

FCIL Newsletter

Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section

2009 Business Meeting

Submitted by Jeanne Rehberg (Secretary-Treasurer Heidi Kuehl could not attend the Annual Meeting.)

Call to Order and Old Business

The meeting was called to order by FCIL-SIS Chair Dennis Sears. The first item was approval of the Minutes of the 2008 FCIL Business Meeting, as published in the October 2008 FCIL Newsletter. It was moved, and seconded, to approve the minutes, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Marylin Raisch, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, reported for Heidi Kuehl, based upon Heidi's July 2009 report. The FCIL-SIS budget had a current balance of \$22,532.35 as of the latest report on March 31, 2009. This balance included a donation of \$1,250 from the William S. Hein & Co. for the FCIL reception at the 2009 AALL Annual Meeting. Information about fundraising for the Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians is provided below.

2009 Election Results: Chair Dennis Sears announced



that Jeanne Rehberg was elected Vice Chair/Chair-Elect.

Reports of Interest Groups and Committees

More detailed reports from interest groups and committees appear elsewhere in this newsletter, including reports from interest groups and committees that were listed in the agenda, but not scheduled to meet until after this business meeting.

African Law Interest

Group: Victor Essien. Attendees noted an increasing interest in the law of African countries, especially for human rights work, student clinics and faculty research. Victor introduced Hanibal Goitom, Comparative Law Specialist at the Library of Congress, who reported on recent improvements in GLIN.

Asian Law Interest Group: Marylin Raisch and Joan

Policastri for Sergio Stone. Laney Zhang, Chinese Law Specialist at the Library Congress, was the featured speaker, thanks to arrangements made by Marylin Raisch with the Library of Congress. Ms. Zhang described her methods for tracking legal developments in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, which she posts to the Global Legal Monitor and her Twitter page. She also discussed the relative merits of bilingual legal databases for China. Other news included a new law review at Tsinghua University School of Law and the new China-U.S. Forum on Legal Information and Law Libraries.

Electronic Issues Interest

Group: Marylin Raisch. Attendees described Web 2.0 applications in their libraries, including Twitter

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October 2009

Upcoming Meetings:

- AALS Annual Meeting, January 6-10, 2010 in New Orleans, LA.
- ALA Midwinter Meeting, January 15-19, 2010 in Boston, MA.
- ASIL Annual Meeting, "International Law in a Time of Change," March 24-27, 2010 in Washington, DC.
- AALL Annual Meeting, "Summit 2010: Mapping our Future," July 10-13, 2010 in Denver CO.

Report from IFLA

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From the Chair

Marilyn Raisch

Thanks to the energy and creativity of the FCIL membership, our new year is off to a great start. We have four programs accepted this year for the Annual Meeting in Denver:

- ◇ *After Hotel Rwanda and Welcome to Sarajevo: Preserving Trial Evidence and Documentation in a Multi-Media Age*
- ◇ *A Baobab Grows in Brooklyn: Training U.S. Law Students To Work in a South African Legal Aid Clinic*
- ◇ *Navigating Your Way to the Classroom: Law Librarians Teaching New Law School Classes;*
- ◇ *Destination: TREATY!*

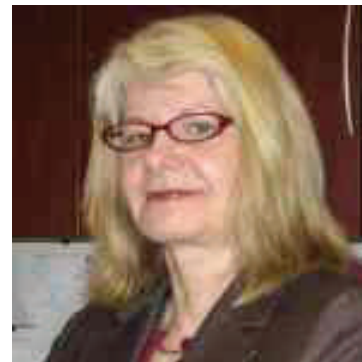
I have already expressed my gratitude and excitement in email messages to the membership, and now begins the process of getting all the speakers and equipment in order. We also have all the Interest Group meetings in place, and at least one of them is planning for substantive programming. The Roman Law Interest Group, chaired by Lucia Diamond, will focus on the *Annotated*

Justinian Code project of Tim Kearley at the University of Wyoming College of Law.

New Interest Group

And announcing: yet another new Interest Group! The Indigenous Peoples' Interest Group, co-chaired by Jolande Goldberg and Joan Policastri, will debut in Denver and work with members of the AALL Native Peoples' Caucus to focus on the unique legal systems and global situation of indigenous peoples. This promises to be an exciting new area of continuing education and opportunities for library advocacy as well.

The web site will be updated (in time for this newsletter or soon after!) with our new awards and officers; two initiatives I have mentioned already are a research wiki and an updated and more interactive blog. There is help available in the expertise of other special interest sections as well and we may want to consider hosting this in the manner and with the good design features of the Computing Services



Marilyn Raisch
Georgetown Law Library

SIS. Take a look at its blog-like character, <http://cssis.org/>, and please tell me what you think. A fresh look with easy updating may be a good model for us to adopt, but I would love to hear your thoughts.

Vice-Chair Jeanne Rehberg has stepped in for Heidi Kuehl, on parental leave, to present our minutes. Please enjoy these along with the reports of several of the Interest Groups from the annual meeting.

