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# The Essential Law Library Journal

Frank G. Houdek

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Law Library Journal *Centennial Feature*\*

**The Essential *Law Library Journal*\*\***

Frank G. Houdek\*\*\*

*As a kickoff to the celebration of the centennial volume of Law Library Journal, Professor Houdek presents a selective, annotated list of “essential” readings culled from the preceding ninety-nine volumes of the Journal. The list represents pieces that anyone involved in law librarianship, whether a novice or someone experienced in the field, should read and absorb.*

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\* Editor’s Note: To commemorate the 100th volume of *Law Library Journal*, there will be a series of “LLJ Centennial Features” published in the 2008 volume. *The Essential LLJ* is the first of these; individuals interested in contributing an “LLJ Centennial Feature” article should contact Janet Sinder, Editor, *Law Library Journal*, Thurgood Marshall Law Library, 501 W. Fayette St., Baltimore, MD 21201, (410) 706-0792, jsinder@law.umaryland.edu.

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## Introduction

¶1 As you picked up this issue of *Law Library Journal*, did you happen to notice its volume number? Yes, with the publication of this first issue for 2008, LLJ’s volume number has moved to triple digits—100!—truly a remarkable milestone for both the

publication and the law library profession.<sup>1</sup> As a kickoff to the celebration of *Law Library Journal's* centennial which will ultimately cover the entirety of volume 100, this article takes on the task of culling from the preceding ninety-nine volumes a handful of pieces that collectively constitute the “essential” *Law Library Journal*.

¶2 To put the task in perspective, since that very first issue in 1908, the *Journal* has published 45,291 pages in 99 volumes; by my count, these pages have included 2,368 separate articles (plus many pages devoted to Annual Meeting proceedings, reports of various AALL entities, and other similar non-article material). Singling out a few “essential” articles from this total is a monumental if not impossible task, but the unique opportunity presented by LLJ's centennial cannot be ignored. So this article accepts the challenge by offering an annotated compilation of thirty articles—“The Essential LLJ.” Think of CDs such as *The Essential Bob Dylan*<sup>2</sup> or *The Essential Frank Sinatra*<sup>3</sup> and you'll have an idea of what is intended—to choose the cream of the crop from a vast output of outstanding achievement. But in the context of *Law Library Journal*, this means identifying not only articles that are well written, thoughtfully presented, properly documented, and simply interesting to read, but also, and perhaps most important, articles that anyone involved in law librarianship, whether a novice or someone experienced in the field, should read and absorb. Its goal then is no less than to provide a reading list that can inform the development and education of law librarians for years to come.

¶3 To achieve this goal, I first invited a select panel of a hundred current and former law librarians, representing a wide range of libraries, positions, and levels of experience, to submit their personal choices of LLJ articles they thought ought to be included on a list of essential law library reading. They were also asked to offer “any personal reflections you might have about how the article(s) was a help (or inspiration) to you at some time or other in your career,” and told that “there are no limits on what you can nominate—long or short, scholarly or practical, old or new—so as long as the piece was first published in LLJ, it is eligible for consideration.”<sup>4</sup> Many individuals responded to this solicitation, nominating more than a hundred articles for “The Essential LLJ.” I made the final selections for inclusion on the list, in part based on the number of “votes” that individual articles had received from the panel—several pieces thus

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1. Although AALL was organized in 1906, it took the new organization two years to produce, in 1908, the first issue of what soon became—and remains today—the premier periodical publication for those interested in law librarianship and legal information. “The first issue of the *Index to Legal Periodicals and Law Library Journal* . . . was exhibited to the membership during the 3rd Annual Meeting, held on the shores of Lake Minnetonka in Minnesota, June 1908. Although dated January 1908, the first issue was actually published in December 1908. The *Index* and *Journal* continued as a combined publication until January 1936 when the *Law Library Journal* and the *Index to Legal Periodicals* were issued separately (as volume 29 for each). . . .” Frank G. Houdek, *Frequently Asked Questions about AALL's First Hundred Years*, 98 LAW LIBR. J. 157, 160, 2006 LAW LIBR. J. 6, ¶ 5 [hereinafter Houdek, *Frequently Asked Questions*].

2. THE ESSENTIAL BOB DYLAN (Columbia 2000).

3. THE ESSENTIAL FRANK SINATRA (EMI 2004).

4. E-mail from Frank G. Houdek, Assoc. Dean for Academic Affairs and Prof. of Law, Southern Illinois Univ. School of Law, Carbondale, Ill., to Selected Recipients (Sept. 29, 2007) (on file with author).

became easy consensus choices—but also on the strength of the commentaries that accompanied the suggestions. I suppose I could have simply listed each article that was nominated, but the final number selected—thirty—seemed better suited for a highly selective list of “essential” reading. (I hedged a bit by providing an unannotated list of twenty-five additional articles in the appendix—all were nominated by one or more panel members and are certainly well worth reading.)

¶4 “The Essential LLJ,” which makes up the remaining portion of this article, is arranged alphabetically by author, with two small exceptions. Two articles exploring legal research pedagogy<sup>5</sup> are so closely aligned—one was written in response to the other—that they are listed and annotated together. And several items selected for the list were not individual articles, but rather continuing columns or special features. These are presented in a separate subcategory at the end of the list. In most cases, the annotation accompanying the “essential” article was written by me, but in a few instances I used commentary provided by one of the panel members for the annotation. The author is identified in each such case. Most annotations also include notes “in appreciation” of the article in question; these are extracted from the comments that were offered by members of the panel in support of their suggestions. The list of honorable mention articles in the appendix is likewise arranged alphabetically by author, but it is unannotated.

¶5 Finally, I am not fool enough to think that the choices made for such a list will go unchallenged. In fact, I would be disappointed if they did, given the subjective nature of the process, criteria, and task itself. But that’s okay—one of the most important reasons for even recognizing, let alone celebrating, the LLJ centennial is that it gives us the chance to discover (or rediscover) the wealth of professional literature that stands ready to be tapped in the pages of *Law Library Journal* by anyone interested in law libraries, law librarians, and legal information. My hope is that “The Essential LLJ” will just be the start of that process, and in that spirit, I invite readers to send me their own suggestions and comments about what, for them, is “essential” reading from *Law Library Journal*.<sup>6</sup>

### **The Essential *Law Library Journal***

Barkan, Steven M. “Deconstructing Legal Research: A Law Librarian’s Commentary on Critical Legal Studies.” *Law Library Journal* 79 (1987): 617–37.

Barkan begins with the proposition that the “three, interrelated subjects [of Critical Legal Studies]—the incoherency and indeterminacy of legal doctrine, the myth of legal reasoning, and the nature and effects of categorizing legal problems”

5. Christopher G. Wren & Jill Robinson Wren, *The Teaching of Legal Research*, 80 *LAW LIBR. J.* 7 (1988); Robert C. Berring & Kathleen Vanden Heuvel, *Legal Research: Should Students Learn It or Wing It*, 81 *LAW LIBR. J.* 431 (1989).

6. Comments and suggestions can be sent to Frank G. Houdek, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law, at Southern Illinois University School of Law, Mail Code 6803, 1150 Douglas Dr., Carbondale, IL 62901, or to houdek@siu.edu.

(p.618)—constitute an attack on legal research. He seeks in this article to apply the propositions of the Critical Legal Studies movement on these three areas to legal research. He begins by examining legal research itself, considering definitions, types, and methodology. He then offers a Critical Legal Studies analysis of legal research, critiquing the jurisprudential assumptions upon which legal resources are created, materials collected, and research practices justified. He contends that “[t]he CLS critique suggests that we have held too closely to a simplistic, outdated, formalistic model by not admitting that legal research can do little more than identify the range of probable issues and reasons for possible results” (p.636), and that the importance of these issues is magnified by the move toward the use of computer-assisted legal research “and other technologies [that] will have an impact on our research tools and methods and on the development of the law” (p.636). Barkan concludes by suggesting that even if one rejects CLS arguments, its questions are valuable because they force those interested in legal research to understand it better, which “could result in better resources, better practices, and better research” (p.636).

#### **In appreciation . . .**

I have always thought that Steve’s article was an example of the very best scholarship in our field: thoroughly documented, well versed in another literature, and provocative in the questions it raised for the practice of law librarianship. I thought that the article, plus the sharp commentaries that followed from Peter Schanck<sup>7</sup> and Steve himself,<sup>8</sup> were the most exciting things I published as editor. — **Richard A. Danner**<sup>9</sup>

Beardsley, Arthur S. “Law Books and Law Publishers.” *Law Library Journal* 28 (1935): 51–64.

This brilliant article proves one of Yogi Berra’s most famous truisms: “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” Written at a time when the nation was just passing beyond the Great Depression, Beardsley . . . call[ed for] law librarians and publishers to pick up the tools and devote themselves to reestablishing the legal publishing industry, which had . . . been somewhat devastated by the depression. [He raised] various alarms—to avoid duplication of published materials, for publishers to end the egregious practice of sending out supplements without first getting the permission of subscribers, and [for] librarians to resist the persuasive arguments of salesmen to purchase expensive unneeded materials. He

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7. Peter C. Schanck, *Taking Up Barkan’s Challenge: Looking at the Judicial Process and Legal Research*, 82 LAW LIBR. J. 1 (1990); Peter C. Schanck, *The Last Word (I Hope)*, 82 LAW LIBR. J. 37 (1990).

8. Steven M. Barkan, *Response to Schanck: On the Need for Critical Law Librarianship, or Are We All Legal Realists Now?* 82 LAW LIBR. J. 23 (1990).

9. E-mail from Richard A. Danner, Rufty Research Professor of Law & Senior Assoc. Dean for Info. Services, Duke Univ. School of Law Library, Durham, N.C., to author (Oct. 6, 2007) (on file with author). Danner served as editor of *Law Library Journal* from 1984 to 1994.

points to loose-leaf services “which are now so popular” as an “expensive luxury” (p.54), and complains that Commerce Clearing House and Prentice-Hall publish competing products that are nearly identical.

The alarms that Beardsley sounds are interesting because they point out that law librarians have always struggled to balance available funding against the desire to build complete, efficient libraries. The questions many libraries face today are nearly identical: with so many excellent resources available, but at such extraordinary cost, how do we choose which to buy? In a perfect world, with no space or funding restrictions, would we, indeed, purchase everything available? Should we? If not, what would be the perfect collection? — **Richard A. Leiter**<sup>10</sup>

Bintliff, Barbara A. “From Creativity to Computerese: Thinking Like a Lawyer in the Computer Age.” *Law Library Journal* 88 (1996): 338–51.

