



Connecting...



The Newsletter of the Computing Services SIS
American Association of Law libraries

Volume 7, Issue 2

May 2007

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Message From the Chair

Kristina L. Niedringhaus

It's hard to believe that summer is here and we'll soon meet again in New Orleans for the AALL Annual Meeting. I hope most of you are planning to attend. You don't want to miss our **Breakfast Meeting on Tuesday, July 17 at 7:00 am**. Our speaker will be Ernie Svenson, better known as "**Ernie the Attorney**." Ernie recalls, "Back in the 1960's if you wanted to place a long distance call you had to have it done by the operator. Today, anyone with a computer can access pictures or music or any other kind of information, even if the source is located on the other side of the hemisphere. The cost of access is free and no one has to give permission. What are the implications of this shift in how information is gathered and shared? How will this affect business? Education? Society?" His talk, titled "New Patterns of Information Gathering and Sharing," will address these questions.

I also hope you will attend our **Business Meeting on Sunday, July 15 at 6:30 pm**. We also have two roundtables planned. On **Sunday July 15 at noon**, CS-SIS will host a **Roundtable on Web Design and Maintenance**, and on **Monday, July 16 at 11:45 am** we will host a **Roundtable on Organizing Legal Databases on Library Websites**.

In addition to great opportunities to learn, you have several opportunities to serve the community through projects sponsored by AALL in New Orleans – you can sign up to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, Second Harvest or the Louisiana State Museum at <http://www.aallnet.org/events/communityproject.asp>. If you don't have the time to spend volunteering with one of these organizations, consider donating to ReCovering New Orleans: One Book at a Time. More information about this project to assist the Recovery District Schools in New Orleans is available on the Social Responsibilities SIS site at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/srsis/projects.html>.

Finally, in my last "Message from the Chair," I want to thank the many people who make sure that CS-SIS continues to serve its membership in such a valuable way. There are many people who volunteer their time to serve CS in numerous ways, and you are the key to our success as an SIS. Kudos go out to all of those dedicated volunteers. I am pleased that during the Annual Meeting we will be welcoming a new group of Executive Board Members with fresh ideas and creativity.

See you in New Orleans!



Kristina L. Niedringhaus is Associate Dean for Information Resources & Technology and Associate Professor of Law at Phoenix School of Law in Phoenix, Arizona.





On the Front Lines Passing the Mantle of Leadership

Ken Hirsh

In addition to baseball and young men's fancies turning to love, Spring brings new leadership to many organizations. Our SIS just elected its new officers. Last month I assumed office as president of a regional law library association, a position which I have looked forward to filling. One of its duties is writing a column for the association newsletter. Writing two columns for nearly the same deadline, I began to wonder whether I could save time by writing the same column for both publications. I quickly decided against that. But the occasion does suggest leadership as a topic. As I noted above, our SIS just elected new leadership. As Chair Elect, Victoria Szymczak will follow June Liebert as chair next year. Our current chair, Kris Niedringhaus, will pass the gavel to June at our meeting in New Orleans.

What qualifications in a candidate help us to decide whom we want to lead us? Do we look at past performance? Level of volunteerism? Dedication to the group? Things we think we share in common? Skills that are complementary to others' abilities? Friendship? I suspect we could say all of these, and more. Once elected, what do we expect of a leader? Direction. New Ideas. A gentle tug or maybe a strong push. And more.

What do leaders expect of their organization's members? Maybe that is a tougher question to answer. Mostly, they are looking for members willing to take on responsibility for getting a job done. Invariably there is plenty of work to go around. In every organization in which I've ever participated, we've lamented that "the same people do the work every year." When I look at this SIS, I feel differently. There is a new crop of fresh faces each year. There are new candidates for office, new committee chairs and new committee members. I do not recognize many of the names I see in the newsletter. And that is a good thing. It shows this is not a stale organization, stuck in its ways; rather, it is a vital group, making room for new members and new ideas. Keep up the good work.



