1993

Publicity and Public Relations Committee Annual Report, 1993-1994

SEAALL

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The Publicity/Public Relations Committee focused this year on State Bar Associations and increasing their awareness of the law library profession. This still falls within the long range goals established in 1989-90.

1) Increase awareness of SEALL and law librarianship as a profession for library and law schools students

2) Increase awareness of law librarianship and SEALL activities to non-law librarians and the legal community

The Committee contacted all the State Bar Associations in the southeast about displaying or distributing brochures at their annual meetings. All states responded, although several of them stated there would be a charge ranging from $100 to $500. We contacted these states again emphasizing that this is a public service not a for-profit exhibit. We have not received responses as of this time.

We will be sending brochures to at least seven of the southeastern states with a possibility of three more states responding favorably. Mississippi and Alabama have said they will include the brochures in their packets to be handed out at registration. Virginia has indicated they will allow us to set up a display.

Chapter news has not been submitted to the AALL newsletter as no one has sent new items for me to submit.

As an additional task, a letter will be sent in May to Library School deans asking that they remember the law library profession in their career days.

Recommendations for 1994-95 committee:

1. Continue to send membership information and news of SEALL activities to library school deans and state library associations.

2. Solicit SEALL law librarians geographically close to southeastern library schools as contacts to encourage law
librarianship. Our staff at Alabama has done this with two positive results: Hazel Johnson will be teaching a Legal Research class in our library school this summer and a campaign is underway to establish a scholarship for those interested in a career in law librarianship.

3. Focus on "career days" at both library schools and at law schools through placement offices.

I would like to thank committee members Gail Warren and Amy Osborne for their help this year.

Ruth Weeks
Chairman - Publicity/Public Relations
A Law Librarian

A law librarian is a skilled information specialist who works in public and academic libraries, law firms, corporations, government agencies, court libraries and as independent consultants. They help judges, attorneys, professors, students, and members of the public find information on legal issues.

What does a Law Librarian do?

A Law Librarian performs various duties relating to the organization and distribution of legal information. These duties include:

- specialized reference and research services
- teaching legal research and materials use
- online database searching and training
- evaluating and collecting legal materials
- promoting resource sharing among libraries
- designing and maintaining circulation systems
- preparing fiscal reports, budgets and long range plans

Qualifications of a Law Librarian

Most employers require a Master's degree in Library Science or Information Services for a professional position. A law degree is required for some positions especially in law schools. Computer skills and an interest in law are desirable.

Paraprofessional positions are available for people with bachelor degrees with management experience and library science course work.

For more information about the law librarian profession, contact the American Association of Law Libraries at 312-939-4764.
TYPES OF LAW LIBRARIANS

PRIVATE LAW LIBRARIANS: Private law librarians are employed in law firms of all sizes in towns and cities throughout the country. They also manage the law libraries of corporate legal departments and government agencies.

GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIANS: These librarians serve the legal information needs of the judiciary. They are found in the large urban federal court library to the isolated rural county law library.

ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIANS: Academic law librarians instruct law students in the effective use of print and online research tools. They work closely with law school professors to provide research support. They also serve members of the university community, the practicing bar and the general public.

WHAT IS A LAW LIBRARIAN?

Prepared by the Publicity and Public Relations Committee Southeastern Chapter American Association of Law Libraries