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Summer 2021



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Southeastern Law Librarian

Presidential Ponderings ... from Sarah

I sat down to write this column and absolutely nothing I considered writing felt right. Each time I stared at the blank page in front, I found it impossible to shepherd my thoughts toward something interesting or uplifting or even law library related. Instead, those pesky brain cells just kept jumping back again and again to what seems to be the only thing on my, or anyone else's, mind. Even the reference questions I see each day are focused almost entirely on the pandemic related, with nearly everyone looking to get divorced after more than a year of forced togetherness or keep a roof over their head as the end of the eviction moratorium looms.

Y'all, I am tired and frustrated. Watching the news, I see the U.S. headed into the fourth wave of Covid-19 infections and most of the worst affected areas are in SEAALL country. The Delta variant makes it seem as though none



Sarah Mauldin
SEAALL President
DeKalb County Law Library

of the progress we've made in the last sixteen months really happened. We've gone from the promise of three highly effective vaccines being made widely available in record time to a stalled shot program with vials expiring as Americans refuse to get a jab (or two) all while clamoring to get back to normal. Meanwhile, infections rage around the world while vaccination progress lags.

The science is clear. Vaccinations are safe and effective. Vaccinations save lives. Yes, vaccinated people might still get infected, but the chances of being

hospitalized or dying are miniscule. The people who are getting sick and dying are nearly universally unvaccinated.

I miss you all and really want to get back to life as we knew it. I want to go to conferences and concerts and church. I want to hang out with people and laugh and sing in a group. I want folks to get back to work and school. I want to stop thinking about a virus every day.

The only way we can get back to anything like normal is for everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. Please get your shots. If you've already been vaccinated, encourage your unvaccinated friends and family to get it done. Talk to strangers about why you get vaccinated and encourage them to do it, too.

We can do this. We must do this. We will do this.

Thanks for letting me get that off my chest. Remember that each one of you matters to me and that I want you to be safe, happy, and well. I can't wait to see you all again soon.

Tech Tip: Making your library's (or your personal) social media more



Aimee Pittman
Reference Librarian
LSU Paul M. Herbert
Law Center

Making your content accessible benefits your entire audience and you. Accessible social media is easy to follow, accommodates disabilities, and is inclusive. It does change how you run your social media account, but it doesn't appreciably increase your workload. It can also boost the visibility of your posts as the platforms and search engines use the same information you provide to make your content accessible to find and rank the content. More accessibility equals more exposure.

How do you increase the accessibility of your social media? By making things easy to read, easy to see, easy to be read by adaptive technologies, and inclusive. This not only helps you reach persons with disabilities but it makes it easier for non-disabled persons to interact with your content. Here are some simple steps to increase the accessibility of your social media:

1. Make sure you write alternative text, or alt-text, for photos. This allows screen readers to explain a picture to a person with vision difficulties. A good alt-text contains concise, relevant information about the content of the picture. Make sure you include any words that appear in the picture. You

don't have to label it "photo of" or "image of".

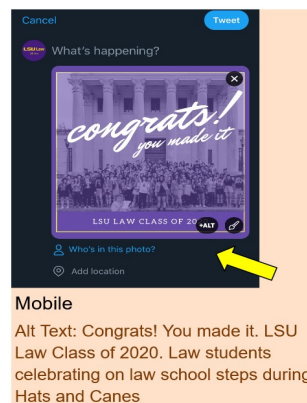
Twitter

Twitter alt text must be added prior to tweeting the picture. Remember there is no edit function on Twitter! The process looks different depending on whether you use the desktop or mobile versions of Twitter. On the desktop, look for "Add Description" immediately under your uploaded picture. On Mobile, look for a "+ALT" circle in the lower right-hand corner of your picture.

Desktop example:

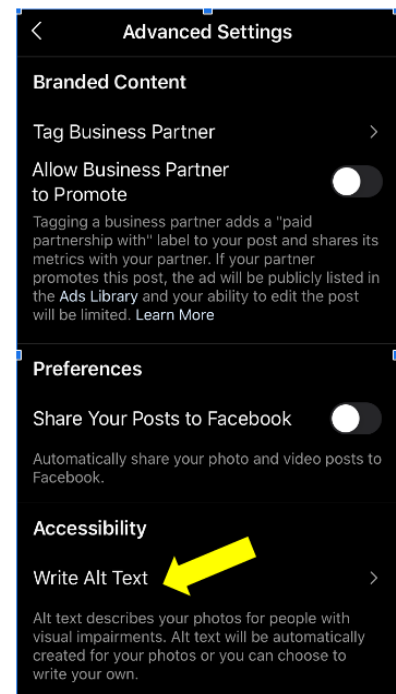
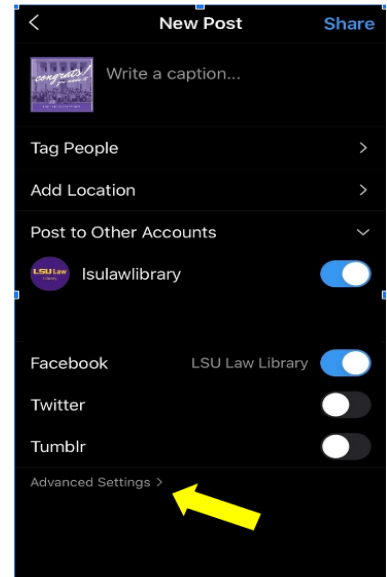


