President’s Letter
Adam Mackie – UConn School of Law Library

I am excited to serve as President of SNELLA this year. Last year was very successful, with a great educational event, featuring a guest appearance by half of the Connecticut Four, and a transition to a new website and membership management platform. This year, we hope to continue to provide opportunities for our membership to get together and attend programs that contribute to the learning and understanding of our profession, as well as make it easier for you all to do so.

The SNELLA winter social event is officially on the books! We will be attending a Hartford Wolf Pack game on January 10th seated in the Director’s Suite; the ticket price will include food and soda. Details of the event will be sent out shortly, so be on the lookout for an email in order to reserve your spot (space is limited to 55). Families are encouraged to attend!

We are also looking forward to putting on another educational event in the spring. While still in the preliminary stages of planning, I’m very excited about a potential partnership we are attempting to forge that could really show off the value of our profession! Stay tuned!
Finally, I want to thank Past President Tanya Johnson for her leadership and hard work last year, particularly in putting together last spring’s educational event at Yale. The content of the event was timely and intriguing with excellent speakers and it would not have happened without her help and the help of all the board. Fortunately, she is still our Past President, so here’s to another great year for SNELLA!

This year, we welcome Jessica de Perio Wittman (UConn School of Law Library) to her new board position as Vice President/President Elect, Yuksel Serindag (Yale Law School Lillian Goldman Library) back to the board in his additional capacity of Treasurer, and Karen Coghlan (UMass Medical School Lamar Soutter Library) as a Member-at-Large.

I look forward to seeing many of you soon!

Adam Mackie – SNELLA President 2018-19 Reference Librarian UConn School of Law
adam.mackie@uconn.edu

Submissions for the next Obiter Dicta Due: 5/10/20

Articles, comments or questions about this publication should be submitted to Editor: Jeffrey Dowd/CT Judicial Branch Law Libraries
90 Washington Street/Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: 860 706-5144/Fax 860 706-5086, Jeffrey.Dowd@jud.ct.gov

All material submitted for publication is subject to editorial revision. Electronic submission is encouraged.
Global Online Access to Legal Information (GOALI)

History of a Social Responsibility Project

By Yuksel Serindag
Yale Law Library

Translating an idea for a project into reality is a long and at times challenging process, but a rewarding one if it succeeds. Therefore, a project requires thoughts, meetings, skilled people, energy, perseverance, cooperation, and of course time. Moreover, a project is a process of diplomacy and steadfastness that a person or a group must complete to achieve their objective. This has been true for GOALI. It took years of work and effort for the GOALI working group to materialize its objective of making legal resources available to people and institutions in developing countries for either minimal or no cost.

The conceptual history of GOALI goes back to the years 2010 - 2012 when Liesbeth Kanis (former employee of Brill Nijhoff) was working as an academic publishing and research adviser at a university in Tanzania. There, she experienced firsthand that not-for-profit institutions, libraries, academics, law students, and practicing professionals could not access online legal resources because they lacked the financial means to pay for prohibitively expensive online databases in their subject area. This was a clear sign of an information gap between the industrial and non-industrial worlds. As a result, Kanis was inspired to take up the challenge of bringing about an initiative aimed at decreasing the information gap, thus promoting “equal access to justice for all.” There were already similar programs of Research4Life (R4L) providing access, for example, in the health and agricultural areas to millions of people and institutions in the developing countries for free or a minimum fee.
Kanis submitted her “Global Access to Law” proposal (then called GOAL, which later became Global Online Access to Legal Information, or GOALI in short) for discussion at the R4L General Partners’ Meeting at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome in September 2013. Although her idea was well received, it did not get enough support to become a full-fledged program. She then presented her idea for GOALI at an International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) meeting in Lyon in 2014, where she reached out to several members of the R4L Executive Committee (ExCo) such as Daniel Dollar (Yale University) and Mary Ochs (Cornell University) and discussed with them the necessity of such a project for the developing world.

Both Dollar and Ochs, in turn, circulated the idea of GOALI within their institutions by talking to their respective law library colleagues, such as Teresa Miguel-Stearns (Yale Law School Librarian) and Femi Cadmus (former Cornell University Law School Librarian). Miguel-Stearns and Cadmus were both enthusiastic about Kanis’ idea and brought it up in their staff meetings. The staffs of both libraries welcomed such an idea, so the Yale Law School Library and the Cornell Law School Library joined the GOALI initiative in 2015.

