***OSALL* Committee members**

Karabo Moleya
(Chair)
Tel: (011) 586 6219
Email:
chair@osall.org.za

Amanda Franken
(Vice-chair)
Tel: (011) 797 4225
Email: vice@osall.org.za

Helen Demetriou
(Secretary)
Email: secretary@osall.org.za

Helen Demetriou
(PR & Marketing)
Email: pr@osall.org.za

Hesma van Tonder
(Treasurer)
Tel: (051) 401 3468
Email: treasurer@osall.org.za

Joyce Khakhu
(Listserv administrator)
Tel: (011) 292 6915
Email: listserveadmin@osall.org.za

Danielle Botha
(Website administrator)
Tel: (011) 535 8000
Email: websiteadmin@osall.org.za

Audrey Lenoge
(Membership)
Tel: (012) 420 4558)
Email: members@osall.org.za

For all newsletter contributions:

Tanya Hubbard
(Newsletter Editor)
Tel: (021) 405 1222
Email:
editor@osall.org.za

EDITORIAL

Dear Members

Welcome to the first instalment of the Osall newsletter for 2020. A special welcome to 3 institutions that has recently joined, Varsity College, CCMA and Rhodes University, all in all Osall has a total of 17 new members.

Amidst challenges, 2020 promises to be a very busy year. Together with SAOUG, we will be hosting the 15th Southern African Online Information Meeting on 02 - 05 June 2020 at the CSIR International Convention Centre (ICC) Pretoria, South Africa. The theme for this bi-annual conference is Robots, Drones and Zombies. A conference not to be missed, more information can be found on the conference website: http://bit.ly/15thSAOIM. The organizing committee is aware of developments around COVID-19 (the new coronavirus). A decision on the way forward will be communicated to all in due course.

OSALL will have its elective AGM in August 2020. Start thinking of possible nominees from your respective institutions, should you need more information on different roles, please contact me chair@osall.org.za

I am not sure how many have recently visited our page (https://www.osall.org.za/). Yes we got a facelift, all thanks to Michael Botha of MACC for making sure that OSALL remains relevant and in line with our profession. Be on the lookout for more features and content.

Lastly, remember that OSALL is your organisation and we would like to hear your concerns and compliments.

Regards

Karabo

News

TRIBUTE TO MRS LYNETTE DAVIS
By Ruth Ward (Webber Wentzel)
and Lydia Craemer (Johannesburg Bar Library)

Lynette Davis (nee Greenstein) is the doyenne of Law librarianship in South Africa.

She worked in Law Librarianship consistently from 1965, and retired from the Johannesburg Bar Library in November 2019. She started her library career, working in a public library and at the University of the Witwatersrand Library as a cataloguer before becoming a law Librarian in a major law firm. In 1983 she joined the Johannesburg Bar Library and has been responsible for the growth and operation of the Johannesburg Bar Library for many years. Under her expert guidance the Johannesburg Bar Library collection has become a national asset for the legal fraternity.

Her contribution to the profession started early in her career, as seen in the topic of her master's thesis submitted to the Wits University, entitled "*The Cataloguing and classification of a South African Legal Collection"* (1970), and she authored a publication entitled "*Introduction to Law Librarianship*" (1982).

She has represented South Africa at overseas Law Librarianship conferences, and written many articles on various aspects of Law Librarianship.

She was a founding member of the Organisation for SA Law Libraries (OSALL) in 1976, and produced the first ever OSALL Newsletter in the same year. She served on the OSALL Committee in varying different capacities over the years. OSALL was later formally constituted under SALA (SA Library Association), and became the first subject branch of SALA in 1979. OSALL later became a national division of SAILIS.

This was important in establishing Law Librarianship as a distinct and specialist branch of librarianship in South Africa. Part of her (and OSALL's) mission, was enhancing the status of Law Librarians in South Africa. Her drive and expert knowledge was instrumental in maintaining the momentum of OSALL.

