Abraham Lincoln the Lawyer: Continuing to Influence America by Jacqueline Anne Marsh

In November 2012, as a new member of the Barco Law Library circulation desk staff, I was charged with assembling a display for the library. Brainstorming with my supervisor, I initially thought we could feature information on American presidents who began their careers as lawyers, in light of the presidential election. Instead, we opted to narrow our focus to perhaps one of the most famous lawyers-turned-presidents, Abraham Lincoln. A great figure in our rich history, Lincoln’s celebrity status remains relevant today as evidenced by the critically acclaimed movie “Lincoln.”

Lincoln would frequently visit the Law Library in the Old State Capitol Building in Springfield, Illinois, to do his legal research. On December 16, 1842, Lincoln became the first person to borrow a book from the library, signing under his law partner’s name. It was in the library that Lincoln met another young lawyer, John G. Nicolay, whom he later hired as the White House secretary. Lincoln often returned to the library after his evening supper to socialize. His law partner recalled, “Lincoln would come into the room in a good humor, in one of his best moods, speak kindly and pleasantly to all, and say ‘You men sitting here so mum puts me in a mind of a story.’” As the story goes, Lincoln would distract the reading and business of the day and spin his stories into the evening.

Lincoln’s life is documented in The Alfred Whital Stern Collection of Lincolniana [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/stern-Lincoln]. This digital collection is part of the Library of Congress American Memory project. Begun by Mr. Stern in the 1920s, the collection documents the life of Abraham Lincoln both through writings by and about Lincoln as well as a large body of publications concerning the issues of the times such as slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and related topics. The collection contains more than 11,100 items. It includes the complete collection of Stern’s contemporaries.

Jacqueline Marsh, jackiemarsh13@gmail.com will graduate from the University of Pittsburgh in April of 2013 with a Masters in Library Information Science. Previously she was a city planner for the City of Gaithersburg, Maryland from 2002-2011. After working at the Barco Law Library, she hopes to find full time employment in a law or government library.
Editor’s Note

This issue marks the coming of spring (finally!) to Western Pennsylvania. Our feature story celebrates the February birthday of Abraham Lincoln, one of the most celebrated lawyers-turned-president. Then we touch on the topic of spring-cleaning with a Technology Corner column on cleaning your computer, and an article on basic book repair resources for sprucing up any damaged volumes in your library’s collection.

On a lighter note, we offer one member’s speed dating approach to the reference interview, in an effort to get patrons to just “say what you mean.” And we jump into an alphabet soup of acronyms to mark March 31, 2013 as “Day One for RDA,” the new cataloging standard replacing AACR2.

Rounding out the issue are articles about two tried-and-true resources – the GPO and The Martindale-Hubbell – that preserve our past while embracing the future.

It’s great to have members involved in creating our newsletter – so keep those ideas, photos and articles coming for the fall issue.

Sallie Smith
Cataloging/Systems Librarian
Barco Law Library

Editor’s Note

WPLLA invites you to join our colleagues in the East - the Greater Philadelphia Law Library Association (GPLLA) – for a video/teleconference on legal scholarship and how to get involved in legal research and publishing.

Thursday, April 4 (5:30-7:30 PM) | Reed Smith, 225 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA

Panelists:
Edwin Greenlee (University of Pennsylvania Biddle Law Library)
Linda Jean Schneider (Morgan, Lewis & Bockius)
John Cannan (Drexel’s Earle Mack School of Law Legal Research Center)
Genevieve Tung (Rutgers-Camden Law Library)
Joel Fishman (Allegheny County Law Library & Duquesne University School of Law)
John DiGilio (Reed Smith-Chicago)
George Pike (Barco Law Library, University of Pittsburgh School of Law)

Please RSVP to Karen Shephard shephard@pitt.edu Teleconferencing options will be available for members who cannot attend in person.
rary newspapers, Lincoln’s law papers, sheet music, broadsides, prints, cartoons, maps, drawings, letters, campaign tickets, and other ephemeral items.