Called “a tremendous overview of the change in legal research heuristics with the advent of computer-assisted legal research,”<sup>11</sup> Bintliff’s article explores what it means to “think like a lawyer” in an age that has come to “rely more and more on electronic means for finding and organizing the law” (p.339). She argues that a major consequence is the movement from a rule- or concept-based system to one based on facts, so that “more importance seems to be placed on matching the fact situation than on identifying and analyzing the law” (p.339). To prove her case, Bintliff contrasts what thinking like a lawyer was like when the primary method of identifying relevant court opinions was the case digest, with what it has become as computers have replaced the digest as the tool of choice. Rather than focusing on legal rules as established by cases, computer-assisted legal research “leads to a thought process that puts its first and strongest emphasis on the facts” (p.345). Bintliff concludes that “[i]f we don’t proceed with a legal reasoning process that starts with known rules, we run the risk of losing the predictability, and with it the stability, of our judicial system” (p.350).

### **In appreciation . . .**

Ten years after its publication, Barbara’s article is still at the top of my reading list for my advanced legal research students. [It] does a wonderful job of bringing home the idea that in the age of computerized research, lawyers need to maintain control over their searching. [It] points out the difference between simply searching for similar fact patterns and looking for cases that describe the legal theories involved in a particular legal dispute. [It] really hits home the fact that in the age of computerized searching we must be even more vigilant in our search for the legal rule versus the facts of the case. — **Michael Whiteman**<sup>12</sup>

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10. E-mail from Richard A. Leiter, Director, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Marvin & Virginia Schmid Law Library, Lincoln, Neb., to author (Oct. 16, 2007) (on file with author).

11. E-mail from Jennifer S. Murray, Assistant Director, Superior Court Law Library, Maricopa County, Phoenix, Ariz., to author (Oct. 2, 2007) (on file with author).

12. E-mail from Michael Whiteman, Assoc. Dean for Law Library Services and Info. Technology,

Briscoe, Georgia. "Climb High: High Altitude Mountaineering Lessons for Librarians." *Law Library Journal* 92 (2000): 217–24.

Briscoe, an avid mountaineer as well as the associate director and head of technical services of the University of Colorado Law Library, shows how the knowledge she gained in climbing peaks over 16,000 feet is equally applicable to the world of the law librarian. For instance, high altitude climbers typically are attached to the same rope for safety reasons. In such a situation, "[c]limbers who do not follow the leader by climbing at the leader's pace will create serious problems for the rope team" (p.218). Transferring this lesson to the library, it is best to "support your boss" by accepting [his or her] goals and following along at the same relative pace to meet those goals. For librarians who cannot support their boss and 'buy into' their agenda, it is probably time to find a new boss. . ." (p.218). She continues in this vein, running through a number of mountaineering lessons that she finds to be directly applicable to achieving a successful and satisfying career in library work.

### **In appreciation . . .**

When this article came out, I had been in my first professional law library position for about two years, with Georgia as both my supervisor and mentor. I can attest that Georgia *walks the talk* associated with the nine lessons in this article: follow the leader, prepare properly, pace yourself, prove yourself to your guide, support your teammates, you'll always be hot or cold, be motivated for the goal, expect bad weather, and accept the risk. This article is concise, practical, easy to read, and contains great advice to anyone starting in the profession. If you don't have a mentor yet, take this sage advice from someone who is a proven mentor and leader in our profession. — **Karen Selden**<sup>13</sup>

Brock, Christine A. "Law Libraries and Librarians: A Revisionist History; or More than you ever wanted to know." *Law Library Journal* 67 (1974): 325–61.

Within a few short years of its publication, Brock's attempt to affect the future of law libraries and law librarians by recounting their history—particularly their too close ties to the legal profession—was already viewed as a "provocative and insightful study [which] broke new ground and, at the same time, exposed some hard truths about law librarianship. Our overdependence on the legal profession, our obsession with status and image, our isolation from the mainstream of librarianship, and our technical naivete"—all of which Brock meticulously documented in the sort of "serious historical treatment" it had never previously received—"were costly barriers to changes that had advanced

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Northern Kentucky Univ., Salmon P. Chase College of Law Library, Highland Heights, Ky., to author (Oct. 1, 2007) (on file with author).

13. E-mail from Karen Selden, Catalog Librarian, University of Colorado Law Library, Boulder, Colo., to author (Oct. 23, 2007) (on file with author).



other fields of librarianship.”<sup>14</sup> By examining the first law libraries in America—“the private collections of law books owned by the men who administered justice and practiced law in the colonies” (p.326)—as well as the history of bar libraries, public law libraries, and law school libraries, Brock supported her contention that “[t]he development of law, the legal profession, legal education, and government in this country have been controlling factors in both the technical and physical growth of law libraries. This bondage has, to a great extent, hampered the development of institutional American law libraries and prevented them from reaching the level of development their potential would have allowed” (p.325). Brock completes her history by discussing law librarians and libraries in the twentieth century, an examination that necessarily includes much about the impact of AALL. While not glossing over difficult issues or missteps, Brock concludes that “[t]he 20th century forced law libraries to grow beyond the confines inherited from the 18th century private law collections and carried throughout the 19th century. It was a healthy sort of growth—it gave the law library profession a sense of its own identity and the impetus to begin shaping its own future. . . . The next years may be its best” (p.361). Respect for the article hasn’t dimmed in the intervening years since its publication: “[Brock’s work] has become a classic, mostly for detailing our faults of omission as we strove too much to be identified with lawyers instead of librarians.”<sup>15</sup>

#### **In appreciation . . .**

I cannot tell you how many times I have turned to this article to help me understand some aspect of law librarianship in its historical context. Christine Brock covers the entire field: the development of law librarians and the U.S. law library profession; bar law libraries; public law libraries; law school libraries; faculty status for academic law librarians; organization of law libraries, including cataloging systems. She traces the evolution of each topic, which always helped me understand why things were the way they were. For historical questions about almost any facet of law librarianship, this article is *the* source. Ms. Brock analyzed the developments in the profession through the early 1970s, and presented substantial information and numerous sources in a clear and orderly, dare I say “librarian-ly,” manner. Anyone serious about the profession should read this article. — **Barbara A. Bintliff**<sup>16</sup>

I recently read this article again for the first time in thirty years. It is one of the finest historical pieces we have in our professional literature, providing an excellent overview of how law library collections were built in America. As a collection

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14. Morris L. Cohen, *Tradition and Change in Law Library Goals*, 75 LAW LIBR. J. 192, 194 (1982).

15. Charles R. Dyer, *A Short Look at Twenty-Five Years of the Law Library Journal*, 75 LAW LIBR. J. 187, 190 (1982).

16. E-mail from Barbara A. Bintliff, Nicholas Rosenbaum Professor of Law and Director, William A. Wise Law Library, University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, Colo., to author (Oct. 24, 2007) (on file with author).

development librarian, I'm sorry I haven't been reading this article on an annual basis to refresh my understanding of private collecting, bar libraries, public law libraries, academic law libraries, and various collection standards. Brock also discusses the development of law librarianship as a distinct outgrowth of the history of legal collections. For today's law librarians, this article is essential to the understanding of why great collections developed and how they were (and still are) used for practical and scholarly research. — **Margaret K. Maes**<sup>17</sup>

[This] . . . is the major article on the history of law libraries, though it is [more than] thirty years old. . . . There are many articles in LLJ concerning individual libraries . . . , but this one covers the development of all types of law libraries (public, private, county, court, and academic), drawing on the historical writings in LLJ and elsewhere. It also offers a history of law librarians through the decades. — **Joel Fishman**<sup>18</sup>

Carter, Nancy Carol. "American Indians and Law Libraries: Acknowledging the Third Sovereign." *Law Library Journal* 94 (2002): 7–26.

This article focuses long overdue attention on the historically overlooked or misunderstood issues of tribal sovereignty and tribal law. In addition, Carter calls upon law librarians to help acquire and disseminate tribal legal materials, as well as lead the way toward formulating a more refined classification scheme and more useful subject headings for tribal law materials. In the relatively few years that have elapsed since this article was published, significant progress has been made in all of these areas. Projects that have been partially or wholly inspired by this article include the National Indian Law Library's Tribal Law Gateway ([www.narf.org/nill/triballaw/index.htm](http://www.narf.org/nill/triballaw/index.htm)), which won AALL's PAGI award in 2006; AALL's Native Peoples Law Caucus Tribal Law Cooperative Project ([www.aallnet.org/caucus/nplc/tlc.htm](http://www.aallnet.org/caucus/nplc/tlc.htm)), which promotes the cooperative collection of tribal laws; and the National Indian Law Library's Thesaurus Project ([www.narf.org/nill/catalog/the.htm](http://www.narf.org/nill/catalog/the.htm)), which supplements current Library of Congress subject headings for American Indian topics. In addition, the Library of Congress plans to release a new classification schedule for Law of the Indigenous Peoples in the Americas in 2008. — **Karen Selden**<sup>19</sup>

Cohen, Morris L. "Towards a Philosophy of Law Librarianship." *Law Library Journal* 64 (1971): 1–4.

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17. E-mail from Margaret K. Maes, Assoc. Director for Info. Resources, Univ. of St. Thomas, Schoenecker Law Library, Minneapolis, Minn., to author (Oct. 25, 2007) (on file with author).

18. E-mail from Joel Fishman, Assistant Director for Lawyer Services, Duquesne University Center for Legal Information/Allegheny County Law Library, Pittsburgh, Pa., to author (Oct. 22, 2007) (on file with author).

19. E-mail from Karen Selden, *supra* note 13.

Acknowledged as one of law librarianship's greatest scholars,<sup>20</sup> this piece demonstrates that Cohen also is one of the profession's most thoughtful philosophers. Written while he served as AALL president in 1970–71, the article sets forth six principles that Cohen suggests are applicable to all law libraries. He characterizes them as “ideals or models of what law librarians should be” (p.1), and “a first effort at formulating one law librarian's view of what we are about” (p.4). Nearly forty years later, such principles as “law librarians must know . . . their readers and the work of their readers” (p.4) still ring true, even in an environment much different from the one in which Cohen practiced his philosophy.

