

FCIL Newsletter

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

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Issue 1

From the Chair

Mary Rumsey, Chair

And if I play the same three chords,
Will you just yawn and say--

It's all been done
It's all been done
It's all been done before

--Steven Page, Barenaked Ladies

Another October, another Message from the FCIL-SIS Chair. The breathless recounting of programs from the annual meeting; the full-speed-ahead rallying cry for the upcoming year; the vague-yet-sincere invitation to send in your ideas, thoughts, concerns, questions...yes, it's all been done before.

Nonetheless, because many people worked hard for the SIS this year, it should be done again. Thanks to all the members who proposed, coordinated, moderated, and spoke at FCIL programs in St. Louis. Barbara Garavaglia's collection development program, with its panel of FCIL all-stars, was worth its weight in educational gold. Chenglin Liu's International Health Law session kept us on the cutting edge. Maxine Grosshans' Consular Relations program, with its

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Chair	Page 1	Bibliographic Notices on EurLex	Page 20
From the Editor	Page 3	New Member Profiles	Page 21
Minutes of the Business Meeting	Page 4	Research Grants	Page 27
Foreign Law Selectors Meeting	Page 8	Membership News	Page 28
Blogs and Scholarly Communication	Page 9	FCIL Fun Facts	Page 29
Blog Aggregators and Feeds	Page 13	The Final Pics	Page 30

From the Chair (cont'd)

great research component from Barbara Bean, and John Wilson's Empirical Research session, both offered high-quality speakers and information typical of an American Society of International Law meeting. Thanks to David McFadden for pulling off the long-awaited Law Library Exchanges program. Wei Luo bagged perhaps the most distinguished speaker of the conference, Prof. Leila Sadat, whose terrorism lecture rounded out an excellent lineup.

Special thanks to the SIS members who created programs opposite the regular AMPC (Annual Meeting Program Committee) slots: Mark Engsberg and Teresa Miguel, and Mary Strouse and Lucy Cox. These extra efforts paid off in more foreign and international learning opportunities for all of us. We also benefited from the expertise of our Schaffer grantee, Hind Al-Helaly, who spoke on the Egyptian Legal System.

At the New Orleans meeting in July, we hope to use local civil and comparative law talent to bulk up our offerings. Programs on the Napoleonic Code and the Latin civil law tradition are in the works. Other proposed topics include internally displaced persons, an introductory program on finding international law, preserving legal heritage (France), indigenous peoples, international disability law, indigenous government in the Americas, using film to teach Roman law, economic analysis of international law, and legal research training.

Meanwhile, strategic planning has reared its ugly head again. Many FCIL members responded to a call for volunteers to serve on a committee to review and revise our strategic plan. Committee members include Victor Essien (Fordham), Barbara Garavaglia (University of Michigan), Molly Mackey (Rutgers-Newark), Carolyn McKelvey (Covington & Burling's DC office), me, and Dan Wade (Yale). Consider this message your first invitation to let us know your ideas, frustrations, or impressions.

Other volunteer opportunities abound, or at least exist. The Membership Committee needs a new chair. This committee recruits new members and makes new members feel welcome. Its work has usually taken place during the annual meeting, so it's a good slot for someone who likes brief flurries of activity. The Membership Committee could also use a few new members.

Last, AALL has a pot of money available for educational programs outside the annual meeting: http://www.aallnet.org/prodev/grant_program.asp. If anyone

From the Chair (cont'd)

has an interest in developing a web-based educational offering, or even a more traditional presentation, the FCIL-SIS would happily sponsor such a proposal on an FCIL topic.

If you're interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact me at rumse006@umn.edu. And of course, send in your ideas, thoughts, concerns or questions anytime.

From the Editor

Amy Burchfield, Editor

Alas, another *Newsletter* and here I am running late again. What's the excuse this time? Unfortunately, yet another family emergency—this time involving my mother and a nasty piece of medical equipment called a “halo.” But with things under control on the family front, I'm finally able to turn my attention to the business of FCIL.

In this issue, you can get caught up with FCIL-SIS news from various recent meetings, read two articles on blogs, get updated on EurLex, meet two new FCIL librarians and find out the latest news on two others. And just for fun, there's FCIL Fun Facts and the Final Pics.

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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Deadline for next issue is January 15, 2007.

From the Editor (cont'd)

FCIL members are notorious travelers, and now I can count myself among the ranks. In early September, I spent two fabulous weeks in St. Petersburg, Russia. The first part of the trip was devoted to attending the International Association of Law Libraries' (IALL) 25th Annual Course. Over eighty librarians from around the world met to network and learn about Russian law. The programs covered topics including the Russian Constitutional and Arbitrazh courts, federalism and elections, the Bologna process, recent case law from the European Court of Human Rights, and an introduction to the Russian civil law system and administrative law. If you are interested in any of these programs in more detail, please email me for notes.

Like any good conference, the IALL Annual Course wasn't without its fair share of excursions and receptions. We visited Peterhof, the Hermitage and Novgorod, an ancient city famous for monasteries, churches and icons. One of our dinner receptions was held on a boat on the Neva river and another in a restaurant inside the fortress walls of Novgorod!

After all that work, I needed a vacation. So I stayed put and spent another week exploring the beautiful city of St. Petersburg. My top recommendations:

- avoid the enormous crowds in the Hermitage by visiting during non-peak hours
- the Russian Museum is a must for icons *and* Suprematism
- Russian hot chocolate may not be widely known, but it is delicious
- be prepared to be overwhelmed by the sheer quantity of amber jewelry

I've included a few pictures from my trip in the Final Pics section at the end of the *Newsletter*.

Finally, the next *Newsletter* isn't due out until February, so I'd like to take this early opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful holiday season and much happiness in 2007!

Minutes of the Business Meeting

Submitted by Dennis S. Sears, Secretary/Treasurer

Call to order:

Mary Rumsey, FCIL SIS Chair-Elect, welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order. She excused Stephanie Burke Farne, FCIL SIS Chair, who was unable to attend.

Minutes of the Business Meeting (cont'd)

Old Business:

Minutes of 2005 FCIL-SIS Business Meeting, as published in October 2005 *FCIL Newsletter*: The members approved, by unanimous vote, the minutes of the 2005 FCIL SIS Business Meeting, as published in October 2005 *FCIL Newsletter* (Vol. 20, No. 1).

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was presented by Dennis S. Sears. The current balance, as of May 31, 2006, was \$16,319.63. This amount included \$2,105 in donations for the FCIL Schaffer Grant and \$2,000 in donations from Thomson Legal & Regulatory to sponsor the Reception for Attendees from Abroad. The FCIL-SIS also contributed \$500 to the FCIL Schaffer Grant to enable the 2006 recipient to attend AALL.

2006-2007 Election Results: The election of Jonathan A. Franklin, as the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, was announced. Jonathan was excused, because he was unable to attend.

