

FCIL Newsletter

Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section
American Association of Law Libraries

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From the Chair

Stephanie Burke Farne, Chair

The days are getting longer, the weather warmer, and the trees greener. As we move into spring, our law librarian thoughts begin to turn toward the AALL Annual Meeting in July, a mere few months away. As you make your plans and set your schedules for St. Louis, there are many wonderful opportunities to learn from, and be a part of, the FCIL-SIS.

Come to FCIL programs: For the first time, FCIL-SIS will present two topical meetings at the AALL Annual Meeting. At the FCIL-SIS Roundtable - Hot Topic in International Law on Sunday July 9 from 2:45 PM - 4 PM, Mark Engsborg and Teresa Miguel will present *Confronting Atrocities: Issues and Resources*. This presentation will focus on the institutions and mechanisms that have been developed and implemented around the world for revealing and confronting atrocities and human rights abuses. Mark and Teresa will discuss issues related to the availability of documents, images, records, and other materials for truth and reconciliation commissions, international courts, tribunals, treaties, news, non-governmental organizations and other sources and where they can be found. Jurisdictions covered will include the United States, Canada, the European Union, Rwanda, East Timor, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Liberia, the former Yugoslavia, and others.

On Tuesday, July 11 from 10:15 AM until 11:30 AM, Lucy Cox will coordinate an FCIL-SIS Forum: *Post-Soviet Law: Sources and Access*. Learn about how

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From the Chair (cont'd)

Russian Federation law can be accessed and researched in a wide variety of publications and formats. This session will cover sources of Russian law emanating from various branches of government. Coverage includes official and unofficial sources, print and electronic formats, Russian and English language material. Librarians who attend will become familiar with this material and be better prepared to deal with reference and research queries dealing with this area of law. Although the session will focus on the legal system of the Russian Federation, some information about other countries in the former territory of the Soviet Union will be provided. Speakers include Lucy Cox, Kevin Gray, Mary Strouse and Jane Williams.

And of course, take advantage of the terrific line up of FCIL-SIS sponsored educational programs this July in St. Louis!

- *Developing Foreign, Comparative and International Law Collections: Sources, Strategies and Techniques* on Sunday, July 9 at 10 AM;
- *Do We Have the Numbers? Empirical Research in Law – International Law as a Case Study* on Monday, July 10 at 9 AM;
- *International Law in the Heartland: Implications for Consular Rights of Foreign Nationals*, also on Monday at 2 PM;
- and *Pioneering Global Health Law: Pandemics, Trends and Research Strategies*, on Tuesday, July 11 at 9 AM.

More information, including locations for these programs as well as the complete list of FCIL sponsored programs, meetings and events, will be available at the FCIL-SIS website (<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/>).

Attend an FCIL committee or interest group meeting: Interested in a particular area of FCIL librarianship? Have a terrific idea for a program proposal for 2007? Want to learn about how other members of the SIS teach? Come to a committee or interest group meeting. All are welcome to attend these meetings. You can see a complete schedule of meetings at http://www.aallnet.org/database/meeting_annual_events.asp If you have questions about a meeting, or are interested in working as part of a committee or interest group and cannot make scheduled time, please feel free to contact the interest group and committee chairs. Their names and contact information are available at: <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/committees.html>

Meet a foreign law librarian: The Schaffer Grant Committee Chair Anne Burnett, along with committee members Barbara Bean and David Gay, are proud to announce the recipient of this year's grant. Hind Al-Helaly has been the Law Library Cataloger and Technical Services Specialist at the Law Library of the Department of Law, American University in Cairo since February 2005.

From the Chair (cont'd)

Before that she worked as a librarian at the Al-Ahram newspaper Information Center and the Social Research Center at the American University in Cairo. She has a B.A. in Library Science from Cairo University, a Pre-Master Degree from the Information Technology Section of Cairo University, and is working on her Masters in Library Science at Cairo University where her thesis is on "The Automated Cataloging System in American University in Cairo Libraries." Ms. Al-Helaly brings with her a unique perspective on the tension between the library's goal of providing access to information, and regional traditions of withholding information as a means of holding on to power. Watch the FCIL-SIS website for opportunities to meet Ms. Al-Helaly in St. Louis, including at the "Executive Committee Presents".

