THE FIRST THIRTY YEARS
THE MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES
1955 - 1985

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INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Association of Law Libraries (MALL) has played a pivotal role in the development of law librarianship in the Upper Midwest, most particularly in the Twin Cities area. It has provided educational, social, and political activities for its members and they in turn have made their Chapter a growing and vital force in the law library community. Although the contributions of individual members, most obviously the founding members, are respectfully recognized, this history will emphasize the development of the Chapter as a whole.

Primarily through its meeting programs, MALL contributes to the professional development of its members. These programs mirror the issues and concerns of the larger society within which law librarians function. With the establishment of its newsletter, MALL has increased members' awareness of these issues as well as provided a vehicle of communication for their personal reactions to change. Survey results and bibliographies of current resources reflect librarians' perceptions of themselves and their peers and highlight areas of interest and conflict.

This history will trace the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries as it grew from a small group of Twin Cities librarians to a regional association which has sponsored national conventions and well-received continuing education institutes and seminars. Always immersed in the concerns of attorneys, legislators, and any
citizen with respect to information and access to it, the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries has consistently chosen an active, initiating role in the legal community.
MEMBERSHIP

Early Years

The first meeting of MALL was attended by nine members representing four organizations (the University of Minnesota Law Library, the Minnesota State Library, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Hennepin County Law Library) [1]. The Dean of the University Law School provided the impetus to start the group, and, although fairly stable until the 1970's [2], membership has been growing ever since. As an incentive to membership in a local group, AALL initiated a program by which a portion of the dues paid to the National Association were rebated to the local chapter. This was the greatest single source of revenue for the Minnesota Chapter throughout the early years. Most of the early members of MALL were members of committees on the national level, and their leadership was essential in the formation and maintenance of the new organization. As soon as the third meeting of the Minnesota Chapter, a letter was received from a South Dakota librarian inquiring about membership, highlighting the high visibility of the Chapter in the Upper Midwest [3]. The fact that one of the founding members was chairman of the national New Members Committee undoubtedly had a very positive influence on recruiting. One of the earliest concerns of the original members was the possibility of increasing membership, and librarians from the night law schools and Ramsey County Law Library were sought out.
The newly established Program Committee emphasized obtaining new members, and program and membership concerns were considered together in planning for the future of the Chapter. To this end, as a practical matter, the annual meeting was changed from January to one of the spring months to facilitate attendance [4]. When the National President addressed the Chapter in 1962, she referred to the "problem of recruitment" (emphasis added) but the Minutes of almost every meeting of the Minnesota chapter mention the introduction of at least one new member.

**Regional Association**

The November 5, 1960 meeting discussion revolved around encouraging attendance by current members, and the consensus was that they "should have more to offer by way of conferences, seminars, etc. as does the Chicago Chapter" [5]. The secretary was asked to write and inquire what other chapters were doing for successful programs and projects, and, importantly, whether North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska librarians would like to join MALL. This was the first step toward becoming a regional association rather than one almost solely involving Twin Cities librarians. In 1970 sixty invitations were sent to area law firm librarians in another effort to expand membership, and the purpose of the May meeting that year was stated as "to encourage more cooperation between law libraries and firms" [6]. By 1973 the emphasis was again on the development of a Midwest Regional
Chapter, which would include members from Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Iowa. The question was raised as to whether or not this region would be able to supply the talent necessary to conduct educational institutes; in the end the need for cooperation won out over chauvinism and the group decided that the educational functions could be carried out after all [7]. At the 1974 AALL convention in St. Paul, a Chapter meeting was held to take advantage of visiting librarians and plan the expansion of the Minnesota Chapter to include law librarians from surrounding states, one of whom spoke on the activities of the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries, which had been established two years previously [8].