With both of these libraries on board, Kanis formed a GOALI team with Miguel-Stearns, Cadmus, and Dollar. As a member of the R4L ExCo, Dollar contributed to the GOALI team his years of experience from the HINARI program (the health program of the R4L) on becoming a member of the R4L. Another person who joined the GOALI team was Ms. Kimberly Parker (the World Health Organization) and she, like Daniel Dollar, was already a member of the R4Life when Liesbeth Kanis approached her with her GOALI initiative. She, too, shared her invaluable experiences and ideas with other team members throughout the process of the GOALI initiative as to how to proceed and implement GOALI.
In 2015, the GOALI team applied to R4L for consideration of an affiliate program status. R4L ExCo discussed the proposal at their meeting and let them know when they could be qualified as an R4L program. One of the most important criteria of the R4L was that a new project has to identify a UN agency as a sponsor of the project. So the GOALI team’s first and foremost task was then to find such a UN agency to support it. During the period of the conditional approval by R4L, Ms. Kanis approached the International Labor Organization (ILO) to join the GOALI initiative. ILO expressed interest in the GOALI initiative in late 2015, for the objective of the initiative was in line with the ILO’s objective to further the “education of legal professionals by promoting equal access to justice for all.”

With the ILO’s involvement the fledgling initiative got its wings. The ILO immediately allocated human resources to coordinate the work of the initiative and committed funds for GOALI web portal. Eventually, GOALI was approved as the fifth program of R4L at the General Partners’ Meeting in 2017, which gave GOALI a new momentum toward realization. After the ILO came on board, Richelle Van Snellenberg (ILO) led GOALI’s online meetings, and a division of work was put in place so that every institution or every person in the GOALI team knew what area to concentrate on: Kimberly Parker and Daniel Dollar participated in the meetings and shared their past experiences from other R4L programs with the rest of the team; the ILO funded human resources for the technical infrastructure of GOALI and hosted the website portal and coordinated the work of the team; Yale University Law Library and Liesbeth Kanis of Brill Nijhoff communicated with publishers to get them to commit their resources to the GOALI contents, and Yale Law Library also handled the subscription to resources and provided bibliographic expertise; and Cornell University Law Library managed training services for end users. Even though the members of the group lived in the different parts of the world, they made conference calls on a regular basis to update each other on their progress.

Finally, in 2017, the GOALI team decided they were ready to launch the GOLI program in early 2018. Their objective of providing free access to tens of thousands of legal resources to
legal practitioners in the developing countries became real after many years of conference calls and work; consequently, the GOALI project went live, with a launching ceremony at the headquarter of the ILO in Geneva, Switzerland, on March 6, 2018. This project Liesbeth Kanis had initiated and others had joined is more than a year old and is a great stride for those who strive to make the world a better place to live in.

Wehle has written a thought-provoking book that aims to educate the average person about the U.S. Constitution. Each chapter begins with a close analysis of the actual text. Through the use of call-outs, Wehle draws attention to key words and phrases that give people a lot of trouble. Her point is that the Constitution contains a lot of ambiguities. There is no single correct interpretation. I would recommend the book to civic-minded library patrons who want to write a letter to the editor. If you care about your perceived rights, this book is a good way to develop your ideas a little further. It may also be of interest to people who follow political or judicial happenings closely and want to gain a deeper understanding of the Constitutional law underpinning. For the average high school or college student who has to write a paper about abortion or gun control, this book is too abstract. Likewise, the pro se litigant would not tend to benefit. My guess is that, if the book is read at all, it will be by attorneys or law school students. Although she makes a persuasive case for doing your bit as a responsible citizen, I don’t see this book becoming a hot item, well-written though it is.

—Submitted by Dana M. Lucisano, Reference Librarian, Silas Bronson Library, Waterbury, Connecticut USA
DOCUMENT DELIVERY
MADE SIMPLE

Are you searching for:
- JOURNAL ARTICLES
- BOOK CHAPTERS
- INTER-LIBRARY LOANS
- CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS
- MAGAZINE/NEWSPAPER ARTICLES
- DICTIONARY TERMS

Specializing in various fields:
MEDICAL | ENGINEERING | BUSINESS | LEGAL

Full access to several databases including:
PUBMED | IEEE | JSTOR | EBSCO | SCIENCE DIRECT
LEGALTRAC | WEB OF SCIENCE

Fast, same day service, sometimes within minutes
Just forward your citations to my e-mail. No forms to fill out!

Competitive rates 20% OFF your first order, up to 5 articles.

Call us for a free quote at 310.850.0022
Or for a faster response, please e-mail us at retrievit@yahoo.com
Jeffrey Dowd - Editor
Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Libraries
90 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06457

https://snella.wildapricot.org