

VALL REVIEW

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The *VALL REVIEW* is the official newsletter of the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries. VALL is composed of members of the law library community interested in discussing issues and sharing ideas. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent VALL policy or position. Unsolicited submissions are welcome. VALL reserves the right to edit submissions.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

*Johanne Blenkin,
BC Courthouse Library Society*

Last year the Executive embarked on an ambitious plan to restructure the executive of VALL with a view to increasing participation. The current executive is building upon last year's work.

We are in the process of revising the descriptions of the new committees and investigating methods of enhancing the website to develop a collaborative tool for information and resource sharing. The changing face of libraries presents a challenge to all of us. The pace of change and the increasing fusion of print and electronic tools accompanied by cost increases have made our role and the positive impact we can effect more important than ever.

To that end the program committee tapped our own talent to present an informative session on RSS feeds that built upon the session held last fall. Joanne Lecky from Bull Houser & Tupper and Mandy Ostick from BCCLS gave an informative presentation that demonstrated how RSS feeds could be created and used. Continuing on the technology theme our next meeting will focus on Wikis.

jblenkin@bccls.bc.ca



FROM THE EDITORS

Christina Tribe, Harper Grey LLP

Well, it's that time of year again. We are back to the busy routines after sleepy summers, or perhaps we are trying to implement new routines, or maybe we are going back to school. It's that time of year when I always feel I should be somewhere. I feel uneasy, as if I'm running late for something important. I have a vague feeling that I'm missing out on something, but I can't put my finger on it. Then I realize what it is: It's that Back-To-School feeling — and I'm not back at school! Once I recognize this, I begin to relax (a little) and enjoy the fall colours and weather. And then I enroll in some kind of course. This year I'm taking a Dutch Language and Culture course through VSB. So far, *zo goed*. My regular routine has also changed slightly, with more work responsibilities, more VALL responsibilities and some fun stuff, like writing (see page 8 for my review of this summer's SLA seminar on Google).

This issue we welcome Rob Golbeck's article on A Day in His Life and learn about his routine as half time Library Technician and half time Records Clerk at Clark Wilson LLP (page five). Emma Wood has also fallen into a different routine, implemented after she picked up some new strategies at the SLA conference in Baltimore this summer. Read more about the conference in her article on page seven. I'm sure you will be encouraged to try implementing or improving RSS feeds that Steve Matthews writes passionately about on page 8. Don't forget to catch up on what's new at the UBC Law Library on page six, or glance at the Treasurer's Report on page three.

We welcome your feedback, and look forward to your contributions.

Please make submissions to the editors:

Christina Tribe, ctribe@harpergrey.com or

Susannah Tredwell, stredwell@lawsonlundell.com



TIPS 'N TRICKS

Susannah Tredwell, Lawson Lundell LLP

- UBC Library protocol has changed at the Robson Square branch. Gone is the "Community Computer" and sign up sheet. Now you must bring your library card to sign in by punching in your card's barcode. Don't forget your password — usually the last 5 digits of your barcode. If you forget one or the other, Michael, the library assistant, can look it up for you provided you have ID and a business card and are "on file."
- If you're looking for United States Federal Regulations, the U.S. government is currently beta-testing an Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (e-CFR) at <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/>. Although the e-CFR is not an official legal edition of the CFR, it is kept very up-to-date.

MEMBER BLOGS

Two VALL members have just unveiled their new blogs. Rob Golbeck's blog, *LibTech Life*, can be found at <http://librarytechnician.blogspot.com/> and Emma Woods' blog, *Ballad in Plain E*, is available at: <http://www.balladinplaine.com/>. Steve Matthews has competition!



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Teresa Gleave, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP

Happy Trails to Jane Wells, who retires this month from Singleton Urquhart LLP, and congratulations to Joanne Lecky on her new position as Librarian at that firm.

Christina Zeller has moved into her new position as Manager at InfoAction. She was formerly with the BC Securities Commission.

