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Report on 2013 Annual Members Meeting

LLMC member libraries have met annually during AALL conventions since 1978. Our 36th Annual Meeting was held at AALL in Seattle on July 15. It was conducted under rules adopted in 2003 when LLMC's fiche-era libraries transferred control of the Consortium's assets to *LLMC-Digital's* Charter Members. As usual, the main business of the annual meeting was elections to staff LLMC's two governing bodies, our Board of Directors and Advisory Council. Voting rights for delegates reflected each library's subscription status relative to *LLMC-Digital*. This year some 38 representatives of the 265 Charter Member libraries participated.

◆ Elections 2013

In the Board of Directors election two four-year slots were open due to the expired terms of **Judith Wright** Dir., U. Chicago L.L., and **Joe Hinger**, Asso. Libn., St. John's U.L.L. In addition, two persons were needed to fill the unexpired terms of **Richard Amelung**, Asso. Dir., St. Louis U.L.L. and **Janis Johnston**, Dir., U. Illinois L.L.; both of whom recently retired from both their university positions and the LLMC Board. The outgoing Board of Directors had previously recruited two nominees for the two full-term positions: **Anne Matthewman**, Dir., Dalhousie U.L.L., and **Judy Russell**, Dean of Libraries, U. Florida. In addition, to fill the two years remaining in Janis Johnston's term, the Board nominated **Joe Hinger**; and to fill the one-year remaining in Richard Amelung's term, the Board nominated **Jerry Dupont**. No other nominations being made, all four Board candidates were elected by acclamation.

In the Advisory Council elections, slots were open due to term expirations for councilors **Neal Campbell**, Dir., U. Victoria L.L. (Can.); **Jolande Goldberg**, Sen. Cat. Specialist, L.C.; **Dan Lavering**, Dir., U.S. Army JAG S.L.L.; **Margaret Leary**, Dir. Ret., U. Michigan L.L.;

and **Jeanne Price**, Dir., U. Nevada-Las Vegas L.L. An additional slot was opened by the election of Judy Russell to the Board of Directors. The following of our colleagues were nominated and elected, or reelected, to the Advisory Council by acclamation. New to the Council are: **Louis Mirando**, Dir. Osgoode Hall L.L. (Can.); **Michelle Pierce**, Libn., Harvard U.L.L.; & **Mark Podvia**, Dickinsen S.L.L.L. Elected to second terms were our colleagues: **Neal Campbell**, **Jolande Goldberg**, & **Jeanne Price**.

Our full leadership for 2012/13 is provided at the end of this annual meeting report. We hereby extend our deep appreciation to those leaving office, and our grateful congratulations to all the new incumbents. All of us have already benefited so much, and will no doubt continue to benefit, from the willingness of our colleagues to serve.

◆ Special tributes:

While expressing our deep gratitude to all of our departing colleagues who have given of their time and energies to make our consortium the vital organization it has become, Board Chair Jerry Dupont called the special attention of the assembled members to two of our departing colleagues whose work on behalf of the organization went far beyond the norm. He flagged for special recognition:

- **Margaret Leary**, Dir. Ret. of the U. Michigan L.L. - Margaret's association with LLMC goes back to the birth of LLMC in 1976. As principal assistant to then Director Beverly J. Pooley, Margaret energetically helped to put the full weight of the Michigan Law Library's influence in the profession behind the new venture. She served several terms as an Advisory Board member, and after she succeeded Prof. Pooley, herself served three terms as a member of our Board of Directors. A constant stalwart in our fiche era, she was also substantially involved in our migration into the digital world. It was in large part through her good offices that we were able to join Michigan's digital library

incubation program and launch our online service. Furthermore, once we had outgrown the Michigan crib, Margaret had no problem helping to lead us on to an independent existence. We will miss her steady support and wise counsel, but wish her a long and happy retirement.

- **Richard Amelung**, Asso. Dir. Ret. of the Saint Louis U.L.L. – Richard first became involved with LLMC back in the mid-1980s during our fiche era when, as cataloger *extraordinaire* for SLU, he oversaw the cataloging of our Canon Law and three Civil Law collections. For the next fiche decade he was our resident guru on all things cataloging. With the advent of our digital project it quickly became evident that cataloging was going to be a very important part of the program. So Richard was quickly recruited onto the development team. In 2004 the Board decided that it needed his direct input on the Board itself. First as Board member, and then for the last six years as Chair, Richard has with his knowledge, experience, and wisdom influenced virtually every important move that LLMC has made since. Now Richard has decided to end his University career and take well-earned retirement. Our only consolation is that he plans to continue working on LLMC cataloging even in retirement.

