Message from the Chair
William McCoy
University of Washington Law Library

For the benefit of you who were unable to attend the Baltimore Convention or who could not make it to our annual business meeting, I will repeat a small portion of the remarks I made there. When I agreed a year and a half ago to accept your nomination as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of the SIS, I overcame my reluctance only after reflecting on the tremendous amount of talent, dedication, and commitment I have observed in so many of you, my colleagues. I knew that, in accepting, I would have the experience and the knowledge of many wise people to rely on. Though it is a cliché that a small number of people have done most of the work in the SIS, the reality is that the number of individuals who have held office, led working groups, organized programs, taught workshops, edited publications, spoken on panels, written for the newsletter, contributed to INT-LAW, or maintained our website is nothing short of amazing. Looking back on the eight years that I have been a part of our group, overall I believe that we have learned from each other, and, though we have faced frustrations at times, that we have definitely left our imprint upon the Association. I am proud to be associated with the FCIL SIS!

Reflecting on the Baltimore meeting, I would like to express my thanks to all who worked so tirelessly to make our part of it a success. Though we didn’t have as many programs selected as we might have liked, members of our SIS were quite visible as speakers and coordinators of several programs and, as usual, did an excellent job. The 1998 annual meeting in Anaheim will have the theme New Horizons, and much is already happening in preparation. The Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee (AMPSC) of AALL has reworked the daily schedule and structured the programs under four sub-topics: Management, Information, Technology, and Law. For more on this, see Marci Hoffmann and Gail Partin’s Education Subcommittee Report in this newsletter or check out AALLNET at www.aallnet.org.

As an aside, while you’re at it, take a look at our SIS webpage, skillfully maintained by Anne Burnett at www.lawsch.uga.edu/fcil/fcil.html. And if you’re ever trying to get hold of colleagues (for example, me), you had better first check the online AALL Directory and Handbook accessible from the AALLNET homepage. In my case, that is the only place you will find my correct (direct) phone number and job title!

Returning to the topic of the Anaheim meeting, I am very much tempted to usurp Gail and Marci’s report and comment on the numerous excellent program proposals submitted by our membership. Suffice it to say that half of our ten excellent proposals were accepted, which unfortunately means that an equal number (which some of us thought were sure to be selected) were rejected.

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by the AMPSC. Having something you have worked hard on and cared about rejected is never easy, particularly if you suspect that those making the decision may not really understand the need for or the importance of “your” (or “our”) program. Some of our members were understandably upset as a result. It has been suggested that there is an insufficient understanding of the needs of our SIS on the part of the Association as a whole. How do we balance a need to educate our own members with intermediate or advanced programs (or programs of a narrower focus) with the other role (more obvious, perhaps, to the AMPSC and others) of educating non-specialists in the Association by providing introductory-level programs or programs of broader mass appeal? I confess that I myself do not have a clear answer to this dilemma. Some have suggested having our own conference or leaving the Association altogether and participating in the American Society of International Law or the International Association of Law Libraries. For practical and financial reasons as well as loyalty to AALL, I cannot personally support a separate conference for FCIL. And though ASIL or IALL may be a valid alternative for some members, clearly they do not meet the needs of all.

I would like to invite our membership to seriously consider ways to address these concerns in a constructive and effective manner. Communicate with each other about this and give me your feedback. If you, the members of the SIS, feel it would be productive, I would consider appointing a task force to consider these issues and make recommendations for action. One member has written me: “The Association is less and less representing my needs and my goals . . . .” Perhaps it would be useful to survey our membership as to just what our needs and goals are and whether they coincide enough to provide a clear direction in which to move.

It is my sincere desire that we continue to build on our strengths and work out a way to be an even stronger and more positive presence within AALL while at the same time becoming increasingly aware of and responsive to the specialized needs of our membership. I look forward to working with all of you to meet this challenge.

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**Bibliographies Sought**

The *Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal* is interested in publishing thorough bibliographies of publications in English on selected topics in comparative labor law, comparative employment law (e.g., job training, privacy, discrimination) and social security (e.g., pensions, benefits) as a regular feature. Submissions should be on paper and on diskette in WordPerfect 6.1 or 7.0 and sent to:

*Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal*
Attn: Linda Payne
University of Illinois College of Law
116 Law Building
504 E. Pennsylvania Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820
Minutes of the 1997 Business Meeting  
Reported by Radu D. Popa  
New York University Law Library

The annual business meeting of the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries was convened on July 22, at 5:30 p.m. by the outgoing Chair, Margareta Horiba (Tulane University Law Library). Some 65 members of the FCIL SIS attended.

