

**From the Reference Desk to River City:
The Writings of Robert C. Berring, An Annotated Bibliography***

Frank G. Houdek**

[AUTHOR'S NOTE: This work in progress has been prepared for distribution solely to participants at "Legal Information and the Development of American Law: Further Thinking about the Thoughts of Bob Berring," a symposium held at Boalt Hall on the University of California, Berkeley campus on October 21, 2006. At this stage of its development, the bibliography is arranged by publication format (books, chapters, articles, book reviews, memorials and remembrances, *LRSQ* editorials, and oral history); within each category, the materials are listed in reverse chronological order. Annotations have been added to some of the publications, as have subject headings (in brackets at the end of the bibliographical entry). The final published version of this work will provide annotations for and subject access to all listed items.]

Books

Winning Research Skills. 2006–07 ed. Eagan, Minn.: West, 2006. 204 p. (With Nancy P. Johnson & Thomas A. Woxland.)

Finding the Law. 12th ed. American Casebook Series. St. Paul, Minn.: Thomson/West, 2005. 443 p. (With Elizabeth A. Edinger.)

Winning Research Skills: 2005–2006. Eagan, Minn.: West, 2005. 198 p. (With Nancy P. Johnson & Thomas A. Woxland.)

Discovering Winning Research Skills: 2004–2005. Eagan, Minn.: West, 2004. 198 p. (With Nancy P. Johnson & Thomas A. Woxland.)

Discovering Winning Research Skills: 2003–2004. 6th ed. Eagan, Minn.: West, 2003. 200 p. (With Nancy P. Johnson & Thomas A. Woxland.)

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Legal Research Survival Manual. St. Paul, Minn.: West Group, 2002. 93 p. (With Elizabeth A. Edinger.)

Reviewed by Brian Raphael, *Law Library Journal* 95 (2003): 102–04.

Winning Research Skills. 5th ed. Eagan, Minn.: West Group, 2002. 142 p. (With Nancy P. Johnson & Thomas A. Woxland.)

Winning Research Skills. Rev. 4th ed. Eagan, Minn.: West Group, 2000. 170 p. (With Nancy P. Johnson & Thomas A. Woxland.)

Winning Research Skills. 4th ed. Eagan, Minn.: West Group, 1999. 173 p. (With Nancy P. Johnson & Thomas A. Woxland.)

Finding the Law. 11th ed. American Casebook Series. St. Paul, Minn.: West Pub. Co., 1999. 393 p. (With Elizabeth A. Edinger.)

Occasional Paper #9: Opportunities and Challenges for Lawyers and Legal Educators in a World Without Borders. Chicago: American Bar Association, Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, 1997. 37 p.

Winning Research Skills. 3rd ed. St. Paul, Minn.: West Pub. Co., 1996. 182 p. (With Nancy P. Johnson & Thomas A. Woxland.)

Finding the Law. 10th ed. American Case Book Series. St. Paul, Minn.: West Pub. Co., 1995. 331 p.

Winning Research Skills. 2nd ed. St. Paul, Minn.: West Pub. Co., 1993. 153 p. (With Nancy P. Johnson & Thomas A. Woxland.)

Winning Research Skills. St. Paul, Minn.: West Pub. Co., 1991. 147 p. (With Nancy P. Johnson & Thomas A. Woxland.)

Great American Law Reviews, edited with commentary by Robert C. Berring & Sally Gunderson. Special ed. Birmingham, Ala.: Legal Classics Library, 1984–90. 3 v. Collection of articles reprinted from various American law reviews from 1890 to 1979.

Finding the Law: An Abridged Edition of “How to Find the Law, 9th ed.” American Casebook Series. St. Paul, Minn.: West Pub. Co., 1989. 570 p. (With Morris Cohen & Kent C. Olson.)

How to Find the Law. 9th ed. American Casebook Series. St. Paul, Minn.: West Pub. Co., 1989.

716 p. (With Morris Cohen & Kent C. Olson.)

[Reviewed by Fritz Snyder, *Legal Reference Services Quarterly*, 1990, no. 3, at 138–44.]