Ken Hirsh is Director of Computing Services and a Senior Lecturing Fellow at Duke University School of Law in Durham, North Carolina.





James G. Milles to Receive CS-SIS Kenneth J. Hirsh Distinguished Service Award

James E. Duggan

The CS-SIS Awards Committee (Susan Boland, James E. Duggan, Chair, and Eric Young) is pleased to announce that James G. Milles is the 2007 recipient of the CS-SIS Kenneth J. Hirsh Distinguished Service Award. Jim, Associate Dean for Legal Information Services, Director of the Charles B. Sears Law Library and Professor of Law at the University at Buffalo Law School, State University of New York, was nominated by a group of CS-SIS current and past chairs, including Liz Glankler, Dominick J. Grillo, Kenneth J. Hirsh, Sheri H. Lewis, June Hsiao Liebert, and Kristina L. Niedringhaus.



Jim is well known for his contributions to both CS-SIS and AALL. Jim served as chair of CS-SIS in 1996-1997 and was also AALL SIS Council Chair the following year. He was instrumental in negotiating the challenging and (in many members' opinion) long overdue change of the section's name from Automation and Scientific Development to Computing Services. After finishing his term on the CS-SIS Executive Board, Jim has continued to be an active member: "serving on numerous committees, attending meetings, participating in discussions, and contributing in thoughtful and valuable ways to the section's activities. Notably, he has been chair of the CS-SIS Recruitment and Involvement Committee for nearly ten years" (from the nomination letter).

Active in professional education for law librarians, Jim is regarded as a pioneer in promoting and demonstrating emerging technologies for the profession. He regularly conducts workshops and educational programs on technology, and has most recently espoused podcasting as a marketing and communication tool for law librarians.

According to his nominators: "one of Jim's most important contributions to law librarianship has been the role of mentor he has played for many colleagues and newcomers to the field. Jim regularly introduces new librarians to AALL, CS-SIS, and CALI gatherings and mentors students in his library school classes. He makes it a point at every annual meeting to set aside time to meet with new librarians and introduce them to the section."

In addition to his service to CS-SIS, Jim is currently active in the Association of Law Libraries of Upstate New York, and will begin a term as President of the AALL chapter in October 2007.

The 2007 CS-SIS Kenneth J. Hirsh Distinguished Service Award will be presented at the CS-SIS Business Meeting on Sunday, July 15, 2007, during the AALL Annual Meeting in New Orleans.



James E. Duggan is Director of Information Technology at Southern Illinois University School of Law Library in Carbondale, Illinois.





CS-SIS News

Congratulations to New CS-SIS Officers

The results of the 2007 CS-SIS elections are in:

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: Victoria Szymczak

Secretary/Treasurer: Jean Willis

Member at Large: Katie Jones



Grants Awarded for AALL Annual Meeting

Of the many worthwhile CS-SIS activities, the grants program for the AALL Annual Meeting is surely one of the most appreciated. Every year since 2000 CS-SIS has awarded registration grants to SIS members who show promise of making an exceptional contribution to the profession. This year our grant recipients are **Julie Jones**, from Cornell Law Library, and **Katie Jones**, from the Wyoming State Law Library.

Both Katie and Julie are relatively new to law librarianship, but both have already been very active in professional associations. Julie was on the Faculty Development committee of the Academic Law Libraries SIS, and this year is on AALL's Public Services committee. Katie has been very active with both WESTPAC and the SCCLL-SIS, and is also the new Member at Large for the CS-SIS. Both have been very active in incorporating new technology in to their workplaces as well. Julie and Katie will be attending the CS-SIS Breakfast Meeting in New Orleans, so please make a point to introduce yourself to them and congratulate them on their grants.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to fellow committee members Marin Dell, Frank Lima, and David Lehmann for their help with reviewing the applications.