Reports of Interest Groups and Committees:

African Law Interest Group: Daniel L. Wade reported that the FCIL Schaffer Grantee, Hind Al-Helaly, would be speaking at the meeting of the African Law Working Group.

Asian Law Interest Group: The Asian Law Interest Group met and talked about new development in Asian law. About ten members attended the meeting.

CIS and Eastern European Law Interest Group: Kevin P. Gray reported on his hope to revive a Central and East European website that was compiled at the Gonzaga School of Law Library. Because of neglect since his move to Louisiana State University, CEESource has suffered from extensive link rot. The website was broader than law, also linking to sources on business, politics, economics, etc.

Clearinghouse for Internships and International Exchanges: David McFadden reported that his group would meet the next day. He announced his program, entitled "Trading Spaces: International Law Library Exchanges and Visits," also scheduled for the next day.

Minutes of the Business Meeting (cont'd)

Education Committee: Mary Rumsey and Dennis S. Sears reported that the committee had met. A few programs and a workshop had been proposed and individuals had volunteered to draft or assist in drafting these program/workshop proposals. Additional program ideas were solicited and assistance in the drafting of those proposals was offered by the committee co-chairs.

Electronic Issues Group: Marylin J. Raisch reported on the use of blogging as a form of scholarly communication. She also raised the possibility of an FCIL SIS blog to provide a source of "How to" for FCIL research.

FCIL Schaffer Grant Committee: Mary M. Strouse reported on the new name of the Grant. She reported on the idea of two committees for the Grant: the Grant awardee selection committee and a future of the Grant committee, which would focus on soliciting contributions for the Grant and reporting on progress made during giving campaigns. Mary also noted that a reworking of the Grant page still needed to be done. She then recognized a significant contribution by Susan E. Fox to the FCIL Schaffer Grant, but also noted that she would like to see a larger number of contributions in smaller amounts from interested individuals.

Latin American Law Interest Group: Pedro Padilla-Rosa reported on difficulties in collecting Latin American legal materials.

Membership Committee: Lucia Diamond encouraged members to write articles about the FCIL-SIS, including oral histories about the early years before the FCIL- SIS was formed.

Nominations Committee: Jean M. Wenger reported that Jonathan A. Franklin was elected as the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect of the FCIL-SIS.

Publications Committee: It was reported that the newsletter editor was seeking articles and pictures to improve the quality of the newsletter. The newsletter is available both in PDF and HTML. In addition, the revision of the FCIL-SIS brochure was described.

Teaching FCIL Legal Research: It was reported that Lee F. Peoples was seeking materials for short sessions.

Minutes of the Business Meeting, (cont'd)

New Business:

Welcome FCIL Schaffer Grant Recipient: The FCIL Schaffer Grant Recipient, Hind Al-Helaly, was introduced and welcomed.

"Newest FCIL-SIS member" prize from Senior Causus: Yolanda E. Goldberg, Tom H. Reynolds, and Daniel L. Wade awarded a bottle of wine to Sergio Stone.

New Award: Outstanding Service: Mary Rumsey introduced a new award for outstanding volunteer service, consistently contributed. The award was named after its first awardee, Daniel L. Wade. The "2006 Daniel L. Wade FCIL-SIS Outstanding Service Award" was awarded to Daniel L. Wade.

Membership Survey Results: The membership survey results were made available to the membership.

Other new business:

Mary Rumsey expressed her appreciation to the chairs of the committees and interest groups. She then turned over the FCIL-SIS leadership over to herself, the incoming Chair for 2006-2007, given the excused absence of Stephanie Burke Farne, FCIL-SIS Chair for 2005-2006.

Announcements:

Sergio Stone stated an interest among American-Chinese law librarians to fund the attendance of a Chinese law librarian at AALL.

The Northeast Foreign Law Librarians Cooperative Group (NEFLLCG) indicated an interest in becoming an FCIL-SIS interest group.

Adjournment: Mary Rumsey declared the business meeting adjourned.

Foreign Law Selectors Meeting—AALL 2006

Submitted by Dan Wade, Yale Law Library

As a prelude to the much anticipated program "Developing Foreign, Comparative and International Law: Collections, Sources, Strategies, and Techniques" about twenty librarians arose at an early hour to discuss Foreign Law selection.

The following matters were discussed:

1. Dan Wade, Yale Law Library, chaired the meeting and exhorted libraries to provide Linda Tashbook, University of Pittsburgh, with their institution's information on Foreign Law collecting for her website, Foreign Law Collections in U.S. Libraries, <http://www.law.pitt.edu/library/international/foreigncollections.php>.

2. Lyonette Louis-Jacques, University of Chicago, invited people to volunteer to serve as experts in foreign and international law. Her current list of experts appears on the front page of the FCIL-SIS website. She prepared a presentation for the April, 2006 SWALL Meeting, "Jumpstart Your Foreign and International Research: Use People Resources," which can be found at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/Jumpstart.htm>.

3. There was a considerable discussion on the newly created blog for new journals and other items relating to Foreign, Comparative and International Law collection development. Librarians were exhorted to post news of new journals on the blog <http://foreignlawcollections.blogspot.com/>.

4. The Group took a minute to congratulate and acknowledge Mirela Roznovschi's work on the web relating to foreign and international law research. 2006 marks the tenth anniversary of her Guide to Foreign and International Law Legal Databases. http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/foreign_intl/index.html.

Mirela reported that she started GlobalLex in February 2005 and by the end of 2006 there will be guides for close to one hundred jurisdictions on it. Congratulations and thank you, Mirela!

5. Dan Wade presented a brief report from the Northeast Foreign Law Librarians Cooperative Group. He distributed handouts on Thai Law from Thomas Mills at Cornell and information regarding Spanish publishers from Teresa Miguel at Yale.

6. The group decided to request special interest group status in the hope of getting coffee at their meeting or perhaps even a later meeting hour. Dan Wade will pursue this and agreed to chair the 2007 meeting.

Foreign Law Selectors Meeting, (cont'd)

In the course of the week in St. Louis there was considerable discussion regarding the creation of an interest group for Roman Law and its legal tradition. Please contact Lucia Diamond at Berkeley if you are interested.

7. The meeting concluded with Marylin discussing her extensive GlobaLex guide to *Religious Legal Systems: A Brief Guide to Research and its Role in Comparative Law*. In the course of that discussion Dan Wade distributed a few journal titles he thought were of interest.

Those in attendance are to be commended for rising at the early hour and cooperating nationally on Foreign Law collection development. We hope you will consider joining this august group when it meets in New Orleans. If you have items you would like to add to the agenda, please contact daniel.wade@yale.edu.