If you have recently switched employers, received a promotion, or if any of your contact information has changed, please drop a line to VALL Review Editors & Membership Secretary. We also welcome short biographies of new members.

New Members Include:

Mica Donnelly, Borden Ladner LLP

mdonnelly@blgcanada.com

Mica started working as a research librarian at BLG in June. Previously she worked at the Fisheries & Oceans Canada library in Vancouver and Dalhousie University's law library in Halifax. She graduated from Dalhousie University's MLIS program in 2005. Some of her interests include running, hiking, camping, sketching, art history and volunteering as a dog-walker at Vancouver Animal Control.

Robyn McDowell, Canada Revenue Agency

robyn.mcdowell@cra-arc.gc.ca

Steve Ross, LexisNexis Canada

steve.ross@lexisnexis.ca

Sarah Torsky, Thorsteinssons LLP

sjtorsky@thor.ca

Sarah is a library technician at Thorsteinssons LLP. Previous to this position, she worked for the British Columbia Courthouse Library Society, Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, Kwantlen College, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. She lives in Pitt Meadows with her husband and daughter.

Christina Zeller, InfoAction

chriszel@vpl.ca

604-331-3613

New Student Members Include:

Allan Cho, UBC SLAIS

allancho@gmail.com

Allan is a second year student at SLAIS. Besides law librarianship, he is also interested in how social software and Web 2.0 not only serves a library's patrons, but also library workers as well. He keeps a blog in order to keep up with what's going on in the LIS and high-tech world:

<http://www.allanslibrary.blogspot.com>

More New Student Members...

Angelina Dawes, UBC SLAIS

angelinaholly@hotmail.com

Angelina is a student (at SLAIS). She attended one of the VALL lunches while doing her practicum at Bull, Houser, and Tupper in April. She also took the legal bibliographies class with Teresa Gleave. Needless to say, she has an interest in law librarianship so she thought she would join VALL when the offer was made to students. She is graduating this December and has been working at various libraries around Vancouver.

Ann Kuo, UCFV Library and Info. Tech.

annkuo1983@gmail.com

Kevin Madill, UBC SLAIS

kevin.madill@ubc.ca

Desy Wahyuni, UBC SLAIS

de5y@interchange.ubc.ca

Desy is an MLS student who feels very fortunate to join an excellent group of people at the BC Courthouse Library Society as a co-op student this fall. This is the second co-op work term for her as she spent her summer working at the UBC Centre for Health and Environment Research. She's returning to school in January 2007 to finish her degree - one more year to go!

Lili Wang

IAMLILY@interchange.ubc.ca

Lili is currently in the 3rd term of the UBC MLIS program. She earned her bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering 10 years ago. After that, she worked for 7 years in designing information systems for libraries. Within the latest 3 years she primarily focused on online database development and digitization of local historical Chinese materials. She is currently volunteering for West Coast Women's Legal Education and Action Fund as a legal resource assistant.



TREASURER'S REPORT

VALL Statement of Income & Expenses, August 1, 2005 – July 31, 2006

Katie Heung, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

INCOME				
	Membership Fees	\$3,175.00		
	Bank Interest	26.89		
	Share Dividend	3.57		
	Luncheon Fees	6082.23		
			<u>\$9,287.69</u>	
EXPENSES				
	Postage & Office Supplies	518.26		
	Post Office Box	148.73		
	Law Courts Inn Charges	5638.64		
	*VEPDF – Speaker expense	200.00		
			<u>6,505.63</u>	
NET INCOME				<u>\$2,782.06</u>
Chequing Account				
	Balance	As of July 31, 2006	\$9,259.84	
	*VALL Education Program Development Fund (VEPDF)	\$700.00 included in chequing account balance		
	Shares		83.94	
TOTAL				<u>\$9,343.78</u>
Peter Bark Memorial Fund				
	Term Deposit	Matures April 22, 2009	\$10,500.00	
	T-Bill Savings Account	As of July 31, 2006	3,689.15	
	Shares		104.48	
TOTAL				<u>\$14,293.63</u>



FEATURE ARTICLES:

A Day in the Life of Rob Golbeck, LibTech & Records Clerk

Rob Golbeck, Clark Wilson, LLP

The clock on my iPod reads 8:21 as I push through the revolving door to the lobby of my building. Just enough time to buy a coffee before heading upstairs to begin my day. "Large Americano?" asks the girl behind the counter. "Yes, please!" They know me well.

