

A Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

SCUTTLE

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AskColorado: Virtual Reference Service

By Patty Wellinger

AskColorado (<http://www.askcolorado.org/>) is a free virtual reference service provided by Colorado libraries. In the second year of a pilot program run by the Colorado State Library, AskColorado offers 24/7 live chat interactions with reference librarians including special features such as Live Homework Help and Spanish speaking librarians.

The service is funded by librarians from 53 public, school, academic and special libraries as well as money from a Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) grant. Approximately 200 librarians staff the online, live chat lines. Early morning / late night hours and specialized services are provided by Tutor.com personnel. The current funding and staffing requirements for individual libraries varies based on the size of the library. The Program Coordinator, Sharon Morris, is responsible for scheduling and training staff as well as coordinating other aspects of the project.

Reference librarians work with the patrons in a co-browsing environment, demonstrating their search techniques and pushing web pages directly to their browser. The patron also receives a complete transcript of the session with embedded urls so that they will have a record of the resources that were used in the session. In addition to this live chat experience, several special libraries are available for email referrals. These libraries include the University of Denver Law Library, the National Indian Law Library, CU Health Sciences, and the State Government Publications Library. A full list of participating libraries for 2004 is located at <http://www.aclin.org/reference/participants.html>.

AskColorado has been an overwhelming success. In the first year of operation, the service answered over 23,000 calls, more than double the number projected in the grant application. In the first quarter of year two (September – November 2004), AskColorado received an additional 9,287 requests.

In addition to these usage statistics, AskColorado won the 2004 Project of the Year Award by the Colorado Association of Libraries, was awarded the 2004 Exemplary Service Award from Virtual Reference Desk and was the recipient of the 2004 Most Innovative Marketing Award from Tutor.com.

AskColorado has been in the news since it's debut in September 2003 with numerous newspaper articles, press releases and even TV coverage. The AskColorado service is prominently displayed on the Colorado State Government webpage (see featured sites) as well as the Colorado Virtual Library interface. On Dec. 3, 2004, Colorado Public Radio rebroadcast a 10 minute interview with Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Director of Networking and Resource Sharing at the Colorado State Library http://www.cpr.org/cgi-bin/comatters/com_day.cgi?date=12/3/2004 (originally broadcast in 2003).

David Selden, National Indian Law Library is a member of the Colorado Virtual Reference Steering Committee which oversees the project. Although NILL hasn't had any questions on tribal law, the University of Denver has answered approximately 50 referral questions in 2004. These questions vary widely in topic and depth as well as type of patron. Questions are answered using a variety of Internet legal research sites, as well as referrals to particular books or other printed materials as needed. In addition, replies contain a disclaimer about not being allowed to give legal advice and often include referrals to self-help or free/low cost attorney services in Colorado.



AskColorado - Anytime!

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Save the date:

CoALL's 4th Annual **Bridge the Research and Analysis Gap** program

At Holland & Hart, 555 Seventeenth Street, Suite 3200

8:30am - 12:00pm, June 2, 2004

"Practically Perfect Presentations"

COALL Spring Training
Faegre & Benson,
3200 Wells Fargo Center

March 18th, 8:30AM - Noon

Officers - 2003-2004

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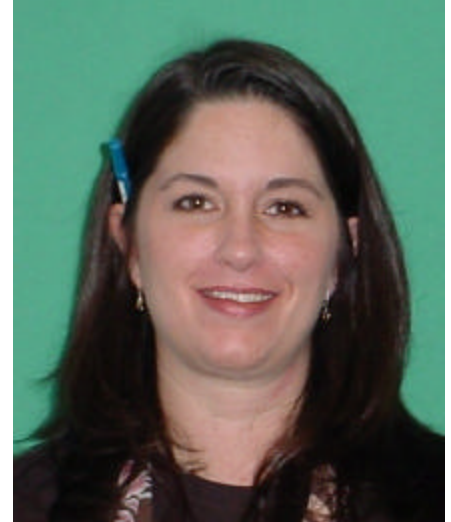
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NEW MEMBER