Volunteers Needed

Finally, we will be inviting more participation to fill several positions chairing committees, so please remember our goals this year for sustainability of the *FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians*. I request your attention to our efforts this year as we move forward with a major campaign to increase the fund and continue to provide this extraordinary opportunity for law librarians around the world and in particular many who do not have professional development structures to support or inspire them.

Off to the summit!

Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section

The FCIL Newsletter is published three times in October, February, and May. Current and archive issues are available on the FCIL website at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/newsletternewsite.html>

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Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps

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and Facebook, which are both widely used. The FCIL will examine its wiki and blog in connection with the overall renovation of AALLnet, which will introduce standard templates for the websites of SISs and other AALL entities. The FCIL electronic team is made up of Teresa Miguel, who also edits the online union list "Latin American Law Journals and Serials in U.S. Law Libraries," Lucie Olejnikova and Ann Chase.

FCIL Schaffer Grant Selection

Committee: Christopher O'Byrne, chair. The 2009 grant year saw 34 applicants from 24 countries. The committee, consisting of Chris, Rob Britt, Teresa Miguel and Lucia Olejnikova, selected Ahmadullah Masoud, who at that time was reference librarian at the Independent National Legal Training Center (INLTC) Law Library in Kabul, Afghanistan, a project formerly funded by the USAID Afghanistan Rule of Law Project. The committee also coordinated the annual "Executive Committee Presents..." program at which Mr. Masoud would discuss the state of libraries and librarianship in Afghanistan, the legal system of Afghanistan, the process of building a new law library after thirty years of war, the acquisition of publications from governmental organizations which do not have a history of making information public, and the difficulties presented by the need for cataloging software

that can accommodate the Dari and Pashto languages.

Schaffer Grant Fundraising: Barbara Bean, Chair, Mary Strouse and Tom Kimbrough reported that FCIL has a goal of building the corpus up to \$50,000. The tenth anniversary of the Grant coming up in 2010 presents a prime opportunity for fundraising and promotion of the grant.

Publications Committee: Linda Tashbook reported that FCIL members continue to submit new teaching materials to be added to the Syllabi and Course Materials section of the FCIL website. The group also discussed new content for the newsletter, including notes about collection development and summaries of particularly difficult reference questions and solutions. The University of Pittsburgh Law Library directory "Foreign Law Collections in the U.S." will be moved to the FCIL website. AALL provides support for issuing a new SIS brochure every three years; because the FCIL has a supply of the current brochure on hand, the Committee discussed the option to use a new brochure for a different purpose, such as a directory of libraries or a research guide.

New Business

The Senior Caucus announced the newest member of the FCIL-SIS, Amy Emerson, Research Attorney and Lecturer in Law at the Cornell University Law Library.

Prizes & Awards

The Executive Board approved the awarding of the Spirit of the SIS Award to Christopher O'Byrne, chair of the FCIL Schaffer Grant Selection Committee, Mabel Shaw, Editor of the FCIL Newsletter, and Tom Kimbrough, who has served on both the fundraising and the selection committees for the FCIL Schaffer Grant.

The Daniel L. Wade Outstanding Service Award was bestowed upon no less than three outstanding FCIL members: Marci Hoffman, and former chairs Mary Rumsey and Maria Smolka-Day (who has announced her retirement for the end of this academic year), all three authors of articles, bibliographies, presentations, and books on FCIL research.

Congratulations to these most deserving awardees for their service to the FCIL-SIS!

At the close of the meeting, Chair Dennis Sears expressed his gratitude for the support of FCIL members, officers and chairs of interest groups and committees, and passed the gavel to Marilyn Raisch who recognized Dennis, with gifts, for his tireless and exemplary service, noting that in further recognition of his talents, his fellow SIS Chairs have elected him to be Chair of the Council of SIS Chairs for 2009-2010.

Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals Advisory Committee

Dan Wade

I was fortunate enough to sit in on this meeting this summer at the AALL Annual Meeting. It is wonderful to see

how the index thrives at a time when many law libraries are cancelling law reviews and/or not collecting new titles enthusiastically. At the meeting the Committee decided to add seventeen

new titles to the Index. These can be found at the website of the Index:

<http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/iflp/periodicals.html>

Education Committee Report

Jeanne Rehberg

The FCIL-SIS launched its program planning for the 2010 AALL Annual Meeting in Denver even while the 2009 Washington, D.C. meeting was still in full swing. The FCIL Education Committee met on July 28, and with an excellent turnout we had a wealth of ideas to brainstorm. Under a less than comfortable August 23 deadline that put most of us up against the new semester, FCIL members came through to write program descriptions, contact potential speakers and submit proposals for seven programs.



2010 Programs Announced

The AALL Annual Meeting Program Committee ("AMPC") has announced that the following programs have been accepted for Denver:

- ◇ After Hotel Rwanda and Welcome to Sarajevo: Preserving Trial Evidence and Documentation in a Multi-Media Age
- ◇ A Baobab Grows in Brooklyn: Training U.S. Law Students To Work in a South African Legal Aid Clinic
- ◇ Destination...TREATY!
- ◇ Navigating Your Way to the

Classroom: Law Librarians Teaching New Law School Classes

The Education Committee expresses its gratitude to all who worked on proposals. It's not too early to start thinking about proposals for the 2011 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. And by the way, because the Denver meeting takes place July 10-13, 2010, the deadline for 2011 proposals should be well before the start of the fall semester next year.