Soon I'm at my desk sipping coffee and scanning through my inbox. Most of the new emails are from the SLA-LAW list, and a couple from the LTAIG list. Nothing that requires my urgent attention, so I head upstairs to reception to pick up today's newspapers. *The Province* is missing (again) so our receptionist, Cindy, lets me take hers. We laugh about how no one seems to pay any attention to her email reminders that newspapers *not* be removed from reception. Oh well. Someone will return the missing copy eventually.

Back in the library I lay out the newspapers on the reading table and gather up yesterday's papers for archiving. I spend a few minutes shelving books from the returns cart, then it's time to do some scanning. The library has taken on the task of digitizing a collection of reference binders for the Securities Practice Group and posting them on the intranet. Since there is only one scanner shared by everyone on the floor I try to finish as many as possible before the lineup for the scanner gets too long. By 9:45 the crowd is getting restless, so I finish up and head back to the library.

When I return to my desk there's a stack of mail waiting for me. I sort the invoices and advertising and bring them over to Debbie, the librarian. The subscriptions are recorded on the Excel spreadsheet that we use for inventory, I stick the routing labels on the journals and drop them in the out tray. The loose-leaf updates are added to the pile on my desk, which is starting to look intimidating. I'll get to those shortly, but first it's time for a break.

As a Type 1 diabetic I try to take my breaks in order to test my blood-sugar level and to eat a snack if necessary. This morning by blood-sugar reading is 4.1 – a bit on the low side – so I grab a piece of fruit and sit down with the *Globe & Mail*.

A short while later I'm filing the updates for the *Canada Tax Manual* when one of the partners comes in to the library. Debbie is busy helping a student, so he comes over to my desk. He is looking for an opinion published by the Washington Court of Appeals. He doesn't know the case name, but it was published sometime in 2005. "It's urgent", he says. He needs it in half-an-hour. He gives me a printout of an article discussing the case from a U.S. law firm's website. Fortunately the article has enough information to narrow my search, and in a few minutes I locate it through the Findlaw website (free!). He is pleased when I bring him the copy. So am I.

I file a few more updates when another request comes in. This time a different partner needs copies of two recent BC Supreme Court decisions. He has the citations, so I pull up QuickCite on my computer and have the copies on his desk in the next few minutes. Another satisfied customer.

By 12:00 the pile of loose-leaf updates on my desk doesn't look so intimidating anymore. I'm ready for lunch, so I test my blood-sugar again. After taking a small dose of insulin I head to the kitchen, grab my sandwich from the fridge, and head upstairs to the staff room. I finish my sandwich and think about what to do for the rest of the lunch hour. Then I remember the gift card for Future Shop that I've been carrying in my wallet since my birthday, and the answer is obvious: Season 2 of the Office has just been released on DVD – and it's on sale! This day just keeps getting better...

After lunch my role changes from Library Technician to Records Manager. I meet with Alfonso, the Central Services Coordinator responsible for records management, who fills me in on what he's been working on today. He tells me one of the secretaries on the 9th floor has ten boxes ready for storage, so we plan to pick those up later this afternoon.

In the meantime, I load two boxes with files and carry them to my desk. I log in to GenCat, our records management system, assign numbers to the two boxes, and enter the details for each of the files. I put the file closing forms into a folder on my desk; before the end of the day I'll enter the details from these forms into the accounting system, and the Accounting department will then complete the final step to close the files. I carry the two boxes back to Central and stack them against the wall with the other boxes we've closed this week. I fill up a couple more boxes and repeat the process over again. On Friday we'll call Iron Mountain to take the boxes away for storage. When I started this job in May, we were sending about 30 boxes away each week. Recently, the number has climbed to fifty or more. Law firms use a lot of paper!