Call for Volunteers: Looking for a way to make a small time commitment but help out the FCIL-SIS? Please consider volunteering – for as little as one hour - to staff the FCIL-SIS table in the activities area to answer questions about the FCIL-SIS, keep the table stocked with literature and looking neat, and share some of your enthusiasm for FCIL librarianship! If you are interested in learning more, please email me at stephanie.farne@wilmerhale.com.

Time does fly by so quickly – I cannot believe that this is my final From the Chair column. It has been a busy, but fun, year serving FCIL. In the next Newsletter, you will hear from Mary Rumsey, incoming Chair. As I look back, I realize that this year would not have been possible for me without Mary's encouragement,

FCIL Newsletter is published in October, February and May by the Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries. The main goal of this Section is to "serve as a forum for exchange of ideas and information on foreign, comparative and international law, and to represent its members' interests and concerns within AALL." *FCIL Newsletter* is distributed free to members of the FCIL-SIS. YOUR SUBMISSIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

The newsletter can be read on the world wide web at:
<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/newsletter.html>.

For more information about the FCIL-SIS, visit our website at:
<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/>

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From the Chair (cont'd)

assistance and enthusiasm. I know the SIS will be in great hands when Mary takes over as Chair in July. I also want to thank Dennis Sears for all of his assistance, particularly with taking the FCIL election online for the first time. My thanks to Heidi Kuehl for her work on the FCIL-SIS website, Amy Burchfield, our enthusiastic newsletter editor, Anne Burnett, Ellen Schaffer, Mary Strouse, David Gay and Barbara Bean who ensured that all of us would get the opportunity to meet a law librarian from another country through the Schaffer Grant, and also to the many others (too numerous to list here!) who work as part of the committees and interest groups to keep the FCIL-SIS the wonderful resource it is for all of us. And thanks to you all for your continued commitment to, and enthusiasm for, the FCIL-SIS and FCIL librarianship. What a wonderful year this has been!

WELCOME
TO HIND AL-HELALY!!
2006 SCHAFFER GRANT RECIPIENT

Northeast Foreign Law Librarians Group
Presents Meeting on National Foreign Law Cooperative
Collection Development

Submitted by Dan Wade, Convenor, NEFLLCG

7:00 a.m. (7:30 a.m.) Sunday July 9th
Room to be Announced

We will once again meet at the AALL Annual Meeting to discuss national foreign law cooperative collection development. NEFLLCG will report briefly on what has transpired over the past year, and the floor will be open for other subjects. If you would like to put items on the agenda, please contact me at daniel.wade@yale.edu

As is the NEFLLCG custom we will begin with a half-hour social gathering at 7:00a.m. (please bring your own!) before formally beginning the meeting at 7:30a.m.

More details will follow on the FCIL-SIS listserv.

SR-SIS Annual Book Drive

Submitted by Jim Donovan
University of Georgia Law Library



The Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section (SR-SIS) is coordinating the 8th annual children's book drive in St. Louis. The theme this year in the Show Me State is **Show Me the Books!** This year's efforts will benefit two of the most needy schools in the St. Louis area, Central Elementary and Vashon 9th Grade Academy.

The **Wellston School District** was established in 1894 and currently educates 600 students in four facilities, including an early childhood center and the Central Elementary School. Wellston, like many small inner suburbs, was plunged into economic depression and social chaos after the losses of population and declining home values of the post-World War II era. Test scores had declined to such an extent by the 1990s that the State of Missouri was forced to place the district into a form of receivership.

The City of Wellston has made efforts to stabilize its political, commercial and physical infrastructure and attract new residents. They have also consolidated and reorganized the school system with Central Elementary now serving grade levels 1 through 4. Central has slightly less than 200 students and has begun rebuilding the library collection.

