

# ALL NEWSLETTER

## Academic Law Libraries

SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

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Jan Goldsmith, editor

### OFFICERS FOR 1983/84

Kathleen Carrick  
Chair  
Case Western Reserve

Barbara Gontrum  
Vice-chair/Chair elect  
University of Maryland  
Law Library

Joanne Scanlon  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Cornell University  
Law Library

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Dear Academic SIS Members:

The Academic Law Library SIS has come to a crucial stage in its development. As with most organizations, the first few years were a struggle for membership and survival. We now seem to have reached a plateau in our membership of between one hundred and seventy-five to two hundred members.

It is obvious that this hardly begins to account for the Law Librarians in Academic Law Libraries, and that we must reach out to our remaining colleagues to interest them in our activities. If we feel that there is a need for Academic Law Librarians to come together as a group, then we must provide a strong forum for our concerns and interest. We must produce the programs, newsletters, and information that not only justify the existence of this SIS, but encourage other academics to join and take an active role.

We have a number of interesting projects going on which are of major importance to all Academic Law Librarians. Barbara Bintliff at the University of Denver is the Chair of the committee which will study the criteria, qualifications and status of Academic Law Librarians other than the Director of the Law Library. I have charged her committee to draw up a list of standards for our study and consideration. We would like to disseminate

the guidelines in the Spring Newsletter in order to be able to have full discussion and a vote on the guidelines at the SIS meeting in San Diego.

It is hoped that these guidelines will help to define the professional status of Academic Law Librarians for Law School Administrators. Our Chair-elect, Barbara Contrum, is in the process of organizing a program on the topic of the proposed revisions of the ABA and AALS Standards for Academic Law Libraries. As this is an area of tremendous change, every Academic Law Librarian should be aware of the impact of the revision of those standards. Unfortunately, until the present, only Deans and Directors of the Law Libraries have been privy to programs discussing standards.

AALL's plan for the SIS meetings in San Diego is new this year and I hope it will not discourage attendance at our meeting. The AALL Program Chair has planned that most of the SIS business meetings and programs will be on Sunday, July 1. We are planning a morning business meeting, a brunch and then our program. Although we were encouraged to charge admission to our program and to limit attendance to our members, both Barbara and I felt that we wanted to encourage all interested persons to attend the program. Therefore, there will be no fee associated with the events other than for the brunch, and that will be an option for our members.

COME  
TO  
SAN DIEGO!

July 1-4  
1984



Jan Goldsmith has agreed to be our Newsletter editor. We will be including in the Newsletter reviews and reports which we hope warrant the consideration of Academic Law Librarians. This issue includes a review of a study done by the Association of American Medical Colleges' Special Committee on the role of librarians as information managers. Also included is part of a report written by Thomas Reynolds of the University of California, Berkeley, Law Library recommending international and foreign materials for inclusion in a Law School Library. Although the report was prepared for New York Law School, we felt that the information might be interesting to academics studying their own collections. We thank Tom and Roy Mersky, at New York Law School, for allowing us to include the report.

We would like to include in future issues other internally generated reports which are not otherwise accessible, but which can be extremely informative. We ask that members either edit or send a copy of entire reports, reviews, etc. to Jan Goldsmith (UCLA Law Library, Los Angeles, CA 90024) to review for the Academic SIS Newsletter. It could be very informative to read why one law school decided to go with a particular computer vendor, or why a choice was made between OCLC and RLG. As the Academic SIS program in Houston pointed out, it is a way of beginning to be published.

I would hope that at some point our newsletter could gain as much respect as our sister SIS Government Documents' publication JURIS DOCS does. Please help us in this endeavor and I look forward to working with all of you during this coming year.

Sincerely,

*Kathy*

Kathy Carrick, Chair, 1983/84

Academic Law Libraries SIS  
Minutes of the Business Meeting  
June 27, 1983, Houston, Texas

The meeting was called to order by the chairperson, Fannie Fishlyn (University of Southern California Law Library) at 7:13 a.m. Twenty-one people attended the meeting. Reading the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with as they had been published in the newsletter.

Fannie announced that the section had experienced a 13% growth in its membership this past year, with 228 members out of the approximately 1000 academic law librarians listed in the membership directory. The programs being sponsored by the section were mentioned, the Tuesday evening program being a discussion of the latest developments in LEXIS and WESTLAW, and the Wednesday afternoon program on publications.