The minutes of the 1996 FCIL SIS business meeting, as published in the October 1996 Newsletter, were unanimously approved. The Secretary/Treasurer, Radu D. Popa (NYU Law Library), then submitted the Treasurer’s Report. The current balance was $2,153.23. The Treasurer’s report was adopted unanimously.

The results of the election were acknowledged next. The new Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Maria Smolka-Day (University of Pennsylvania Law Library), and the new Secretary/Treasurer, Jonathan Franklin (University of Michigan Law Library), were introduced.

The Chair then announced that several of the working groups that had met in Baltimore will report on their discussions in the FCIL Newsletter. These include the Electronic Issues Working Group, the African Law Working Group, the Asian Law Working Group, the Latin American Law Working Group, the CIS and Eastern European Law Working Group, the Education/Programs Subcommittee, and the Teaching Foreign and International Legal Research Working Group.

At this time the Chair gave special recognition to several individuals, followed by announcements from the floor. Margareta acknowledged in absentia Grace Mills (Boalt Hall Law Library) and her work on revising and republishing the FCIL brochure, and she thanked Anne Burnett (University of Georgia Law Library) for her work on the FCIL webpage. The Chair and the whole audience warmly recognized Ken Rudolf (Yale Law Library) for his high-quality work as the editor of the FCIL Newsletter for the past four years. Anne Burnett was introduced as the new editor of the Newsletter. In the absence of David McFadden (Southwestern University School of Law Library), the new chair of the Clearinghouse for International Placements and International Personnel Exchanges, Telle Zoller (University of Wisconsin) spoke about the group. Gail Partin (Dickinson School of Law Library) spoke about the Education/Program Committee’s work and made some important announcements related to the new structure of programs and the convention next year in Anaheim. Finally, Larry Wenger, IALL President, made announcements related to the IALL Annual Meeting to convene in Lund, Sweden, in August 1997.

As the discussion evolved to new business matters, Jonathan Pratter expressed reservations about the competence and ability of the AALL to represent the diverse interests of its several SISs. Jolande Goldberg then introduced a proposal that the FCIL SIS give LC official suggestions for subject heading changes in the field of international law to be used with the revised JZ/JX classification just completed. Margareta suggested that Jolande should formulate a proposal and present it to the Chair.

After welcoming new members and visitors from abroad, the outgoing Chair, Margareta Horiba, turned over the SIS to the incoming Chair, Bill McCloy, from University of Washington. The new Chair discussed AALL’s Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee (AMPSC) and its new offshoot, the Professional Development Committee, emphasizing how their new directions will influence how we formulate our program proposals. He also called the attention of the group to the radically different schedule proposed for the Anaheim meeting and how this will affect our FCIL programs and working groups. He encouraged the members to be aware of what is happening in AALL, especially with these two committees, and to be proactive in contacting their members regarding how our SIS can be useful in providing ideas and expertise for programs and workshops in our area of specialty. Finally, he urged members to submit

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program proposals for the Anaheim meeting in 1998 to the Education/Program committee as soon as possible.

Bill McCloy warmly expressed his gratitude to Margareta Horiba, the outgoing Chair, and Radu D. Popa, the outgoing Secretary/Treasurer. He also wished good luck to Maria Smolka-Day, the new Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, and Jonathan Franklin, the new Secretary/Treasurer. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

The meeting was immediately followed by the traditional reception for foreign visitors.

1997 Reports from the FCIL-SIS Committees and Working Groups

Minutes of the Asian Law Working Group
Joan Liu
New York University Law Library

The Asian Law working group business meeting was held at Baltimore Convention Center on July 20, 1997. Wei Luo, the Chair of the group, convened the meeting.

Asia has become the world's most dynamic region because of its unparalleled diversity of nations and their legal and economic systems. Therefore, the legal research interests and demands for accessing legal information on these jurisdictions are greatly increasing. A significantly larger number of law librarians than last year joined the meeting. The meeting started with librarians introducing the current status of Asian law collections in their institutions. A number of interesting topics and issues arose and were discussed during the meeting.

