

2011

Earl C. Borgeson and the Image of the Law Librarian

Susan Azyndar

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/law-lib_borgeson

Recommended Citation

Susan Azyndar, *Earl C. Borgeson and the Image of the Law Librarian* (2011),
https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/law-lib_borgeson/4

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Librarianship Program at UW Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Borgeson Papers by an authorized administrator of UW Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jafrank@uw.edu.

Earl C. Borgeson and the Image of the Law Librarian

Susan Azyndar

Submitted to
Professor Penny A. Hazelton
to fulfill course requirements for Current Issues in Law Librarianship, LIS 595,
and to fulfill the graduation requirement of the
Culminating Experience Project for MLIS
University of Washington Information School
Seattle, Washington

May 9, 2011

In a career spanning four decades, Earl C. Borgeson admirably served a range of institutions. During his initial exploration of law librarianship as a career option, Earl C. Borgeson wrote letters to many in the profession,¹ establishing a central motif of his professional life: a people-centered approach. Indeed, in later years, he would trumpet this facet of law librarianship: “we love to help each other!”² Part and parcel of this focus, Borgeson’s career expressed itself less in academic publishing than in personal relationships.³ Rather than shaping law librarianship by developing a sharp focus on an emerging aspect of collection development, for example, Borgeson most often shaped the profession through mentoring, advising, and colloquy. This essay will sketch out the major arcs of Borgeson’s career: defining law librarianship, mentoring, and serving the profession primarily through the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). Because so much of this professional activity relies heavily on personal relationships, however, it seems appropriate to begin with a brief, personal biography, many of whose strands will reappear as we turn to an examination of Borgeson’s professional life. Borgeson was a man of many stories; we will begin with his own.

Biography

Earl Charles Borgeson was born in Boyd, Minnesota on December 2, 1922.⁴ His father, Hjalmar, had emigrated from Sweden, and his mother, Doris, came from a Norwegian family.⁵ Hjalmar delivered groceries with a horse and buggy cart and enjoyed ice fishing and raising chickens for the state fair.⁶ Howard and Leslie, Earl’s older brothers, became salesman. They also had a band that played in speakeasies during Prohibition.⁷ Earl became the first of the family to attend college, graduating from the University of Minnesota. While at first Hjalmar thought Earl should be going to work instead of college, he and Doris became very proud of Earl’s accomplishment.⁸

Borgeson began his studies at the University of Minnesota in 1940.⁹ After a full school day, Borgeson worked part time as a mail clerk at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota. Here, he met his wife-to-be, Barbara, a fellow employee.¹⁰ She declined his

¹ Laura M. Goldsmith, *History of the University of Washington Law Librarianship Program*, 82 LAW LIBR. J. 239, 252 (1990).

² Earl C. Borgeson, *We Love to Help Each Other*, 91 LAW LIBR. J. 195 (1999).

³ Borgeson did publish a few academic pieces, including the following: Earl C. Borgeson et al., *Stream Pollution: Judicial Aspects of Water Quality Criteria*, 25 SEWAGE AND INDUSTRIAL WASTES 325 (1953); and Earl C. Borgeson, *Digests*, in HOW TO FIND THE LAW 25, (William R. Roalfe, ed., 1957). Yet, more often, he collaborated with others on committee reports or panels discussions—and even these more academic examples represent collaborative fruits.

⁴ *In Memory of Earl Charles Borgeson*, DIGNITY MEMORIAL, <http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Earl-Borgeson&lc=4647&pid=147480274&mid=4493210> (last visited May 3, 2011).

⁵ Email from Bobi McGarva, Earl C. Borgeson’s daughter (Mar. 23, 2011 13:36 PST) (on file with author).

⁶ Interview with Bobi McGarva (Mar. 12, 2011).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Untitled U.S. Navy form (undated) (on file with author). Obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request submitted to the National Personnel Records Center (hereinafter FOIA request).

¹⁰ Interview with Bobi McGarva, *supra* note 6.

attentions, as she already had an interest.¹¹ World War II intervened, and Earl joined the Navy in January of 1943,¹² and when he returned to Minneapolis from basic training, he learned that Barbara's beau had become a war casualty.¹³ When Barbara agreed to a date, Earl took her out to dinner and then a drive around the lakes.¹⁴ The date did not end auspiciously: Barbara fell asleep, and he took her home.¹⁵ They married in September 1944. Borgeson captained a P.T. boat in the Philippines, which he named "Barbie" after his new wife, but he did not "see much action."¹⁶ After his return to Minnesota, he completed his B.S.L. in 1947.¹⁷ As time passed, Earl and Barbara became ever closer, and "did everything together."¹⁸ This closeness lasted until Barbara's death in 2005.¹⁹ Even after Barbara was moved to a nursing home, Earl visited every day, unless he was travelling.²⁰ Earl and Barbara had three children, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.²¹

Borgeson held his first library job at the University of Minnesota in 1940, where he was a "typist, clerk, and student librarian,"²² a position which included cataloging.²³ Here, Caroline Brede introduced Borgeson to "just about every support job one could envision in a major law library" and explained how "each piece fit together with the others."²⁴ In 1949, Borgeson earned his LL.B. from the University of Minnesota,²⁵ and the following year, he became "the class of 1950" at the University of Washington's law librarianship program, where he began developing close relationships with staff, perhaps most notably with Betty LeBus.²⁶ Marian Gould Gallagher noted that when he arrived at the University of Washington, Borgeson "already knew everything Arthur Pulling knew," having attentively learned from him at the University of Minnesota's law library.²⁷

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Untitled U.S. Navy form, *supra* note 9.

¹³ Interview with Bobi McGarva, *supra* note 6.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Interview with Bobi McGarva, *supra* note 6.

¹⁷ Earl C. Borgeson, Resume, (Jan. 1990) (in University of Washington Law Librarianship Program Alumni file, hereinafter LLP file).

¹⁸ Interview with Bobi McGarva, *supra* note 6.

¹⁹ *Id.* Several others echo this sentiment, noting how important this relationship was for Borgeson. Interview with Joan S. Howland, Roger F. Noreen Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Information and Technology at the University of Minnesota Law School (Feb. 22, 2011).; Interview with Frank G. Houdek, Associate Dean and Professor of Law at the Southern Illinois University School of Law (Feb. 24, 2011).

²⁰ Interview with Bobi McGarva, *supra* note 6.

²¹ *In Memory of Earl Charles Borgeson*, *supra* note 4. Interview with Bobi McGarva, *supra* note 6.

²² *Recommendation for Naval College Program for Borgeson, Earl Charles* (Mar. 29, 1943). This paperwork was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request submitted to the National Personnel Records Center.

²³ Untitled U.S. Navy form (undated), *supra* note 9. Borgeson also served as librarian for his fraternity, Gamma Eta Gamma. *Id.*

²⁴ Borgeson, *We Love to Help Each Other*, *supra* note 2, at 196.

²⁵ *Membership News*, 47 LAW LIBR. J. 251, 252 (1954).

²⁶ Goldsmith, *supra* note 1, at 253.

²⁷ Letter from Marian Gallagher to Earl Borgeson (Apr. 23, 1988) (LLP file).