Jim Gernert
Chair, CS-SIS Grants Committee



2007 CS-SIS Karaoke with Ken

Last year we moved karaoke to Saturday night, to yield time to the Centennial Variety Show on Tuesday. This year, for our 11th outing, with the annual meeting shortened by one night we have again set karaoke night for Saturday. There are two well-known bars on Bourbon Street that offer nightly karaoke. Razzoo is at 511 Bourbon Street and won "Best of Citysearch - Karaoke" in 2005. The other is Cat's Meow, at 701 Bourbon Street. Both will be jammed on a Saturday night, so be prepared for crowds and, if you are singing, a wait. We'll meet just outside the entrance to the Opening Event hosted by Lexis Nexis at 9:30 P.M. and head over to Bourbon Street. See you there.

Ken Hirsh
Chair, Ad Hoc Karaoke Committee





CS-SIS News (continued)

Top Ten Reasons for Attending the CS-SIS Business Meeting

Save the date! Sunday, July 15, 2007, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Here's my top ten for attending this year in NOLA:

10. It's cooler in here than out there.
9. The people are cooler in here than out there!
8. I can find out where this year's CS-SIS karaoke evening will be held.
7. It's a good time to check in with my old pals and make some new friends.
6. I can volunteer for fun CS-SIS activities.
5. It's interesting to match someone with their Second Life avatar.
4. Maybe someone will clue me in to where the Dancing SIS is meeting that night.
3. I can sign up for the CS-SIS table in the Exhibit hall, so I can grab the best give-aways (naaah, so I can let others know more about our group!).
2. So I can make contacts with other law librarians who have jobs similar to mine, and then I'll have a list of good folks to call for help and info later on (and with whom I can hang out at the conference).

aaaand, the number one reason why I'll be attending the business meeting:

1. Because I was just elected Secretary-Treasurer (thanks, guys!) and I have to take the minutes!

Most of these reasons actually ring true for me. I first started attending the CS-SIS Business meeting many years ago. I have made many good friends through this section, who have been helpful for answering questions, as well as for spending quality time at the conference exchanging info. And I do enjoy our section's various program sessions, roundtables and other events. Now I find myself honored to be elected Secretary-Treasurer, and I will be at this year's Business Meeting with bells on to take minutes.

Hope to see many of our section members at this year's Business Meeting in NOLA!

Jean Willis
Associate Director for Support Services
Sacramento County Public Law Library





Life on a Stick

Susan M. Boland

I have a confession to make. I do not travel with a laptop, PDA, or smart phone. Gasp! Yes, I know. How can I possibly live this way? Well, I have recently discovered the wonderful world of portable software. Yes, it does still require access to a computer. Assuming that little requirement is fulfilled, all I need is a portable USB stick drive and I don't have to depend on said computer possessing any of the software I use. It's all on the stick. Really.

So what kind of portable software is out there? My list of useful portable software for life on the stick will necessarily be Windows biased because, well, that's what I use. Rest assured, however, that portable software exists for other operating systems and many of the items on this list are cross platform. Furthermore, items on this list are . . . free (at least for home users)! My list is not comprehensive. There are many other portable applications out there, and I expect the list to grow as time goes on.

7-Zip Portable: http://portableapps.com/apps/utilities/7-zip_portable

A portable version of the compression and archive utility. Available as part of the Portable Apps suite.

DeepBurner Free Portable: http://www.deepburner.com/?r=products&pr=deepburner&prr=portable_edition

Create and burn CDs and DVDs from your USB drive.

GreatNews: <http://www.curiostudio.com/>

A portable RSS reader.

Monex: <http://sourceforge.net/projects/monexpe/>

Manage your finances without leaving information on the hard drive with this free open source software.

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Susan M. Boland is Research & Instructional Services Librarian at the David C. Shapiro Memorial Law Library, Northern Illinois University College of Law in DeKalb, Illinois.