Practical Approaches to Legal Research. New York: Haworth Press, 1988. 150 p. (With Kent C. Olson).

[Reviewed by Joseph B. Kulhavy, *17 American Journal of Criminal Law* 99–101 (1989)]

Finding the Law: An Abridged Edition of “How to Find the Law, 8th Ed.” American Casebook Series. St. Paul, Minn.: West Pub. Co., 1984. 556 p. (With Morris L. Cohen.)

How to Find the Law. 8th ed. American Casebook Series. St. Paul, Minn.: West Pub. Co., 1983. 790 p. (With Morris L. Cohen.)

Author’s Guide to Journals in Law, Criminal Justice, & Criminology, edited by Roy M. Mersky, Robert C. Berring & James K. McCue. Author’s Guide to Journals Series. New York: Haworth Press, 1979. 243 p.

Chapters

“*Defending Your Life* (1991): Due Process in the Afterlife.: In *Screening Justice—The Cinema of Law: Significant Films of Law, Order and Social Justice*, edited by Rennard Strickland, Teree E. Foster & Taunya Lovell Banks, 575–80 . Buffalo, N.Y.: William S. Hein & Co., 2006. [MISCELLANEOUS]

Berring’s contribution to a collection of essays about law-related films stretching from the 1930s to the 1990s considers *Defending Your Life*,¹ a film written and directed by and starring Albert Brooks. The story focuses on the trial Brooks’s character, recently killed by a city bus, must undergo to determine his fate. According to Berring, “[p]rocedural fairness and the public’s perception of the judicial process anchor the movie” (p.575). In the essay, he considers three central premises that “undergird the move. First, the adversary system is seen as the best method of determining one’s ultimate fate. Second, . . . the process must be fair if it is to count. Third, the system of judging is remote . . . , and as such, mysterious” (p.576). He also notes that there is a “touch of Kafka” to the film: “the whole process is hurried along, and [Brooks’s character] never really knows what the standards are” (p.579). Berring compares this to the perception of the judicial system by ordinary citizens: “For most people in our culture, legal proceedings have this same sense of bizarre incomprehensibility” (p.579).

1. DEFENDING YOUR LIFE (Geffen Pictures 1991).

“Plenary Session: The Shifting Universe of Legal Information.” In *The National Conference on Legal Information Issues: Selected Essays*, edited by Timothy L. Coggins, 21–32. AALL Publication Series, No. 51. Littleton, Colo.: Fred B. Rothman & Co., 1996. [LEGAL INFORMATION]

“Future Librarians.” In *Future Libraries*, edited by R. Howard Bloch & Carla Hesse, 94–115. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 1995. [LIBRARIES & LIBRARIANS]

“Power and Paradigm.” In *Highlights: A Selection of Presentations (1991–1993) from the Conference on Teaching Research in Private Law Libraries*, 73–. Dayton, Ohio: Mead Data Central, 1993. [LIBRARIES & LIBRARIANS]

Articles

“Deconstructing the Law Library: The Wisdom of Meredith Willson.” *Minnesota Law Review* 89 (2005): 1381–1406. [LIBRARIES & LIBRARIANS]

“Challenges for Law Libraries—and Librarians—of Tomorrow.” *Practice Innovations* 6 (Oct. 2005): 7–8. (available at <http://west.thomson.com/pdf/iii/PractInnovOct05.pdf>) [LIBRARIES & LIBRARIANS]

“Less is More. Really.” *Green Bag (2d Series)* 8 (2005): 231–34.

“Rule of Law: The Chinese Perspective.” *Journal of Social Philosophy* 35, no. 4 (2004): 449–56. [CHINESE LAW & HISTORY]

“Unprecedented Precedent: Ruminations on the Meaning of it All.” *Green Bag (2d Series)* 5 (2002): 245–47.

