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Citation: 12 FCIL Newsl. 1 1997-1998



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# FCIL NEWSLETTER

Volume 12

February 1998

Number 2

## Report on European Union training seminar in Brussels

*Jeanne Rehberg, NYU Law Library*

Five law librarians were among the American contingent at the latest training seminar for librarians of European Documentation Centres conducted by the European Commission in Brussels, December 1-3, 1997. In U.S. terminology, EDCs are European Union depositories. The U.S. was not the only non-member state represented. Librarians from Russia, Hungary, Poland, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Switzerland, and Turkey attended. Clearly the European Commission is supporting existing and future EDCs in these European countries with a view to the possible enlargement of the citizenship of Europe.

The following is a summary of information from the seminar that should be of interest to depositories and other law libraries (with the disclaimer that all promises and future projections are beyond the control of this author).

1. *Agenda 2000* refers to the Commission's plan for enlargement of the membership and the 1,300 pages of assessment of the preparedness for membership of the ten applicant countries from Central and Eastern Europe, as well as the necessary reform of the structural funds. The individual country reports were issued as COM documents and are being reissued as Supplements to the *Bulletin of the European Union*. The publishing arm and information specialists of the EC are beginning to confront a major challenge related to enlargement--how to accommodate new official languages.

2. Until the **Amsterdam Treaty** is ratified, the Maastricht Treaty on European Union still controls. The text of the Amsterdam Treaty and a consolidated edition of the EC and EU treaties reflecting changes made by the Amsterdam Treaty have been issued to depositories and are also available on the EUROPA

web site.

3. Reform of the decision-making process to accommodate **enlargement** is a critical issue. Without this reform, enlargement cannot take place. For example, changes in the number of members of Parliament without appropriate changes in the voting process could paralyze the process. It is clear that other intergovernmental conferences will be necessary.

### 4. Political events to watch in the lead-up to the Monetary Union and possible enlargement:

December 1997: European Council meeting in Luxembourg to decide how many Central and Eastern European states will be involved when official enlargement negotiations begin. In June 1997 the Commission settled on a list of five of the ten applicants (Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Estonia), but negotiations could begin with all ten and then focus on the five.

March 31, 1998: Official opening of negotiations with states applying for membership.

May 1998: Summit of Council to determine how many member states qualify for entry into the single currency Monetary Union. Review will focus not only on technical progress but on the considerable efforts of states such as Spain and Italy.

Late 1998: Ratification of Amsterdam Treaty.

Beginning January 1, 1999: European Monetary Union in effect. The initial group of qualified member states will switch their banking and public debt to the Euro, with national currencies still in circulation.

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Towards 2000: An intergovernmental conference to treat institutional and decision-making reforms before the earliest entry of new member states in 2002.

2002: Most likely date for earliest entry of new member state(s). Euro goes into circulation.

5. The **Economic and Social Committee (CES)** is properly referred to as an EC “organ” or “body” and not an “institution” because it is consultative and not political. It is “economic and social” not because it reviews only those issues but because it represents economic and social groups and associations.

6. **EUROPA web site**: Attention will be focused upon the “bells and whistles” to look for ways to make the site function faster and more efficiently. The webmasters will also look at more structured search options, having listened to feedback that the site is not friendly to scholarly researchers who want more full-text and field searching options. Press releases of the Parliament should be available in the RAPID database by February, 1998. The Parliament (EPOQUE) and Court of Justice (CURIA) sites will each continue as separate sites. Opinions of the Advocates General will be part of CURIA. The APC database tracks the progress of legislative proposals. Under “Policies” on EUROPA, we will begin to see more full texts and hot links.

7. **News from EUROP, the Office for Official Publications**: In 1998, EUROP will debut **EU-Law Service**, a free web service in all eleven languages. In Phase I, EU Law will provide the full text in PDF of new issues of the OJ/L and C, including tables and graphics, *but only the issues for the last 20 days*. In Phase 2 (1998), the *Directory of Community Legislation in Force* will be added. In Phase 3 (late 1998?), the COM docs, treaties, Consolidated texts of legislation, and “other legal texts” will be added. Searching will probably be simple at first, for example, a clickable calendar of OJ issues. EUDOR will likely remain the archive for COM documents and the best source for printing on demand.