By Margi Heinen

Jennifer Hammond is the new Reference Librarian at Sherman & Howard and a new CoALL member. She has been in libraries for several years and graduated with her master's degree in August, 2004, from Emporia State University School of Library and Information Management. In the past she has worked, volunteered, or interned at the Arapahoe County Jail Library, Denver Public Library, Colorado Supreme Court Library, and the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals Library. Before librarianship Jennifer worked in social services and non-profit organizations. Jennifer and her husband are the very proud parents of a four year old daughter, Grace. Their family enjoys hiking and traveling.



Keep It “Simple”

By Ken Kozlowski

Do you find it increasingly difficult to keep on the latest happenings in the world of law, politics, and possibly technology? The evolution of “current awareness” on the Internet has taken a giant leap in recent months with the mainstreaming of the web log, or blog, or blawg.

Previously, you could read the newspaper, listen to the radio, or perhaps watch television news on the local stations. Cable television upped the ante, but also made the choices more difficult. You have ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, CNNH, MSNBC, CNBC, Fox, Fox News Channel, and some people even profess to keep current on the news by watching *The Daily Show* on the Comedy Channel. Attorneys can also relax in front of CourtTV and watch live trials. The Internet made it even easier to keep current. One could subscribe to mailing lists or listservs®, surf news sites, or access legal portals like FindLaw, MegaLaw, or law.com. The web log has now changed the way I keep current on a variety of things. In essence, I’ve had an epiphany, and its name is “blog.”

First things first. Blog is simply the shortened term for web log. Blawg is short-hand for a web log that is law-oriented. The “simple” referred to in the title of this article is part of the term “Really Simple Syndication,” or even more simply, RSS. RSS is an XML-based (Xtensible Markup Language) format for content distribution. It’s a news feed, similar to what would come across a teletype (do those still exist?) from the Associated Press or United Press International in the days of yore. The great thing about all of this is that you need to know absolutely nothing about RSS, XML, or any other portion of the alphabet soup associated with it. A nice page offered by the web site c|net explains a lot of this, if you are interested. <http://www.cnet.com/4520-6022-5115113.html>

One thing you will need is a news aggregator, and a little time to subscribe to your feeds. The aggregator I started using after my epiphany is Bloglines. <http://www.bloglines.com>

You must sign up for the service, usually with just an e-mail address and password. After you do that, you're ready to go.

How do you subscribe to newsfeeds? If you use Bloglines, they offer a list of blogs that you want to use. The other way is to surf over to the web site associated with the blog. Before doing that however, you want to load a little "bookmarklet" that allows easy subscriptions to blogs without any hassle. There will be a link to it on the Bloglines page. It will direct you to drag the bookmarklet to your Links toolbar. This can be done by those using either the Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox web browsers. Trust me, it's *easy*. Next, find a web log, any web log. You might have seen one referenced on a web page or a newspaper story. Doesn't matter. You might also use a web log search mechanism like <http://blawgs.detod.com/> to help in finding a relevant one. One you can use for practice is Robert Ambrogi's LawSites, located at <http://www.legaline.com/lawsites.html>. You will see one of these symbols:

XML or **RSS**

That means that there is a feed available. What you should then do is click on your Bloglines subscribe bookmarklet and the subscription process begins. If that doesn't work, you may have to click on the XML or RSS icons first, then the bookmarklet.