Vashon High School is one of a number of schools in the St. Louis City school district that has suffered a plague of financial, political, and severe discipline issues. In January 2006, as part of an immediate effort to create smaller, more manageable student communities, the new superintendent of the city school system took the bold step of removing the current 9th grade class to an off-site facility. The freshman class was relocated to a vacant middle school facility in the downtown area, now known as the Vashon Williams Ninth Grade Academy. The academy's library is in the process of building a collection to support the new program. They are in need of all appropriate materials for 14 - 16 year old students. The small amount of funding provided by the school district has allowed the library to purchase only a few reference titles and some fiction items. Currently they have 594 titles (and 653 copies) in their collection. According to the state, the library should have the following in order to meet minimum

Book Drive (cont'd)

standards: 350 reference titles, 3080 nonfiction titles, and 1530 fiction titles. Think about how you would like to donate this year. It is easier than ever! You can go to Amazon.com to choose from the Book Drive Wish Lists (go to Amazon.com and click on the "Wish List" link and then search for "AALL"). Books appropriate for the Wellston students are listed on the "2006 Elementary School List," and Vashon's preferred titles can be found on the "2006 9th Grade List." Your donation will be shipped directly to the Book Drive Team. Other options include bringing your donation with you to the conference and donating at the SR-SIS table, or sending your donation check made out to AALL to:

Show Me the Books c/o Ann Puckett
University of Georgia Alexander Campbell King Law Library
Herty Drive
Athens, GA 30602-6018
apuckett@uga.edu

Foreign Law Collections in U.S. Libraries Website at the University of Pittsburgh Law School, Barco Law Library

Submitted by Michael Fleckenstein
University of Pittsburgh Barco Law Library

Over the course of the last several months, I have had the opportunity to contribute to the creation of the Foreign Law Collections in U.S. Libraries website (<http://www.law.pitt.edu/library/International/foreigncollections.php>) for the University of Pittsburgh's Barco Law Library. The website, part of the foreign collections database, consists of separate pages devoted to specific countries and jurisdictions around the world and the libraries that own various legal materials for each country located throughout the United States. The website features countries and jurisdictions and the links to libraries that have materials such as the official gazette, legislation (both current and previous versions), case reports, and general treatises on the laws for particular countries.

The compiling of the countries listed and to be listed has been a two-part process.

First, surveys were sent to numerous law libraries throughout the country asking for the types of materials that they had as a part of their collection. These provided the materials for the first batch of pages.

Foreign Law Collections Website, (cont'd)

Second, reference resources were utilized to obtain the names of materials for the countries not specifically earmarked as being part of any one library's collection. The main resource consulted being *Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World* by Thomas H. Reynolds and Arturo A. Flores. After this initial phase was completed, WorldCat was utilized to find the libraries that contained the materials on their shelves or at least were listed in their catalogs.

The most challenging part of this process was trying to locate materials with difficult foreign spellings that do not always translate easily into the WorldCat system. This would also be a factor when double-checking the catalogs of the various libraries obtained from WorldCat to confirm that the same materials did in fact exist as a part of their collections. The best way to remedy this situation, I found, was to utilize the subject headings from the WorldCat records. Searching for a subject heading such as "Law India" was much easier than entering the foreign spelling of the reporters themselves and yielded much better results.

The purpose of this site is not only to provide easy access to foreign law materials at various other institutions; it also can provide extra revenue for libraries that have these materials and are solicited through inter-library loans, links for which are also provided as a part of the information listed along with links to the catalogs and homepages for the libraries themselves. The only time that links are not provided for inter-library loan information is in those instances where there is a required log-on screen for that particular institution's service. However, for the most part, each category contains a link to at least one library that has a link to their inter-library loan office.

If your library collects materials from any countries or jurisdictions that are not a part of the list, please email (Tashbook@law.pitt.edu) the names and the information for the materials you own that fit into the categories listed on the website (<http://www.law.pitt.edu/library/International/foreigncollections.php>).