Except for a few law libraries (such as the Library of Congress, Harvard Law Library, Columbia Law Library, University of Washington Law Library, etc.), most libraries with which the attendees are affiliated still do not have very comprehensive collections on Asian jurisdictions, although the libraries are making efforts to acquire as many available resources as possible on limited budgets. Soaring costs for Asian legal materials, especially for East Asia, provide even more obstacles to housing extensive library collections. It was agreed that Internet resources would be a meaningful supplemental resource for these jurisdictions. Some reliable and informative web pages were recommended. Attendees also exchanged information on recent Asian Law publications and new electronic products and their acquisition resources. For instance, the librarians from Columbia reported that, like the University of Washington, Columbia now has Hanrei Taikai's CD-ROM containing more than 120,000 cases from 1875 through July 1996 on Japanese law reporters and periodicals, plus digests of a number of the older cases. Columbia also houses a very good online database called "Current Legal Information," which serves as an index to both legal articles and cases. Wei Luo mentioned that Washington University School of Law is committed to building its Chinese law collection to become the best Chinese law collection in the Midwest Region.

How to organize Asian materials to make library access easier was another interesting topic for the attendees. The University of Washington Law Library will finish its Chinese, Korea, and Japanese recon soon. New York University Law Library is integrating the major vernacular materials on Chinese and Japanese Law into their online catalog by outsourcing them to a CJK cataloger at the University of Washington.

An exciting idea initiated by Wei Luo was discussed by the attendees: a collaborative project on creating a Website for Asian Legal Research on the Internet. Under this project, a main Internet Asian Legal Research web page will be created. Any librarian who is interested in Asian Law can select one Asian nation, or a region as a whole, and be responsible for developing and updating the homepage for the site of the jurisdiction that he/she selects. The URL should be sent to Wei Luo.
Wei Luo will be working on guidelines for the structure of the homepage so the format will be consistent. Each resource, site, or link should be annotated and contain information on how to read the text in the vernacular materials. So far, only two Asian country sites are available:

1) Internet Korean Legal Research Resources, created by Heija Ryoo, at Southern Illinois University School of Law Library
(http://www.siu.edu/offices/lawlib/koreanlaw/khomepag.htm)

2) Internet Chinese Legal Research Center, created by Wei Luo at Washington University School of Law Library
(http://ls.wustl.edu/Chinalaw/)

Due to time constraints, the meeting had to be ended although a lot of issues were still in discussion. While most of the attendees moved to other meetings, some of them continued the discussion.

Not able to attend the convention at Baltimore, Andrew Berger e-mailed a brief report to the int-law-list about the activities on Counsel Connect, an online service for lawyers. Andrew is moderating the Japan forum on this site, where the discussions on legal practices between the United States and Japan are emphasized. Kent McKeever, Director of Columbia University Law Library, joined the meeting “virtually” by submitting a report on Columbia’s Toshiba Japanese Library. His report includes the following interesting information:

“Over the last few years, Yukino (Columbia University Law Library) has acquired a large number of English translations of Japanese legislative materials. Much of this is in the form of “gray literature”, publications meant for agency use which have not been widely distributed. She has been working on an index and hopes to have it finished by the end of the year. . . .”

“The Columbia Journal of Asian Law is preparing an enlargement of their “Greenbook”, which is a citation guide to Chinese law. It is being enlarged to include Korean law and Japanese law as well. The journal editors are working on the Chinese materials. Prof. Jeong-Ho Roh of the Columbia Center for Korean Legal Studies is working on the Korean Materials, and Yukino is working up the Japanese text.”

The annual meeting of the Working Group on CIS and Eastern European Law was convened Sunday, July 20, at 2:00 p.m. by Radu D. Popa of NYU Law Library. He introduced two Armenian law faculty from Yerevan State University School of Law, Armen Harutyunyan and Sergey Arakelyan. The guests offered a brief overview of the legislative process in Armenia, as well as of the ongoing projects that will eventually make Armenian legislation available via the Internet. Armenian scholars are presently working on the law reform that will integrate Armenia into the European world, after more than 50 years of Soviet dominance.

The audience—more than 25 attendants—were very interested in knowing about a jurisdiction from where legal materials are not available very often, whether in English or in the vernacular. Radu D. Popa highlighted the fact that five Armenian law faculty were completing an internship at NYU Law Library, as part of an USAID program.

Aaron Kuperman and Mark Strattner, from the Library of Congress, brought up issues related to cataloging Armenian legal materials, as well as materials from other related jurisdictions in the former Soviet Union, such as Georgia, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine.

