



member to member

What continuing professional education did you participate in this summer to hone your skills as a law librarian?

"While these courses were alternative dispute resolution focused, they could be put to good use by law librarians: Yoga and Meditation Skills for Mediators and Communicating Across Worldviews. Being in the right frame of mind to interact with clients and realizing that their conceptions of the world might be quite different than our own are both helpful for client service."

— **Shaun G. Jamison**, professor and assistant director of library services at Concord Law School in Los Angeles

"As a recent graduate with very little hands-on experience working in any library, let alone a law library, I wanted to grasp any opportunity I could to bolster my skills (and my resume). In May, I attended a Westlaw training session and became certified. I feel this initiative on my part was one of the reasons I was hired as a part-time reference librarian, my first professional librarian position.



Shaun G. Jamison

Since being hired, I've continued to educate myself using the Westlaw research exercises provided on its Web site. I'm also working through the school's research exercises so that I'm familiar with the materials in expectation of any questions that might come up. Lastly, I'm enrolled in a self-paced, Web-based course called, 'Cutting the Red Tape: Finding Online Government Information,' offered through Kovacs Consulting. All in all, it's been a summer filled with learning opportunities!"

— **Jessica Fields**, reference librarian at Thomas M. Cooley Law School Library in Grand Rapids, Michigan

"I attended the Caribbean Association of Law Libraries meeting in St. Lucia."

— **Virginia E. Templeton**, reference librarian at the University of Miami School of Law Library in Coral Gables, Florida

"Attending the AALL Annual Conference is a great opportunity of continuing professional education for me to hone my skills as a law librarian. Not only did it provide an opportunity of networking with other law librarians and experts, but also it presents so many fresh ideas and important issues

covering every discipline of law librarianship. Therefore, I didn't miss this year's conference in New Orleans. First of all, I, as a cataloging librarian, learned from a presentation about the marginalization of traditional library online catalogs, such as hard-to-use, too many or too few results by keyword searching, and unforgiving spelling errors. From



Yuxin Li

the same session, I also learned that some libraries have been pioneering to improve their users' abilities to access library resources. Secondly, a topic from another session could turn into a future research or presentation topic for me because I had the same concern for this

issue before. And finally, my library administration held a meeting after the conference to provide an opportunity for all the librarians who attended the conference to summarize what we found interesting. It's an important step

because it's like refreshment and an enhancement of the learning process as well."

— **Yuxin Li**, coordinator of cataloging and serials management at the University of Houston O'Quinn Law Library

"I honed my skills as a law librarian by attending Westlaw trainings in Houston. These trainings refreshed my knowledge of searching techniques and introduced me to enhancements that will make reference and research work much faster and more precise. I received CLE credit for such trainings. Additionally, I also attended the AALL Annual Conference in New Orleans. In this conference I learned about new ways to improve: (a) library skill marketing, (b) preparation and presentation of annual reports, (c) preservation of governmental electronic information; and (d) my awareness of human rights information that deals with internally-displaced persons. Also, the new Opening General Session, where Joan Biskupic discussed her new book on Sandra Day O'Connor, gave me insight into building my own collection of present day legal biographies/legal history.

“Despite all this exceptional information, particularly relevant to law library professionals, I received *no* CLE credit for this—yet. As a non-Louisiana attorney, I’ll have to search through my state bar (Ohio) to see if any law librarians performed the necessary requirements for that state to recognize our attempts to remain

competent, current, and (let’s not forget) marketable in our training.

“If the ABA and the NBA annual conventions can provide *national* continuing legal education credits for their lawyer-members, I see no reason why AALL avoids doing the same for its law librarians

(especially since most employers now require reference librarians to also have a JD). This is not an idle comment as, through these national conventions, one can receive a full year’s worth of continuing education credits!”

— **Maxine Young Asmah, Esq.**