Here is what your Bloglines subscription frame will look like once you've subscribe to a few things:



Here a few of the more "legal" type of blawgs you might want to check out:

- Bag and Baggage <http://bagandbaggage.com>
- Inter Alia <http://www.inter-alia.net/index.php>
- Legal Marketing <http://legalmarketing.typepad.com>
- PDF for Lawyers <http://www.pdfforallawyers.com/>
- beSpacific <http://www.bespacific.com/>
- LawLibTech <http://www.lawlibtech.com/>
- How Appealing <http://legalaffairs.org/howappealing/>
- Ernie The Attorney <http://ernieattorney.typepad.com/>
- SCOTUSBlog <http://www.goldsteinhowe.com/blog/index.cfm>
- Overlawyered <http://www.overlawyered.com/>
- The 10b-5 Daily <http://www.the10b-5daily.com/>
- GrepLaw <http://grep.law.harvard.edu/>
- Blonde Justice <http://blondejustice.blogspot.com/>

All of the above blawgs cover some aspect of the law, whether it's legal research, appellate practice, or the U.S. Supreme Court. It's a great way to keep current on a myriad of subjects.

There are literally thousands of web logs out there, perhaps millions. Some are good, some are garbage. You should discern the reliability of a blog on your own or rely on a trusted opinion. You can use a different news aggregator other than Bloglines, it's just the one I chose to

use for illustrative purposes. If you need help with any of this RSS stuff, please send me an e-mail and I'll be glad to offer some tips.

©Ken Kozlowski, 2004

Reprinted with the author's permission. Thank you, Ken

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2005 SWALL Annual Meeting:

The 2005 SWALL annual meeting will be held on March 31 - April 2, 2005 at the Doubletree Hotel at Markham and Broadway Streets, Little Rock, AR

The Theme of the meeting is "Big Ideas Come From Little Rock."

Opening dinner will be held at the Clinton Presidential Center.

This information is from the SWALL website:

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/swall/meeting2005/index.html>

2005 AALL Annual Meeting

Supporting New Professionals: the AALL Annual Meeting Grants

The AALL Grants Program provides financial assistance to law librarians or graduate students who hold promise of future involvement in AALL and the law library profession. Funds are provided by vendors, AALL, and AALL individual members. Grants are awarded to cover the Annual Meeting registration fee or the registration fee for workshops presented at the Annual Meeting. Preference is given to applicants who are new to the profession and active in AALL or one of its chapters.

The AALL Grants Program began in 1952 and is one of the oldest and most successful AALL programs. More than 1,000 librarians have received funding to assist them in attending AALL educational activities. Many of those recipients are leaders in the profession today. For additional information, check out the application on the Association's web site.

<http://www.aallnet.org/committee/grants/grants.asp>

In 2001, the Minority Leadership Development Award was created to assure that AALL's leadership remains vital, relevant and representative of the Association's diverse membership. The Award provides up to \$1,500.00 toward the cost of attending the Annual Meeting, an

experienced AALL leader to serve as the recipient's mentor, and an opportunity to serve on an AALL committee during the year following the monetary award. For additional information, check out the application on the Association's web site. http://www.aallnet.org/about/award_mlda.asp Applications for both AALL Grants Programs must be received at the Association's headquarters by April 1, 2005.

Paddy Satzer, AALL Grants Committee Chair

Things are Bigger in Texas



By Monica M. Ortale, M.L.I.M., J.D.
Faculty Services & Reference Librarian
The Fred Parks Law Library
South Texas College of Law

Local Arrangements Committee for 2005 AALL Convention in San Antonio

"Things are Bigger in Texas!" Just take a look at the giant sized boots outside North Star Mall. A tribute to just two of my not so secret vices, shopping and shoes! San Antonio has fabulous shopping, and La Villita is next to the Hilton, a complex of 27 restored buildings on the site of a Coahuiltecan Indian Village. Each building showcases various artists. There's painting, jewelry, pottery and beautiful weavings, all unique to the region.

Just a short trolley ride down Commerce St. is El Mercado, a veritable warehouse of pottery, and then there's the farmer's market. If you don't get enough to eat browsing the stalls, then head to the restaurants. La Margarita is my favorite, and I can picture it now as the colorful waiter carries the sizzling fajitas platter, the steam streaming behind and, oh, the aroma!