Mobile Example with my alt-text:



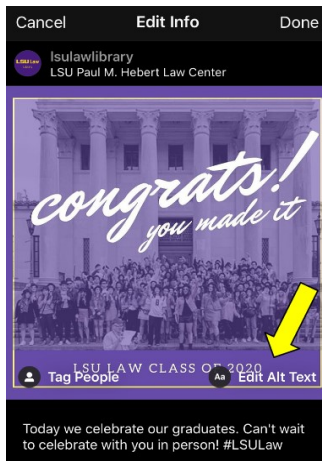
Instagram

When you are posting on Instagram, you can add in alt text as you compose the post by accessing "Advanced Settings" and "Write Alt Text."



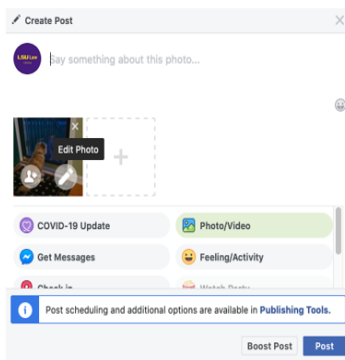
When editing a post on Instagram to add Alt Text, select the ... in the upper right corner, select Edit, and then Edit Alt Text will appear in the bottom left of the picture.

Tech Tip Cont.

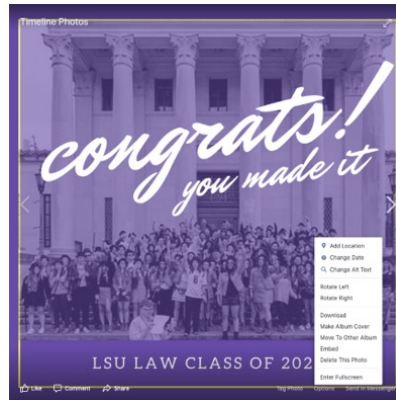


Facebook

For new posts, hover your cursor over the uploaded picture and click the pencil icon that appears on the photo. Select Alt Text from the menu that pops up and describe your picture.



For pictures you have already posted on Facebook, you can add alt text by clicking on the picture and then hovering your cursor over it. A menu will appear at the bottom of the picture that includes "Options". Click on Options and select "Change Alt Text" from the menu.



2. Make things easy to read.

Ensure that there is enough of a difference between your text color and your background. This is called contrast and there are web content guidelines published by W3C Web Accessibility Initiative. Contrast requirements vary based on text size and boldness. You can ensure there's sufficient contrast by using WebAim's Contrast Checker (<https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/>).

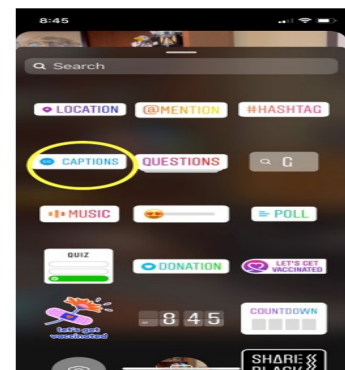
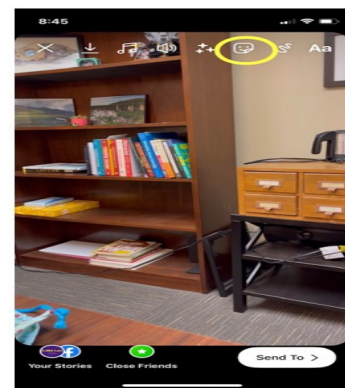
Don't make writing tiny. Smaller text is hard to see for everyone on a phone screen but especially for a person with visual impairments. Use the biggest font you can and don't dump a lot of words on your social media picture. Think of words on the picture as a headline. Save your words for the caption.

Be mindful of colorblindness. Red-green colorblindness is the most common, affecting 5-10% of the U.S. population according to the National Institutes of Health. An easy way to see the effects of colorblindness is to use the simulator available at colororacle.org.

3. Caption videos

Both Instagram and TikTok have automatic closed captioning available for videos within their platforms. These have just been released this year and eliminate the need for third party captioning services. Instagram's captioning even works on live streams.

To access closed-captioning on Instagram Stories, click the square "sticker" box at the top of the screen. This is the same place you access gifs, polls, and other add-ons. Once the new menu pops up, look for the blue "Captions" button. This will automatically generate captions and overlay them on your video. Don't forget to proofread the caption and fix any mistakes! Automatically generated captions struggle with technical and legal terms and regional accents.