Another Lincoln collection, The Papers of Abraham Lincoln, is a long-term, not-for-profit project dedicated to identifying, imaging, transcribing, annotating, and publishing in an open-access database all documents written by or to Abraham Lincoln during his lifetime. This effort [http://www.papersofabrahamlincoln.org/](http://www.papersofabrahamlincoln.org/) is a joint project of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and is co-sponsored by the Center for State Policy and Leadership at the University of Illinois, Springfield and the Abraham Lincoln Association. The online collection is a series of three parts, the first being The Lincoln Legal Papers, which is an ongoing effort to collect and publish the documentary records of Lincoln’s quarter-century legal career in the federal, state, and county court systems. The second part, Illinois papers, includes all non-legal Lincoln documents from his birth on February 12, 1809 through March 3, 1981, the day before his inauguration as President. The final part, Presidential Papers, is the massive documentary record of an active president engaged in leading a nation during wartime.

The Lincoln Institute [www.abrahamlincoln.org](http://www.abrahamlincoln.org), a Lehrman Institute project, is another rich source of information about Lincoln. This databank provides resources for scholars and groups involved in the study of America’s 16th President. While the site’s focus is primarily on Lincoln’s role as a president and his impact on democratic society, this online resource also provides insights into Lincoln’s personal life and values.

As a hopeful future law librarian, I enjoyed my research of Lincoln as a lawyer and aspiring politician. His impact and influence continues to be relevant today, reminding us of our duty to fulfill the law, practice ethical decisions, and continue to learn from those who surround us.

**Lincoln Facts**

- Was granted a license to practice law in 1836, at the age of 27.
- Was a general practice attorney representing clients in civil and criminal actions.
- Practiced law for over 25 years.
- Received between $5 and $10 for legal fees.
For those of us working in the world of metadata (aka cataloging), at times it seems that we are drowning in a sea of alphabet soup. Acronyms confront us daily in our world of technical services and descriptive cataloging. March 31, 2013 is LC’s (Library of Congress) Day One for RDA (Resource Description & Access) implementation. RDA is the new cataloging standard replacing AACR2 (Anglo-American Cataloging Rules 2nd) to provide a new approach for describing the varied content and media of today’s networked world.

RDA, developed by the JSC (Joint Steering Committee), is based on FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records), an entity-relationship model of the bibliographic universe developed by IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions). FRAD (Functional Requirements for Authority Data) and FRSAD (Functional Requirements for Subject Data) are the authority mechanisms for working with the new FRBR model. Subject headings based on FRSAD have yet to be developed, but the goal is to eventually have subject authority data encoded in SKOS (Simple Knowledge Organization System) and OWL (Web Ontology Language) as part of the linked open data that contributes to the Semantic Web, bringing greater visibility and retrievability to library resources. Meanwhile, we continue to rely on the rich vocabulary of LCSH (Library of Congress Subject Headings) created through the PCC’s (Program for Cooperative Cataloging) SACO (Subject Authority Cooperative Program). In an effort to simplify the complex syntax of LCSH, OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) has been researching an LCSH adaptation known as FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology).

If your head is spinning from this alphabet soup of acronyms, just remember that RDA was designed to be compatible with AACR2, so OPACS (Online Public Access Catalogs) may not look much different under this new cataloging standard initially. But as ILS (Integrated Library System) vendors work to incorporate RDA into their software and library systems evolve to take full advantage of RDA’s data, there will be greater flexibility for structuring data to yield richer information displays, relationships, and discoverability. For those interested in learning more about RDA, see RDA: What does it have to do with me? by Joni Cassidy and Jill Yael Milhorat, AALL Spectrum, v.16 (Nov. 2011), p. 24 http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Publications/spectrum/Archives/Vol-16/No-2/ rda.pdf
**Top Tips on Spring Cleaning Your Computer ...**

Spring is a good time to give your computer a thorough cleaning, inside and out. Here are a few tips on what to do, but remember that these may vary depending on your computer’s age and operating system (this is mainly about PCs):

**Exterior**

Disconnect your keyboard. Turn upside down and shake hard to remove crumbs and crud. Use a Q-tip dipped in rubbing alcohol to clean the remaining debris.

Disconnect your mouse and give it a good cleaning with a microfiber cloth. A Q-tip with rubbing alcohol can again be used for stubborn dirt.

Wipe down your monitor with a microfiber cloth. You can dampen it slightly with a mixture of water and vinegar. Wipe in a circular motion.

Shut down and turn off the computer case. Use canned air to clean off dust from vents and hard to reach areas. Wipe down the whole case with a microfiber cloth.

**Interior**

Start with the most visible clutter, your desktop and the taskbar. Take the time to look at every file on your desktop. Remove the ones you don’t need.