Blogs and Scholarly Communication in International and Foreign Law: A Reflection and a Report on the Electronic Issues Interest Group Meeting

FCIL-SIS 99th Annual Meeting, AALL, St. Louis, MO July 11, 2006
Marylin Raisch, Chair and International and Foreign Law Librarian
Georgetown Law Center

Blogs are now Essential for FCIL Faculty Service, Reference and Collection Development:

It is first thing in the morning, either at home or at work, and I am opening a MyYahoo page I created to post feeds from blogs, and get access to a calendar that is the successor to my recently deceased PDA, which ran on Palm software. At the top I have the new *Georgetown Law Faculty* blog, http://gulcfac.typepad.com/georgetown_university_law/ and note that a faculty member has linked a copy of his post-*Hamdan*¹ testimony from yesterday before the Senate Armed Services Committee; so I print this off to read later on the train home. (Many law faculty have separate blogs that one can Google). Since

¹ *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*, 548 U.S. ____; 126 S. Ct. 2749; 165 L. Ed. 2d 723 (2006)

Blogs and Scholarly Communication, (cont'd)

his RA asked me the day before about additional commentary on Geneva Conventions 1949 Common Article 3, it is useful to see what he did with the research and where it may be going next.

I move down to *Opinio Juris*, an international law professors' blog, <http://www.opiniojuris.org/> and see three postings of interest, one of which, Roger Alford's "The Philosophical Underpinnings of Human Rights Norms," leads me to the discovery of yet another blog I had not seen before, Mirror of Justice, <http://www.mirrorofjustice.com> and to a reminder of a classic work on law and religion; both are items that I can add to my research guides and send to the faculty blog list. The other post, Julian Ku's "Contract Theory and the Enforcement of International Law" is a preview of a new book by Cambridge University Press, Robert Scott and Paul Stephan *Limiting Leviathan: Contract Theory and the Enforcement of International Law* due out in August. After reading the pithy review I decide that even though we will get a copy automatically on approval, I will need to firm-order a second. Finally, Alford's other post, "Dispatch from Kenya: Enforcing Laws that Clash with Culture" reviews some FGM cases and statistics links I can use for my August presentation to the International Women's Human Rights Clinic, which has a focus on East Africa.

Further down on my list at *PrawfsBlawg*, <http://prawfsblawg.blogs.com/prawfsblawg/> there is a post with the header "new publication" so I dive onto that one with the mouse right away. Just some puffing of a new LSN SSRN article so I ignore it and move down to see a symposium on blogging at *Nexus*, <http://www.nexusjournal.org/volume11.php> to help me with this article. Apparently the blog Jurisdynamics, <http://jurisdynamics.blogspot.com/>, another new blog for me to add to the list, has a focus on the role of blogs in legal scholarship, among other topics. Wow. Its host, Professor Jim Chen, James L. Krusemark Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota and an Associate Dean since 2004, has even written on libraries and the First Amendment law of librarianship. And fortunately there is a lot on legal scholarly blogging at the other blogs I consult quickly: *Law Librarian Blog*,

² Jim Chen, *Mastering Eliot's Paradox: Fostering Cultural Memory in an Age of Illusion and Allusion*, 89 MINN. L. REV. 1361 (2005)

Blogs and Scholarly Communication, (cont'd)

http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/law_librarian_blog/ , *BeSpacific*,
<http://www.bespacific.com/> , and *ResourceShelf*,
<http://www.resourceshelf.com/> , all of which are probably familiar to readers of this article already. Reuters press service (via Yahoo) and the *Jurist World Legal News* <http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/paperchase/> get a glance for anything that might spark research interest or provide context in tracking legal developments.

Finally, *UNPulse*, <http://unhq-appspub-01.un.org/lib/dhlrefweblog.nsf> a service of the UN Dag Hammarskjold Library, was worth a look first thing today (naturally some of the document-oriented posts can wait) owing to announcement of the *Peace and Conflict Review*, <http://www.review.upeace.org/> , an expansion of the Monitor of the same name and one to consider for e-journal cataloging. This is much easier than going to the publications site and trawling for treasures. In the blog format, one can tell at a glance what might be relevant for a legal collection from an international organization's publications. *EULaw*, <http://eulaw.typepad.com/eulawblog/> also posts mini-reviews and is very helpful in separating the better treatises from the ordinary in an area of the legal publishing market that tends to be quite expensive.

In less than an hour on a busy workday, what have I accomplished so far?

- Monitored a faculty member's current research and activity to further a library goal of better faculty partnership in the research process;
- Found new publications for collections development, monographic and serial, without going through a pile of slips;
- Enriched my understanding of an area of reference and teaching for our clinical program and my presentation;
- Started research on the phenomenon of scholarly blogging for this article.

While the week will unfold around more work on each of these areas, I felt that I had done pretty well before breakfast (or at least before my son got up), and I sat back and sipped my coffee just like those annoyingly smug women on TV commercials who have in seconds sold stock, bought a house, and presumably learned of their Nobel Prize nomination, all using some online service. Except this is real. And for anyone who doubts that blogs are here to stay in some form or other and are being taken seriously in legal scholarship, Professor Chen (cited above) notes on his blog:

Blogs and Scholarly Communication, (cont'd)

...that Five days online are enough to persuade me that the nuts, bolts, and deep science of blog production and web page design provide a deep font of knowledge, even for law professors who might be inclined to believe that their chief areas of expertise lie far afield. Herewith a few, quick observations.

First, connectivity means everything in this world of increasing diversity and decreasing time.[link here to his article cited above]... [he then goes on to note a]fascinating study of human factors in web browsing by EyeTrack III, an online news source on multimedia consumer behavior, tackles the old question of whether web pages, including blogs, are better off using headlines only or headlines accompanied by blurbs. Using colorful biometric information such as the "heatmaps" that line the top portion of this post, EyeTrack III reaches these conclusions:

Blurbs encourage reading and scrolling on homepages.

Blurbs boosted overall reading across the entire page.

Average number of clicks per person were identical for headlines-only and headlines + blurbs homepages. People focus primarily on the left third of the text in blurbs.

While it might be best if web page design or blog technology remained under the purview of information specialists, this attention to blogs and the integration of the law librarian blogs into this world could perhaps bring us closer to areas of partnership with faculty on issues of common concern, and lay the groundwork for a complementary division of labor. In any case the best law blogs are serious short works of scholarship or information pieces (similar to *ASIL Insights*, <http://www.asil.org/insights.htm>).

The consensus of the FCIL librarians gathered in St. Louis on July 11th was that we might do well to create an FCIL general blog along with the FCIL Collection Development Blog which we hope to revive and make more active. Heidi Kuehl and Marilyn Raisch agreed to write up this article for the newsletter to include a list of blogs. Lyonette Louis-Jacques passed out a list of foreign law librarians available to help in certain areas and foreign jurisdictions; in addition to a directory the focused topic list for help is posted at the FCIL website as "Jumpstart Your Foreign and International Research: Use People Resources" for the SWLL Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas, April, 2006 (<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/Jumpstart.htm>).