As the floor became open for general business, other librarians, such as Marylin Raisch from Columbia Law Library, Maria Smolka-Day from the University of Pennsylvania Law Library, and Lyonette Louis-Jacques from the University of Chicago Law Library, raised interesting issues about legal documentation in the former Soviet republics and former communist countries of Eastern Europe. A major topic has been access to information and reliability on translations (both official and commercial). M. Kathie Price, the NYU Law Library Director and former Law Librarian at the Library of Congress emphasized the importance of the GLIN project for all the evolving democracies and the need for standards in providing legal information via the Internet.
FCIL Education Subcommittee Report  
Marci Hoffman and Gail Partin  
Co-Chairs

Well, we made it through another round of program proposals. As usual, the process was frantic and we pestered people throughout. The results were well worth the effort. We had many interesting proposals submitted by the FCIL members. The Education Subcommittee carefully reviewed all of the proposals and made constructive comments. The most difficult part, with so many well developed proposals, was to decide on the rankings. The final rankings were based on the topic, the format, and what we thought AMPSC would be most interested in seeing. If a program was not high on the ranking, it was not an indication that we believed it had less merit. The proposals are listed below in alphabetical order.

Approaching the New Horizon: Foreign and International Research Instruction in the Law School and Law Firm (resubmitted from last year)

Close Encounters of the Legal Kind: The Interaction of International Law and Popular Culture


Fifty Years After Nuremberg and Tokyo: The Future of International and Domestic Prosecutions of War Crimes

Foreign Official Gazettes: Traditional Sources and Emerging Technologies

Guiding Principles of the 21st Century: The 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Heute, Ich bin ein Berliner - An Encyclopedia Isn't an Encyclopedia to a Civil Trained Lawyer

The Information Society: European Union Documents in the United States

Landmark on the New Horizon: The International Criminal Court

Legal Information for Evolving Democracies: The Round-Trip Token (resubmitted from last year)

The FCIL SIS co-sponsored the following programs:

Bacon's World: The Law in the Renaissance (submitted by and co-sponsored with Legal History & Rare Books SIS).

New Horizons in the Asia-Pacific Region: APEC and the United States in the 21st Century (submitted by and co-sponsored with Asian-American Law Libraries Caucus)

We were just notified that half of our programs were selected. The programs and times are indicated below (arranged by date and time), so mark you calendars:

Guiding Principles of the 21st Century: The 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights  A-5, Sunday 7/12, 10:00-12:00.

Approaching the New Horizon: Foreign and International Research Instruction in the Law School and Law Firm  C-9, Monday 7/13, 8:30-10:00.


The Information Society: European Union Documents in the United States  H-7, Tuesday 7/14, 1:30-3:00.

In addition, the following program, submitted by and co-sponsored with the History & Rare Books SIS, was selected:

Bacon's World: The Law in the Renaissance

We were told that our SIS had some of the best written proposals. According to our liaison to AMPSC, the subcommittee rankings had little bearing on the final selections. AMPSC had a hard time deciding on which programs to select. They had 67 slots and 124 proposals. This note was posted on the Anaheim program listserv by Michael St. Onge, chair of AMPSC (some portions omitted):
Michael St. Onge’s message:

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You made our choice very difficult. We were pleasantly surprised at the high quality proposals we received this year, and while we did increase the number of programs to 67 (up from 52 last year), we were still not able to choose all of the programs we would have liked. If your program was not chosen, we’d like to encourage you to try again next year. If we offered constructive comments, spend some time reexamining the program proposal to make it as strong as possible, and then resubmit it.

We have changed the structure of the schedule for the meeting. As you know, we had originally intended on grouping the programs together according to subject. That would allow a certain synergy to occur after each day’s keynote speaker. As we laid it out in Chicago, though, it was clear that the idea wasn’t going to work as planned. After talking with President Judy Meadows, we’ve decided to keep the idea of subject designations, but spread them throughout the entire week. For example, the first program slot (Sunday, 10:00 - noon) will have three management programs, one technology, three law and two information. Each program slot will have a similar arrangement. Obviously, the numbers vary according to the slot, but every slot has at least one program in each of the four categories. This has several advantages:

1) It allows people who are interested in specific topics (technology, information, law and management) to find programs of interest throughout the entire meeting rather than on just one day. It creates a sort of subject “track” that will be appealing to attendees; [and]

2) We avoid major conflicts in scheduling SIS programs against each other. Since a number of SISs are subject-oriented, we could spread out their programs so they wouldn’t compete for the same audience.

Believe me, it will make more sense to you when you see it all laid out, but I think you’ll be pleased.

Because of the varying lengths of the program time slots and the difficulty this presented in scheduling, we found it necessary to assign the dates and time slots to the approved programs, just to make certain everything fit. This has several advantages: you can plan accordingly; when you contact the speakers, you’ll be able to give them a definitive date and time so they can block it in their calendars; you can begin advertising your program to interested constituencies; and we can move to the alphanumeric designation of the program more quickly. Programs will now be referred to as “B-4”, for example, which identifies it as the fourth program in the second program slot (hence the “B”) instead of by the random number they were assigned when they came into headquarters. In the long run, it’ll be a lot easier.

