



Connecting...

The Newsletter of Computing Services SIS
American Association of Law Libraries



Blogging AALL 2003

Debbie Ginsberg, IIT Downtown Campus Library, Chicago-Kent College of Law

Volume 4, Issue 1
December, 2003

I had planned to tell you about all of the wonderful things I learned at the AALL Annual Conference in Seattle this year. I compiled detailed notes in every session I attended; fully believing I would later review them to discover marvelous insights and useful tidbits.

Unfortunately, all of my notes are handwritten. There's a reason I learned to use computers. It has something to do with the hope that some day there would be an OCR intelligent enough to decipher what can only be described -- on a good day -- as hieroglyphic chicken scratches.

It's a good thing I kept a blog, or writing about the conference for my fellow CS-SIS members would be something of a challenge! Thanks to CALI Radio Station 13 <http://mysite.teknoids.net/users/0000013>

I can revisit pithy critiques of the talks I heard, reread my comments on vendor give-aways, and grimace at my urgent pleading to please please please turn off cell phones during sessions. Keeping a blog helped me to focus on the most interesting ideas I heard at the conference and provided a forum for group discussions.



I started the blog in June for the CALI Conference for Law School Computing. Duke University School of Law is a wonderful place for laptop users with wireless access. During sessions I typed notes which I later condensed into blog entries. About a dozen other attendees also kept CALI Conference blogs. These turned out to be great hits. Every day the conference bloggers posted summaries and ideas. All of us commented on each other's insights. From our site statistics, we could see we weren't our only readers. Other attendees also read our blogs and participated in our online discussions.

I had such a good time keeping the CALI blog, I decided to continue the site when I attended AALL. I wasn't able to type notes on my laptop as I had at CALI, but I did have wireless access in my hotel so I posted new entries throughout the conference. I wasn't alone; another CALI blogger also wrote about her experiences at AALL and others joined us by adding comments.

Blogging the conferences gave me a great sense of participation even

(Continued on page 2)

In This Issue:

Blogging AALL 2003	1
CS-SIS Grant sends me to the Technical Briefing Workshop at AALL	2
Report on Internet Librarian 2003	3
UGA Law Library RFID Implementation	5
CS-SIS News	7-8
Message from the Chair	8
On the Front Lines	10
SIS Council Chair's Report	11
2003-04 Executive Board and Committee Assignments	12
CS-SIS Job Descriptions Database Milestone	13
CS-SIS Programs Accepted for the 2004 AAL Annual Meeting	13
Spotlight on the Justice Library	14



Happy Holidays
From the Editor of Connecting...



(Continued from page 1)

though I was not an official speaker or vendor. Rather than silently absorb what I had learned in my hotel room during breaks or at night, I was able to actively discuss new ideas right away. Better still, blogging was a lot of fun and greatly enhanced my enjoyment of what were already wonderful conferences. CS-SIS should organize a blogging community for next year's conference in Boston. We could use blogs to talk about the speakers, praise the food, organize karaoke contests, and plan next year's events. And, if we feel particularly energetic, we could continue to use these blogs throughout the year to recommend resources or discuss new ideas.

CS-SIS Grant sends me to the *Technical Briefing Workshop* at AALL

Cynthia Lewis, Hugh and Hazel Darling Law Library, UCLA School of Law

Last summer, I was fortunate to receive a CS-SIS grant to attend an AALL pre-conference workshop, *Technical Briefing: A Workshop for Academic Library IT Managers*. I have worked as a law librarian since 1991, but my responsibilities have taken a turn into the IT world. So being able to attend this workshop was very helpful as I learn more about managing IT for our library.

There were approximately 25 participants in the workshop including our 2 presenters, John Mayer and Elmer Masters, both from CALI, the Center for Computer Assisted Legal Instruction. As always, one of the most beneficial aspects of attending the workshop was the ability to sit with colleagues from other law schools and discuss approaches to handling IT issues.