Many workshops, training sessions and conferences for Law Librarians have been organised over the years. Lynette Davis was particularly active in OSALL during these early years. OSALL was also active in lobbying for improvements in the Legal publication industry, and working with legal publishers. Lynette has been a key individual in the development and growth of Law Librarianship, a specialist discipline in South Africa. Through OSALL she has played a key role in training and development of law librarianship in South Africa, always being willing to assist newcomers with general orientation, as well as difficult technical enquiries. She has guided and mentored a great many law librarians in the Gauteng area over the years, and has always been of great assistance to her colleagues, generously sharing her prodigious knowledge.

We wish her well for her Golden years and thank her, for her contribution to our profession. She will be sorely missed by all her law library colleagues, and by members of the Johannesburg Bar.

WHY LAW LIBRARIANS ARE SO IMPORTANT IN A DATA-DRIVEN WORLD
By Femi Cadmus

For well over a century, law librarians have been a force in leading research initiatives, preservation, and access to legal information in academia, private firms, and government. While these traditional skills emerged in a predominantly print era, there has been a perceptible expansion and recent acceleration of technological expertise. The profession has progressively become infused with new digital tools, evidenced by librarians leading strategies in competitive intelligence, knowledge management, artificial intelligence, and legal analytics. It has become clear that skills in research, collections, data curation, retrieval, and accessibility have meshed well in an ever-increasing data-driven world.

Nothing better illustrates this dynamic role of law librarians and the increasing immersion in innovation and entrepreneurship than actual examples from the field. One academic law library at the forefront of innovative explorations and applications is the Library Innovation Lab at Harvard Law, which bills itself as, "a forward-looking group of thinkers and doers working at the intersection of libraries, technology, and law." One of its better known initiatives is Perma.cc, which prevents link rot by archiving and preserving in perpetuity a digital copy of a source. Another is the Caselaw Access Project, which is making all US case law freely accessible online.

Law librarians are going beyond traditional reference and research services, providing support in data analysis, curation, and visualization. Take for example, the data lab at the Goodson Law Library at Duke, which works to create data-driven projects with an emphasis on open access initiatives to benefit researchers. Similarly, the legal data lab at the University of Virginia Law, one of the first in law school libraries, strives to explain "complex legal phenomena with data science tools." One of its projects includes a corporate registry on federal organizational prosecutions in the United States.

It is also not unusual for law library directors to oversee IT operations and technology. Law librarians instruct and train faculty, attorneys, and other users in the appropriate application of current tools. They also are taking the lead in preparing students for this new reality, the American

Bar Association required ethical duty of technology competence by attorneys. The University of Oklahoma launched the first law school digital initiative program in 2014 by training students in a technologically immersive collaborative learning environment housed in the law library. The training curriculum was designed and implemented by Darin Fox, Director of the Law Library and Kenton Brice, Director of Technology Innovation. In addition, credit-bearing experiential courses in law practice technology, taught by law librarians, are proliferating in law schools. These courses are often taught in collaboration with law firm librarians who can lend expertise in areas such as electronic discovery, knowledge management, and competitive intelligence.

Artificial intelligence tools play an increasingly significant role as well and are being deployed by law librarians in various settings. In 2017, the Law Library of Congress released a chatbot with a clickable interface, employing the template of a reference interview and connecting users to the vast array of primary sources of law, research guides, and foreign law reports. To nurture, develop, and showcase such advances, the American Association of Law Libraries—the only national association of its kind—now hosts an innovation tournament at its annual conference.

In previous tournaments, University of North Texas at Dallas Law Librarian Jennifer Wondracek created a virtual reality lab with public speaking apps simulating real courtroom settings and enabling students to practice trial techniques. Baker Hostetler law firm librarian Katherine Lowry developed a chatbot for attorneys with an interface capable of understanding natural language so attorneys could ask it questions. Todd T. Ito and Scott Vanderlin from the University of Chicago unveiled SuperSeed, a browser extension alerting researchers to amendments in statutory law and linking to the version of a statute discussed at the time a case was decided. Andre Davison from Blank Rome LLP established seamless digital access to secondary sources, streamlining, and enhancing the researcher's experience by eliminating multiple clicks, password issues, and client numbers.

Debuting at American Association of Law Libraries 2020 meeting is a space for newer companies in the legal information market to showcase their innovative products and services. This new initiative, called Start-Up Central, recognizes the need for continuous engagement with new technologies and an avenue for librarians to explore opportunities for collaboration.