“Making It Up As We Go.” *Law Librarians in the New Millennium* (Jan.–Feb. 2002): 3. [LIBRARIES & LIBRARIANS]

“Legal Information and the Search for Cognitive Authority.” *California Law Review* 88 (2000): 1673–708. [LEGAL INFORMATION]

“Legal Research and the World of Thinkable Thoughts.” *Journal of Appellate Practice and Process* 2 (2000): 305–18. [LEGAL INFORMATION]

“Salary Inflation & the Deal with the Devil.” *Green Bag (2d Series)* 3 (2000): 247–49.

[MISCELLANEOUS]

“The Paperless Chase: Don’t Throw out the Librarian with the Library.” *California Lawyer* 20 (June 2000): 50–51. **[LIBRARIES & LIBRARIANS]**

“Chinese Law, Trade and the New Century.” *Northwestern Journal of International Law & Business* 20 (2000): 425–45. **[CHINESE LAW & HISTORY]**

“Is Berkeley Off Course? *California Monthly* 109 (February 1999): 18–20, available at http://alumni.berkeley.edu/Alumni/Cal_Monthly/February_1999/Is_Berkeley_off_course.asp. **[MISCELLANEOUS]**
[“A Boalt professor worries about the privatization of the university.”]

Essay contribution to “What Law Librarians Collect,” by Frank G. Houdek. *Law Library Journal* 91 (1999): 586.

In Berring’s contribution to a collection of essays in which various law librarians describe their personal collecting manias, he admits to collecting “books in an eclectic array,” including first editions of his favorite books (e.g., *Farewell My Lovely* by Raymond Chandler) and favorite authors (e.g., Don DeLillo, John Gardner), “fine printing from the past one hundred years, and some oddities” (p.586). He says about his books: “They make me smile” (p.586). **[AUTOBIOGRAPHY]**

“A Few Parting Words: Proposed Draft Submitted to Censors Dec. 31, 2027.” *Green Bag (2d Series)* 1 (1998): 227–30. **[LEGAL INFORMATION] [LIBRARIES & LIBRARIANS]**

Writing in the guise of the retiring custodian of the Boalt Hall Law Book Depository and Archive and the “last human faculty member of what was once the Boalt Hall Law School,” Berring delivers an account both humorous and chilling of the intervening years since his arrival in 1981 to his impending retirement in 2027. He notes the development in 2005 of software that allowed “all cases ever decided, all statutes ever passed, and all rules and regulations ever made to be digitally stored and sorted by subject,” soon followed by a program that replicated “the thinking processes of wise judges, respected figures and moral paragons” (p.228). The combination of the two led to the “perfect judge”; adding a system that provided “access to a person’s actual internally stored sense projections” made “perfect justice” possible (p.228). It was soon apparent that lawyers and judges were no longer needed; when the ABA fought back, the Anti-Lawyer riots resulted. When the smoke cleared, the “Law Library at Boalt Hall was the largest such facility left undamaged”; declared a national landmark, “the ranges of books and periodicals . . . are a favorite stop for virtual tourists who wish to have an adventure and perhaps scare the children” (p.230).

- “Part 1. Strategies for Access and Preservation—Partners and Alliances.” *Collection Management* 22, no. 3–4 (1998): 9– (12 pages). **[LIBRARIES & LIBRARIANS]**
- “Ring Dang Do.” *Green Bag (2d Series)* 1 (1997): 3–6. **[LEGAL INFORMATION]**
Reflecting on the ultimate meaning of the 1996 sale of the West Publishing Company to Thomson, Berring speculates on the future of legal information in a world where “[p]ublishing cases is . . . easy” and the “value of editing . . . has been set aside in the rush of enthusiasm for homemade delivery systems and snazzy search engines” (p.5). He is particularly perturbed by the fact that law students now graduate with “little knowledge of the [West] Topics and Key Numbers as part of their universe, but with an irresistible desire to search with Boolean connectors . . . online. . . . The new researcher does not think in subject categories with sharply delineated subdivisions like those in the Key Number system, instead they think in terms of key words and connectors” (p.5). Arguing that the increased ease of access to sources other than cases (e.g., administrative rules, legislative enactments, municipal ordinances) will necessitate a redefinition of the forms of legal information, Berring concludes that “[l]egal information is changing in a profound way, one that will touch us all” (p.6).
- “Farewell to All That.” *Loyola of Los Angeles International and Comparative Law Journal* 19 (1997): 431–47. **[CHINESE LAW & HISTORY]**
- “Chaos, Cyberspace and Tradition: Legal Information Transmogrified.” *Berkeley Technology Law Journal* 12 (1997): 189–212. **[LEGAL INFORMATION]**
- “The Ties That Do Not Bind: *Flambeau V. Honeywell*.” *Texas Law Review* 74 (1996): 1205–09. **[MISCELLANEOUS]**
Contributing to the *Texas Law Review*’s 1996 Favorite Case Symposium, Berring . . .
- “Thoughts on the Future: A Steroid-Enhanced Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 15, no. 3/4 (1996): 1–14.
- “A Sort of Response: Brutal Non-Choices.” *Perspectives: Teaching Legal Research and Writing* 4 (1996): 81–82. **[LEGAL RESEARCH INSTRUCTION]**
Responding to an article by Shapo and Kunz² advocating for the teaching of legal research within an integrated legal research and writing course that used his comments about first-year research courses as a springboard, Berring makes several points. First, he notes that there never was a “‘golden age’ of legal research instruction” and the “courses