Other Opportunities

As an SIS, the FCIL-SIS has other programming opportunities. At the Annual Meeting, we may choose to present non-AMPC programs, provided the FCIL-SIS pays the charges associated with the program. These programs may include any proposals that were not accepted by the AMPC and educational programming by FCIL-SIS Interest Groups. We will also reprise our very popular "The Executive Committee presents..." program with a presentation by the 2010 recipient of the Schaffer Grant. Watch for these events in the Denver Preliminary Program early next year.

Grants Are Available

Did you know that AALL has grants available for programming outside of the Annual Meeting? The purpose of the AALL/BNA Continuing Education Grants Program (CEGP) is to encourage program development and promote sharing among AALL entities. The grants may be used to develop content (speakers, venue, etc.) or the means of wider distribution (webinar, podcast, etc.). Chapters, member institutions, caucuses, individual AALL members, and SIS's may submit proposals for the CEGP. At present, there are four

rounds of applications and grant awards. The schedule for the next three rounds of grants in the 2009-2010 cycle is as follows:

- ◇ November 5, 2009 – Proposals due to AALL Headquarters (second round). December 7, 2009 – Announcement of funded grants. August 2010 – Deadline for expenditure of funds
- ◇ February 25, 2010 – Proposals due to AALL Headquarters (third round). March 29, 2010 – 2009 Announcement of funded grants. November 2010 – Deadline for expenditure of funds
- ◇ May 6, 2010 – Proposals due to AALL Headquarters (fourth round). June 7, 2010 – 2009 Announcement of funded grants. February 2011 – Deadline for expenditure of funds

Contact Info

If you have an idea for an FCIL-SIS program that would be suitable for distribution throughout AALL, check out the CEGP page at http://www.aallnet.org/prodev/grant_program.asp and contact Jeanne Rehberg, FCIL Vice-Chair/Chair Elect and Education Committee Chair.

Be Active!

Many FCIL-SIS members first stepped onto the national stage by coordinating, moderating or speaking at an FCIL-sponsored program. It is a great way to learn a new topic, with the added benefit of meeting new colleagues. The Education Committee is here to support you as you find your role in professional continuing education.

FCIL Schaffer Grant Recipient Masoud Speaks at AALL

Lucie Olejnikova

Chris O'Byrne (Chair), Teresa Miguel, Rob Britt, and I served on the 2008-2009 FCIL Schaffer Grant committee. We received 36 applications for the FCIL Schaffer Grant and the competition was stiff. We were pleased to announce this year's winner, Mr. Ahmadullah Masoud, who graciously accepted the grant and the invitation to attend the 2009 AALL in Washington, D.C. Additional funding for Mr. Masoud's visit was provided by William S. Hein & Company and LexisNexis. Traditionally, the winner is asked to prepare a talk, but this year the program turned into a panel presentation with a follow-up discussion. The program was presented by the FCIL Executive Committee. Although the program was scheduled on the last day of the AALL conference, Tuesday July 28, 2009, it was well attended and the audience was totally absorbed.

Noted Panelists

Mr. Masoud and his two co-presenters, Ms. Muto and Prof. Kauffman, spoke on "The Past, Present and Future of the Law Library and Librarianship in Afghanistan: The Challenges And Rewards of Building a Law Library After 30 Years of War." At the time of the conference, Mr. Masoud was the Director and reference librarian at the Independent National Legal Training Center (INLTC) in Kabul Afghanistan. Andrea Muto, a senior attorney for Legal Publishing, spent two and a half years in Afghanistan as part of the Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (ARoLP), funded by USAID and contracted to Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc. Blair Kauffman, Director of Lillian Goldman Law Library at Yale School of Law, joined

this project as a consultant. The panelists shared their experience in creating the INLTC in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Prof. Kauffman gave an overview of the project and described his role in the process. He joined the ARoLP as a short-term consultant to share his expertise on law library administration. In Afghanistan, he helped to train staff in legal research theory and gave advice on acquisition, cataloging and maintenance of materials. His advice proved to be invaluable.

Libraries in Afghanistan

Mr. Masoud delivered a fascinating talk on the history of librarianship and law librarianship in Afghanistan, from the Communist Era (starting in 1978) through the Taliban regime to the present. He spoke about building the library, acquiring materials, training staff, providing reference services, providing access to materials, challenges in cataloging in three different languages (Pashto, Dari, and English), challenges in convincing lawmakers to make the laws available, and more. The library accepts donations in English despite the fact that Pashto and Dari are the two official languages of Afghanistan. As Mr. Masoud pointed out, many students are taking English, so they can use the materials written in English. The INLTC opened in August 2008 and, for the first time in Afghanistan, judges, attorneys, law students and others had access to a comprehensive collection of Afghan and international laws.