**In appreciation . . .**

Morris Cohen's “Towards a Philosophy of Law Librarianship” was very important for me personally. Morris tried to frame a thoughtful basis for the profession, and he integrated thinkers from beyond the boundaries of law librarianship. It was where I first encountered Ranganathan. Morris's elegant prose spoke to what was best about being a law librarian. Since I was a student when it came out, it had a big impact on me. The idea of a scholar librarian who thought deeply through the issues of what the profession meant was pivotal. — **Robert C. Berring**<sup>21</sup>

Cohen describes this short essay as “rambling thoughts” (p.1), but in fact he presents a well-organized set of six principles for law librarianship. I won't repeat them here, because everyone should read and ponder the elegant articulation of ideals that are fundamental and relevant today. As a professional philosophy, we can't do much better than this. — **Margaret K. Maes**<sup>22</sup>

Cohen, Morris L. “Tradition and Change in Law Library Goals.” *Law Library Journal* 75 (1982): 192–97.

This article appears as part of LLJ's seventy-fifth anniversary issue and, as such, it looks back at the traditions that shaped law librarianship as a separate profession from its earliest days, as well as the changes that were taking hold in 1982 and affecting our professional traditions. Cohen refers to the “continuing clash of tradition and change” (p.195) that provides the context for describing goals common to all law libraries. He suggests five general goals for law libraries and the profession, revolving around services, collections, access, administration, and professional contributions. Each goal is more fully described with examples.

20. “One of the leading law librarians of the last fifty years, Professor Cohen has served as law librarian at the universities of Buffalo, Pennsylvania, Harvard, and Yale. His scholarship in legal history and rare books is impeccable, and his name will always be linked to his *Bibliography of American Law*.” E-mail from Joel Fishman, *supra* note 18 (referring to MORRIS L. COHEN, *BIBLIOGRAPHY OF EARLY AMERICAN LAW* (1998 & Supp. 2003)).

21. E-mail from Robert C. Berring, Walter Perry Johnson Professor of Law, Univ. of California, Berkeley School of Law, Berkeley, Calif., to author (Sept. 30, 2007) (on file with author).

22. E-mail from Margaret K. Maes, *supra* note 17.

Although twenty-five years have passed since its publication, this article could easily have a place in our 100th anniversary issue. — **Margaret K. Maes**<sup>23</sup>

Dabney, Daniel P. “The Curse of Thamus: An Analysis of Full-Text Legal Document Retrieval.” *Law Library Journal* 78 (1986): 5–40.

Dabney’s article offered the first serious examination of the actual efficacy of computer-assisted legal research (CALR) using full-text searching. In assessing the work more than twenty years after its publication, Richard Danner wrote: “Dabney provided a framework for evaluating the effectiveness of full-text document retrieval systems in law that could be used to compare them with print indexes and digests.”<sup>24</sup> This framework included first an analysis of conventional indexing, followed by a review of the “measures by which document retrieval systems are judged: . . . recall, precision, and fallout. Central to the definitions of all three of these measures is the notion of relevance” (p.15). He then introduces the results of a groundbreaking large-scale test of full-text retrieval by Blair and Maron,<sup>25</sup> discussing their implications for CALR systems. Although he concludes that such systems may have limitations, he also acknowledges that they have virtues as well, and that “they make a positive contribution to an arsenal of research techniques that also includes conventional methods” (p.35). Dabney finishes with suggestions for ways that CALR systems could be improved.

#### **In appreciation . . .**

Dabney’s article dramatically upped the ante in the quality of work one might expect in the area of legal information studies at a time of extraordinary disruption in the practice of legal research, provoked responses from the CALR vendors,<sup>26</sup> and had to be dealt with in all of the . . . literature [that followed]<sup>27</sup> on the impacts of electronic and networked information on legal research. — **Richard A. Danner**<sup>28</sup>

Danner, Richard A. “Redefining a Profession.” *Law Library Journal* 90 (1998): 315–56.

This article is an exemplar of the scholarly application of broad-based research and ideas to law library issues. During a period of rapid change in libraries, it steps

23. *Id.*

24. Richard A. Danner, *Legal Information and the Development of American Law: Writings on the Form and Structure of the Published Law*, 99 *LAW LIBR. J.* 193, 210, 2007 *LAW LIBR. J.* 13, ¶ 36.

25. David Blair & M.E. Maron, *An Evaluation of Retrieval Effectiveness for a Full-Text Document-Retrieval System*, 28 *COMM. A.C.M.* 289 (1985).

26. Jo McDermott, *Another Analysis of Full-Text Legal Document Retrieval*, 78 *LAW LIBR. J.* 337 (1986) (response from Mead Data Central, producer of Lexis); Craig E. Runde & William H. Lindberg, *The Curse of Thamus: A Response*, 78 *LAW LIBR. J.* 345 (1986) (response of West Publishing Company, producer of Westlaw).

27. *See, e.g.*, Scott F. Burson, *A Reconstruction of Thamus: Comments on the Evaluation of Legal Information Retrieval Systems*, 79 *LAW LIBR. J.* 133 (1987).

28. E-mail from Richard A. Danner, *supra* note 9.

back from “doing librarianship” to look at the very essence of our profession. As an unknown company called Google was drawing up its documents of incorporation, Dick Danner wrote that researchers would be modifying their information-seeking behaviors to include more direct searches. That observation was background to Danner’s main theme: the relationship of librarians with other information professionals and how change would or should act upon the definition of these professions. He so successfully frames the issues that—years and many changes later—his analysis remains thought-provoking and useful as law librarians continue to reassess their role in the digital age. — **Nancy Carol Carter**<sup>29</sup>

**In appreciation . . .**

Danner’s prize-winning<sup>30</sup> article—“a reflective piece by a great author”<sup>31</sup>—[is] a compelling analysis of librarianship—where the profession has been and where it needs to go in this rapidly changing work environment. Danner’s call for librarians to return to the tradition of becoming “creators of indexes and other finding tools” (p.350) amidst the current deluge of online information is prescient. Pondering this call with his prediction that “it is certain that librarians and information technologists will not work in isolation from each other” (p.353) could generate ideas for useful tools and services for our clients and patrons, tools that may provide the context and perspective on information that researchers in an online world crave. This article is well worth reading every year or so to force you to raise your gaze from the day-to-day tasks and to consider the long-range goals for librarians and our profession. — **Duncan Alford**<sup>32</sup>

Dick Danner’s “Redefining a Profession” showed the full flowering of what Morris [Cohen] spoke about [in “Towards a Philosophy of Law Librarianship”].<sup>33</sup> Dick took things a lot further and went into much greater depth but then he had much more to work with. The years after Morris’s piece ushered in a whole new range of thought and speculation. Dick demonstrated how far we had come. I guess that I see the two as inextricably linked. — **Robert C. Berring**<sup>34</sup>

What does it mean to be a professional? What impact does the changing nature of information production and delivery have on the profession of librarianship and the roles of librarians? This scholarly and provocative article introduces the reader to Andrew Abbott’s work on professions and particularly his views of the informa-

29. E-mail from Nancy Carol Carter, Director and Professor of Law, Univ. of San Diego School of Law/Legal Research Center, San Diego, Calif., to author (Oct. 2, 2007) (on file with author).

30. An earlier version of this article was the winning entry in the open division of the 1998 AALL/Matthew Bender Call for Papers competition.

31. E-mail from Nancy P. Johnson, Law Librarian & Professor of Law, Georgia State Univ. College of Law Library, Atlanta, Ga. (Oct. 10, 2007) (on file with author).

32. E-mail from Duncan Alford, Assoc. Dean for the Library and Assoc. Professor of Law, Univ. of South Carolina School of Law, Coleman Karesh Law Library, Columbia, S.C., to author (Oct. 12, 2007) (on file with author).

33. See *supra* text accompanying note 21 for Berring’s comments about Morris L. Cohen, *Towards a Philosophy of Law Librarianship*, 64 LAW LIBR. J. 1 (1971).

34. E-mail from Robert C. Berring, *supra* note 21.

tion professions. It sets the context for us to think about the knowledge, skills, and values that distinguish law librarianship from other professions, but also how information professions relate to each other. It is highly relevant today as we continue to discuss our professional identity and the evolving roles that are redefining our profession. — **Margaret K. Maes**<sup>35</sup>

Franklin, Jonathan A. “Why Let Them Go? Retaining Experienced Librarians by Creating Challenging Internal Career Paths: Introducing the ‘Executive Librarian.’” *Law Library Journal* 88 (1996): 352–81.

Franklin bemoans the fact that so many librarians, happy in their jobs, must leave them for positions in other institutions simply to achieve their career advancement goals. Not only can this be disruptive to the personal lives of the librarians, it also may cause problems for libraries who lose valuable resources when experienced librarians leave. He argues that libraries can and should address this problem by creating “challenging internal career paths for their staffs” (p.353). His consideration of the factors that contribute to job satisfaction, including participative management and promotional opportunities, lead him to suggest that law libraries consider establishing a new position that combines substantive and administrative responsibilities, that of the “executive librarian.” This position would be for “experienced librarians who are interested in both administration and their chosen area of library work” (p.368). Franklin fleshes out the proposal by suggesting duties, status, and titles; and by distinguishing the position from that of department head. He also sketches various library organizational structures into which such positions could be inserted. Finally, he discusses how the position would change existing relationships in a library, including those with the director, departmental paraprofessionals, other library departments, and library patrons.

#### **In appreciation . . .**

This article is a great point of departure for discussions about effective institutional structures and career-path flexibility, particularly for academic law libraries and librarians. I would be interested in Jonathan updating this important article, perhaps in light of concerns about preparing librarians to be directors, recruiting people into the profession, increasing diversity in the profession, and libraries developing both services and career paths that match the priorities of the new generation. — **Anne Klinefelter**<sup>36</sup>

Gallagher, Marian, Julius J. Marke, and Arthur A. Charpentier. “I Remember Them Well.” *Law Library Journal* 75 (1982): 270–88.

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35. E-mail from Margaret K. Maes, *supra* note 17.

36. E-mail from Anne Klinefelter, Director of the Law Library & Assoc. Professor of Law, Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, N.C., to author (Oct. 18, 2007) (on file with author).