FIGURE 1 Earl C. and Barbara Borgeson (photo courtesy of Bobi McGarva)

During this program, Borgeson worked full time at the law library “while carrying a full academic load,”²⁸ a pattern he had established as an undergraduate.²⁹ That year, the AALL held its annual conference in Seattle, and Gallagher enlisted Borgeson to help organize, a powerful initiation into the profession. Gallagher noted that along with LeBus, Borgeson was “a driving force in planning and arrangements.”³⁰ In sum, Gallagher reported that Borgeson exuded an “unwavering determination to become the best law librarian in the United States.”³¹ This objective clearly marked Borgeson’s career path. After two years as an Assistant Reference Librarian at the Los Angeles County Law Library, Borgeson became an assistant librarian at Harvard law Library.³² He ascended to the position of Law Librarian, the library’s director, in quick time: two years. In 1970, Borgeson branched out, becoming Associate Director at Stanford University Library. He rejoined the Los Angeles County Law Library from 1975-78. From 1978-1988, Borgeson served as both professor of law and director at Southern

²⁸ *Id.* The letter reveals that despite the workload, levity crept in from time to time: “Your masterpiece was surely the Great Celebration Because-it’s-Christmas Eve-and-we-have-to-stay-open-until-five-even-tho-all-but-three-drudges-have-gone-home. You made hot buttered rum..., and the aromatic fumes floated out ... into the reading room.”

²⁹ Untitled U.S. Navy form, *supra* note 9.

³⁰ Letter from Marian Gallagher to Earl Borgeson, *supra* note 27.

³¹ Letter from Marian Gallagher to Professor Richard L. Predmore (Jan. 3, 1975) (LLP file).

³² *Membership News*, *supra* note 25.

Methodist University's Underwood Law Library.³³ He retired on the persistent advice of both doctors and Barbara to slow down after a serious heart attack in 1983.³⁴ Nevertheless, in the 1990's Borgeson's enthusiasm for the profession continued, now expressed in tasks such as filing loose leafs at law firm libraries.³⁵ Law librarianship was a passion that persisted well into retirement.

As busy as these positions must have kept him, Borgeson still found time for other pursuits. In Massachusetts, he became president of the Little League and served on the school board.³⁶ He and Barbara welcomed their children's' friends into their home, and many would call him "Dad."³⁷ Borgeson introduced his son, Steven, into the law library world as a shelver at the Harvard Law Library.³⁸ Steven went on to become an attorney. In Dallas, Earl and Barbara opened their home to foreign LLM students.³⁹ He also participated in local law librarianship organizations wherever he lived and worked, including the Law Librarians of New England (LLNE), Southern California Association of Law Libraries (SCALL), Dallas Association of Law Librarians, and Southwestern Association of Law Libraries.⁴⁰ At two of these organizations, LLNE and SCALL, Borgeson served as president.⁴¹

Several significant awards attest to the heights Borgeson reached in this lengthy career. In 1988, he received the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award.⁴² The University of Washington's Information School named Borgeson a Distinguished Alumnus in 1999.⁴³ In 2010, Borgeson became an inaugural member of the AALL Hall of Fame.⁴⁴

With this picture in mind, let us now turn to what led to this recognition, the major themes in Borgeson's career.

The Image of the Law Librarian

One of Borgeson's consistent professional passions involved the image of the law librarian. In 1989, he complained that "the audience still doesn't know what we're all

³³ *In Memory of Earl Charles Borgeson*, *supra* note 4. Borgeson, *supra* note 2, at 197.

³⁴ Sue Ridnour, *Spotlight on Earl Borgeson*, DALL ADVANCE SHEET: NEWSL. OF THE DALLAS ASS'N. OF LAW LIBR., May, 1988, at 9.

³⁵ Interview with Penny Hazelton, Associate Dean for Library and Computing Services and Professor of Law at the University of Washington School of Law (Feb. 17, 2011).

³⁶ Interview with Bobi McGarva, *supra* note 6.

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ Email from Robert C. Berring, Walter Perry Johnson Professor of Law and Law Librarian, UC Berkeley (Feb. 24, 2011, 07:28 PST).

³⁹ Interview with Bobi McGarva, *supra* note 6. Interview with Gail M. Daly, Associate Dean for Library and Technology, and Director of the Underwood Law Library, and Associate Professor of Law at the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, (Feb. 24, 2001).

⁴⁰ Borgeson, Resume, *supra* note 17.

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² *American Association of Law Libraries Reports of Chapters, Special Interest Sections, Committees, and Representatives 1987-88*, 80 LAW LIBR. J. 691, 706 (1988).

⁴³ Letter from Elena Bianco, President of the UW SLIS Alumni Association, to Earl Borgeson (Aug. 18, 1999) (LLP file).

⁴⁴ Frank G. Houdek, *Introducing the AALL Hall of Fame: AALL announces its inaugural class of inductees to the Hall of Fame*, 14 A.A.L.L. Spectrum 12 (2010).

about” and pressed law librarians to educate deans about the law library and its staff.⁴⁵ Nearly four decades earlier, Borgeson offered similar remarks during a talk on recruiting entitled “Education and the Image of the Law Librarian.”⁴⁶ Borgeson observed that the profession had “no appeal” and argued that the “old maid” image must be replaced with “something considerably more vigorous.”⁴⁷ Borgeson identified three prongs by which to achieve this objective. First, law librarians need to describe the “great variety” of law library positions in terms of professional responsibility as well as the necessary academic preparation, enabling a precise image to emerge.⁴⁸ Second, library schools needed to reevaluate curriculum decisions and admissions standards with the aim of producing job candidates “knowledgeable in all matters pertaining to books, their bibliographic control and their use.”⁴⁹ Third, law schools needed to “know what they want and where to get it.”⁵⁰

Borgeson saw the image of the law librarian as a problem to be solved not simply through increasing professionalization but also through a cooperative effort amongst professionals, the schools that trained them, and the institutions they served. Although Borgeson does not fully and explicitly articulate his own characterization of the image of the law librarian in this piece, perhaps wanting to initiate rather than terminate discussion, at least two things are clear: the law librarian is not collapsible into a singular image, and the law librarian’s image is dependent upon contextual exigencies.

A year after this speech, Borgeson presided over a panel devoted to discussing the law librarian and recruitment issues.⁵¹ Panelists included Marian Gallagher, Morris Cohen, Arthur Charpentier, and Julius Marke,⁵² a parade of professional notables, all of whom offered responses to Borgeson’s thesis. Although she disagreed with Borgeson that library schools did not play a strong enough role in the recruiting process, Gallagher ultimately concurred that the profession needed “a more precise description of the law librarian.”⁵³ Morris Cohen argued that the substance required more change than the image, implying that one would follow from the other.⁵⁴ Cohen also “fear[ed] that the Law Schools” didn’t much “care” about law librarianship and what made a good library, just whether the school has a good library.⁵⁵ Arguably, these statements miss Borgeson’s point, which seemed to be based more on substantive measures and permitted more evolution than Cohen allows. Borgeson’s response, if any, is not recorded. Arthur Charpentier agreed that many of those employing law librarians did not have a grasp of

⁴⁵ OVERHEARD AT THE BAR—EAVESDROPPING ON AALL HISTORY, video of program presented at AALL Annual Meeting, Reno, Nevada, June 17, 1989, http://media.law.siu.edu/extranet/aall/aall.1989_256.wmv (last visited May 5, 2011). For a historical account of law librarianship, see Christine A. Brock, *Law Libraries and Librarians: a Revisionist History, or More than you ever wanted to know*, 67 LAW LIBR. J. 325 (1974).

⁴⁶ Earl C. Borgeson, *Education and the Image of the Law Librarian*, 55 LAW LIBR. J. 200 (1962).

⁴⁷ *Id.* at 200, 201.

⁴⁸ *Id.* at 201-202.

⁴⁹ *Id.* at 203.

⁵⁰ *Id.*

⁵¹ *Panel: The Law Librarian—What Manner of Creature?*, 56 LAW LIBR. J. 8 (1963).

⁵² *Id.* at 9.

⁵³ *Id.* at 16.

⁵⁴ *Id.* at 18.