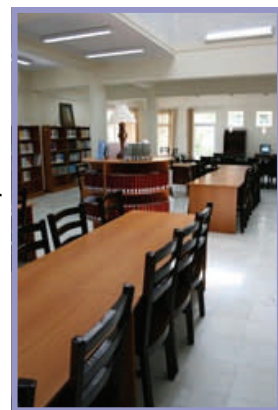
New Law Library

Ms. Muto spent two and a half years in Afghanistan helping to build this center. She played a pivotal role in mak-

ing the INLTC a reality. She tackled anything that needed to be done including, but not limited to, the following: making sure the construction of the building was completed, ordering furniture, hiring and training staff, obtaining and organizing materials, setting up contracts for electricity and web space, and adopting the KOHA cataloging system (an open source software allowing Mr. Masoud to catalog in three languages). She was the go-to-person in any situation.

Uncertain Future

Today the INLTC project faces sustainability issues. With the change in U.S. administration, all U.S.-funded projects were put on hold for review, including the ARoLP. USAID stopped funding the ARoLP. The center's three remaining staff members have been working without pay for several months, trying to keep the door open. The latest development is that, after several months without pay, it was necessary for Mr. Masoud to leave the INLTC law library to work at the Asia Foundation Library. We are very happy to hear that he is able to continue doing library work. The status of the INLTC law library is unknown at this time. The original founders are hoping for the center to survive and for additional future funding to become available again.



INLTC Reading Room

Foreign Law Selectors Interest Group Meets in D.C.

Dan Wade

The Foreign Law Selectors meeting was very well attended with several staff members of the Library of Congress around the table. Seventeen academic institutions were represented, as well as Los Angeles County and the CIA. There were three major reports of the meeting.

NEFLLCG Annual Report

Dan Wade distributed the 2008-2009 Annual Report of NEFLLCG (Cornell, Fordham, Georgetown, Harvard, NYU, Penn, and Yale). Most important were the personal announcements: Silke Sahl, our colleague at Columbia, became a mother on May 1st, when Annabelle Erika Sahl entered the world; and our long time colleague Maria Smolka-Day of Penn announced her retirement for later in the academic year.

Harvard has undergone a reorganization, and Yale has suffered layoffs. The two institutions alone have cut serials in the amount of approximately 1.5 million dollars over the past two years.

NEFLLCG met three times over the past year. Much of the discussion centered on how the budget crisis affected our libraries and the innumerable serial cancellations. Harvard has undergone a reorganization, and Yale has suffered layoffs. The two institutions alone have cut serials in

the amount of approximately 1.5 million dollars over the past two years. Most, if not all member libraries, have suffered significant collection development reductions. In the midst of these economic woes, one happy note is that Cornell has hired a librarian, Amy Emerson, who will work half-time in foreign and international law.

During the course of the year, several databases were reviewed by the Group: vLex and a Pakistan law site (Teresa Miguel), the Oxford Reports on International Law (Marylin Raisch), various China databases, Doctrinal and Lextenso (Mirela Roznovschi), and Justis. Two digitizing efforts are of note: Marcial Pons is beginning to digitize Spanish journals, and Eastern Book Company (India) is coming out with a web-based product.

Members undertook two projects this year. They compiled a union list of fee-based databases to which our respective institutions subscribe, and a union list of the journals indexed by the [Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals](#). Also, Los Angeles County Library and Stanford have added their titles to the union list of Latin American law journals and other serials, which can be found at: <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/Latinamericanjournals/index.html>

Report from Library of Congress

Mark Strattnr, Chief, Collection Services Division of the Law Library of Congress, provided a brief report on developments in foreign law collecting within the library. Recently, the library has hired several new area specialists. Several attended the meeting and made informative reports in the interest groups, etc. These experts are responsible for generating the reports of the

[Global Monitor](#) on the Library's website. The Library is currently seeking a Scandinavian specialist for the staff.

The Library's budget has been increasing, and there is expected a modest inflationary increase in the book budget for 2010. Seventy-five per cent of the budget goes toward subscriptions.

One of the challenges facing the library is the processing of all of the foreign gazettes received from the United Nations Library in New York, i.e., the UN's entire collection of gazettes. The enormity of the project is evidenced by the \$27,000 shipping cost and the seventy-five skids required to hold them. Organizing, microfilming, etc. of them will be a multi-year endeavor. In an e-mail subsequent to the meeting, Mark reports that the Library has been awarded over \$200,000 in funding for this project, and hopes to microfilm 418,000 gazette pages with the funds. This gift has prompted the Law Library of Congress to establish an Official Gazette Room.

Report From Northern California Law Schools

Teresa Stanton of Berkeley reported on foreign law collecting at Berkeley and other Northern California Law Schools:

Berkeley: "The Law Library seeks to remain one of the foremost legal research facilities and centers for foreign, comparative and international legal study in the world. As funding permits, we purchase important primary and secondary law from over 100 civil, common, and mixed legal

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Foreign Selectors Meeting continued from page 6

jurisdictions.” Berkeley has difficulty collecting in certain non-Roman languages, such as Arabic and Chinese, and is assisted in collecting in these languages by the main library.