This delightful set of reminiscences, written by three giants of AALL and the law library profession,<sup>37</sup> highlights the special symposium issue<sup>38</sup> that celebrates the seventy-fifth anniversary of *Law Library Journal* (1908–82). Collectively, the three parts serve to, in the words of Marian Gallagher, “translat[e] our AALL memories of personalities into words,” presenting portraits of more than thirty “remarkable people,” law librarians “whose careers live in memory [and] who may escape us as a recollection fades. It is for them that we reach in admiration and affection” (p.270). A purpose admirable for the time, but essential now, since most readers today will have known few, if any, of the individuals profiled here. And yet the elegant writing brings them to life—LSU’s Alice Magee Brunot, “the Queen of the AALL” (p.271); Howard Law School’s “urbane” A. Mercer Daniel (p.272); Elizabeth Finley, who “could learn so fast, absorb so much, and out-think so many” (p.272); Helen Newman, the “dependable wheel greaser” who, “in 1940, was AALL” (p.273); Columbia’s Miles O. Price, who was, in addition to everything else, “a day brightener” (p.275); LSU’s Kate Wallach, “a refugee from Hitler’s Germany” (p.278); Sidney B. Hill, “a doer and a good one” (p.285); and Joseph L. Andrews, for whom AALL’s prestigious bibliographical award is named and “who just happened to be the best reference librarian our work has ever seen” (p.288). One could go on, but that would just spoil the surprise and pleasure in store for the reader who seeks out this fascinating piece.

Hicks, Frederick C. “Instruction in Legal Bibliography at Columbia University Law School.” *Law Library Journal* 9 (1916): 121–25.

The achievements of Frederick C. Hicks are legion. Librarian at Columbia Law School from 1915 to 1928<sup>39</sup> and Yale Law School from 1928 to his retirement in 1946, he was the first academic law librarian to serve as AALL president (in 1919–21).<sup>40</sup> His scholarly output was such that William R. Roalfe, no slouch in that department himself, subtitled his *Law Library Journal* tribute to Hicks, “Librarian-Scholar.”<sup>41</sup> Attention is drawn in particular to such important works of

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37. Marian G. Gallagher (1984), Julius J. Marke (1986), and Arthur Charpentier (1987) were the first three recipients of the AALL Distinguished Service Award, the Association’s highest honor, first awarded in 1984 and later renamed in honor of Gallagher. Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award, [http://www.aallnet.org/about/award\\_mgg.asp](http://www.aallnet.org/about/award_mgg.asp) (last visited Nov. 1, 2007).

38. *75th Anniversary Symposium*, 75 LAW LIBR. J. 185 (1982).

39. “While at Columbia, Mr. Hicks headed a program which saw the library expand from 56,000 to nearly 150,000 volumes. He perfected cataloguing systems which are still widely used.” *Frederick Hicks, A Law Librarian*, N.Y. TIMES, May 1, 1956, at 33 (obituary).

40. In recognition of that milestone, in 2000 AALL’s Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section named its new award, to be presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to academic law librarianship, in Hicks’s honor. See Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section, Am. Ass’n of Law Libraries, The Frederick Charles Hicks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Academic Law Librarianship, <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/awards/hicks.asp> (last visited Oct. 28, 2007).

41. William R. Roalfe, *Frederick C. Hicks: Scholar-Librarian*, 50 LAW LIBR. J. 88 (1957).

Hicks as *Aids to the Study and Use of Law Books*<sup>42</sup> and *Materials and Methods of Legal Research*.<sup>43</sup> About the latter, Roalfe wrote: “Had Frederick C. Hicks written but one book, . . . his claim to distinction would have been established, for this book was not only a landmark in the field of Anglo-American legal bibliography but . . . it became an indispensable tool in every law library for many years. . . .”<sup>44</sup> A third book, *Men and Books Famous in the Law*,<sup>45</sup> has been described as “a wonderful account of how the ‘great books’ of the common law were produced.”<sup>46</sup> Hicks also is justly renowned for the profound influence he had upon the profession of law librarianship for the entirety of his long career.<sup>47</sup>

But in considering “Instruction in Legal Bibliography at Columbia University Law School,” termed a “classic” by Richard Leiter,<sup>48</sup> Hicks is best seen as a law professor “who possessed a grand and complex vision of legal research training.”<sup>49</sup> In this article, Hicks begins by noting that “[a]t Columbia little attention has been paid to instruction in legal bibliography and the use of law books until recent years” (p.121), a statement that could be made about virtually all law schools of the time. Nonetheless, upon his appointment as librarian in 1915, Hicks immediately set out to develop a formal “special course” that would provide “[a] short series of lectures . . . given each year with reference to English and American reports and legal literature, including practical instruction in the use of reports, statutes, digests, citators, indexes, tables of cases, and compilations. . .” (p.121). Although the course was not required and no credit was earned for taking it, it was an immediate success, with an average of 129 students attending each of the initial lectures in October 1915. The article not only describes these lectures, but also provides considerable detail about the second phase of his “grand experiment,”<sup>50</sup> weekly seminars in the following semester that “were chiefly practice work, but each was introduced by a description of the legal aids involved, and by references to books and magazine articles” (p.123). In concluding, Hicks sounds a note that could just as well have been written today as in 1916: “The connection between [legal bibliography and substantive law] is intimate and vital. One has not ‘found

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42. FREDERICK C. HICKS, *AIDS TO THE STUDY AND USE OF LAW BOOKS: A SELECTED LIST, CLASSIFIED AND ANNOTATED, OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LAW LITERATURE, LAW STUDY AND LEGAL ETHICS* (1913). For a recent discussion of this book, see Stacy Etheredge, *Frederick C. Hicks: The Dean of Law Librarians*, 98 LAW LIBR. J. 349, 355–56, 2006 LAW LIBR. J. 18, ¶¶ 17–20.

43. FREDERICK C. HICKS, *MATERIALS AND METHODS OF LEGAL RESEARCH WITH BIBLIOGRAPHICAL MANUAL* (1923).

44. Roalfe, *supra* note 41, at 88.

45. FREDERICK C. HICKS, *MEN AND BOOKS FAMOUS IN THE LAW* (1921).

46. Berring & Vanden Heuvel, *supra* note 5, at 433.

47. For a recent reconsideration of “one of the giants of law librarianship in the twentieth century,” see A. Hays Butler, *Frederick Hicks’s Strategic Vision for Law Librarianship*, 98 LAW LIBR. J. 367, 367, 2006 LAW LIBR. J. 19, ¶ 1.

48. E-mail from Richard A. Leiter, *supra* note 10.

49. Berring & Vanden Heuvel, *supra* note 5, at 432.

50. Etheredge, *supra* note 42, at 358, ¶ 26.



the law' until one understands it; and one cannot search intelligently for the law without a substantial basis of legal acquirement" (p.125).

**In appreciation . . .**

I love this article because I love teaching legal research to law students, and this is where all of that began. The article . . . details Hicks's "experiment" with creating the first formal legal research course ever offered in a law school. Although he carefully lays out the details of how he organized and ran the course, you would be missing the essence of the article if you just read it as dry "how-to" advice. To me, Hicks's professional prose and modest tone barely conceal his joy at how wonderfully successful his experiment really was and what that meant to the future of legal education. I think all who teach legal research should read this article, but only if they can put themselves back in time and read it as if it were still 1916. Only then will they feel the underlying excitement of the article, as they watch the beginnings of something that is such a major part of what we do today.  
— **Stacy Etheredge**<sup>51</sup>

Houdek, Frank G. "AALL History through the Eyes of Its Presidents." *Law Library Journal* 98 (2006): 299–347.

Lamenting the paucity of personal accounts of AALL history available from former presidents of the Association,<sup>52</sup> Houdek tried to remedy the situation, at least in part, by seeking written answers from the thirty-three then-living past presidents to a set of standard questions (e.g., who were your role models, how did you get involved in association work, what were issues or challenges facing AALL during your year as president, what is the most important change in AALL during your career). He compiled and edited the responses into individual narratives from each contributor, "select[ing] material . . . that [was] both representative and unique, with a goal of illuminating not only the issues of the day but the experiences and personalities of these leaders" (p.302). Commencing with Earl C. Borgeson (president in 1968–69, began his career in 1949) and ending with Janet L. Johnston (president in 2003–04), the accounts cover nearly sixty years of AALL history.

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51. E-mail from Stacy Etheredge, Reference Librarian, University of South Carolina, Coleman Karesh Law Library, Columbia, S.C., to author (Oct. 26, 2007) (on file with author).

52. E.g., A.J. Small, *Is There an Excuse for the Association's Existence or the Spirit of Yesterday Contrasted with the Spirit of Today*, 21 LAW LIBR. J. 56 (1928); A.J. Small, *Reflections*, 24 LAW LIBR. J. 12, 12 (1931) [hereinafter Small, *Reflections*]; Gilson G. Glasier, *Beginnings of the American Association of Law Libraries*, 43 LAW LIBR.J. 147, 152 (1950); Gilson G. Glasier, *History of the American Association of Law Libraries: The Founders and the Early Years, 1906–1929*, 49 LAW LIBR. J. 82 (1956) [hereinafter Glasier, *History of the American Association of Law Libraries*]; Helen Newman, *History of the American Association of Law Libraries: The Roalfe Plan and the Middle Years, 1930–42*, 49 LAW LIBR. J. 105 (1956); Marian Gallagher, Julius J. Marke & Arthur A. Charpentier, *I Remember Them Well*, 75 LAW LIBR. J. 270 (1982).

### In appreciation . . .

On the occasion of the celebration of AALL's centennial in 2006, Professor Houdek offered a personalized history of the Association by presenting reminiscences of those who had served as its president. Collectively, these stories contribute a unique perspective on the important issues that have confronted AALL as an organization and law librarianship as a profession. They also help explain how these individuals became AALL leaders and what the experience meant to them.

— **Joel Fishman**<sup>53</sup>

It is important for young librarians to know the history of AALL—and who better to write this article but Frank Houdek.<sup>54</sup> — **Nancy P. Johnson**<sup>55</sup>

Johnston, Janis L. "Managing the Boss." *Law Library Journal* 89 (1997): 21–29.