Move the files you want to keep into your folder system. The major folders of “Documents”, “Pictures”, “Music” and “Videos” make a good initial structure. Create subfolders that can hold most if not all of your files. Once you’ve put the files away in folders, delete them from the desktop.

Look at the icons on your taskbar. These programs all start up each time you start your computer. If you don’t use them a lot, right click and remove from the taskbar.

Take a look at your Programs files (usually from the Control Panel). There may be some programs you installed and forgot about, or stopped using a long time ago. Uninstall them.

Finally, use the cleaning tools that are built into your computer. These are usually found in your Start Programs list, in the Accessories file, in the System Tools subfolder. Run the “disk cleanup” tool to find unnecessary stuff that’s slowing you down. If you haven’t run the disk cleanup in a while it may take some time. Once it runs and shows you a list of stuff you can eliminate, click “OK” to clean out all the temporary files, etc.

The disk defragmenter tool should be set to run weekly, so your hard drive doesn’t get too fragmented. This can save time by keeping the hard drive organized.

Now that your computer is all spiffed up, change your desktop background to a picture you really love, and sit back and admire the view.
The *Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory*, commonly found in many law libraries, contains valuable information on the legal profession. Its lawyer biographies provide an important glimpse into the historical composition of a profession that struggles to expand its non-inclusive norm.

Since the 1980s, the legal profession has increasingly embraced equality of opportunity. Law schools, law firms, bar associations and the professoriate have produced research and devised initiatives that address the laws, practices, and employment decisions that can limit access to the profession for historically disfavored groups. While diversity has increased among law students and in lower levels of the legal profession, it remains elusive in the profession’s higher ranks. The practice of equating the legal profession’s “norm” to a white, male default has not substantially changed.

Because the legal profession’s stance on diversity only began to dramatically change in the 1980s, it is easy to assume that, up until that point, the profession was exclusively white and male. Such an assumption, however, conveniently ignores the myriad contributions of other groups that – often unwelcomed and underrepresented - have long been a part of the legal profession. While scholarship has increasingly highlighted women and the profession’s numerous ethnic, racial, and religious minorities who, although marginalized in some fashion, achieved relatively striking levels of success, a more encompassing - and more realistic - history of the legal profession as a whole is needed.

Research on the composition of the profession has understandably been undertaken with an eye toward the future. The primary objective of most projects has been to take stock of the current situation, to track recent progress or to offer suggestions on how to keep the momentum going. The result has been a fragmented and partial view at best of the historical composition of the profession. Surprisingly little is known about the entrance and rise of groups that have been traditionally disfavored by the profession’s gatekeepers.

Contained in its thousands of pages and numerous volumes, the *Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory* offers invaluable information on who has historically been part of the legal profession. *Martindale’s American Law Directory* began in 1868 with the goal of providing reliable information about law firms. In 1930, the Martindale Company purchased the publishing rights to *Hubbell’s Legal Directory*, and in 1931 the first edition of the *Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory* was produced. In typical directory format, volumes are divided by state and then by city, with law firm entries appearing in alphabetical order, and individual lawyers appearing under their respective firm’s heading, generally in order of seniority. For the most part, the law-
yer listings contain basic biographical information revealing date and place of birth (and therefore ethnicity for those born outside of the United States), educational background, gender and career experience.

Published annually, the directory allows one to track trends across time, particularly between 1930 and 1980, a period that predates the profession’s embrace of diversity. The directory format allows researchers to strategically limit their focus to geographic areas of particular relevance or interest, albeit not without a great deal of page turning. Furthermore, because individuals are listed under the headings of their respective firms, one is able to determine the size of the firm an individual worked for, his or her general practice area, career trajectory across years, and other potentially relevant information for developing a general understanding of group experience in the legal profession.

The directory centralizes and captures a great deal of material that is difficult or impossible to find elsewhere, but it is largely silent as to race, religious affiliation, LGBT status, and other characteristics. For studies of immigrant groups and gender, however, Martindale-Hubbells are a particularly valuable source. The publication’s inception roughly corresponds to a period during which the United States experienced significant changes in its demographic composition brought about by unprecedented levels of immigration from eastern and southern European nations during the first quarter of the century. Furthermore, the directory documents the first meaningful movement of women into the legal profession during the 1920s and 1930s, although many states saw their first women lawyers in the late 19th century.

