

FCIL Newsletter

Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section

From the Chair

Dennis Sears

Program Selection

Every year, the FCIL-SIS, along with other entities associated with AALL, experience a flurry of activity for a few weeks, prior to the August 15th deadline for educational program and workshop proposals. Afterwards, we await word about six weeks later from the Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC), notifying us what programs and workshops have been accepted. Two factors militate against the type and quality of programming that we, as members of the FCIL-SIS, are interested in.

One, is the short time frame within which proposals must be written and submitted. The second, is the role that the AMPC plays in selecting pro-

grams. With regards to the second factor, although the AMPC requires that each SIS rank in order its program submissions, the AMPC only guarantees one program to the SIS—its first ranked program. After that, no matter in what order programs have been ranked by the SIS, the AMPC chooses those programs that it thinks will be of greatest benefit to AALL as a whole. As a result, over the years of working with the FCIL-SIS Education Committee, I have witnessed a number of first-rate programs fail to be selected by the AMPC with no opportunity of ever being presented, no matter how good the programs were.

New Venue Opportunities

However, AALL has developed



Dennis Sears
Brigham Young Law Library

a continuing professional program that now can provide the SIS the opportunity to produce online, on-demand audio and

Continued on page 2

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Upcoming Meetings:

- IALL Annual Course on International Law Librarianship. November 30-December 3, 2008 in Puerto Rico.
- European Legal e-Access Conference, December 10-12 in Paris, France.
- AALS Mid-Year Meeting January 7-12 in Long Beach, CA.
- ALA Midwinter Meeting, January 23-28 in Denver, CO.
- ASIL Annual Meeting, March 25-28 in Washington, DC.

Inside this issue:

Foreign Law Selectors	2
Latin America Interest Group	4
Membership Committee	4
Internships & Exchanges Committee	6
Schaffer Grant Recipient Speaks	6
Asian Law Interest Group	7
IFLA Annual Conference Report	8
New Member Profile	9

Business Meeting Minutes

Marilyn Raisch

Call to Order and Old Business

The meeting opened at 5:50 p.m. and was called to order by FCIL-SIS Chair Jonathan Franklin. The first item was approval of the minutes of the 2007 FCIL-SIS Business Meeting, as published in the October 2007 FCIL Newsletter. It

was moved and seconded to approve the minutes, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Marilyn Raisch reported a current balance for the FCIL budget as \$19,815.14 based on the latest report as of March 31, 2008. A separate tally of contributions to the FCIL-Schaffer Grant for



Marilyn Raisch
Georgetown Law Library

Continued on page 3

From the Chair continued from page 1

video learning opportunities in the AALL-net Members Only Section. This continuing professional program includes funding that can be used to cover the cost of speakers, video recording, etc. Currently, about fifty programs are available. Last summer, most of these programs had been developed by AALL chapters. Now, the list includes selected programs from both the 2007 and 2008 annual meetings.

With regards to the first factor mentioned above, unlike the flurry of activity associated with the submission of programs for

“Take the opportunity to share your ideas and expertise and contribute to the professional development of us all.”

the annual meeting, FCIL-SIS members with program ideas can avail themselves of four rounds of submissions scheduled throughout the year for continuing profes-

sional programming. Proposals for the next round are due November 7th to AALL Headquarters.

I would seriously encourage members of the FCIL-SIS to take advantage of the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) grants available from AALL, especially those of you who have had excellent proposals in the past that were not selected by the AMPC. Take the opportunity to share your ideas and expertise and contribute to the professional development of us all.

Foreign Law Selectors Meet in Portland

Dan Wade

Northeast Report

Twenty-two selectors met on a Sunday afternoon in Portland to discuss foreign law selection in their libraries. Dan Wade began the meeting by distributing the Annual Report of the Northeast Foreign Law Librarians Cooperative Group. For two of the major institutions of the group, Harvard and Yale, the 2007-2008 year has been one of significant belt tightening, primarily with respect to serials of which literally several hundred of thousands of dollars have been cancelled. That the devaluation of the dollar and the continuing inflationary spiral has affected other academic institutions is evidenced by the unprecedented meetings of collection development departments from major institutions, as well as an additional meeting of the super-elite Heads at this year's Annual Meeting.