◆ Other Business:

The annual meeting concluded with short reports or waves from the following:

- **Kathleen Richman**, our Executive Director, briefly reviewed the highlights of LLMC's past year.
- The Chair reminded everybody that we have now begun our second five-year contract with our technical partner **National Business Systems (NBS)** of Eagan, Minn. He asked **Joe Tafs** and **Dan Hoppestad** of NBS to stand and be recognized by the members, who acknowledged their presence with vigorous applause.

- **Sandi Levin**, the new Director of the LA Law Library, conveyed to the members her enthusiasm for the partnership of LA Law Library and LLMC in a Global Print Preservation Project. (See Issue 57, pp. 2-4)
- **Amy Wood**, of the Center for Research Libraries spoke on CRL's Legal-PAPR program, a project in which LLMC is a major partner, and invited members to consider participation. (See Issue 57, pp. 4-5)
- Finally, **Valerie Carullo**, who was representing our first corporate sponsor, **Bloomberg Law**, was introduced to the members. Valerie gave a brief overview of her company's offerings and subject strengths, described how they complemented the LLMC mission, and expressed how pleased she was that Bloomberg Law was taking on this supportive role.

◆ LLMC's Leaders in 2013/14

(Final year for each term follows the name)

Board of Directors:

Jerry Dupont Bd. Chair & Content Developer (2014)
Barbara Garavaglia Dir., U. Mich L.L. (2016)
Joe Hinger Dir. Tech Serv., St. John's U.L.L. (2015)
Marcia Koslov Dir.Ret., Los Angeles L.L. (2014)
Kent McKeever Dir., Columbia U.L.L. (2016)
Anne Matthewman Dir., Dalhousie U.L.L. (2017)
Kathleen Richman LLMC Exec. Dir. (ex officio)
Judy Russell Dean, U. Florida Libraries (2017)
Regina Smith Dir., Jenkins Memorial L.L. (2015)

Advisory Council:

John Barden Dir., Maine St. Law & L.R.L. (2014)
Neil Campbell Dir., U. Victoria L.L. (2016)
Darin Fox Dir.ret., U. Oklahoma L.L. (2014)
Judith Gaskell Dir.Ret., U.S.Sup.Ct.L. (2014)
Jolande Goldberg Sen.Cat.-Policy Spec., LC (2016)
Jonathan Franklin Asso. Libn. U. Wash. L.L. (2015)
Louis Mirando Osgoode Hall L.L. (2016)
Ralph Monaco Hd. Libn., N.Y.L.I. Lib. (2015)
Marie Newman Dir., Pace U.L.L. (2014)
Scott Pagel Dir., George Washington U.L.L. (2015)
Michelle Pearse Libn., Harvard U.L.L. (2017)
Jeanne Price Dir., U. Nevada-Las Vegas L.L. (2016)
Carol Roehrenbeck Dir.Ret., Rutgers-N.L.L. (2014)
Mark Podvia Dickinson S.L.L.L. (2016)
Richard Tuske Hd. Libn., A.Bar C.N.Y. L.L. (2015)
Jules Winterton Dir., I.A.L.S. (2015)
Sally Wise Dir. U. Miami L.L. (2015)
Michelle Wu Dir., Georgetown U.L.L. (2014)

LLMC Subscription Rates in 2014

Five years ago the LLMC Board adopted a pricing policy linking future subscription increases to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Several factors underlay that policy decision. For a start, it was predictable that all of LLMC's expenses would increase as general price levels for labor, goods and services rose.

As important, in addition to covering normal inflation, LLMC also incurs a special type of expense stemming from its very success. We can all take pride in the fact that our total scanned content has now climbed to over 75,000 volumes. However, each of those volumes will require perpetual maintenance and preservation costs. That permanent maintenance responsibility grows steadily as each month's worth of additional productivity adds to our online holdings. Therefore, if we are to maintain the same level of quality services, we have to track those increased costs in our subscription schedule. While recognizing this reality, our Board was also anxious to avoid the lurches in subscription rates that occur when inflation is ignored for several years, requiring occasional outsize increases in order to catch up. So the Board decided that a consistent and publicized policy that people could plan for would work best for all.