2. Helene S. Shapo & Christina L. Kunz, *Teaching Legal Research as Part of an Integrated LR & W Course*, 4 PERSPECTIVES: TEACHING LEGAL RES. & WRITING 78 (1996).

. . . where law librarians rolled out book trucks full of volumes and waved them at students were terrible” (p.81). He goes on to suggest that the integrated courses described by Shapo and Kunz are “ideal programs” which “do not exist at most schools” (p.81) because the faculties are unwilling to support or let them happen. Finally, Berring argues that “teaching legal research is not easy” and that many law librarians and legal writing instructors “do not know how to do it well” (p.82). He contends that research and writing are of such complexity that it too much to expect someone to teach the both well. “There are precious few folks who are masters of one of these crafts, let alone both” (p.82). He concludes that “research training has to be taken seriously, graded, accorded credits, and taught by individuals that the law school treats as academics” (p.82).

“Universal Citation Systems: Will Tinkering with the Future Be the End of Reliable, Standardized Opinions.” *ABA Journal* 82 (July 1996): 74. **[LEGAL CITATION]**
In a short essay responding to the question posed by the title of the article, Berring argues that shifting from a system that calls for citation to pages in reporters prepared and printed by reliable publishers to a format-neutral system that allows for citation to sources pulled from court bulletin boards is “retrograde thinking” (p.74). He argues that “[u]nless courts are willing to take responsibility for editing and quality control, the content [produced by various publishers] can vary enormously” (p.74). In such an environment, [i]nformation can no longer be taken for granted” (p.74). He also suggests that since the format-neutral systems are being developed independently by committee in each jurisdiction, there is a great danger that standardization will be lost and along with it the ability of an attorney in one state to cite to the opinions of another.

“California’s Rush to Be in the Vanguard of Uniform Citation Might Be Jumping the Gun.” *Recorder* __ (May 15, 1996): 4. **[LEGAL CITATION]**

“On Not Throwing out the Baby: Planning the Future of Legal Information.” *California Law Review* 83 (1995): 615–35. **[LEGAL INFORMATION]**

“The Current State of Networked Information in the United States and Why You Should Care about It.” *Law Librarian* 26 (1995): 246–48. **[LEGAL INFORMATION]**

“Collapse of the Structure of the Legal Research Universe: The Imperative of Digital Information.” *Washington Law Review* 69 (1994): 9–34. **[LEGAL INFORMATION]**

“The Electronic Law Library: The Electronic Future of Law Libraries.” *Law Librarian* 24 (1993): 168–73. **[LIBRARIES & LIBRARIANS]**

“According to Berring, librarianship is a profession at risk because librarians have failed to adapt to the paradigm shift caused by the transition from print to digital information. He discusses how many of the traditional roles of librarians have been obviated by the

digital revolution. Concluding that the distribution of electronic information offers law librarians their best opportunities for development, Berring proposes that they provide their expertise to Westlaw and LEXIS vendors as a means of preserving professional presence and ideals.”³