⁵⁵ *Id.* at 21.

necessary qualifications or professional potential.⁵⁶ Julius Marke seemed to take Borgeson's contextualization a step further, finding the image of the law librarian inextricably bound up with particular experiences: "The image is then whatever the individual chooses to make it..."⁵⁷ Whatever their differences, it seems that each participant experienced a similar failure of many in the law school environment to appreciate or even comprehend what makes a good law library and, just as important, a good law librarian.

In keeping with Borgeson's remarks about recruiting, in his view the hiring process began with a crisp definition of the position.⁵⁸ This description, he believed, should include both the tasks and activities required and "the route for advancement,"⁵⁹ an image of librarianship that spells out what the librarian does, flexibly so as to permit adaptations, as well as how the librarian should progress. Borgeson also stated that efforts such as orientation and on-the-job training would "expose the staff member to the 'library way' or the 'company viewpoint' so that the staff member does not begin to operate according to his own set of standards and thereby negate all attempts to develop an *esprit de corps* so vital to the library."⁶⁰ Creating such a track bespeaks professionalism and could lead to greater transparency to law schools, as the career milestones are both recognizable in themselves and symbolic of increasing responsibility. This is not to say that Earl Borgeson was the only law librarian to hold such views or to practice these human resources techniques, only that Borgeson found himself on the forefront of expressing recruitment aspirations and of putting these aspirations into practice for the benefit of this particular profession.

In addition to this professionalizing response to recruitment issues, we find some concrete articulations of how Borgeson viewed the roles of law libraries and law librarians. Borgeson identified "service" as the central endeavor of the law library.⁶¹ For Borgeson, service rested on organization, "the placing of the abstract concepts of service into their relative positions in a framework or pattern, which will guide the actual operations."⁶² Effective organization was a necessary precedent to providing meaningful service. This emphasis on order would persist. Ora Eugenia Addis, who worked with Borgeson at SMU, described him as a consummate organizer: "His motto was, 'Orderliness is our business as librarians. This makes it important to keep our surroundings in order.'"⁶³

Another SMU colleague, Professor Kenneth Penegar, noted a few additional components of Borgeson's library philosophy. The first very much comports with our discussion so far:

⁵⁶ *Id.* at 24.

⁵⁷ *Id.* at 29.

⁵⁸ Earl C. Borgeson, *The Selection and Handling of Personnel in the Law Library*, 50 LAW LIBR. J. 499 (1957) (based on a discussion session led by Borgeson).

⁵⁹ *Id.* at 502.

⁶⁰ *Id.* at 503.

⁶¹ Earl C. Borgeson, *Law Library Administration—a Functional Approach*, 46 LAW LIBR. J. 90 (1953).

⁶² *Id.* at 90.

⁶³ Ora Eugenia Addis, *Earl Borgeson: Director, Mentor, Friend*. 54 J. AIR L. & COM. vii, viii (1988-9). This attention to order and detail was apparent in Borgeson's early years at Harvard, as he worked to establish a library record management filing system. Correspondence 1955. Gail Daly, who became director at the Underwood Library two years after Borgeson left, reported that the office was left with information so well organized she could find anything. Interview with Gail M. Daly, *supra* note 39.

While technically knowledgeable and proficient, Earl's version of the role of Librarian extends far beyond the collection, its processes, support, staffing and arrangement. He sees the Library as a direct expression of a comprehensive ideal about professional education. Namely, it is one in which people (both faculty and students) interact with each other, with a program constantly reviewed and improved, and with materials ready at hand to endow programs with substance and imbue the participants with wide knowledge, deep understanding, and inspiration.⁶⁴

Penegar further noted that the Borgeson collection included in addition to legal material much interdisciplinary work, from sociology to literature, a collection and attitude that "results in an atmosphere of great breadth and humanizing influence on the study of law."⁶⁵ In the following sections, we will see in more detail how Borgeson manifested some of these ideals at SMU and elsewhere.

Mentoring

Borgeson's image of the law librarian was predicated upon an investment in professionalism and ensuring that avenues for advancement exist. It is no surprise to find, then, that Borgeson heartily embraced the role of mentor, encouraging employees, new law librarians, indeed just about anyone. Indeed, Borgeson affirmed that his "greatest rewards have come from his attempts to influence young people."⁶⁶ Others have also recognized this passion: one mentee, Frank Houdek, has described Borgeson's "delight in helping young people find their path in life."⁶⁷ The image of the librarian included a mission of mentoring: for Borgeson, it was the "duty of every librarian to assist and encourage all who so aspired."⁶⁸

We can make a few general statements about Borgeson's approach to mentoring library staff. While at Harvard, Borgeson walked through the library's office once a day, leading staff to call him a majordomo or maitre d'.⁶⁹ Similarly, as Assistant Director at the Los Angeles County Law Library, Borgeson "made a real effort to meet and to talk with everybody" on the large staff.⁷⁰ Personal interaction with each staff member, it seems, was valued highly, and he treated staff as equals.⁷¹ As we saw above, Borgeson also believed in providing paths for advancement. In advocating for AALL to develop a "training regimen" for new librarians, Borgeson wrote: "All librarians need to be supportive of their own need to grow, to survive."⁷² Unsurprisingly, Borgeson heeded his own advice. For example, at Harvard, Borgeson instituted "a training programme where librarians from one-person libraries could gain firsthand experience by working in all of

⁶⁴ Kenneth L. Penegar, *The Academic Leadership of Earl Borgeson*, 54 J. AIR L. & COM. i, i (1988-9).

⁶⁵ *Id.* at xiv.

⁶⁶ Sue Ridnour, *Spotlight on Earl Borgeson*, *supra* note 34, at 8.

⁶⁷ Frank G. Houdek, A Professional Appreciation (Jan. 15, 2011) (speech delivered at the memorial service for Earl C. Borgeson) (on file with author).

⁶⁸ Ora Eugenia Addis, *supra* note 63, at ix-x.

⁶⁹ Interview with Joan S. Howland, *supra* note 19.

⁷⁰ Interview with Frank G. Houdek, *supra* note 19.

⁷¹ *Id.*

⁷² Earl C. Borgeson, *Earl C. Borgeson*, 98 Law Libr. J. 303 (2006).

the library's departments."⁷³ Borgeson's support for his staff often meant giving people opportunities "push[ing] people to go beyond their limits."⁷⁴ Borgeson encouraged his employees not simply to become better at their positions but also to actively participate in the larger profession, to contribute to librarianship beyond the library at which they worked.⁷⁵ Of course, Borgeson's people skills helped establish connections very useful in helping others achieve these goals: "he was a master of networking before we knew what to call it."⁷⁶ Perhaps most telling is Borgeson's own description of a mentor. He counseled law librarians to choose mentors

who have standards as high as or higher than your own, who have a warm and sharing personality, who have developed a body of expertise, or who have unique skills from which you can learn, who return respect and seek to draw upon your talents, who can, when and if necessary, maintain confidentiality in your relationship. In fact, everything you might want in a 'best friend' you will want to find in a mentor.⁷⁷

As a result of Borgeson's undertaking this role, "many staff members moved on to important positions."⁷⁸

Several specific examples further flesh out Borgeson's mentoring method. Frank Houdek has described Borgeson as "the consummate mentor."⁷⁹ Their relationship began in 1976 shortly after Houdek began working at the Los Angeles County Law Library.⁸⁰ According to Houdek, Borgeson gave him management responsibility very early in his career by putting Houdek in charge of the new Westlaw terminal, the first public terminal in the country.⁸¹ This position "expanded [Houdek's] horizons" in part by requiring interaction with Westlaw representatives. Borgeson also offered Houdek the opportunity to be a guest speaker in a course Borgeson taught at UCLA's library school. At the AALL's annual meeting in 1976, Borgeson was "the best host ever," giving Houdek a personal tour and introducing Houdek to fellow law library luminaries, including Marian Gould Gallagher.⁸² Borgeson did not limit his interaction to the library. He insisted that Frank join him at UCLA games—he loved the atmosphere, especially the marching bands.⁸³ Houdek credits Borgeson with transforming a "job" into a "profession."⁸⁴ Houdek would go on to many leadership roles, including editor of *Law Library Journal* for many years and president of AALL in 1996-97.⁸⁵

Several others have described similar experiences. For example, Borgeson hired Francis Doyle for his first law library job at Harvard in 1955. During his decade at

⁷³ Ann Rae and Balfour Halévy, *Dianna Mary Priestly: An Appreciation*, 90 LAW LIBR. J. 123, 125 (1998).