Foreign Law in SoCal

The focus of the meeting was foreign law collecting in southern California. It was clear that the academic libraries and legal communities depend heavily on the Los Angeles County Law Library for much of their foreign materials. Paula Hoffman, Senior Librarian, Foreign and Interna-

tional Law, distributed an excellent profile of the collection. (It is hoped that in the coming weeks this might be posted on the FCIL-SIS website.) As of 2008 the Library holds 271,711 volumes in foreign, comparative and international law, with a predominance of foreign law. Perhaps unlike most academic law libraries the collection focuses on materials which are of primary use to practitioners. Hence its treatises focus on practice areas: commercial law, family law, inheritance and succession, procedural law, intellectual property and some aspects of taxation.

Selectors also learned that UCLA has an extensive Islamic law collection, as well as Chinese and Japanese collections of monographs; the University of San Diego collects Mexican materials and China Law materials in English; Loyola focuses its foreign collection on Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and the University of Southern California collects in the vernacular for China, Hong Kong and Korea, but also collects foreign legal materials in English.

Wrap Up

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to discussing the website at the

“The devaluation of the dollar and the continuing inflationary spiral has affected other academic institutions is evidenced by the unprecedented meetings of collection development departments.”

University of Pittsburgh that Linda Tashbook has developed to reflect foreign law collecting in U.S. law schools. She is redesigning it and would welcome further discussions.

Next year's meeting will focus on foreign law collecting in California, north of Los Angeles. Teresa Stanton will head this up, and urges those responsible for foreign law collections in these libraries to contact her at tstanton@law.berkeley.edu

The Foreign Law Selectors gathered again on Tuesday morning to discuss how they practice their craft and the resulting frustrations and joys

Business Meeting Minutes continued from page 1

Foreign Law Librarians will be detailed below as part of that discussion.

2008 Election Results: Jonathan Franklin announced that Marylin Raisch was elected Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and Heidi Kuehl, Secretary-Treasurer. Teresa Miguel and Ann Chase have agreed to take on the responsibilities of FCIL webmasters in light of Heidi Kuehl's new duties; thanks were expressed to Heidi for her excellent service on behalf of the FCIL web presence, with its redesign and overall improvement. Thanks also went to Mabel Shaw for her continuing superb work as editor of the FCIL Newsletter.

Reports of Interest Groups and Committees.

It should be noted that not all Interest Groups were able to report, and that those listed in the agenda reported out of order owing to some minor public transportation difficulties in Portland that afternoon and consequent late arrival of some FCIL members.

- ◇ Education Committee: Dennis announced our panels and when his committee will meet. There was brief discussion of our process for AALL. This year we had good programs (including joint programs) accepted and we will be filling in the SIS matrix for next year as part of the general discussions in other SIS about additional SIS programming opportunities. Attendees were asked to "stay tuned."
- ◇ FCIL Schaffer Grant Selection Committee: Tom Kimbrough reported that this year, 15 applications were received from many parts of the world, including Argentina, Australia, India, Japan, Ivory Coast, South Africa, Tanzania, and the U.K. Since last year there were fifteen applications in all, the committee suggested dividing up the publicity tasks by region, such as South America, Africa, etc. It was announced that this year's recipient, Leanne Cummings, National Library Manager for Deakins, a law firm in Australia, was to give a

presentation on Tuesday, July 15th, about trends in the Australian Legal Information Industry.

- ◇ FCIL- Schaffer Grant Funding Committee: Mary Strouse reported for Dan Wade. A separate meeting is scheduled for later in the week to discuss several issues specific to the funding of the grant. Since \$2,000.00 was insufficient to cover all travel and accommodation expenses for this year's recipient, it was suggested that we need to consider for the future how the amounts raised relate to the \$2,000.00 amount disbursed. This year the fund raised \$3500 from 39 donors. Their names were posted at the website, with an expression of thanks to all who contributed. The goal is to build the fund to a corpus of \$50,000.00 to generate the necessary amount of the grant and to ensure its future viability. Questions to be considered include allocating the remainder of fundraising to future grants. Jonathan Franklin emphasized to the membership that we are not tapping the corpus of the grant. Resolution: In a proposed two-year process, donations to the grant would be received and any funds that exceeded the amount disbursed would be added to the corpus to help it grow by at least \$1500.00 per year, as was done this year by raising \$3500.00 and using \$2000.00. With regard to when the resolution would take effect, it was suggested that we could launch a matching campaign similar to others approved by AALL. The membership was asked if anyone objected to applying the policy in the resolution to FY 08/09 and 09/10? No objections recorded; measure passed. The '09 grant year starts immediately.
- ◇ Foreign Selectors Interest Group: Lyonette Louis-Jacques for Dan Wade. The assembled selectors concentrated on how West Coast, and in particular Southern Californian, law libraries would describe the strengths of their collections, and to whom they look for

