

FCIL Newsletter

Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section

From the Chair

Jonathan Franklin

As the Annual Meeting approaches, it is time to recognize the tremendous efforts of those who proposed, coordinated, and will be speaking at upcoming programs. Thanks to their efforts, we have a great slate of programs to offer the Association's membership. Along with those who worked on programs, there are also those members who have worked on numerous interest groups that will be meeting in Portland. Through the efforts of Dan Wade, we have added a second hour of the Foreign Selectors Interest Group (see handy meeting guide on page 3). In addition, there has been discussion of adding a Ro-

man Law Interest Group for 2009's Annual Meeting. None of this would have been possible without the contributions of our members.

As the year wanes, there are almost too many people to thank for various efforts. Thanks to the Executive Board of Mary Rumsey, Dennis Sears, and Marilyn Raisch, who worked as a team to make the SIS better. Thanks to Heidi Kuehl for her work on the website, Mabel Shaw for her work on the newsletter, and Laura Cadra for coordinating the SIS table in the exhibit hall. Thanks to Tom Kimbrough, Chris O'Byrne, and Teresa Miguel for serving on the Schaffer Grant Selection Committee, and

to Dan Wade for chairing the Schaffer Grant Fundraising Committee. Mary Strouse, Barbara Bean, and Ellen Schaffer have been invaluable in working through some of the Schaffer Grant issues.



The AALL Annual Meeting is July 12-15, 2008.

I hope to see all of you in Portland. It promises to be an exciting meeting jam packed with FCIL content, from programs to interest groups to special presentations. The FCIL-SIS is an amazing organization. Very smart and kind people have

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Welcome to Leanne Cummings from Down Under

Tom Kimbrough

Leanne Cummings, National Library Manager at the Deacons Law Firm in Brisbane, Australia, has been selected as this year's winner of the FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Librarians.



Leanne Cummings

Ms. Cummings' responsibilities include directing the research services of a major international law

firm with more than 900 lawyers across Australia and Asia. Prior to her employment at Deacons she was the Library Manager for Queensland Police Service.

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Upcoming Meetings:

- 2008 Joint Spring Institute, "Harmonization and Confrontation: Integrating Foreign and International Law into the American Legal System," June 25-28, 2008, in Washington, DC.
- ALA Annual Meeting, June 26-July 1, 2008 in Anaheim, CA.
- AALL Annual Meeting, "Energize, Explore, Evolve," July 12-15, 2008 in Portland, OR.
- IFLA Annual Meeting, "Libraries without borders: Navigating towards global understanding," August 10-14, 2008 in Quebec, Canada.

Handy Conference Planner

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Foreign Collections Database—Update

Linda Tashbook

Database Offline

This past December, when my law school very quickly switched its Web presence to an off-site server and re-designed the entire look of the Web site, I had to pull down the Foreign Collections Database. This database was a rudimentary compilation of tables showing which U.S. law libraries held fundamental primary foreign law materials. Some of you may recall my survey of FCIL-SIS members to collect the initial information for the project. After that, a library assistant and I went through Reynolds & Flores's [Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Legislation for Jurisdictions of the World](#) looking for the proper names of foreign law sources. Then we checked in WorldCat to see which libraries owned each source.

Low Usage

Despite all of this careful work and my

“I now wonder what would make a new version of the database better for you or whether I shouldn't even replace it.”

sincere belief that this would be a much-needed union list, the database never really got much use in its three-plus years online. Since replacing it last winter with a simple “call me for the answer to your question” page, I've only had two inquiries. I now wonder what would make a new version of the database better for you or whether I shouldn't even replace it at all.

User Input Needed

If you ever used the database and were grateful to have it available or if you never used it but you want to have such a resource for future reference,

will you let me know? As long as you're getting in touch with me anyway, will you tell me how you want the information presented. Would you like to see a country's entire source list at once? Do you want to sort by fields like “statutory codes” instead of searching only on a per-country basis? I realize that many libraries collect in subject categories, rather than jurisdictions, should we try to identify those topic specialties in this database? Dan Wade has wisely recommended adding the titles of major treatises for each country. I would like to include that if I rebuild the database.

Contact Info

Thank you, in advance, for any thoughts you care to send me about this prospective project. You may contact me at tashbook@pitt.edu or 412/648-1303.