⁷⁴ Interview with Frank G. Houdek, *supra* note 19.

⁷⁵ Ora Eugenia Addis, *supra* note 63, at ix.

⁷⁶ Interview with Frank G. Houdek, *supra* note 19.

⁷⁷ Earl C. Borgeson, *We Love to Help Each Other*, *supra* note 2 at 195.

⁷⁸ Ora Eugenia Addis, *supra* note 63, at ix.

⁷⁹ Frank G. Houdek, *Introduction*, in *Meet My Mentor*, 91 LAW LIBR. J. 177, 179 (1999).

⁸⁰ Interview with Frank G. Houdek, *supra* note 19.

⁸¹ *Id.*

⁸² *Id.*

⁸³ *Id.* Additionally, Houdek reports that Borgeson's LP collection consisted exclusively of marching band music.

⁸⁴ *Id.*

⁸⁵ Frank G. Houdek, Curriculum Vita (Mar. 2011),

http://www.law.siu.edu/fac_staff/houdek/HOUDEK%20RESUME%20rev%203-4-11.pdf

Harvard, Doyle reports that Borgeson “encouraged [him] to further [his] education” and gave him the opportunity to become a supervisor.⁸⁶ Through lending an ear and offering advice, Borgeson “took a chance with a handicapped kid and gave him a start at what would be his life’s work.”⁸⁷ Doyle served as Director of the Law Library at Loyola University of Chicago School of Law from 1978 through 2003.⁸⁸ Borgeson encouraged another librarian, a cataloger at Harvard in 1963, to pursue a foreign, comparative, and international librarian position at the University of Minnesota Law Library.⁸⁹ Yugoslavian born Joseph Levstik, who had only been in the U.S. for two years, would serve the profession in that position for over twenty years, from 1964 to 1986. A more recent mentee who worked under Borgeson at SMU, Sally Wise, described Borgeson as collegial and welcoming.⁹⁰ She found him a “great, great storyteller,” and these stories imparted much knowledge about the profession.⁹¹ Wise now acts as Director of the Law Library at the University of Miami School of Law. These examples reveal that Borgeson fostered a robust, mutual respect between mentor and mentee.

Education

We have seen how actively Borgeson supported new law librarians, yet his interest in “helping young people” extended beyond the offices of the law library. Borgeson demonstrated a deep commitment to education, both for law librarians and for others.

Borgeson maintained his relationship with the University of Washington’s law librarianship program throughout his professional life. In 1962, he obtained contributions from law book publishers to establish a loan fund for students in the program.⁹² He exchanged regular letters with the current director, Penny Hazelton.⁹³ In one of these letters, Hazelton praised Borgeson’s “concern for education and intellectual development.”⁹⁴ Borgeson consistently offered his services to the program. Penny Hazelton described him as “replete with ideas” for the program, a result of “thinking deeply about law library education” and how to maximize students’ contribution to the profession.⁹⁵ He volunteered for alumni projects, and when the future of the law librarianship program became uncertain,⁹⁶ he drafted a memo recommending that it be housed in the law school as an LLM in library management.⁹⁷ Borgeson championed the

⁸⁶ Francis R. (“Bob”) Doyle, *You Only Had One Mentor! How Unfortunate for You, in Meet my Mentor*, 91 LAW LIBR. J. 177, 203 (1999).

⁸⁷ *Id.* at 204.

⁸⁸ *Id.* at 202.

⁸⁹ *Memorial: Joseph Levstik (1916-2001)*, 93 LAW LIBR. J. 733 (2001).

⁹⁰ Interview with Sally H. Wise, Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law at the University of Miami School of Law (Mar. 10, 2011).

⁹¹ *Id.*

⁹² *Loan Fund is Available for Students of Law Librarianship*, 55 LAW LIBR. J. 243 (1962).

⁹³ Many examples of this correspondence may be found in the LLP file.

⁹⁴ Letter from Penny Hazelton to Earl Borgeson, (May 9, 1988) (LLP file).

⁹⁵ Interview with Penny Hazelton, *supra* note 35.

⁹⁶ Letter from Earl Borgeson to Penny Hazelton (June 20, 1987) (LLP file).

⁹⁷ Memo from Earl Borgeson to Marian Parker (Sept. 24, 1991) (LLP file). The program never needed to deploy Borgeson’s suggested plan.

inclusion of a substantial paper requiring research, seeing this kind of work as central to the profession.⁹⁸ To encourage the students at his alma mater, in 2001 Earl and Barbara Borgeson established an award for the top paper of each class.⁹⁹ Part of the award is publication, sharing with the larger community. Borgeson aimed to “inspire a new generation of students to take on new challenges,” and the publication element helps to ensure “a much broader impact” than simply a benefit to a single student.¹⁰⁰

Similarly, Borgeson launched a scholarship at another alma mater, the University of Minnesota, “to inspire students to learn about the business of law librarianship.”¹⁰¹ And at SMU, the last institution at which he served as a director, Borgeson created the Barbara and Earl C. Borgeson Law Library Endowment Fund, aiming to provide non-AALL development opportunities to the law library staff.¹⁰²

Borgeson was just as dedicated to the law students his libraries served. He strove to make the law library a vital student space, to “create a sense of community.”¹⁰³ He wanted students to feel comfortable, to feel that the library was a “welcoming, warm environment.”¹⁰⁴ Students noted this effort. One reported that the “quality of Underwood Law Library contributed to my—and I’m sure to many other student’s—decision to attend SMU School of Law.”¹⁰⁵ As one instance of this involvement, when the students who ran the *Journal of Air Law and Commerce* decided to contribute funds from a symposium to the library’s collection of air law materials, Borgeson offered guidance as to suitable types of material, the conditions the students might want to impose, and ways to maximize their contribution.¹⁰⁶ The impact of physical space did not escape Borgeson’s attention. Among his achievements at Harvard Law Library, Borgeson oversaw a library renovation that resulted in a much improved reading room.¹⁰⁷ The new room had “a cloud of light” specially designed by a Broadway set and light designer.¹⁰⁸

As we saw above in the realm of law librarian mentoring, personal connections to students retained primacy. While at SMU, Borgeson and his wife hosted foreign LLM students. One of them, Takai Shao of Taiwan, recalls being dubious about the prospect, a

⁹⁸ Interview with Penny Hazelton, *supra* note 35.

⁹⁹ *Alumnus Sponsors Writing Award*, SUPPORT: A REPORT FROM THE INFORMATION SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Spring 2002 at 2.

¹⁰⁰ *Id.* Currently, an effort is underway to endow this fund. Letter drafted by Harry Bruce, Dean and Professor the University of Washington Information School, Penny Hazelton, and S. Blair Kauffman, Law Librarian and Professor of Law at Yale Law School to solicit contributions to the endowment (Feb. 24, 2011) (LLP file).

¹⁰¹ Interview with Joan S. Howland, *supra* note 19.

¹⁰² *Id.*

¹⁰³ *Id.*

¹⁰⁴ *Id.*

¹⁰⁵ Gregg Daniel Martin, *A Tribute to Earl Borgeson on His Retirement*, 54 J. AIR L. & COM. xxi (1988-1989).

¹⁰⁶ *Id.* at xxii.