In addition to meeting new colleagues, I also learned a number of important things during the workshop. One of our first tasks was to draw an organizational Venn diagram depicting how the IT department and the law library fit into the organizational structure at our institutions. Our situation at UCLA is somewhat complicated, and I was relieved to see that others produced equally complicated drawings. Some schools seem to have fairly independent IT departments and libraries while others rely heavily on their campus IT departments and library systems for services. There didn't seem to be one standard model, and everyone thought there was room for improvement in their environments. From there, we examined some technology trends. We talked about wireless and about how wireless has moved beyond being a trend. As John Mayer put it, if McDonald's and Starbuck's offer wireless access, then certainly law libraries and law schools should. From there, we talked about how IT services are becoming commodities. For example, videoconferencing is something that schools are starting to offer as a service, a service that others will pay to use. But we were reminded that new services require institutional change, and as many of us know, institutional change does not come easily. Another major trend discussed was the use of Content Management Systems (CMSs.)

John Mayer suggested that law libraries are the best equipped to be IT leaders because we have been dealing with CMS for years. After all, a CMS is a variation on a library OPAC (online public access catalog.)

As the workshop progressed, we also talked about project management. IT projects include more than just being able to use various technologies. These projects necessitate managing people, processes and products. In order to achieve success in an IT project, you have to think about your return on investment. For example, you might decide to put up a static web page. Once the page is



up, you will have to continually baby-sit that page. However, if you take the time to create a dynamic database driven website, you and your web page users will end up ahead of the game. CMS was also mentioned as a great tool to ease the bottlenecks associated with having to channel law school web content through one webmaster.

All in all, attending the workshop was a day well spent. I would like to thank Susan Boland and the CS-SIS Grant Committee for giving me the opportunity to attend the AALL Workshop.

Report on Internet Librarian 2003

Janet McKinney, Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.

I was disappointed when I learned that I wouldn't be able to attend the AALL annual meeting in Seattle this year. I've not been to Seattle, and I missed seeing AALL friends and colleagues. Compensation came later in the form of Internet Librarian 2003, in beautiful Monterey, California. I don't know whether it's a positive or a negative that we librarians have a number of excellent conferences from which to choose each year. If you have a chance to attend Internet Librarian (booked in Monterey for the next two years), I highly recommend it.

There were about 800 attendees, which I thought was a nice size – not so huge that you felt overwhelmed, but big enough that you didn't see the same people over and over again. There were 12 tracks over the course of the three days, with a total of 52 programs, 2 keynote sessions, an endnote session, and one evening session. All but one of the time slots had at least one program I wanted to attend. I also attended 3 pre-conference workshops. Some of the speakers were with major corporate libraries, such as Microsoft, Sun Microsystems and Nike. I haven't decided whether I'm inspired and encouraged or depressed by their innovative services!

Another positive aspect of Internet Librarian is that every speaker had a live Internet connection. The benefit of a commercial sponsor, I suppose. It was especially helpful during the "RSS/Blogging 101" workshop. Each table had a laptop, and each group at a table added a post to Steven Cohen's Weblog, "Library Stuff." Then each group created a Weblog and added at least one posting. Later in the session each group set up subscriptions, or channels, in Newzcrawler, an RSS aggregator already installed on the laptops.



Many of the speakers were luminaries in the law library and information technology worlds. Granted, AALL members aren't slouches when it comes to librarianship and technology, but we often don't enjoy hearing from so many experts outside law librarianship. Over the four days, some of the speakers I heard were Genie Tyburski, Steven Cohen, Jenny Levine, Mary Ellen Bates, Chris Sherman, Cindy Chick, Rich Wiggins, Stephen Abram, and Barbara Quint. There were other speakers that I didn't see but recognize as authors of columns I read regularly. I thought it was great that so many law librarians were speakers. In addition to those already mentioned, they included Barbara Fullerton, Sabrina Pacifici, and Tom Fleming.

One corner of the exhibit hall was set up as a small classroom, where there were 12 "Cybertours" offered. These were 15-minute sessions on a variety of topics. I attended 2 of them (Online Trends from the CyberCorner with Mary Ellen Bates and Delivering Research Results Electronically with

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

Cindy Chick), and I enjoyed both and think it's a great concept. However, I was disappointed in the exhibit hall. I suppose I shouldn't be surprised, but there were only 33 exhibitors. Most of them held little interest for me in my position. I did scout around for news feed vendors, with a little bit of success, and I saw VTLS' new system that uses FRBR-ized records. [Let me recommend right now to all you CS members that you read up on IFLA's *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records* (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/frbr/frbr.pdf>) This will have a major impact on library systems if adopted.]

