For the first time ever, the Law Library of Louisiana established a presence in the Exhibit Hall for the LSBA Summer School for Lawyers in Sandestin. The library representatives, Georgia Chadwick and Janice Shull, report on the experience of exhibiting at Sandestin:

They Asked Us...

The first question was usually unspoken but visible in their expressions: “Who are you?” We explained that the two competing signs on the booth—“Supreme Court Law Library” and “Law Library of Louisiana”—represent the same institution. Our official title in the statutes is Law Library of Louisiana, but we are more often recognized as the Supreme Court Library. We happily answer to either name.

Many visitors to the booth asked us why we were there. Most people knew something about us but had no idea of the scope of our services and resources. This question gave us a chance to tell them about our toll-free number and reference availability by email, our document delivery services, and our web site.

For many visitors, especially those from the New Orleans area, the burning question was “When are you moving to Royal Street?” Although an exact date has not been set, we could respond “within two years” and know that we were in the ballpark.

Several attorneys asked us if we can do research for them, either for free or for a fee. While we do not currently have a fee-based research service, that idea was discussed at a recent Advisory Board meeting. The answer to the question of free research is that it depends on what you mean by research. The staff will assist any library user in identifying useful resources and explaining how to use them. If necessary, we will try to locate materials in other libraries or refer users to other appropriate agencies for assistance. However, we are barred from offering opinions about the validity of sources or the meaning and interpretation of the law.

Another popular question was “what can I do online from your web site?” With the laptop open to the library’s web page, we demonstrated the easy access to the library catalog, the new uniform court rules and identifying useful resources and explaining how to use them. If necessary, we will try to locate materials in other libraries or refer users to other appropriate agencies for assistance. However, we are barred from offering opinions about the validity of sources or the meaning and interpretation of the law.

Continued on page 2
2002 Library Orientation is a Big Success!

The Law Library of Louisiana held it’s annual Library Orientation on August 6th. At the end of each summer the court welcomes new law clerks on to the scene. The library takes this opportunity to offer an orientation to its collection and services. Orientation also provides the library staff a more social opportunity to meet and greet the new clerks.

Although originally designed to educate and inform the law clerks about the library, the orientation is open to all court employees who are interested in what the library has to offer. The library produces a “take home” binder of information and important tips and fact sheets for all who come. Orientation is always informative and entertaining and usually includes a tasty treat for all participants. An added bonus to this year’s orientation was a visit from Justice Kimball!

This year, Carol Billings, director of the Law Library of Louisiana, opened the orientation with staff introductions, followed by a brief history of the library and the origins of its eclectic holdings. She then gave a general overview of the collection and the services that the library provides court employees as well as the general public.

After Mrs. Billings addressed the group, celebrity guest Justice Kimball welcomed the clerks and participants to the court and gave them a pep talk.

A representative from each department of the library then addressed the group, explaining their part in the library structure, services they provide and what they can do to make all library experiences good ones. Topics discussed were: interlibrary loan, title requests for in-chamber usage and collections, special orders, arrangement of the collection and a general description of legal classification, how to access and use the library’s online catalog (GLAS Easysearch), government documents, court history, how to access the library, non-law research, electronic research training, the reserve collection, internet resources and the procedure for court employees to check items out of the library.

If this presentation appeals to you, and is something that you think your court, or law office, or organization would benefit from, the Law Library of Louisiana would like to extend that opportunity to you. If you would like members of the library staff to give your organization and orientation to our services and information of legal research, please call Carol Billings to discuss details and arrangements @ (504) 568-5706.

LSBA Meeting Cont. from page 1

and forms, court opinions and docket, library research guides and De Novo.

We Asked Them...

“Are you familiar with our library?” Most visitors had some awareness of the library from accessing our web site, reading our newsletter, or calling for one of our services at some time. A number of people knew individual staff members by name and were happy to see their pictures posted on our display board. Several judges commented on specific articles they had read in our newsletter, De Novo. Former law clerks, judges and lawyers shared their memories of the library with us too, and those are the conversations that tell us how important and valuable the library has always been and continues to be to the legal community in Louisiana.

