

Report of Northeast Foreign Law Libraries Cooperative Group Meetings

2010-2011

(Thanks to Terri Saint-Amour (Gallego-O'Rourke) and Alison Shea for taking minutes on the two meetings discussed below.)

The Northeast Foreign Law Libraries Cooperative Group (NEFLLCG) met twice in 2010-2011, initially at Yale on October 18, 2010 and later at Fordham on May 23, 2011. At these meetings Columbia, Cornell, Fordham, Georgetown, Harvard, NYU, Penn, and Yale were represented. Marylin Raisch of Georgetown was the convener.

At the October meeting Tracy Thompson of NELLCO gave a demonstration of Universal Search Solutions (USS) showing both the user interface and the administrative interface. Twenty-eight of the member libraries of NELLCO (out of 109 members) participated in the initial project including Columbia, Fordham, NYU and Penn. Unfortunately the grant funding for the project ends in November.

Bridget Reischer explained that Harvard with B2F2 ran a list of everything it had purchased in excess of \$1,000. Boston law libraries divided up the items, so that these expensive titles are generally held by only one library.

There was a discussion of the Foreign Law Faculty Survey developed by Thomas Mills. The group decided to pursue three steps: finalize the questions, once finalized Thomas would send it to Harvard for formatting with Qualtrics, which would enhance standardization, and finally each member library to send it to their faculty or to meet with their faculty and then fill it out for them.

Thomas Mills reported that he had sent to JSTOR members' lists of choices of foreign legal journals they would like to have included in the database.

Gabriela Femenia advised the group that Penn, GW and American have divided the list of journals on Hein by three, and split them up committing to keeping the journals in print for 3 years. They call the project, "Mind the Gap."

Dan Wade raised the issue of the high cost of the Hungarian Rules of Laws in Force, i.e., 1,800 per year, suggesting because of the low use not all libraries need subscribe to it. At the moment Columbia and Yale will continue to subscribe.

NELLCO was able to continue the subscription to the Ghana law database (Datacenta), but there has been a price increase of \$800 per year.

There ensued a discussion of GLIN. Columbia and Georgetown both use GLIN.

The next meeting took place at Fordham on May 23, 2011. The beginning of the meeting addressed the formalizing of the minute taking procedure.

Parina Patel of Harvard helped complete the Faculty Survey Instrument. At the time of the meeting Cornell, Harvard, and Yale had sent out the Survey. Cornell and Yale followed it up with library liaison visits to the faculty, which considerably improved the response rate. The survey has two purposes: in helping individual schools understand their faculty needs and helping NEFLLCG help identify which schools might have particular needs. Schools can tailor the survey to their individual needs, as Harvard has done. An issue remains as to what extent clinical faculty should be included in the survey.

Some of the questions on the survey assess the following: what type of reader the sources were viewed in, e.g., ebooks, desktop, tablet, etc.; whether faculty were using FCIL databases in their classes; what areas of the world they are working in, and in what languages; and how often they requested foreign materials through ILL.

Bridget Reischer expressed her intention to share the survey at the Gang Plus meeting on June 15th.

Thomas Mills stated that he had sent to JSTOR the recommendations from the NEFLLCG members, as to which foreign legal title journals they would like to have added to the database. At the time of the meeting Tom had not heard back.

Marylin brought to the attention of the group two new Hein libraries, the History of International Law and the Hague Academy of Collected Courses.

Bridget mentioned that Harvard had reviewed LexisNexis India and Westlaw India and found that Manupatra is still a better choice for Indian primary source material.

Thomas highlighted two resources: Getting the Deal Through, at \$700 a year, which allows users to select information on a number of issues (arbitration, mergers, etc.) in various jurisdictions; see <http://www.gettingthedealthrough.com> for further information; and Liberian LII should be launched in mid-June and will contain the 1956 Code, slip laws, and a full run of the Liberian Law Reports. See <http://liberlii.org>.

Alison highlighted two new resources: Practical Law Company, which has good coverage of multinational and foreign domestic issues. See <http://lawlib1.lawnet.fordham.edu/hot/rotmplc.html> ; and the Kenya Gazette which is available for free in PDF through Google Books. See here for press release and more information: <http://google-africa.blogspot.com/2011/04/over-100-years-of-kenya-gazette-goes.html>.