Life on a Stick (continued from previous page)

Mozilla FireFox Portable: http://portableapps.com/apps/internet/firefox_portable

The computer doesn't have to have FireFox installed if you've got this on your USB drive. Even if it is installed, use this and still have access to all your bookmarks and extensions. Available as part of the Portable Apps suite.

Mozilla Thunderbird Portable: http://portableapps.com/apps/internet/thunderbird_portable

The Mozilla Thunderbird email client in a portable package. Available as part of the Portable Apps suite.

OpenOffice.org Portable: http://portableapps.com/apps/office/openoffice_portable

You get a word processor, spreadsheet, presentation maker, database, and more all on your USB drive. This is also available as part of the Portable Apps suite.

Portable Scribus: <https://sourceforge.net/projects/portablescribus/>

A portable version of Scribus, an open source desktop publishing application.

Sumatra PDF Portable: http://portableapps.com/apps/office/sumatra_pdf_portable

A PDF reader. Also available as part of the Portable Apps suite.

VLC Media Player: http://portableapps.com/apps/music_video/vlc_portable

A cross-platform media player for music and video. Also does streaming.

WikiOnaStick: <http://tiddlywiki.com/>

This is an application called Tiddlywiki. Once you download to your USB it becomes WikiOnaStick. Tiddlywiki is "a free MicroContent WikiWikiWeb . . . written in HTML, CSS and JavaScript to run on any modern browser without needing any ServerSide logic." It's open source under a BSD license. Now, maybe you don't normally use a wiki but this is great to use as a notebook, project management tool, photo album, contact list, recipe database, etc.

WOS Portable: <http://www.chsoftware.net/en/useware/wos/wos.htm>

WOS stands for Webserver On a Stick. Run Apache, MySQL, or PHP from a USB drive. Free under a GNU/GPL license.



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Life on a Stick (continued from previous page)

Where to find more portable software:

Fragstation: <http://fragstation.org>

Kikizas: <http://www.kikizas.net/en/usbapps.html>

No-Install: <http://www.no-install.com/>

PenDriveApps: <http://www.pendrivaapps.com/>

Portable Applications List: <http://www.quate.net/newsnet/read.php?30>

PortableApps.com: <http://portableapps.com/>

Home of the Portable Apps suite, a bundled collection of portable applications.

Portable Apps List: <http://portable-apps.subjectiv.com/page.php?5>

The Portable Freeware Collection: <http://www.portablefreeware.com/>

Wikipedia List of Portable Software: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_portable_software





Where is Your Library Going?

Kathy Coon

On April 12 I attended *Libraries on the Go: Handheld and Mobile Access to Information*, sponsored by the Tri-state College Library Cooperative. An LSCA grant made this program possible. Fun was added to the learning experience by a raffle for



digital cameras and iPods to introduce librarians to the technology their customers are using. I was the lucky recipient of a second generation Nano! Since then, my 14 year old daughter has talked me into getting an iTunes account and taught me how to copy music from my CD's and download podcasts. If you haven't been to iTunes yet, check out the excellent library related podcasts from SirsiDynix. They are FREE!

Most attendees were academic librarians, but the program was applicable to any information provider. Megan Fox, Web & Electronic Resources Librarian at Simmons College, shared her first-hand experiences with the audience. Her detailed slides and links are available from <http://web.simmons.edu/~fox/pda/>. I highly recommend spending some time exploring these resources. Even if you aren't a gadget person, you need to know what gadgets are available, what they look like and how people are using them.

Does your library have a section on its website for mobile users? Ball State University Libraries provide a good example of a mobile library site, located at <http://www.bsu.edu/libraries/mobile/>. Check out what Ask.com has made available for its customers at <http://m.ask.com>.

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Kathy Coon is Deputy Director at Jenkins Law Library in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

“the United States is five years behind Asia with respect to use of mobile devices”





Where is Your Library Going? (continued from previous page)

The following facts discussed during the program made me sit up and start to think about what types of information we need to provide at Jenkins Law Library, <http://www.jenkinslaw.org>, for our mobile members. Hours and directions come to my mind immediately.