So the next time you walk past those substantial beige, black and red volumes, consider the historical legacy contained in the directory’s printed pages. The lawyer biographies reveal much about those individuals who have engaged in the practice of law. It is time the legal profession embraces its diverse and realistic history.

*Megan McKee is a 2012 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. She hopes to pursue graduate studies in history, with a focus on the Latin American legal profession. Her interest in The Martindale-Hubbell began with a research project tracing the presence of Canadians in the U.S. legal profession.*
Hello WPLLA Friends!

Spring has arrived -- or so the calendar says -- and another WPLLA year will soon come to a close. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support over the past two years as I served as vice-president and president. It truly has been an honor and a lot of fun!

I especially want to thank Vice President Mary Stacy, who was quite busy this year arranging an array of interesting and relevant programs, as well as Cindy Cicco, programming committee member, who suggested some of the prospective programs. I also want to thank our vendors for their generous contributions and those of you who opened your doors and conference rooms for presentations. We still have a couple more programs coming your way and I hope you’ll be able to participate.

I’d also like to thank Past President Melanie Johnston for her invaluable and continued guidance, our dedicated Board Members Kate Frey, Stosh Jonjak, Sue Megarry, and Yan Yu, and committee members (newsletter, archives, grants) and webmaster whose behind-the-scenes work enables WPLLA to operate and share its news with members and others. I couldn’t have managed without such a capable and congenial team. For those who offered feedback or alerted me to matters of interest, I thank you, too. Communication and participation from members is so essential for our organization to remain a valuable professional association. With that in mind, over the next few weeks, I will be reaching out to members to learn how WPLLA can better address your professional needs. I hope you will take a few minutes to offer your ideas and share your comments.

If you would like to play a more active role in WPLLA, I encourage you to step up to the plate and swing! Your service to WPLLA can be valuable individually, as you forge new friendships with members, as well as professionally as you assume a new leadership role. Please know that distance is not a barrier -- just ask Sue Megarry who served this past year as Board Member At-Large, connecting by phone from Butler County!

As I prepare to vacate my seat as President, I look forward to working with our new leadership and to continued participation in WPLLA programs and events in the years ahead.  Best regards, Karen

In addition to serving as WPLLA President for 2012-13, Karen Shephard is the Information Services Librarian at the Barco Law Library and is currently working on a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology at the University of Pittsburgh.

***** WPLLA Elections *****

It’s that time of year again when we ask members to “spring forward” to volunteer for the WPLLA Board. Elections will be held April 15th.

The following positions are open:
President (1-year term)
Vice-President (1-year term)
Treasurer (2-year term)
One Executive Board Position (2-year term).

Submit nominations by March 29 to mljohnston@eckertseamans.com
As librarians, we are all familiar with the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) and its critical role of keeping America informed. To ensure that the American public has access to its Government’s information, the GPO administers the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). This program disseminates Federal Government information products to nationwide libraries that in turn provide free public access to the materials, both print and online.


The study states that “to meet the information needs of Americans in the digital age, GPO has been shifting from a print-centric to a content-centric focus.” GPO describes this content-centric focus as one that delivers Federal information products and services from a digital platform, and points to the Future Digital System (FDsys) as the means to provide greater functionality to its digital content. FDsys officially replaced GPO Access on March 16, 2012.

http://govbooktalk.gpo.gov/2012/03/16/goodbye-gpo-access-hello-fdsys/

You can learn more about FDsys and its search capabilities by viewing video tutorials http://www.gpo.gov/fdsysinfo/instructional_video.htm.


What’s ahead? GPO has been developing mobile apps http://www.gpo.gov/mobile/ and has partnered with Google to offer federal e-books. You can also follow GPO on Twitter (twitter.com/USGPO), YouTube (www.youtube.com/user/gpoprinter), and Facebook (www.facebook.com/usgpo).

This certainly isn’t your grandmother’s GPO – it’s better!

For a GPO history, see: 100 GPO Years 1861-1961 http://permanent.access.gpo.gov/lps126616/GPO_100Years.pdf
How often have we had the reference event where a client asks us for one thing and s/he ends up meaning something totally different? How often have we wanted to say (or shout) to them “Say what you mean!” For those who cannot give me an “amen” to these statements, please feel free to move on to the next article.

My classic reference example—and one that plagues me even to this day—is when an attorney makes the seemingly simple request: “Get me this case: Johnson v. Wrabley.” Occasionally, they include either a state of jurisdiction or a specific court but nothing much more. Ok.

