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## **NOCALL Spring Institute 2005 The Future of Legal Research: Legal Resources and Access**

*By Pam Rino, NOCALL VP/President Elect*

The Northern California Association of Law Librarians (NOCALL) will host their Spring Institute April 15-16, 2005, at Hyatt Rickey's in Palo Alto. The topic will be "The Future of Legal Research: Legal Resources and Access." The Spring Institute is NOCALL's opportunity to explore a topic in depth, and this year's topic is of interest to anyone who works in this fast-changing profession.

One panel will explore the future from the perspective of the proprietary data providers and publishers. Speakers from Lexis-Nexis, West, and CEB will discuss their vision of legal research in the future. This will not be an early announcement of soon-to-be-released features, but a discussion of how they plan to draw together the many different technologies that are now available, including the books. Fifteen years ago, online databases were seldom used by attorneys, only by librarians -- now most attorneys have them on their desktop and start their research at their desks instead of in the library. Where do the providers see us in another fifteen years?

The internet provides another set of opportunities and challenges. Librarians are all aware of how much information is available on the web; we use it every day. However, no one is more aware than librarians of how much information disappears from the web daily, and how difficult it can be to track down an elusive piece of information that is not available online. This panel will include a speaker who will discuss a vision of the future that envisions all information searchable at your fingertips in one place. Another speaker will consider information that has already been lost and is likely to be lost with no true archiving system in place.

The rapidly changing technology and publishing costs are affecting all law libraries. Public law libraries face growing challenges as the collection options increase and budgets decline. A panel of public law librarians will discuss the challenges they face now and in the future as they serve an ever more diverse population and select from an ever growing variety of resources.

Another exploding area in legal research is consumer resources. As dockets and cases become available online in almost real time, how can librarians and the public process this information? One panel will focus on information that is available to anyone who accesses it -- what information reaches the public and how it can be organized.

The Spring Institute is also special this year as it is the 25th anniversary of NOCALL. Twenty-five years ago, several librarians realized that they would need the help of their local community to provide the best possible level of service. The community they founded is thriving today. At the Spring Institute we will take some time to look back at the creation of this group and what the future holds. NOCALL members are encouraged to contribute to these conversations as we look towards the next twenty-five years.

Legal research is changing at an incredible pace. We all feel that we are frantically trying to keep pace with the new features that are being released, the changing resources available, and keeping our skill set up to date. Seldom do we have an opportunity to step back and think about where we will be in ten years. The Spring Institute will be an opportunity to think about the profession and the possibilities of the next ten years.

If you have any questions about the Spring Institute, please feel free to contact NOCALL VP/President Elect, Pam Rino at [prino@evarino.com](mailto:prino@evarino.com). Not all speakers have been confirmed so there may be some differences between the final program and what has been discussed here. We look forward to seeing you at the Spring Institute!

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