Reproduced with permission:
https://blog.oup.com/2020/03/why-law-librarians-are-so-important-in-a-data-driven-world/

Femi Cadmus is the Archibald C. and Frances Fulk Rufty Research Professor of Law at Duke University School of Law in Durham, North Carolina, where she also directs the J. Michael Goodson Law Library. She has served on various boards, most recently as president of the American Association of Law Libraries. Her research interests include, law and technology, the evolving role of the modern day law library, and open access to legal information.

NEW REPORT UNDERSCORES THE EVOLVING ROLE OF LAW LIBRARIANS
By Robert Ambrogi

A deadline had me thinking a lot lately about the evolving role of law librarians. I had agreed to write a chapter for a forthcoming book on law librarianship in the age of artificial intelligence. Writing my chapter, on the future of AI in law libraries, gave me the opportunity to ponder the state of information science as it now stands in law and as it is likely to be in years to come.

It is something I have considered several times over the years. Back in 2014, I wrote about the challenges faced by law libraries and the opportunities they presented for librarians to redefine their roles and their value propositions. "There has never been a more exciting or important time to be a legal information professional," I wrote, explaining:

"Going forward, what you as information professionals need to do is to consider how you might adapt to this changing environment and how you might help your firm or institution adapt. You need to look more strategically at the skills you possess and how you can deploy those skills to maximum effect to help your firm or institution thrive."

Three years later, after returning from the annual conference of the American Association of Law Libraries, I wrote again about the evolving role of law librarians. Over the years, I noted, the nature and focus of that conference had evolved to where it is now one of the leading conferences on legal technology.

The reason for that is that law librarians have increasingly taken on the role of legal technologist. Within their firms and organizations, law librarians evaluate technology products, implement technology products, train others on technology products, and use technology and data in their day-to-day work. The AALL conference is full of technology programs and technology vendors because law librarians are often their organizations' technology gatekeepers.

In a column last year, again after attending AALL, I returned to this theme of librarian as technologist, writing:

"These days, it seems that every new product is baiting its hook with claims of being innovative and practice-changing. Law firms, pressured to adopt new

technologies, are quick to bite. Someone needs to serve as the gatekeeper. Someone needs to keep companies honest. Increasingly, that someone is a law librarian."

So as my book deadline had me ruminating on all this, it so happened that AALL last week released its inaugural AALL State of the Profession report, an in-depth look at what information professionals do and how they do it.

The full report costs $299 ($199 for AALL members). As of this writing, I had not seen the complete report, although AALL has agreed to provide it to me. However, I was provided with a "snapshot" that offers a brief view into the report's findings on law librarians' role in technology management. The snapshot underscores what I've observed about the changing role of law librarians:

"AALL members are technology experts, and take the lead with the purchase, implementation, operation, and overall management of research databases in their organizations. Their expertise extends to overseeing knowledge management systems, websites, intranet, and other digital services."

The survey on which the report is based polled librarians who work in each of three main library types — academic, government, and firm/corporate. Not surprisingly, in all three types of libraries, librarians' most common technology role is overseeing research platforms. But they also have responsibility for knowledge management systems, intranets, websites, and blogging platforms.

Indicative of the changing role of law librarians is the report's findings about the skills now required of librarians in law firms and legal departments. Top skills for which librarians rated themselves as "experts" were:

- Customer/client services, 70.5 percent.

- Resource evaluation, 67.3 percent.

- Communication/presentation skills, 64.1 percent.

- Competitive intelligence, 55 percent.

- Vendor management, 54.2 percent.

- Leadership, 52.3 percent.

