an avid runner and has competed in eight marathons, including the Los Angeles Marathon (four times) and the New York Marathon (twice). I asked her if she had any advice for people like me who were interested in becoming runners, but who either are not good at it or do not like it. She says that she became a runner because, “I’m not good at any sports that involve people throwing stuff at you,” and advises that we, “start slowly and mix running with walking. Run for one minute, and then walk. Do that until you can run longer.” In addition, she suggests trying different places; some people enjoy running on treadmills, some like the beach, others prefer trails. Running can also be a great way to see your neighborhood. Consider signing up for a race so that you have something to work towards or join a running group. Tiffani also mentioned that when she was in law school, she paired her weekly run with a budget-stretching meal as a way to treat herself.

I asked Tiffani if she had any parting wisdom and she said, “Keep exploring. I find there’s always something new to try. Something new to do.” She then added, “Do something new every month. It doesn’t need to be a long term goal, just do something new and if it doesn’t work out, then try something else. Or try something that didn’t work in the past. Maybe you’ll like it now.”

Thank you, Tiffani!
Membership News
By Judy K. Davis and Karen Skinner

Pauline Aranas, retired director of the USC Law Library, was awarded the Section on Law Libraries and Legal Information Award at the American Association of Law Schools 2021 virtual meeting. Well deserved, Pauline!

Serena Rodholm is a new student member.

Karen Skinner of USC visited the White Sands National Park in New Mexico.

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

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<th>Judy K. Davis</th>
<th>Karen Skinner</th>
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Career Opportunities

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By Don Buffaloe
Chair, SCALL Placement Committee
donald.buffaloe@pepperdine.edu

View complete job descriptions at scallnet.org/career-opportunities/
Treasurer’s Report  
By Caitlin Hunter, Reference Librarian, UCLA School of Law

SCALL Balances

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Committee Income and Expenses since July 1, 2020

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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:

- Mar/Apr 2021: March 15, 2021
- May/Jun 2021: May 3, 2021
- Sept/Oct 2021: September 7, 2021
- Nov/Dec 2021: November 15, 2021
- Jan/Feb 2022: January 10, 2022

Executive Board

2020–2021

President
Margaret F. Hall
Southwestern Law Library
(213) 738-6851
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psullivan@jonesday.com

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Executive Board Members
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rmetheny@lalawlibrary.org

Tiffani Willis
Loyola Law School
Phone: (213) 736-1413
tiffani.willis@lls.edu

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
By Daisy De Anda

A virtual meeting of the SCALL Executive Board was held on November 10 2020 via Zoom.

In attendance were:
President Margaret Hall
Vice President Patrick Sullivan
Treasurer Caitlin Hunter
Secretary Daisy De Anda
Past-President Erik Adams
Executive Board Member
Tiffani Willis & Ryan Metheny

1. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by President Margaret Hall at 4:27 pm.

2. No minutes of the last session of the regular board meeting were presented for review.

3. Treasurer’s Report
   a. Treasurer Caitlin Hunter reported that SCALL has $44,785.82 in the SCALL bank account, $94.41 in Petty Cash and a PayPal balance of $200, for a total of $45,080.23. We are now using AffiniPay and we have sent filings to the Registry of Charitable Trust online.
   b. SCALL is now using AffiniPay to process payments and Caitlin Hunter has mailed SCALL’s annual filing to the Registry of Charitable Trusts because their online system is down.
   c. Patrick Sullivan moved to approve the Treasurer’s report and Margaret Hall seconded. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

4. Secretary’s Report
   a. Secretary Daisy De Anda reported that mail forwarding continues in a timely fashion, and that the yearly fee for the mailbox was paid in a timely manner.
   b. Margaret Hall moved to approve the report and Tiffani Willis seconded. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

5. Vice President’s Report
   a. Vice President Patrick Sullivan reported that the 2021 Institute will be virtual and the Public Relations committee has sent a save the date.
   b. The Board discussed pricing for the Institute. Traditionally, the Institute has been intended to turn a profit to fund programs such as the Inner City Youth Internship Program (ICYIP) and grants. Margaret Hall suggested that this year, the price should be lowered to increase member engagement, even if that meant losing money. Erik Adams agreed that the price could be lowered for this year’s Institute but felt that it was still important to turn a profit to cover ICYIP and other expenses.

6. President’s Report
   a. Margaret Hall reported that the Newsletter Committee was interested in reducing frequency from 5 issues to 3 issues per year. The Board had no objections and Margaret Hall said that she would ask the committee to submit an official proposal for the Board to vote on at the next meeting.
   b. Caitlin Hunter moved to approve the President’s report and Tiffani Willis seconded. The motion carried.

7. Committee Updates:
   a. New member Anahit Petrosvan has joined the Information Technology Committee.
   b. Erik Adams shared that ICYIP has asked to roll over the money from last year’s program to this year and the Programs Committee has requested a centralized online repository for digital documents. Caitlin Hunter confirmed that Wild Apricot has the ability for them to have a shared website to edit and said she would contact the Programs Committee chairs.

8. Old Business
   a. There was no old Business.

9. New Business
   a. Margaret Hall asked the Board to speak to their committees about creating procedural manuals and to establish who is currently the chair of each committee, who is on each committee, and how long they want to remain as chairs or committee members.
   b. The Board discussed whether the archives should remain at the LA Law Library or move to another local law library. A digital archive was discussed and Ryan Metheny explained that the collection is too extensive to digitize.
   c. Erik Adams shared that Inner City Youth Program has asked to roll over the money from last year’s program to next year and Programs Committee has requested a centralized online repository for digital documents. Caitlin Hunter confirmed WildApricot has the ability for them to have a shared website to edit.

10. Motion to Adjourn
   a. A motion to adjourn was made by Margaret Hall, and seconded by Caitlin Hunter.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daisy De Anda
SCALL Secretary, 2020-2022
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