¹⁰⁷ Interview with Harry S. Martin III, Visiting Professor of Law and Interim Director of the Jamail Center for Legal Research at the University of Texas School of Law (Feb. 25, 2011). Martin was Librarian and Professor of Law at Harvard Law School 1981-2008.

¹⁰⁸ *Lighting System Specially Designed for Harvard Law Library Reading Room*, 55 LAW LIBR. J. 49 (1962).

host on a former visit being all but absent.¹⁰⁹ Shao was pleasantly surprised, then, to find a man who “really treated me like his own son.”¹¹⁰ In addition to introducing Shao to American traditions such as the Nutcracker one Christmas, Borgeson offered Shao part time work at the library, which built up Shao’s English skills as well as his confidence in working with Americans.¹¹¹

The most well known example of Borgeson’s personal investment in students came in the form of a young woman at Harvard, Elizabeth Hanford, who would become Elizabeth Dole, senator, secretary of two cabinet departments, and presidential candidate.¹¹² Dole began her professional life as a teacher.¹¹³ While working on her masters’ degree in education at Harvard, Dole took a part time job at the law library, where Borgeson and his colleagues encouraged her to apply to law school.¹¹⁴ Borgeson offered Dole more than career advice: “On weekends, she would sometimes take refuge with the family of law librarian Earl Borgeson so she could study in his guest room, free from requests for dates.”¹¹⁵



FIGURE 2 Earl C. Borgeson with Elizabeth Dole (photo courtesy of University of Washington Law Librarianship Program)

¹⁰⁹ Email from Takai Shao to Steven Borgeson, Earl Borgeson’s son (Jan. 7, 2011, 16:12:39 EST) (on file with author).

¹¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹¹ *Id.*

¹¹² *Dole, Elizabeth Hanford*, BIOGRAPHICAL DIRECTORY OF THE U.S. CONGRESS 1774 - PRESENT, <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=d000601> (last visited May 8, 2011).

¹¹³ Peter S. Canellos, *Two paths to power*, BOSTON GLOBE, June 30, 1996, at 14.

¹¹⁴ *Id.*

¹¹⁵ John Sedgwick, *The Woman Behind that Unwavering Smile*, NEWSWEEK Aug. 19, 1996, at 36.

Decades later, in October 1999, Borgeson came to Seattle to receive the Distinguished Alum Honor.¹¹⁶ Coincidentally, Dole was making a presidential campaign visit to Seattle at the same time, speaking at the National Federation of Republican Women.¹¹⁷ Penny Hazelton worked to arrange a meeting between Borgeson and Dole at Dole's hotel,¹¹⁸ and the pair was interviewed by local television news.¹¹⁹ Hazelton reported that Dole was "delighted" and "remembered Earl warmly."¹²⁰ For his part, Borgeson had "the biggest smile on his face for days."¹²¹

Professional Activities

Borgeson's professional engagement began, as we have seen, while he was a student of Marian Gallagher, helping to make local arrangements for the AALL's 1950 annual meeting.¹²² Over the next two decades, Borgeson worked on a number of AALL committees, eventually being elected to the executive board from 1965-7 and serving as president in 1968-69. In what he described as his "first act as president," Borgeson asked that his predecessor, William Murphy, be properly recognized.¹²³ As the speech continued, Borgeson identified three target areas for the most part already familiar to us: "work together to construct a total image of the law librarian as a very distinct professional being," "work together to overcome an inertia that slowly develops in an organization as it increases in size," and "continu[e] to develop our personal relationships" including with "newcomers."¹²⁴

As his presidency ended, Borgeson deemed it "not really ... an unusual year," a year of "no major accomplishment," although there were "attempts to grapple with changing times" and the introduction of "energetic young men and women" into the profession.¹²⁵ In his opening remarks for the annual meeting, Borgeson characteristically noted the "real strength" of the organization, "its person-to-person character," which growing size threatened. He also praised a number of committees for their work, and ended his speech with the directive:

If you want law librarianship to reflect a particular quality, you will have to be the person who contributes that quality to the association. It is clear where the ultimate responsibility lies.¹²⁶

¹¹⁶ Earl Borgeson Visit, UW School of Library and Information Science, Distinguished Alum 1999, October 14-17 1999 (LLP file).

¹¹⁷ Robert T. Nelson, *Bush, Forbes, Dole to Address GOP Women's Group*, THE BULLETIN'S FRONTRUNNER (Oct. 14, 1999) (LLP file).

¹¹⁸ Letter from Penny Hazelton to Stewart McLaurin, chief of staff for the Dole campaign (Oct. 15, 1999) (LLP file).

¹¹⁹ Email from Penny Hazelton to Gallagher Law Library staff (Oct. 17, 1999) (LLP file).

¹²⁰ Interview with Penny Hazelton, *supra* note 35.

¹²¹ *Id.*

¹²² Letter from Marian Gallagher to Earl Borgeson, *supra* note 27.

¹²³ *Proceedings of the Sixty-First Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries Held at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 1-3*, 61 LAW LIBR. J. 355, 384 (1968).

¹²⁴ *Id.* at 385.

¹²⁵ *Proceedings of the Sixty-Second Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries Held at Houston, Texas, June 29-July 2, 1969*, 62 LAW LIBR. J. 345, 345 (1969).

¹²⁶ *Id.* at 346.

Among the debates that year was a proposed amendment to the AALL constitution that would allow the president-elect to share in the duties of the president, to add one more person “who can represent the association to outsiders.”¹²⁷ As president, Borgeson had traveled “about every month,” and his duties combined policy-making, communication, and administration, which some, including William Stern, saw as overly burdensome and a hindrance to the organization.¹²⁸ Others saw no need for what appeared to be only a minor constitutional change.¹²⁹ Some saw a more appropriate alternative: an executive director at headquarters who could further the legislative agenda and add to the communication efforts.¹³⁰ Ultimately, the minor constitutional amendment passed,¹³¹ one further step in organizational development that began with the establishment of a headquarters in 1963.¹³² The organization’s needs persisted, and in 1980, Borgeson would lend his name to a call for establishing the office of executive director.¹³³ A year later, AALL hired William H. Jepson as its first executive director.¹³⁴

The term of the presidency was one year,¹³⁵ but Borgeson’s diverse contributions to AALL and to law librarianship spanned his lengthy career. For example, Borgeson served as Advertising Manager of the Law Library Journal from 1955 to 1957,¹³⁶ a committee he would serve until as late as 1985.¹³⁷ In examining this record, we can draw out several noteworthy threads, discussion of which will include both AALL service and Borgeson’s work at various law libraries.

Organization of Legal Information

Among his contributions to the organization of legal materials, Borgeson began serving on the Committee on Index to Legal Periodicals in 1952.¹³⁸ One major effort was assigned to the subcommittee on subject-headings.¹³⁹ The group composed a new subject heading list, which Forrest Drummond described as “a much more workable list for the user of this index.”¹⁴⁰ In the following years, the committee added 43 headings for

¹²⁷ *Id.* at 348.

¹²⁸ *Id.*

¹²⁹ *Id.*

¹³⁰ *Id.* at 352.

¹³¹ *Id.* at 356.

¹³² Julia Vinson, *Fostering the Professional of Law: The Lifetime Achievements of Harry Bitner*, 29 LEGAL REFERENCE SERVICES Q. 85, 93 (2010).

¹³³ *Establishing Office of Executive Director*, 11 NEWSL. – AM. ASS’N. OF LAW LIBR. 79 (1980).

¹³⁴ *Executive Director Named*, 13 NEWSL. – AM. ASS’N. OF LAW LIBR. 29 (1981).