**Downtowners**

A sidelight to the continuing membership drive and plans for Chapter expansion was the formation of the "Downtowners," consisting of Minneapolis law firm and county librarians who met informally once a month to discuss common problems. This group compiled a Union List of Looseleaf Services and Periodicals [9], a practical contribution to the Chapter's (and indeed the profession's) new emphasis on cooperation. Chapter officers were asked to provide to the Membership Committee guidelines as to whom should be recruited and what programs could realistically be offered as an enticement to membership.
Increasing Membership

The Membership Committee attempted to draw new members from a wide base of prospects, including all persons interested in law libraries [10]. Interestingly, this provision was included in the original bylaws of the association [11]. A Chapter directory was published for the first time in 1975 and was used as a tool to recruit new members. Again it was suggested that the best way to add to the membership was to sponsor worthwhile programs, and at each meeting a table was set with registration forms and information of interest to the members [12]. The success of these measures in attracting involved people was evident when over half of the Chapter's members volunteered for committee work [13].

In 1976 a new member sponsor drawing was held, with a gift certificate for an area restaurant going to the member whose name was drawn from all those who had sponsored new members the previous year. This was so successful it was repeated in 1977 [14]. An adjunct to this strategy was contained in a dinner meeting notice which promised the meal free to the first three members who responded [15].

The "second thirty years" of MALL was begun with a new member orientation meeting and the establishment of a mentor program [16]. Adapting a long-standing relationship usually found within the successful conduct of private enterprise, this program pairs interested new members with experienced members to facilitate the
introduction of the new members into the Chapter and into the professional community.

Application Forms

The membership application forms themselves provide an interesting look at what was asked of prospective members. The earliest available form is from 1975 and was relatively extensive. Aside from the standard questions about employment, position, and education, it requested the applicant to list a "special talent or skill [which would be] useful to MALL" and suggest how MALL could be a "better, more useful" organization. Input on programs and institutes was solicited as well as areas of interest for possible committee work. The applicant was even asked to indicate his or her anticipated level of activity in the Chapter, ranging from "Very active" to "Moderately active" to "Receive mailings only."

The next available membership application is from December 1980 and reflects a scaled down, businesslike approach to members. The only information requested other than name, employment, etc. related to MALL and AALL committees served on and preference for current committee work. The burden is on the applicant to seek out members with similar interests and attendance at meetings seems to be the best way to offer input into the workings of MALL. The currently used application continues in this vein, requesting only information respecting employment and committee work.
The continuing aim of current members and the Membership and other committees has always been to increase membership. Primarily through meeting programs and workshops, MALL has sought to contribute to the professional development of its members and to expand into new areas through the addition of new members to the Chapter.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The programs of MALL fall into two categories: those presented as part of regular or special business meetings, and those held outside the meeting format as workshops and institutes.

Meeting Programs

Meetings revolve primarily around the programs given thereat, and it is felt that this is a prime device for attracting and maintaining an involved membership. The Program Committee was established at the January 3, 1957 meeting under the leadership of Leon Liddell of the University of Minnesota Law Library. Even at its inception, the emphasis of this committee was to be on obtaining new members. Mr. Liddell also conducted the first program of the Chapter, giving to the January 23, 1958 meeting an informal report of his visit to the Four-County Law Library at Montevideo, Minnesota. "This was of particular interest as a new and unique category of law library in the state" [17]. The next meeting program was not given until March 2, 1961 when Dr. Bruno Green, University of Minnesota Law Librarian, addressed the
Chapter on Legal Education in Europe, which was followed by a "lively discussion" [18].

Although business meetings were held regularly from the inception of the Chapter, programs at meetings were not. Those presented were informal talks by members and others interested in law and law libraries, such as one by Judge Walter F. Rogosheske, Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, who spoke on the workings of the Minnesota Supreme Court (10/24/63). Meetings did not include programs on a regular basis until 1964 and thereafter.