"Jonathan Franklin noted the growing demand for FCIL librarians and was duly thanked, with gifts, for his strong leadership and guidance this year."

foreign legal materials. Strong collections were Los Angeles County Law Library (with its unique collection of foreign law and official gazettes); Southwestern, Loyola of Los Angeles, and University of Southern California. These selectors share widely, but many said they look outside the immediate region to the University of California at Berkeley, which we all know is an outstanding collection.

- ◇ Clearinghouse for Internships and International Exchanges: David McFadden reported that There has been a name change, moving away from the previous "clearinghouse" designation. David indicated that he is updating the web site, which lists internships. He asked members to pass along any information about open programs for exchanges.
- ◇ Latin American Law Interest Group: Pedro Padilla-Rosa reported that last year, he worked with the Association of Caribbean Libraries and set up a law interest group. This regional library group is also helping IALL with the meeting in Puerto Rico this year. Pedro encouraged members present to attend IALL, anticipating the promotion made at the reception following the meeting.
- ◇ Teaching FCIL Legal Research: Patricia Kasting reported that the meeting this year focused on writing an FCIL CALI lesson.

Continued on page 6

Latin American Interest Group Meeting Report

Dan Wade

At noon on Monday, July 14th, twelve librarians sat around the table and discussed developments in Latin American law collecting. Of course, the item of most interest was the IALL course in Puerto Rico next month!

New Database & New Collections

A major announcement came from Pedro Garcia Moreno of Esteva, the sole vendor attending, who reported that over the course of the next academic year Esteva will be marketing a Mexican legal database of primary legal sources, both federal and those from the thirty-two Mexican states. Included in the database will be the *Semanario Judicial de la Federación* and the *Diario Oficial de la Federación*.

Marisol Florén, International Law Librarian of Florida International University, announced that her library had received two major donations relating to Latin American Law, one a collection of Latin American codes and other materials dealing with legal reforms in Latin America,

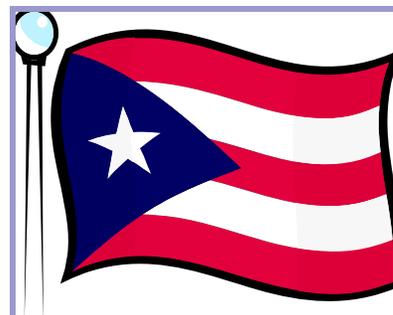
and the other a collection of Cuban materials from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is anticipated that these will be digitized.

Announcements

Marisol also reported that she and Pedro Padilla-Rosa of the University of Puerto Rico attended the 2008 ACURIL (Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries) meeting in Montego Bay, Jamaica, in June. The ACURIL Law Content Area Group was created at the 2007 ACURIL Annual Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

During the 2008 ACURIL meeting, Jeanne O. Slowe, Assistant Librarian, Norman Manley Law School in Kingston, Jamaica, and Ms. Winsome Henry, Senior Resident Magistrate, Parish of St. James, in Montego Bay, talked about the Jamaican legal system and Jamaican legal resources. A second program focused on Caribbean Law Library Resources and Use Policies, a presentation of legal collections and services in Haiti, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and the United States.

There were several brief announcements.



Next Stop: IALL in Puerto Rico!

Marianne Rogers reported that Osgoode Hall has instituted its first Latin American Law course in its curriculum. Jean Wenger of Cook County Law Library said that its Latin American collection from the 1860's-1980's receives a fair amount of use from her patrons in Chicago. Jonathan Pratter noted that Texas collects Latin American legal monographs, but not journals, and has a special interest in Brazil. Garry Stillman stated that St. Mary's has a good selection of Latin American materials from the 1990's. Dan Wade reported that Teresa Miguel with the assistance of Aslihan Bulut of Columbia, Melissa Fung of the University of San Diego, and Teresa Stanton of Berkeley has created a Latin American serials union list which is now mounted on the FCIL-SIS website. ●

Membership Committee Report from Portland

Laura Cadra

The FCIL-SIS Membership Committee once again promoted the SIS by staffing a table in the Activities Area of the Exhibit Hall at the AALL Annual Meeting in Portland. The table was decorated with the traditional United Nations flag display and FCIL-SIS brochures were made available.