“Where are you from?” It seemed from everywhere in Louisiana—Shreveport to Crowley to New Orleans. We were amazed at the breadth of the legal profession represented: all varieties and stripes of practitioners, state agency attorneys, judges from city courts, district courts, appellate courts, and the Supreme Court, and a law school dean. The other exhibitors at the meeting included court reporters, accountants, mediators, and litigation support services.

“Would you like a newsletter, brochure, research guide, annual report, or a piece of candy?” We learned as much from our booth visitors as they learned from us. We brought home ideas for new or improved services and faces to match familiar names. And, yes, we returned home with plans to continue informing the bar about our services and resources.
**Stump The Librarian!**

We’ve always thought that La. Rev. Stat. Ann.§ 9:201-204 (West 1991 & Supp.2002) were the exclusive source of authority for who can perform marriages in the state. That is, until a patron called us a couple of weeks ago to ask us if notaries in the Parish of West Feliciana could perform marriages.

West Feliciana notaries were originally authorized to perform marriages by 1850 La. Acts 74, which became § 2211 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1870. It was still in effect when the statutes were revised again in 1950. 1950 La. Acts Ex. Sess. 2 saved § 2211 from repeal. According to the history notes following 9:202, § 2211 was not included in Title 9, but was carried forward as local legislation “apparently to meet local needs in West Feliciana at the time of its original passage.” Local and special acts are not codified. 1987 La. Acts 886, introduced

A Louisiana law may be repealed expressly, when a later law literally declares its repeal, or impliedly, when a later law contains provisions that are contrary to or irreconcilable with it. La. Civ. Code Ann. art 8 (West 1999). Is the language in the preamble specific enough to impliedly repeal § 2211?

Have the extensive changes made to the statute governing the qualifications and geographical ambit of notaries (La. Rev. Stat. § 35:191 (West Supp 2002)) impliedly repealed § 2211?

By this time, we had a backlog of answerable questions about invasive tree roots, unruly teenagers, and past-due child support. We called a halt to the notarial snipe hunt and advised the patron to have one of his legislators request an Attorney General’s opinion. If one is issued, we’ll reprint it in a later issue.

The New Louisiana District Court Rules on the Web by Catherine Lemann

The new rules for Louisiana District Courts are one of the most frequently accessed portions of the Supreme Court’s web site. (http://www.lasc.org/rules/dist.ct/) The new rules became effective April 1, 2002 and govern all proceedings commenced thereafter and pending proceedings insofar as just and practicable. (See Rule 1.2)

The rules have been broken down into five titles. Title I includes general rules applicable to all proceedings including holidays, courtroom decorum, professionalism, accessibility, etc. Title II deals with civil proceedings and Title III deals with criminal proceedings. Title IV covers Family and Domestic Relations Proceedings and Juvenile Proceedings are covered by Title V.

The initial presentation of the rules included a district by district presentation for Titles IV and V only. For Titles I - III, users have the general rules and a link to appendices with local variations. There are also links to appendices with uniform forms such as an In Forma Pauperis affidavit or form to request reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Look for an alternate district by district presentation for Titles I, II and III. This will be useful when practitioners want to have all local variations in one document.

Check out the new LA District Court Rules on the web@ www.lasc.org/rules/dist.ct
Celebrating Our Heritage

Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Lecture Series
Offered by UNO

Now that 2003 is only a few months away, our entire state is gearing up to celebrate the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase. The University of New Orleans is offering an excellent opportunity to bone up on the history of early Louisiana by presenting a series of thirteen lectures by members of their History Department and several guest speakers. Beginning on August 27, the lectures will take place each Tuesday evening at 6 o’clock at UNO’s Earl K. Long Library, Room 407. All are free and open to the public, and registered university students may take the course for academic credit. Dr. Raphael Cassimere, Jr. and Dr. Connie Atkinson are coordinating the series. For additional information, call (504) 280-6611.