Most of the presentations will eventually be posted on Information Today's Website, and a CD recording of the conference will be offered for sale, so I won't take the time and space to go into details. But I'd like to give you some highlights.

I can't count the number of times I heard "XML" each day. The strongest statement about it was made by Stephen Abram during the keynote address on technology trends. I didn't get it verbatim, so I'll paraphrase – If your ILS doesn't use XML in the next 18 months, your users won't be able to find your OPAC. His reason? Ubiquitous WiFi access. Here are some of Abram's technology trends of the future:

- Workflow integration (federated search, OCLC WorldCat & Google integration, link resolvers & OpenURL)
- Massive archives
- Nomadic use
- Learning on the run (he said we need to switch to managing the learning ecology)
- Visual display (most people learn visually and experientially)
- Personality and searching (different personalities search differently)

Chris Sherman's "(R)Evolution of Search Engines: Update" program was very interesting. Here are just a few points:

- AltaVista and AllTheWeb were supposed to merge the weekend of the conference, with the best technologies of both, but it didn't happen. He expects one of them to disappear soon.
- Google is completely rewriting its spider code; look for some changes.
- Vertical search is getting good
- Take a look at Yahoo! Shopping. There's a feature called SmartSort that changes the results list dynamically based on your choice of preferences presented above the results list.
- MSN and search – the goal is to make Windows a search-centric environment (does that surprise any of us?)
- What's hot?
 - o Local search
 - o Personal search; search the Blogosphere, DART
 - o Natural language
- Keep an eye on:
 - o Overture research
 - o Amazon's K9 project – search engine
 - o "nutch", an open source search engine project
-





Declines:

- o Directories
- o Metadata; only Inktomi is still using metadata for indexing
- o Semantic Web

I attended a pre-conference workshop on “extreme” searching, but I was disappointed. One tip I did come away with is the use of Teoma to identify “resource guides” (collections of links on specific topics). They are identified as “Experts’ Links” on a results page.

Cindy Chick’s Cybertour on delivering research electronically was full of practical ideas. You can get the handout and slides at <http://lawlibtech.com/presentations/adobe.pdf>

Finally, when the presentations are available at the ITI site, be sure to look for anything by Mary Ellen Bates!

Anyone wishing to view some of the presentations given at the conference can follow this link: <http://www.infotoday.com/il2003/presentations/default.htm>

UGA Law Library RFID Implementation
by Carol A. Watson, Reference/Computing Services Librarian

The Alexander Campbell King Law Library at the University of Georgia School of Law is currently implementing Checkpoint’s Intelligent Library System (ILS) radio frequency id (RFID) technology for security, circulation and inventory functions.

What is RFID?

The RFID Journal (<http://www.rfidjournal.com>) defines RFID as technology that uses radio waves to identify individual items.

How does RFID work?

RFID generally has two components - a tag, which is made up of a microchip with a coiled antenna and a reader with an antenna. Typical readers in a library setting include security gates, circulation pads or handheld inventory devices. The reader sends out electromagnetic waves that form a magnetic field when "coupled" with the antenna on the RFID tag. A passive RFID tag draws power from this magnetic field and uses it to power the microchip’s circuits. The chip then modulates the waves that the tag sends back to the reader and the reader converts the new waves into digital data.

Note RFIDs can be either active or passive. Active RFIDs have long read ranges and contain internal batteries to power their functions. They are generally used for large scale transportation and warehouse inventory functions. Passive RFIDs are used for library functions. Since passive RFIDs obtain their power from readers (such as security gates), librarians do not have to worry about battery life.

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

What are the library uses for RFID?