Lastly, we are working on developing a series of handbooks that will help both program coordinators and program speakers in their respective roles. It is exciting to see these handbooks taking shape, and we know that both groups will appreciate the information. Once they have been completed, they will automatically be sent to all program coordinators and designated speakers. In addition, we hope to have copies available to anyone who’d like them. Watch this list for more information. We are, of course, interested in any comments or suggestions you might have to improve them for next year.

Again, thank you so much for all of your effort in making the educational programming for Anaheim a success. We welcome your comments and suggestions about ways to improve the selection process and educational programming at the annual meeting as a whole, and we look forward to working with you in Anaheim or in some future endeavor.

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We wish to thank everyone for all of their efforts in making education a priority for our SIS.
Report of the Latin American Law Working Group

Dennis Sears  Brigham Young University Law Library

The Latin American Law Working Group met on Sunday, July 20, 1997 at 5:00 p.m. in the Baltimore Convention Center (BCC). Edgardo Rotman (University of Miami School of Law Library) chaired the meeting.

Edgardo distributed copies of the newsletter Novedades: News from the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade. He indicated that a number of databases for Latin American countries are available through Novedades at no charge for international users.

In connection with this discussion of online resources, Jonathan Franklin (University of Michigan Law Library) raised the issue of ownership versus access. He expressed his concerns about both format and time. The issues of how reliable and how current materials are on the Internet were also raised during the discussion. Kenneth E. Rudolf (Yale University Law Library) indicated that he relies on the Internet for materials that his institution does not usually purchase. An additional observation was made that many databases are useful but idiosyncratic.

Mirela Roznovschi (New York University Law School Library) stated that the Internet site for El Sistema Argentino de Informática Jurídica (SAIJ) is excellent for Argentine laws in the vernacular. This site is sponsored by the Argentine Ministry of Justice and can be accessed without charge. Lyonette Louis-Jacques (University of Chicago D'Angelo Law Library) reminded the group of the law-related Listserv Derecho from Argentina, located on Major­domo.

Two valuable Internet sites were identified at the University of Texas and Georgetown University. Also problems with the Global Legal Information Network (GLIN) search engine were noted. Lexis/Nexis has a good database for Argentina, but everything is in Spanish. Westlaw has developed a niche with regards to Mexican legal materials because of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The NAFTA Homepage was also mentioned.

Thomas H. Reynolds (University of California School of Law Library) proffered his priorities in collecting legal materials in Latin America: first, the text of legislation; second, the text of regulations; and the text of decisions, “way down the line.” Judicial decisions are non-controlling, with the exception of Argentina and Brazil. Amber Lee Smith (Los Angeles County Law Library) spoke of updating legal materials and cautioned that sometimes materials are not full-text but only summaries.

The discussion turned to the best method to update the codes of Latin American countries. The suggestion was made to purchase these codes on a regular basis, but not annually, i.e., every third, fourth, or fifth year. The exception to this practice would be the years in which a recodification occurs. In this case, the purchase of the recodification would be a priority. One caution was noted—Chile reenacts its code each year, even if no substantial changes have occurred.

Law of the Sea Subject Heading Established

Paul Weiss  Library of Congress

With the implementation of the new subclasses JZ and KZ for international law and relations, the Library of Congress is now turning its attention to improving the range and terminology of subject headings available in this field.

As a first step, the Cataloging Policy and Support Office (CPSO) has identified the need to establish the heading “Law of the sea,” in effect splitting the existing subject heading “Maritime law” into two distinct headings: “Law of the sea,” to be used for public international law, and “Maritime law,” to be used only for maritime commercial law. In order to split the heading in this manner, it will be necessary to review all of the bibliographic records that currently carry the heading “Maritime law” and to identify:
(a) those that do not require any change,

(b) those in which the heading “Maritime law” should be changed to “Law of the sea,” and

(c) those that should be assigned both headings.

Although it will be possible to identify many of the records to be changed on a mechanical basis, for example, by segregating records according to the classification number assigned, CPSO estimates that at least 500 of the records will require individual intellectual review.