- ◇ According to a recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education, e-mail is for older people.
- ◇ 4% of the population uses the mobile web while 62% are using text messaging.
- ◇ Text messaging has become very popular with college students. Many vendors are now promoting service plans with unlimited texting.
- ◇ If you want to offer text messaging to users, check out Joopz Web Texting, located at <http://www.joopz.com>. Joopz was created to make text messaging easier to use, more convenient and more accessible. Joopz allows users to send and receive text messages from the Web to both individuals and groups.
- ◇ The United States is 5 years behind Asia with respect to use of mobile devices.
- ◇ Some people can use cell phones better than a computer
- ◇ Once the battery power problem is solved, mobile device usage will increase dramatically.
- ◇ Watch for the rollup expandable screens that are being tested today. They may become the next generation newspaper.

Ready or not, *Mobile World*, here we come!



“... once the battery power problem is solved, mobile device usage will increase dramatically ...”





The One That Got Away

Christine Timko

She came in chewing gum furiously with her cell phone planted firmly on her ear. She marched right up to the reference desk, announcing that a friend told her that “she could get an order for like 20 cents or something that she could fill out.” I asked her what kind of order? She replied, “You know for like, tenants and stuff.” I asked, “like an eviction order?” Wrong thing to say. She definitely was not getting evicted! I asked her what she wanted the order for. She said she was renting a room in someone’s house and they told her to come and get an order to fill out. I asked, “what kind of order; did they mean a rental agreement or lease?” (During our interchange, she took three phone calls in rapid succession, a true multi-tasker.)

I tried to explain that we didn’t have pre-made, forms but I could show her an example of what I was talking about. I got the book out and showed her various forms. “But,” she exclaimed, “there are nothing but words here!” and took another phone call. When she turned to me again I asked her if the sample form would do. “I guess,” she replied, “since you don’t seem to know what I’m talking about. I thought you guys were supposed to know everything!” With that she took the sample form and went out the way she came in, talking furiously to someone on her cell phone about how dumb I turned out to be; didn’t even know what an order was. That really stung.

I obsessed over this reference interview. I asked for advice about how I should have handled it better. I wanted her to return so I could have a do-over. I looked through sources to see if I might have missed the “order” she wanted. I didn’t think about all the times I did have the right answer or the right form. Suddenly it struck me – I really don’t know everything. I can’t know everything. The reason that I enjoy my job so much is that I am learning something new every single day. If I knew everything it would be boring.

I am a newbie in the law library profession, although not to librarianship. I started in public libraries and serendipitously ended up in my present position as Assistant Law Librarian. Maybe because I am new to law librarianship this encounter really hit home. As a reference librarian I have an unwritten rule given to me by a mentor early in my career: “always try to give them something.” As a law reference librarian my goal is to give them what they can really use. I don’t know if I gave her something she could use, although I hoped so.

I am grateful that I had this reference interview because it made me realize that 1) I will not always have the right answer, and 2) there are people out there who think I know everything. So to the one that got away: Thank you, I appreciate the thought.



Christine Timko is Assistant Law Librarian at the Nevada Supreme Court Library in Carson City, Nevada.





AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF LAW LIBRARIES

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About *Connecting* . . .

Connecting... is the newsletter of the Computing Services Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries. *Connecting...* is published semiannually, and is available in PDF format from the AALL website, located at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/cssis/>.

This issue of *Connecting...* was edited by Eric W. Kistler, Head of Access and Electronic Services, Ehrhorn Law Library, Liberty University School of Law.



About the AALL Computing Services SIS

With members from all types of libraries, whose functions range from network and system administrators, lab supervisors, and webmasters to department heads and library directors, the Computing Services Special Interest Section serves the fastest-growing sector within law librarianship. Above all, Computing Services SIS members are law librarians dedicated to serving all the information needs of their library users with the aid of computing technologies.