At 2:30 Alfonso and I grab a dolly and head upstairs to pick up the ten boxes. Most of them contain just one or two files each, so we'll be able to process them fairly quickly.

Just after 3:30 I stop to test my blood-sugar again. This time I don't need a snack; however, I do feel the need for coffee, so I head down the hall to the kitchen for some fuel.

Back at my desk I take out the folder with the file closing forms and enter them into the accounting system. This is a fairly tedious task, but it doesn't take very long, and it needs to be done. Just as I finish the last of the forms my phone rings. It's Alfonso. One of the secretaries has just called in a rush request for eight boxes from the basement storage. I gladly take the opportunity to walk away from my computer for a while. We take the freight elevator down to the parking garage where our storage room is located, load up the dolly, and deliver the boxes to her.

By the time I return to my desk it is 4:25. Just enough time to check my email once more and tidy up my desk before calling it a day.

The clock on my iPod reads 4:36 as I push through the revolving door to the street outside my building



WHAT'S NEW AT UBC LAW LIBRARY...

Reclassification of Law collection:

Anna Holeton, UBC Law Library

Although the reclassification of UBC Law Library's 'K – KX' collection from Moys to Library of Congress (LC) has been planned for many years, it only recently became a reality. All new 'K' books being added to the collection are now classified according to LC classification. In addition, reclassification work began in July 2006 with the Reserve collection. Reclassification will gradually move to the regular collection. The entire project is expected to take several years to complete.

To determine whether a particular book has been classified according to Moys or LC classification, simply look at the book's spine label – or check its full record in the Library catalogue. All 'K – KX' Library of Congress call numbers will include the notation (LC) following the date. Older, Moys call numbers will not include the (LC) notation. Because the (LC) notation is not visible at the results list screen, you must look at the full record to see whether the complete call number includes the (LC) notation.

Legal materials held in branches other than the Law Library are not being reclassified. For this reason it will be very important to check the call numbers carefully, as they may differ for the Law Library and other branches.

ASRS storage project:

Lesser-used materials are being moved to Automated Storage & Retrieval System (ASRS) located in the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. When initiating an Interlibrary Loan request for materials held in the ASRS, you will need to contact UBC Library Central InterLibrary Loans, www.library.ubc.ca/home/ill.html.

UBC Law Faculty kicks off building campaign:

On September 25, 2006, UBC Faculty of Law officially began its campaign to fund a new law building. Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy LLP made an extremely generous \$1 million gift to the UBC Law Faculty to support legal education. This is the largest gift from a law firm to a British Columbia law school, and the largest ever cash gift to UBC Law. With the announcement of this gift, UBC Law launches a major fundraising campaign to construct a new building.



FEATURE ARTICLES:

SLA Report - Baltimore, Maryland *

Emma Woods, Alexander Holburn Beaudin & Lang LLP

I was thrilled to attend the 2006 annual SLA conference in Baltimore, Maryland from June 11-14 for three enlightening days of attending sessions spent learning about new products and services, meeting other members, and taking in the sights of Baltimore and nearby Washington, D.C.

As I'm sure many library techs will agree, it's not always easy finding professional development activities that are relevant to our jobs. Since my boss was already attending CALL this year, SLA was a perfect fit for me. Instead of focussing solely on the law aspect of my interests, I was able to go to sessions on search, internet technologies and tools, marketing, and reference services, which were right up my alley.

All the stars of the library world were there: Mary Ellen Bates, the enthusiastic and well-known information broker, Gary Price, the founder of Resource Shelf and now the Director of Online Information Services for Ask.com, and Genie Tyburski, the creator of The Virtual Chase, were just a few of the info-celebs whose presentations drew packed rooms. The keynote speech given by Walter Mossberg, personal technology columnist for the Wall Street Journal, was one of the highlights for me!