Lecture Schedule
August 27: Dr. Jerah Johnson on Why Louisiana? European Colonial Background
September 3: Dr. Ida Altman on Louisiana Under Spanish Rule
September 10: Dr. Michael D. Clark on Westward the Course of Empire: Louisiana Purchase and the Ideology of Expansion
September 17: Dr. John T. O’Connor on The Impact of the Haitian Revolution on Louisiana
September 24: Dr. Jon Kukla giving the keynote address on The Purchase
October 1: Dr. Merrill L. Johnson, UNO Geography Dept. on Mapping the New Frontier
October 8: Dr. Warren M. Billings on That Splendid Myth of the Civil Code
October 22: Dr. Gerald Bodet on The Purchase and the Canadian Experience
November 5: Dr. Arnold R. Hirsch on The Imposition of the New Racial Order in New Orleans
November 12: Dr. Donald DeVore on Education and Knowledge Transfer in Jefferson’s Louisiana 1803-1829
November 19: Dr. Connie Atkinson on The Battle for the Dance Floor: Music and Culture in New Orleans as the Americans Arrived
November 26: Dr. Raphael Cassimere, Jr. on The Impact of the Purchase--How the Purchase Resonates in Contemporary Louisiana.

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Louisiana at your mouse-click! A list of useful Louisiana web sites.

http://omw.dps.state.la.us
Check out all the offerings of the State Library, including their Louisiana Center for the Book, and their services for the blind @ www.state.lib.la.us
You can find hunting, fishing and boating information, as well purchase licenses online at the LA dept. of wildlife and fisheries site @ www.wlf.state.la.us
Maybe there is a lost fortune out there with your name on it. Check this site out to see:

www.treasury.state.la.us
Make camping reservations at one of LA’s state parks here: www.crt.state.la.us.crt/parks
The LA Secretary of State site offers a wealth of information: www.sec.state.la.us
As does the Governor’s: www.gov.state.la.us
And for general information about Louisiana there is always: www.state.la.us
Many professions have continuing education requirements that are set forth by the licensing bodies of that profession. Librarians do not have such requirements. However, there are numerous professional organizations that offer programs and seminars and workshops that offer continuing education opportunities in all areas of law librarianship. Librarians can also look to local colleges and universities for classes offered on topics that would be useful in that capacity. Here in New Orleans, we are fortunate to have two law schools, two paralegal programs, a community college system offering an abundance of computer and technology courses and, through the distance education program, access to Louisiana State University’s Library and Information Science graduate school.

Last spring I took advantage of one such opportunity and audited Law Libraries 7911, a class offered by LSU’s Library and Information Science program which was being taught by my co-worker, Marie Erickson, Head of Public Services at the Law Library of Louisiana. The course was both informative and interesting. Having a background in libraries, not law, and working mainly in the technical services area of the library, there are many facets of law and legal research that I am unfamiliar with. The course format was one evening class a week, from 6pm to 9pm, for one semester at the UNO downtown center on St. Charles Ave. Ms. Erickson designed the class in such a way that all major aspects of a basic law library were covered. It did not matter if you were interested in firm, state/public, or academic law libraries, all information was pertinent and relevant.

Each week the lecture and readings covered a specific area/format of law/legal publications and was followed with a research assignment using the materials discussed in class that week. The lectures were both historical and practical. Ms. Erickson’s knowledge of the materials she discussed (including origin, facts and evolution of a title etc.) was impressive. The semester began with statutes, both state and federal. We moved on to the codification process, again on both the state and federal level, then to the Louisiana Register, Code of Federal Regulations, Treaties, Treatises, American Law Reports, encyclopedias, how to take advantage of and properly use the West Topic and Key numbering system, the most efficient and effective way to use digests, the Government Printing Office and government documents, and the list goes on. Ms. Erickson always pointed out what publications offered “value added” features, what those features were and how to use them correctly. The course also included a class lecture on electronic research and what databases and information are available for fee and for free. We were taught how to formulate electronic search queries and received passwords giving us the ability to use one of the major electronic legal resources at no cost.

Because Ms. Erickson is a practicing librarian and active in several professional organizations, she has many contacts in the field. Using this to her advantage, she had several guest speakers during the semester. We had the opportunity to hear from a legal materials cataloger (Janice Shull, Law Library of Louisiana), a government documents/acquisitions librarian (Georgia Chadwick, Law Library of Louisiana) as well as two law firm librarians (Tina Gambrell, Jones Walker, and Virginia Smith, Chaffe McCall). These guest speakers gave the class the opportunity to learn more about different areas of law librarianship from the professionals actually performing the jobs. Each talk was followed by an question and answer session. All of the guest speakers were very generous with their time and knowledge and offered to be available for questions outside of the classroom time allotted.