The table also highlighted the China-U.S. Law Library Conference to be held in Beijing in May 2009. Sergio Stone provided brochures on the conference as well as a video of Beijing.

Mary Rumsey graciously provided a copy of her book (with Marci Hoffman), *International and Foreign Legal Research: A Coursebook* for a table raffle. Paul Richert of the University of Akron Law Library was the lucky winner.

Hearty thanks go to Molly Brownfield, Sergio Stone, and Elzbieta Mizerska for donating their time to staff the table. Special thanks to Mary Rumsey for donating a copy of her book.

The Membership Committee continues to solicit committee members. Interested persons should contact Laura Cadra at laura.cadra@lls.edu. ●

Next Issue

Our next issue will be in February 2009.

Have you visited a foreign library? Or maybe have a reference stumper? Please consider writing for our FCIL newsletter.

All submissions are welcome!

Electronic Issues Interest Group Meeting Report

Marylin Raisch

The Electronic Issues Interest Group had an exciting meeting this year with some action items spelled out that we all hoped could get well underway or even completed within the next year.

Second Life

The meeting opened with Lyonette Louis-Jacques who, before departing to another meeting, was willing to come briefly and share her experience with the webinar on libraries and *Second Life*, in which she fully participated. She passed around images of her avatar, and described what it was like to learn to move around, attend meetings there, and so forth. Her presentation was entertaining and enlightening; there is a sense that the rewards of investing in a presence there are not so easy to realize.

Electronic Networking

Our first roundtable topic was about innovations and social networking uses in attendees' libraries, and in particular any applications to foreign and international legal research and information. Some indicated no particular move in the direction of Web 2.0; others had directors who wanted to investigate using Facebook for the library or a class. Sergio Stone and Lyonette have joined Facebook of Japan (!) and used an online translator, such as babelfish, to explore it.

The next topic discussed was the FCIL web site. The re-design looks good; there is now a link to the librarian specialists,



and the teaching materials continue to be popular.

Wikis & Blogs

The Chair proposed asking the new webmasters to try to create a wiki of foreign and international legal research; one attendee has a wiki in the reference department and this might prove a useful experience from which to draw guidance. "Stubs" could be created using the topic organization (though of course not the actual text!) of existing guides on the web, and links could go to the many great guides already posted as well. It was also suggested that we include time-saving tips and other information that showcase our skills. We will need to work out how contributions get made.

Creating a legal research wiki is an action item for 2008-2009. Initial re-

sponsibility: the Chair and webmasters.

An additional proposal from the chair was to broaden the purpose of the blog to go beyond collection development and to cover new resources just as Int-law often does. The email list addresses mainly short-term questions and sourcing, so the blog could reflect larger developments.

Re-purposing and resuming the FCIL Blog is an action item for 2008-2009. Initial responsibility: the Chair and webmasters.

The final topic of the meeting concerned the use of the *Ning* network <http://www.ning.com> for FCIL, and to create a group there within the *Law Libraries and Librarians* network <http://lawlibraries.ning.com> already in place and in which some of us are already participating. There was broad consensus that this would be an attractive (optional) move for the SIS.

Creating this sub-group also became an action item for 2008-2009 with the initial exploration to be done by the Chair.

The meeting adjourned with many new initiatives to pursue and insights about what does and does not work in specialized research for the 2.0 world. Thanks from the Chair to all who attended, and hope to see many of you at our meeting in Washington DC!

Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section

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/newsletternewsite.html>

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

Internships & International Exchanges Committee Meets

David McFadden

The FCIL Internships and International Exchanges Committee met on 13 July 2008 in Portland. Glen McBeth, David McFadden (chair), Donna Nixon and Leslie Wong attended. There were no known requests for placements in 2006/2007.

New Additions

Maureen Garmon had reported by email earlier in the year with the addition of the Bodleian Law Library at Oxford, and updates to the entries for the Institute for Advanced Studies, and Swansea University in Wales. There were also updates to the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Library in South Africa and the Law Library of Congress. Sergio Stone reported earlier by email that there is the possibility of adding some Japanese

libraries. No other reports from the 2007/2008 assignments were received.