“Over the past few years, we have stepped up our collecting for contemporary materials from Latin and Central America, Africa and the Middle East. Due to budgetary constraints, we have dramatically cut back our collections of law from Commonwealth jurisdictions, especially the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand”.

Berkeley has major collections of documents, publications and supporting materials from international organizations, such as the United Nations, European Union, and the Council of Europe. The Robbins Collection of rare materials includes over 340,000 titles with over 275 manuscripts, the majority of which are medieval, over 200 incunables, and 2,600 items that were published before 1600. Holdings include more than 100 single-folio manuscript legal documents from France, England, and the Papal Court, and 544 Catalan consilia printed between 1620-1758.

Berkeley is the host institution to the *Index to Legal Periodicals*, and subscribes to many foreign law journals.

Hastings: Hastings foreign law collecting focuses on the laws of various Commonwealth countries, namely the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada, the European Union, laws from important U.S. trade partners such as Mexico and Germany. Additionally, the Library collects comparative law materials.

The Library collects in both English and

foreign languages. The Library’s recent focus has been on Middle Eastern legal culture and East Asia law and legal reform, particularly, China, Japan and Korea. Recently, the library has been collecting foreign law research guides and subject compilations of foreign laws. The Library works to develop foreign law research guides, one example of which is the China law research guide.

Santa Clara: The Healey Law Library of

The Robbins Collection of rare materials includes over 340,000 titles with over 275 manuscripts, the majority of which are medieval, over 200 incunables, and 2,600 items that were published before 1600.

Santa Clara is a small library with a collection of fewer than 375,000 volumes. Its primary collection development goal is to support the curriculum which includes Chinese commercial law and the research needs of the faculty and visiting scholars.

The foreign law collecting focus is on Canada, the United Kingdom, and the European Union. Very little is collected that is not in English. The Healey Law Library does subscribe to Westlaw China and is exploring other China law databases for Spring 1910.

Stanford: Because of budget restraints, Stanford buys in the vernacular only for Spain, Latin America,

France and Francophone countries, and German speaking jurisdictions. Materials in other languages are collected only if required to support specific courses or faculty research. Asian languages are collected in the East Asian Library.

Stanford’s most comprehensive foreign jurisdiction is Italy, with an emphasis on 19th and 20th century materials. It collects codes, code commentaries, and doctrinal works related to contracts, obligations, constitutional law, administrative law, private law and taxation.

France, Germany, and the European Union are other jurisdictions with significant depth. While it is anticipated that in the future there will be more reliance on online sources for primary sources, some French and German case law will be continued in print formats. Other jurisdictions of note are Nigeria, Brazil, Mexico, Philippines, and Roman Law. It is hoped in the future more attention can be placed on Southern Africa, especially Namibia and South Africa, the developing democracies in East Asia, , e.g., Bhutan and Nepal, and Islamic Law.

Online databases include: China Law Express, Juris.de, International Maritime Organization Documents, Inter-AM Database (National Center for Inter-American Free Trade), Manupatra, LexisNexis Recht, South African Law Reports, and Namibian Law Reports.

Across all jurisdictions, emphasis will be placed on intellectual property, bioethics, climate change, ocean management, art law, and communications/internet law.

Asian Law Interest Group Report

Sergio Stone

The Asian Law Interest Group met early on Sunday morning July 26th. Many thanks to Joan Policastri, Foreign, Comparative and International Law Librarian at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, for successfully hosting the meeting in my absence. The highlight of the meeting was the presentation by Laney Zhang, Chinese Law Specialist at the Library of Congress, kindly arranged by Marylin Raisch.

Chinese Law Presentation

Laney described how she follows legal developments in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau. Many of the legal news items she tracks are posted on the Global Legal Monitor http://www.loc.gov/lawweb/servlet/lloc_news and on her Twitter page http://twitter.com/Chinese_Law.

As a foreign law specialist she can only give legal opinions to Congress and other branches of government; however, she is willing to lend research assistance to fellow librarians, time permitting.

Laney also discussed bilingual Chinese legal databases. Westlaw China, the newest entrant in the market, is lauded for the quality of its translations, but lacks sufficient amount of content. It will take a while for Westlaw China to catch up with more established competitors, such as Isino Law and ChinaLawInfo. If you are interested in Chinese business law, Laney recommends "China Law and Practice," which provides translations of Chinese primary law resources. Since it is difficult to produce high quality legal translations, Laney stated that she usually com-

pares at least two translations of a statute from different vendors, which is a financial challenge in these tight budgetary times. Laney finished her talk with an explanation of the role of case law in China's legal systems. Although decisions are not binding precedent, case law does assist with interpretation of laws and regulations.