Reference Stumper: Locating English Medieval Cases

A faculty member needed a case with the citation for Year Book, 42 Edward III, p.6, pl. 19 (42nd Regnal year). I had no luck with our index to the English reports and decided to try Iyo Louis-Jacque's "[Jumpstart Your Foreign, Comparative, and International Research: Use People Resources](#)" resource list. I emailed Elizabeth Wells at Oxford who was listed first under the UK jurisdiction list. Sure enough, less than 3 hours later, I had my information and the resource we used was from a faculty member at Boston University. I met a "Seipp" number! The faculty member had created a conversion utility that enabled me to get from his site a pdf of the pages from the cases my faculty member needed. ~ submitted by David Gay, University of Tulsa Law Library.

From the editor: the database that David mentions can be found at <http://www.bu.edu/law/seipp/index.html> and is very cool. Simply fill in the blanks for regnal year and plea number, and then select Edward III from the pull-down menu. The first result connected to a pdf of page six. There are currently 6000 cases from 1399 to 1535 indexed.

Reference stumper from last issue: Jennifer Allison from Pepperdine University Law Library located a letter from the court indicating the details of the interim measures. The letter can be found on the website (http://www.mka-london.co.uk/documents/ronald_60B12.pdf) of the legal firm representing Aleksanyan and they have other useful documents from his case.

Chile Exchange Program

Julienne Grant

I was fortunate enough to participate in the Loyola Chicago School of Law's "Legal Systems in the Americas" seminar this spring. The seminar, which is team-taught by three Loyola professors, is part of the law school's ongoing exchange program with the Universidad Alberto Hurtado (UAH), a Jesuit university in Santiago, Chile. Four students and a professor from UAH visit Loyola each fall, and the Loyola seminar class travels to Santiago during spring break. I have been assisting students and professors on both ends of the exchange for the past three years, which led to my interest in participating in this year's course.

Chilean Law Introduction

Along with the spring break trip, the 2008 course featured two UAH guest lecturers, who each spent several weeks in Chicago earlier in the year. The UAH professors spoke separately to the class about various aspects of Chilean law, including criminal procedure reform, taxation, and the civil law tradition. One of the professors also guest lectured in my foreign and international legal research course where he discussed legal research in Chile. The UAH professors' talks collectively provided an invaluable introduction to Chilean law for those of us who travelled to Santiago over spring break.

While in Santiago, I accompanied the class to the U.S. Embassy, and to the Centro de Justicia building where we sat in on a pre-trial hearing, talked to the sitting judge, and visited the detention center. We also heard several lectures at the UAH campus, includ-



View of Valparaíso from Neruda's house, La Sebastiana

ing a talk on Chilean business law, as well as a detailed description of Chilean legal education. Other features of the Santiago trip were a tour of the Palacio de la Moneda, Chile's Presidential Palace, and a visit to an organic vineyard. Students on the trip also visited Carey y Cía., the largest law firm in Chile.

Library Visits

During my stay in Santiago, I also had a chance to visit several libraries—the UAH main library, and the general and post-graduate law libraries at the University of Chile. At the UAH main library, I had a tour, and talked with Library Director Patricia Ortiz about Chilean libraries and the profession of librarianship in Chile. At the University of Chile, I met with Library Directors Nora Carrión and Mirtha Muñoz, and also had an opportunity to tour their

beautiful facilities. I found these professional exchanges to be one of the highlights of my time in Chile, and I am very grateful to the UAH professors who helped arrange the meetings.

Tourist Time

Along with the professional part of the trip, I had some time on my own to explore and sightsee. As a long-time student of the Spanish language and Hispanic literature, it had always been my dream to see the three Pablo Neruda houses in Chile. Luckily, I had time to fulfill that dream, and saw all three—La Chascona in Santiago, La Sebastiana in Valparaíso, and the most famous in Isla Negra. The Valparaíso and Isla Negra homes are situated on the Chilean coast in

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More on Mumbai

Margaret G. Arnold

The International Association of Law Libraries held a highly successful 26th Annual Course in International Law Librarianship in Mumbai, India this past December. The speakers were outstanding, and the conference social events provided attendees with an opportunity to get to know Mumbai, formerly known as “Bombay.” The program began on Saturday, December 1st with an opening ceremony at the conference venue, the National Center for the Performing Arts in Mumbai. The ceremony included an inaugural address by the Honorable Mr. Justice Y.V. Chandrachud, former Chief Justice of India, as well as a welcome address by the President of IALL, Jules Winterton of the University of London. Delegates were also treated to a candle lighting ceremony and a delightful cultural program of folk and Bollywood dances of India.