So………….what does the attorney mean by “case”? And I am not trying to split hairs here. I am pretty sure that if I had 3 or 4 people retrieve that “case” without asking any questions, I would have 3, maybe even 4, different results. In law school, when we talked about a case, we were referring to the opinion of a case that was published in a reporter. But in a law practice, the term “case” could mean the opinion, the docket, the complaint, the order pronouncing judgment…or even the analysis (in a worst case scenario) written in a legal journal or blog.

I’ve sometimes found that asking the simple open-ended question, “What do you mean by case?” only adds to the perplexity. I am told, “You know, the CASE.” (As if shouting the word makes it more clear). Or worse, “I don’t know, just get me what’s out there - the partner wants to discuss it this afternoon.” Asking a more direct question, “Do you want the docket or the opinion?” gets the response “Get me both!” or “Get me the docket and then I’ll decide.”

It is at this uneasy juncture of the reference event that everyone must set aside concerns of being a bother and engage in what I refer to as the “speed reference interview”.

I say “speed reference interview” because now, as never before, we are all people doing more with less. We librarians are not just working reference and our patrons are not just working up their cases. We all have added responsibilities and additional tasks as part of our jobs. Nevertheless, our primary job IS still reference and as such we must not just pause for clarity, we have an obligation to create clarity where none exists.

I was consulting with a colleague who had recently entered the reference world. She was asked to get “the District Court Order” in a given case. But upon opening the docket, she found at least half a dozen orders there. She called me to see if there was a magical one that is defined as “the District Court Order”. I advised her to call the attorney and ask which order he wanted, but she was reluctant to
reach out and “bother” him. I finally convinced her that calling or emailing - to ask which order from the docket he needed - was better and more effective than sending all the orders for him to review (that’s time he will bill and a cost the client will pay). Don’t make more work when a call or email will streamline your reference process.

Admittedly, I am not a big fan of the “reference interview” taught in library school. All those niceties such as smiling, making eye-contact to prove attentiveness, and speaking in comforting tones? Save that for the dog. In a fast-paced business world, we need to cut to the chase. I’m not saying you have to be a harping shrew or a Spanish inquisitor, but be quick and neat about your reference interview.

Equate the process to speed-dating and you’re going to feel more relaxed, less intimidated and QUICK-LY achieve clarity about what is wanted.

So for my “get this case” example, I would typically email a reply. But if I know the requester is someone who tends to not focus on their computer, I would make a phone call. “Hey, I have your request for the Johnson case. Do you want the opinion or the complaint?” “Opinion, if I can get it for free.” “Ok no problem.” [Click] The email works pretty much the same way.

The real reference fun begins when the requester doesn’t know what they are looking for, or even if what they want exists, or – best of all – doesn’t know what the item is called. The latter typically results in a game of charades. For these situations, there is no simple or easy way to achieve clarity. You may have to engage in a little “back and forth” exchange of search, send what you found, and have yet another “what do you mean?” conversation.

But such is the nature of reference. Don’t let someone’s false sense of stature let you shy away from direct questioning. Someone may seem unapproachable, but in order for their request to be fulfilled competently and as swiftly as possible, you need to work with them and they need to work with you. As one AALL button badge states, “The difference between getting the right answer and the wrong answer turns on being nice to the Librarian.” I am not advocating passive-aggressive behavior, but that saying does make a point. A better answer results when the requestor provides a helpful response to your inquiry. So how do you get them to say what they mean? Be direct and remember the law school mantra - the only dumb questions are the ones that don’t get asked.

**Author’s postscript:** Ironically, after I wrote this article, another “get this case” occurred. The requester asked, “Can you get recent cases involving X party.” So I went and got opinions (because that’s what he requested for a similar situation last week). He replied he had found more recent information than what I had given him. I said, “Nooooo, that’s it.” So he sent me his results……Dockets! I could have SCREAMED!
In the current climate of born-digital and electronic material, book repair can almost seem like an antiquated practice. However, law libraries contain many older volumes that not only contain good law but also represent a significant library investment. Several options exist for outsourcing book repair, but none are very efficient in terms of cost or time. And few law libraries have a full time preservation staff. Yet many damaged materials can be repaired or stabilized with rudimentary in-house preservation. Such small scale book repair projects can be quickly accomplished with few startup costs and minimal staff time.