Centennial ASIL Meeting is Historic with Many Prominent Speakers and a Guaranteed Learning Opportunity for Foreign & International Law Librarians

Submitted by Heidi Frostestad Kuehl

Pritzker Legal Research Center Northwestern University School of Law

The American Society of International Law (ASIL) held its 100th Annual Meeting, "A Just World Under Law," from March 29th to April 1st at the Fairmont in Washington D.C. The meeting had a historic lineup of speakers, including Justice

Centennial ASIL Meeting, (cont'd)

Higgins of the International Court of Justice, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and record attendance by practitioners, scholars, and students from around the world. Perhaps one of my favorite parts of the conference was the opening roundtable among Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Retired Justice O'Connor, Judge Higgins, and ASIL President-Elect José Alvarez (security was tight, but I managed to get seating in the third row after waiting in a long queue of conference attendees while browsing foreign and international book vendors!). This event was moderated by Gwen Ifill, who is the moderator and managing editor of *Washington Week* and Senior Correspondent for "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer," and included debate about the war in Iraq, the U.S.'s obligations under international law and human rights conventions, use of force in an era of new terrorist threats, Bush's foreign policies, governments in the Middle East, the Supreme Court's citation to foreign judgments in recent years, and historical references to post-World War II foreign policy and democratization (*see [transcript of the lecture](#)*). Because of the openness of the debate and coverage of numerous topics by the moderator, it was fun to get a better perspective of Secretary of State Rice's background (she's a Russian foreign policy expert, especially post-World War II) and hear more about Bush's current policies, as well as get the unique perspective of retired Justice O'Connor about the U.S. treatment of international law and, especially, treaty obligations.

I also attended many sessions relating to the extraterritorial application of human rights norms, as this is increasingly a popular discussion after U.S. actions in Guantánamo, and the rise of international criminal tribunals. According to one session, there are more than fifty tribunals and quasi-tribunals today and international arbitration continues to be on the rise. However, with this many international courts and appeals to higher courts, such as the European Court of Human Rights, there are sometimes divergent views on cases with the same facts and an overall lack of universality in the rule of law emerges. Before Thursday evening's lecture, I had a chance to browse the many international law vendors' stands, such as Oxford University Press, Kluwer Law International, and Oceana, and even bumped into fellow FCIL-SIS member Jenny Selby (University of Michigan) before Justice Kennedy's Thursday evening plenary address. The ASIL conference is always such a wonderful way to meet new foreign and international law librarians and see old friends and mentors (I highly recommend it for newcomers!). Even though this session was also extremely full, I managed to get a good seat near the front and enjoyed Kennedy's emotional address to the ASIL membership about genocide and universal obligations. He encouraged civility to further the legal profession and thought

Centennial ASIL Meeting, (cont'd)

that we should lead by example in international institutions. Because he was very generous with his time, he had a chance to reveal many international human rights issues, which have not been resolved or have been ignored by the international community, such as the acts in Darfur, poverty in third-world countries, the AIDS epidemic, and corruption of certain governments. After this session, a group of foreign and international law librarians were fortunate enough to attend a dinner hosted by FCIL librarian Marilyn Raisch (Georgetown) at a delicious Vietnamese restaurant in Georgetown. This was a great chance to chat with everyone and meet new people in our interest group.

To further meet with fellow FCIL law librarians on Friday morning, I attended the breakfast hosted by Kelly Vinopal at ASIL's Tiller House, and we thoroughly enjoyed a lecture on "Preservation and Access: Records of International Criminal Courts" given by Trudy Peterson, who is an archivist for those courts. In addition to talking about her personal experiences with the preservation of materials of five temporary international criminal courts, she created a bibliography of resources on preservation for these archives. She revealed that there are all types of materials that need to be preserved [videotapes, audio, electronic, physical models...] and often the governments are at odds with the UN about access to the information, analysis of potential users, and the national courts' preservation. As she mentioned, communities often want the court records from the criminal proceedings for memorialization purposes and for the explanatory power of the records, as well as proximity to the tribunals and people who might need them most but this requires continual staffing by lawyers and archivists. The rest of Friday's sessions were filled with interesting topics, such as gender issues in international law, international environmental law, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, international trade relations, and the plenary address by Justice Rosalyn Higgins. On Saturday morning, there was also an in-depth session on the judicial enforcement of treaties, which focused on self-execution of treaties and the "Charming Betsy" canon, and a session promoting EISIL given by FCIL-SIS members Marci Hoffman (Berkeley) and Jill Watson for those researching international law outside the United States and working overseas. Overall, the ASIL Centennial conference was a memorable one---numerous opportunities to meet others in our profession, prominent speakers, and excellent lectures and topics for this momentous occasion.