8. As for **CELEX**, textual coverage of Parliamentary questions will be added, Sector 1 will be restructured to follow the Amsterdam Treaty, and EUROVOC indexing will be extended to all publications except

those of the Court of Justice. In addition, CELEX on the web will be in all eleven languages, search terms will show as highlighted text, two language versions will be viewable at once, and a search history, expert search modes and profiling, and links to EUDOR documents will be available. It is not clear whether after the debut of EU-Law Service in 1998 there could be charges for CELEX to depositories.

9. As of January, 1998, coverage of the OJ in **EUDOR** will extend back to January, 1990. SGML, and later PDF, are coming. COMs can be searched by COM number and it will be possible to order a subdocument (e.g., an annex), a whole document, and documents in multiple languages.

10. In 1998, a **CD-ROM of the OJ/L and C** will be available. It will be quarterly and cumulative, in single language editions. Depositories may receive the CD for free only if they give up their current format.

*FCIL Newsletter* is published in October, February and May by the **Foreign, Comparative, and International Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries**. The main goal of this Section is “to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on foreign, comparative, and international law, and to represent its members’ interests and concerns within AALL.”

*FCIL Newsletter* is sent free to members of the FCIL SIS. It is available for that “exchange of ideas and information.”

The newsletter can be read on the Word Wide Web at: <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/fcilsis.html>.

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**Deadline for next issue: April 15, 1998**

11. The EUROP representative explained that there are two series of **consolidated texts of legislation**. First, EUROP itself is doing “cut and paste” consolidations to mechanically insert amendments into the legal texts. These consolidations are available on EUDOR (i.e., not free), have no legal value and are listed in a cumulative monthly catalogue. The CONSLEG referred to in CELEX are these texts in EUDOR. Second, the Secretary-General of the Commission is publishing the yellow pamphlets of Consolidated texts that depository libraries have been receiving. These also have no legal value, but they are reportedly checked for “legal and linguistic coherence.” At the back of each yellow pamphlet there is an index of all the consolidated texts listed according to EC sector. The index to the EUROP consolidated texts has nothing at all to do with the yellow consolidated texts published by the Secretary-General. More information is available on EUROPA at [europa.eu.int/comm/sg/consolid/en/accueil.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/sg/consolid/en/accueil.htm).

12. A request is pending to establish an e-mail option for depositories to make claims to the distribution facility.

13. Neville Keery, Head of DG X/A/4, the Unit for Libraries and EDCs, is proposing the establishment of EUROLIB, a website *for depositories*. It is possible that ECLAS, the online catalog of the central library of the European Commission, could be available through the proposed EUROLIB site. (Electronic access to ECLAS is not now available outside of EC institutions, except through the paid Eurobases, to which depositories have access with their CAA password. A CD-ROM of ECLAS is also being discussed, and it was reported that Ellis, the publisher of *EUROCAT*, is considering integrating ECLAS into one of its products.) Participants assured Mr. Keery that American libraries would use ECLAS as a cataloging and verification tool and would respect the fact that EC libraries cannot respond to interlibrary loan requests. The proposed EUROLIB might also provide access to archives of material now on EUROPA (such as the intergovernmental conference materials) and some information related to national implementing legislation.

14. In 1998, DG X, along with DG XIII, expects to issue a green paper on the role of libraries in the Information Society.

15. The decisions of the **Court of Justice**, which are announced at 9 a.m. and on the Internet by noon, are deleted from the Internet after one year, but stay permanently in CELEX. The 1994-95 annual report of the Court has been published, but so far 1996 is available in French only. Subsequent volumes of the *Digest of Case-Law Relating to the European Communities* exist but are not yet in published form. The consolidated version of Series A (to replace the looseleaves) for 1977-90 is still being prepared in German, English, Danish, Italian, and Dutch; only the French is complete.

16. The Commission library staff is now working with EUROP on a project to make cataloging records available at the time of publication of materials, but realization is at least two to three years off.