¹³⁵ Perhaps in reference to both Borgeson’s World War II military service as well as the Houston meeting’s concluding presentation from NASA, Borgeson’s successor, William Murphy, called him “Admiral.” *Proceedings—Sixty-Second Annual Meeting*, *supra* note 125, at 359.

¹³⁶ *Proceedings of the Forty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries Held at Chicago, Illinois, July 5-8, 1955*, 48 LAW LIBR. J. 333 (1955); *Membership News*, 50 LAW LIBR. J. 450, 454 (1967).

¹³⁷ *American Association of Law Libraries Reports of Chapters, Special Interest Sections, Committees, and Representatives 1983-84*, 77 LAW LIBR. J. 339, 365 (1984-85).

¹³⁸ *A.A.L.L. Committees—1952-53*, 46 LAW LIBR. J. 42, 42 (1953).

¹³⁹ *Report of the Sub-committee on Subject-Headings*, 46 LAW LIBR. J. 375 (1953).

¹⁴⁰ *Index to Legal Periodicals*, 48 LAW LIBR. J. 336 (1955).

international law subjects.¹⁴¹ The committee also undertook to analyze and count entries that were to appear in an index cumulation in order to better estimate the cost. In order to accomplish this objective, Borgeson employed two of his Harvard students, introducing them to the profession of law librarianship even as they made a significant practical contribution to one of the profession's central tools.¹⁴²

The classification of legal materials began to solidify as the first segment of Borgeson's career drew to a close.¹⁴³ Weighing in on the debate, Borgeson felt that "as a practical matter, large parts of all law libraries are already classified" through concepts such as jurisdiction.¹⁴⁴ In his characteristically pragmatic way, this practical schema, he opined, should provide "national uniformity" as well as flexibility for "local deviation."¹⁴⁵ The Library of Congress completed the final Schedule KF draft in 1967;¹⁴⁶ Harvard had undertaken its own similar exercise.¹⁴⁷ A standardized system would permit libraries to take fuller advantage of the Library of Congress's national cataloging service, in some ways a predecessor to some of Borgeson's networking accomplishments to be discussed below. For several years, Borgeson served as a member of AALL's Library of Congress Liaison Committee, which worked to refine Class K and MARC records.¹⁴⁸

Although the Index to Legal Periodicals and the classification of legal materials focused largely on print resources, Borgeson embraced the shift to electronic resources. As noted above, Borgeson was instrumental in bringing the first Westlaw public terminal to the Los Angeles County Library.¹⁴⁹ About ten years later, Borgeson noted that the service provided by Westlaw and Lexis had become indispensable for law firms hoping to attract top graduates; SMU trained all first year students on both products.¹⁵⁰ Well before, Borgeson had hosted an institute focused on "Techniques of Access" for legal materials, which were increasingly automated.¹⁵¹ In his prefatory remarks, Borgeson noted a shift from "traditional library terms" to "information storage and retrieval terminology."¹⁵² Borgeson cautioned that automation posed a challenge to the traditional roles of librarians.¹⁵³ Yet, he offered advice that suggests a limited awareness of how much automation would ultimately impact the organization and the form of legal materials: "The more knowledgeable one becomes in matters pertaining to law books

¹⁴¹ *Committee on Index to Legal Periodicals*, 49 LAW LIBR. J. 353 (1956).

¹⁴² "Index to Legal Periodicals," 49 LAW LIBR. J. 383 (1956).

¹⁴³ For a historical account of this development, see Jolande E. Goldberg, *Development of a Universal Law Classification: a Retrospective on Library of Congress Class K*, 35 CATALOGING AND CLASSIFICATION Q. 355 (2003).

¹⁴⁴ Earl C. Borgeson, *Classification of Legal Materials*, 11 LIBR. TRENDS 290, 293 (1963).

¹⁴⁵ *Id.* at 293, 294.

¹⁴⁶ *Cataloging Administration*, 60 LAW LIBR. J. 398, 403 (1967).

¹⁴⁷ *Id.* at 413.

¹⁴⁸ *Library of Congress Liaison Committee*, 60 LAW LIBR. J. 236, 237 (1967); 61 LAW LIBR. J. 219 (1968); 62 LAW LIBR. J. 259 (1969); 63 LAW LIBR. J. 582 (1970).

¹⁴⁹ Interview with Frank G. Houdek, *supra* note 19.

¹⁵⁰ Karen Kraner, *Lawyers enter computer age—in library*, DALLAS/FT. WORTH Bus. J., June 3, 1985, at 14.

¹⁵¹ PROCEEDINGS. FIFTH BIENNIAL A.A.L.L. INSTITUTE FOR LAW LIBRARIANS. LITERATURE OF THE LAW—TECHNIQUES OF ACCESS. 1962.

¹⁵² *Id.* at ii.

¹⁵³ *Id.* at 71.

and their use, the greater the professional stature of the law librarian as a law librarian.”¹⁵⁴

This discussion about the organization of legal material illustrates how much the law library is subject to evolving formats and structures, tempering earlier achievements in this area. The remaining themes seem more enduring, even if Borgeson’s emphasis on the personal colors these realms of his work with a degree of temporality and impermanence as well.

Networks and Cooperation

Recall Frank Houdek’s description of Borgeson: “he was a master of networking before we knew what to call it.”¹⁵⁵ Undoubtedly true in the sense of personal relationships, this statement is not far off the mark when applied to Borgeson’s professional aspirations. An abiding theme of his work resided in attempts to cultivate cooperative relationships of many kinds—with the aim of improving the profession as well as improving the service libraries provide to other institutions and to each other. These endeavors took many forms over the course of Borgeson’s career.

Most locally, at each academic institution where Borgeson worked, he created strong intra-university library relationships. When explaining the collection development policy at Harvard Law Library, Borgeson said:

We find that certain collecting areas lend themselves to splendid cooperation.

As a university library, we decide that one department will collect broadly and retain the permanent University collection, while others might temporarily duplicate to varying degrees to meet particular instructional needs.¹⁵⁶

This policy reflected the idea that “a library must project itself out into the community it is equipped to serve.”¹⁵⁷ Borgeson next moved outside of law librarianship, accepting a position as Assistant Director at Stanford. There, he developed a “symbiotic and positive” relationship with the law library, one law library director J. Myron Jacobstein found “supportive.”¹⁵⁸ At Borgeson’s final academic position as SMU’s law library director, he encouraged his staff to think of themselves as part of a larger network:

Earl did not just teach us to perform as librarians, but to function within the entire university system. He encouraged us to contribute to librarianship beyond Underwood Library and into the total SMU library system as well as to the Dallas and Texas law library communities.¹⁵⁹

A faculty colleague at SMU echoed this praise, calling Borgeson an active participant in faculty meetings, “an active University citizen.”¹⁶⁰

Borgeson’s investment in such cooperative relationships extended well beyond the libraries he most directly served.¹⁶¹ Early in Borgeson’s career, in 1954, the AALL

¹⁵⁴ *Id.* at ii.

¹⁵⁵ Interview with Frank G. Houdek, *supra* note 19.

¹⁵⁶ *Law School Libraries*, 58 *LAW LIBR. J.* 387, 398 (1965).

¹⁵⁷ Earl C. Borgeson, *Nationwide Law Library Service*, 13 *HARV. L. SCH. BULL.* 2 (1961).

¹⁵⁸ Interview with Joan S. Howland, *supra* note 19.

¹⁵⁹ Ora Eugenia Addis, *supra* note 63, at xviii.