In a "[g]reat piece on a great topic,"<sup>56</sup> Johnston describes the lessons she learned while holding various administrative and middle management positions at the Notre Dame Law School and Law Library. She makes clear that "[m]anaging the boss does not mean manipulating the boss or controlling his or her behavior"; rather it means "working with your boss to improve both your performance and your boss's" (p.21). She offers nine principles that can help achieve this goal, ranging from taking responsibility for building an effective relationship with the boss to understanding the pressures under which the boss operates; and learning the preferred work habits of the boss to keeping the boss informed. With each principle, she offers concrete examples from her own experience that both explain what she means and suggest strategies to achieve success. For example, in amplifying on the principle of knowing your boss's strengths and weaknesses, she explains that since both she and her boss are "talkers . . . who like to work out ideas and solutions through discussion," she has taken to postponing discussions until late in the day so that "fatigue and hunger force us to stick to the point so we can leave and go home to dinner" (p. 26–27). As Jennifer Murray has noted, "[t]here are few articles that substantively address managerial leadership in the law library context. Janis Johnston's article goes a long way toward filling that void."<sup>57</sup>

### In appreciation . . .

At the time I read "Managing the Boss," I'd already been a boss, a law library director, for ten years. Reading this article changed my life! Tips made by Johnston

53. E-mail from Joel Fishman, *supra* note 18.

54. Much of Houdek's professional writing has been devoted to documenting AALL history. *See, e.g.*, Frank G. Houdek, *Stories of "My First Annual Meeting,"* 88 *LAW LIBR. J.* 9 (1996); Houdek, *Frequently Asked Questions,* *supra* note 1; FRANK G. HOUDEK, *AALL REFERENCE BOOK: A COMPENDIUM OF FACTS, FIGURES, AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES* (1994–); FRANK G. HOUDEK, *INTRODUCING THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES* (2d ed. 1986); Frank G. Houdek, *AALL History in Brief: A Chronology, in AALL DIRECTORY AND HANDBOOK 2007–2008,* at 514 (47th ed., 2007).

55. E-mail from Nancy P. Johnson, *supra* note 31.

56. *Id.*

57. E-mail from Jennifer S. Murray, *supra* note 11.

about working to improve others' performance led me to see my work relationships in a new light. "Managing the Boss" reinforced my view that if I could help those above and below me in the organization achieve goals and experience success, my life as a manager would be enriched. The casual, easy-to-read style of Johnston's writing and her choice of topic encouraged me to believe that someday I too might be able to share my ideas about management with a broader audience. Writing now myself for *Law Library Journal* about management,<sup>58</sup> I remember that rainy day ride home from work on the bus ten years ago when I first read "Managing the Boss" and feel grateful for the opportunity I've been given to continue to be active in law librarianship beyond formal employment. — **Jean M. Holcomb**<sup>59</sup>

Most library management literature [has] focused on directors. Janis's boss, Roger Jacobs, was a former AALL president, a pillar of the profession, and a mentor to many. Her article reinforced . . . that we not only had to manage those who reported to us, but [also] manage . . . our superiors. It's something we've always done, but never thought about in an organized fashion. — **Carol Bredemeyer**<sup>60</sup>

Janis Johnston's "Managing the Boss" is practical, it's to the point, and it's inspiring. That's LLJ at its best. Janis is very clear about what's involved in "managing" the boss—it doesn't mean manipulating him or her, or controlling his or her behavior. Rather, it is about understanding that the responsibility of developing a healthy relationship with our boss rests with us. Obviously, today's managers are pulled in many directions. Recognizing the pressure the boss is under, and doing what one can to help alleviate that pressure makes so much sense! — **Michael Saint-Onge**<sup>61</sup>

Leiter, Richard A. "Reflections on Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science." *Law Library Journal* 95 (2003): 411–18.

Leiter's opening sentence in the third paragraph says it all: "But above all, Ranganathan's five laws deserve repeating, frequently and regularly" (p.411). This concise and easy-to-read article explains each law and explores its uses in law libraries. A great read for those new to librarianship as well as those who want a refresher on these important pillars of the philosophy of librarianship, and especially if one desires direct correlations to law librarianship. — **Karen Selden**<sup>62</sup>

58. Jean M. Holcomb has contributed a feature column, "Managing by the Book," to *Law Library Journal* on a regular basis since 2005. In each article, she highlights a book outside the field of librarianship containing a message about management topics that will resonate with law librarians.

59. E-mail from Jean M. Holcomb, Retired Law Librarian and Director, King County Law Library, Seattle, Wash., to author (Oct. 5, 2007) (on file with author).

60. E-mail from Carol Bredemeyer, Assistant Director for Faculty Services, Northern Kentucky University, Salmon P. Chase College of Law Library, Highland Heights, Ky., to author (Oct. 24, 2007) (on file with author).

61. E-mail from Michael Saint-Onge, Senior Librarian Relations Consultant, LexisNexis Librarian Relations Group, Los Angeles, Calif., to the author (Oct. 23, 2007) (on file with author).

62. E-mail from Karen Selden, *supra* note 13.

Margeton, Stephen G. "Of Legislative Histories and Librarians." *Law Library Journal* 85 (1993): 81–97.

Margeton tells the story of federal legislative history research, focusing on the work of librarians in Washington, D.C., beginning in the post-New Deal era, and the achievements of the Law Librarians' Society of the District of Columbia. In so doing, he describes how the law firm of Covington and Burling, under the direction of its legendary librarian, Elizabeth Finley, "created not only one of the finest law libraries in Washington, D.C., but also developed a nationally recognized program for following legislation" (p.85). He also describes the work of Arnold & Porter and its librarian, John Whelan, in the 1960s. Among the topics covered by Margeton are the development of legislative histories by federal agencies; the creation and revision of LLSDC's union list of legislative histories;<sup>63</sup> the emergence of published and filmed legislative histories, and the growing use of indexing, abstracting, and automation to provide more efficient access to legislative sources and information.

### **In appreciation . . .**

My first professional position was as a legislative librarian. While legislative librarians comprise a small and unique group among law librarians, they play a very important role in the field—especially here in D.C.—tracking legislation, conducting legislative research, and preparing legislative histories. Perhaps because legislative librarians are primarily in the D.C.-metropolitan area, the work they do and the roles they play in their institutions are not understood well by other librarians. However, the term "legislative history" is now used quite frequently and in many different contexts. So I think it is important for librarians to know not only what legislative librarians do, but also how they have played an integral role in developing the concept of legislative histories. One article that I found helpful when I first started was "Of Legislative Histories and Librarians" by Steve Margeton, as it explains succinctly the history of federal legislative history research and compiled legislative histories (here in D.C.). — **David S. Mao**<sup>64</sup>

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63. The first edition of the union list was published in two parts in *Law Library Journal*. Special Comm. on Legislative Histories, Law Librarians' Soc'y of D.C., *Union List of Legislative Histories*, 39 *LAW LIBR. J.* 243 (1946); [Special Comm. on Legislative Histories, Law Librarians' Soc'y of D.C.], *Union List of Legislative Histories*, 40 *LAW LIBR. J.* 62 (1947). The most recent edition is LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION, LAW LIBRARIANS' SOC'Y OF WASHINGTON, D.C., UNION LIST OF LEGISLATIVE HISTORIES (7th ed. 2000), with a 2002 supplement. It lists "the legislative history collections of more than 120 libraries in the Washington, D.C. area and includes several thousand legislative history compilations to U.S. public laws from 1790 to 1998." Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C., Union List of Legislative Histories, Information on the 7th Edition, <http://www.llsdc.net/sourcebook/about-union-histories.htm> (last visited Nov. 11, 2007).

64. E-mail from David S. Mao, Section Head, Knowledge Services Group, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., to author (Oct. 17, 2007) (on file with author).

Parrish, Jenni. "Law Books and Legal Publishing in America, 1760–1840." *Law Library Journal* 72 (1979): 355–452.

Parrish begins her masterly bibliographic review of legal publishing in America between 1760 and 1840 with an essay that, among other things, challenges the oft-repeated view that there was "little or no legal publishing activity occurring in the American colonies/states in the late 18th century and early 19th century" (p.355). She points out that the book list that comprises the bulk of this lengthy article includes more than five hundred monographs published in America during this period—and the list does not include case reporters, codes, statutes, or digests. The essay goes on to briefly review legal education in colonial America and to describe the work of printers, publishers, and booksellers during the period. She also explains the methodology and sources used to compile the book list, noting that "[i]f this list does nothing else for the reader it will at least provide him/her with relatively complete bibliographic information on each of the titles" (p.362). In describing her criteria for inclusion, Parrish notes that "the intent of the compiler was to be exhaustive and the rewards derived from having a list rich in a variety of law-related titles was considered worth the risk of over-inclusion" (p.363). Nonetheless, she acknowledges that the final product "is not a full record of American legal publishing" during the period, but rather "at best a record of titles which people thought important enough to record." Still, the list "can certainly be said to refute the common misconception that Americans relied on England for almost all their legal works well into the 19th century" (p.364).

### **In appreciation . . .**

While much of this article is a bibliography of early American law publications, the short introductory sections on legal education and legal publishing in colonial America provide a good framework for understanding what those learning the law and those practicing the law would have read and why English publications continued to influence the development of the law. There are books and longer articles on these topics, but this article is a succinct overview as well as a bibliographic masterpiece. — **Margaret K. Maes**<sup>65</sup>

The history of American legal literature has grown tremendously over the decades. *Law Library Journal* has published a large number of articles on the development of legal literature. Parrish's article is important for the background and history of early legal literature in the United States that it provides. The bibliography of treatise materials was an important update to Kate Wallach's earlier article on early nineteenth-century publications and expanded the list from the colonial period to 1840.<sup>66</sup> It was a useful supplement to writings of Herbert

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65. E-mail from Margaret K. Maes, *supra* note 17.

66. Kate Wallach, *The Publication of Legal Treatises in America from 1800 to 1830*, 45 *LAW LIBR. J.* 136 (1952).

Johnson<sup>67</sup> and W. Hamilton Bryson<sup>68</sup> on the eighteenth-century collections in the colonies and early Republic era. — **Joel Fishman**<sup>69</sup>

Potter, Theodore A. “A New Twist on an Old Plot: Legal Research Is a Strategy, Not a Format.” *Law Library Journal* 92 (2000): 287–94.

Potter argues that “student consumers have made the transition to computers” (p.294) and so should those who teach legal research. Long-accepted assumptions about students are no longer valid, and thus legal research instructors should begin with computer resources and teach print tools only where they are appropriate. Among the ideas he challenges are the contentions that “[s]tudents need to know how to use print materials to conduct effective research” (p.288); that “[f]irst-year students have no context for using computer databases, so it is better to teach them print sources first” (p.288); and that “[f]irst-year students have a hard enough time keeping print resources straight, let alone finding and using relevant online databases” (p.289). In their place he discusses new assumptions that can overcome students’ “inexperience with substantive law,” which he characterizes as “the biggest obstacle to [their] learning research strategy” (p.291). Potter believes that general secondary sources should be the first thing that students are taught; that “case finding and statutory materials should be taught online” (p.293); that more sophisticated secondary sources should be taught using both print and electronic resources; and that “exercises should be made to reflect the purpose of research,” a goal that can be achieved by “integrat[ing] the legal research process more fully with the legal writing course” (p.293).