What follows is a list of only some of the best international and foreign blogs *other than those listed above*:

International Corporate Governance, <http://internationalcorpgov.blogspot.com/>
International Economic Law and Policy Blog,
<http://worldtradelaw.typepad.com/ielpblog/>

Grotian Moment, (Saddam Hussein trial but expert board of outstanding scholars), <http://www.law.case.edu/saddamtrial/>

Blogs and Scholarly Communication, (cont'd)

Jus in Bello, (international criminal law),
<http://www.library.law.pace.edu/blogs/jib/>

French law blogs:

Au fil du droit, <http://aufildudroit.over-blog.com/>
Droit administratif, <http://droitadministratif.blogspirit.com/>

German law or language blogs:

Euro Law, <http://eu-law.blogspot.com/>
ElbeBlawg, <http://www.blawg.elbelaw.de/>

China Law Blog, China law for business (in English),
<http://www.chinalawblog.com/>

“Blog Aggregators and Feeds: A More Efficient Way to Manage News and Legal Information” A Reflection on the Electronic Issues Interest Group Meeting

FCIL-SIS 99th Annual Meeting, AALL, St. Louis, MO July 11, 2006
Heidi Frostestad Kuehl, Research and Instructional Services Librarian,
Pritzker Legal Research Center (Northwestern University School of Law)

With the constant barrage of legal information, news, and other niche areas of research support for law professors and students, how is a law librarian to keep up? One very easy way to view news feeds, track blogs, and keep track of current developments in a single step each morning is through a news aggregator. Through an aggregator, you can set up feeds of interest for your research and those interests of the patrons that you serve. Blogs are here to stay and are now vital for current awareness with legal developments. Even more so, they are being praised for liberating the legal profession from its staid

Blog Aggregators and Feeds, (cont'd)

structure of writing about legal developments.¹ The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals has already created an RSS current awareness tool for its users; and, pretty soon, it is inevitable that more courts will start RSS feeds ("Really Simple Syndication) for opinions and arguments to use aggregators.² Even the American Society of International Law has created RSS/XML feeds for its publications, which enables foreign and international law librarians to read about current developments in their preferred aggregator.³

I. How to Pick an Aggregator and Aggregation Defined...

Picking an aggregator can be as easy as choosing a related service to your blog, such as Bloglines, or expanding your phone or e-mail service, such as Google Mobile.⁴ However, if you are not familiar with RSS feeds and the available services, the array of choices and available blogs for feeds might be daunting. To get started, consult a directory and description of available aggregators, such as [newsonfeeds.com](http://www.newsonfeeds.com) (<http://www.newsonfeeds.com/faq/aggregators>). Aggregators like Newsgator, FeedDemon, FeedReader, and Bloglines are some of the most-often used web-based aggregators in the nation; however, as you can see from the above website and descriptions, there are many options for desktop news aggregators. After evaluating the features of each aggregator, you may find that one has more desirable elements than others, such as the folder style aggregation of Bloglines which helps label each of the feeds. Most feeds will automatically give you a short summary of the postings to blogs or the news feature so that you can easily decide whether to click on it and read the whole post or article. More importantly, though, you might be wondering: "What does an aggregator actually do?" An aggregator manages feeds and new postings to blogs that you set up as a member to the service, which is usually free, by aggregating those feeds in a single online location. When you initially set up an

¹ Douglas A. Berman, *Blogs are liberating the profession from dull writing*, NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL (Sept. 11, 2006), available at <http://www.law.com/jsp/nlj/PubArticlePrinterFriendlyNLJ.jsp?id=1157629869043> (last visited 9/15/2006). See also Maria Kantzavelos, *Law-Related Blogging Starting to See a Coming of Age*, CHICAGO LAWYER (Aug. 1, 2006), available at http://www.law.northwestern.edu/depts/communicate/newspages/article_full.cfm?eventid=2769 (last visited 9/14/2006) and Ian Best, *A Collection of Law Review Articles Citing Legal Blogs*, available at <http://3lepiphany.typepad.com/3lepiphany/2006/04/lawrevsciteblog.html> (last visited 9/5/06).

² Gary Price, *All Rise! RSS is Now in Session*, available at <http://www.librarystuff.net/2006/08/all-rise-rss-is-now-in-session.html> (last visited 9/15/2006).

³ ASIL RSS feeds and Resources, available at <http://www.asil.org/rss/index.html> (last visited 9/15/2006).

⁴ See http://directory.google.com/Top/Computers/Internet/On_the_Web/Weblogs/Tools/ and Google Mobile Beta Services, available at <http://www.google.co.uk/mobile/personalized/promo.html> (last visited 9/15/06).

Blog Aggregators and Feeds, (cont'd)

account, for example, the service will ask you to initially set up your feeds for news blogs.⁵ New feeds will appear as soon as they are posted to a news service or blog alternatively, each time you log into the aggregator service.

II. Bloglines: An Example for Setting up Feeds in an Aggregator...

Signing up for Bloglines, which is one of my favorite aggregators, is an easy three-step process after researching blogs and news services that you would like to subscribe to for current events and your research.⁶ First, Bloglines will ask for basic information after you click on "Subscribe" from the homepage (<http://www.bloglines.com/>). This information includes your e-mail address, which will also serve as your login for future use, and your time zone, language, and choosing a password. Next, Bloglines will ask you to subscribe to your feeds by entering the URLs of the RSS/XML feeds on websites or blogs that you have researched. By going to a website, you can usually easily see whether it has an RSS or XML icon on the frontpage : **XML**. For example, on the ASIL website (<http://www.asil.org>), you can prominently see the icon on the homepage:

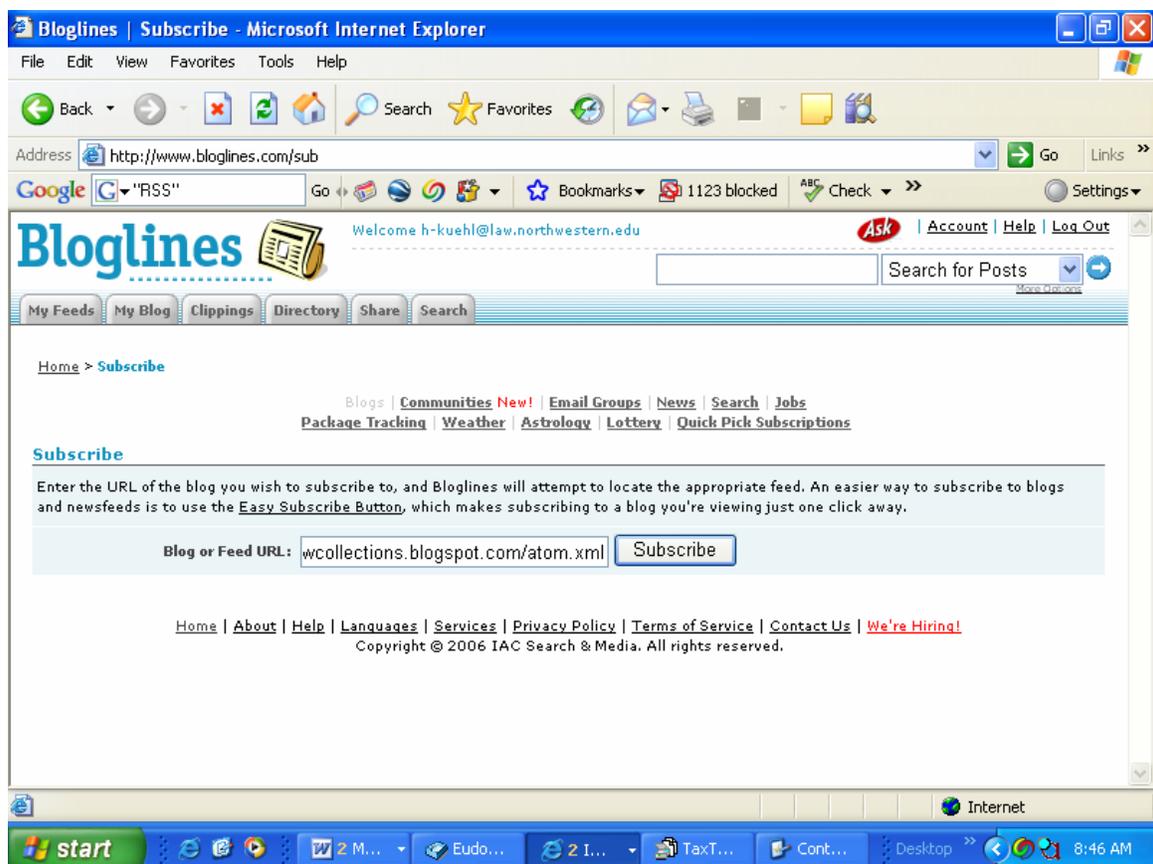


⁵ For a definition of a news aggregator, see, e.g., Metacentric: What is a News Aggregator?, available at <http://www.metacentric.net/FAQ?glossary=news%20aggregator> (last visited 9/15/06).

⁶ For a complete list of legal blogs and legal blogs by subject (including International Law), see http://www.blawg.org/modules.php?name=Web_Links&1_op=viewlink&cid=43 (last visited 9/13/06).

[Blogs Aggregators and Feeds, \(cont'd\)](#)

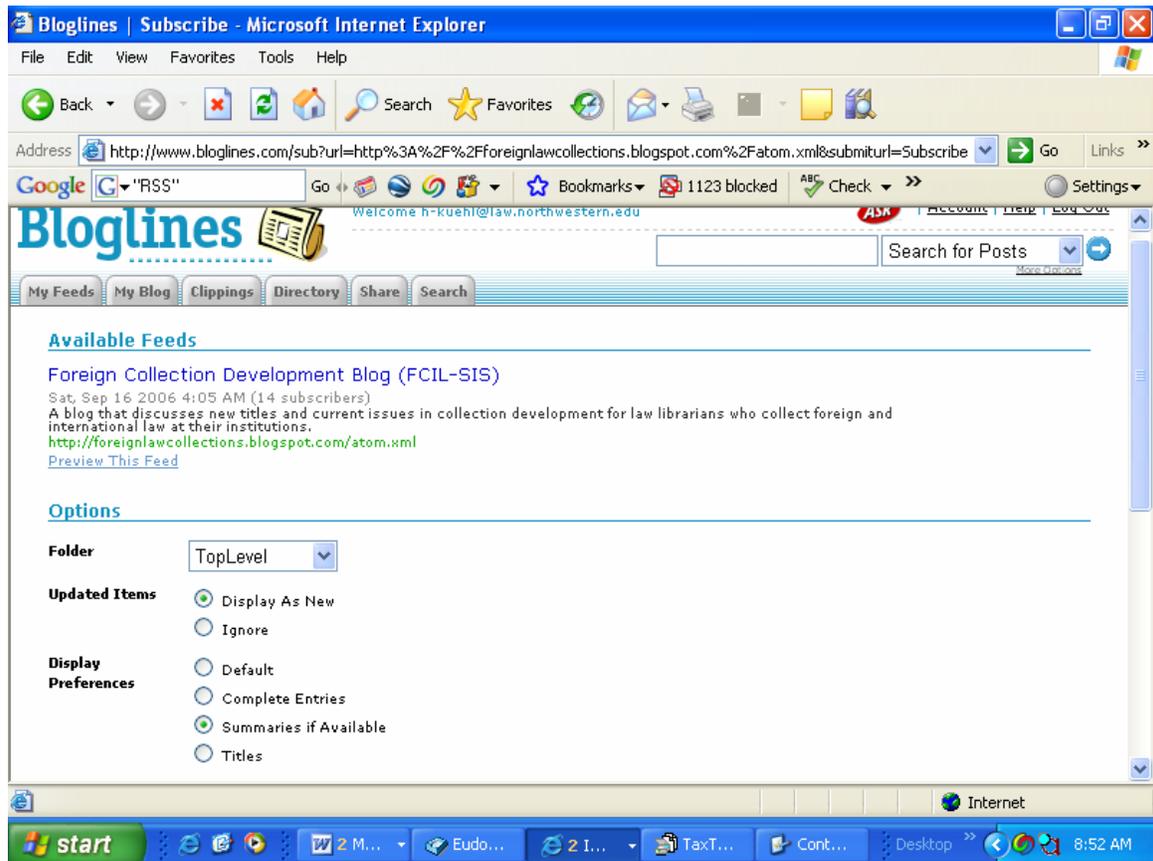
Then, once you are at the website that you would like a new feed from, you can click on the RSS icon and the URL will appear for the feed. For example, for *ASIL Insights*, the RSS feed, which you would then paste into Bloglines, would be: <http://www.asil.org/insights/insightrss.rss> . If you would like feeds from a blog, such as the Foreign Collection Development Blog, you would go to the blog website (<http://foreignlawcollections.blogspot.com/>), click on the RSS icon, and copy the URL for the feed to paste into Bloglines: <http://foreignlawcollections.blogspot.com/atom.xml>. Once you have gathered all of your URLs for the feeds, you will input them into Bloglines at the second screen prompt during the registration process:



In the next screen of Bloglines, it will ask you to customize your feed preferences. If you prefer a new folder for each feed to keep your feeds organized, then you would select folders at the top level. When you gather more feeds, though, you might wish to edit this preference into folders of types of blogs, e.g., law blogs, librarian blogs, or professor blogs. Bloglines also asks you whether you would like to have summaries of the blog or news text in your feed, or the full posting (summaries are preferable if you plan to set up many