“Tips for Efficient Computer-Aided Legal Research.” *Legal Malpractice Report* 3, no. 4 (1992): 25. [LEGAL RESEARCH & REFERENCE]

“Technology and the Standard of Care for Legal Research.” *Legal Malpractice Report* 3, no. 4 (1992): 21–22. [LEGAL RESEARCH & REFERENCE]

“Legal Research: A Final Response.” *Law Library Journal* 82 (1990): 495–96. (With Kathleen Vanden Heuvel.) [LEGAL RESEARCH INSTRUCTION]
[reply to Christopher G. Wren & Jill R. Wren, *Reviving Legal Research: A Reply to Berring and Vanden Heuvel*, 82 LAW LIBR. J. 463 (1990).]

“Legal Research: Should Students Learn it or Wing It?” *Law Library Journal* 81 (1989): 431–49. (With Kathleen Vanden Heuvel.) [LEGAL RESEARCH INSTRUCTION]
[reply to Christopher G. Wren & Jill R. Wren, *The Teaching of Legal Research*, 80 LAW LIBR. J. 7 (1988)]

“Dyspeptic Ramblings of a Retiring Past President.” *Law Library Journal* 79 (1987): 345–50. [AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES]

“Legal Research and Legal Concepts: Where Form Molds Substance.” *California Law Review* 75 (1987): 15–27. [LEGAL INFORMATION]

“Full-Text Databases and Legal Research: Backing Into the Future.” *High Technology Law Journal* 1 (1986): 27–60. [LEGAL INFORMATION]

“How to Be a Great Reference Librarian.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 4 (Spring 1984): 17–37. Reprinted in *The Spirit of Law Librarianship: A Reader*, edited by Roy M. Mersky and Richard A. Leiter, 159–79. Littleton, Colo.: Fred B. Rothman & Co., 1991. [LEGAL RESEARCH & REFERENCE]

“Looseleaf Services: A Subject Bibliography.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 1, no. 4 (1981): 51–71. (With Valerie Wedin.) [LEGAL RESEARCH & REFERENCE]

3. Pearl Goldman, *Legal Education and Technology: An Annotated Bibliography*, 93 LAW LIBR. J. 423, 456–57 (2001).

Describing the looseleaf service as “perhaps the most important tool in legal literature today,” Berring and coauthor Wedin set out to “supply a list of commonly used looseleaf services, making them accessible by title and subject” (p.51). They provide a brief overview of the nature of looseleafs, followed by two alphabetically arranged lists of major services, one by subject, the other by title.

“Corpus Juris Secundum.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 1, no. 1 (1981): 67–82. **[LEGAL RESEARCH & REFERENCE]**

Berring and coauthor Wedin offer a critical study of the legal encyclopedia that has been a “standard reference tool for legal researchers” (p. 67) since 1936. Their concern was to test the reliability of *CJS*. After completing their inventory, they identified several aspects that needed to be addressed: revising outdated volumes, particularly the general index, and developing a consistent supplementation pattern.

Book Reviews

Review of *Crime, Punishment and the Prison in Modern China*, by Frank Dikötter. *Punishment & Society* 7, no. 1 (2005): 114–15. **[CHINESE LAW & HISTORY]**

“Affirmative Action in Perspective.” Review of *Silence at Boalt Hall: The Dismantling of Affirmative Action*, by Andrea Guerrero. *California Law Review* 91 (2003): 1125–37.

Review of *Copyright Essentials for Librarians and Educators*, edited by Kenneth D. Crews. *Library Quarterly* 71 (2001): 432.

Review of *Technology and Copyright Law: A Guidebook for the Library, Research and Teaching Professions*, by Arlene Bielefield & Lawrence Cheeseman. *Library Quarterly* 68 (1998): 242–44.

Review of *Cyberspace and the Law: Your Rights and Duties in the On-Line World*, by Edward A. Cavazos & Gavino Morin; *Rights and Responsibilities of Participants in Networked Communities*, edited by Dorothy S. Denning & Herbert S. Lin. *Library Quarterly* 66 (1996): 232–34.