17. Ian Thomson of the University of Wales, Cardiff, announced that the electronic version of *European Access Plus*, should appear sometime in 1998.

On the **future of depositories** and the nature of the documents that they will receive, Ian Thomson raised several issues: What will shrinking funds and increasing electronic options mean for the quantity and format of documents sent to depositories? Are depositories entitled to all databases free of charge, and should access be available directly to users or only through librarian-mediated searches? What about archives? Can and should EUROP capture the publications of new EU institutions and bodies for distribution to depositories? Should depositories perhaps receive a combination of fewer official materials along with financial support for purchasing secondary sources not published by the EU? Should there be an option to receive only those publications that serve the clientele of the individual depositories? One answer to these questions may be: “Be careful for what you ask (e.g., fewer unwanted free documents) lest you get it.” The management of the depository program within the Commission several times repeated the basic principle that depositories should have “comprehensive collections, well managed.”

## People in the Profession

Question: Which new(ish) FCIL member spent two years in the Peace Corps in the Philippines, clerked for a federal district court judge in Puerto Rico, worked for a New York law firm for a couple of years, and studied law for a semester at the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich?

Answer: Stefanie Weigmann at Boston University's Pappas Law Library.

Stefanie began working at the Pappas Law Library on January 2, 1997 as the reference librarian in charge of international and foreign reference. In addition to regular reference duties, all foreign and international questions are routed to her. She's been learning on her feet, and so was pleased to take advantage of the International Organizations course offered last summer by Jeanne Rehberg and Jean Davis. At their suggestion, Stefanie also went to the New York Bar Association International Law Weekend.

In addition to fielding foreign and international legal reference questions, this past fall Stefanie gave a series of lectures over 8 weeks on various areas of foreign and international legal research. She is planning to turn this into a collection of research guides and bibliographies on the Pappas webpage.

Before starting law school, Stefanie spent two years in the Peace Corps in the Philippines. She graduated from the University of Michigan School of Law. She split the next four years between clerking for a federal district court judge in Puerto Rico and working for a New York law firm. When it came time to choose a library school, she returned to the University of Michigan because she knew the librarians at the University of Michigan Law Library and had particularly enjoyed working there as a law student.

## Researching International Law Electronically

*Jill McC. Watson*

*Director of Library and Information Services, The American Society of International Law*

International law on the web is exploding. Of course, this is true of almost any subject area, but it is a particularly welcome development in this one. While research in U.S. law is distinguished by a huge body of highly organized and accessible materials, international law has long posed a challenge to scholars, practitioners, diplomats and others.

The library I work in -- at the American Society of International Law in Washington, D.C. -- has always been a great place to research this diffuse and scattered subject, largely because a wide variety of highly specialized materials are available in one small place. This has now changed dramatically.

Thanks to the activities of international organizations

and major universities around the world, the researcher now is offered an astronomically *wider* variety of those highly specialized materials, available in an even *smaller* place (the screen of the computer). All you have to do is understand what it is and where to find it!

In the vast, as yet unorganized world of the World Wide Web this can be harder than the innocent librarian or researcher might imagine.

The ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law

With the help of a grant from the Ford Foundation, the American Society of International Law conceived of the idea of building an electronic guide to

these resources that were popping up in all formats - on commercial services such as Lexis and Westlaw, on CD-ROMs, and increasingly (this was in 1995) on something called the Web.

The plan was that in organized chapters on selected subjects, authors would not only explain the nature of researching their particular area, but also offer descriptions and critiques of available electronic formats. Finally, the *Guide* would offer live links to sites on the Internet that were particularly useful. These would be updated on a regular basis, both to insure the viability of the links and to review the content and currency of the chapters.

The *Guide* is being built gradually (it has four chapters so far), but it already serves as a useful tool in demonstrating in an organized fashion the quantity of international law information becoming available on the web.