Instructional resources for basic book repair are easy to find (see list at the end of this article). Several conservation centers offer courses and online instruction. Some library vendors provide book repair guides free of charge and offer basic book repair kits for purchase. It is worth noting that the practice of book repair remains relatively unchanged for centuries, but be advised that older resources may describe outdated techniques and unfavorable materials such as acidic cardstock and non-PVA adhesives.

An excellent starting place for any book repair project is Indiana University’s Repair and Enclosure Treatments Manual. This online resource offers step-by-step slide shows demonstrating all basic and advanced repair techniques ranging from basic page tip-in to a complete re-casing. For rare or deteriorated books, phase boxes - custom enclosures for fragile books using acid-free cardstock - can serve as an alternative to invasive book repairs. The enclosure slows deterioration by reducing exposure to oxygen and humidity, key factors in the oxygenation process. The phase box also functions as a barrier, protecting neighboring books from mold and acid migration. Construction can be easily accomplished using simple algebraic equations to determine phase box dimensions while minimizing the handling of fragile books.

Naturally, the cost of repairing a book must be weighed against the book’s value to your collection. It may be more economical to simply buy a replacement copy, if one is available. Or it may be time to weed the volume from the collection. There are, however, many minor repairs requiring minimal cost and time that can do much to extend the shelf life of your library collection. That familiar adage, “a stitch in time” is certainly applicable to book repair. So roll-up your sleeves and explore these resources:


**Bookcraft: Simple techniques for the maintenance and repair of books**, Gaylord.
A library vendor’s downloadable pdf file of book repair techniques.

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*The way to preserve your books in health is to treat them as you would your own children, who are sure to sicken if confined in an atmosphere which is impure, too hot, too cold, too damp, or too dry. It is just the same with the progeny of literature….*

Northeast Document Conservation Center
http://www.nedcc.org/home.php
A non-profit center offering online preservation leaflets, a free self-guided online Preservation 101 course, and more.

*Repair and Enclosure Treatments Manual*, E. Lingle Craig Preservation Laboratory, Indiana University
http://www.indiana.edu/~libpres/manual/mantoc.html
An online visually detailed resource for all levels of book repair.

*A Simple Book Repair Manual*, Dartmouth College Library
http://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/preservation/repair/?mswitch-redir=classic
An online textual guide to basic book repair.

Additional reading:
An excellent resource on archival fundamentals.

A summary of law library preservation issues with recommendations for action.

WPLLA member since 2010, Chris Todd worked at the Barco Law Library Circulation Desk while completing his M.L.I.S. degree at the University of Pittsburgh. He completed a summer internship at Hillman Library Special Collections Department, and assisted with book repair at the Barco Library. He recently was hired as the Academic Librarian at the Northern Marianas College in Saipan.

WPLLA congratulates him on his “official” entry into the field of librarianship.
WPLLA programs by Sallie Smith

Infinite Possibilities
The Art of Changing Your Life

WPLLA members attending the inaugural program of 2013 gained some tangible techniques for implementing New Year’s resolutions and making positive changes in their lives. The January 10th program - Infinite Possibilities: The Art of Changing Your Life - was presented at K&L Gates by Certified Infinite Possibilities Trainer (and ProQuest Account Executive) Michele Kristakis.

Michele presented a “nutshell” version of Infinite Possibilities, a program developed by Mike Dooley http://www.tut.com/Humanity/our-story. The program is based on the premise that our beliefs shape our thoughts, and our thoughts, in turn, shape our lives. Through a series of exercises, Michele demonstrated how to identify and examine those beliefs and thoughts. She then explained that if we want to improve our lives we need to challenge those underlying beliefs that are limiting and choose instead those beliefs that let us take positive daily actions to achieve the life we want.

We left the meeting with the realization that our lives are full of adventures and the possibilities for changing our lives are infinite.

SharePoint
A Look Inside One Law Firm

On February 28, WPLLA members attended a webinar exploring ways one law firm library uses Microsoft SharePoint to meet the business needs of its organization. The program was hosted by Cindy Cicco at Pepper Hamilton. Webinar panelists provided examples of how the technology was used for intranet development, research projects, custom web pages, task management and reporting, and project monitoring.
Executive Board, January 17, 2013, 8:45 a.m.
Reed Smith

Board members present: Mary Stacy, Stosh Jonjak, Yan Yu, Melanie Johnston, Karen Shepard, Sue Megarry (via phone)

Treasurer’s Report - Kate Frey (via e-mail) reports WPLLA’s balance is $1914.31, lower due to the holiday party and the association’s donation to charity. The spring banquet will probably cost around $1000.