- RFID allows us to provide **quick and efficient circulation transactions**. Library materials are instantaneously checked out and checked in by a simple swipe of items over a large tag pad. Our staff do not have to open books to scan a bar code. Nor do we have to visually line up a bar code scanner with a bar code. Additionally multiple items can be checked out with a single swipe over our tag pad. If an RFID scanner is placed in a book drop box, all items in it can be checked in as soon as they're returned.
- Similarly, since library materials are easily checked out by swiping materials over a pad, **self-check stations are user-friendly**.
- RFID provides **detailed security information**. Each library item has an RFID tag affixed to it that is associated with the bar code of the item. As library materials are passed through our security gates we know exactly what item is exiting the facility and whether it has been checked out.
- RFID offers **advanced and accurate inventory tools**. Using a handheld reader similar to a PDA, library staff can obtain inventory data by passing the device near each library shelf. The handheld device can be programmed to search for missing items. It will also alert the library staff to items which are not in correct call number order. Inventory tasks can be completed in a fraction of the time it takes to conduct an inventory by hand.

What are the realities of RFID?

- RFID tags are **expensive**. Typically the cost of a single RFID tag is between \$0.60 and \$1.00. Bar codes and magnetic strips are still substantially cheaper than RFID tags. Within the next few years, as RFID becomes more commonly used in typical retail transactions, the price of tags is expected to drop.
- For our library, it has been **time-consuming** to program and place RFID tags on all of our library materials. Our RFID tags are "dumb." We scan a book's bar code and use an RFID tag programmer to write the bar code to the RFID's microchip. The RFID tag is placed on the library material. As a final step, we cover the library tags with a book plate sticker.
- For inventory purposes, the **read range is somewhat limited**. We had dreams of roaming the hallways and passing faculty offices with our handheld reader. Unfortunately, the handheld device must be within 6-8 inches of RFIDs in order to be effective.

If we had it to do over again, would we select RFID technology over a traditional security system? Absolutely. RFID technology allows us to achieve multiple goals with a single technology. We anticipate that additional uses of RFID technology will emerge as the technology becomes more pervasive in retail markets.

Additional Information

Library RFID Vendors:

3M - <http://cms.3m.com/cms/US/en/2-115/cerueFD/view.jhtml>

Checkpoint - <http://www.checkpointsystems.com/content/rfid/default.aspx>

<http://www.checkpointsystems.com>

Libramation - http://www.libramation.com/prod_radio.html

VTLS - <http://www.vtls.com/Products/rfid/>



CS-SIS NEWS

PDA Raffle

Joe Orth won the drawing for a Dell Axim PDA held by the CS-SIS at the AALL annual meeting. Congratulations, Joe! In all, 52 people entered the drawing by filling out our online member survey. An additional 144 AALL members entered the drawing by stopping by our table in the convention center activities area and filling out an entry slip, many of them indicating an interest in joining our SIS and getting involved in committee work. Remember, it's not too late to join a CS-SIS committee! To sign up, contact CS-SIS Chair **Don Arndt** at donald.arndt@utoledo.edu



Roundtable Discussion

Thanks to all those who participated in the CS-SIS Roundtable on Web Design and Maintenance, held in Seattle on July 15th. Special thanks to **Susan Boland**, CS-SIS Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, who organized this event and facilitated the discussion. The roundtable was a success, with topics ranging from accessibility issues, to database driven pages, to managing electronic journals. Be sure and join us for our roundtable next year!

Mentoring Opportunities

This past summer, we initiated a drive to pair newer CS-SIS members with experienced members. Our goal is to promote computing services as a rewarding career path in law librarianship, provide a friendly face in the crowd, and help the newer members learn the ropes, meet new people, and get involved in our organization. So far, the mentees and mentors in this project include the following: **Lisa White, Jean Willis, Sheri Lewis, John Johnson, Don Arndt, Maryellen O'Brien, Janet McKinney, June Liebert, Will Monroe, Ken Hirsh, Deborah Ginsberg, Akram Pari, Cynthia Lewis, and Susan Boland.**



New Committees Created

We have added three new committees this year: the Mentoring, Adaptive Technologies, and Membership committees.

The Mentoring Committee will be pushing forward our mentoring initiative outlined above. If you would like to take part as either a mentor, or a mentee, contact committee chair **Jim Milles** at jgmilles@buffalo.edu.

The Adaptive Technologies Committee will help us all to make use of new adaptive technologies on the market by evaluating the hardware and software available in this area, as well as producing



bibliographies of books and articles on the topic. If you would like to help in this effort, contact committee chair **Ryan Overdorf** at ryan.overdorf@utoledo.edu .