One of the coolest sessions I attended had nothing to do with my job, but was fascinating nevertheless. The Advertising & Marketing Division hosted Meet the Millennials, a presentation delivered by Michael Wood of Teenage Research Unlimited, "a full-service marketing-research firm dedicated solely to understanding teens." By far the liveliest and most entertaining session I attended, it opened with a Gwen Stefani song, was punctuated by video clips, animation, and more music, and held the audience's rapt attention for the next hour and a half, as we learned about what makes today's teens tick.

Upon my return to the office I found many ways to put my newfound knowledge to use. I was inspired to plan an in-house seminar on Google, capitalising on its brand recognition and popularity. At the seminar I was able to share many of the tricks that I'd learned at recent SLA conferences. I also began writing proper cover sheets for research assignments, which give a more professional look to the end product and help me organize my research a little better.

Another highlight of the conference was being a Western Canadian Chapter blogger for the official conference blog, where I posted my thoughts and summaries of sessions. This experience was both useful and stressful – useful because I had to immediately process what I'd learned and try to post somewhat cohesive thoughts for others to read, but stressful because I didn't want to be spending all of my downtime in front of the computer! In the end I posted a lot less than I had anticipated, but was pleased with the posts that I did write. Were I to do it again another year, I would bring a laptop to the conference with me (I left mine at the hotel because I didn't want to haul it around, plus wi-fi wasn't free in the convention centre) and type my notes instead of writing them by hand, and use my time a little more efficiently by drafting the posts in between sessions.

INFO-EXPO, the trade show portion of the conference, was massive and full of exhibitors ranging from the usual giants like Lexis and Westlaw (who offered free USB flash drives to attendees), to medium-sized vendors like Shark Repellent (who were giving away shark-shaped stress balls), to quaint little companies like BookWear (who had run out of sample t-shirts by the time I checked out their booth, but sent me one shortly after the conference ended!).

I returned home feeling inspired and energized and ready to put what I'd learned into action. The value of an SLA conference far exceeds the cost of registration and travel: you can't beat the feeling of being in a room full of hundreds of other library and information workers, learning from, sharing with, and engaging in spirited discussions with the thought leaders and experts of our community.

* An earlier version of this article was published in the *LTAIG Newsletter*, August 2006.



FEATURE ARTICLES:

Top 10 Uses for RSS in Law Firms [†]

Steve Matthews, Clark Wilson, LLP

- 1) **Current Awareness** - Surfing your favourite websites, newspapers & blogs is a waste of time. Smart firms & lawyers need to automate web content to come to them via RSS. These personalized collections can then be customized (through mixing and filtering) to only deliver the content that matches a lawyer's interests.
- 2) **RSS for Firm Marketing** - From blogs, to press releases, to firm newsletters and publications — adding an additional delivery channel using RSS feeds is not a huge investment. And speaking from experience, those clients that do use it, will tell you how much they love it!
- 3) **Vanity Feeds** - Every time one of your lawyers, or the firm, gets mentioned in the news media or blogosphere, someone should be notified by RSS. Your firm's ability to use RSS could be the difference between finding out immediately or finding out days later.
- 4) **Internal Research Collections** - Your library catalogue should offer an RSS feed for newly added materials that match your Lawyer's research interests. Same thing goes for internal KM & research collections. In the future, I expect Internal RSS will be as important to law firms as RSS is to bloggers today.
- 5) **Client Press** - Do your clients have their press releases RSS-enabled? Are you tracking your clients in the news media? What do you know about their latest products, disputes, and business initiatives? Knowing more about your client's business is always good for firm business.
- 6) **Feeding on Marketing Content for KM** - Do your firm members have blogs? Contribute to an industry discussion forum? Wikis? Are you feeding those public internet contributions back into your internal KM repositories? Something to think about.
- 7) **Case Law & Legislative Changes** - The importance of RSS notification for new & changing legislation cannot be underestimated. Nor can receiving the newest judgement just minutes after it has been published on a Court's website. In the future, searches on those websites will, via RSS, enable us to receive exactly the legislation and topical cases we desire. I also expect these applications may be coming sooner than most firms are anticipating.
- 8) **Aggregated Tagging** - Do your lawyers tag with a tool like Del.icio.us or [Furl](http://Furl.com)? (If they don't now, they might in the future — read on...) Tagging is the new 'favourites' or 'bookmarking' for online reading. Rather than creating a browser-based bookmark, these 'gems' are classified & kept in an online web collection, which just happens to be RSS-enabled! Does it not make sense to take those feeds, from multiple firm members, and aggregate them behind the firewall into a searchable repository? The line between public web-vs-behind the firewall collections is blurring. In the future, your KM efforts should be capturing firm members' public web contributions, and RSS technology will be right in the middle of that.
- 9) **RSS Republishing** - RSS helps to move web content to where it needs to be. We can automate the republication of any firm content -- from story headlines, to full-text of publications, to anywhere on a law firm's Intranet or public website. RSS is a very powerful website maintenance tool.
- 10) **Feed Mixing & Filtering for Subject Collections** - RSS should be easy for the end user, and starting from scratch building a personal feed collection doesn't always make sense. One new task I see for Law Librarians will be to create, remix and filter groups of feeds for different subjects. Creating & offering these pre-fab feed widgets that your lawyers can plug into their Aggregator could be a very valuable tool.