I would recommend this course to anyone, not just librarians or library school students, who has an interest in law libraries, or wants to increase their knowledge of legal publications and brush up on their legal research skills. The class work and reading are minimal compared to the knowledge that you will gain. I personally found the class to be interesting and well worth the effort! I have used my newly attained skills on numerous occasions. If you would like a copy of the class syllabus, please email me at crichard@lasc.org. Please visit LSU’s School of Library and Information Science Graduate Program’s web site: http://slis.lsu.edu/ or link to it from the main page: www.lsu.edu
A BINDING EXPERIENCE

by: CATHLEEN RICHARDS

Most non-librarian types have noticed a quirky little habit of libraries. They like to bind things. They like to take magazines, journals, law reviews, popular books and handbooks and send them off somewhere for about a month, right when you need them, so that some people some where can put them in a snazzy colored hard back form. Why? Why do you do that? Well, that is what I am going to tell you. It’s called binding. Binding is done for a variety of different reasons. One is for organizational purposes. When a title is published in several issues that make up one volume (such a law reviews), it makes sense to keep all the issues together, thus binding. This way, the likelihood of one issue of a volume disappearing is lessened and all the information for that volume is readily and easily available in one hard backed volume. This may seem like the only logical reason for this process, however you may be surprised to know that organizational efficiency is pretty low on the list of why libraries bind items.

The most important purpose binding meets falls under the realm of conservation and/or preservation. These concepts embody the idea that the information housed and made available by libraries must be maintained and managed with the utmost integrity and concern. You may be thinking: Integrity and concern for what? These are just magazines! Structural integrity for one, most magazines and journals and some handbooks and manuals are published in soft cover, over time and with heavy usage, they deteriorate, fall off, rip and so on. Binding the item in acid free hard back format, with acid free adhesive that won’t “eat” the paper and that meets all library binding standards reduces that risk greatly. Environmental concerns are another reason to consider binding an item. Encasing an item in an acid free structure can reduce, delay and prevent an item from becoming too brittle to use, rendering the information contained with in useless. It would be almost impossible for an average sized library with an average sized budget and an average sized facility to be capable of taking care of this sort of task internally. Library binding involves large pieces of equipment, a variety of adhesives and drying methods, industrial sewing machines as well as the knowledge and expertise of professionals who can determine when something needs double-fan adhesive as opposed to polyvinyl acetate adhesive. Should this volume be sewn or glued? Is this paper too brittle to rebind? What is better, rounded and backed book binding or square-backed book binding? Who knows what this is? Who knows what to use? Don’t feel too bad, most preservation librarians don’t know the answers to all these questions. That is why we rely on commercial library binderies and the standards that they maintain.

Did I say: library binding standards? Yes, I did! The fact that these standards exist maybe surprising to those not familiar with the library world, but commercial library binding is an industry, and with any industry, comes standards. Commercial library binderies are expected to meet the standards set forth and published by the Library Binding Institute. Information is a key ingredient to success in business and academics, and standards are the foundation of all information systems. Technical standards provide an infrastructure that makes any information system and/or database less expensive to develop, easier to use and universal in value. Commercial library binding standards are developed through an industry wide consensus, their purpose being to identify model binding methods, materials and/or practices for libraries, bibliographic and information service providers and publishers. As with most practices, the goals of library binding have changed over the years, and these published standards strive to keep up with the evolving needs of the information world. Currently, the Standards are in their 18th revised edition.

Who makes these standards? The Standards are developed jointly by the National Information Standards Organization and the Library Binding Institute. Both organizations conduct rigorous performance tests on adhesives, paper materials, various hinging techniques, end paper constructions and so on. There are minimum standards that must be met, for example, the binding should be as conservative as possible, minimally altering the text block. The bound volume should open easily to a 180 degree position to facilitate non-damaging photocopying. These are all standards that we, bound volume users expect, but more than likely never gave thought to the origin.