4. Camel Case hashtags

#YourLawLibrary is easier to read at a glance than #yourlawlibrary. It also helps screen readers.

These four things ensure your content reaches the widest possible audience and protects your institution from lawsuits alleging violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Closed Stacks



Sibyl Marshall
Head of Public Services
The University of Tennessee
College of Law

Eliza Boles featured some of my reading habits and book-organizing in this column in the Spring 2017 issue of Closed Stacks. Long story short, I love to read and spend a fair amount of time thinking

about what I will read and how to represent and organize my books. As Eliza mentioned, I get most of my reading from my local public library system – about 75% of my reading each year. But I do purchase books of my own – and get them as gifts – so for this column, I will delve into what I choose to buy and how I organize and store those books.

First off, this column is about physical books, mostly for the sake of brevity! I also love and use ebooks and audiobooks, and anyone who wants to tell me those aren't "real books" can fight me. But for this column, we're talking physical books.

I am a reformed book hoarder. I used to have a few thousand books that I stored in several floor to ceiling bookcases. After a few moves with the books in tow, I realized that I didn't need the vast majority of the books I had and vowed only to keep one small bookcase of books. Not only do I not want to pay movers to haul books around the country, but I also don't want to end up one of those sad souls crushed to death by their books

in an earthquake. Here is my current set-up:



Thanks to teething puppies, the bookcase is now a little worse for wear, but I love it and will hold on to it, as it was made by my grandfather almost seventy years ago. My organization of books is relatively simple. At the very top, I have a few favorite classics. That is followed by fiction and then nonfiction, both organized alphabetically by author. I also have a few graphic books and poetry books shelved separately on the second shelf. I did dabble in arranging nonfiction by Dewey call number but concluded that I dislike spending time assigning call numbers, shelving in call number order, and shelf reading – unless it is part of my job and I'm getting paid for it. This system is easy to use and makes it easy to find the book I want. I only hold on to a few books after reading them. The vast majority are given away or donated.

Full disclosure: I have a small overflow bookshelf just for basic reference books and books on their way to the Friends of the Library donation bin but haven't made it there yet.

So, how do I choose which books to buy since I am primarily a library user? There are three main types of books that end up on my shelves. First are the classics that I love and for which there is an

edition with a great cover that I can't resist. This is my version of a luxury gift to myself.



Although I love these books and consider them a luxury, they aren't much more expensive than a standard paperback.

Another type of book I am likely to buy – or have someone give me as a gift – is a book that is both likely to be popular at the library and is a bit of a chunkster. This type of book is one that I definitely can get at the library, if I am willing to wait on a hold list. But due to the existence of the hold list, I won't be able to renew it. The end result is I will feel a ton of pressure to plow through an 800 page book and get it back to the library. This type of book is one that I love to own rather than borrow. I love a big book, and it makes me happy to have these books on my shelf where I can admire them and read them without any sense of urgency.



The Mirror & the Light by Hilary Mantel (883 pages), *A Promised Land* by Barack Obama (751 pages), and *The Eighth Life* by Nino Haratischvili (944 pages).

Closed Stacks Cont.

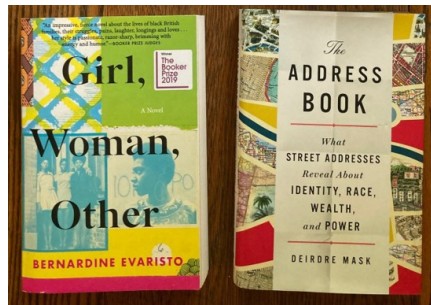
The final type of book I am most likely to buy makes me kind of angry that I have to buy rather than borrow. These are books that my public library system chose not to acquire at all, or acquired them weeks or months after their publication date. Don't get me wrong, I love my public library system and overall, I think they do a fantastic job. But I have certainly noticed that books by authors of color (particularly if they contain what is euphemistically described as "political content") and LGBTQ+ authors seem less likely to be purchased by the library than books by straight, white authors. I have heard from librarian friends in other public library systems that they will hold back on buying some of these books unless and until they receive multiple purchase requests from patrons, so that they can use these requests as cover/

explanation if community members or government overseers challenge them. While I don't like this situation, I can't say I don't understand it.

Here are some books that I bought because my library did not have them:



Postcolonial Love Poem by Natalie Diaz just won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. *Release* by Patrick Ness is a Carnegie Medal Honor book.



