

Legal Information Preservation Alliance

Meeting Notes January 3, 2008

The membership meeting of the Legal Information Preservation Alliance was held at the Columbia University Law School in conjunction with the Association of American Law Schools meeting in New York City.

Paul George, Chair, welcomed the group and thanked Kent McKeever and Columbia for hosting the meeting. He gave a brief synopsis of the current state of the organization and its projects.

James Rubottom, Executive Director, then presented his report on his activities since joining the LIPA group. He is looking for a fiscal agent for LIPA, planning some outreach to state law libraries, and continuing to explore a pilot project with the OCLC Digital Archive. He is interested in improving communications generally; he has quarterly communication with LLMC and NELLCO to coordinate activities.

Stephen Slovasky then presented a program about the Connecticut Digital Archive that makes use of the OCLC Digital Archive. Titled "Electronic State Document Preservation in Connecticut," the project involves more than legal documents. Mr. Slovasky, Head of the Bibliographic Information Unit at the Connecticut State Library, demonstrated the acquisition/accession process used in the project and discussed workflow and cost issues. See <http://www.cslib.org/CTDigArch.htm>.

Following the program, Paul George presented a draft of the LIPA 2008 goals. The three primary areas of emphasis were:

- Make LIPA the "go to" organization for the law library community for information about digital preservation of legal information.
- Expand awareness of LIPA and increase membership.
- Expand the LIPA Paper Retention Project.

A fairly wide-ranging discussion ensued and many positive suggestions were contributed by those attending.

As expected, one of the areas of discussion was the use of the OCLC Digital Archive for a LIPA project. It was stressed that consortial pricing from OCLC was crucial. A committee headed by Margie Maes is actively working to determine the type(s) of legal information that should be included in any digital preservation project sponsored by LIPA. LIPA continues to look for additional partners in case we cannot successfully work with OCLC for any reason.

Another area of discussion involved ideas for how LIPA might increase participation of state and local law libraries. Suggestion included such things as offering law libraries at this level a free one-year membership in LIPA, seeking grant funding for their inclusion, and assisting them in working with producing agencies.

While increasing awareness regarding LIPA and increasing membership were acknowledged to be high priorities, members present also emphasized the importance of getting some substantive projects underway so that we have some results to show to prospective library members. Members also suggested the importance of maintaining contact with library schools that offer a law library emphasis and increasing cooperation among law library groups.

JDR/MKM