International Law: 100 Ways It Shapes Our Lives (ASIL 2006) – Here are some of my favorite excerpts from this brochure given out at the conference:

Centennial ASIL Meeting, (cont'd)

1. **Having a wider variety of fresh fruits and vegetables to choose from during the winter.** [1994 Marrakesh (or Uruguay Round) Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization]
2. **Knowing that the Feta cheese you buy is from Greece and that the Tequila you buy comes from Mexico.** [1883 Paris Convention for Protection of Industrial Property & the Madrid Arrangement (1891), then GATT of 1947, followed by the Lisbon Agreement (1958) for the Protection of Appellations of Origin]
3. **Making it easier, at airports and other points of entry to the country, to bring home imported goods.** [UN Commission for Trade and Development]
4. **Driving freely and legally in another country.** [1949 UN Convention on International Road Traffic]
5. **Adopting foreign-born children safely and fairly.** [1993 Hague Adoption Convention]

For a complete list, see
[International Law: 100 Ways it Shapes Our Lives](http://www.asil.org/asil100/index.html)
at the ASILwebsite!

<http://www.asil.org/asil100/index.html>



World leading archivist Trudy Huskamp Peterson (at table's end) spoke to an International Law Librarians program sponsored at ASIL on March 31, 2006. Her remarks focused on her work dealing with the preservation of and access to records collected for temporary international criminal courts.

Notes on St. Petersburg

Submitted by Ann Chase
University of Michigan Law Library

Editor's note: To see **pictures** from Ann's trip to St. Petersburg, check out **The Final Pics** at the end of the newsletter.

It can be exciting and intimidating to travel alone to an unfamiliar country – but last summer, in addition to surviving and spending less than I budgeted for, I completed my J.D., had a fabulous time and learned a lot in St. Petersburg. In anticipation of the IALL conference, I'd like to share a few travel tips and highlights from my trip.

First, some general packing tips: (1) Make sure you have enough cash in Rubles to pay for any taxi rides you might need from an international to a domestic terminal at the airport, and/or from the airport to your hotel; (2) Don't over-pack, and use suitcases that have wheels, or a backpack that you can comfortably carry since there may not be luggage carts; (3) Get a guidebook that has some useful Russian phrases to which you can point; (4) Print out maps of the subway system and the city; (5) You'll need comfortable, durable, dark-colored shoes (they'll be dark-colored by the end of the week regardless of what color they start out), an umbrella, and a light jacket suitable for 50 to 60 degree weather; (6) St. Petersburg is a bit infested with gigantic mosquitoes that will still be around in September so bring some insect repellent; (7) If you would like to bring and use any electrical devices, keep in mind that the voltage is different and the electrical outlets are a different shape (two round holes); (8) Bring a few photocopies of your passport and visa because you do need to carry identification with you but should not carry your passport around.

The law school and the Pribaltiyskaya Hotel are both located on Vasiliievsky Ostrov (Island), but the main tourist areas (around Nevsky Prospekt and Gostiny Dvor) are on the other side of the Neva River. The Island has three parallel main streets: Bolshoi, Sredny and Mali (Big, Medium and Small) Prospekts. Bolshoi Prospekt is the closest to the Neva River, and Mali Prospekt is the furthest away. Other streets called Linii (lines) run perpendicular to these. Each line has two numbers, one for each side of the street. For example, 8-9 is one single street. The law school is located near the corner of 22-23 and Bolshoi. I lived at 8-9 and Mali, and walked to the law school every day – about half an hour's journey. The Pribaltiyskaya Hotel is on the western coast of the Island, facing the Gulf of Finland. The nearest metro station is about a ten minute walk away, and there is no metro station near the law school but there will be shuttles from the hotel. There are also trams and trolley-buses that run all over this end of the island.

St. Petersburg, (cont'd)

Some of the main attractions in St. Petersburg (which the locals just call Peter) are the Hermitage, the Mariinsky Theatre, St. Isaac's Cathedral (the one with the gold dome), the Church of Spilled Blood (the colorful one with the onion-shaped domes), the Peter Paul Fortress, boat tours on the canals, shopping in the Gostiny Dvor, Catherine's Palace, and Peterhof. There is plenty of information about all of these sites on the web and any guidebook will discuss them so I'll only say that you should try to visit them all. And don't miss the day trip to the Novgorod Kremlin.