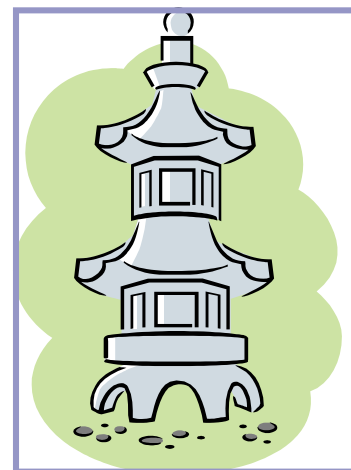
New Items

In 2009, Tsinghua University School of Law launched an American-style law review written in English. The Tsinghua China Law Journal published Volume 1, Issue 1 in late spring. For additional information on the publication and the table of contents of the first volume, visit the following site: <http://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/docsn/fxy/tclr/tclr.htm>.

The Asian Chapter of the Special Library Association and the Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres are hosting the "International Conference of Asian Special Libraries: Shaping the Future of Law Libraries" to be held in New Delhi, India in November 2009. For detailed session information please visit: <http://units.sla.org/chapter/cas/icoasi2008.html>

China-United States Conference on Legal Information and Law Libraries

Last May, in Beijing's Xiangshan Hotel, hundreds of American and Chinese Law Librarians met at the inaugural China-United States Conference on Legal Information and Law Libraries. The Conference allowed American participants to learn about Chinese legal education and the state of law librarianship in China. The Chinese librarians were able to see how a member-run professional organization, such as AALL, can



help librarians improve their skills, network with colleagues, and raise the status of the profession. At the close of the conference, Chinese and American organizers signed the Xiangshan Joint Statement (full-text below) creating the China-U.S. Forum on Legal Information and Law Libraries, a permanent group that will organize future conferences and coordinate formal exchanges between U.S. and Chinese law librarians. By building on the success of the conference, the forum will herald a new era of international collaboration among law librarians.

Many thanks to Joan Policastri, Laney Zhang, and all who attended the session for their excellent contributions. I look forward to seeing everyone at next year's meeting in Denver, Colorado.

Chinese-American Forum on Legal Information and Law Libraries. Xiangshan Joint Statement

In order to develop a comprehensive mutual and long-term relationship
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Internships & International Exchanges Committee Report

David McFadden

The FCIL Internships and International Exchanges Committee met on 28 July 2009 in Washington, D.C. Megan A. O'Brien, Marylin Raisch and David McFadden attended.

The attendance was low again this year. The chair reviewed the purposes and work of the committee. Marylin Raisch suggested that the committee not meet next year in Denver and instead do its work virtually throughout the year. After the meeting the chair decided to accept this suggestion.

Because no one present, except the chair, had ever attended a meeting of the committee, no projects or due dates were set for most projects. Megan O'Brien agreed to help with the resources section of the committee's webpage. The chair will solicit additional testimonials of foreign visits and exchanges to add to the committee's webpage. The chair will also contact past attendees of committee meetings in order to solicit volunteers to continue to contact libraries throughout the world seeking libraries willing to be included in our survey

and subsequent listing on the committee's webpage.

David McFadden will be the chair again for 2009/2010. If you are interested in working with the interest group, please contact the chair at dmcfadden@swlaw.edu.

Next Issue

Our Next Issue will be in February 2010.
Please consider writing for our FCIL newsletter.
All submissions are welcome!

Asian Law Report Continued from page 8

between the legal information related institutions of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the legal information centers and law libraries of the United States of America (USA), to create a regular mechanism where Chinese and American legal information professionals and law librarians can exchange ideas and experiences, and to promote, plan and coordinate legal information and law library exchange activities between the two countries, there shall be established a Chinese American Forum on Legal Information and Law Libraries.

1. Name of the Forum

The name shall be "the Chinese - American Forum on Legal Information and Law Libraries" (CAFLIL).

2. Organization of the Forum

There shall be an American Executive Board with nine members. Two of the members shall serve as Co-Chairs. There shall be a Chinese Executive Board with nine members. Two of the members shall serve as Co-Chairs. The two Executive Boards shall form the

Joint Executive Board.

3. Terms of the Joint Executive Board Members

The term of the Joint Executive Board Members shall be three years, except for the initial term of the Forum; three American Members and three Chinese Members shall serve for one year; three American Members and three Chinese members shall serve for two years; and three American Members and three Chinese Members shall serve for three years. The two American Co-Chairs and the two Chinese Co-Chairs shall be selected from the Members with the three-year term. The terms shall begin on June 1, 2009.

4. Meetings

The Joint Executive Boards should meet at least once a year. The meeting may be held in person or through electronic means. When the meeting is held in person, the meeting place should alternate between a location in the PRC and the USA. The Co-Chairs from both sides will preside over the meeting.

5. China -American Conference on Legal Information and Law Libraries
 The Joint Executive Board should sponsor a Chinese American Conference on Legal Information and Law Libraries (CACLL) once every two years. The location of the conference should alternate between a location in the PRC and the USA.

6. Advisory Board, Committees and Task

In order to broaden the representation of Chinese and American legal information and law library communities, the Executive Board on each side may form an Advisory Board, Committees and Task Forces.

7. Amendment of the Statement

This statement may be revised with the mutual consent of the Executive Board from both sides. Signed this 30th day of May, 2009.

