

MALL TIMELINE

Compiled by Anita Anderson
June 2000

1953	August	A luncheon meeting to discuss the formation of a Minnesota Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries was organized. Four librarians from the University Law Library and State Law Library and the dean of the law school decided to proceed.
1955	April	A petition and proposed by-laws were created and submitted to AALL to request permission to form a new chapter.
1955	July	Permission to form the chapter was granted by the executive board at its meeting in Chicago.
1955	December	An organizational meeting of eleven charter members was held at the Campus Club, University of Minnesota. Proposed by-laws were adopted and officers elected.
1957		A committee was appointed to compile a union list of loose-leaf services and created the first list.
		A quote from the first report of the Minnesota chapter to AALL Committee on Chapters: "It has become a pleasant custom for the Chapter meetings to be set for Thursdays at the Campus Club of Coffman Memorial Union, University of Minnesota, because Thursdays the Club is open to guests, and because we enjoy the delicious roast beef dinners featured there."
1958	January	The first program of the chapter was an informal report by Leon Liddell of his visit to the four-county law library at Montevideo.
1960	June	53rd Annual AALL Meeting was held in Minneapolis from June 27-30.
1961		AALL established a scholarship fund and invited chapters to contribute gifts in memoriam or other gifts. MALL sent a gift shortly after approval in memory of two deceased chapter members.
1962	January	National president addressed MALL on "The Electronic Retrieval of the Law" as a plan of the American Bar Association.
1970		Sixty invitations were sent to area law firm librarians in an effort to expand membership.
1971		MALL held a seminar to train members to use the KF classification schedule.
1974		Downtowners was established to help meet the practical needs of law librarians in the corporate or law firm setting.
	May	A by-laws revision was approved which added a new section on dues and established seven committees.
	June	67th Annual AALL meeting was held in St. Paul from June 24-27.
	September	V. 1 #1 of the <i>MALL Newsletter</i> was published. A Special Committee on Institutes was formed to "organize a regional chapter institute comparable to the national rotating institutes."

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1975	January	Membership grew from 30 to 52 with 8 members from Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and North Dakota.
	May	First membership directory was published.
1976	January	Westlaw was demonstrated for members at a MALL program.
	September	The first Legal Bibliography Institute was a nine week program from Sept. 22 to Nov. 17. 30 pupils were accepted and 30 “had to be turned away.”
1977		Head librarians from law schools, Hennepin County Law Library, and State Law Library met to discuss cooperative acquisitions and inter-library loan.
	May	Representatives from the major law libraries in the metropolitan area met to discuss the increased use of law libraries by laypersons. The group decided to conduct a literature search, survey comparable libraries across the country, and develop a list of referral agencies and guidelines for service (if none already existed) to be used uniformly by the libraries. In support of these goals, this informal group became the foundation for the Public Services Liaison Committee in 1979.
1978	April	A poll of law firms and libraries found that Westlaw was installed in three firms and Hennepin County Law Library. Lexis was in three firms, a large corporation, and Hennepin County Law Library.
	August	Membership was 81. MALL committees have grown to 12.
1979		Plan B paper by Janet Jacobson examined current levels of cooperation among law libraries in the Twin City metro area.
1980	January	The Public Services Liaison Committee approved the “Guidelines for Legal Reference Service”. MALL was first to publish such guidelines and they were widely disseminated across the country. AALL established a similar committee shortly thereafter.
		Bylaws change attempted to rename MALL to Midwest Chapter. Defeated by vote of 7 in favor and 20 opposed.
1981		MALL participated in the first “All-Association Conference” in Minneapolis, a cooperative effort of nine local library associations. MALL’s program was “Legal Materials in Non-Law Libraries.”
		A MALL online users group was formed for “librarians subscribing to or interested in Lexis-Nexis or Westlaw databases.”
1982		Public Services Liaison Committee published its first edition of "Recommended Legal Materials for Non-Law Libraries."
	July	MALL member Kathy Price was AALL President.
	August	Consulting Committee was organized.
1983	March	An Ad Hoc Awards Committee recommended the establishment of a MALL Law librarianship Award for outstanding contributions to MALL and the profession.

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	April	MALL held its first Spring Conference. A permanent Awards Committee was established with the added responsibilities of awarding life memberships and scholarships. First Law Librarianship Award was given to Ann Carter.
	September	<i>A Paige From Life</i> : MALL Newsletter's first serial. MALL had a published romance novelist as a member. For 26 installments, Jan Boies entertained members with the adventures of Paige Turner, librarian at Blacks, Hornbook & Nutshell, Ltd.
1984	February	MALL meeting's topic was "Computers in Law Libraries"
	April	"Space Requirement Checklist for Basic Resources" was published in the newsletter. The introduction stated that "an accurate projection of library space requirements is an important aspect of law library management." Space requirements were stated in both feet and number of shelves.
	October	A new newsletter column began called "Download." It was described as "a column devoted to exploring any and all aspects of technology as it impacts law libraries."
1985		The "Second Thirty Years of MALL" began with a new member orientation meeting and the establishment of a mentor program.
1986	March/April	The Archives Committee received a copy of a Plan B paper by MALL member Lori Hedstrom on the history of the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries.
		Awards and Grants Committee announced that for the first time grants were available for members wishing to attend any job-related continuing education program, not just the AALL Annual Meeting.
	May	Due to an interest in forming special interest sections specifically in the areas of automation and technical services, a motion to establish SISs and appoint coordinators was approved at the May business meeting.
	July	MALL member Barbara Golden joined the Executive Board of AALL.
	September	Membership had grown to 120 members and 15 committees.
	Fall	Four sessions on Lexis/Nexis and Westlaw/Dialog searching were added to the biennial Legal Bibliography Institute.
1987	September	Conan the Librarian, the warrior information specialist, debuted in the newsletter as a serial in seven parts written by Hadley V. Baxendale (aka Anna Cherry).
1988		MALL purchased its first software package, PageMaker, to produce the newsletter.
	March	The newsletter published a directory of "Law School Libraries With Telefacsimilie Machines."
	September	MALL presented a "Basic DOS" workshop.