The formal course sessions which began on Sunday, December 2nd were well worth attending. The Honorable Mr. Justice B.N. Srikrishna, retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India, provided attendees with an introduction to the Indian legal system and an opportunity for compara-

tive analysis of legal systems. The session on Women’s Rights, by Women’s Rights Activist Flavia Agnes, provided some particularly poignant information about the current status of women in India and the slow progress in achieving rights for women. Likewise, the session on human rights was filled with many sto-

Our visit to Mumbai did not go unnoticed. “The Times of India” ran two articles about the law librarians’ visit to India.

ries of human rights challenges facing the citizens of India today. While great progress has been made in passing laws to improve Indian society, the implementation of these laws has not been as successful. As a result, the courts are now becoming more heavily involved in the follow-through and enforcement of laws. Other sessions that followed in the coming days included topical sessions on intellectual property, global environmental law, international trade, and constitutional and administrative law.

Part of the focus of the program was

on law libraries and the publication of legal information in India. As in other countries, databases proliferate and the building of websites to make legal information widely available to the public is of primary importance. The Indian Legal Information Institute (INDLII) is taking the lead on making Indian cases and other legal materials available on the web. Their website is www.indlii.org. Other websites that contain Indian cases include www.supremecourtfindia.nic.in and www.indiancourts.nic.in.

Not all of our time was devoted to work. IALL delegates enjoyed some wonderful dinners at fine Indian restaurants and took a Mumbai city tour by coach. Our well-informed guides provided us with a tremendous amount of historical, religious and social information about the Mumbai community as we passed notable sights of old Bombay which means “beautiful bay” in Portuguese. Of most interest was the Dobi Ghat, an outdoor laundry covering many acres and unlike any laundry you have ever seen! Additional stops included a visit to the Ghandi museum and a stop at a Hindu Jain Temple. Other sightseeing trips included visits to

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Chile exchange program continued from page 3

absolutely spectacular settings. I also got to the resort towns of Viña del Mar and Reñaca, part of the “Chilean Riviera,” and had fun soaking my feet in the bitterly cold, but beautiful, Pacific Ocean. Santiago also had some

noteworthy attractions, including the famous Mercado Central, and the wonderful Museum of Pre-Colombian Art. My entire experience in Chile was extremely gratifying, great publicity for our law library, and a wonderful exam-

ple of faculty-librarian cooperation. I am looking forward to continued involvement with the exchange program—now with a greater knowledge base and understanding of the Chilean legal system. ●

FCIL Relevant Programs in Portland

Educational

- ◇ A4: International Law and the Evolving Knowledge Society on Sunday, July 13, 1:30pm.
- ◇ FCIL-SIS Executive Committee Presentation from our Schaffer Grant Recipient on Sunday, July 13, 5:30pm.
- ◇ D5: One War We Are Losing Now: The Law and Politics of Human Trafficking on Monday, July 14 10:45am.
- ◇ F3: Acquiring Content in a Global Marketplace: Exploring Vendor Relations Across Borders on Monday, July 14, 10:45am.

FCIL Business & Interest Groups

Sunday, July 13th:

- ◇ Internships & International Exchanges Committee, 12:00pm.
- ◇ Membership Committee, 3:00pm

- ◇ Publications/Public Relations Committee, 3:00pm.
- ◇ Strategic Plan Committee, 4:15pm
- ◇ Foreign Selectors Interest Group, 4:15pm.
- ◇ Business Meeting, 5:30pm.
- ◇ FCIL & IALL Joint Reception, 6:30pm.
- ◇ Clearinghouse for Internships & International Personnel Exchanges Interest Group, 4:15pm.

Monday, July 14th:

- ◇ CIS & East European Law Interest Group, 7:00am.
- ◇ Foreign Selectors Interest Group, 8:30am.
- ◇ Asian Law Interest Group, 9:45am.
- ◇ Latin American Law Interest Group, 12:00noon.



Fun Fact: You can not pump your own gas in Oregon. It's the law!