Fannie mentioned the fine work of Adrienne Adan and Jan Goldsmith, (both of the University of California, Los Angeles, Law Library) on the questionnaire on retention policies of pocket parts and on sharing legal research exercise questions and answers. Discussion of the survey results brought forth the suggestions that the information on the exchange of research exercises be updated annually, and that information also be solicited about the textbooks being used. It was suggested also that liaison between this section and the AALS Section on Research and Writing be established, in light of similar interests and activities, and that the liaison

might be from the section or that the Association liaison to AALS might serve.

The treasurer's report indicated that the section had a balance of \$561.25 as of May 31, 1983. Annual meeting expenses of approximately \$35.00 were incurred and unpaid as of the report.

Election of officer results were announced: Barbara Gontrum (University of Maryland Law Library) is the new vice-chair/chair elect, and Joanne Scanlon (Cornell University Law Library) is secretary/treasurer, for 1983/84. The meeting was then turned over to the incoming chairperson, Kathleen Carrick (State University of New York at Buffalo through July, Case Western Reserve as of August 1.)

Program topics for the next year were discussed. One suggestion was the newly proposed standards for acquisition budgets for academic law libraries put forth by the AALS, and similar new broad definitions and concepts being considered by the ABA. (One proposed item in an academic law library's budget might be travel expense money to send faculty to other research libraries in lieu of acquiring the materials, as part of an acquisitions service.) If adopted, these standards and recommendations are bound to have effect on the library operations as well as budget preparation.

A second proposal, from Barbara Bintliff (University of Denver) was the tenure or job security of professional staff other than the director of academic law libraries. Some institutions use tenure, some use extended contracts, some offer no provisions at all for librarians. Institutions sometimes seek guidance from AALL in the form of standards or policies, but there is no information available through the Association. Many other institutions are concerned with privacy or confidentiality of tenure documents and are reluctant to disclose them to others.

A result of the discussion was that Barbara Bintliff was appointed to chair a committee that would explore the matters involved and draft a proposed set of guidelines (but not specific procedures) in this area to be considered by the section members.

The editor for the newsletter for the coming year is Jan Goldsmith, Law Library, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Laurel Wendt*  
Laurel Wendt  
Secretary/treasurer 1982/83.

#### REVIEW

The Association of American Medical Colleges' Health Science Library Study Advisory Committee recently released its review entitled "Academic Information and the Academic Health Science Center: Roles in the Library and Information Management." Nina W. Matheson was the principle investigator and John A.D. Cooper, M.D., PhD. was project director. The review appears as a supplement to the Journal of Medical Education, October 1982, part 2. The report is well worth

consideration by academic law librarians, as it traces the potential of the information manager in the continuously expanding world of biomedical sciences: this is a scenario that is applicable to any management/information management system.

The basic challenge to specialized academic librarians is seen as the need to apply new technology appropriately, and to assist faculty, students, and administrators to develop skills to make new and better uses of the knowledge base which is available (page 6). The report urges the academic health center to make the information center or library an integral part of the training of its medical professionals. It projects a future in which all of the library's records and scientific journals will be on-line and accessible to students via data bases. The library will serve as the information hub, servicing the medical facility by obtaining and keeping the faculty and students abreast of new changes as they occur in the medical field. Problems that the study sees for the library are: educating librarians, creating the necessary data bases, managing the automation systems, and establishing the necessary networks. The report is a thoughtful analysis of the need for libraries to develop into information management centers for the academic programs that they serve.

Kathleen Carrick

#### SOME NOTES ON DEVELOPING A COOPERATIVELY ORGANIZED AND ACCESSED COLLECTION ON COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW.

I see a basic collection at each institution containing:

- I. Periodicals: Most of the standard, general English language journals on international law and legal aspects of international organizations and relations. Some universally accepted and used serials on more specific fields, e.g., air law, sea law, human rights, etc. may have to be at more than one cooperating institution, though a single location would well suffice. There has been a proliferation of American journals on international law connected with academic institutions. These are essential: fortunately, they are inexpensive and, in any case, should be immediately accessible. The fact that a librarian or faculty member knows that the Yap's Crossing Journal of International Law has never printed anything worth reading is irrelevant to the (student) user who has found a title that looks like gold.
- II. Yearbooks: There are now a great number of semi-authoritative national yearbooks on international law. Many, formerly written in German, Italian, etc., are now appearing substantially in English. These are valuable not only for the articles they contain, but also for the reports of various national practices on international law. Those that are now issued in English should probably be held by any library that aspires to even moderate specialization, at least in current editions and perhaps retrospectively at one particular institution.
- III. Reports: There are five or six currently published reports of international law cases; a few, the I.C.J. and Lauterpacht should be duplicated, but there is the possibility of cooperation here in regard to lesser, and frequently overlapping, sets.
- IV. Treaty Collections: The basic American treaty collections should be in moderate sized collections, if for nothing else than for accreditation reasons. The currently published United Nations treaty series should be maintained. A