To make an international call from a pay telephone, you will need two different cards: one that you insert into the phone, and another that works like a standard long distance phone card. The phone cards are available in banks, post offices, and some metro station kiosks. The long distance cards are sold in cell phone stores, some record stores, and internet cafes. Major hotels have payphones that accept credit cards instead of this confusing two-card configuration, but the easy way is the expensive way to call.

If you are bringing a laptop and plan to use the internet, remember to bring an Ethernet cable. There is a café called Black and White (the sign says Black and White in English) where you can buy overpriced (but very good) coffee and wireless access, and a few doors down is an Internet café that is more like a computer lab where one can use their computers. This one has a sandwich board out front that says "Internet" in English. These are both located across the street from the metro station on 6-7 near Mali.

Onegin is a French and Russian restaurant near Nevsky Prospekt. It is elegant and contemporary, and at night it transforms into a nightclub where DJ's spin house and techno. The food is great and they have menus in English. Of all the restaurants I went to in St. Petersburg, this was my favorite. Another restaurant I would recommend is Du Nord in the Oktyabrsky Hotel.

Going to a bathhouse can be a great way to relax and get comfy with the Russian experience. Bathhouses have saunas, showers and pools. They are segregated by sex (**М** is for men and **Ж** is for women, by the way—this goes for restrooms too). Big towels are supplied but most people just sit on them. They will have buckets of birch branches for sale, soaking in hot water, that people hit themselves with (venik). Bring flip-flops and soap. At some places private sections are available to rent for the more modest.

St. Petersburg, (cont'd)

Shopping in traditional Russian stores is based on a different model. Instead of the customers picking up what they want and bringing items to the counter, in traditional Russian stores, everything is behind counters or guarded by an attendant. The customer asks the attendant for the item, receives a ticket to bring to the cash register (kassa), pays there and then returns to the attendant with the receipt to pick up the item. For those who do not speak Russian, have someone write down what you want in Russian before you head to the store.

I felt very safe while I was in St. Petersburg because I did most things with at least one other person. I also found that having maps and guidebooks with me everywhere I went, and planning my excursions in detail ahead of time made me much more confident and avoided being lost and confused. Use the same common sense standards that you would in any big city (i.e. do not carry wads of cash with you or documents that you need to exit the country, do not carry a bag that does not close securely, and when on the metro, keep your bag in front). Oh, and it is illegal to take photos in "government" places such as anywhere in the metro, train stations and airports.

Links:

1. St. Petersburg State University, Law Faculty: jurfak.spb.ru
2. Pribaltiyskaya Hotel: www.pribaltiyskaya.com
3. City Map: www.escapetravel.spb.ru/images/map.jpg
4. Subway Map: www.spb.ru/pic/spbmap1.jpg
5. Virtual Tourist: virtualltourist.com
6. Blog by an American in St. Petersburg: megancase.blogspot.com
7. Frommer's Guide: www.frommers.com/destinations/stpetersburgrussia
8. Lonely Planet: www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/europe/russia
9. Let's Go (Eastern Europe): www.letsgo.com/destinations/europe/eastern/

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at achase@umich.edu. See you in St. Petersburg!

Libraries of Prague

Submitted by Julienne Grant
Loyola University School of Law Library, Chicago

Editor's note: To see **pictures** from Julienne's trip to Prague, check out **The Final Pics** at the end of the newsletter.

I am slowly making my way through my travel "wish list." I explored Dublin last summer, and I chose Prague for my 2006 spring break. Prague made my list because so many of my friends had recommended it as a travel destination.

Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, is indeed an exceptionally beautiful city. Its well-preserved medieval architecture and art are stunning, and the city's main square is probably the most spectacular I have seen in Europe. The famous Charles Bridge, which spans the Vltava River and is now pedestrianized, is simply breathtaking. The city is also full of fascinating churches, including St. Vitus' Cathedral, which dates from the 14th century, and the glorious Church of St. Nicholas, where Mozart once played the organ.

