The LLMC-Digital Newsletter

Issue 36 August 18, 2009

Contents:

Report on the 2009 Annual LLMC Meeting

LLMC has held annual meetings for its member libraries during the annual AALL conventions since 1978. Our 32nd annual meeting was held at AALL in Washington, D.C. The meeting was conducted under rules adopted at the 2003 meeting, when LLMC's fiche–era libraries voted to transfer control of the Consortium's assets and their accumulated voting rights to *LLMC-Digital's* Charter Members. As usual, the main business of the annual meeting was elections for new members of LLMC's two governing bodies: our Board of Directors and Advisory Council.[1] The voting rights for delegates' reflected each library's subscription status to *LLMC-Digital.* Some 48 representatives of the 265 Charter Member libraries attended.

Elections 2009: In the Board of Directors election two full-term, four-year slots were open due to the completed terms of **Bruce Johnson,** Dir., Ohio State U.L.L., and **Betsy Mckenzie,** Dir., Suffolk U.L.L.. The outgoing Board of Director's nominees for these two positions were **Joe Hinger,** Hd.Tech.Serv. at St. John's U.L.L., and **Judith Wright,** Dir., U.Chi. L.L. Both were elected by acclamation. An additional, two-year vacancy due to the resignation of **Marian Parker,** who was appointed to an AALL position which creates a conflict of interest, was filled by the unanimous election of **Darin Fox,** Dir., U. Oklahoma L.L., to complete her term.

In the election for Councilors, six slots were open due to term expirations for **Glen-Peter Ahlers,** Dir., Barry U.L.L.; **Herb Cihak,** Dir., U.Ark.-Fayettville L.L.; **Joe Hinger,** Hd. Tech. Serv., St.John'sU.L.L.; **Ann Morrison,** Dir., Dalhousie U.L.L.; **Lee Peoples,** Libn., Okla. City U.L.L.; and **Jules Winterton,** Dir., Insti. Adv. Leg. Studies L.L. (UK). Elected were **Steve Anderson,** Dir., Md. St.L.L., **Dragomir Cosanici,** Dir., La.St.U.L.L.; **Janis Johnston,** Dir., U.Ill. L.L.; **Ralph Monaco,** Hd.Libn. NY Law Insti.; **Scott Pagel,** Dir. GWU.L.L.; **Richard Tuske,** Hd. Libn., Assn. Bar CNY L.L.; & **Sally Wise,** Dir. U.Miami L.L.. Given her Board election, **Glen-Peter Ahlers** was selected to fill out the two years remaining in Judith Wright's AC term. Our full leadership in 2009/2010 is listed below.[2]

[1] The 18-person Advisory Council constitutes a representative group available to provide advice to the Board when major issues come up on short notice. The terms of service are not onerous, since the Board refers questions to the Council only sporadically. However, when it has been needed, the "sounding board" mechanism has proved quite useful. While we sometimes get out of sync due to resignations, etc., typically a third of the Council seats fall vacant each year.

[2] *(Final year for each term follows the name.)*

— Board of Directors:

Richard Amelung *Asso.Dir., St.Louis U.L.L. (10)*
Darin Fox *Dir., U.Oklahma L.L. (11)*
Jonathan Franklin Asso.*Dir., U.Wash. L.L. (12)*
Barbara Garavaglia *Asst.Dir., U.Mich. L.L. (12)*
Joe Hinger *Hd.Tech.Serv., St. John's U.L.L. (13)*
Stuart Ho Atty. *(Represents Univ. of Hawaii)*
Kathleen Richman *LLMC Exec. Dir. (ex officio)*
Regina Smith *Dir., Jenkins Memorial L.L. (11)*
Julia Wentz *Dir., Loyola-Chicago L.L. (10)*
Judith Wright *Dir., U.Chicago L.L. (13)*

— Advisory Council:

Glen-Peter Ahlers *Dir., Barry U.L.L. (11)*
Steve Anderson *Dir., Maryland State Law Lib. (12)*
John Barden *Dir., Maine Law & Leg.Ref Lib. (11)*
Dragomir Cosanici *Dir., Louisiana State U.L.L. (12)*
Joel Fishman *Dir.Law.Serv., Duquesne U.L.L. (10)*
Judith Gaskell *Dir. U.S.Sup.Ct.L. (11)*
Jolande Goldberg *Sen. Cat. Policy Spec., L.C. (10)*
Janis Johnston *Dir., U.Ill. L.L. (12)*
Marcia Koslov *Dir., Los Angeles Cnty .L.L. (10)*
Ralph Monaco *Hd. Libn., N.Y. Law Insti. L.L. (12)*
Margaret Leary *Dir., U.Mich. L.L. (10)*
Marie Newman *Dir., Pace U.L.L. (11)*
Scott Pagel *Dir., George Washington U.L.L. (12)*
Jeanne Price *Dir., U.Nevada-Las Vegas L.L. (10)*
Ann Rae *Dir. Ret. U.Toronto L.L. (10)*
Carol Roehrenbeck *Dir., Rutgers-N. U.L.L. (11)*
Richard Tuske *Hd. Libn., Assn.Bar C.N.Y. L.L. (12)*
Sally Wise *Dir., U.Miami L.L. (12)*

In concluding our report on the 2008 LLMC elections, on behalf, we feel sure, of the whole LLMC community, we want to express our most sincere thanks to **Betsy Mckenzie** and **Bruce Johnson** for their recent service on the Board, and service before that on the Advisory Council. Sincere thanks also to **Glen-Peter Ahlers, Herb Cihak, Ann Morrison,** & **Lee Peoples,** for their service on the Council and to **Jules Winterton** for ten years of service on first the Council, then the Board, and then again the Council.