Girl, Woman, Other by Bernardine Evaristo won the Booker Prize in 2019. *The Address Book* by Deirdre Mask was a finalist for the Kirkus Prize and the Goodreads Choice Award. All of them are by authors who are people of color and/or LGBTQ+. My library eventually purchased two of them, months after I had my own copies, and two are still completely absent from their collection. I want to encourage everyone out there who uses your public library – keep an eye on what your library does and doesn't buy and use that "Suggest a Purchase" online form frequently. I'll close out with a quick list of three recent favorites: *Empire of Pain* by Patrick Radden Keefe, *How Beautiful We Were* by Imbolo Mbue, and *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro.

Tech Note: SEAALL has a Twitter account and we love to highlight the accomplishments and activities of SEAALL members. Please tag @SEAALL1 on Twitter or send us a direct message or email apitt16@lsu.edu with your news you would like us to share with our Twitter followers.



The SEAALL Newsletter Committee accepts guest submissions.

If you would like to write a short piece and see your name in print in the next SEALL newsletter

please submit it to Kathleen (Katie) Brown

at kbrown@charlestonlaw.edu

I look forward to reading your submissions.

Library Profile: Charleston County Public Library



Marisa Kate Henthorn
Access Services Specialist
Charleston School
of Law

When I was first asked to write about the Main Library branch of the Charleston County Public Library for the SE-AALL Newsletter, I was

delighted. The library is one that I was already familiar with. I have fond memories of studying there in high school, using their resources to write my first research paper, and browsing the shelves while waiting for my friends to get out of classes at the College of Charleston, just down the street.

The Main Library branch of CCPL enjoys a prime location in downtown Charleston across from the Gaillard Auditorium. The Charleston County Public Library was first created as a free library in a wing of the Charleston Museum with five branches and a bookmobile in 1931. Since then, it has grown to serve the community of Charleston County with 18 branches and a bookmobile. They have a multitude of wonderful programs, including free meals in the summertime for school children, virtual events, the Saul Alexander Art Gallery, and a summer reading program for pre-readers, children,

teens, and adults. (I actually signed up for this and am 39% of the way through my summer reading goal. So far, I have earned a cat pen, bookmark, and a ticket to a local baseball game!)

Approaching the library anew as a law librarian was an interesting perspective. My degree is in Art History, and I have always been interested in historical information and documents, which is able to be indulged in a town like Charleston with a rich, complicated past. I knew that the Main Library had a non-circulating history collection and archives located in the South Carolina History Room, referred to as the SC Room. When I reached out, I was put into contact with Marianne Cawley, who kindly offered to show me the collection.

The SC Room is about 1/8th legal documents, according to a guesstimation by Ms. Cawley. These are mostly older volumes of law codes, acts, statutes, and joint resolutions, as well as the Supreme Court Reporter and Southeastern Reporter, mostly at the state level. The law codes are from 1895-1990 with the more recent codes posted at the public website: library.municode.com/sc/charleston. While that is an impressive list,

what I found the most interesting was the historical law documents that the library boasted. They had a series of the Journal of the Commons House of Assembly of South Carolina from 1698-1862, which dates back to the beginning of the colony. They also had the South Carolina Legislative Manual for the General Assembly, starting in 1917 and continuing to present day, published in books small enough to hold in your hand! The Acts and Statutes and Joint Resolutions are popular, both in their recent volumes and their historical, which date back to 1682.

The library collection had several projects undertaken as part of FDR's Works Progress Administration program during the Great Depression. Through this period of turmoil for the country, people were hired to transcribe important documents for the library including City Council meetings dating all the way back to 1832. These documents are still to this day handwritten on sheets of paper and filed in filing boxes, which sit on the shelves in the library. It was interesting to see the layered history of Charleston in these writings, both from the 1830s and the 1930s.

The CCPL Main Library has many features with personal touches like this. In addition to handwritten City Council documents, the library has what they call "Vertical Files" which consist of newspaper and magazine clippings from local news.



Library Profile Cont.

These go back many years and are updated every day. Most of the information in them is biographical and political, as the archives of the library focus primarily on “the public history of the Charleston area through the collection and preservation of unique manuscripts and images, as well as rare books and other print materials about the political, economic, cultural and topographical history of Charleston.” (ccpl.org/sc-room-description)

Ms. Cawley was kind enough to pull a few folders with clippings that mention both lawyers and judges for me to peruse. The pages were yellowed with age. Some of the clippings dated back to the 1930s. Most were written on, detailing the date of the clipping and other tombstone information, but others lacked this information. Still, they were valuable and fascinating pieces of

history to enjoy and incredible resources for any historian or lawyer who is looking to research the judicial and legislative history of South Carolina, and especially Charleston.

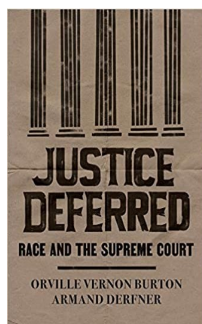
As well as books and newspaper clippings, there are several file cabinets full of microfilms. While I unfortunately did not have time to sort through all of these (much to my dismay), Ms. Cawley mentioned there are South Carolina Admiralty records here, which I thought may be interesting to some of our student body, considering our Admiralty and Maritime Law LL.M. program. There are also letters received by the Attorney General from the years 1871-1884, just after the civil war, mostly pertaining to KKK activity in the area.