Orientation for Committee Members

Since all in attendance except the chair were new to the committee, most of the time was spent explaining the purpose and function of the committee. The committee will continue to contact libraries throughout the world seeking libraries willing to be included in our Clearinghouse.

New Business

There was a brief mention of the possibility of financial assistance for internships and internships exchanges involving China.

David McFadden will be the chair again for 2008/2009.

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.

Schaffer Grant Recipient Leanne Cummings Speaks at AALL

Tom Kimbrough

Leanne Cummings, National Library Manager at the Deacons Law Firm in Brisbane, Australia, and the 2008 FCIL Schaffer Grant recipient, gave a well-attended presentation at AALL on the topic: "trends that are occurring in the Australian legal industry and their impact on Australian law libraries".

Among other issues, Ms. Cummings

discussed the shortage of highly-qualified law librarians in Australia and the difficulties law libraries have in retaining staff in that country. She explained that while recent worldwide economic difficulties have also impacted upon Australia, the demand for law librarians remains high there. She fielded a wide variety of questions from the audience, and she rewarded

the questioners by tossing Australian-themed souvenirs their way

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.

Business Meeting Minutes continued from page 3

◇ Asian Law Interest Group: Sergio Stone reported that the meeting to be held the next day was expected to focus on a discussion of conferences held in Asia. Evelyn Ma will talk about databases and the 2009 Beijing Conference.

◇ Membership Committee: Laura Cadra reported that a table was put up in the activities area of the Exhibit Hall to promote the SIS. Mary Rumsey and Marci Hoffman

donated their new legal research book for the raffle.

Prizes & Awards

The "Spirit of the FCIL-SIS" Award this year recognized the contributions of three members: Mary Sexton, David McFadden, and, also receiving this award post-retirement, Bill McCloy, East Asian specialist and longtime FCIL member. Congratulations to all!

Dan Wade Award: The nomination process and details will be posted on

the web site.

Newest FCIL Member prize from the Senior Caucus went to Melissa Fung of the University of San Diego, and it was presented by Tom Reynolds.

At the close of the meeting, and as incoming Chair Dennis Sears took the gavel, Jonathan Franklin noted the growing demand for FCIL librarians and was duly thanked, with gifts, for his strong leadership and guidance this year.

Report From Our Asian Law Interest Group

Sergio Stone

The Asian Law Interest Group met on Monday, July 14, 2008. We were honored to have Mariko Ishikawa of Japan attend our meeting. Ms. Ishikawa is a law librarian and lecturer at the Tsukuba Law School. Along with Noriko Murai, Yasuko Fujii and Makoto Ibusuki, she authored a well respected text on Japanese legal research titled リーガル・リサーチ [Legal Research] published by Nihon Hyuronsha.

Tribute to Bill McCloy

The Asian Law Interest Group took time to acknowledge the important contributions of Bill McCloy to our profession.. Bill retired in early 2008 as the Assistant Librarian for East Asian Law at the Marion Gould Law Library at the University of Washington, where he maintained the Chinese and Korean language collections. We greatly appreciate Bill's hard work over the years promoting East Asian law in U.S. libraries and mentoring younger librarians.

Evelyn Ma, Asian Law Reference Librarian at Yale Law Library, led an engaging and highly informative discussion of East Asian databases and open source materials. Here are a few of the highlights from our discussions.

Chinese Legal Databases

Westlaw should be offering access to Westlaw China by October or November of this year. LexisNexis has once again made available a Chinese legal database with materials in English. The subject ac-

“ChinaMaxx focuses on general interest materials, but does include law related titles. Some discussion participants also recommended it as a collection development tool.”

cess search interface often fails to retrieve full results, so make sure to also use the terms and connectors search.

A few libraries reported using CCH's China Law Express service, although its high price tag probably limits its spread to other libraries. China Law Express offers news and primary legal materials related to labor, company, trade and tax law.

I-SinoLaw remains a popular Chinese legal database because of the high quality of its translations and convenient off-campus access. Students also enjoy the simple search interface. Unfortunately for budget conscious acquisitions librarians, reference librarians reported faculty members asking for I-Sino law in addition to LawInfoChina/ChinaLawInfo. One stop shopping for Chinese legal materials is still in the distant future.