LLMC-Digital Pricing in 2009/2010

The LLMC Board adopted its present pricing policy in July of 2007. At that time it was decided to enact a substantial price rise to compensate for the fact that the subscription rates for *LLMC-Digital* hadn't risen in the five years since its founding. At the same time the Board announced a policy of future annual price rises tied to the annual inflation rate. This longer range policy was adopted, both to help us avoid the need for a big price rise in any one future year, and also to give our subscribers a steady pattern upon which they could plan their future budgets.

Because there has been virtually no inflation in this past fiscal period, and in consideration of the impact the current economy has had on the budgets of most LLMC members, the Board decided at its July meeting to forego any price increases during the July 2009 to June 2010 period.

Emerging Partnership with Fastcase

The LLMC Board and staff seriously pursue any potential opportunities for maximizing our resources through appropriate and lawful partnerships with other data providers. One such partnership has now begun to take shape with Fastcase Accelerated Legal Research, a digital law publisher headquartered in Washington, D.C. and operating in multiple states.

As many of our readers know, Fastcase specializes in providing practicing lawyers with current law, especially their state's case-law. In several states Fastcase operates in partnership with the state bar, providing the bar associations with a service that can enhance their outreach programs for their membership. Recently LLMC, Fastcase and others bid separately on an RFP for that type of partnership relationship with the California State Bar. Our bid was declined on the ground that the Bar's first priority was to provide current California materials to their members. However, the Bar also expressed great interest in the strength of our historical runs, which they felt were complementary to the offerings those competitors who focused on more current data. We were advised to pair up with such a partner and come back with a new bid; with the LLMC titles constituting a "premium level" for bar members subscribing to the basic package. That new bid is now under consideration, and this explains our potential partnership with Fastcase in the California context. In addition, we are also exploring similar linkups with Fastcase in other states where they have operations.

This sort of revenue-raising opportunity enables us to maximize the return on our initial investment in digitizing our own titles. In general, in those cases where we sell or "rent" copies of our titles, our negotiating goal is to raise at least enough money to pay for the scanning of an equivalent amount of material. Given our non-profit status, it is of course that all funds raised are plowed right back into our basic program to help us to achieve our wider goals that much more quickly.

Progress on CA Records & Briefs Project

As most readers know, LLMC and the Los Angeles County Law Library are partnered in a project aimed at scanning all of the California Records and Briefs.[3] We are now past the planning and set-up stages of the project, and think that we have the systems working well with most of the glitches worked out. Production has now begun in earnest. The general

[3] The scale of this project is wildly unprecedented in the LLMC experience. Volume count is estimat-ed at 77,000 volumes and growing. The marathon-ers among us will appreciate another statistic. The amount of shelving devoted to housing the current collection now tops out at over 26,400 linear feet --- that's five miles! Shelving units are spread six-teen sections across and stretch the full length of a city block! Right now all sides anticipate a project length of about seven years, although we hope that the rate of scanning may be accelerated as more re-sources become available.

plan has the scanning proceeding backward chronologically. At this point, most of the year 2009 has now been scanned, and we hope to have those materials processed and up on *LLMC-Digital* by the end of this year.[4]

Progress on NY Records & Briefs Project

Regular readers already know that LLMC has another records and briefs scanning project going with a second partner; in this case the New York Records and Briefs in partnership with Google.[5] That project is now in the last stages of its set-up phase, with everything being taken slowly so as to work out all the bugs before putting through major quantities of materials. Also, since it is anticipated that the LLMC/Google partnership will move on later to the R&B for other states, the methods devised for the N.Y. materials will be an impor-tant precedent for handling other states.

The two remaining obstacles to full-on production with the N.Y. materials are the problem of foldouts and other off-size exhibits, which abound in this type of literature, and the need to devise the metadata required for retrieval of the content online. The foldout problem, at least on this scale, was a new experience for Google. A sampling of the first 8,000 volumes processed found that almost half of the volumes have at least one foldout, preventing a smooth progression down the standard Google scanning lines. We think that a viable solution has now been identified and that approach is now being tested. Basically it involves detaching the foldouts and diverting them into a separate scanning flow, with the resulting images being melded back into the main digital stream at a later stage. Working out this problem with the N.Y. materials will probably result in revised processes when we get to other states, with the foldouts being extracted from the flow before the books leave the donor libraries.