The Membership Committee's main task will be recruiting experts on various technologies to act as guides to those resources for the larger law library community. If you are interested in either working on this committee, or being on our "experts list," contact committee chair **Eric Young** at younge@exchange.nku.edu.

Expect exciting developments from these groups. They join our existing standing and special committees listed on our "Officers and Committees" Web page at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/cssis/officers/officers.html>

Bylaws Amendments Approved at 2003 CS-SIS business meeting

The bylaws, as amended, on our web site at http://www.aallnet.org/sis/cssis/bylaws/bylaws_current.html

Message from the Chair

Connecting a few dots & random thoughts...

Following up on Debbie Ginsberg's cool article on Blogging AALL 2003 (see this issue of Connecting... at pages 1-2), she suggests that CS-SIS should organize a blogging community for next year's conference in Boston. I love this idea! Going along with this train of thought, what's the best device to facilitate such communication at next year's conference? A small wireless network? Infrared access points? Bluetooth? You guys are the techies who could make it happen. Assuming it's okay with the conference organizers, we could rent the equipment and put it in place. Sound off and share your ideas. Let's get a discussion going about it on cssis-l@aallnet.org.

Following up on Janet McKinney's excellent report on Internet Librarian 2003 held in November in Monterey, California (see this issue of Connecting... at pages 3-5), Vicki Szymczak attended this conference as well. In a recent e-mail exchange we had, Vicki was telling me about the "cybertours" they had set up in the exhibition hall. As Janet reported, these were 15-minute sessions on a variety of topics. Usually the speakers were conference organizers, or conference speakers that expanded on one aspect of a larger presentation given earlier in the program. Just as Janet enjoyed them, Vicki said she really liked these tours and thought they would go over big at AALL. Specifically, she's thinking about our CS-SIS table in the activities area. Perhaps members who didn't get their program proposals selected might be willing to do a short 15-minute presentation? Or maybe a newer member or CS scholarship winner would want to do one? I agree with her--this is a great idea! If you think so too, and would like to take part, please drop Vicki a line at victoria.szymczak@brooklaw.edu.

Following up on point #4 in the SIS Council Chair's Report on the AALL Executive Board meeting on November 8, 2003 (see this issue of Connecting... at page 11), the point is made that SISs may have an expanded role in AALL's new career development program. This reminds me of a conversation I had at AALL last summer with CS-SIS member John Joergensen. His argument to



On the Front Lines By Ken Hirsh

From One Challenging Fall to the Next



For us at Duke Law the beginning of the fall semester was the toughest four weeks we've ever experienced in Computing Services. I suspect this was true for many of you as well. We were warned by Microsoft in August that the Windows operating systems were vulnerable to a newly discovered hack, but we did not have a centralized management solution in place. When LoveSan/Blaster and Nechi/Welchia attacked, we were brought to our knees. Then, in a matter of days, SoBig.F hit and our e-mail anti-virus scanner could not keep up. Within 24 hours we had more than 30,000 message fragments waiting to be processed. At the Duke University main e-mail servers more than 4 million virus generated messages swamped the servers in less than 24 hours. Fortunately, when we communicated to our user base the gravity of the problems they were understanding and patient. By the end of the week we had replaced our anti-virus hardware and were caught up on the SoBig invasion. It took longer to track down all the computers that needed the Windows patches, and although we now have a centralized patch management service in place (Bigfix Enterprise, <http://www.bigfix.com>), there are still some infected computers to be found. Many of our students still have not patched their own computers, despite our pleas and the fact the university will kick them off the wireless network after a few warnings.

In addition to our malware woes, we were unprepared for the level of demand from our new and returning students. We provide extensive support to them, and for reasons yet unclear more of them needed help at the beginning of the year than ever before. And this is help beyond the setup/orientation sessions we routinely give our 1L students. Perhaps the term "computer ownership requirement" really sunk in with this year's entrants.

Many of you who attended the CALI meeting complimented us for how smoothly things ran. If you were here the first week of September you would have seen crisis mode in action.

We're still digesting what happened then, but we're already planning how to handle things differently next year, including putting on temporary help for a longer time and devoting as much effort to planning the beginning of a school year as we did for hosting a major conference.