Chinese Language E-Book Services

EastView Information Services, <http://www.eastview.com/NewAsianOnlineProducts.asp>, now offers access to ChinaLawInfo and Apabi EBook database.

ChinaMaxx, also known as Super Star Digital Library, is a database of Chinese language digital books whose strength is older materials rather than more recent releases. ChinaMaxx focuses on general interest materials, but does include law related titles. Some discussion participants also recommended it as a collection development tool.

Korean and Japanese Resources

Rob Britt reported on the usefulness of Korea's "Law in B" database, but the annual fees are quite high. The Council of East Asian Libraries currently offers a free trial to Korean language databases.

Ms. Ishikawa reported that Japan has a healthy online legal database market with eight different vendors. Unfortunately, competition has not led to price reductions in the historically expensive Japanese databases, such as LexisNexis Japan, D-One and Legal Base. Japanese law librarians have also started an online law librarian group on Mixi, Japan's largest social soft-

“Japan has a healthy online legal database market with eight different vendors. Unfortunately, competition has not led to price reductions”

ware site. They welcome visits from foreign colleagues at <http://mixi.jp/>.

Miscellaneous Items

In 2008, GlobalLex added numerous Asian jurisdictions to its foreign law research guides. New guides appeared for the following jurisdictions: Hong Kong, Malaysia, Pakistan, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and South Korea. Moreover, the Vietnamese and Singaporean guides were updated. Visit the GlobalLex guides at: <http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globallex/index.html>

Updates on the China-U.S Conference on Legal Education and Law Libraries can be found at <http://www.law.du.edu/index.php/china-us-conf>. The Conference web site now includes hotel information and a detailed program schedule. Registration should open by late October 2008.

Many thanks to Evelyn Ma and all who attended the session for their excellent contributions. I look forward to seeing all of you in Washington, DC at the next Asia Law Interest Group meeting.



IFLA's 74th Annual Conference Highlights Growing Its Growing Importance to the Law Library Community

Blair Kaufman

Law librarians interested in networking with colleagues world-wide on topics of mutual concern have found a welcoming home in the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). IFLA's 74th annual World Library and Information Congress, held this August 10-14, in Quebec City, Canada, attracted more than 4,000 librarians from some 150 countries. This conference offered a great opportunity for law librarians in North America to participate in the newly formed section on law libraries, and to learn from colleagues representing a wide breadth of libraries and cultures on the common theme of "Libraries without Borders: Navigating Towards Global Understanding."

The Law Library Section sponsored two sessions at this year's conference and hosted a lovely reception at the Quebec National Assembly Library. The sessions offered by other sections plus the extensive exhibits, interesting plenary sessions and plethora of receptions, provided a full range of opportunities to network with information professionals from around the world.

Quebec Law Program

While just over 40 law librarians attended the law library sponsored session addressing "Quebec Law and Digital Publications," this program with its special focus on law in mixed jurisdictions was excellent and led to lively discussions with the audience. The session, featuring Daniel Boyer, of McGill University, and Dominique Lapiere, of Lavall University, offered more than its title suggests. Beyond learning about sources of Quebec law online (LEXIS is more thorough than WESTLAW in this regard), we were treated to an intellectually stimulating discussion of the roots and development of legal systems in a host of mixed jurisdictions around the world, from South Africa and Israel to Louisiana and Puerto Rico. We also learned about the important role classification plays in the

development of civil codes, with particular emphasis on the Civil Code of Quebec. We were left to ponder what effect the open access movement, spurred by the Legal Information Institutes -- such as CANLII in Canada -- will have on the more generous online offering of commercial systems.

Lively Discussions

The law section's jointly-sponsored program on "Authentication of Law in Digital Formats" attracted a much larger audience and, like many IFLA programs, had simultaneous translation available for those in the audience not fluent in the language of some of the speakers. Mary Alice Baish, from the AALL's Washington Affairs office, provided an excellent summary of the work that the AALL has done in reviewing and promoting authentication of digital legal information in the U.S. Unfortunately, too little has been accomplished, and we don't compare favorably to our European colleagues, but thanks to Mary Alice and the AALL's leadership, this issue is now on the radar screen of U.S. policy makers. Pascal Petitcollot, General Secretariat of the French Government, provided an overview of authentication in Europe, with special focus on born-digital legal documents. We can learn from their successful experience. Sasha Skenderija of the Cornell Law Library reminded us of the need to preserve digital objects cited in court decisions, and Claire Germain provided an excellent summary of developments in the Law Library of Congress's Global Legal Information Network. These presentations generated such a lively discussion among the multi-cultural audience that the question period spilled into the time allotted for the next session, and we were forced to bring our law section session to a close.