Review of *In Search of Equality: The Chinese Struggle Against Discrimination in Nineteenth-Century America*, by Charles J. McClain. *Asian Law Review* 2 (1995): 87–103. **[CHINESE LAW & HISTORY]**

Review of *Law in the People’s Republic of China*, by Ralph Haughwout Folsom and John H

Minan. *American Journal of Comparative Law* 38 (1990): 395–401. [**CHINESE LAW & HISTORY**]

Review of *Cannibalism and the Common Law*, by A.W. Brian Simpson. *California Law Review* 73 (1985): 252–58.

Review of *Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory*, 115th ed. *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 3, no. 1 (1983): 101–02. [**LEGAL RESEARCH & REFERENCE**]

After briefly describing law's best known the very well-known legal directory ("Reviewing Martindale-Hubbell is tantamount to describing the Empire State Building. What reference librarian who has any contact with legal materials has not used this annual set?" (p.101)), Berring focuses most of his attention on the "hidden features" found in the final volume of the 1983 set. These include the domestic law digests; a summary of U.S. copyright, patent, and trademark law; a Canadian statute law digest; international law summaries; a summary of the U.S. court system; and ABA ethics materials. He concludes that "volume 7 is a veritable plethora of useful reference information. . . . If you've already got it on your shelf, use it" (p.102).

Memorials and Remembrances

Essay contribution to "AALL History through the Eyes of its Presidents," by Frank G. Houdek. *Law Library Journal* 98 (2006): 319–20. [**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES**] [**AUTOBIOGRAPHY**]

Berring recalls his term as president of the American Association of Law Libraries (1985–86), during which the organization "needed pepping up as a group" (p.319) and to "work on diversifying the profession" (p.320). He recalls achieving some success in these areas, particularly the establishment of what eventually became the AALL Diversity Committee. Concluding that its increased professionalization is the most important change occurring in AALL during his years of involvement, Berring closes with a salute to his professional colleagues: "Law librarians are delightfully literate, intelligent, and principled. Indeed I think that librarianship may be the last truly principled profession. We still want to give it away. It is an honor to work with such people" (p.320).

"Mike Jacobstein: Truly a Giant." *Law Library Journal* 97 (2005): 633–36.

"Remembering Roger Noreen." *Law Library Journal* 89 (1997): 597.

Berring contributes to a collection of remembrances of Roger F. Noreen (1922– 97), longtime employee of the West Publishing Company (1948–50, 1961–92) and vice-president of its Law School Division from 1967 to his retirement. Berring admits that

“[f]or the first few years that I knew Roger, the mid-1970s, I had no idea what he did. He would show up at the law school and just drop by offices. Everyone knew him. The Dean, the faculty, and the librarians all welcomed him as an old friend. . . . It was only later that I discovered that Roger was not selling books, he was creating books. He was helping old scholars get better and new scholars enter the fray. He was carrying the news, the ideas, the trends, from school to school. In a way, Roger Noreen was the repository of legal education. He knew who was writing what, who was moving where, and who your new dean was going to be” (p.597).

“Conventional Wisdom.” *Law Library Journal* 88 (1996): 14–15. [AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES] [AUTOBIOGRAPHY]
Contributing to a collection of short essays on “My First [AALL] Annual Meeting,” Berring describes his experiences at the 1974 convention in St. Paul. He recounts his four interviews, including ones with famous folks Frances Farmer of the University of Virginia and Roy Mersky of the University of Texas, as well as his general impression of AALL as “loud, exciting, and very much a place where you had to get to know people fast” (p.15).