I was lucky to be able to take a trip back into the archives, which was an extremely generous gesture. Ms. Cawley pulled a tome of wills from the year 1672 for us to examine. Charleston County has some of the best preserved wills from this time

period (between 1672-1868), due to most counties sending their documents for safe keeping in Columbia during the Civil War, where they were subsequently burned due to the fighting. The wills at the CCPL Main Library are typed up on typewriters, another product of the Works Progress Administration. The original documents have been lost, but having these secondary sources is still invaluable and fascinating. Charleston County is the only county to have these records stored both at the library and the county archive, so it was a special treat to be able to view them, and I am sure convenient for anyone doing research.

Across from the SC Room is the reference section, which boasts several shelves of current, up-to-date legal aids. It has rows of jurisprudence encyclopedias, Supreme Court Reporters, South-eastern Reporters, digests, codes, and a plethora of other legal documents and forms. Since the Charleston School of Law Library is not a public library, it was valuable information to learn, and I cannot wait to direct people towards the CCPL Main Library’s collection of law materials in the future.

Readers Advisory: Justice Deferred: Race and the Supreme Court



Justice Deferred: Race and the Supreme Court

By Orville Vernon Burton and Armand Derfner

ISBN:
9780674975644

The Belknap Press
of Harvard University Press, 2021;
List Price \$35.

“What happens to a dream deferred?”

Quoting Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes, authors

Vernon Burton and Armand Derfner write, “History, shaped by the Court’s unfolding interpretations and limitations on rights, tells us that Justice has been deferred too long.”

The 2021 book, *Justice Deferred: Race and the Supreme Court*, is a *Recent Acquisition* at the Sol Blatt, Jr. Law Library, Charleston School of Law. Co-author Orville Vernon Burton has written several books and holds the positions of the Judge Matthew J. Perry Jr. Distinguished Professor of History at Clemson University and Emeritus University Scholar and Professor of History at the University of Illinois

Co-author Armand Derfner has been a civil rights lawyer for over fifty years. He has been counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, he has argued and won five Supreme Court cases, and he is the Constitutional Law Scholar-in-Residence at the Charleston School of Law.

Justice Deferred is an engrossing and comprehensive survey of almost two hundred cases exploring the United States Supreme Court’s history of racial jurisprudence.



Deborah Turkewitz
Reference, Faculty &
Publications Librarian
Charleston School of
Law

Readers Advisory Cont.:

The American public is probably familiar with the Warren Court and the civil rights decisions of the 1950s and 1960s. Less familiar might be the early decisions of the Court, the Reconstruction era decisions, or the current Roberts Court and the retreat from racial justice. The authors bring these important decisions to life by focusing on the politics, personalities, and drama behind the cases. One example is the authors' examination of the reviled decision, *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857). The slave-owning "Founding Fathers" are frequently mentioned in public discourse, yet the authors insightfully remind us about the impact of slave-owning Supreme Court Justices on the Court's rulings. In 1857, when the *Dred Scott* case was decided, seven of the nine justices were supporters of slavery; five owned or had once owned slaves. Chief

Justice Roger B. Taney, author of the majority decision, was also a slaveholder. His majority decision is considered to have hastened the onset of the Civil War. We learn from *Justice Deferred*, despite the Court's pro-slavery ruling, the Scott family was emancipated in 1857. *Dred Scott* died the following year from tuberculosis. His wife, Harriet Scott, lived free until she died in 1876, living long enough to see the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment in 1868 and the declaration of her United States citizenship.

The authors state general readers, historians, students, and lawyers are their intended audience for *Justice Deferred*. Structurally, the book serves their intended audience well. Each chapter could serve as a stand-alone reading for research or class assignment. Chapters 1-6 cover the years 1619 to 1953, addressing topics of early slavery cases, indigenous people's land rights, Reconstruction Era constitutional amendments, segregation, Chinese immigration, Jap-

anese internment, and the road to *Brown v. Board of Education*. Chapters 7-13 are topical and cover the Warren Court, employment and housing discrimination, proof of discriminatory results or intent, affirmative action, and criminal justice and law enforcement.

I recommend *Justice Deferred* for all types of libraries. Useful tools within the book include extensive endnotes for each chapter. An Index of Cases lists full citations. A subject Index and a List of Illustrations and Credits are included. A dedicated website at <http://justice-deferred.clemson.edu> includes event recordings, additional chapter resources, links to the text of referenced cases, and an Images Gallery. You can read an excerpt from *Justice Deferred* at: Talking Points Memo, "How the Roberts Court Laid the Groundwork for 2021's All-Out Assault on Voting Rights." I suggest you do not "defer" acquiring this valuable reference for students and readers interested in Supreme Court analysis and American legal history.