Beyond those programs sponsored by the Law Section, the IFLA conference offers law librarians an opportunity to meet and learn from colleagues representing a broad spectrum of cultures and library settings, and pick from a wide array of programs covering topics of common interest. For

example, for those interested in library architecture, there was a fascinating program on "Libraries as Space and Place" sponsored by the section on Library Theory and Research, in which one could learn about

"One aspect touched on by each presenter was the need for law faculty to support programs of research instruction."

concepts such as "Applying the Psychology of Religion to the Academic Library as a Sanctified Place", and thinking about the "University Library as Third Place" for student users in China and how this has affected the democracy movement in China. On yet other topics, one could attend the section sponsored by Academic and Research Libraries and learn from luminaries such as Columbia University's Jim Neal about public and private partnerships and how to define motivation, risk and success. For those interested in world copyright law, our own Mary Alice Baish spoke at a forum on "Copyright and other Legal Matters with FAIFE." Scores of other programs addressed topics ranging from rare books to Library 2.0, and from Library Preservation Issues to Library Services to Multicultural Populations.

Global Library Community

IFLA provides a useful supplement to other library organizations important to law librarians and fulfills a unique niche to the ever expanding number of law librarians with an interest in library issues facing the global community. This fact is illustrated by the slate of leaders behind IFLA's Section on Law Libraries. The current Law Section chair is Holger Knudsen of the Max Plank Institute, who is the immediate past President of the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL); and its secretary is Claire Germain, Law Library Director and Professor at Cor

Continued on page 9

New Member Profile: Kyle Courtney

Mary Rumsey

This issue's new FCIL member is one of the legions of "unofficial" FCIL librarians—that is, he doesn't have FCIL in his title, but is the resident go-to guy. Kyle is currently the Electronic Services/Reference Librarian at the Northeastern School of Law.

Academically, Kyle describes himself as an East Coast person—he attended college in Fredericksburg, VA at Mary Washington College, majoring in history. He then clerked for a year at a law firm. Next, he attended Suffolk University Law School where he graduated from their specialized Intellectual Property concentration program and finally, he attended Simmons College for his MLIS.

Like all of us, Kyle is learning on the job. He was first introduced to real FCIL research when he was drafted to become part of Northeastern Law's Program on Human Rights and Global Economy (PHRGE). "I worked closely with Kelly Vinopal from ASIL to develop a research program for PHRGE's co-sponsored "Bringing Human Rights Home" program at Columbia Law," he says. "It was the first time I had taught and trained lawyers, advocates, and students about the availability of international and foreign law for their research. After that program, I was hooked."

Part of Kyle's training was a library-school

internship at Harvard Law Library. Kyle notes, "I have to thank Stephen Wiles at Harvard for his patience in mentoring me about the intricacies of FCIL research. I learned so much by working with him, or more importantly, watching him work." Kyle also comments that Boston is a great city for FCIL librarian collaboration because "we have the largest number of law schools per square mile in the nation!"

Kyle has extensive teaching responsibilities: he co-teaches courses in Advanced Legal Research and Massachusetts Legal Research, and is also teaching a 4-credit class called Privacy, Ethics, and Digital Rights at Northeastern. This spring, he will also teach the first for-credit Foreign and International Legal Research class at Northeastern Law.

Kyle particularly enjoys two aspects of his job: teaching, and fielding challenging questions. He says, "I have a great passion for educating the Northeastern community about the FCIL sources and scholarship." "Secondly, the challenge of a really great international law question also is an aspect that I take great pleasure in. While I enjoy fielding the standard 'Can I get this in English?' question, what I really love is delving into contemporary global issues."

He adds, "Also, I absolutely love working with other law librarians. I have never met a group of friendlier, more collegial professionals. From our local Law



Kyle Courtney

Librarians of New England chapter to AALL, everyone has been helpful and supportive of my FCIL research interests."