Janis L. Johnston, American Co-Chair
 Zhang Wenxian, Chinese Co-Chair
 Frank Liu American Co-Chair
 Huang Jin, Chinese Co-Chair

Oakley Memorial Symposium: The Future of Today's Scholarship

Jennifer Davitt

On July 25, 2009, the Georgetown Law Library held a symposium on the topic of preserving the research value of blogs for future researchers. The symposium was held in honor of Bob Oakley and was inspired by his commitment to the access and preservation of legal information.

The topic of the symposium was motivated by the relatively recent recognition of blogs as part of the canon of legal scholarship, and the consequences of that conclusion for librarians and future researchers. How will these future researchers of today's blog scholarship find valuable, historic blogs? How will they be assured of perpetual access to this scholarship? How can any researcher be confident that documents posted to blogs are reliable? At the symposium, speakers and attendees debated these questions, and began the process of developing best practices to ensure that the value of blog scholarship is not easily lost.

The first panel of the day laid the groundwork for the symposium by presenting librarians' and legal scholars' views on the future research value of

today's blogs. Panelists Lee Peoples of the Oklahoma City School of Law, Margaret Schilt of the University of Chicago, and Chris Borgen of St. John's University (and founder of the *Opinio Juris* blog), addressed the rise of legal blogs and blogging as a phenomenon, and discussed whether future legal scholars will be interested in the analysis found in blogs or the documents posted to blogs.

The second panel was devoted to examining the issue of the reliability of legal documents uploaded to blogs. From *Newsweek's* posting of the "Torture Memos" to SCOTUSBlog's postings of Supreme Court briefs, news agencies and bloggers regularly upload legal documents to support their stories. Although these web sites and blogs are often the only sources for these documents, few electronic documents have any verifiable proof of reliability. Panelists Mike Wash of the Government Printing Office, Toby McIntosh of BNA, and Tom Goldstein of Akin Gump (and founder of the SCOTUSBlog) discussed current practices and standards for proving and determining the authenticity of a document. Tom Goldstein offered particu-

larly entertaining insight into the high journalistic standards he demands for SCOTUSBlog, and the consequent resources poured into his blog.

In the final panel, Laura Campbell and Donna Scheeder of the Library of Congress, Linda Frueh of the Internet Archive, Carolyn Hank of UNC-Chapel Hill, and Victoria Reich of LOCKSS presented their perspectives, experiences and visions with respect to the problem of blog preservation. This incredibly knowledgeable panel provided a much-needed education on the technological, economic, and social considerations implicated in digital preservation.

The day concluded with a working group break-out session led by Maureen Sullivan to give panelists and attendees an opportunity to brainstorm and discuss solutions for many of the issues presented in each of the panels.

Overall, the librarians involved with planning the event considered it an unqualified success, and were excited by the level of engagement and thoughtfulness on the part of all of the participants.

Teaching Foreign & International Law Interest Group

Tricia Kasting

We had a good attendance (15-20 people) for a 7:30 A.M. meeting. The topic for discussion was the use of Internet sites and Web 2.0 in course instruction. We went around the room and introduced ourselves, mentioned our favorite websites, and described what web 2.0 apps we use and how

we use them. Everyone directs students to websites such as ASIL, GlobalLex, etc. No one had yet incorporated web 2.0 apps into courses; although, a few plan to use wikis this Fall for the students' projects. There is interest in web 2.0 but we are still working out what can be used, how it should be used and what value is added.

It was generally noted that the course materials/syllabi available through the FCIL site are very useful for those creating an FCIL course for the first time. Any who are willing to do so are encouraged to send (email) their course materials to Meg Butler at New York Law School library

New Member Profile: Valerie Aggerbeck.

Mary Rumsey

Our next subject of a New Member profile hails from France. Valerie Aggerbeck lived in Athis-Mons, a small Parisian suburb, until starting college in Minnesota. She attended St. Olaf College, where she worked in the library. Valerie graduated magna cum laude with a double major in Political Science and German.

From MN to TX and Back

Like many political science majors, Valerie wound up in law school—in her case, the University of Minnesota. She says, “My first foray into international legal research took place when I participated in the Jessup International Moot Court. This was the first time I had to research international cases and materials, and I immediately developed an interest in this area.”

Valerie quickly wiped the dust of law school off her feet and embarked on a library degree through the University of North Texas. During library school, she interned at the William Mitchell College of Law’s library, where she helped Mary Ann Archer update and expand the book [A Basic Course in Public International Law](#).

Another Minnesota law school, the University of St. Thomas, snapped Valerie up—she began work as a Research Librarian in June 2008. Like many FCIL librarians, Valerie’s title does not reference her FCIL duties, but she is the “unofficial” foreign and international law librarian. She notes: “I am the liaison for the professor who teaches international law and the Jessup International Moot Court Team, and the Director of the Library routinely fields FCIL questions to me. I try out FCIL data-

bases and make recommendations for the purchase of international materials.”

Clinic Work

Valerie also provides invaluable service to St. Thomas’s Immigration Clinic. She interprets during meetings and asylum interviews, and translates legal and non-legal documents. To sharpen her FCIL skills, she tries to keep her eye open for training opportunities, subscribes to electronic discussion lists, uses research guides whenever available, and asks fellow librarians for help. Valerie hopes to develop strong relationships in the field: people to turn to when she’s completely stumped on a question.