“Tribute to Babe Russo.” *25 American Association of Law Libraries Newsletter* 366 (1994). [AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES]
Berring contributes a short remembrance and salute to Antonette “Babe” Russo, AALL’s administrative secretary from 1969 to 1989, who passed away on March 28, 1994. Berring, AALL president in 1985–86, recalls that Russo “held AALL together through days when she was the entire Headquarters staff, when budgets were hand-to-mouth and everyone had to improvise” (p.366). He also recognizes how she welcomed the growing professionalization of AALL and its Chicago operation: “Babe wanted what was best for law librarianship” (p.366). But most importantly, “Babe was a wonderful, funny lady. She knew how to laugh and how to find humor in the tarpit of organizational bureaucracy. . . . For a stretch of years she *was* AALL. For many of us, she always will be” (p.366).

“In Honor of J. Myron Jacobstein.” *Stanford Law Review* 40 (1987): 1–2.

LRSQ Editorials⁴

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4. In 1981, Berring was the founding editor of what has since become a well-respected journal in the field of law librarianship and legal information, *Legal Reference Services Quarterly (LRSQ)*. He continued in this position through volume seventeen, published in 1999. Throughout this long tenure, Berring frequently contributed an “editorial” to the quarterly issues. Some of these merely introduced the contents of the issue, but beginning with volume six (1986), Berring used them as a forum from

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 17, no. 4 (1999): 1–2.

Berring ends his tenure as editor of LRSQ by quoting the Grateful Dead—“What a long strange trip it’s been”—and noting that “[h]aving started *LRSQ* eighteen years ago on a Selectric typewriter as a one man band, I feel great affection for it” (p.1). He goes on to thank those who helped him produce the journal—especially Managing Editor Kathleen Vanden Heuvel—and those who contributed to it, including Nancy Carol Carter, Barbara Bintliff, Scott Pagel, Tom Woxland, and Kent Olson (“the author of my all time favor book review”⁵ (p.2)). He concludes with best wishes to his successor, Mike Chiorazzi—“I look forward to seeing what he will do with the old warhorse” (p.2).

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 16, no. 4 (1998): 1–3.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 16, no. 3 (1998): 1–3.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 15, no. 1 (1995): 1–2.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 14, no. 4 (1994): 1–2.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 14, no. 1/2 (1994): 1–3.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 13, no. 3 (1993): 1–4.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 13, no. 1 (1993): 1–3.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 12, no. 2/3 (1992): 1–3.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 11, no. 1/2 (1991): 1–3.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 10, no. 3 (1990): 1–2.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 10, no. 1/2 (1990): 3–5. (With Kathleen Vanden Heuvel.)

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 8, no. 3/4 (1988): 3–6.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 7, no. 2/3/4 (1987): 1–3.

which he offered his latest thoughts on one or more of his favorite issues.

5. See Kent C. Olson, *Federal Reporter, 2nd Series: Vol. 750, LEGAL REFERENCE SERVICES Q.*, Fall–Winter 1986, at 199 (book review).

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 7, no. 1 (1987): 1–2.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 6, no. 3/4 (1986): 1–2.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 6, no. 1/2 (1986): 1–3.

Berring announces that from this point forward, he will no longer use his editorials to introduce the contents of the issue; instead, he use them as a forum, giving him “the opportunity to sound off a bit” (p.1). In the initial effort, he focuses on the competition between LEXIS and WESTLAW, noting that because of it, “both systems are happy to hear from librarians and they seem to try to incorporate all of our new ideas” (p.2). But he finds that it also causes the companies to strike special deals with different customers. Consequently, his purpose is to “issue a clarion call to law librarians everywhere to try to force both LEXIS and WESTLAW to deal simply and aboveboard with all of us” (p.2).
[LEGAL INFORMATION]

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 5, no. 4 (1985): 1–3.

Reflecting on the completion of LRSQ’s fifth volume, Berring finds that “it is at least entering its adolescence. We try to retain the sense of newness by looking for fresh material and articles that come at legal research and reference from a slightly different bent, but there can be no doubt that we are becoming more of an established entity” (p.1).

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 5, no. 2/3 (1985): 1–3.