But, for those with a car, head north on I-35 for about 30 minutes and be prepared to visit the mecca of all shopping. The factory outlet stores of San Marcos, hundreds of them, too many to mention, but definitely worth the trip when you consider the savings.

Ah, but I digress. For those who love shopping for footwear, there are marvelous bootmakers. Try Lucchese, hand made bootmakers since 1883, or Crazy Horse custom boots, both in San Antonio.

For me, shoes are everything, and the factory outlet shoe stores are an option. But, if you want something closer to the convention center, then Dillard's & the shops in RiverCenter have a wonderful assortment. When all are tried on and bought, there's nothing like relaxing at a table on the Riverwalk level, watching the tourists and the riverboats, sipping a Starbucks coffee, knowing that the bags surrounding you are full of shoes just waiting for the right occasion, like, the General Business meeting.

ARMA Announcement

On May 9-10, 2005, the ARMA Mile High Denver Chapter will present a 1 ½ day seminar and vendor show. The seminar title is “*A Changing Landscape: New Roles, Responsibilities & Directions for Records Management*” and will be presented by George C. Cunningham & John C. Montaña, Esq. George Cunningham and John Montaña have a combined 40+ years providing consulting services to clients. Today, leading the firm of professionals they formed in 2002 with the merger of their separate consulting practices, they are recognized as the premier source for independent expertise, trusted advice and meaningful guidance in the information and records management discipline.

For specific information regarding the seminar, costs and registration, please go to the ARMA Mile High Denver Chapter website at www.armadenver.org. The seminar brochure can be accessed under the Events > Spring Seminar menu. Online registration will be available by March 1st for those who wish to register and pay using a credit card. If you have any questions, please email contact@armadenver.org.

Sheri Nystedt, CRM
President
ARMA Mile High Denver Chapter

CoALL Business:

Colorado Association of Law Libraries
General Meeting
October 26, 2004
Federal Office Building, 1961 Stout Street, room 239

In attendance: Goldie Burton (Treasurer), Dan Cordova (President), Andrea Hamilton (Secretary), Kaye Waelde (Vice President), Ann-Marie Wills (CoALL member), Erin Zak (CoALL member)

Agenda:

1. Call to Order (4:00 PM)
2. Introductions/Recognition of Guests
3. Announcements
 - Secretary of State filing
 - Chapter liability insurance
4. Committee Reports
5. Old Business
 - Boulder meeting minutes (September 17th)
6. New Business
 - Prez Group
 - PR Chair
7. Adjourn

1. Call to Order

- ✓ President Dan Cordova called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

2. Introductions/Recognition of Guests

- ✓ Goldie gave a CoALL members count: 61 current, paid members

3. Announcements

Secretary of State filing

- ✓ Dan reported that Katheryn Christnacht has been taking care of the SOS filing for the Association. She is getting legal assistance from an attorney at HRO.
- ✓ It has been clarified that this filing is done every year, but a filing fee is due every other year.
- ✓ This year's filing will reflect the Association's shift from a 501(c)(6) [trade association] to a 501(c)(3) [educational association]. This shift will allow for tax-deductible donations to the association, as well as assist with the streamlining of programming, training, and educational activities outside the confines of CoALL.

Chapter liability insurance

- ✓ Insurance costs \$1.50/employee, done through AALL. Payment is due by the end of October.

4. Committee Reports

Kaye: Holiday party

- ✓ Dan has recommended the holiday party be held at Ardelt's (<http://www.ardeltsvictoriangarden.com/>). This facility will accommodate approximately 50 sitting/100 standing, plus there is room for overflow. Kaye is verifying that the cost for three hours would be \$300 (or \$400 or 4 hours, to allow for setup and cleanup). This cost will include the sound system and decorations.
- ✓ Dan also has a caterer he recommends. He will negotiate a price, but Board is aiming for approximately 50 people @ \$12 each. It is also budgeting for around 12 bottles of wine @ \$7 each. Holly Kulikowski will help with this.
- ✓ Tentative holiday party date: December 9th, 6 – 9:00 PM
- ✓ Once location and date have been verified, it was suggested a “save the date”/pre-RSVP announcement go out