Meet & Three

Meet

I have been a library lover for as long as I can remember. My librarian grandmother would take my sister and me to the Natchitoches Parish Library during the summers we spent with her. My hometown library in Winnfield, Louisiana, was maybe a quarter of the size of the Natchitoches library,

so it was always a treat to see what libraries were like on a bigger scope.

My first time working in a library was a volunteer stint at my high school. This led to a summer job at the public library, which led to student employment at the LSU Law Library. My first shift was the closing shift. After all the librarians went home for the day, terrified 18-year-old me was left as the gatekeeper for this huge, important collection

I graduated from LSU's School of Library Science in 2016 with a specialization in academic libraries. At this point, my hometown's library director was retiring and recommended me for the position.

Prior to the interview, I sat in my car in the parking lot and cried, upset over the fact that I was back where I started.



Kayla Reed
Metadata & Digital
Services Librarian
Louisiana State

Meet & Three Cont.

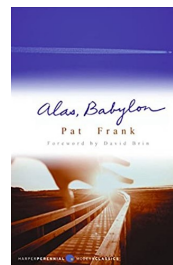
I had come to love Baton Rouge, and the small-town life was not for me anymore. Soon after leaving the interview, the board chair was calling to offer me the position.

Around this time, the LSU Law Library was advertising its Metadata & Digital Services position. Taking a chance, I turned down the Winn Parish Library director position and interviewed once again at the law library. Five years later, I am still

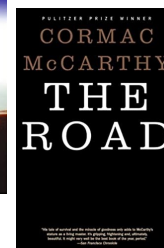
here, learning all the aspects of cataloging, institutional repositories, and system administrator duties. I do sometimes wonder what my life would have been like had I taken the other path, but ultimately, I think that I am right where I am supposed to be.

Three

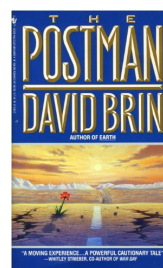
In the spirit of summer, my favorite summer was the one I spent in a lounge chair in my parent's backyard listening to 90's alternative music and reading post-apocalyptic novels. Here are three of those novels:



Alas, Babylon by Pat Frank



The Road by Cormac McCarthy



The Postman by David Brin

Recent Acquisitions: My New Cell Phone

I was excited to see that the guidelines for my assigned topic, Recent Acquisition, allowed me to write about anything that I recently acquired; it didn't have to be about a book or other library-related item. The one caveat, though, was that it had to be something that I thought others would find interesting.

I decided to write about the recent acquisition of my cell phone.

Some of you are already tuning out...that's interesting? What if I told you that my new cell phone replaced my flip phone?

I don't think I'm a Luddite; I use – and mostly enjoy – technology every day. But I don't want technology just to have it; I want technology that makes my life easier or lets me work more efficiently. My flip phone did everything I wanted it to do: I could make and receive telephone calls, as well as send and receive texts. For everything else, I used my desktop or my tablet

I also don't want to be connected 24/7, whether for work or pleasure. When I sign off the computer (usually before dinner), I don't sign on again until the next morning (usually when I get to my office). If there is an emergency, work colleagues, family, and friends know to call or text me (see above...my flip phone did everything I wanted it to do).

So, what was the catalyst? An upcoming trip to St. Louis to celebrate my mom's milestone birthday. For reasons I cannot explain, it just seemed prudent to have a smart phone while traveling during the never-ending pandemic.

The trip was in May, so at the end of April, I mustered all my patience and went to the cell phone store. Four hours later, I was the proud owner of a smart phone, and it only took two return trips to the store and a lengthy call to customer service to get the kinks worked out.

The jury's still out on whether I'm happy with my new phone.

For one thing, it's too big and too heavy. My flip phone fit perfectly in my shorts' pocket when I went bike riding; my new phone would surely fall out of my pocket as I pedaled. And, with few exceptions, I still use my new phone as a phone...for calls and texts.

I must confess, though, that even the phone uses are a little better. My phone now tells me when a call is "likely a scam," and I can block unwanted callers. Texting is much improved – there's actually a keyboard and I can look at incoming pictures without paying extra. I also see the colorful emojis that some family members love to use; I didn't dare tell them that I only saw a little black square, which was the default replacement.

I also will admit, albeit begrudgingly, that my first true, smart phone use provided some peace of mind when I was traveling to the airport. I had just left home when I heard on the car radio that the turnpike was closed due to a car fire.



Pamela Lucken
Head of Reference
University of Miami
School of Law

Recent Acquisitions Cont.:

Changing routes, I was now on congested side roads where traffic was moving at a snail's pace during morning rush hour (no, Miami traffic isn't any better with "everyone" working from home). As my take-off time was getting too close for comfort, I pulled up the airline's app, saw that there were several other flights that day, and took a deep breath – I knew I could still get to St. Louis somehow. And just to be clear...I was a passenger, so I wasn't texting and driving.