Another challenge will confront each of us next fall – the U.S. presidential election. Although I have very strong feelings about the contest I believe this publication is not the appropriate place to air them. So I will find another place to make my stand. But I will ask each of you to begin looking at the issues if you are not already doing so, and through the long primary season and then the general election campaign please pay attention to the real issues, not the red herrings, and vote your conscience next November 2nd.

Joke of the Month:

How many programmers does it take to change a light bulb?

None. That's a hardware problem.





SIS Council Chair's Report on the AALL Executive Board meeting on November 8, 2003

The following is a report of actions or discussions of the Board that relate to SIS's:

1. The Board approved the EXTENSION OF CHAPTER VIP PROGRAM TO ALLOW EACH SIS TO SPONSOR UP TO TWO VIPs A YEAR. In light of budget considerations, this program will be available for SISs starting with the 2005 Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Each SIS will be eligible to send two VIPs to the 2005 meeting. AALL will cover registration, the Opening Event, Association luncheon, and Closing Banquet. The sponsoring SIS will need to decide whether it will provide financial support for transportation and hotel, or whether the VIP's firm, institution or association will pay some or all of those expenses. SISs can sponsor a VIP with other SISs or with Chapters. I would like to thank Charles Dyer and the State, Court & County SIS for the work in bringing this proposal forward and in providing excellent documentation of the value of this proposal.
2. The Board approved a recommendation of the AALL Executive Board Finance and Budget Committee to INCREASE SIS DUES FROM \$12 TO \$15, starting with the 2004 payments. As you know, the annual SIS dues are currently split 50-50 between each SIS and AALL. Half of the increase, therefore, will go to the individual SISs; the other half will support AALL's budgetary needs.
3. The Board *did not* approve a recommendation of the AALL Executive Board Finance and Budget Committee to charge SISs and Chapters a \$50 activities area fee for tables in the activities area.
4. The Board discussed the recently completed Career Development and Needs Assessment Survey. The Career Development Task Force will be reporting to the Board in April regarding the results of this Survey. SISs and Chapters may have an expanded role in the new career development program.

D.R. Jones
Chair, SIS Council, 2003-04



Members of the Computing Services Special Interest Section waiting for the annual business meeting to begin.



Our first entry into the drawing for a PDA.



CS-SIS 2003-2004 Executive Board and Committee Assignments

Executive Board

Don Arndt, Chair
Susan Boland, Vice Chair/Chair Elect
Victoria Szymczak, Secretary/Treasurer
Kris Niedringhaus, Member-at-Large
June Liebert, Member-at-Large
Liz Glankler, Immediate Past Chair

Adaptive Technologies Committee

Ryan Overdorf, Chair
Roy Balleste

Awards Committee

Jean Willis, Chair
Sheri Lewis
James Duggan
Roy Balleste

Bylaws Committee

Ken Hirsh, Chair
Dominick Grillo
Darin Fox
Will Monroe

Grants Committee

Susan Boland, Chair
Eric Young
Robert Jacoby
Debbie Ginsberg
Brandi Ledferd
Cynthia Lewis

Membership Committee

Eric Young, Chair
John Johnson

Mentoring Committee

Jim Milles, Chair
Cynthia Lewis
Don Arndt
Sheri Lewis
Jean Willis
Ken Hirsh
Will Monroe
Debbie Ginsberg

Mentoring Committee, continued

Susan Boland
Kris Niedringhaus
June Liebert
John Johnson, Chair
Maryellen O'Brien
Janet McKinney
Akram Pari
Lisa White

Nominations Committee

Liz Glankler, Chair
Eric Young
Sheri Lewis
Vicki Szymczak

Program Planning Committee (for the 2005 Annual Meeting)

Susan Boland, Chair
Jean Willis
Hadi Amjadi
Darcy Jones
Vicki Szymczak
Sally Irvin
Kris Niedringhaus