I have merely scraped the surface of the commercial binding industry. Most binderies offer a variety of services, such as edition binding (where they will bind a specific number, usually a 25 copy minimum, of an edition uniformly), theses binding, paperback reinforcement (popular with school and public libraries), conservation services including de-acidification, re-casing, boxing…. as you can see, there is a whole binding world out there! If you are interested in the binding process, taking a virtual tour of a commercial library bindery, reading the standards, or just want to know where you can get your father’s 50 year collection of National Geographics bound as a birthday present, direct your attention to the web sites in the side bar.
Jail letters and other materials contained in the Special State Justice Institute Collection are valuable for the Louisiana judiciary.

By: Carol Billings

De Novo

Prisoner Correspondence

While fulfilling our mission to serve the information needs of the public, we never forget the indigent or those in prison. The Law Library receives approximately 60 letters per month from prisoners around the state and from Louisiana residents incarcerated in other states. They request legal information in order to appeal their sentence or to better understand the law and the legal process. All letters come from male inmates, the majority of which come from the following institutions: The Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, Allen Correctional Center in Kinder, Avoyelles Correctional Center in Cottonport, Hunt Correctional Center in St. Gabriel, Orleans Parish Prison, David Wade Correctional Center in Homer, Washington Correctional Institute in Angie, and Winn Correctional Center in Winnfield.

Many prisoners do some research before they write because they give specific citations to cases and statutes. Others simply relate their story and ask for information concerning their particular situation. Since we do not practice law, we cannot answer some of their questions so we ask them to be as specific as possible when asking for information. A few inmates have written chilling accounts of their crimes, giving specific details and using illustrations. The most frequently asked questions are for statutes or cases on armed robbery, controlled dangerous substances, drug racketeering, possession with intent to distribute, seizure and forfeiture of weapons, diminution of sentence for behavior (“good time”), habitual offender laws, illegal carrying of weapons, mistaken identification, registration of sex offenders, and ineffective assistance of counsel.

Unfortunately, we do not have the staff needed to answer the letters as fast as we would like to. However, an effort is made every day to respond to as many requests as possible, giving immediate attention to letters with time constraints. Since many of the same people write to us frequently, we answer only two letters per inmate a month, limiting each response to 50 pages.

Corresponding with prisoners is educational and insightful, and is just one important service that the Law Library of Louisiana provides to the public.

At your service... An informative column highlighting one of our library’s many services. By: Ruth Mahoney

Viewing the library’s SJI collection from your desk or home pc is as simple as I-2-3!!

1. Go to our online catalog: http://207.67.203.47/l20013
2. Select: Browse Search
3. Use the drop down menu for the Look For box, choose Added Entry, and type State Justice Institute in the Begins With box, click Go and voila!
Federal Depository Library Highlights by: Georgia Chadwick

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance is a popular looseleaf publication which is received annually through the Federal Depository Library Program. The 36th edition was just received in early August. The CFDA is a basic reference source and a compendium of Federal programs which provide assistance to the American public. The primary purpose of the CFDA is to assist users in identifying programs which meet specific objectives of the potential applicant. Although there are a limited number of programs offering direct loans to individuals, most programs provide funds to state and local governments or other organization to manage the distribution of assistance according to local needs. The CFDA is intended to improve coordination and communication between the Federal government and State and local governments.

The paper version of the Catalog consists of three basic sections: the indices, the program descriptions and the appendices. Each program listed in the program description section is preceded by a five-digit program identification number which identifies the department or agency that administers the program. This is the section which contains detailed information concerning programs. A helpful item in the appendices is a section on “Developing and Writing Grant Proposals”.

Users should consult the Federal Register to check for any agency changes to programs occurring after the publication of the CFDA in addition to the Catalog website (http://www.cfda.gov) which always contains the most current published information. The CFDA is also available on CD-ROM which includes the complete Catalog and a powerful search engine and an online tutorial. Of interest to some users of the CD-ROM version is the Federal Assistance Award Data System database listing recipients of financial awards by program number, geographical distribution and organization.

Some might want to have their own printed or CD-ROM copy of the CFDA and both are available for sale from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office.