Electronic Research

One of the first presentations given by someone outside the Chapter was on January 4, 1962 when the National President, Elizabeth Finley, addressed the group on "The Electronic Retrieval of the Law" with special emphasis upon a plan then under study by the American Bar Association. In 1964, Hobart Yates of West Publishing also spoke on electronic research "and its seemingly prohibitive costs" [19]. Future technologies such as electronic retrieval of law and microfilming were topics of continuing interest to the Minnesota Chapter. With the cooperation of representatives of West Publishing, many discussions, programs, and panels were held related to this general area. In the early 1960's these topics were in their infancy and MALL consistently showed its desire to inform its members about these new areas. The guest speaker at the November 17, 1965 meeting, James Mason of
the Minnesota Bar Law Library Committee, spoke specifically on "Electronic Data Retrieval in Relation to the Law Libraries" [20]. However, it was not until the January 29, 1976 meeting, over ten years later, that an actual demonstration of the Westlaw computer research database was given at a meeting. A related subject, the history and current developments in the computer field and what computers can and may mean for libraries, was presented at the September 27, 1972 meeting by Janet Dolan, Law Librarian at Investors Diversified Services of Minneapolis, showing the necessity for cooperation between libraries and local businesses.

Speaker Experiences

Some meetings were enlivened by lectures based on the law-related experiences of the speaker. These informal speeches covered many diverse facets of law, such as a speech by a retired brigadier general (5/20/65) and "Problems of the Legal Aid Society," (5/12/66). At a few meetings, local attorneys gave "interesting and informative" [21] presentations describing their specialties and various topics of law, usually with specific reference to lawyers' need for professional librarians and the implications of the topics for librarians [22].

Programs which focused on foreign travels of the speaker were popular in the late 1960's, perhaps as a reflection of greater interest in world affairs by the general public. Professors and librarians spoke on problems and prospects of, and various legal
observations about, Israel (5/9/68), Indonesia (11/14/68), and a related discussion of International Commercial Law (5/19/69).

**Political Focus**

The early 1970's saw an inward focus toward local political issues, again reflecting a similar concern of the larger population. Speakers were drawn from the ranks of local politicians and organizations within the government. A November 24, 1970 presentation by David L. Graven, a recent gubernatorial candidate, entitled "Politics - Behind the Scenes" summed up the major focus of the meeting programs for the next five years. Minutes of these meetings report "excellent" and timely talks being met with "enthusiastic response" [23]. On a local level, the revised St. Paul City Charter and what it meant to the political structure of that city was addressed (11/16/71), a University of Minnesota Professor of Law spoke on "Looking at the Law from a Radical Perspective" (6/22/72), and presentations were given by representatives of the Legislative Reference Library, the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, which drafts bills (11/23/74), and the Office of the Attorney General. Legislators were also invited to relate their experiences (2/27/75).

A 1978 letter to MALL members from the Chapter president enclosed a copy of a resolution on libraries for discussion at precinct caucuses, supporting stronger roles for the state and federal governments in assuring that all citizens have equal
access to essential library services [24]. If enough precincts adopted this resolution, a political party could have adopted it as part of its platform.

Little other political activity was noted until the membership voted in support of a nuclear freeze resolution in 1983 [25]. The scope of these resolutions and other topics of political import reflect the fact that MALL members are actively concerned with the major issues of the times. They look beyond partisan politicking to the larger concerns such as world peace and citizens' access to information.

Library Cooperation

As early as 1956, Chapter members discussed the possibility of cooperation between the Minnesota State Library and the University of Minnesota Law Library, especially in the matter of acquisitions and avoidance of duplication [26] and a committee was appointed in 1957 to compile a union list of topical loose-leaf services in the Twin Cities [27]. But by the late 1970's, increasing budget cuts on all levels of library and educational facilities were reflected by a sharp shift to discussions of interlibrary loans, union lists, and networking. The services provided by MINITEX, the Minneapolis Public Library's INFORM, and OPLIC (the Office of Public Libraries and Interlibrary Cooperation) were relied upon to provide much-needed assistance to many librarians. Previously unimagined topics such as fees for library
services were at the center of the librarians' agendas for the first time. Speakers from organizations such as the Special Library Association (SLA) and the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) were asked to propose ways for the various groups to provide services and assistance to one another. At the February 8, 1978 meeting members of the MLA, the Minnesota Health Science Library Association, and the SLA distributed handouts which were formatted to show clearly that the organizations shared "Areas of Current Concern" led by copyright issues, library co-operation, and networking. This emphasis culminated at the September 25, 1979 meeting with a report of Minnesota's new multi-county, multi-type library cooperation program, known as Metronet. This program was adopted by the 1979 Legislature as Chapter 334, Article IX, Sections 10 and 11 of the Education Aids Bill to provide funding to libraries. It required participants to engage in long-range cooperative planning, to share resources, and to participate in developing a bibliographic database, a communications system, and a delivery system. A MALL committee was immediately established to study this new law and its ramifications for law librarians [28].