[†] Originally published on *Vancouver Law Librarian Blog*, September 25, 2006. <http://vancouverlawlib.blogspot.com/>

FEATURE ARTICLES:

SLA Seminar Report - A Google Smorgasbord

Christina Tribe, Harper Grey LLP[†]

Almost every morning, on our daily commute over the Lions Gate Bridge, my husband and I see the "Internet Superstar." She rides a Vespa scooter. The large white letters on the flap of her red courier satchel alert the world to her secret identity. It always reminds me of that saying: *nobody knows you're a dog on the Internet*. She may be a dog or a god, who knows? I do know she probably doesn't compare to one of the real superstars. His name is Geoff Peters, and he is a tall and unassuming fella who is also charming and very, very smart. You may already know him, or have heard of some of his feats, as he is the inventor of Google Duel; Song Search by Tapping and Celebrity Ranker. He is an SFU Computer Science grad, a pianist in a jazz quartet, a co-founder of Vancouver restaurant internet guide *Food Vancouver* among many other achievements.

Geoff was one of three terrific speakers at a recent SLA WCC/ CASLIS event, called *A Google Smorgasbord*. His presentation was entitled "How Google Shapes Online Popularity - How a Good Ranking in Google Can Mean Good Things in Real Life." In particular, he spoke about how to craft websites that rank within the first page or two of a Google search. This is especially important because 62% of searchers do not look beyond the first page, and only 10% look beyond the 3rd page. 82% refine their searches if what they are looking for does not show up on the first page. He encouraged us to think how people search (for example they don't usually search for "badger dogs" but instead search for "dachshunds") and how they refine their searches (maybe they add one or all of "wiener dog," "Vancouver," "breeder" or "training"). He directed us to the Google webmaster guidelines, and to www.nichebot.com -- a site that measures popular search terms, including those used by your competition. Geoff recommended incorporating keyword targeting directly on the page — in headings, text, titles and pictures. He discouraged hiding keywords in the html, or written in the same colour as your background (also known as *keyword stuffing*) as that is frowned upon by Google staff. Some of his tips for achieving high ranking pages are obvious, but work. They include: having original content, targeting a specific audience, focusing on themes and subjects, avoiding placing keywords inside graphics or flash, and updating your pages frequently. He also proclaimed the importance of viral marketing, which is when other sites link your site, as it ups the Google page rank. So, Internet dog or god? Depends on your ride. And your keywords.