Blog Aggregators and Feeds, (cont'd)

feeds or if the blog/news service is very active). After deciding whether you would like the mobile feeds options and public access to your feeds, then you click on "Subscribe" to finish the selection process:



After clicking on "Subscribe" at the bottom of the screen, your process is complete and the feed will be added as a folder in your Bloglines entry screen. When you have new feeds in the morning, they appear as a number of messages or feeds in Bloglines. You also can create several accounts for different purposes, such as collection development, general research, or foreign and international legal research with multiple e-mail address logins (e.g. Gmail, work, or Yahoo accounts). Here is an example of feeds from my general research account, and you can easily add new feeds at any time in the top left-hand corner of Bloglines:

Blog Aggregators and Feeds, (cont'd)

Bloglines | My Feeds (57) - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address <http://www.bloglines.com/myblogs>

Google "RSS" Go

Welcome heidi.frostedstad@marquette.edu

Account | Help | Log Out

Search for Posts

Home > My Feeds

"We track your favorite news, blogs, weather, and classifieds so that you don't have to."

Save Time, Read it Your Way

- View all your subscriptions by clicking on the [My Feeds tab](#)
- Modify display preferences in feed [Options](#)
- View articles by selecting from the links in your [Feeds folder](#)
- Modify individual subscription options using the Edit feature
- [Choose a Notifier](#) for Bloglines alerts
- View Bloglines on your [mobile device](#)
- Read Bloglines in your [favorite language](#)

What interests you?

- Blogs, News, Podcasts and more

start | 2 M... | Eudo... | 2 I... | TaxT... | Cont... | Desktop | 8:56 AM

Finally, to access new feeds from the blogs or news services that you have collected, you click on the link for the title of the feed. For example, when I click on "International Judicial Monitor," I see the following summaries:

Blog Aggregators and Feeds, (cont'd)

If one of the postings looks interesting or relevant for my research needs or the needs of the faculty that I support, then I would click on the full article, newsletter, or blog posting.

III. Conclusion: Happy Aggregating and Information Management!

In a few easy steps, you can tame the wealth of information and minimize the stress of searching on multiple websites for information through an aggregation of news and legal blogs. It is the first thing that I check each morning to stay current with my research and to ensure that I am serving our patrons with current information and the latest legal trends. In addition, it is a great way to find links to recent official documents, such as court decisions, legislation, treaties, or regulations. It is well worth the investment of a day or so to figure out the process for the ready access to information that it provides. Good luck with your aggregating and more efficient information management!

Bibliographic Notices on EurLex: Case Notes

By Edward T. Hart, Acquisitions and Serials Librarian
University of Florida Levin College of Law

Over the last couple of years, access to European Union legal resources via the website EurLex has been undergoing amazing changes. The content includes the publication *Official Journal*, the daily record of EU actions, with coverage in pdf format back to 1998. But even richer databases exist for legislation and case law with complete coverage of all EU legal instruments going back historically to the European Economic Communities. The EurLex editors have developed detailed bibliographic notices for each EU piece of legislation and every case. These notices list the sources cited by the legislation or case, as well as later legislation and cases that have cited the document being reviewed. Links are provided to the sources contained in the EurLex database. These bibliographic notices provide both a legislative history and a cite check of EU legal resources.

In this article, I would like to point out one of the latest additions to the bibliographic notices. For cases heard by the Court of Justice of the European Communities and the Court of First Instance, the notices now include a listing of case notes from legal periodicals, such as the *Common Market Law Review*. This feature was available in EurLex's predecessor database Celex but was not carried over to EurLex for technical reasons. The editors of the bibliographic notices are adding them to current cases and retrospectively to past decisions.

The case notes listings provide citations to the legal periodical articles discussing the case. These case notes are typically good sources for explaining the context of the case and its impact on EU law. Unlike the American practice of law students writing case notes, the ones published in European legal periodicals on EU cases are primarily written by established academic faculty or researchers.

A careful study of bibliographic notices for cases, as well as EU legislation, provides a wealth of knowledge. They give the researcher a good starting point and provide leads to further understanding the aspect(s) of EU law.

Word from the EurLex Help Desk and other EU personnel is to stay tuned in for improved services on EurLex, including improved advance searches, and new content such as national legislation.

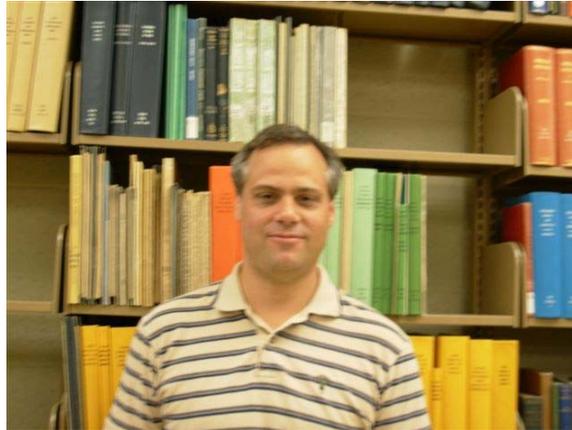
EurLex is available in English at the url <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/en/index.htm>.

New Member Profiles

Submitted by Mary Rumsey

Note: To help introduce newer FCIL-SIS members to the SIS, the *Newsletter* will run occasional profiles. If you would like to submit a profile of a new FCIL librarian, please contact editor Amy Burchfield at aeb48@law.georgetown.edu

New Member Profile: Tom Kimbrough



Tom Kimbrough couldn't be much newer. He officially became an FCIL law librarian on August 14, when he started his first professional library job as the Foreign & International Law Reference Librarian at Southern Methodist University's Underwood Law Library. His earlier career, however, has prepared him well.

Before entering the University of Washington's law librarianship program, Tom was a senior associate attorney at Baker & McKenzie's Hong Kong office. Before that, he was variously an associate attorney at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in Beijing, a foreign law consultant at Kim & Chang (Seoul), and an associate attorney at Cole, Corette & Abrutyn in Washington D.C. Among his other work, Tom represented major Korean conglomerates in establishing joint ventures and wholly-owned subsidiaries in China, Indonesia and Singapore. He is fluent in Korean, which he speaks at home with his wife. He describes his Chinese as "rusty," but hopes to audit an intermediate or advanced class at SMU.

Tom received his law degree at Boalt Hall, where he was an Associate Editor of the *International Tax and Business Lawyer*. His undergraduate degree, in international political science, is from Georgetown's School of Foreign Service.