- ✓ Holiday party is traditionally a venue to introduce new members

Programming

- ✓ Board meeting will be set for November to discuss organizing a BRAG or Institute session for the spring as well as what other programming needs to take place outside of BRAG or the Institute.
- ✓ Kaye mentioned SLA's annual meeting in 2007 will be in Denver. She suggests CoALL organizing a presentation for the event.
- ✓ Ann-Marie suggested personal invites to CoALL meetings, namely by phone. She volunteered to coordinate the effort.
- ✓ Dan reported that the deadline to request a chapter visit from an AALL member has passed so there will not be a chapter visit in April 2005.

5. Old Business: Boulder meeting minutes (September 17th)

- ✓ No new Treasurer's Report was submitted; not necessary at this time

6. New Business

Prez Group

- ✓ Dan let the Association know of the current status of Gail Dow as head of the Prez Group. The Prez Group is an informal group involving the presidents of local chapters, getting together to share ideas and marketing strategies. One of the consequences of CoALL shifting to a 501(c)(3) is that there cannot be any involvement in PACs. The future of Gail Dow as head, as well as CoALL's participation in the Group, is uncertain.

PR Chair

- ✓ Monica Martens cannot continue in this position and so a successor is being sought.
- ✓ Job description (as provided by Monica):

1. When I hear of a CoALL program / event or read of news (about CoALL or a member) in our newsletter, then I create a blurb about the item and send it to a contact person at AALL for publication in Spectrum.

** Karen Selden who did this position previously was also very good about sending information to various groups within CoALL -- newsletters for the SIS's and SWALL, for instance. I did this the first year and then couldn't get to it all.

2. Last year I submitted us for an award, which required putting together an application.
3. I attend the PR meetings at AALL. Usually lasts one hour on one of the days of the annual meeting.
4. In the past I organized PBS volunteering, but last year we decided to take a break from this; we just didn't have the member interest, and the perks in terms of getting our name out weren't as good as they were when we first started doing this. Plus, it sounded like the PR position might be used more to publicize CoALL events within the community.

I haven't been involved in local PR, though. Mostly, I think, organizers of CoALL events get the word out themselves.

5. I've forwarded info about booth opportunities at conferences to the president, as I did the other day.

✓ Theresa Baker has been offered the position of Web Master for CoALL.

Meeting is adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Hamilton
Secretary
11/02/2004

Addition to Minutes printed in the Fall/Winter 2004 Scuttle:

An attachment to the Minutes was inadvertently omitted in the last newsletter. Kaye Waelde submitted the results of her membership survey to the Board, and this should have been included as Attachment A to the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting from September 17, 2004. (referred to on page 9 of the newsletter).

Results Summary

1. Membership Survey

1. What do you expect from your membership in COALL?

		Response Percent	Response Total
Meetings that educate		96.4%	27
Socialization with other law librarians		89.3%	25
Opportunities for publication		21.4%	6
Opportunities for presentation		32.1%	9
An organization to list on my resume		32.1%	9
<input type="button" value="View"/> Other (please specify)		14.3%	4
Total Respondents			28
(skipped this question)			0

2. Of the expectations above, which have you been able to accomplish with your COALL membership in the past year?

		Response Percent	Response Total
Meetings that educate		56%	14
Socialization with other law librarians		88%	22
Opportunities for publication		20%	5
Opportunities for presentation		20%	5
An organization to list on my resume		48%	12
<input type="button" value="View"/> Other (please specify)		8%	2
Total Respondents			25
(skipped this question)			3

3. Which of these is the most valuable to you?

		Response Percent	Response Total
Meetings that educate		81.5%	22
Socialization with other law librarians		48.1%	13
Opportunities for publication		3.7%	1
Opportunities for presentation		3.7%	1
An organization to list on my resume		3.7%	1
<input type="button" value="View"/> Other (please specify)		7.4%	2