- ◇ African Law Interest Group, 4:00pm.
- ◇ FCIL Executive Committee Presents: Schaffer Grant Recipient Presentation, 5:30pm

Tuesday, July 15th:

- ◇ Education Committee, 9:00am
- ◇ Electronic Issues Interest Group, 10:45am

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contributed time and money to a variety of initiatives, from website redesign to fundraising for the Schaffer Grant. Without your help, none of this

would happen, so when you welcome Leanne Cummings of Brisbane, Australia to the Annual Meeting also thank each other because you made it all

possible.

Congratulations to Marylin Raisch and Heidi Kuehl on their new positions. Over to you, Dennis!

Welcome continued from page 1

In 2005-06, Ms. Cummings served as the President of the Queensland division of the Australian Law Librarians' Association (ALLA). She has presented numerous conference papers, published several articles, and lectured on various issues involving the practice and pedagogy of law librarianship.

At AALL, Ms. Cummings will give a

presentation on the trends that are occurring in the Australian legal industry and their impact on Australian law libraries.

This grant was made possible through the generosity of Ellen Schaffer, other FCIL librarians, and friends of the law librarian community. It has brought a librarian from outside the United States to the AALL Annual Meeting

since 2001.

The selection committee (Teresa Miguel, Christopher O'Byrne, and Tom Kimbrough) considered a very strong pool of 13 applicants from 11 countries, this year.

Leanne Cummings' presentation at the annual meeting will be on Monday, July 14th at 5:30pm. Please join us!

The Back Page News

- ◇ Our new FCIL officers have been announced. **Marylin Raisch** is our new Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and **Heidi Kuehl** is our new Secretary/Treasurer. **Dennis Sears** will be taking over the Chair officially at Annual Meeting. Thank you to our candidates for taking on additional duties in their already busy lives. And a big thank you for voting!
- ◇ **Jonathan Franklin** will pass the torch of leadership in Portland. Please be sure to thank him for all his work during the past year! He has managed to make it all seem so easy which is just more evidence of his exceptional work ethic. From the entire FCIL SIS membership: **Thanks Jonathan!**
- ◇ **Linda Tashbook**, University of Pittsburgh Barco Law Library, has created a new blog about law for the homeless. The format is question and answer organized by categories such as bathing, health, children, police, etc. Go to <http://www.homelesslaw.info> to see it.

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The FCIL Newsletter is published three times a year. Current and past issues are posted on the FCIL website at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/newsletter.html>

Editor: Mabel Shaw, Georgetown Law Library
Copy Editor: Carmen Valero, Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps

Our next issue will be in October 2009. All submissions are welcome!

**New
Conference!**

- ◇ The [China - United States Conference on Legal Information and Law Libraries](#) will be held for May 27-30, 2009 in Beijing, China at the Beijing Friendship Hotel. This conference, initially proposed by a group of members of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), is officially co-sponsored by the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) and the State Commission on Legal Education of the Ministry of Education, China. AALL is the first American co-sponsor of the conference. The Conference will provide an opportunity for law librarians and legal information professionals from both countries to share experiences and exchange views in regard to legal information development and law library management. American librarians attending the Conference can share their knowledge and expertise with their Chinese colleagues, including in the area of organizing and sustaining a vibrant, professional association. Additionally, American librarians will be able to meet and connect with Chinese library and information professionals, legal publishers, and government officials responsible for dissemination of legal information.

FCIL Profile

The Foreign, Comparative and International Law SIS began in 1985, but has been in existence since 1947, albeit under varying names. Our primary objective is to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on foreign, comparative and international law. The SIS also represents members' interests and concerns within AALL.

FCIL sponsors a rapidly expanding schedule of educational opportunities through programs, institutes, and workshops each year. The members share expertise among themselves and with other librarians. They write, speak, consult and otherwise provide assistance to others through active discussions and information sharing on INT-LAW and the FCIL.

India continued from page 4

local libraries, a walking tour of the Bombay Fort Area Heritage and a day-long excursion to Elephanta Island, known for its rock-cut cave temples dating to the 4th – 9th centuries dedicated to Lord Shiva, the Hindu god, and the Charapuri Caves which contain masterpieces of Indian sculptures.

Our visit to Mumbai did not go unnoticed. "The Times of India" ran two articles about the law librarians' visit to India. Overall, delegates were warmly welcomed to the City of Mumbai, and the trip provided us all with a wonderful opportunity to share information and learn about another legal culture of great interest.