¹⁶⁰ Penegar, *supra* note 64, at iv.

unsuccessfully advocated for the Library of Congress to become a national library.¹⁶² Although the Library of Congress was not designated as a national library, it played several instrumental roles in developing standard practices of law librarianship. For example, it began developing subject headings, including a K classification for law as discussed above, and offered a card catalog service.¹⁶³

Yet, Borgeson saw the potential for large libraries to increase access to legal materials in more tangible and direct ways—and he consistently acted on this potential. Borgeson asserted this ambition in the form of nationwide access to Harvard’s legal materials.¹⁶⁴ Harvard would provide, he declared, “any material from its collection to any member of the legal profession anywhere in the country.”¹⁶⁵ Borgeson also instituted a corollary project in the form of the *Annual Legal Bibliography*, published from 1961 through 1981. These volumes listed Harvard Law Library’s acquisitions, with the annual volumes cumulating the nine issues of *Current Legal Bibliography* published each year.¹⁶⁶ The set made it easier for lawyers and law libraries to take advantage of Borgeson’s offer of access to Harvard’s collection, while at the same time providing guidance for other law libraries’ collection development efforts. For instance, Patrick Kehoe, who directed the law library at American University, found the annotation and subject arrangement of the *Annual Legal Bibliography* useful in developing the University of Houston’s treatise collection in a period preceding the now widely available online book listings.¹⁶⁷ A reviewer noted that the volumes achieved Borgeson’s objective: “this makes available much valuable legal material not previously at one’s disposal.”¹⁶⁸ Borgeson had a similar vision for the Los Angeles County Law Library. Already a large library, Borgeson felt it could become something akin to the west coast branch of Library of Congress, part and parcel of Borgeson’s vision for places like L.A. County and Harvard as fulfilling the role of national library.¹⁶⁹

Along with coauthor Peter Freeman, Borgeson promoted law library cooperation on a much more comprehensive scale than could be accomplished by one or two solitary institutions, even if they were as large and as respected as Harvard.¹⁷⁰ Freeman and Borgeson noted several limitations facing libraries and legal researchers, among them cost,¹⁷¹ the increasingly interdisciplinary and empirical modes of research, and a

¹⁶¹ As one example of his inclusivity, Borgeson identified “the most important development” he saw during his professional career was the involvement of the “private librarian,” recognizing the role of firm librarians and “legal information specialists without any library affiliation” as core elements of the profession. Borgeson, *Earl C. Borgeson*, *supra* note 72, at 303.

¹⁶² *The Library of Congress and Its Influence on Law Librarianship*, 69 *LAW LIBR. J.* 554, 569 (1976).

¹⁶³ *Id.* at 562, 564.

¹⁶⁴ *Law Libraries—Development, Direction*, 57 *LAW LIBR. J.* 8, 22 (1964).

¹⁶⁵ Earl C. Borgeson, *Nationwide Law Library Service*, *supra* note 157, at 2.

¹⁶⁶ *Facilities of Harvard Law Library Are Available on Nationwide Basis*, 55 *LAW LIBR. J.* 122 (1962).

¹⁶⁷ *What ‘extinct’ book, research tool, database, etc., do you miss from an earlier time and why?*, 12 *AALL SPECTRUM* 34 (2008).

¹⁶⁸ Richard Rank, *Reviews of Books*, 14 *U. TORONTO L. J.* 293 (1962).

¹⁶⁹ Interview with Frank G. Houdek, *supra* note 19.

¹⁷⁰ Peter Freeman and Earl C. Borgeson, *Network Prospects for the Legal Profession*, 65 *LAW LIBR. J.* 4 (1972).

¹⁷¹ As Frank G. Houdek explained, the cost of legal materials meant that libraries could no longer simply “say if it’s about law, buy it.” Interview with Frank G. Houdek, *supra* note 19.

decidedly uneven geographic distribution of legal materials.¹⁷² In short, they concluded, “library self-sufficiency is not possible today.”¹⁷³ According to Freeman and Borgeson, the remedy for these limitations lay in a national network “linking ...existing library and special subject information networks.”¹⁷⁴

A few years later, the AALL commissioned a report that would lead to a new development in networking, *Toward a Law Network: Survey and Evaluation*.¹⁷⁵ The report identified several potential grounds for cooperation, including shared cataloging, union lists, and document delivery.¹⁷⁶ Borgeson became part of a Special Committee on Law Library Network Activities, whose objective was to develop “a cooperative bibliographic data base and service mechanism,”¹⁷⁷ furthering the goals identified in the report. Ultimately, the committee’s work became known as LАWNET, a program that continued at least until 1985.¹⁷⁸ By this time, several commercial vendors, OCLC among them, began offering competing tools, and despite AALL’s National Legal Resources Committee calling for the re-envisioning and revitalization of LАWNET in 1989,¹⁷⁹ the project seems to have dissipated.

Borgeson also worked to increase collaboration amongst organizations. As one method of increasing this collaboration, Borgeson joined local law library organization wherever he lived. These included the Law Librarians of New England, the Southern California Association of Law Libraries, the Dallas Association of Law Libraries, and the Southwestern Association of Law Libraries.¹⁸⁰ In the first two of these organizations, he served as president.¹⁸¹ Borgeson encouraged libraries to work together through larger networks. For example, he was a “driving force behind the creation of the council of county law libraries” in California.¹⁸²

Borgeson also accomplished this type of collaboration through AALL activities. He served as the AALL representative to the Association of American Law Schools.¹⁸³ As an advisor of a joint committee on cooperation between the two organizations, Borgeson aided in the drafting of new AALS requirements for law libraries that rejected volume counts and funds expended as the central standards of law library effectiveness in favor granting greater weight to qualitative measures.¹⁸⁴ He also served on the Committee on Cooperation with the American Bar Association.¹⁸⁵

¹⁷² Freeman and Borgeson, *supra* note 170, at 4-7.

¹⁷³ *Id.* at 6.

¹⁷⁴ *Id.* at 8.

¹⁷⁵ BRETT BUTLER, *TOWARD A LAW NETWORK: SURVEY and EVALUATION* (1975). (Prepared for the American Association of Law Libraries and the Association of American Law Schools).

¹⁷⁶ *Networking for the Small Law Library*, 71 *LAW LIBR. J.* 643, 652 (1978).

¹⁷⁷ *AALL Establishes a Special Committee on Network Activities*, 70 *LAW LIBR. J.* 53 (1977).

¹⁷⁸ *LАWNET*, 77 *LAW LIBR. J.* 768 (1985) (list of committee members).

¹⁷⁹ *Setting the Legal Information Agenda for the Year 2000: Preliminary Report of the National Legal Resources Committee*, 81 *LAW LIBR. J.* 349, 352 (1989).

¹⁸⁰ Earl C. Borgeson, Resume, *supra* note 17.

¹⁸¹ *Id.*

¹⁸² Interview with Frank G. Houdek, *supra* note 19.

¹⁸³ *AALL Representatives*, 73 *LAW LIBR. J.* 789, 790 (1980). *Association of American Law Schools*, 74 *LAW LIBR. J.* 788 (1981); *Association of American Law Schools*, 75 *LAW LIBR. J.* 471 (1982).

¹⁸⁴ *Joint Committee on Cooperation Between the AALS and the AALL*, 60 *LAW LIBR. J.* 230 (1967).

¹⁸⁵ *Proceedings of the Forty-Forth Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries Held at Boston, Massachusetts, June 25 to June 28, 1951*, 44 *Law Libr. J.* 119, 244 (1951).

These experiences led to Borgeson's participation in the AALL's Special Committee on Organizational Structure, which focused on ways to strengthen AALL through its chapters, special interest sections, and representatives to other organizations.¹⁸⁶ Recognizing real benefits to AALL from interaction with other organizations, the committee recommended a slate of proposals to ensure that connections were made with the appropriate organizations, duties were clear, funds were consistently provided, and shifts in representation were handled effectively.¹⁸⁷ Produced within a year, one fruit of this report was the AALL Representatives Handbook.¹⁸⁸ In a "special message" at the beginning of the volume, Borgeson articulates the benefits of being a representative:

When a member is selected as an AALL representative, that person has the opportunity, in a friendly but unfamiliar forum to enhance AALL's stature, and to speak, observe, evaluate, and interpret on behalf of thousands of law librarians. It is an opportunity for personal and professional growth, but also an assignment of significant accountability to the membership of AALL.¹⁸⁹

This guidance reflects Borgeson's approach to mentoring, as described above, especially the deployment of personal relationships as a means of creating and improving the profession. For Borgeson, networking and collaboration, then, constituted not only ways to increase access and improve law library service, but also to promote self-reflection and for continuous refinement of the image of the law librarian.