In that book chapter I just squeezed in ahead of deadline, I wrote something similar:

"As the pace of technology development and adoption accelerates in the legal profession, the multifaceted role of the law librarian will only accelerate along with it. With greater use of AI and other technologies by legal
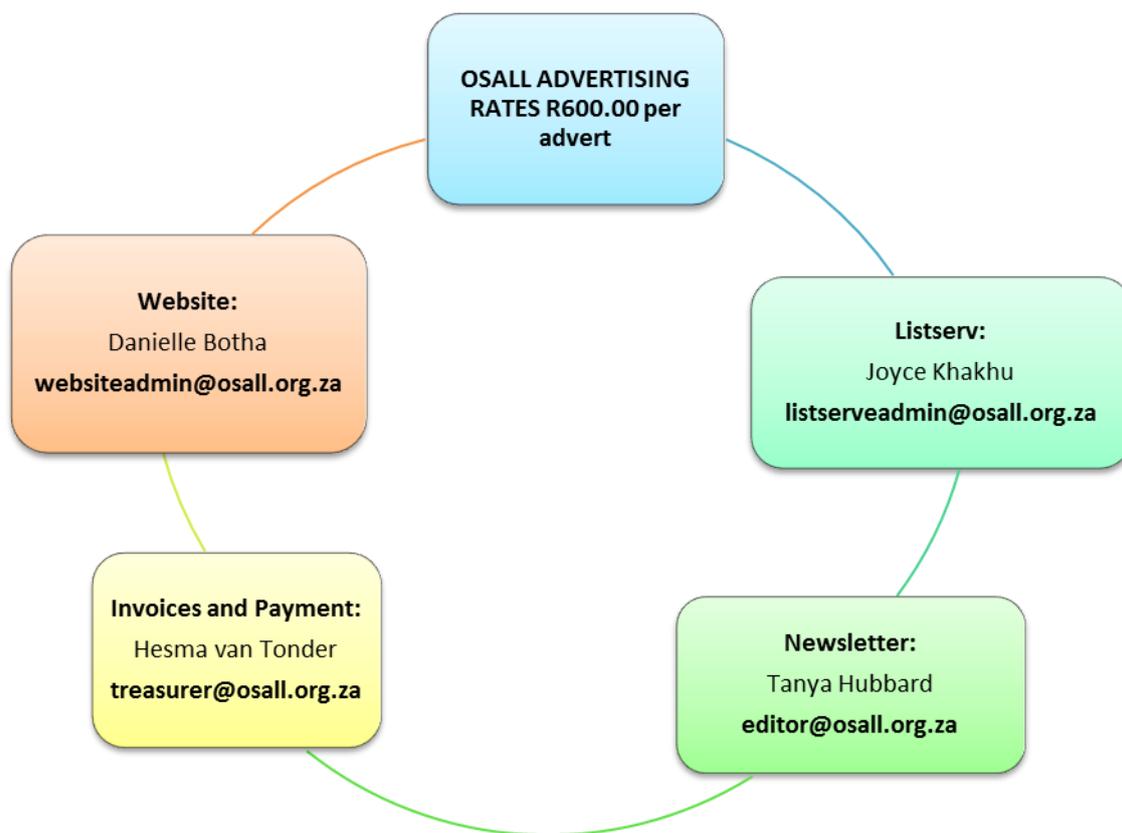
professionals, the work that law librarians do and the value they provide will become even more important."

In that chapter, I also quoted futurist William Gibson, who said, "The future is already here — it's just not very evenly distributed." Even as technology is causing the role of law librarians to evolve, we can already see its future shape in the work law librarians do today. This new report from AALL is further evidence of that.

Reproduced with permission:
https://abovethelaw.com/2019/04/new-report-underscores-the-evolving-role-of-law-librarians/

Robert Ambrogi is a Massachusetts lawyer and journalist who has been covering legal technology and the web for more than 20 years, primarily through his blog LawSites.com. Former editor-in-chief of several legal newspapers, he is a fellow of the College of Law Practice Management and an inaugural Fastcase 50 honoree. He can be reached by email at ambrogi@gmail.com, and you can follow him on Twitter (@BobAmbrogi).

OSALL ADVERTISING RATES R600.00 per advert

Website:
Danielle Botha
websiteadmin@osall.org.za

Listserv:
Joyce Khakhu
listserveadmin@osall.org.za

Invoices and Payment:
Hesma van Tonder
treasurer@osall.org.za

Newsletter:
Tanya Hubbard
editor@osall.org.za

Please note:

- Proof of payment must be submitted prior to publishing and or posting of adverts.
- Adverts must be submitted in JPEG format.