Publications Committee

Eric Kistler, Chair
Ken Hirsh
Will Monroe
Liz Glankler

Recruitment & Involvement Committee

Vicki Szymczak, Chair
Liz Glankler
Susan Wolford
June Liebert
James Gernert

Roundtable Planning/Coordinating Committee

Susan Boland, Chair
Maryanne Gerber



Strategic Planning Committee

Kris Niedringhaus, Chair
Darin Fox

Liaison to AALL

Sally Irvin

Job Description Database

Don Arndt
Robert Linz

Webmaster

June Liebert

Historians

Assigned to members-at-large:
June Liebert, Chair
Kris Niedringhaus

Breakfast Speaker Recruitment Specialist

Sheri Lewis

Technology Competencies Committee

Sally Irvin, Chair
Deborah Webster
Judith Kaul
John Johnson

Web Development Committee

June Liebert, Chair
Robert Jacoby
Eric Kistler
Darcy Jones
Debbie Ginsberg
Kris Niedringhaus

CS-SIS Job Descriptions Database Milestone

The CS-SIS Job Descriptions Database now has over 600 postings. The database is designed to be a helpful tool that potential employers can use to create job descriptions for their own institutions. In other words, it is for job posters, rather than job seekers. If you would like to take a look at our collection of model job descriptions, point your browser toward the CS-SIS web site, <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/cssis/home.html> , and click on the "Job Descriptions Database" link. The data is currently organized by job category and is searchable by keyword. You can also register to receive e-mail notification of new job descriptions as they're posted to the database.

CS-SIS Programs Accepted for the 2004 AALL Annual Meeting

The CS-SIS Program Planning Committee submitted an impressive array of program proposals to the 2004 AALL Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC) this past August. The section should be proud—all of the proposals were strong and were ranked well by AMPC. The programs selected for presentation in Boston are:

- creativecommons.org and Publishing in the Digital Age
- Designing Artificial Intelligence-Based Agents for Your Reference Desk
- Beyond the Traditional Curriculum: How to Create and Teach a Law Practice Technology Course
- Translating the World Wide Web: Selecting and Using Website Translation Software



Stay tuned for more information about these programs, as we get closer to the annual meeting. Thanks to all of the folks who submitted proposals for their enthusiastic participation and great



ideas: **Roy Balleste, Susan Boland, Sally Irvin, Rob Jacoby, Brent Johnson, Sheri Lewis, June Liebert, Rich McCue, Kris Niedringhaus, Maureen Shepard, Vicki Szymczak, and Eric Young.** Thanks also to our CS-SIS Program Planning Committee members for their hard work in reviewing all of the draft proposals and coming up with insightful suggestions to help improve them: **Susan Boland, Sally Irvin, Kris Niedringhaus, Vicki Szymczak, Jean Willis, and Janet McKinney** (our liaison to AMPC).

Spotlight on the Justice Library

Jan Oberla, U.S. Department Of Justice Main Library

The U.S. Justice Department Library recently had the opportunity to market our services and do some instruction in a new way - new to us anyway. We've just completed the filming of some library programs that are appearing on a closed circuit television station geared towards employee training and information.

The library has arranged for 12 programs, one each month beginning in October. The first featured an introduction to the library system, a tour of the Main Library and explanation of the major collections and services offered. Parts 2 and 3 will be an in-depth demonstration of electronic resources made available through the library intranet, which we call the Virtual Library. We will focus primarily on licensed databases available on the intranet. Viewers will be able to look over the shoulder of one of our reference librarians and see a variety of products close up, from Hein-On-Line to the "Yellow book" directories and more. Each product has it's own quirks, of course, and employees around the country cannot always attend classes in person. Librarian-tested websites, research resources and guides, and the online library catalog are shown as well.

We are using this medium for marketing purposes as well as instruction, as it can be difficult to inform the far-flung offices, boards, and divisions of DOJ about the many resources and services we provide. The filming will allow people to tune in as interested and also let us re-use the information for anyone who wants to view the video at a later time.



Other programs will be filmed versions of training classes we offer regularly: Legislative History, Information on U.S. Companies, Expert Witnesses, Overview of U.S. Attorneys Office Libraries and Services, Public Records, Searching the World Wide Web, Treaties, and Environmental Resources.



Halloween Happenings:

One of our members, Jennifer Rish, dressed as Gene Simmons from the band Kiss.

Connecting...

Liz Glankler, Editor
Vol. 4, #1, December, 2003
Email: glankler@slu.edu