Communications

Later in the 1970's also appeared a rather sporadic "series" of meeting programs by speakers from the fields of communications and human resources. At the February 15, 1977 meeting, Dr. George
Shapiro of the University of Minnesota talked about communications and relating to others in the workplace, and later that year Kathleen Price spoke on behalf of the AALL Ethics Committee and presented that association's code of ethics which would be pur before the 1978 annual meeting delegates [29]. Shortly thereafter members were addressed on the "various aspects of human relations that affect us as librarians" [30] and the responsibility of the professional to try to keep prejudices such as racism and sexism from operating on the job.

Programs were and are the basis of the MALL meetings, and topics explored include a wide range from speakers' personal experiences and new developments in the fields of law, librarianship, and related fields. They are an important tool in attracting and maintaining members and as such are given the most attention of any of the committees and functions of MALL.

INSTITUTES

There were relatively few meeting programs devoted to "library-only" topics such as Library of Congress classification of law materials. These subjects were covered in more depth as full day or half day institutes and workshops.

Minneapolis Convention

The Chapter's involvement in sponsoring such workshops or institutes got off to an ambitious start on a 1957 motion, carried
unanimously, that it invite the AALL to hold its 1960 Conference in Minnesota. Members were overwhelmingly in favor of a city site rather than a resort, and a committee was formed to decide between Minneapolis and St. Paul for the convention [31]. At a meeting held shortly thereafter, Minneapolis was chosen and a letter of invitation was sent to the AALL President, along with letters from the governor, Minneapolis's mayor, and a representative of the convention bureau. This invitation was accepted [32].

The status of the convention plans dominated the next year's business meetings. Special meetings were held for this purpose in anticipation of the conference being held in late June of 1960. All in all, the Convention Chairman's final report showed over $3,000.00 sent to the National Treasurer after payment of local expenses, and many letters were received which attested to the success of the convention.

St. Paul Convention

It was not until 1964 that discussion of plans for an institute were recorded in the Minutes, and then no decision was reached. Even after the resounding success of the 1960 convention, only information regarding institutes sponsored by other organizations was available to members. In 1967 the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce, not MALL members, suggested that Minnesota request to host the AALL again in the future [14]. The subject came up again at the June meeting [15] but no decision was reached
until almost a year later, when members agreed to extend an invitation for St. Paul to host the 1974 AALL convention [35]. Clearly the current members were not as enthusiastic as the 1960 convention planners had been. National Headquarters accepted the invitation but plans did not seem to be as urgently made as those for the previous convention.

Plans for the 1974 convention did not get under way until almost a year before the actual event, perhaps because the members had the previous experience to learn from and did not have to start completely from the beginning. By this time the Chapter had access to an AALL Convention Manual as well. Status reports were given periodically but were not the main focus of subsequent meetings.

**Seminars**

In 1970 members were informed of a program sponsored by the AALL Education Committee, which would train a local KF classification user at a seminar. The local chapter member would then instruct the chapter meeting in the practice and application of this category [36]. This was accomplished and an "Informative and succinct" survey of KF was presented by two MALL members in 1971 [37].