The four initial chapters of the *Guide* are:

**Human Rights** (Marci Hoffman, University of Minnesota Law School);

**Treaties** (Jill McC. Watson, ASIL)

**The United Nations** (Paul Zarins, Stanford University Libraries)

**Lists, Newsgroups and Other Networks** (Lyonette Louis-Jacques, University of Chicago Law School)

Two new chapters are in preparation - on International Criminal Law (Gail Partin, Dickinson School of Law) and on International Environmental Law (Anne Burnett, University of Georgia School of Law) - and will be ready in early 1998. I will very briefly describe the United Nations and Human Rights sections as examples of how the *ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law* can help identify and locate these materials in the emerging electronic resources world.

### **The United Nations**

The United Nations has done a splendid job of bringing its materials online. It started early and has

pushed hard to keep up the pace. One of the most welcome accomplishments is that of the Office of Legal Affairs in putting on the Internet the 30,000 treaties already published in the 1400+ volumes of the United Nations Treaty Series. So far, these are free to all, but the UN has warned its users that soon there will be a fee for access, unfortunately.

In the United Nations Chapter of the *ASIL Guide*, Paul Zarins provides information on what you can expect to find at the UN site and guidance on how to navigate it. There are links not only to the main UN Home Page, but also to UNCITRAL and UNHCR, to related organizations such as ACUNS and UNA-USA, to other research guides on the UN, and to Model UN web sites, as well as hints on how to research UN Resolutions and more.

### **Human Rights**

Marci Hoffman begins her chapter by briefly outlining the history of human rights law and its foundations in the UN Charter, linking the user to the relevant articles of the Charter as well as to the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Under "Where to Start," she lists (and links to) bibliographic databases and online research guides to print material, as well as periodical indexes.

Under "Primary Sources," links are provided to compilations of human rights documents from a variety of sources - from the UN to the University of Minnesota. Other international organizations such as the Council of Europe, the OAS, the OAU and the OSCE are covered in detail.

A section is devoted to "Humanitarian Law," linking the researcher to the ICRC and other humanitarian sites. The ICRC section is illustrative of the fact that these sites will not only give you the full text of international law instruments, such as the Geneva Conventions, but also much, much more such as addresses and telephone numbers of tracing offices and Red Cross operations by region around the world, not to mention photographs and a research guide to international humanitarian law.

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The Human Rights Chapter of the *Guide* goes on for a total of 23 pages with links and tips on useful sites created by NGOs such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Internet, as well as the more well-regarded university-sponsored sites such as the UN Scholar's Workstation at Yale and DIANA, a network of online human rights resources.

### **Where the Guide Is**

The *Guide* is located on ASIL's web site at <http://www.asil.org/resource>. It is updated about every six months, both to correct changes in links

and URLs and to add new developments in the subject covered.

Knowing that many international law researchers do not have ready access to the Internet but are nonetheless eager to learn of and understand developments in the electronic information world, ASIL has published a paper version of the *Guide*. Entitled *ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law*, it is No. 13 (January, 1998) of the series *ASIL Bulletin* and can be purchased from ASIL.

## **AALL/BIALL/CALL Joint Study Institute**

*Monday 7th - Thursday 10th September 1998  
Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge*

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), along with the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL) and the Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL), will co-sponsor the first in a series of biennial joint study institutes. This first AALL/BIALL/CALL Joint Study Institute (JSI) will be held September 7-10, 1998 at the University of Cambridge.

The JSI will focus on the legal systems, law, and practice of law librarianship in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. The inaugural JSI also offers an opportunity to experience the modern legal research environment within the context of an ancient university, rich in its traditions and historic colleges.

Commenting on this co-sponsorship, AALL President Judy Meadows said, "This is a great opportunity for AALL members to learn about British law at

such an affordable price. The global economy is influencing the practice of law, and law librarians will need to know more and more about the legal materials and their application in various foreign countries. Our Joint Study Institutes will be hosted by friendly, helpful colleagues who will make the learning experience extraordinary."

For program, travel and accommodations, registration and contact information, please see the JSI web page at: <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/lawlibrary/jsi/>. Registration deadline is July 31, 1998.

Cambridge has one of the largest law schools in the United Kingdom. Established in 1904, the Squire Law Library is a dependant library of Cambridge University Library which, as a copyright library, maintains one of the United Kingdom's great national research collections. In 1995, the Faculty of Law and the Squire Law Library jointly relocated to a striking new building designed by Sir Norman Foster and Partners.