Kay Cahill, Vancouver Public Library's Training and Virtual Services Librarian, and another expert, spoke about Google's Beta Labs in her presentation titled "Making Google Tools Work in an Information Setting." She posed the question: "are Google's Beta Labs just flashy novelties, or are they genuinely useful ways of interpreting search results and delivering information?" She illustrated her points with brief tours of the various tools that Google has available, including Maps, Froogle, Books and Earth. She has continually proven the superior skills of a Reference Desk Librarian through these tools. She was of the opinion that the role of Librarian was more a facilitator than that of gatekeeper. After her presentation there were questions about the usefulness of nascent tools such as Google Books and the ethical dilemmas of a tool like Google Maps, especially of producing satellite images, maps and directions to famous landmarks in this post 9/11 world.

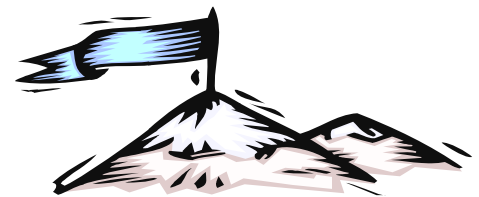
Eugene Barsky wrapped up the event with his presentation "Google Scholar and the Future of Searching." It was an overview of Google Scholar's strengths, weaknesses and breadth of subject coverage. He uses Google Scholar to help source medical information in his position as Physiotherapy Outreach Librarian at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC. The idea behind Google Scholar was conceived in late 2003. Scholar is free from advertising and consists of journal articles, technical reports, preprints, theses, books and indexed WebPages that Google staff have considered "scholarly." Most of the content indexed by Scholar is science related, with the bulk of articles relating to medicine, engineering and biology, and to a smaller extent humanities, business and law. Some of the "pros" of Scholar include speed and ease of use, citation tracking

[†] Christina drives a Jetta, and only sticks her head out the window when her husband drives. Her article was also published in the October 2006 issue of the LTAIG newsletter.

tools, free full text content, easy access and the support of Boolean command searching. Cons include, well, what is excluded — all material from major publishers Elsevier and ACS. There is also no way of knowing what is “scholarly” (apparently the folks at Scholar don’t know if you’re a dog or a god either). The index also lags behind PubMed, has weak Canadian content, and has no way to sort or organize results. The verdict was that although the Scholar idea is ambitious, it still needs a lot of work. So far the Scholar tool is useful for basic searches, but nothing in-depth, and it certainly can’t be relied upon for scholarly research (ironically enough). Eugene said that librarians are right to scrutinize this tool but need to work together not only with companies to create robust systems, but also to teach and tailor information literacy and intelligent search skills depending on their environment.

Before and after the presentations there was a lot of networking, noshing and nibbling. I found the speakers informative and entertaining, and although my Vespa girl was not there, I thought the all the presenters were superstars.

No word, though, on their transportation choices.



VALL REVIEW NEWSLETTER ARTICLE CONTENT -- SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

To provide short news and articles on library information and knowledge management developments of interest to VALL members with a priority focus on legal information and related issues concerning legal sector.

To highlight resources of interest to VALL which would be useful to the legal community and for professional library staff development.

Authors are advised to submit their draft articles that meet the minimal criteria:

For articles:

- 1) In Microsoft Word, Plain text or Rich-text.
- 2) Maximum of up to 800 words for full articles.
- 3) Single spaced with paragraphs.
- 4) Functional URLs and corresponding footnote bibliographic information for further reading.
- 5) Identification of author, their official position title and parent organization.

Publishers and vendors should only highlight for submission:

- 6) No more than 3-4 resources of key value per issue. Title, edition, author and projected price is helpful.
- 7) Of value, would be very recent new product developments that the vendor has not yet publicly released or the vendor would like feedback from its customers.

Note: If a vendor has already released public marketing information to all customers on its corporate web site, VALL Review editors will exercise rights to determine if there is sufficient space to include the submitted information, in light of other VALL content publishing priorities.

These guidelines are also at the VALL website: <http://vall.vancouver.bc.ca/vallreviewguide.htm>.