Therefore, since there has been measurable inflation since mid-2012 (CPI rise of ca. 2.1%), the LLMC Board decided at its recent July meeting that it made sense to continue our prudent policy of incremental adjustments by countering most of that inflation through a 2% increase in the billings going out on the first of January, 2014, and for subscription periods beginning anytime in 2014.¹

¹ It is noteworthy that, although subscription rates are inching up, and will continue to do so in the future, the cost-per-volume bargain enjoyed by LLMC's customers keeps gliding steadily downward. Even with the new rates, the "rental" cost in 2014 for LLMC's product by law school libraries, our highest-paying subscribers, will be lower than \$0.10 per volume per year. For our many non-academic subscribers the bargain is even more pronounced. We think that in the category of value-for-money we stack up well against any alternative library collection-development investment.

New LLMC-Digital Interface Goes Live

One of the requirements for maintaining a high quality level of satisfaction in an online service like ours is continual improvement in the user interface. The digital world is in constant motion. Other services constantly improve their user interfaces and user expectations keep drifting higher. To stay in the game we too must steadily improve our game.

Thus, as regular readers are well aware, we have spent the last eight months working on a significant upgrade to our user interface. And the past two months have been used to solicit feedback on the prototype from a range of users, most of whom were from or recruited by our Advisory Council. The new interface has now been launched and will be live by the time you read these words. We hope that in the main it lives up to your current expectations. And where it may not, please continue to give us feedback so that we can continue to work on additional improvements.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we want to extend sincere thanks to the many people who contributed to this stage of the interface improvement process: our staff in Hawaii and San Francisco, our NBS partners in Minnesota and Chicago, and our many users who contributed to the Beta Phase trials.

Teachers of legal research and other reference librarians are reminded that LLMC is offering a series of webinars aimed at helping our subscribing libraries make LLMC-Digital more useful and accessible to their patrons. LLMC Content Manager Stephen Wiles will be offering a series of webinars all through the end of the year, and even longer if demand persists. Attendance at a given webinar is limited to 25 persons, but there will be a sufficient number of opportunities that we should be able to accommodate all interested persons. To take advantage of this opportunity, please e-mail Stephen at stephenw@llmc.com stating your approximate desired time frames. He will do his best to fit you in.

End of the LLMC Fiche Era

When LLMC made the switch from data delivery on microfiche to data delivery online ten years ago, it made a commitment to

continue to deliver copies of the 105,000 volumes it held in its microfiche inventory to patrons desiring that format. From the beginning that commitment was difficult to keep. The microfiche duplication machinery that LLMC had in-house was old and ailing. Both maintenance and spare parts were hard to come by. However, we soon found a workaround for that problem. By 2004 we located a reliable service bureau to whom we could sub-contract the duplication work. We were especially confident in our choice of this particular service bureau because they had done multiple tasks for us all through the fiche years. Therefore we already had a trusting relationship.

To implement the new plan, we shipped our inventory of “working masters” (the “2nd generation” copies that were used to make consumer copies) to our chosen subcontractor: Micrographics Equipment Services, Inc. (MESI) of Lansing, IL. All microfiche orders received thereafter by LLMC were filled on a “drop ship” basis by MESI. Orders in the later years did dwindle down to a trickle. But the important thing was that we were able to give people what they wanted in the format they needed for another eight years.

Now, however, we’re back to the drawing board. Our longtime friend and generous helping hand in several projects during our fiche era, **Ed Furfaro**, is being forced to downsize his business. MESI will no longer be able to maintain its fiche-duplication facilities. Since the market for this kind of service has almost disappeared, we haven’t been able to find a suitable replacement.

Fortunately, roughly 85% of the data that we had on microfiche has now been migrated to digital, and we are rapidly digitizing the remaining film. We are already close to being able to provide almost everything that we had on fiche in a digital format. In a year or so we should be there. Given that background, at its recent meeting during AALL, the LLMC Board decided that the time has come to bite

the bullet and exit the fiche market. Our last fiche order was fulfilled on July 31.²

Going forward, we will be moving the “grand master” copies³ of our 105,000 volumes on microfiche to our salt mine dark archives as yet another analog backup for our digital library. They will complement the paper backups that we also maintain in that facility for the bulk of our titles.

² It is indicative of the trend in these latter years that our last fiche order was for one replacement fiche for Martindale-Hubbell, 1952, fiche #78 in the Oregon sub-set, for the Notre Dame Law Library.

³ These are the “1st generation” fiche that were the direct product of our filming activities. Since these 1st generation fiche are the only fiche copies that are in Silver Halide format, i.e., on “archival film,” they are the most eligible candidates for long-term preservation purposes.)