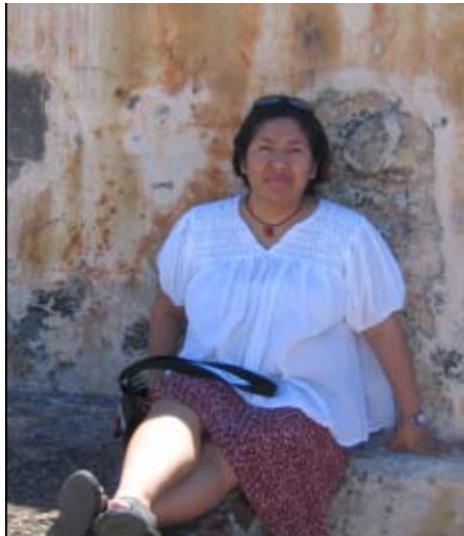
New Member Profiles, (cont'd)

During library school, Tom interned in the Gallagher Law Library; he also worked as a volunteer, and later for pay, at the Snohomish County Law Library. Earlier, he taught English as a second language, as well as prep classes for the SAT and TOEFL exams.

In short, Tom has law practice experience, knowledge of foreign languages, exposure to foreign legal cultures, and teaching and library experience. He has even volunteered for glamorous professional development work such as the Local Arrangements Committee for WestPac's annual meeting last year. Even better, he's already hard at work on the FCIL Schaffer Foreign Librarian Grant Committee. Looks like he's ready to rock!

When Tom isn't working, he likes to travel, and to spend time with his two children (ages three and six). He also enjoys running and soccer, so perhaps there's some volunteer coaching in his future. Look for Tom in New Orleans next summer.

New Member Profile: Rachael Smith



Where are you from originally?

I was born in Guatemala, but grew up mostly in the U.S., where I split my childhood between California and North Carolina. I completed high school and college in California.

New Member Profiles, (cont'd)

Previous jobs?

I have worked security at an auditorium, various retail jobs, interned at a music club, Legal Aid and at a public policy consulting firm. However, I think the job which gave me various tools to work effectively with all kinds of library patrons was when I was an In-Home-Visitor as a social worker. I worked with a team of other social service providers (family and drug/alcohol counselors, RNs and other social workers). I had to learn to rely on my own judgment when I was out in the field but also know when I needed further advice or information. It was very intense work, but it was what first sparked my interest in the law, as most of my cases were the result of a court order.

Are you the first FCIL librarian at Ohio State?

I am not the first FCIL librarian at the Moritz Law Library at Ohio State University.

How did you prepare or train to be an FCIL librarian? (Don't be afraid to say you're just learning on the job—that's what most people do.)

I am learning on the job for the most part. I have found the only way for me to become familiar with a library's collection strengths, organization and emphasis is to work with the collections. Essentially, one must go to the stacks for a given jurisdiction or subject area and get a three dimensional view of what is available as well as review the online catalog.

It helped getting my M.L.I.S. from the University of Washington due to their foreign law collection, especially their Asian law collection (an area I did not know much about and have no language proficiency in). I have also found my undergraduate major, World History, to be particularly useful, for example asking if said country was still part of a colony or newly created, or when an international organization came into being (e.g.. why 1922 is important when looking at Irish legislation, The League of Nations is the predecessor to the U.N., the E.C. is the predecessor to the E.U.).

What are your responsibilities in the library and the law school?

I provide reference on U.S. and foreign, comparative and international law. I also select resources and materials for the FCIL collection. I co-teach, with Carole Hinchcliff, Foreign, Comparative and International Legal Research in the

New Member Profiles, (cont'd)

spring semester. This fall for the first time I will be teaching Introduction to Legal Research. I also monitor the Needs-Offers list for FCIL materials, as well as any reported missing materials the library would like replaced.

Anything interesting or unique about FCIL work at Ohio State, or its collection, or whatever?

The Moritz Law Library at Ohio State University has a fairly extensive FCIL collection which many people do not know about. In particular we have in our U.K. materials 1800s reprints of materials from the 1500s as well as some original 1600s materials. These materials can sometimes be found in electronic format but if you are unfamiliar with who was king or queen at a certain date the ability to look at the print is invaluable. This is true because many reprints of earlier material chose to edit the original materials leaving out what may be key information (e.g., the case refers to the maiden name of said person who is now litigating using a name from a current second marriage).

Whose FCIL research questions/needs do you address (e.g., students, profs, local attorneys, pro se patrons)?

Professors' research questions/needs come first in an academic setting. I do work with students a lot, especially with students who are writing seminar papers. Part of what I do is help them limit their topic to something which can be realistically done in a given time period (e.g. "comparing history of suffrage codes for Europe, the U.S. and Caribbean", to "suffrage for women in France, New Mexico and Belize in the 20th century").

Since we are the only large university in Columbus we do get some local attorneys who are looking for various materials, such as how to serve someone in Thailand or which regulation governs architects' licenses in Panama. I have yet to get a pro se patron who is looking for international materials; they generally want U.S. materials which keeps me up on my U.S. and Ohio law. (I did have one pro se who was contesting his grades at OSU and wondered if there were any U.N. regulations which would govern. I suggested that the student handbook might be the better place to start; the patron indicated he had already looked there and had found nothing to help his case. I then suggested that maybe Ohio law would be a better place to start, he seemed a little happier with that suggestion.)

New Member Profiles, (cont'd)

What are the aspects of your job you like the most?

I like new questions where I am unfamiliar with the jurisdiction or area of the law. As nerdy as it sounds, I really love learning something new every day. Since I have to work outside of my comfort zone I constantly have to learn new search techniques and be willing to ask for help once I have hit a wall. I think this helps all my library duties as it is easy to get stuck in a rut sometimes and with FCIL I have to be creative, which translates into new ways of thinking how to approach some of my non-FCIL librarian duties.

What do you like the least?

Right now I find it difficult doing long-term planning for projects. I think there is a myth that librarians sit in their offices surrounded by a completely organized and sequential world. This has not been my experience so far: I never know when a big faculty project will come in, when the next large batch of slips in print or electronic format will need to be reviewed, or when a student will come in with that desperate look after having tried various research strategies to find something which may or may not be findable (e.g. an official translation). I am hopeful as I gain more experience I will get better at figuring out how to stay on focus for long term projects

What do you find the most difficult part of FCIL research?

Since many of the FCIL materials (especially the older/rarer materials) are not online or not very complete in an online catalog, sometimes I have to obtain interlibrary loan materials and hope I have asked for the right materials. This can be thrilling when my investigative work was on target. But when my deductions are not correct it generally means I have to go back to square one. I try to avoid these failures by asking/begging/pleading/promising my first born, a law librarian elsewhere to pull the materials and see if the information I am looking for is in what I will request.

Translations are a constant issue, especially if the materials are hot off the press, such as the recent rulings on the Mexican elections. I could find the cases but no translations, and could only hope that maybe someone would translate these materials sooner rather than later.