As a followup to discussions held at the AALL annual conference and as an experiment in a new type of cooperation in the area of subject heading revision, CPSO would like to invite interested libraries to assist with this review of Library of Congress bibliographic records. It is envisioned that a participating library would be assigned a certain block of records which would be accessed over the Internet. After completing its review of the assigned block of records, the library would submit to CPSO two lists, one consisting of LCCNs for records in which the heading “Maritime law” would be changed to “Law of the sea,” and the other consisting of LCCNs for records to which “Law of the sea” would be assigned in addition to “Maritime law.”

CPSO invites those libraries who would like to participate in this cooperative endeavor to submit their expressions of interest to:

Paul G. Weiss  
Senior Cataloging Policy Specialist  
Cataloging Policy and Support Office  
Library of Congress  
101 Independence Ave. S.E.  
Washington, DC 20540

Email: pwei@loc.gov  
Telephone: (202) 707-5803  
FAX: (202) 707-6629

AALL Awards Nominations

Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographical Award

The Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographical Award recognizes a significant contribution to legal bibliographical literature. The work may be a book, pamphlet, periodical contribution, or publication in some other form. A nominated work shall be measured by its creative, evaluative elements and the extent to which judgment was a factor in its formation. The term “legal bibliographical literature” is meant to be broadly defined and should not be limited by an author’s use or nonuse of the term “bibliography” in the title of the work. To make a nomination for the Joseph L. Andrews Award, please provide as complete a description as possible; it is not necessary to submit a copy of the work. Only works published during the 1997 calendar year will be eligible for consideration. The Award is not limited to publications prepared by law librarians or AALL members. Please send nominations for this award to David Bachman, Co-chair, Andrews Award Subcommittee, Vanderbilt University Law Library, 204 Law School, Nashville TN 37203. The deadline for nominations is February 1, 1998.

Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award

The AALL Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award. The Gallagher Award is presented to an individual who has completed or is nearing completion of an active professional career. The Award is given in recognition of outstanding, extended, and sustained service to law librarianship and to AALL. Honorees may be recognized for achievement in a particular area of law librarianship, for service to the Association, or for outstanding contributions to the professional literature. The award may be given posthumously.

Please send nominations along with a qualifying letter in support of your nominee to Ruth J. Hill, Gallagher Award Subcommittee Chair, 1440 W. 9th St., Los Angeles, CA 90057.
Managing Human Rights Watch Serials

Dear Friends:

This “letter” is a response to a number of FCIL members’ suggestions that we contribute a summary of our experiences at Georgetown trying to unravel the morass that our Human Rights Watch standing order had become. Unable to face writing it myself, I enlisted the assistance of my colleague, Gordon Van Pielt; the “technical” description that follows is his. If the following solutions work, the credit is all his... certainly most of the work has been!

Serials management has always been a challenge at best. In an age of mergers, de-mergers and increasingly whimsical publishing practices, it has become the nemesis of catalogers and acquisitions personnel everywhere. The disposition of the many newsletters and brief publications issued by Human Rights Watch, and its many, many offspring has long plagued and defeated those who would prefer order to chaos, and unfortunately those who would wish to find and use those materials as well.

One might suppose, or hope, that the numerous signposts left by the Library of Congress in the form of authority and serial bibliographic records would resolve such problems. Sadly, in the case of Human Rights Watch, at least, one would be mistaken.

Our problems: Human Rights Watch, which includes divisions organized by major geographical regions (Asia, Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East), as well as an ever growing variety of worthy projects (Children’s Rights, Arms Control, Free Expression, and Women’s Rights, to name but a few) publishes great quantities of reports each year, each on a specific topic with an individual title. Some are quite short and others substantially longer. Our problems, and this summary, concern these reports, not the longer monographic titles that are also published periodically. At Georgetown, the various reports were all classed as serial publications, for example, the Human Rights Watch Africa newsletter, but with no specific access to the individual titles of the reports. This was in accordance with prescribed LC practice. Title changes were rampant, largely due to organizational name changes, e.g., Americas Watch to Human Rights Watch/ Americas. The presence of “newsletter” in the title was a cataloger-generated identifier, since newsletter appeared nowhere on the work itself. The reports often arrived out of sequence, and were not always properly attributed to the appropriate issuing body, delaying proper check-in, and making claiming and binding a serious problem, or more accurately stated, impossible.

Recently, after many years of frustration and much hand-wringing, we called a meeting. We invited the person who orders the standing order, the person who has to try to claim missing reports, the cataloger who worked with the materials, and the serials librarian who attempted to contact the publisher to try to find out, once and for all, if there was any logic to their publishing scheme. Frankly, we were all skeptical and were hoping for a miracle!