#### **In appreciation . . .**

[T]his article . . . forces the reader to recognize and evaluate old assumptions about teaching legal research. Most working librarians have an endless “to-do” list, which encourages us to rely on assumptions long after they should be discarded, or at least re-examined. Professional reading should confront us with our assumptions. As good professional reading often does, the article also crystallized some inchoate thoughts I had. Future law librarians should read this article for two reasons. First, it reminds us to accept our patrons as they are, rather than wrench them—unsuccessfully—into becoming the patrons we’d like them to be. Second, it provides a useful model of the relationship between legal research tools and legal research skills. Law librarians will continue to encounter new tools; Potter argues that we should focus on the skills legal researchers need, rather than on specific tools that come and go. — **Mary Rumsey**<sup>70</sup>

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67. *E.g.*, HERBERT A. JOHNSON, IMPORTED LAW TREATISES IN AMERICAN LIBRARIES, 1700–1799 (1978).

68. *E.g.*, WILLIAM HAMILTON BRYSON, CENSUS OF LAW BOOKS IN COLONIAL VIRGINIA (1978).

69. E-mail from Joel Fishman, *supra* note 18.

70. E-mail from Mary Rumsey, Foreign, Comparative & International Law Librarian, Univ. of Minnesota Law Library, Minneapolis, Minn., to author (Oct. 18, 2007) (on file with author).

Pulling, Arthur C. "The Law Library of the Future." *Law Library Journal* 8 (1916): 72–76.

Who better qualified to consider the law library of the future than the man described as "the book man supreme. He turned law book collection building into a fine art. He built, in the course of a long career, four academic collections, twice returning from retirement to establish new law school libraries to meet and exceed accreditation standards."<sup>71</sup> This article derives from a presentation Pulling made to the tenth AALL Annual Meeting held in Berkeley, California, in 1916. In it, he first reviewed developments in libraries over the previous three decades in order to establish a basis for thinking about the problems that libraries of the future would face. The "rapid growth of legal literature" (p.72) is what he finds, and he argues that the likely continuation of this situation will raise concerns over space, cost, and access that will inevitably affect collection development plans. Impressively for an article written in 1916, he also recognizes the importance (and added complexity it will bring) of extending collections to include not just Anglo-American materials but also those from other countries and areas of the world.

**In appreciation . . .**

This is a perceptive and impressive view of conventional legal publishing of the times and projected beyond those years by a major figure in AALL who in due course became law librarian at Harvard. I never knew him but wished that I could have. . . . In this concise and remarkable speech for its time, Pulling reviewed the past and recognized its "present" limitations on resources of all kinds, but from his experience he looks ahead to what *will* be needed for teaching and practice in foreign law, federal and local administrative law, and more sophisticated indexing to guide us into these then novel areas. — **Jack Ellenberger**<sup>72</sup>

This is a classic if only because of its title. The main concerns of the day? Proliferation of reports, and duplication. The main concern today? Proliferation of access to materials. Which do we choose? Do online services replace print? The issues sound different, but in truth are very similar. — **Richard Leiter**<sup>73</sup>

Roalfe, William R. "A Letter to the President of the Association." *Law Library Journal* 24 (1931): 60–63.

On September 11, 1930, William R. Roalfe, at the time the librarian at Duke University Law Library, wrote a letter to AALL President Rosamund Parma that was subsequently reprinted in *Law Library Journal*. Though its thirty-four-year-old author had only been a law librarian since 1927, the letter had an immediate and, eventually, profound impact on the Association. It "called for a total reorganization and expansion of the operations and services of the Association. Specific

71. Gallagher, Marke & Charpentier, *supra* note 52, at 276 (remarks of Marian Gallagher).

72. E-mail from Jack Ellenberger, Director of Libraries, retired, Shearman & Sterling, New York, N.Y., to author (Oct. 16, 2007) (on file with author).

73. E-mail from Richard A. Leiter, *supra* note 10.

suggestions included establishing full-time staff at a permanent headquarters, enlarging the *Law Library Journal*, seeking financial assistance from a foundation, and publishing a bulletin with lists of current legal literature.<sup>74</sup> The letter quickly became known as the Roalfe Plan—so coined by John T. Vance, law librarian of Congress, during a roundtable convened to discuss the proposals at the 1931 Annual Meeting<sup>75</sup>—and was the driving force behind the Association’s agenda for many years to come. That Roalfe’s letter was a pivotal moment in AALL history can hardly be denied—as such, all law librarians should be familiar with its content and its author.

### **In appreciation . . .**

Much of today’s AALL organizational structure is a direct result of this plan. The plan would make [Roalfe] the dominant figure in Association history for the next thirty years. While much of what was proposed in the letter has come to pass, it was a long time in coming. Even today, the letter raises issues central to current discussions on the role of the Association. — **Michael G. Chiorazzi**<sup>76</sup>

Roalfe, William R. “The Relation of the Library to Legal Education.” *Law Library Journal* 31 (1938): 141–55.

Roalfe’s article was the first of a three-part series on the “Developing Role of the Library in Legal Education.”<sup>77</sup> As the law librarian at Duke University, Roalfe surveyed the teaching of library skills to law students. Roalfe addressed the actions of the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools and argued that a legal education that does not include significant attention to “the important role that the law libraries must play in the future” (p.144) is misguided. In the process, Roalfe critiques the casebook method while also assailing law schools that were not offering instruction in legal bibliography. Roalfe also criticized the many law schools with limited or no libraries.

Roalfe’s article meets a number of criteria that I think should be considered when selecting “the best of the best” articles published in the first century of *Law Library Journal*. First, the article discusses timeless themes that make reading it seventy years after its publication relevant to a contemporary audience. Second, it is well written, carefully researched, well organized, and the result of thoughtful reflection. The third factor is the stature of the author. William Roalfe was one of the most significant figures in law librarianship during the first half of last centu-

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74. Houdek, *Frequently Asked Questions*, *supra* note 1, at 160, ¶ 6 (citing Newman, *supra* note 52, at 105).

75. Newman, *supra* note 52, at 105.

76. Michael G. Chiorazzi, *William R. Roalfe: Builder of Libraries, Scholar, Association Animal*, in *LAW LIBRARIANSHIP: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES* 215, 228 (Laura N. Gasaway & Michael G. Chiorazzi eds., AALL Publications Series, No. 52, 1996).

77. The other articles in the series are William R. Roalfe, *The Essentials of an Effective Law School Library Service*, 31 *LAW LIBR. J.* 335 (1938), and William R. Roalfe, *Some Suggestions for Improving the Law School Library Service*, 32 *LAW LIBR. J.* 1 (1939).



ry.<sup>78</sup> He had already served as AALL president in 1935–36. This is a fine example of his enduring legacy to our profession.<sup>79</sup> — **Ed Edmonds**<sup>80</sup>

Small, A.J. “Is There an Excuse for the Association’s Existence, or The Spirit of Yesterday Contrasted with the Spirit of Today.” *Law Library Journal* 21 (1928): 56–60. [Republished as A.J. Small. “The First Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries.” *Law Library Journal* 98 (2004): 525–29.]

Is there anyone better qualified to retell the story of the Association’s founding and assess its development and accomplishments as AALL approached the quarter-century mark than Arthur James Small, the organization’s first president (1906–08) and, more important, its founding father? The librarian of the Iowa State Law Library for more than forty years, in spring 1906 Small called for law librarians to gather at the upcoming annual conference of the American Library Association to discuss the formation of a separate organization. As a result of the informal meetings that took place there, AALL was established on July 2, 1906, at the Hotel Mathewson in Narragansett Pier, Rhode Island. So it was no surprise that President John Fitzpatrick called upon Small—“the distinguished elder statesman of the American Association of Law Libraries”<sup>81</sup> but still “an example of perennial youth”<sup>82</sup>—to speak about the formation and early history of AALL at the twenty-third Annual Meeting in French Lick, Indiana, on May 29, 1928. This article reprints Small’s speech which “provides a catalog of accomplishment, summing up AALL’s quite impressive first twenty-two years, . . . and recalls the 1906 founding meeting in Rhode Island, listing the charter members by name and institution.”<sup>83</sup> To gain the fullest picture possible of the Association’s formative years as well as the individuals who were so crucial to the formation, it should be read in concert with two other pieces by Small—his presidential address at the second Annual Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, in 1907,<sup>84</sup> and the remarks he made in 1930, at the silver anniversary meeting in Los Angeles.<sup>85</sup>

78. In commenting on this article, former AALL president Jack Ellenberger wrote of its author: “From his various positions as law librarian at the University of Southern California, Duke University, and finally for many years at Northwestern University, Bob was highly respected, consistently viewing the law school library as a ‘laboratory’ for law study and research, a fully committed element within the school to train for life in the law wherever found in a frequently abrasive, democratic society. ‘Keeping pace’ with the law was a primary concern of Bob’s, so he was an avid champion for change and whatever media, print or otherwise, it took to track it. This took Bob ahead of his times. . . .” E-mail from Jack Ellenberger, *supra* note 72.

79. For an exhaustive bibliography of Roalfe’s publications, see Chiorazzi, *supra* note 76, at 248 app. B.

80. E-mail from Ed Edmonds, Assoc. Dean for Library and Info. Technology & Professor of Law, Kresge Law Library, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Ind., to author (Oct. 31, 2007) (on file with author).

81. *Memorial to A.J. Small*, 30 LAW LIBR. J. 527, 528 (1937).

82. John T. Fitzpatrick, *President’s Address*, 21 LAW LIBR. J. 21, 23 (1928).

83. E-mail from Jack Ellenberger, *supra* note 72.

84. A.J. Small, *President’s Address*, 1 LAW LIBR. J. 4 (1908).

85. A.J. Small, *Reflections*, *supra* note 52.

Wren, Christopher G., and Jill Robinson Wren. "The Teaching of Legal Research." *Law Library Journal* 80 (1988): 7–61.

Berring, Robert C., and Kathleen Vanden Heuvel. "Legal Research: Should Students Learn It or Wing It." *Law Library Journal* 81 (1989): 431–49.