The 1974 AALL institute on legal bibliography was also held in the Twin Cities, at the University of Minnesota, with basic and advanced levels available, which were further broken down into
academic and non-academic libraries [19]. Thereafter the following priorities were set for future institute topics:

A. Administration

B. Communications/Minnesota Administrative Law/Space Planning/Information Organization

C. Security/Acquisition Tools/Moving the Collection [39].

Several busy seasons were begun when a legal bibliography institute was held again in the spring of 1978, and feedback was so favorable that it was repeated in 1980. For the 1978-79 year, two short institutes were held, one on private law firm libraries and one on the courts system and legal terminology [40]. The former consisted of presentations as to what attorneys expect from their law firm librarians, followed by the participants meeting in discussion groups [41]. Also during this period a mail ballot resulted in the Chapter again inviting AALL to consider Minneapolis as a future convention site [42].

Continuing Education

Under the auspices of the Continuing Education Committee, the legal bibliography institute blossomed, with the number of participants steadily increasing and profitability growing. It was such a success that Hamline University's Instructional Services Center videotaped it for future use [43]. The legal bibliography institute, now a major annual event, is perhaps the single most important program sponsored by MALL. It is an excellent resource
for the area's law librarians, attorneys, legal assistants, and anyone who needs access to the voluminous legal documents of our society. This committee also sponsored workshops on such varied topics as assertiveness training and the State Supreme Court. Practical workshops such as "Risk Management and Insurance for Libraries" (4/23/83) held after the Thanksgiving Day fire at the Northwestern National Bank Building in Minneapolis show a continuing response to the needs of the law library community. Ideas for future workshops included grant writing, personnel administration, collection development, AACR II cataloging, and audio-visual materials [44].

NEWSLETTER

The MALL newsletter was begun in September 1974 and provides a window on the activities of the Chapter and of law librarians in general. The newsletter contains information on the status of the various committees, new projects underway from the Chapter to the State level, general items of interest, and/or a bibliography of new books and articles from periodicals and journals. A section on duplicate materials available for sale or exchange is often included to assist members in their effort to provide complete and up to date references to their patrons and clients. A placement section was instituted to run advertisements for open professional positions nationwide. Naturally some news items from meeting Minutes are included, but the newsletter is more a current aware-
ness tool than an outline of formal meeting proceedings.

**New Developments**

Through the newsletter members learn of new technical developments, such as a chemical patented by Xerox which was impervious to photocopying [45] and products such as shelf tape and grip extenders for reaching books [46], and developments in programs, legislation, and Chapter business. The earlier issues, which were published sporadically, contained general reflections on the year's progress. Later issues are more informal and newsy, perhaps reflecting a more involved and participating membership. The newsletter is a vehicle of communication among professionals who need useful information rather than abstract musings. The "Noteworthy Items from Journals" section has contained figures on law book prices (3/75), successful staff meetings (9/75), video for librarians (12/76), and a host of other new and interesting topics.

**Surveys**

Survey results were published regularly in the newsletter and show what law librarians are interested in knowing about themselves and their peers. The newsletter is the ideal format for such reporting since it highlights in its condensed space the most important issues and concerns. The May 1975 issue discussed an AALL survey on future needs for law librarians, the conclusion of which was that the AALL would "probably profit" by approaching law
firms to hire professional librarians [47]. This was a service of
direct benefit to present and future librarians, and gives an
example of the types of surveys conducted.

Within the Chapter, the Education and Research Committee used
the newsletter to gather and report information about the
reference services provided by members' libraries, covering number
of staff members, reference activities, and holdings [48].
Private law firm librarians were also surveyed with respect to
their job benefits, salaries, age, and experience [49].