Programming - Mary Stacy reported she contacted Lexi Fulton of Lexis for a March program. Michele Kristakis’s program was well-attended as personal development programs tend to be popular with members. Justice Todd is a potential speaker for the WPLLA Spring Banquet as is author Mary Frailey Calland on her latest book, *Consecrated Dust*. Karen suggested a presentation on Sharepoint, specifically its use in managing library resources.

Committees - WPLLA plans to issue a spring newsletter, so those interested should contact Sallie Smith with article ideas. The Facebook page has 14 likes from members as of this date. Yan Yu has updated the vendor list, adding new contact information and data on library vendors.

Nominations/Elections - Nominations are scheduled for March, with three positions open: Vice-President, Treasurer, and a Member-at-large.

UELMA Letter of Support - WPLLA signed the letter and sent it to our Pennsylvania senators

Other - The CD matures in June, so the Board should consider how to spend it. More programming topics were discussed, including an oil & gas program, or a program about library cost recovery.

Please contact WPLLA Board Members if there are matters to bring to their attention.

Executive Board, February 14, 2013, 8:45 a.m.
Babst Calland

Board members present: Mary Stacy, Stosh Jonjak, Kate Frey, Yan Yu, Melanie Johnston, Karen Shepard, Sue Megarry (via phone)

Announcements – Vice President Mary Stacy will not be able to be WPLLA president next year. The nominating committee will explore and recommend potential candidates by 3/15.

Programming – The program on SharePoint will be held Feb. 28 at the Pepper Hamilton. The Lexis program on e-books/digital libraries, Lexis Practice Advisor, and Lexis Advance will be held Mar. 14 at the River’s Club. A joint program on legal scholarship and publishing is being explored with the GPLLA (Greater Philadelphia Law Library Association). Shari Berkowitz, Director-at-large of GPLLA, has contacted WPLLA about the event. This would be an evening program (5:30-7:30). John DiGilio and George H. Pike are expected to present. The Spring Banquet may be held at Babst Calland in early May. Mary Calland, author of Civil War novel *Consecrated Dust*, is a possible speaker. This would be an evening banquet, possibly from 5:30-7:30.

Committees – The Archiving & Preservation Committee is exploring what other law library associations have done with their archives. The Mentorship Committee is considering outreach to other firm’s as well as Clarion University’s law librarian program.

Nominations/Elections – Four positions are open: Vice President and President (both 1-year terms), a Member-At-Large (2-year term), Treasurer (2-year term). Voting will be on 4/15.

Other – Last year’s legal research training for Summer Associates was well attended. The program may be repeated this summer, with Joel Fishman teaching. Yan Yu has updated the vendor directory on the WPLLA web-site.
Executive Board, March 14, 2013, 10:45 a.m. Reed Smith

Board members present: Mary Stacy, Stosh Jonjak, Kate Frey, Yan Yu, Melanie Johnston, Karen Shepard, Sue Megarry (via phone)

Treasurer’s Report – Kate Frey reported $1,800 currently in the treasury.

Programming – Mary Stacy reported the closing banquet will be Tuesday, May 14, at Babst Calland, 5:30-7:30, with author Mary Calland. WPLLA will give her a $50 honorarium. There’s a good chance the food will be free. The WPLLA/GPLLA video/teleconference on Thursday, April 4, 5:30-7:30 has been arranged, with video conferencing from Reed Smith offices. Joel Fishman and George Pike will present from Pittsburgh office, John DiGilio will present from Chicago office, with three more presenters in Philadelphia. Karen Shephard has contacted a vendor about a news aggregator interface program, and suggested contacting Joel Fishman and Marc Silverman about another summer associate program.

Committee News/ Updates – Newsletter: Sallie Smith has content gathered for a second newsletter. Archives/Historian: they will have a student intern digitize materials. Membership: Karen Shephard will contact WPLLA members who infrequently attend programs. The board brainstormed about contacting law firms to reach law librarians who are not currently members. Yan will contact Clarion University about possible student members.