During my short stay in Prague, however, I did reserve some time away from the tourist sites, and the terrific shopping opportunities for garnet jewelry. I ventured "off the beaten track" a bit, and visited the three libraries that are discussed in detail below. My library visits were not only educational, but also personally rewarding, as the local librarians I met were extremely gracious and welcoming.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

<http://www.nkp.cz/en/index.php3>

The National Library is part of the Clementinum complex, which was originally a Jesuit university built in the 16th century. The concept of a Czech National Library, however, began when its first director, Karel Rafael Ungar, succeeded in obtaining the first statute on legal deposit in 1781. Since that time, the National Library has had a variety of names, with the most recent coined in 1990 after the 1989 revolution. The position of the National Library as the center of the nation's public library system was defined in the Libraries Act of 2001, which also mandates that the Library retain two deposit copies of Czech publications.

The National Library's collection now numbers over six millions items, including rare manuscripts and books, some of which date back to the 8th century. The National Library also houses the Slavonic Library, which contains a valuable collection of Slav and Slavonic studies literature. The National Library does circulate some of its materials, and the Library loaned out almost 650,000 items in 2004. In that same year, the National Library staff numbered 445, and the Library hosted over a half a million visitors.

Praque, (cont'd)

With such impressive history and statistics, I was surprised that the Library's entrance was rather nondescript. I wasn't actually sure I was in the right place until I found myself at the information desk in the Library's main hall. There, I received permission to take a photo of the main hall with its massive card catalog. Although the Library has an online catalog, its contents include only post-1995 acquisitions. Pre-1995 holdings are listed on catalog cards which have been scanned and are also available online in separate "general" catalogs. The scanned cards cover items published between 1501 and 1995, and the oldest handwritten cards date back to the 18th century. Retrospective conversion is ongoing, but is slow due to inconsistent funding.

The librarian at the information desk also directed me to another desk where I purchased a reader's ticket for the Library's "General Reading Room." The General Reading Room is indeed quite spectacular, and reminded me of its counterpart in Ireland's National Library. Scholars sit in the center of the Room at desks, and the outer walls are filled with shelves of reference books. I walked all the way around the Reading Room's perimeter, and smiled as I saw some familiar English-language reference books mixed in with Czech titles that I could not decipher. The National Library also houses several subject specific reading rooms, although they were not open during the day of my visit.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE LIBRARY

The LIS Library is part of the National Library, and is tucked away in a room on the third floor of the same building. It was a bit of a challenge finding it, but I was rewarded for my efforts. I was truly amazed at the breadth of this collection, which targets local librarians, LIS faculty, and students.

The collection itself contains over 30,000 monographs and 200 serials in the LIS field, including numerous reference works in English. Patrons also have access to a variety of online databases and CD-ROM products, including *LISA PLUS* and *Library Literature*. The scope of the serials collection is impressive, and includes U.S. titles, such as *Computers in Libraries*, *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, and *Public Services Quarterly*. The LIS Library also subscribes to an array of library association publications from around the world. I saw materials, for example, from Australia, Canada, China, France, Ireland, Sri Lanka, Spain, Italy, Scandinavia, Russia, Serbia, the U.K., and the U.S.

The librarian on duty, Eva Mackova, could not have been kinder. Although I don't speak Czech, and her English was somewhat limited, we managed to

Prague, (cont'd)

communicate enough so that I was able to gain a basic understanding of library education, and the profession of librarianship in the Czech Republic. Eva also gave me a beautiful little book, Libraries and Librarianship in the Czech Republic. Published in 2005 in English, the book provides a complete overview of Czech libraries, including a discussion of the transformation of Czech libraries after the 1989 revolution. This title is not listed in WorldCat, so I feel extremely fortunate to have this copy.

According to this book, education for librarians in the Czech Republic is available at special secondary schools and universities, and degrees are available at the bachelor's, master's, and doctorate levels. There are currently individual study programs at six schools, three of which are universities. Charles University in Prague also offers a two-year program for library professionals already working in the field. In 2004, 91% of library employees in the Czech Republic were women, and 9% were men. SKIP, the Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic, has about 1,350 individual and institutional members, and publishes a quarterly bulletin.