Articles of Interest

The editor of the newsletter endeavors to select articles
which provide timely information on any aspect of the members' work. An overview of the subjects covered since the newsletter
was established shows that the very latest trends and concepts
were represented. Many such topics deal directly with the human
element: sensitivity training for librarians (1/75), assertive
communication for law librarians (5/80), and effective supervision (5/81). The more specifically law related items on tracing
federal legislation (3/76) and prisoners' rights litigation (12/77) illustrate the degree of specialty required of law librarians. The newsletter may serve as the members' first contact with the latest literature and, although admittedly subjective and not comprehensive, provides access to a wide range of articles which would probably otherwise be missed.
Minnesota State News

The MALL newsletter provides members with regular updates on projects sponsored by the State of Minnesota and those involving State offices. The first such effort noted in the newsletter was in 1974 when the State announced a program to microfilm Supreme Court briefs and records [50]. On a related note, the Office of the Attorney General began to publish its opinions on microfiche shortly thereafter [51].

The Minnesota Library Association sponsored resolutions aimed at the State government for better distribution, indexing, management, and preservation of State documents, including enabling legislation for funds for microcopying of documents [52]. The newsletter reported many such efforts, including the availability of House and Senate hearings on tape and the development of the State Register, the official publication for proposed, adopted, and emergency rules and executive orders [53, 54].

Since its inception, the MALL newsletter has provided members with up to date, practical information and has served as a resource for current awareness and continuing education. Its "departments" reflect current trends and thinking in many areas and the publication serves to facilitate communications between members.
SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Scholarship Fund

In 1961 the national association's Scholarship Committee recommended the establishment of a fund to which chapters might contribute "In Memoriam" and other gifts. This recommendation was approved by the Executive Committee and the Minnesota Chapter acted upon it almost immediately. A gift was sent a month after approval in memory of two deceased Chapter members [55, 56].

According to the national association, such gifts sent by members made the scholarship fund a real and worthwhile force for the ultimate professional standing of law librarians. The money was to be given to a person "struggling" to complete a degree program, and the Executive Board would make the final decision as to whether an award would be made, and to whom [57]. The fund has always been supported solely by member contributions, and applications for scholarships would be available to any interested member [58].

Grants

An adjunct to the Scholarship Fund is the Chapter-supported grants available to qualified members for travel to and expenses incurred at the AALL annual meetings. In accordance with the grant rules, the recipients are required to write an article for the MALL newsletter sharing their impressions of and experiences at the annual meetings for the benefit of those who did not attend.
The amount of grant money available and the number of grants received has increased over the years, with the funds donated by MALL's Continuing Education Committee supplemented by general fund monies [59].

The scholarships and grants available through the national association and through the Minnesota Chapter have been a continuing source to which prospective lawyers and librarians can turn for assistance. The Chapter benefits by enabling members to pursue education for the good of the two professions, and to attend national meetings and bring back with them insights and new ideas and techniques not otherwise available to the Chapter as a whole.

RELATIONSHIP WITH WEST PUBLISHING COMPANY

From the inception of the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries, West Publishing Company, a major law book publisher based in St. Paul, has been on the scene in various capacities. Representatives from West attended Chapter meetings regularly, and West maintained a number of active memberships in AALL [60]. With respect to the 1960 convention held in Minneapolis, the Chapter president emphasized the great part West had played in the planning and execution stages of that event [61]. On several occasions West sponsored dinner meetings for MALL, paying for the dinners of those members attending (1/4/62, 5/18/71, 6/15/71), and representatives from West sometimes spoke at Chapter meetings.
The relationship is well characterized in a letter from then president of MALL to Dwight Opperman of West: "We are pleased that West has always been represented at our functions and continues to lend our association encouragement and support" [62].

FTC Guidelines for Law Book Publishers

All was well until 1973 when the Federal Trade Commission proposed guidelines for the law book publishing industry in an attempt to isolate some of the types of law book publishing violations which could be complained about. MALL librarians enthusiastically entered the fray with letters and memos written in support of the guidelines and solicitations to members and others to provide fresh examples of such violations. The purpose of the guidelines was to encourage voluntary compliance with the Federal Trade Commission Act, as amended 15 U.S.C. § 41, et. seq.)[63].

The law book publishing industry made an all-out effort to oppose or water down the guidelines substantially. Although it was not mentioned specifically in the MALL documents of this period, one may assume that personal relationships among local librarians and West representatives must have been strained to a certain extent due to this conflict.