Asked what aspects of her job Valerie enjoys most, she replied, “I love the interaction with students and professors. I love being surrounded by people who teach me something new every day. I also love the fact that, as part of my job, I am able to work with the immigration clinic and interpret/translate for them. I am never bored at work because each day brings new questions and experiences.”

FCIL Challenges

“I especially like FCIL work because it is challenging and forces me to go beyond my comfort zone. I also think the material is more interesting (who wants to read contract cases when instead they can read international human rights cases?)”

As for drawbacks, Valerie said she finds some FCIL databases and resources difficult to use—“for example, the UN databases can sometimes be a little moody.”



Valerie Aggerbeck
University of Saint Thomas

Goals & Research Interests

Valerie’s goals include teaching an international research class at St. Thomas. She already teaches first-year and advanced legal research. In addition to her knowledge of French, German, and Spanish, Valerie says, “I have a Ukrainian friend who promised to teach me Russian if I teach her French. What I really want to learn though is Arabic. I heard it is very difficult but I am not deterred.”

Her research interests include immigration law, copyright law, and international human rights law. She amuses herself by traveling, reading (mostly fiction), watching movies, and cleaning and organizing: “Maybe I should have been a cataloger?”

Valerie’s final words: “I am still new to librarianship, teaching legal research, and publishing. Any advice is greatly appreciated.”

The University of Saint Thomas School of Law originally opened in 1923 and graduated its first class of nine students in 1926. The school closed in 1933, but reopened in 2001. Visit <http://www.stthomas.edu/LAW/about/history/default.html> for more information

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IFLA - 75 in Milan: Law Section Meeting Report

Radu Popa

IFLA held its 75th Annual Meeting in Milan, Italy, between August 23 and 27. Despite the very hot weather, more than 2000 delegates attended the meeting in one of the most important Italian cities, renowned for its history and art, but also fashion and contemporary exuberant life.

The Law section of IFLA is one of the newest in the organization. However, in less than three years of existence it has become very active and well respected in the librarian community at large. On this note, the Chair of the Section, Dr. Holger Knudsen (Professor and Director of the Law Library at Max Planck Institute, Germany) opened the Program of our section in Milan, on Tuesday, August 25. He welcomed the approximately 40 participants, explaining that the Section will try to further enlarge its membership and encourage cooperation with other sections within IFLA, in order to be able to organize an increased number of programs on interdisciplinary topics.

Italian Legal System Basics and New Trends

Under this generic title, the proceedings of the section benefitted from the knowledge of two outstanding speakers. Prof. Dr. Elena Bargelli, who is an Associate Professor of Private Law at the Faculty of Political Sciences (University of Pisa) lectured about "Law with special emphasis on the protection of cultural property", while Rosa Maiello, Library Director at the University of Napoli-Parthenope, offered an interesting perspective on "Law Libraries in Italy". The two contributions were ex-

tremely interesting and almost complementary. Law librarians from all over the world have been made aware of some important developments in Italy (such as the effort to encourage transparency and digitization of primary and secondary sources of law, while fully respecting cultural rights and intellectual property), but also of some shortcomings such as a lack of cooperation,

Rosa Maiello suggested that books and periodicals produced by leading publishers such as Giuffrè, CEDAM, and UTET are always a guarantee of high quality.

and poor strategic planning in the fields of preservation and conservation. The speakers also emphasized the fact that synchronization and uniform treatment of certain rules for access to information have not yet been completely accomplished within the European Union.

Spirited & Heated Debates

As an undeniable proof of the interest raised by the two lectures, the floor debates that followed surpassed by more than twenty minutes the time allotted to our section. Armin Talke, the subject specialist of the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin, Germany, noted that with so much publishing in both paper and electronic formats, it is sometimes hard to select the best basic legal Italian materials. Rosa Maiello suggested that books and periodicals produced by leading publishers such as Giuffrè, CE-

DAM, and UTET are always a guarantee of high quality. Radu D. Popa, Director and Assistant Dean, NYU Law Library, added that establishing standing orders with authorized, expert book selectors and dealers such as Cassalini might be a good solution. Since the Italian legal periodicals as well as the monographic series do not have a clear ranking, Prof. Blair Kaufmann, Director of the Law Library at Yale, proposed open-access and the shift towards legal publishing in electronic format.

The dialog further continued on the subject of digitization and preservation, as well as on the need to network at the national and international level. Dr. Holger Knudsen expressed his opinion that the creation of an Italian National Association of Law Libraries could be of great help in both creating uniform standards, and uplifting the professional status of the Italian law librarians.

The session was attended, among others, by Jules Winterton, President of the IAAL, and Claire Germain, Professor and Director of the Cornell Law Library, and Secretary of the Law Section of IFLA.

At the end, Dr. Holger Knudsen offered symbolic gifts to the speakers, expressing his satisfaction about the session and inviting everybody to attend the next Annual meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden.