Responding to readers’ queries concerning the “direction of LRSQ,” Berring notes that “[r]eaders have noticed that we publish articles on new topics while continuing to explore old reference tools, and that our article mix includes long, detailed analyses and short, thought pieces. Such a lack of focus may in some respects be a drawback, but in all honesty it is exactly where I want LRSQ to be. By presenting a broad spectrum of articles we hope to provide information in each issue that will be of some immediate use to almost every reader” (p.1). As if to illustrate the journal’s eclectic nature, the Berring reprints “one of my favorite headnote/footnote combinations” as a Second Look feature, noting that “[i]n a day where there is increasing concern with clarity of expression in legal writings, headnote three and footnote two of the *Gottreich* decision stand as a beacon for us all. Enjoy” (p.1–2).⁶

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 5, no. 1 (1985): 1–2.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 4, no. 4 (1984): 1–2

6. See *Gottreich v. San Francisco Investment Corporation*, 522 *Federal Reporter 2d* 866, LEGAL REFERENCE SERVICES QUARTERLY, Summer/Fall 1985, at 243. I won’t spoil the fun.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 4, no. 3 (1984): 1–2.

Berring describes the contents of the issue, including a “Forum” contribution by Joyce Saltalamachia “who sings a refrain know to everyone who has been in a public contact position in a law library, and that is the sad song of the photocopier” (p.2).⁷

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 4, no. 2 (1984): 1–2.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 4, no. 1 (1984): 1–2.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 3, no. 4 (1983): 1–2.

After the usual description of the contents of the issue, Berring summarizes his feelings about LRSQ at the end of its third volume: “My original plan had been to edit the *Quarterly* for two volumes, but at the end of volume two things were just getting settled. Now I find myself about to end volume three. To be honest, this is getting to be fun. The enjoyment comes from getting so many interesting articles, from interacting with authors and members of the Board of Advisors and, most of all dealing with readers” (p.2).

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 3, no. 3 (1983): 1–2.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 3, no. 2 (1983): 1–2.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 3, no. 1 (1983): 1–2.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 2, no. 4 (1982): 1–2.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 2, no. 3 (1982): 1–2.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 2, no. 2 (1982): 1–3.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 2, no. 1 (1982): 1–2.

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 1, no. 4 (1981): 1–3.

Berring reviews the contents of the issue, and introduces a new feature titled “A Second Look,” that will reprint articles from the literature which address legal research subjects. The initial offering is “a gem from the 19th century . . . that sheds light on the early years of the West Publishing Company and the development of commercial case reporting. . .”

7. Joyce Saltalamachia, *I Didn't Go to Law School for This . . . The Perils of Photocopying*, LEGAL REFERENCE SERVICES Q., Fall 1984, at 77.

(p.2).⁸ [LEGAL INFORMATION]

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 1, no. 2/3 (1981): 1–2.

Berring introduces a double issue which includes a large bibliography on the *United States Supreme Court Reports* by Morris L. Cohen and Sharon Hamby.⁹

“Editorial.” *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 1, no. 1 (1981): 1–3.

Introducing the new publication of which he is the founding editor, Berring announces that *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* will aim to serve not only law librarians, but also “all reference librarians who must deal with the increasing number of reference questions that involve the law or where the legal aspect must be shown as part of the complete reference answer” (p.1). He adds that the journal “is designed to contain the type of article that can be of assistance in one’s day-to-day work” (p.1).

Oral History

“Robert C. Berring.” In *Reflections on Law Librarianship: A Collection of Interviews*, edited by Marjorie A. Garson, et al., 1–15. AALL Publication Series, No. 29. Littleton, Colo.: Fred B. Rothman & Co., 1988. [AUTOBIOGRAPHY]

“Robert Berring.” In *Marian Gould Gallagher Law Library: An Oral History*, edited by Mary Ann Andersen, 517. Seattle: University of Washington School of Law, 1988. [AUTOBIOGRAPHY]

8. *A Symposium of Law Publishers*, 23 AM. L. REV. 396 (1889), reprinted in LEGAL REFERENCE SERVICES Q., 1981, no. 4, at 73.

9. Subsequently published in an expanded, book length format, MORRIS L. COHEN & SHARON HAMBY O’CONNOR, A GUIDE TO THE EARLY REPORTS OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES (1995) was awarded the Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographical Award by the American Association of Law Libraries in 1995.