The results: A decision was made to simply classify each report by its unique title. What remained was the question of how they might be organized. Our Serials Acquisitions Librarian
discovered that, indeed, the arcane numbering system the publisher adopted in 1994 has a meaning! Human Rights Watch has provided a Rosetta Stone for the classification of its materials. Yes folks, that small letter at the end of the volume and issue number actually represents one of the geographical divisions of the Human Rights Watch hierarchy. With that decoded, we could try to organize our collection of reports in some sensible order.

Beginning with volume 7, the publisher started to include an alphabetic designation following the volume and issue numbers on each of its short reports. The publisher first provided this special numbering from volume 6 issues on, but only in the publisher’s lists of titles published and not printed on the individual piece. See below for the list of alphabetic designators. These indicators made it possible for us to provide a unique classification for each separate report.

At Georgetown, beginning with volume 6, the reports are now classified under a local series call number (K3239.5: Comparative law & International uniform law. Civil and political rights and liberties). Clearly, there was precedent for such a decision, since virtually every report we searched for had its own bibliographic record. Some institutions even went so far as to provide a series call number of their own, generally under JC599 (Political science. Rights of the individual by region or country) and incorporating the unique volume number. In this scheme, the reports could easily be organized on the shelf by volume number. These records were created with all manner of series statements. Some included the specific issuing body, while other opted for the more general “Publications”. Georgetown selected “Human Rights Watch report” which nearly all the reports carry on the first page, and seems to be the logical reference point for the numbering system. We have adapted the authority records to reflect local practice.

Where we parted company with practically everybody was in the way we adapted the volume number for use in the call number and the series statement. Vol. 7, no. 3 (G) became Series G, vol. 7, no. 3. This enabled us to use a shelving scheme which recalled the former serials cataloging that organized the materials by region. It also meant that the students checking in the reports would have a clearer idea, or so we hope, of where they should go. Please note:

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Publications from the Women’s Rights Project are subsumed throughout the scheme, not as a separate series. They can be identified in our online catalog by using an author search for “Women’s Rights Project (Human Rights Watch)”. If you are interested, visit our homepage at www.ll.georgetown.edu.

So now it is all orderly and searchable. Wasn't that easy? Well ... no, but perhaps it will now be for some of you!

Collegially yours,

Ellen Schaffer and Gordon Van Pielt
Law Library Publications Award

Do you have an in-house publication that has been used successfully in your library? If so, the Awards Committee would like you to consider submitting it as an entry for the newly-designed Law Library Publications (LLP) Award. This Award honors achievement in creating in-house print or non-print library materials that are outstanding in quality and significance.

Examples of eligible in-house materials include (but are not limited to) bibliographies, library aids, annual reports, finders, brochures, maps, manuals, research guides and newsletters, webpages, videotapes, audiocassettes, and software. Entries may be submitted by an individual AALL or chapter member, by a library staff, or by a chapter, SIS, caucus, or other component group affiliated with AALL. LLP judging criteria are: quality of the material, creativity, and usefulness.

A brochure detailing LLP Award objectives, qualifying materials, entry requirements, and procedures can be obtained as follows:

1) Contact Cindy Cicco, LLP Subcommittee Chair, to request a paper copy (412-648-1329 or cin@vms.cis.pitt.edu);

2) Download a copy of the brochure and entry form from AALLNET by accessing “Member Services” and then “Awards” and then selecting “Law Library Publications.” This document is stored in .PDF format. A link for Adobe Acrobat Reader software is provided; or

3) Request a copy through AALL Fax-on-Demand either through AALLNET or by dialing 908-554-5901 and requesting document #385.

To enter the LLP competition, you must submit four copies of your materials by the deadline of February 1, 1998 to: Cindy Cicco, Barco Law Library, University of Pittsburgh, 3900 Forbes Ave., 415 Law Bldg., Pittsburgh PA 14237.

Excellence in Marketing Award

Have you created materials or a campaign to showcase your library or the profession? If so, you are eligible for the 1998 AALL Excellence in Marketing (EIM) Award. This new award will honor outstanding achievement in public relations activities during the previous calendar year. Entries may be submitted by an individual AALL or chapter member, by a library staff, or by a chapter, SIS, caucus, or other group affiliated with AALL. The five categories for this award are:

Best Brochure, Best Newsletter, Best Campaign, Best P.R. Toolkit, and Best Use of Technology.

The EIM Award is distinguished from the Law Library Publications Award by the requirement that the EIM entries include an explanation of the goal of the promotional material or activity, how the entry was used to achieve that goal, and the response of the target audience. EIM judging criteria include: quality of the materials/activity, creativity in execution and promotion, and usefulness to the target audience.