Nominations/Election – Melanie Johnson reported nominations of Stosh Jonjak for President, Amy Lovell for Secretary, Louise Beswick for Treasurer, and Yan Yu and Sue Megarry continuing as Executive Board members. The Vice President nomination is still open, and many candidates were discussed. The membership will be emailed for nominations.

Congress.gov http://beta.congress.gov/ is a new public beta site for accessing legislative information. The user-friendly system was recently unveiled by the Library of Congress. According to the Librarian of Congress, Congress.gov aims “to open the legislative process to the American people and promote an informed democracy,” and will eventually replace the THOMAS system.

The WPLLA Archives / Historian Committee is working to digitize the chapter’s history.

We are in need of the following materials:
Photos from WPLLA Events
Newsletters from 1992– 2005
Meeting Minutes
Committee Reports
Program Descriptions

If you have any of these materials, please contact Pat Roncevich roncevic@pitt.edu. All materials will be returned after scanning.
Upcoming Events

WPLLA’s Annual Spring Banquet

WPLLA’s spring banquet, celebrating 35 years, will take place Tuesday, May 14th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. This year, Babst Calland in downtown Pittsburgh is generously hosting the event. Featured speaker will be author Mary Frailey Calland. Appetizers, desserts and beverages will be provided, courtesy of Babst Calland.

Mary will be discussing her new book, *Consecrated Dust: A Novel of the Civil War North*. The book chronicles the 1862 explosion at the Allegheny Arsenal in Pittsburgh. The tragedy claimed the lives 78 girls who were rolling bullet cartridges for the Union army. At the time, news of the catastrophe was overshadowed by the horrendous casualty reports from the Battle of Antietam, which raged that very same day. Read more about the book on Mary’s webpage [http://74.220.215.227/~maryfrai/](http://74.220.215.227/~maryfrai/).

Summer Associates Legal Research Training

WPLLA will again be offering legal research training for summer associates. This year, in addition to covering Pennsylvania and federal legal research, we hope to include a segment on business law resources. The program is planned for early June.

In mid-April, WPLLA will host a webinar presented by NewsEdge.com. In addition to providing news resources, NewEdge.com offers an integrated publishing feature making it easy to post timely, relevant news on a website. The product enables businesses to create integrated newsletters to disseminate internally for employees and externally for marketing purposes. News can be delivered via RSS feeds to individual email accounts or to a firm’s intranet site. NewsEdge is offered by Acquire Media.


Remember to check WPLLA’s Facebook page [www.facebook.com/wplla](http://www.facebook.com/wplla) for information on events and communications from our members. Feel free to contribute to the page, and post about our programming or the group in general. We would love hear from you!
Members, we need your input!

Please consider becoming an active part of our organization by serving on a committee. The committees are an integral part of our organization. Committee members work to promote our profession. They provide continuing education events, offer scholarship opportunities, and sponsor a few social events as well! WPLLA has a number of committees that are open to all current members. To join the committee of your choice, simply contact the Chair of that committee or the President.

WPLLA Committee Membership 2012-13

President
Karen Shephard

Vice President
Mary Stacy

Secretary
Stosh Jonjak

Treasurer
Kate Frey

Members-at-Large
Sue Megarry
Yan Yu

Immediate Past President
Melanie Johnston

Programming Committee
Mary Stacy - Chair
Louise Beswick
Cindy Cicco
Pat Roncevich

Grant/Scholarship Committee
Barbara Alexander-Klein
Amy Lovell

Archives/Historian Committee
Michele Kristakis - Co-Chair
Pat Roncevich - Co-Chair
Patty Horvath

Facebook (ad hoc)
Stosh Jonjak
Rita Young-Jones

Mentoring *
Recruitment *

* Members needed!
Contact Karen Shephard if interested.

WPLLA On the Web

Visit the WPLLA website for information about our organization, links to publications, information on programs, member directory and more. Messages to members can be posted to the listserv discussion forum. This is a closed list and is restricted to WPLLA Members only. To subscribe to the WPLLA listserv, go to: http://share.aallnet.org/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=wplla.

Once you submit your email address, you must reply to the confirmation message to activate your listserv subscription. The address for posting to this list is: wplla@aallnet.org.
If you have any questions or suggestions about the website or listserv, please contact Linda Tashbook tashbook@pitt.edu.

Calling All Writers

Do you have ideas for articles to read or that you wish to contribute? Contact any member of the Newsletter committee with your suggestions. What topics interest you? Please let us know. Thanks!

WPLLA Newsletter Committee

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