The metadata problem is even more complicated. The goal is to devise solutions applicable to the peculiarities of the N.Y. data that will also have universal application as we move to additional states. The parameters of these metadata solutions haven't all been identified yet. However, insofar as LLMC is concerned, we are insisting that one essential requirement for the metadata will be an abil-ity to retrieve materials by case citation for access via *LLMC-Digital.* Of course, the mas-sive searching ability provided by the Google infrastructure may well uncover additional fantastic retrieval opportunities hitherto undreamed of. And we'll all rejoice for that if it happens. But going in we want to be sure that the retrieval of these materials, at least on our site, is via techniques familiar to our main patron base.

Scanning *The Congressional Record*

Our partnership with Google was never intended to be limited solely to records and briefs. Both Google and LLMC are interested in moving to other types of material, and we, in particular, are interested in using this resource to digitize very large titles that would consume disproportionate amounts of our available production capacity should we attempt to scan them by ourselves. One such title is *The Congressional Record.* Google is now testing a random selection of volumes from this title. If those tests go well, we hope to move *The Congressional Record* into production in Mountainview this fall and have all of the volumes, 1873-date, up on line early in 2009. Naturally, as with our fiche version of this title, we will also offer the three

---

[4] Visitors to the LLMC booth at AALL were able to view and play with a prototype of the special search interface that will be mounted on *LLMC-Digital* just to handle the special requirements of the California Records and Briefs data. This dedicated interface will normally be invisible to most *LLMC-Digital* patrons, activating only when one is actually using the CA-R&B materials. LLMC would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our technical partner, NBS, for providing the interactive display and backup equipment that enhanced the learning experience for those delegates who visited the LLMC booth at AALL.

[5] As with the CA-R&B, the NY-R&B constitute an enormous quantity of literature. Volume count estimates are harder to make, since the historical materials are held in three different formats: oldest in paper, ca. 48,000 volumes; middle years in microfilm, ca. 22,000 volumes; and latest years in microfiche, ca. 14,000 volumes. Since that totals to ca. 84,000 volumes, the NY total is at least as large as the California quantum, the equivalent of roughly an additional five more miles worth of hardcopy shelving.

predecessor series: *Annals of Congress,* 1789-1824, *Congressional Debates,* 1824-37, and *Congressional Globe,* 1833-73.

We think that we have very good hardcopy located for *The Congressional Record* and its predecessors. However, we have been in this game long enough to know that inevitably there will be missing pages, etc. So don't throw anything away until we announce that the project is fully completed. In addition, after we finish *The Congressional Record*, we are thinking of moving the Google/LLMC focus on to *CFR* and *The Federal Register*. We could definitely use donor libraries for both of these titles and would appreciate your contacting us if you have a copy that is in reasonably good physical shape and which you would be willing to "weed to digital".

Donations Committee Formed

One of the actions taken by your Board during its recent meeting was to form a "Donations Committee". The Board's reasoning was that, since LLMC is in both law and practice a non-profit corporation, we might as well get organized to let people know about that status and to try to take advantage of whatever generosity might be inclined to flow our way. The objective of this new committee will be to develop and implement a program that will encourage and support individual donations to LLMC. We're happy to report that the Committee is already up and running. Councilor Jeanne Price, will serve as chair. She has been joined by Coun-cilor Judy Gaskel, and Board Member Joe Hinger; with Joe also serving as liaison to the Board. The Committee would be very grateful to receive input from any of our members with ideas on how we might attract the in-terest and good will, both of individuals, and also of the eleemosynary community general-ly, to our dissemination and preservation missions.

Current Serial Count on *LLMC-Digital*

This is the beginning of the ABA and ACRL survey season for our academic colleagues, when we start to receive requests for the official serial count on *LLMC-Digital*. For the record, the official on-line serial count as of July 2009 is 381.[6]

Handling Proposed By-Laws Changes

As discussed in the previous issue of this newsletter, a committee of the LLMC Board, and the Board itself, have been working for some years on a through revision and up-dating of our corporate By-Laws. That work was completed by the Board at its July meeting, and the proposed revision is ready for presentation to the Charter Members for possible adoption. The process will work as follows. A Special Issue of this newsletter, devoted solely to the By-Laws question and explaining its provisions, will be issued early in September, right after Labor Day. At the same time a paper ballot[7] will mailed to the director or head librarian of record of each member library. Finally, an e-mail will go to each of these people alerting them to look out for the ballot and urging them to return it promptly. We fondly hope that these arrangements will result in a smooth and effective process.

---

[6] This statistic is computable from data freely available on the OCLC World Cat site. However, the components are scattered and tedious to compile. So, Saint Louis Univ. Law Lib., which does the cataloging for *LLMC-Digital,* assembles this data annually to save the rest of us the grief. We announce the current count once a year in mid-summer, but feel free to ask for a more up-to-date figure anytime during the year should you need it.

[7] The paper ballot will be necessary because the balloting will be conducted under the weighted-voting-entitlement system currently in force for LLMC elections; i.e., the same system used in our annual meetings at AALL. Our ingenuity could not come up with an e-mail balloting system that would accommodate both weighted balloting and anonymity for the voters.