Total Respondents	27
(skipped this question)	1

4. How often do you attend COALL meetings each year?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Never		3.6%	1
Once		21.4%	6
Twice		46.4%	13
Three or more times		28.6%	8
Total Respondents			28
(skipped this question)			0

5. If you don't attend COALL meetings or educational offerings, is it because:			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Location		12%	3
Time		36%	9
Content of the programs		20%	5
View Other (please specify)		32%	8
Total Respondents			25
(skipped this question)			3

6. If a COALL meeting was called to discuss a strategic plan for future endeavors, would you attend?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Yes		82.1%	23
No		17.9%	5
Total Respondents			28
(skipped this question)			0

7. Additional comments?	
View Total Respondents	13
(skipped this question)	15

Open-Ended Results Detail

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What do you expect from your membership in COALL?	
1.	Leadership Opportunities; Networking Opportunities; Professional Development Opportunities; Mentoring Opportunities
2.	News of other law firms, courts, law schools, etc. , Also meeting librarians outside the field of law, learning about alternative careers, learning more about technology and how to do it.
3.	opportunities to serve the librarycommunity and public
4.	connections with whom to brainstorm, see other ideas

Open-Ended Results Detail

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Which of these is the most valuable to you?	
1.	Leadership Opportunities; Networking Opportunities; Professional Development Opportunities;
2.	connections

Open-Ended Results Detail

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If you don't attend COALL meetings or educational offerings, is it because:

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Can't always get down from Boulder; also have a class on Thursday aft/evenings. |
| 2. | Just started working in a law library last aug. and not sure about what I could do if I did have a membership. |
| 3. | New member |
| 4. | All of the above; I can only justify travelling to Denver if I get at least 2 of these 3 things: professional development/good programming; leadership opportunities; or good networking opportunities |
| 5. | I didn't attend meetings last year because they were not publicized until the last minute if at all. |
| 6. | location and content |
| 7. | workload |
| 8. | all of the above |

Open-Ended Results Detail

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Additional comments?	
1.	I would certainly do my best to attend any meeting focusing on strategic planning. Note that on question #1, I checked the first 4 items because those are in fact, I believe, PROVIDED by CoALL's existence. The first two are the most imp't to me, as seen in my response to question #3.
2.	THank you for asking.
3.	Beacue I am a new member, I have not really had the oppportunity to attend many of the functions and don't feel I can put in a lot of valuable suggestions at this time.
4.	Noon meetings in Denver are just not practical for any of us travelling from Boulder to attend (unless one is an officer or committee chair or member). Please make a commitment to holding at least one meeting in Boulder (or even the Broomfield area) each year.
5.	I think we should should re-establish the 1/2 day CoALL Institute on the last Saturday in February or the 1st in March.
6.	I'd prefer that meetings occur during the work day -- not after
7.	I am in Colorado Springs, and location is by far my worst problem. It is difficult to attend meetings, so I don't get to many.
8.	Brown Bag offerings have been negligible. I don't like audio programs only, because it is hard to listen intently for 40-50 minutes. Video is preferred over audio only and a live presentation is preferred.
9.	Thanks for taking the time to care. I have not been attending many meetings lately because of tremendous work demands and the time it takes to travel back and forth from Boulder to Denver and then to my home in Lyons.
10.	I would probably take more advantage of the educational offerings if I lived in Denver and was closer to them. It's just such a pain to get down there with the interstate traffic. If I lived closer to Denver, I would probably expect educational offerings, but since I don't make the effort to get to them, I don't think it's fair for me to mark that as an expectation of CoAll. :)
11.	I am so glad you are doing this survey. I am particularly interested in meetings where we can gain practical application to our workplace.
12.	I would love to see a wide selection of programs and possible program collaboration with other similar organizations within the community.
13.	thanks for taking the bull by the horns.

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