With their article criticizing "traditional legal research instruction [that] has focused exclusively or almost exclusively on describing law books" (p.8), husband and wife coauthors Christopher and Jill Robinson Wren sparked one of the sharpest exchanges ever to appear in the pages of *Law Library Journal*. Who would have thought that legal research pedagogy could have induced such heat? The Wrens found fault with what they termed the "descriptive, or bibliographic, approach" because it "virtually ignores the legal research process itself" (p.8), and suggested an alternative method of instruction that offered "information about law books as part of a comprehensive explanation of the research process" and "emphasize[d] that law books are simply tools to use in solving legal problems" (p.9).

Although a good deal of their article focused on using frameworks in a process-oriented approach to instruction, it was the Wrens' criticism of the bibliographical orientation, and especially the influence of Columbia (and later Yale) Law Librarian Frederick C. Hicks (pp.26–33) in its development, that caught the attention of Robert C. Berring and Kathleen Vanden Heuvel of the University of California at Berkeley and produced "an immediate and vehement response."<sup>86</sup> Berring, one of the law library profession's most prolific and respected authors,<sup>87</sup> and coauthor Kathleen Vanden Heuvel took the Wrens to task not only for their attack on Hicks, but also for the way in which they characterized the "bibliographic" method of teaching research. In particular, they "reject[ed] the contention that research training has to be devoid of intellectual or substantive content in order to be effective, and argue[d] that without a solid understanding of the intellectual underpinnings of legal research, practical training is a futile enterprise" (p.432). Their article reviewed the work of Hicks, "to demonstrate Hicks's genius and to argue that if law school faculties had understood or paid serious attention to . . . Hicks, we would not have the debilitated legal research programs we are left with today" (p.432). It also contended that the process-oriented method suggested by the Wrens was little more than what was already taught in law schools. In contrast, they offered a description of their own program at Berkeley—involving an advanced legal research course for second-year students—as an example of the "innovative and exciting possibilities for teaching legal research" (p.432) that are available. Given the increasing number of law schools that offer an advanced legal

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86. Paul Douglas Callister, *Beyond Training: Law Librarianship's Quest for the Pedagogy of Legal Research Education*, 95 *LAW LIBR. J.* 7, 16, 2003 *LAW LIBR. J.* 1, ¶ 16.

87. For a general bibliography of Berring's writings, including those on legal research instruction, see Frank G. Houdek, *From the Reference Desk to River City: The Writings of Robert C. Berring, An Annotated Bibliography*, 99 *LAW LIBR. J.* 413, 2007 *LAW LIBR. J.* 24.

research course,<sup>88</sup> the significance of this portion of Berring and Vanden Heuvel's article cannot be denied.

### In appreciation . . .

The Wrens' challenges to the ways librarians taught legal research could not be cast aside; they made people angry, but they also changed how legal instruction is carried out. It is hard to single out the Wrens' article without mentioning the follow-ups by Berring and Vanden Heuvel,<sup>89</sup> which I think are some of Berring's best pieces. These were great debates, which continue to affect how we think about these things today, as seen in their summary in Paul Callister's 2003 article<sup>90</sup> in *Law Library Journal*. — **Richard A. Danner**<sup>91</sup>

### Columns and Special Features

Golden Jubilee Issue. *Law Library Journal* 49 (1956): 82–237.

AALL celebrated its fiftieth anniversary—its “Golden Jubilee”—on June 25–28, 1956, in Philadelphia, at the Association's forty-ninth Annual Meeting.<sup>92</sup> During the Golden Jubilee Banquet, a silver tray was presented to guest of honor Gilson Glasier, the Association's only remaining active charter member, in recognition of the services performed by that founding group, which he was there to represent.<sup>93</sup> In addition to these ceremonies, however, the anniversary was also marked by a special issue of the *Law Library Journal*, under the editorship of Dillard S. Gardner, devoted to detailing AALL's first fifty years. It included accounts of its development since 1906;<sup>94</sup> reviews of the creation and progress of the Association's premier publications, *Law Library Journal*<sup>95</sup> and the *Index to*

88. See Ann Hemmens, *Advanced Legal Research Courses: A Survey of ABA-Accredited Law Schools*, 94 LAW LIBR. J. 209, 220, 2002 LAW LIBR. J. 17, ¶ 22 (reporting a 700% increase in the number of schools offering an ALR course since 1983).

89. Berring & Vanden Heuvel, *supra* note 5; Robert C. Berring & Kathleen Vanden Heuvel, *Legal Research: A Final Response*, 82 LAW LIBR. J. 495 (1990).

90. Paul Douglas Callister, *supra* note 86, at 9–22, ¶¶ 5–35.

91. E-mail from Richard A. Danner, *supra* note 9.

92. “AALL was formed on July 2, 1906 at Narragansett Pier, R.I., during the annual conference of the American Library Association. This is considered AALL's first Annual Meeting. AALL has met annually in each of the . . . years since 1906, with one exception—a two-year hiatus during World War II (1943 and 1944).” Houdek, *Frequently Asked Questions*, *supra* note 1, at 158, ¶ 1 (footnotes omitted). Thus, AALL celebrated its fiftieth anniversary at the *forty-ninth* Annual Meeting.

93. *Proceedings of the Golden Jubilee Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries, Held at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 25–28, 1956*, 49 LAW LIBR. J. 375, 482 (1956). Additional special guests at the banquet were Katharine Kinder, President, Special Libraries Association; Ralph R. Shaw, President, American Library Association; Robert E. Matthews, Past President, Association of American Law Schools; and David F. Maxwell, President-Elect, American Bar Association. Golden Jubilee Banquet Program (June 27, 1956) (AALL Archives, Annual Meeting Program and Publication File, Record Series 85/1/150, Box 1, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library).

94. Glasier, *History of the American Association of Law Libraries*, *supra* note 52; Newman, *supra* note 52; Harrison M. MacDonald, *History of the American Association of Law Libraries Up Until Now, 1943–1955*, 49 LAW LIBR. J. 118 (1956).

95. Bernita J. Davies, *A History of the Law Library Journal*, 49 LAW LIBR. J. 157 (1956).

*Legal Periodicals*,<sup>96</sup> and profiles of the seven chapters then in existence. For anyone interested in the history of the Association, volume 49, number 2—the “Golden Jubilee” issue—is absolutely essential reading.

### In appreciation . . .

I’ll always remember this entire issue because it had a big impact on me when I was working on my MLIS, just a few short years ago. I’m one of those people who truly believe that you can’t know where you’re going if you don’t know where you’ve been. As I was poised to enter my new profession I had a lot of questions about this field of law librarianship—who are we, what is important to us, what have we achieved, how do we envision our future? This special issue . . . led me to my answers. Although it’s a wonderful treasure trove of historical and biographical information, it is so much more than just facts. As you read through it and the names and dates and ideas and accomplishments slide by, you can’t help but be impressed by the sheer magnitude of the breadth and depth of both our Association and our discipline. The unity, dedication, hard work, and sheer fellowship of law librarians shine through on every page and make the issue a joy to read, especially when you reflect on how these qualities still hold after yet another fifty years. I was never more proud to be part of this endeavor of law librarianship as when I read this issue. — **Stacy Etheredge**<sup>97</sup>

“Questions and Answers.” *Law Library Journal* 46–86 (1953–94).

The popular “Questions and Answers” column first appeared in the pages of *Law Library Journal* in May 1953 (volume 46, no. 2),<sup>98</sup> an “outgrowth,” according to compiler Marian G. Gallagher, “of Josephine Smith’s suggestions to the 1952 annual meeting.”<sup>99</sup> Gallagher identified “two essentials to the [column] becoming a regular feature: interesting questions and informative answers,” and expressed

96. Forrest S. Drummond, *The History of the Index to Legal Periodicals*, 49 *LAW LIBR. J.* 148 (1956). In assessing this article, Joel Fishman notes: “The *Index to Legal Periodicals* has served as a major indexing tool for law librarians for one hundred years. For its first seventy-two years, it had no competitor until *Current Law Index* began in 1980–81. Started by the Association in 1908, the H. W. Wilson Co. took over the publication of the *Index* in 1912 and continues its publication down to today. Drummond writes a useful institutional history of the first fifty years of the *Index* as a major publishing project of the Association.” E-mail from Joel Fishman, *supra* note 18.

97. E-mail from Stacy Etheredge, *supra* note 51.

98. A forerunner of the popular “Questions and Answers” column was “Reference Question Clearing House,” which made its first appearance in May 1940. It was edited by Margaret Hall, then a reference librarian at Columbia University Law School Library (1937–49) and later the librarian of the University of Puerto Rico School of Law. The purpose of the column was similar to that of “Questions and Answers”:

In order to save duplication of effort this clearing house of reference questions has been arranged through the columns of the *Law Library Journal*. Every law library has reference questions on which one or more members of the staff spend considerable time. The results of such investigations may be very useful to other libraries, perhaps opening new modes of research and sources of material.

Margaret Hall, *Reference Question Clearing House*, 33 *LAW LIBR. J.* 97, 97 (1940).

99. Marian G. Gallagher, *Questions and Answers*, 46 *LAW LIBR. J.* 93, 93 (1953).

her hope that “our readers will contribute freely to both.”<sup>100</sup> Over the next forty-two years—with the exception of a two-year hiatus in 1963–64—a multitude of compilers and guest editors<sup>101</sup> sought to make the column a “forum for the exchange of solutions, suggestions, and differences of opinion about problems that arise in the daily operation of law libraries.”<sup>102</sup> Their success is confirmed by Jack Ellenberger, a self-described early champion of “Questions and Answers,” who notes that “[i]n practical terms, this splendidly useful *column* has become a legendary ‘problem-solver’ for several generations of law librarians, novice or senior. . . .”<sup>103</sup> But to best appreciate their achievement, one should delve into their vast output—a daunting task made easier by the helpful subject indexes that cover all but the final two years’ worth of columns.