International Efforts

Borgeson's commitment to cooperation did not limit itself to his native country. Rather, his service extended beyond U.S. boundaries, in particular to Asia. In the summer of 1963, Borgeson and John Leary, Librarian of the American Bar Foundation, visited six Asian countries "for the purpose of investigate the possibility of developing a continuing program of legal research and exchange of legal literature."¹⁹⁰ Their questions were threefold: what professional groups or institutions are interested in legal research, whether the legal profession in each country had an interest in American law, and whether American law books were available if such an interest was present.¹⁹¹ They visited court libraries and law schools in each country. Some of these countries were newly formed, such as Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), and many had colonial histories that made laws of other nations particularly dominant, for example, British law for Malaysia.¹⁹²

¹⁸⁶ SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE REPORT, 1 (June 1, 1989) (obtained through the AALL Archives, housed at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).

¹⁸⁷ *Id.* at 4.

¹⁸⁸ Merle Slyhoff., *AALL Representatives Expand AALL's Voice, Resources*, 6 AALL Spectrum 1, 1 (2001-2002).

¹⁸⁹ AALL HANDBOOK OF REPRESENTATIVES (1990). (Updated in 2000.)

¹⁹⁰ *Report Issued on A.B.F. Sponsored Southeast Asian Survey*, 57 Law Libr. J. 154, 154 (1964).

¹⁹¹ EARL C. BORGESON and JOHN C. LEARY, *THE REPORT ON THE AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION'S VISIT TO SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEGAL RESEARCH CENTERS AND LAW LIBRARIES—SUMMER 1963* 2 (1963).

¹⁹² *Id.* at 17, 20.

Ultimately, Borgeson and Leary found an intellectual interest in American Law, even if practice in international law was minimal.¹⁹³ Questions of international law were typically referred to associated counsel in other countries.¹⁹⁴ Yet, “look[ing] ahead twenty-five or fifty years,”¹⁹⁵ they saw that an increase in commerce would lead to an increase in international law needs.¹⁹⁶ To meet these needs, Borgeson and Leary listed several objectives, including training in law and legal research, training law librarians, and offering library materials.¹⁹⁷ Unsurprisingly, Borgeson and Leary “adopted a deliberate mood of easy, cordial, yet professional informality” and “the response from these delightful people was on the same basis.”¹⁹⁸

Borgeson identified two significant obstacles. First, the language barrier: while many Asian lawyers spoke better English than the general population, “the inability to speak the languages of Asian countries on the part of American lawyers and the general public is even less permissive of free exchange of ideas.”¹⁹⁹ The second returns us to our theme of education and training. Borgeson recognized that many law libraries he and Leary encountered on their trip did not have the same history American law libraries had of grappling with classification and similar issues.²⁰⁰ While American librarians “would feel at home in any library anywhere in the world” including those in Asia,²⁰¹ they still had a “very special responsibility” to the profession worldwide. American librarians could best meet this obligation, Borgeson believed, by embracing his common themes, personal relationships and training: “we can make a meaningful contribution directly by establishing contact with that corps of librarians and offering a helping hand, and indirectly by being better librarians ourselves.”²⁰²

Among Borgeson and Leary’s specific proposals was a series of “traveling seminars” to “project the American lawyer and American law.”²⁰³ Borgeson himself worked towards fulfilling this objective, directing a Seminar on Law Library Organization and Legal Research at the University of the Philippines College of Law in the summer of 1966.²⁰⁴ The four week long seminar included courses on special librarianship, legal research methods, American legal materials and methods, and Asian legal materials and methods.²⁰⁵ It was hoped that experienced librarians from many Asian countries would participate,²⁰⁶ and indeed, sixteen librarians from six countries along with two observers regularly attended.²⁰⁷ The seminar aimed to foster “a broadening of the understanding of Asian library activities as well as of American legal

¹⁹³ *Id.* at 23.

¹⁹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁹⁶ *Id.* at 24.

¹⁹⁷ *Id.* at 24-25.

¹⁹⁸ *Id.* at 26.

¹⁹⁹ *Panel on Emerging Nations*, 57 *LAW LIBR. J.* 377, 383 (1964).

²⁰⁰ *Id.* at 385.

²⁰¹ *Id.* at 382.

²⁰² *Id.* at 57.

²⁰³ Borgeson and Leary, *supra* note 191, at 24.

²⁰⁴ *Current Comments*, 59 *LAW LIBR. J.* 210, 213 (1966).

²⁰⁵ *Id.*

²⁰⁶ *Id.*

²⁰⁷ *Dean’s Report on the activities of the College of Law*, 42 *PHILIPPINE L. J.* 311, 322 (1967).

literature and law library operations.”²⁰⁸ The Dean of the College of Law reported that “judging from the comments from various quarters, the Seminar was a success.”²⁰⁹

Borgeson assumed a role in a few other notable international endeavors. For example, in 1967, Borgeson volunteered to process reference inquiries made through the World Peace Through Law Center.²¹⁰ The World Legal Information and Reference Service, as the program was known, marked the first time such information was “available on a voluntary world-wide basis.” A historian of the University of Washington’s law librarianship program notes that he also coordinated law library courses and internships for librarians from China and South American.²¹¹ This work included a Law Librarianship Program in Beijing, China, in 1984, which began with a lengthy discussion of primary sources in American law and continued on to acquisition procedures.²¹² And of course, he and his wife, Barbara, hosted foreign LLM students during his tenure at SMU. Borgeson thus took a very active role in developing relationships between Asian and American law libraries and in furthering international cooperation.

Conclusion

Earl Borgeson worked officially as a law librarian from 1950 until 1988. He continued to be active in the profession well after that time, through A.A.L.L. activities, part time work in law firms, and his regular communications with his alma maters for the betterment of current students. His career was punctuated with considerable accomplishments: becoming the director at Harvard Law Library within years of finishing his library degree, serving as President of AALL, and crossing the globe to improve librarianship worldwide. His passions lay in developing the image of the law librarian through improved expertise as well as through personal relationships. Indeed, “his forte was working with people.”²¹³

Borgeson’s daughter, Bobi, remembers her father’s advice to be “honest, fair, loving, kind, and gentle.”²¹⁴ These qualities mesh well with Borgeson’s image of the law librarian, an image that emphasizes personal relationships, equality, and respect. Perhaps it is suitable, then, that this great storyteller²¹⁵ leaves as a legacy his own inspiring story.

²⁰⁸ *Current Comments*, *supra* note 204, at 213.

²⁰⁹ *Dean’s Report*, *supra* note 207, at 323.

²¹⁰ *World Legal Information and Reference Service Established*, 60 *LAW LIBR. J.* 116 (1967).

²¹¹ Goldsmith, *supra* note 1, at 253.

²¹² Earl C. Borgeson, *Course Outline: Week I of Law Librarianship Program, Beijing, November 1984* and *Course Outline: Week II of Law Librarianship program, Beijing, November 1984* (undated) (obtained through the AALL Archives, housed at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).

²¹³ Interview with Frank G. Houdek, *supra* note 19.

²¹⁴ Interview with Bobi McGarva, *supra* note 6.

²¹⁵ Interview with Sally H. Wise, *supra* note 90.