cooperative arrangement can, however, be worked out for many historical sets, other national sets and subject collections, and even for the Consolidated Treaty Series.

V. Documents of international organizations are a trial, both because of the cost of purchase and the cost of staff time involved in acquisition - and maintenance. Any one institution's solid holdings of printed U.N. official records, European Community Official Journal and Council of Europe documents would suggest that that institution be the site for such publications. A system of duplicate or parcelled out subscriptions to various categories of U.N. printed documents (as opposed to official records) should be possible to develop. Some U.N. and European human rights documents will likely have to be at every library, although a single school can be the one to try for Pan-American Union/O.A.S. documents. There are a couple of editions of U.N. and soon-to-be European Community documents in microform. I see no utility in one institution making the effort to acquire a back-up set in microform of what the other has in hard copy. Any student would willingly opt for a half-hour journey rather than struggle with microform. The same applies to filmed editions of, say, mimeographed documents that are held by none of the consortium members, but are available for reference use at a major nearby research collection; these are a nightmare in hard copy, and worse (albeit assuredly more complete) on film. This position becomes less defensible in regard to material that no one has in complete or manageable hard copy, such as O.A.S. documents which are - years late - available in microfiche.

VI. Bibliographies and Indexes: The basic, current English language sets should be held by all libraries, but specialized ones need only be held by one institution and foreign language titles should be collected as the need arises.

VII. Looseleaf Subject Collections: A few publishers have staked out the field of compilations of articles and documents on specific subject aspects of international law, trade, etc. These are particularly suitable for photocopying or interlibrary loan, and a conscious effort should be made to avoid duplication.

VIII. Monographs: This is an undefined and expensive area where there are real possibilities of achieving savings. Basic materials can be recognized and will probably be ordered by all members; publications in assigned specialities (when developed) will be selected by only one library. Methods, intellectual and mechanical, will have to be worked out for selection and acquisition of more arcane and expensive materials not falling into any assigned specialized category. This is possible to accomplish, and it will work; some structure is necessary, constant dialogue is required. If a single international/comparative librarian is charged with this responsibility for all the schools, many difficulties will have been surmounted at this first step.

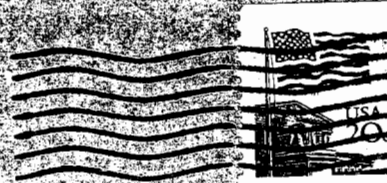
Forms of cooperation work best if they are simple, and perhaps connected with some mnemonic approach: Berkeley and Stanford have been cooperating in the acquisition of United Kingdom and Commonwealth treatises, frightfully expensive works that come along in a new edition every four or five years. These are essential for research, but the borrower can almost always wait a day or so for the latest edition. In a childishly simple, but successful fashion, Berkeley purchases all even numbered editions and Stanford all odd numbered editions. Columbia and New York University do the same, and certainly any closely situated institutions should immediately investigate and develop such a system on a less ambitious scale.

IX. Foreign Law: It may appear that, either consciously or through gifts, some schools have acquired modest or even more than modest holdings of non-Anglo-American materials. I sense that this often may be happenstance, and that there is little interest in or utility for materials in languages other than English (aside from a few standard journals). It appears reasonable, then, that policies be developed to retain gifts of major works and treatises in foreign languages and then only those that do not require looseleaf insertions. An effort must then be made to seek out English versions of foreign codes, summaries of foreign laws, translations of treatises and some English language encyclopedic sets. These can provide the basis for most student work in comparative law; more advanced monographs in foreign vernacular can be ordered in response to faculty suggestions. It would be reasonable to include in the collection the "standard" codes from some of the western European nations when it is likely that there will be faculty use, (France, Germany, Italy) in the vernacular. There are good possibilities for cooperation here also.

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