# Teaching Foreign, Comparative and International Law Working Group, Baltimore Meeting, July 1997

*submitted by Christine Corcos (LSU Law Library)*

We discussed the desirability of concentrating on two major projects for the coming year: 1) updating and adding to the syllabi for legal research courses in foreign, comparative and international law and 2) the necessity of identifying and developing materials for teaching these courses.

## UPDATING AND ADDING TO SYLLABI

New and updated syllabi should be sent in ASCII or WP format to Christine Corcos, LSU Law Center Library, East Campus Drive, Baton Rouge LA 70803-1010. Any teaching materials, including bibliographies, quizzes, sample questions, etc. can also be sent to Professor Corcos.

These materials will be mounted on the LSU Law Library's website for use by the working group and other interested persons.

## CREATING COURSE MATERIALS

We all agreed that each one of us spends a great

deal of time creating and updating materials for our courses. Should we attempt to put together a coherent, easily available core set of materials that students could buy and that could routinely be updated? We briefly discussed volunteering to do chapters or parts of chapters, exercises, and testing materials for such a set of materials. Publication could be handled either in-house at a working group member's own law school, or by a suitable commercial publisher. Corcos approached William S. Hein company at the Convention just to inquire whether such a publication seemed commercially feasible. Initial reaction was cautious but positive.

For the Anaheim meeting we should bring ideas for such a project to the working group, identify whether we seriously want to proceed and then address the following questions: 1) organization 2) authorship (who will take responsibility for writing these materials) and 3) publication (do we proceed in house at some member's school, post these materials in coherent fashion on someone's website or approach a commercial publisher?).

## NEW HORIZONS:

### The 91st AALL Annual Meeting in Anaheim

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) will hold its 91st Annual meeting at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, California, July 11-16, 1998.

The theme for the meeting is "New Horizons," referring to law librarians' constant learning and adapting to ever-changing realities or "horizons," and the opportunities these realities offer. Inspired by this theme, the Annual Meeting Program selection Committee has chosen to focus on four topics throughout the Meeting--Management, Information, Technology, and Law--and each main topic or "horizon" will be addressed by a prestigious plenary speaker.

The meeting's keynote speaker will be John Perry Barlow, co-founder of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, member of the board of directors for the online service The WELL, and lyricist for the Grateful Dead. A respected force in the electronic community, *Yahoo* Magazine has called Barlow "the Thomas Jefferson of the Internet." His knowledge of information technology and its impact on legal information will set a provocative tone for the whole meeting.

General information and a program announcement about the Anaheim meeting can be obtained by contacting the AALL Executive Staff Office at 312/939-4764 or [aallhq@aall.org](mailto:aallhq@aall.org).

## AALL Co-Sponsors 12th Annual ABA Techshow 98

ABA Techshow98, the world's leading technology conference created by lawyers for lawyers, will be held March 26-28, 1998 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers, Chicago, Illinois. This 12th international conference on technology for leading law firms and law-related organizations is presented by the American Bar Association through the Law Practice Management section.

With support from President Judy Meadows, the American Association of Law Libraries is proudly co-sponsoring ABA Techshow 98. Participation in this event resulted from the dedicated effort of Hazel Johnson, long time AALL member and current representative to the ABA Law Practice Management Section.

More than 100 educational sessions will be offered in seven different program tracks from the perspec-

tive of litigation and judicial technologists to that of Internet and Advanced Information Technology specialists. A special hands-on Internet lab will be available along with over 150 exhibition booths.

Keynote speakers include James Barksdale, President and CEO, Netscape; Leroy Richie, Vice-President and General Counsel, Chrysler; and Mike Cowpland, President and CEO, Corel.

Free to the first 1,000 full registrants is the choice of a popular ABA Law Practice Management section technology publication. An early bird discount will be available to those who register before February 27. To register call (847) 384-7741. For further information about ABA Techshow 98, visit [www.techshow.com](http://www.techshow.com) or e-mail [lpm@abanet.org](mailto:lpm@abanet.org).

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