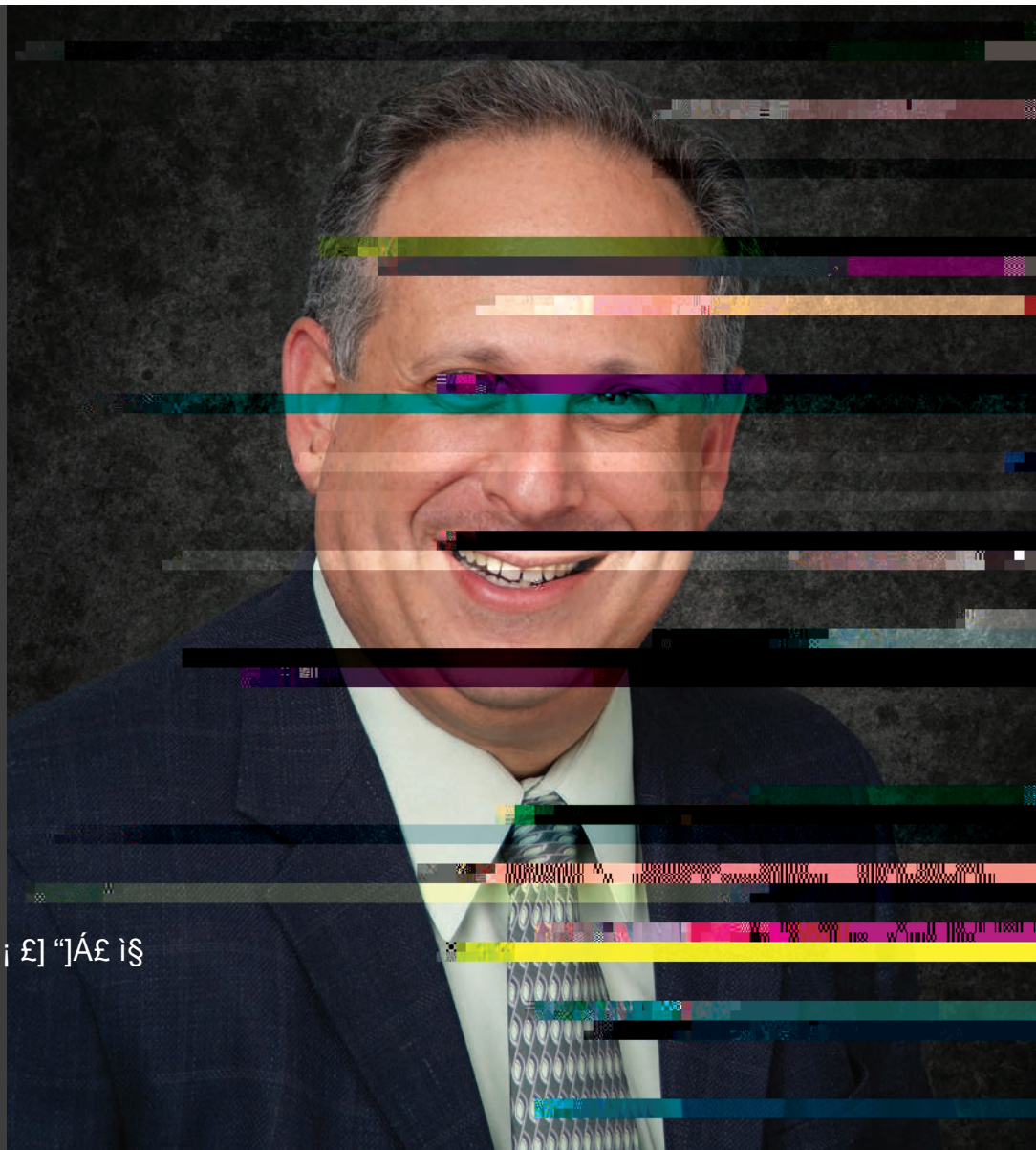


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librarians' roles,
Mark Gediman,
2016 AALL Annual
Meeting Program



QUICK HITS WITH MARK GEDIMAN



iPhone or Android?

iPhone 6s

Mac or PC? PC

Text or phone call?

I prefer to call people, but I text quite a bit.

E-books or print? When I travel, e-books; at home, I prefer print.

Did you upgrade to Windows 10? At home, but not at work.

Phone order or GrubHub? I order by phone.

Favorite takeout? Pizza

Scrabble or Words with Friends? I like both; I can play Words with Friends when I'm not with people, but sometimes I like to play across a board from someone.

Favorite app? 1Password, for the 50,000 passwords I have; my second favorite is Shazam.

of thinking, a storehouse of information—whether that's on servers, in the cloud, or on a shelf.

How has it stayed the same?

We've rebranded our department at my firm; we're now Information Services. But the work isn't really any different than what reference librarians did in the 1980s or even in the 1700s. If you're looking for something, we are here to help. When I was in college, that's what a reference librarian did. You'd have large libraries with books, micro film, and microfiche, and would need to try and figure out the best search method. Now, those same skills apply to the virtual environment.

The basic function of the library hasn't changed. The librarian's task is to help people find the information they need, whether it involves guiding the requestor to the right resource or conducting the research on their behalf.

services has increased from 15 percent to more than 70 percent.

"I like when attorneys call me with research questions, and I like creating tools that help make research easier," says Gediman, the firm's director of information services.

Gediman has spent nearly 30 years in the information service industry, starting with volunteer positions at his junior high and high school libraries that were followed by a work-study job at a regional interlibrary agency in college. After graduating from the University of California-Riverside with an English degree, he held library assistant and firm librarian roles at two California law firms and later worked as a research and information specialist at electricity provider Edison International.

A 16-year AALL member, in addition to his AMPC duties, Gediman is an active member of the Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals

Special Interest Section (PLLIP-SIS) where he co-founded and is co-chair of the Competitive Intelligence Group. He has also been an active leader in the Southern California Association of Law Libraries serving as president, vice president, and secretary.

We spoke with the Riverside native about legal tech skills, e-books, and how technology enables law librarians to serve as necessary guides to help separate the wheat from the chaff.

How has information technology changed since you entered the industry?

Although the physical library collection is shrinking, it hasn't disappeared. There are still some books and resources that are easier to use in print because people know them and are used to them, or they're only available in print so you have to have a place to house that material. But the library has always been, in my way

Do you feel the legal industry has been quick to adopt technology?

It really depends. I work at a firm that's very forward-thinking when it comes to technology. We have virtual desktops and advanced tools to leverage our document management system and a phone system that allows everybody in the firm to work from home, or from any location, if necessary.

Many of the firm's managers and directors are in different locations. That's a good thing—it allows for offices outside of what used to be the main office to participate in the management of the firm.

What are the information technology requirements or needs?

Client and business development is different from the business sector. Law firm growth happens through personal relationships and problem solving. In a company, you just try to sell more products. In a law firm, it's a service you're selling, and it can be challenging