I'm now up to my second smart phone use – I played one game of solitaire while in the dentist's waiting room. It did fill the time, but I would have been just as content reading a magazine (if the dentist hadn't removed them all because of COVID). It also appears that this one game triggered a daily notification,

such as "Someone stole my cards" and "I don't know how to deal without them." If this promo is designed to get me to play solitaire, it's not working.

While traveling, I looked around at how others were using their phones. On the airplane, fellow passengers were watching videos, playing games, or reading online. I read a book – a physical book. Granted, it was another "thing" to carry, but at least the print was a decent size.

Restaurants in St. Louis wanted us to view the menus online using the QR code plastered on the table; at one meal, my friend and I decided to get that day's special, and at another, I simply asked my brother to confirm there was a pulled-pork sandwich on the menu.

On a recent bike ride, I watched a woman stop on the path and take a selfie. Given that she was wearing makeup and a stylish outfit (I swear her tank top was gold lamé), and

her hair was perfectly coiffed, maybe she had pre-planned this photo op. I, on the other hand, looked like, well... just imagine someone riding a bike on a summer day in Miami. It certainly wasn't a look I wanted to preserve for the sake of posterity.



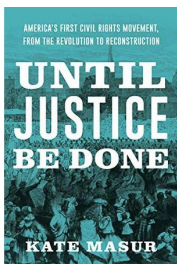
My First Selfie

I have been thinking about some smart phone uses that I think will be beneficial, such as getting directions and taking pictures, but the need just hasn't presented itself yet. As for other

uses, time will tell. As the saying goes, "you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make her drink." I've finally arrived at the water trough...but I guess I'm just not thirsty enough yet.



Readers Advisory: *Until Justice Be Done: America's First Civil Rights Movement, From the Revolution to Reconstruction*



Until Justice Be Done: America's First Civil Rights Movement, From the Revolution to Reconstruction
By: Kate Masur
ISBN: 1324005939

W. W. Norton & Company

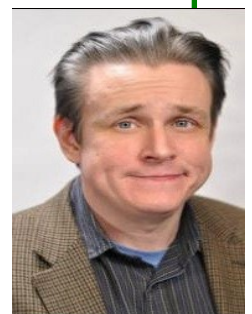
When did the Civil Rights Movement begin? Placing its origin at some conventional point – such as 1954's *Brown v. Board* decision or 1955's

Montgomery bus boycott – risks minimizing the Movement's deep and abiding roots in U.S. history.

In *Until Justice Be Done: America's First Civil Rights Movement, From the Revolution to Reconstruction*, historian Kate Masur traces those roots back to the early days of the republic, describing how 19th-century African-American activists and their allies organized against racist state laws in the era before the Civil War. Throughout, Masur ties those early

efforts to later changes in federal law, as well as to the 20th-century movements for equality and freedom.

Even as they proscribed slavery, many Northern states passed explicitly racist laws that restricted the ability of African American to fully participate in society. Masur insightfully describes how these laws operated at the intersection of race



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Readers Advisory Cont.

and class, drawing upon the conceptual vocabulary of vagrancy laws to justify excluding African Americans from communities.

At the book's core is a detailed account of the ultimately successful, multi-decade campaign to repeal Ohio's racist black laws. Like others of their kind, these laws required African-Americans to register with county officials and barred them from testifying in court cases involving white people, amongst other things. The book describes how abolitionist groups increasingly took up opposition to these laws as a sort of "domestic agenda" in

Ohio. Here, Masur emphasizes the important role of coalition politics: organizing as a new political party, these savvy abolitionists were able to take advantage of a realignment in Ohio politics to advance their agenda.

The rest of *Until Justice Be Done* complements and contextualizes this narrative. A chapter describing the failure of a similar movement to repeal Illinois's racist laws provides an important counterexample to the Ohio experience. A lengthy discussion of the tribulations faced by African-American sailors faced in Southern ports focuses attention on debates surrounding state citizenship and the interpretation the Privileges & Immunities Clause of the U.S. Constitution. Later in the book, Masur also calls attention to the way this

movement shaped the ideology of the nascent Republican party, expanding its agenda to include not just abolition, but to instead encompass many aspects of equality. As a work of legal history, *Until Justice Be Done* presents a nuanced account of how these debates and struggles influenced the seismic changes in federal policy that came with Reconstruction. As a work of popular history, it will help lead the public towards a conception of the Civil Rights Movement as an ongoing struggle, complete with a history as old as the nation itself.

AALL Economic Status of Law Librarians Committee

As a member benefit and in service to the profession, AALL has been publishing the Salary Survey since 1993. Prompt and thorough response from all law libraries to this confidential Survey ensures that AALL continues to deliver the most current, relevant, and accurate compensation information for legal information professionals.