As late as 1978 the debate still continued on the FTC guidelines for law book publishers, and this topic remained on the agenda for MALL meetings. It was felt that "we have accepted their [publishers'] financial support at conventions and at
present we more or less depend on it for the social activities that take place at them. ... However, there has been a conscious effort to encourage publishers to support educational activities more and social activities less" [64]. Although West Publishing Company is not named, it seems that the price paid for financial support may have become rather steep from the viewpoint of the Chapter. Also, as membership increased and the role of MALL in the Twin Cities library and law communities grew, it was less necessary to depend on outside sources for such financial assistance.

Sponsorship of Meetings

West Publishing Company sponsored several social hours at MALL Chapter meetings, and in 1975 was invited to take part in a panel discussion with representatives from Matthew Bender and Company, Commerce Clearing House, Inc., and the Bureau of National Affairs on the subject of law librarians' and law book publishers' needs and expectations with respect to each other [64]. West also provided scholarship money to the Chapter and continued to maintain membership in the national association.

West Publishing Company played an important role throughout the development of the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries, as a direct line from the librarians to the publishing world, providing financial support and membership incentives to the Chapter. Although the two professions did not always agree on certain issues, they clearly respected and needed one another.
CONCLUSION

The inception and development of the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries have been characterized by the desire of its members to make things happen. From the first small group of professionals dedicated to the advancement of law librarianship, members have accepted the challenge of molding a diverse group of persons interested in and employed by many types of law libraries into a cohesive organization which functions on cooperation. Members rely on the organization and on each other in this context as resources for professional practice and developments.

The growth of MALL has reflected the rise of professionalism in librarianship as a whole. Meeting outside the job with one's colleagues is a means to a more positive identification of self within the professional group, and seeing other dynamic professionals in action inspires the librarian to use some of that enthusiasm in his or her own position.

The surge in MALL membership in the 1970's reflected an increasing concern with budget cuts and staff shortages as members turned to the group more as a resource than for socializing. MALL was instrumental in establishing a series of committees, networks, and exchanges through which members could continue to provide first-class service despite a pronounced lack of support from government and other agencies seeking to save money by decreasing library budgets. Ideas and materials were freely exchanged for the benefit of clients and patrons.
The first bylaws adopted by MALL in 1955 stated its goals as follows:

To promote law librarianship, to develop and increase the usefulness of law libraries, to cultivate the science of law librarianship, and foster a spirit of cooperation among the members of the profession.

Its ultimate goal is to facilitate access to legal information for all citizens [66, 67].

One may see each of these aims accomplished anew throughout the development of the Chapter. Informally or through ad hoc and standing committees, the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries continues to stress the necessity for professionalism, practicality, and cooperation in the field of law librarianship.
FOOTNOTES

1. Minutes of Meeting of MALL. December 1, 1955.


27. Minutes of Meeting of MALL. October 24, 1957.


31. Minutes of Meeting of MALL. October 24, 1957.


33. Minutes of Meeting of MALL. February 29, 1967.

34. Minutes of Meeting of MALL. June 9, 1967.

35. Minutes of Meeting of MALL. May 9, 1968.


37. Minutes of Meeting of MALL. June 8, 1971.


40. Minutes of Meeting of MALL. September 26, 1978.

41. Minutes of Meeting of MALL. March 29, 1979.

42. Minutes of Meeting of MALL. March 29, 1979.


44. Minutes of Meeting of MALL. October 9, 1980.


57. Letter from Lois Hill Dean to Ethel Kommes. May 1, 1961.
58. Minutes of Meeting of MALL. October 29, 1964.
59. Minutes of Meeting of MALL. March 19, 1981.
60. Letter from William Murphy to Alberta V. Heagle. February 12, 1960.
61. Minutes of Meeting of MALL. October 20, 1960.
64. Minutes of Meeting of MALL. May 16, 1978.
65. Minutes of Meeting of MALL. April 24, 1975.
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