Kyle is currently working on a book about International Human Rights research and process. He believes that the rise of the global Internet has aided international human rights more than any other area of law. "From the HUDOC database, to the OHCHR's site, to hundreds of NGO's on the web, to the e-documentation of human rights violations reported from the front lines - the Internet can be a tool to link those that need help directly with people who are willing to address human rights violations around the world."

Kyle and his wife live in an 1850s-era farmhouse with two cats, and two rabbits. He successfully grew apples, tomatoes, corn, gourds, and pumpkins this year, so considers himself "somewhat" of a gentleman farmer. In his spare time, Kyle also plays guitar and rebuilds his house.

IFLA meeting continued from page 8

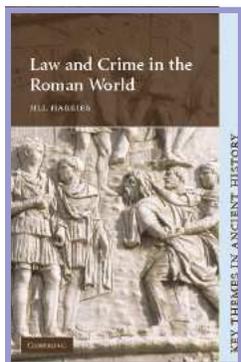
nell Law School and a past President of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). Also, the current Executive Director of the AALL, Kate Hagan, and the current President of the IALL, Jules Winterton, attended the IFLA conference. The high level participation of these leaders from the major law library organizations helps highlight the growing importance of IFLA to the law library community. No other library organization offers the breadth of opportunities for

networking with information professionals from around the world. This is not to say the AALL, the IALL and other library organizations are not useful to law librarians. Obviously, these too are important organizations to a profession that is built on networking, but the perspective they offer to participants is much more focused.

Truly, IFLA offers a unique opportunity for law librarians to expand their networking

and knowledge base in the global arena of information management, and with its new section on Law Libraries, the time is ripe for more law librarians to become active in this organization. It's not too early to consider attending the next IFLA conference, planned for Milan, Italy, August 23-27, 2009, with its promise of ever more programming targeted at the law library community.

The Back Page News



Title selection for first Roman law meeting

- ◇ Are you interested in Roman Law or the influence of Roman Law on modern legal traditions? Please consider joining the inaugural meeting of the **Roman Law Interest Group** at the 2009 AALL Annual Meeting. If you have proposals for future activities of the group, please contact **Lucia Diamond** (ldiamond@law.berkeley.edu) or **Dan Wade** (daniel.wade@yale.edu). This year, they are planning to read Jill Harries' **Law and Crime in the Roman World**. (Cambridge University Press, 2007) during the year and come together in Washington to discuss it and plan next year's meeting. Also, please bring to the meeting suggestions for the next book to be read over the next year. Hope you will join us!

- ◇ The **European Legal e-Access Conference** will be held in Paris in December of 2008. Several governmental and private initiatives have organized this event under France's EU presidency. It is intended to inform the public about the progress of projects that have been carried out in France and across Europe which improve access to law and the elaboration of law thanks to technological developments, and to promote the improvements that have been made in this field. Since the law of the Member States began internet publishing via the Internet a decade ago, a European "Digital Legal Area" composed of several elements (whether public or private, with charge or open source) has progressively emerged. With the development of this area, it is easier to put together and compare the legal systems on one hand, and the technological standards enabling their digital broadcasting on the other hand. Registration and program information may be found at <http://www.legalaccess.eu/>



Bonjour Paris!



- ◇ **Yasmin Morais** from Georgetown Law Library has won an IIAL Professional Development Scholarship to attend the 27th Annual Course on International Law Librarianship in Puerto Rico. This year's theme is "Puerto Rico & the Caribbean: Legal Information in Multiple Legal Systems. Yasmin is a newer librarian, so be sure to say hello when you see her.

- ◇ **Roy Sturgeon**, Touro College Law Library, was awarded a 2008-09 Overseas Young Chinese Forum (OYCF)-Gregory C. and Paula K. Chow Teaching Fellowship which sponsors short term teaching trips by overseas scholars or professionals to Chinese educational institutions. This financial award will allow Roy to spend a few weeks teaching legal research next spring. He is planning to teach at Wuhan University Law School, which is one of the top 5 law schools in China and known especially for its strength in international law. Wuhan University also has China's oldest library school, founded early last century by an American missionary. Roy feels that it's fitting that he — an American law librarian who specializes in FCIL—will go there to teach. He thinks that he is the first librarian to ever win one of these Fellowships and the first Fellow to ever teach legal research.

Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section

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/newsletternewsite.html>

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