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	November	“Mirror, Mirror” began on the back page of the newsletter. Set in the ivy-covered campus of Heyworth University, this mystical serial by Anna Cherry ran for 15 issues.
1989	June	MALL member Dennis Skrade thrilled the judges with a bagpipe medley to win first prize in the individual category in the talent contest at the AALL Annual Meeting in Reno, NV. Corps d’ Loons marched and twirled glittery thesauri to the music of “Louie, Louie” for second place in the chapter category.
		Publications Committee completed the “MALL Union List of Looseleafs in Law Firm Libraries.”
	September	Newsletter Committee published “Guidelines for Submitting Newsletter Items on Disk.”
	October	MALL participated in the first Midwest Regional Conference of Law Librarians held in Chicago. 300 members from six chapters attended.
1990	June	MALL hosted the 83rd AALL Annual Meeting in Minneapolis from June 17-20. Attendance broke all previous records at 2,754.
1991		Continuing Education Committee surveyed participants in the Legal Bibliography Institute for the first time to help plan future institutes.
	October	Publications Committee created a new publication: “MALL Survey of Public Services Policies.”
1992	March/April	Conan returned with this issue of the newsletter and Anna Cherry delighted MALL members with many further adventures of Conan the Librarian in a second series of 17 installments.
1993		MALL member Ann Carter won the first West Excellence in Private Law Librarianship Award.
	September	An Internet column debuted in the newsletter.
1994	May	MALL membership was 157 members with 23 new members.
1995	February	MALL celebrated its 40th anniversary at the Minnesota Club in St. Paul with greetings from Justice Wahl, music by Illyrian Minstrels, and entertaining library science milestones.
	Mar/Apr	Conan the Librarian on the Information Highway took on Internet mavens and other electronic infomaniacs in 25 parts.
	July	MALL sponsored three delegates to the National Conference on Legal Information Issues at the AALL Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh: Julia Wallace, Regional Depository Librarian, University of MN, Rep. Steve Kelley, MN state legislator, and Mary Treacy, Director of Metronet.
1996	March	MALL pursued a collaborative effort with St. Catherine’s master program in library science to provide credit for MALL’s Legal Bibliography Institute with additional class work.
	April	MALL members explored ways to assist attorneys and others who work with pro bono clients.
	July	MALL member Anne Grande was AALL Treasurer.

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	July	At the AALL meeting in Indianapolis, MALL entered a team in the Law Library Decathlon featuring events such as the Compact Discus Toss and the Book Truck Slalom Course.
	September	MALL participated in the first Minnesota Law & Technology Show as a sponsor and seminar provider.
1997	January	MALL member Pat Cummings received the 1997 Legal Services Coalition Pro Bono Publico Award. She was honored at the MN State Bar Association's mid-year dinner.
	March	MALL members participated in the first satellite videoconference for librarians titled "The Future for Librarians: Positioning Yourself for Success" a collaborate effort of AALL, Special Library Association, and American Library Association.
	March/April	MALL introduced its Home Page on the Internet. The MALL listserv also began as a way to electronically discuss MALL issues and quickly disseminate information to members.
	August	MALL donated \$1,000.00 to the Library Disaster Fund of the MN Library Association Foundation to help with the restoration of collections and services affected by the 1997 flooding of the Red River.
1999	July	MALL member Margaret Maes Axtmann was AALL President.
	July	MALL sponsored four VIPs (Valuable Invited Participant) to the AALL Annual Meeting in Washington DC: Honorable Edward Toussant, Jr., Chief Judge of the MN Court of Appeals; John Stanoch, Chief Deputy, MN Attorney General's Office; Mary Wagner, Director of the Graduate Program in Library and Information Science, College of St. Catherine; Mark Cohen, Editor-in-Chief, <i>Minnesota Lawyer</i> . MALL received special acknowledgement at the business meeting when the chapter was presented with an AALL presidential certificate.
	July	MALL member Marvin Anderson received the Spirit of Law Librarianship Award given for his work in the "Everybody Wins" a reading program for children.
	November	MALL participated as a sponsor to the gala celebration of 150 years of service of the Minnesota State Law Library.
2000	May	MALL membership was 144 with 7 life members. 22 of these members were new.
	May/June	MALL ceased general print distribution of the newsletter in favor of distribution on the web site. A limited number of print copies were made for the archives and members without web access.
	May/June	MALL Archive Committee created a MALL time capsule for the AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia for the year 2025.
Still to come:		
2000	December	MALL's 45th Anniversary celebration.
2001	July	MALL will host the AALL Annual Meeting in Minneapolis.