### In appreciation . . .

A coauthor and I stumbled onto [the “Questions and Answers” columns] as we were considering whether or not to try to pull together a short publication of common Q&As for newer librarians (e.g., approximately how many volumes equal a linear foot?), and we were fascinated by them. Not only did they answer a lot of the questions on our list, but they gave a good overview of library practices and issues. . . . Questions ranged from library basics (e.g., how to calculate microform equivalents, quality of mending tape) to vendor problems (e.g., what to do about unsolicited mailings from vendors) to identification of useful resources (e.g., where to find the text of Mexico’s insurance laws). Some of the questions are the same ones that we ask (or are asked) even today (e.g., which libraries are 24/7 libraries? where to find law firm salaries?). It just shows that even as technology changes and information gathering becomes easier in some ways, the need for reference continues. — **Michelle Wu**<sup>104</sup>

I remember reading the column in my first issues of LLJ in the late 1970s. I was a brand-new law librarian and was very impressed that my colleagues were willing to share their expertise in this format. I often consulted the columns in search of answers to the not-so-common questions. In 1984, the librarians at the University of Pennsylvania were asked to be compilers, and I was happy to contribute to my favorite part of LLJ.<sup>105</sup> Today we turn—in the words of Ask.com—to

100. *Id.*

101. In addition to Gallagher, who initiated the column, others who played prominent roles in the long history of “Questions and Answers” include John W. Heckel (compiler, 1959–62, 1965–70); Lorraine A. Kulpa (1971–73, 1975–76); Michael E. Gehringer (1977–81); Cynthia Arkin and the reference staff of the University of Pennsylvania Law Library (1985–88); Myra Saunders, Joan Howland, and Alice Youmans (1985–92); and various Houston law librarians, including Faye Couture, Karl Gruben, Jane Holland, Linda Will, and Susan Yancey (1988–93).

102. Reference Staff of Biddle Law Library, Univ. of Pa., *Questions and Answers*, 77 LAW LIBR. J. 817, 817 (1984–85).

103. E-mail from Jack Ellenberger, *supra* note 72.

104. E-mail from Michelle Wu, Interim Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Hofstra University Law School, Deane Law Library, Hempstead, N.Y., to author (Oct. 17, 2007) (on file with author).

105. Under the direction of Cynthia Arkin, staff members from the Biddle Law Library—including David

the “instant getification” of law-lib, posing our questions and receiving answers within minutes. I wonder if Marian Gallagher had any idea that her first Q&A column in 1953 would morph into a listserv? — **Merle J. Slyhoff**<sup>106</sup>

“Rebuilding the Profession: Recommendations for Librarians Interested in Becoming Academic Law Library Directors.” *Law Library Journal* 99 (2007): 101–32.

Based on the content of a workshop for aspiring academic law library directors offered in July 2005 during the AALL Annual Meeting in San Antonio, this article consists of material prepared by eight individual authors<sup>107</sup> organized around three main categories (and several subcategories). “So You Want to Be a Director” covers the duties of director jobs, including administrative skills and faculty responsibilities; “Build Your Credentials” examines what law schools expect by way of scholarship, teaching, service, and job experience from candidates for their director positions; and “Stalking a Law Library Directorship” reviews the skills and knowledge needed to interview for director jobs. Each author offers both general comments and practical advice about his or her subject. For example, in reflecting on the administrative skills that a librarian should develop in anticipation of becoming a director candidate, Janis Johnston recommends that one should “[l]earn to negotiate”; and if you haven’t developed that skill yet, “[y]ou know who teaches negotiations in your school—take them to lunch” (p.105). Similarly, Laura N. Gasaway, in writing about the importance of teaching by a law school library director, says that directors should “take advantage of every teaching opportunity in the law school” and offers a variety of ways to do this: “offering individual research classes in courses taught by other faculty members”; “offer[ing] short workshops on legal research as refresher sessions”; and “determin[ing] what is not currently being taught in the law school” (p.117). In total, the article offers a thorough and well-written primer on how to become a credible candidate for an academic law library director position.

### **In appreciation . . .**

Shortly after my library school graduation, Po Bronson’s book, *What Should I Do with My Life? The True Story of People Who Answered the Ultimate Question*,<sup>108</sup> was released. Entering my third career at the ripe old age of thirty-three, I con-

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E. Batista, Ellen Bronfield, Ronald E. Day, Stephen D. Ivey, Merle J. Slyhoff, Maria Smolka-Day, Marta Tarnawsky, and Nancy B. Whitmer—compiled “Questions and Answers” in alternate issues from 1985 to 1988 (vol. 77, no. 4–Vol. 80, no. 3).

106. E-mail from Merle J. Slyhoff, Collection Development & Document Delivery Services Librarian, Univ. of Pennsylvania Law School, Biddle Law Library, Philadelphia, Pa., to author (Oct. 20, 2007) (on file with author).

107. Barbara A. Bintliff, Laura N. Gasaway, Penny A. Hazelton, Frank G. Houdek, Janis L. Johnston, Martha Dragich Pearson, Charles Ten Brink, and Michelle Wu.

108. PO BRONSON, *WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY LIFE? THE TRUE STORY OF PEOPLE WHO ANSWERED THE ULTIMATE QUESTION* (2003).

sumed the book looking for people who had answered the question while on a path similar to my own. In the book I found a spiritual leader, entrepreneurs, and activists, but none of the journeys sounded similar to mine (there was a professor turned lawyer, but that was actually the reverse of my story). Then, in 2007, a group of law library managers memorialized a workshop first presented during the 2005 AALL Annual Meeting. “Rebuilding the Profession: Recommendations for Librarians Interested in Becoming Academic Law Library Directors” has given me an outline for my professional life that is helping me determine, first, whether a directorship is, indeed, the most suitable goal for me. As my professional experiences help me move closer to an answer to this question, I have looked to the article to bring perspective and order to my career path. . . . I have found that it continually helps me organize my thoughts, my choices, and my decisions about my professional development. Though I still sometimes find myself asking what I should do with my life, I feel more confident about the journey, knowing the stories, secrets, and lessons learned by those who have been faced with the same challenges and choices and come out on the other side. Anyone still deciding what they should do with their life as a law library professional is sure to feel the same. — **Lauren M. Collins**<sup>109</sup>

Scott, Bettie. “Price Index for Legal Publications.” *Law Library Journal* 69 (1976): 1–6.

This is the first version of what became an annual article and set of tables published in *Law Library Journal*.<sup>110</sup> It is lovely for its simplicity and for its concise explanations of each category of material being tracked. The price index later became a stand-alone publication<sup>111</sup> and now is published online with a search query capability.<sup>112</sup> It still generates a great deal of interest among those responsible for law library budgets, but the fundamental structure of the price index tool was laid out in this article. — **Margaret K. Maes**<sup>113</sup>

Whisner, Mary. “Practicing Reference.” *Law Library Journal* 91, no. 2–, 1999–.

Mary Whisner, who has held various public services positions at the University of Washington’s Gallagher Law Library since 1988, has contributed an article about some aspect of reference work to almost every issue of *Law Library Journal*

109. E-mail from Lauren M. Collins, Reference Librarian, Duke Univ. School of Law Library, Durham, N.C., to author (Oct. 5, 2007) (on file with author).

110. The “Price Index for Legal Publications” was prepared by Bettie Scott of the University of California at Davis Law Library for annual publication in *Law Library Journal* for nearly twenty years. Scott’s final edition was published as a separate booklet. BETTIE SCOTT, PRICE INDEX FOR LEGAL PUBLICATIONS 1995 (1996).

111. *E.g.*, SCOTT, *supra* note 110; MARGARET MAES AXTMANN, PRICE INDEX FOR LEGAL PUBLICATIONS 1996 (1996).

112. AM. ASS’N OF LAW LIBRARIES, PRICE INDEX FOR LEGAL PUBLICATIONS, [http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub\\_price.asp](http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_price.asp) (last visited Oct. 25, 2007).

113. E-mail from Margaret K. Maes, *supra* note 17.

since 1999. Employing an engaging style, Whisner may be known as much for the tangents she pursues in her footnotes as for the important topics and issues she addresses in her wide-ranging essays. Ranging from two to four thousand words, each piece is a delightful gem, perfect for reading in a single sitting. Picking just one is an impossible task (“so many great articles!!”<sup>114</sup>), so read them all.<sup>115</sup>

### **In appreciation . . .**

For me, the “essential” *Law Library Journal* feature is . . . one that crystalizes why I became a law librarian in the first place. . . . Beginning in 1999 with an auspicious first piece tantalizingly titled “Golf Buddy Reference Questions,”<sup>116</sup> Mary Whisner’s column quickly gained a devoted readership as she ruminated on everything from “*Bouvier’s, Black’s and Tinkerbell*”<sup>117</sup> to “What Do You *Do* All Day?”<sup>118</sup> For more than eight years Mary has discussed those characteristics that make one effective at the reference desk, including the ability to look at things from our patrons’ point of view,<sup>119</sup> coping with bad days,<sup>120</sup> and a sense of fun.<sup>121</sup> Mary’s column is usually the first article I read when I crack open the newly arrived issue of *Law Library Journal*, and it always puts me in a better frame of mind about the “practice” of reference and ultimately being a law librarian. —  
**James E. Duggan**<sup>122</sup>

## **Appendix**

### **Honorable Mention**

- Anzalone, Filippa Marullo. “Project Management: A Technique for Coping with Change.” *Law Library Journal* 92 (2000): 53–70.
- Berring, Robert C. “Dyspeptic Ramblings of a Retiring Past President.” *Law Library Journal* 79 (1987): 345–50.
- Brecht, Albert. “Changes in Legal Scholarship and Their Impact on Law School Library Reference Services.” *Law Library Journal* 77 (1984–85): 157–64.
- Breeze, Hope. “Cataloging Remote Electronic Resources.” *Law Library Journal* 92 (2000): 91–97.

114. E-mail from Nancy Johnson, *supra* note 31.

115. Fortunately, this recently was made easier when many of the “Practicing Reference” columns were compiled and republished in MARY WHISNER, PRACTICING REFERENCE: THOUGHTS FOR LIBRARIANS AND LEGAL RESEARCHERS (2006).

116. Mary Whisner, *Golf Buddy Reference Questions*, 91 LAW. LIBR. J. 413 (1999).

117. Mary Whisner, *Bouvier’s, Black’s and Tinkerbell*, 92 LAW. LIBR. J. 99, 2000 LAW. LIBR. J. 8.

118. Mary Whisner, *What Do You Do All Day?* 94 LAW. LIBR. J. 661, 2002 LAW. LIBR. J. 40.

119. Mary Whisner, *Alphabetical Order and Other Simple Systems*, 96 LAW. LIBR. J. 757, 2004 LAW. LIBR. J. 50.

120. Mary Whisner, *On Having a Bad Day*, 94 LAW. LIBR. J. 335, 2002 LAW. LIBR. J. 22.

121. Mary Whisner, *On Fun*, 99 LAW. LIBR. J. 447, 2007 LAW. LIBR. J. 26.

122. E-mail from James E. Duggan, Associate Law Library Director and Professor, Southern Illinois Univ. Law Library, Carbondale, Ill., to author (Oct. 22, 2007) (on file with author).



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