A brochure detailing EIM Award objectives, qualifying materials, entry requirements, and procedures can be obtained as follows:

1) Contact Sally Holterhoff, Public Relations Committee Chair, to request a paper copy (219-465-7866 or sholt@exodus.valpo.edu);

2) Download a copy of the brochure and entry form from AALLNET by accessing “Member Services” and then “Awards” and then selecting “Excellence in Marketing Award.” This document is stored in .PDF format. A link for Adobe Acrobat Reader software is provided; or

3) Request a copy through AALL Fax-on-Demand either through AALLNET or by dialing 908-544-5901 and requesting document #375.

To enter the EIM competition, you must submit four copies of your materials by the deadline of February 1, 1998 to: Sally Holterhoff, Valparaiso University Law Library, Wesemann Hall, Valparaiso IN 46383.
Last Minute Reminders from the Chair

Since writing my newsletter column, three issues have come up which I would urge you to consider seriously. First of all, I would strongly encourage you to volunteer for an AALL committee (the October issue of AALL Spectrum includes information on how to do so). In particular, if we could get representation of our membership on the Annual Program Selection Committee, we might be able to effect real change in an area of greatest concern to us -- more meaningful programming for FCIL SIS members. Secondly, AALL has asked me to pass on information on how to order Educational Program Materials and Audio Cassettes from the Baltimore meeting. This can be particularly valuable for members who were unable to attend. Please see the advertisement posted below. (The Fax on Demand number is 908-544-5901 and the website is: http://www.aallnet.org/services/fod.html.) Finally, I am passing on information from the Professional Development Committee of AALL regarding an RFP for a workshop on the subject of legal research. (Please see verso of this page.) Although this workshop is presumably to deal with “generic” legal research (not specifically foreign and international), I pass it along in case any of you marvelously multi-talented people may be interested.

Bill McCloy

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES
90TH ANNUAL MEETING
Baltimore, MD, July 19-24, 1997

I just wish that I would have been able to attend the annual meeting. I wonder what I missed.

I attended plenty. In fact, some of the programs may be useful to my co-workers. How do I share what they missed?

There just wasn’t enough time to attend all those great educational programs. How do I find out what I missed?

CALL FAX ON DEMAND @ 908-544-5901
ORDER FORM #610 - EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM MATERIALS
ORDER FORM #650 - AUDIO CASSETTES

For a complete index of AALL educational program materials, call Fax on Demand at 908-544-5901 or visit http://www.aallnet.org/services/fod.html
Request for Proposals

October 8, 1997

The Professional Development Committee of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is soliciting proposals for development of an educational program on the topic of legal research as defined herein.

Program specifics:

• Full-day workshop
• Faculty of one person
• Suitable for group of 30-50
• To include minimum of 1 hour interactive participation
• Substantial hardcopy course materials are expected

A minimum of three presentations of the program shall occur between March 1998 and December 2000. The creator/presenter and AALL will sign a contract outlining the schedule, payment and rights to the program materials.

Travel expenses and a modest stipend will be paid each time a program is presented, in accordance with AALL’s reimbursement policies and through use of AALL’s travel agent for transportation and hotel reservations. AALL expects to pay a curriculum development fee following an evaluation by the Director of Programs and the Professional Development Committee for its fulfillment of the requirements of the contract.

Target audience: To include law librarians, non-law librarians, library paraprofessional and legal paraprofessionals

Level: Beginner

Program content: The curriculum will focus on the basic techniques for legal research.

Background subject matter to be covered includes but is not limited to the legal system, types of legal documents and available print and electronic resources. Other subject matters to be reviewed are the process of accessing, evaluating and filtering documents/information and the tools necessary to do so; how to identify additional resources for referral; and how to create guides such as handouts, aides, pathfinders and bibliographies on legal and related topics.

Proposal content:

• Detailed topics/content to be covered
• Clearly stated learning methodologies and outcomes
• Description of hardcopy course materials
• Description of presenter’s qualifications and knowledge on the topic of legal research
• Cost estimates for curriculum development and presentation

Timeline:

• Proposals due November 1, 1997
• Proposal selection by January 1, 1998
• Final curriculum due March 1, 1998
• Presentation dates TBD; Minimum of one time per year in 1998, 1999, 2000

Submit proposal to: The Professional Development Committee
American Association of Law Libraries
c/o Lara Koban, Educational Program Coordinator
53 W. Jackson Boulevard, Suite 940
Chicago, IL 60604