Invitations to participate in the AALL 2021 Salary Survey were sent to members identified as being in leadership roles on July 27. The deadline to respond is August 20. The survey results will be published in November 2021.

Would you please take a minute to check with your library leadership and encourage them to fill out the Survey? It may help to point out:

- 1) The Survey can be saved and resumed at a later time.
- 2) The Survey can be downloaded as an Excel file, then uploaded when complete.
- 3) Libraries with multiple locations can now enter information for all branches in a single survey response.

The Salary Survey's usefulness depends on the responses we receive - please do what you can to ensure its success!

If you are a director and did not receive an invitation to complete the Survey, or you would like to request an invitation for your director who is not a member, please get in touch with Megan Mall, AALL's director of content strategy, with questions and invitation requests. The invitation can sometimes get caught in spam folders-it will be sent from survey@aall.org.

Local Arrangements Committee

The SEAALL 2022 Annual Meeting will be virtual, but the Local Arrangements Committee will be hard at work preparing a theme, finding engaging speakers, and trying to infuse our virtual time with that SEAALL je ne sais quoi. The committee members are Wendy Moore (University of Georgia, wemoore@uga.edu), Katie Hanschke (Vanderbilt University, katie.hanschke@vanderbilt.edu), Kat Klepfer (Florida State University, katie.hanschke@vanderbilt.edu), and Franklin Runge (W&L, frunge@wlu.edu). If you have thoughts or suggestions about what makes a virtual conference stand out (in a good way), please do not hesitate to drop one of us a line! We hope that everyone is having a great summer!



Membership Committee

We are working on a new membership outreach program - we are focusing on student membership. Each of the committee members are reaching out to various MLS programs to begin a dialog on how we can partner together. Our goal is to educate students on the law librarian profession and the benefits of becoming a member of SEAALL. We hope our efforts increases our student membership. Reach out with information about potential members: Ana Ramirez, 305-400-7519 AToftNielsen@littler.com

Legal Movie Review : Coded Bias



Ellie Campbell
Clinical Assistant
Professor of Law and
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Coded Bias, a 2020 documentary directed by Shalini Kantayya, explores how computer algorithms, artificial intelligence, and machine learning encode racial, gender, and other biases into our digital lives. The film centers on the work of Joy Buolamwini, a then-

graduate student at MIT, who became interested in the topic when she worked with facial recognition technology and noticed that it was much better at recognizing and matching white faces than Black ones.

The film explores a number of legal issues surrounding machine learning in the U.S., U.K., and China. Most notably, the film follows Buolamwini as she speaks at a Congressional hearing in 2019, where she discusses the implications of AI on race, gender, and more. Other parts of the film explore how facial recognition technology discriminates against people of color in various situations, including housing, criminal law, immigration, and job search review. Though the film doesn't deal directly with legal databases that use machine learning and AI, it still has implications for legal researchers and law librarians.



Joy Buolamwini
as Self - Ph.D. Candidate.

As Westlaw, Lexis, Bloomberg, and more add these features to their products. Our profession should pay attention to the pros and cons of machine learning so that we can better educate students, faculty, judges, and attorneys on these issues.

The documentary is a great starting place for this, and I particularly appreciated the focus on the work of women and people of color. The film features a number of major scholars, activists, and professionals on this topic, including Meredith Broussard, Cathy O'Neil, Zeynep Tufekci, Saifiya Noble, Virginia Eubanks, Timnit Gebru, and more. I spent a lot of time pausing the film on Netflix and looking up those scholars' works and created a pretty thorough AI reading list for myself. This would also be a good film to consider showing a class; it was well-paced, entertaining and informational, and brought up a number of good points that could easily tie into legal research.

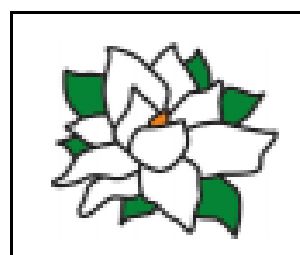


The film felt a little unbalanced in one regard. It shows a number of

scholars, activists, and nonprofit groups in the U.S. and U.K. critiquing algorithmic bias and advocating for reform, but only features consumers or users from China.

The film follows one young woman in China and depicts her using facial recognition technology in various consumer situations, and she advocates for AI without expressing many critiques. It's possible the filmmakers couldn't get access to similar figures in China for any number of reasons, but it does lead to a comparatively lopsided view of AI. I find it hard to believe that there isn't criticism, activism, or scholarship in China that could speak to these issues.

Coded Bias is currently available on Netflix.



SEAALL Officers 2021-2022

SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

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Submission Guidelines

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Winter: January 20, 2022

MS Word is the preferred format for electronic submissions.

All submissions will be edited for grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation, and to ensure style consistency within the newsletter. Every effort will be made not to change the intended meaning of the text.

The opinions in the columns are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of SEAALL.

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