BIBLIOTECA CARLOS FUENTES (CARLOS FUENTES LIBRARY)

http://praga.cervantes.es/Biblioteca/direccionbiblio_63_1.htm

The Biblioteca Carlos Fuentes is part of the newly opened Cervantes Institute in Prague. The Cervantes Institute is a global organization, founded by the Spanish government in 1991, to promote Hispanic culture and the Spanish language. There are currently over forty Institutes worldwide, and each has a library. I am a member of the Cervantes Institute in Chicago, and am a frequent patron of its library. I thought it would be fun to visit the Institute's library in Prague, so I contacted the head of the library, José Alberto Antolín Encinas, prior to my trip.

When I arrived at the Cervantes Institute, Alberto kindly gave me a tour of the spectacular new library facility, which is named after the well-known Mexican author, Carlos Fuentes. Located on the top floor of the Institute, the Library is bathed in natural light, and has lovely views of the surrounding neighborhood. Equipment is modern and sleek, and subject areas are clearly marked. The shelves are constructed from a beautiful light-colored wood, and rolling ladders are available to reach high shelves.

The collection itself, which currently totals upwards of 10,000 items, includes books, magazines, newspapers, CDs, DVDs, maps, and even slides. The majority of the collection is in Spanish, although materials in Catalán, Gallegan, Basque,

Praque, (cont'd)

and Czech are also available. Subject emphasis is on the humanities and social sciences, but other disciplines are also represented, including law.

The Biblioteca Carlos Fuentes is open and free to the public, but a library card is required for borrowing and Internet access. Students of the Cervantes Institute receive the card for free, but members of the general public may purchase a card for a small fee. Given this library's beautiful and inviting space, I predict that it will become a popular spot for many residents of Prague.

NOTE: Further information on Czech Libraries is available at:
http://www.knihovny.cz/en_index.php3

References

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Vladimir Soukup, [Eyewitness Travel Guides: Prague](#). (London: Dorling Kindersley, 2005).



See You in St. Louis!

Some key links:

[Annual Meeting Agenda](#)

[Excursions](#)

[Housing](#)

[Workshops & CONELL](#)

FCIL Fun Facts

This Month in FCIL Law

May 6, 1882

Convention for regulating the police of the North Sea fisheries signed. Concluded between Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, and the Netherlands.

May 7, 1946

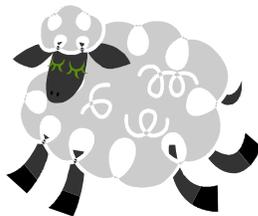
Agreement constituting a Joint Wool Disposals Organization signed. Concluded between United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

May 31, 1995

Botswana, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, and Togo become members of the WTO.

May 5, 2005

Desmond de Silva appointed Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, replacing David Crane.



G'Day, Mate!

FCIL Word Scramble

Here's a hint: the first five are single words (e.g. rotuinoles is resolution). The last five have more than one word (e.g. tinotiduansen is united nations). The answers are elsewhere in the newsletter. Good Luck!

1. atetyr_____
2. ttrobrnaiia_____
3. nioijsdcritu_____
4. emsecasuruoetr_____

FCIL Fun Facts, (cont'd)

- 5. rlfureeo_____
- 6. faolewhtaes_____
- 7. coeiosffdgo_____
- 8. rartslietmel_____
- 9. igoruuhotgs_____
- 10. srrcanamnaouigehnohdsitfeivalutr_____

The Final Pics: St. Petersburg & Prague

Scenes from St. Petersburg



Catherine Palace

Final Pics, (cont'd)



Sculpture in the Hermitage



St. Isaac's Cathedral



Matryoshka Dolls

Final Pics, (cont'd)

Scenes from Prague



View of Prague from the Vltava River



Astronomical Clock



Old Town Square

Word Scramble Key 1. atetyr is treaty 2. ttrobrnaiaa is arbitration 3. nioijsdcritu is jurisdiction 4. emsecasuroetnr is countermeasures 5. rlfureeo is refouler 6. faolewhtaes is law of the sea 7. coeiosffdgo is good offices 8. rartslietmel is trail smelter 9. igoruuhotgs is hugo grotius 10. srccanamnaouigehnohdsitfevialutr is universal decaration of human rights.