Finally, having to provide a short and concise background for the research I have completed can be difficult, especially if one does not know if the person who requested the material is familiar with the subject/jurisdiction/organization. How do I present all of Mexico's revolutionary history in a paragraph or indicate that

New Member Profiles, (cont'd)

the use of particular geographic terms (like Eastern Europe) can be very political. What does one include in Eastern Europe (at a given date, geo-political affiliation, or for a coherent survey)?

Do you read/speak any foreign languages?

I am fluent in Spanish and can read and write it. I can read Italian and can get through French with the help of a good legal dictionary. I could once read Hindi and speak it at a very basic level. I have lost most of my Hindi (which I learned when I spent nine months on an education abroad program in India), as I never use it.

What are your research interests (if any)?

I am interested in pretty much everything. I find intellectual property and copyright issues to be really interesting as they impact so many areas of law, such as art law and cultural property. I am also interested in human rights and indigenous rights and how they complement and conflict with each other. There are now major debates centering on these issues, and I am interested in finding compromises or solutions that would help both sides. Finally, I am interested in how the digital divide impacts all parts of information (i.e. access, ownership, preservation, how to creatively deal with changes in technology), what librarians can do about it, and what are some ways to really utilize changes in the availability of resources.

Hobbies?

I love to travel. I have been to the U.K, Western Europe, Central America, and India. However, there are still so many parts of the world I would love to see. I also like to paint, which I have let lapse. I love music and would like to pick up my guitar again and go to more concerts, both at large and small venues. Oddly, since I started librarian education and the profession I have stopped reading, but I want to get back to reading, especially fiction and murder mysteries. I have started to write my own murder mysteries, just because one of us should start the urban myth of someone getting squished in the compact shelving, and expand on the mystery of how reference librarians really do know everything!

New Member Profiles, (cont'd)

Anything else you think might interest other FCIL members or give them a sense of who you are?

As I am so new to the field I am very open to advice and receptive to guidance. I have learned so much from my interviews with fellow law librarians and other FCIL librarians. As silly as it sounds I really do love this work, but I still have a lot of questions and would like guidance from more experienced FCIL librarians on available opportunities for gaining more knowledge and ways I can contribute to the field.

AALL/Aspen Offers Research Grants



The AALL Research Committee is accepting applications for research grants up to \$1,850 from the AALL/Aspen Publishers Grant Program. The deadline for application is **November 27, 2006**.

The committee looks to award one or more grants in the fall of 2006 to library professionals who wish to conduct research that supports the research and scholarly agenda of the profession of law librarianship. The grant program funds small or large research projects that create, disseminate, or otherwise use legal and law-related information as their focus. Projects may range from the historical (indexes, legislative histories, or bibliographies) to the theoretical (trends in cataloging and publishing) to the practical (models for collection, personnel, or infrastructure management). The AALL Research Agenda offers suggestions for possible research, however, research projects are not limited to those described in the agenda. To review AALL's Research Agenda, please visit <http://www.aallnet.org/committee/research/agenda.asp>

The AALL/Aspen Publishers Grant Program was established in 1996 with a generous contribution of \$50,000 from Aspen Publishers, a New York based legal publisher. Aspen Publishers considers its contribution as an investment in research that will examine the role of librarians, researchers, and legal information providers and will yield results to which publishers can respond.

Research Grants, (cont'd)

Aspen's goal is to sponsor research that will have a practical impact on the law library profession and inspire products and changes in the marketplace.

Grants will be awarded and announced in December. Allocation of the research grants will be at the sole discretion of the AALL Research Committee.

For the grant application and complete guidelines, please visit http://www.aallnet.org/about/grant_application.asp. For more information, please contact Jean Callihan, chair of the AALL Research Committee, at jc374@cornell.edu.

Membership News

Roy L. Sturgeon accepted a job offer to be the first-ever Foreign and International Law Librarian at Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center in Long Island, New York (one-hour away from New York City). The website is <http://www.tourolaw.edu/>. He started work on September 25 and will be in charge of maintaining and expanding Touro's foreign and international law collection and services. Also, Touro has a month-long summer program in China. Classes are taught in Xiamen and Hong Kong and students will be able to visit Shanghai, Xian, and Beijing. Because of his recent legal education at Tsinghua University in Beijing, he might teach Chinese law classes in this program either next summer or the summer of 2008 (right before the Beijing Olympics start). It's a great opportunity for him. Roy will live and work back in the New York City area and might even get experience teaching Chinese law in China. Roy considers himself very, very lucky.

Molly Brownfield is the newest Reference Librarian at Rutgers Law Library in Newark. Molly received her M.S.I.S. from the University of Texas School of Information and in her capacity as a reference librarian at UT's Tarlton Law Library she created an outline for legal research on French law. Molly's J.D. is from the University of Minnesota Law School and she clerked for the Attorney General of Minnesota. She is admitted to the Illinois Bar.

FCIL Fun Facts

This Month in FCIL Law

October 24, 1648

Treaty of peace of Münster (Peace of Westphalia) Concluded between France and the Holy Roman Empire, as principal parties, and their allies. Ends the Thirty Years' War.

October 24, 1945

The following countries become members of the United Nations: Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Haiti, Iran, Lebanon, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Phillipines, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the United States.

October 4, 1988

China ratifies the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

October 3, 2005

European Union accession negotiations open with Turkey and Croatia.

Code of Hammurabi

The Code of Hammurabi—one of the earliest extant set of laws in the world, created in approximately 1780 B.C.—was quite strict on many matters. All of the following offenses resulted in the offender being put to death:

- ◆ Allowing a slave to escape
- ◆ Kidnapping the infant son of a free man
- ◆ Receiving stolen property
- ◆ Stealing an ox or sheep and not having the money to repay the owner for it
- ◆ Stealing an item from a person's house while the house is on fire (the offender is cast into the fire)
- ◆ Breaking and entering
- ◆ Falsely accusing someone of sorcery (and the wrongly accused person claims possession of the accuser's house)

Source: Yousef Danesh-Khoshboo, *The Civilization of Law: A Commentary on the Laws of Hammurabi and Magna Carta* (Vande Vere Publishing: Berrien Spring, MI, 1991)

The Final Pics

AALL 2006—St. Louis



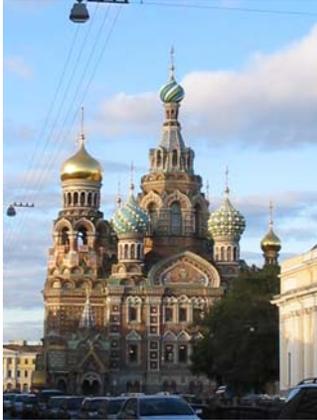
Victor Essien, Mary Rumsey, Dan Wade, Mirela Roznovschi, Ken Rudolf



Ellen Schaffer and Hind Al-Helaly

The Final Pics, (cont'd)

IALL 2006—St. Petersburg & Novgorod



Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood, St. Petersburg



Amy Burchfield in Novgorod



Amy Burchfield and Russian cat