From the Chair

Maria I. Smolka-Day

University of Pennsylvania Law School

Biddle Law Library

The FCIL-SIS has been very busy since the last issue of the Newsletter. Fortunately, this Newsletter, although very important, is not the only form of communication with members who cannot attend the Annual Conference. Last Spring we started our own Internet listserve moderated by Mila Rush. In combination with our Web Page (http://www.lawsch.uga.edu/fcil/fcil.html), edited skillfully (together with this Newsletter) by Anne Burnett, it has served us well in preparing for our Special Meeting in Anaheim. Both the Special Meeting and the regular Business Meeting were quite productive this year (see Minutes inside this Newsletter). In addition to our regular activities we discussed broader issues relating mainly to our position in the Association and the relations between Special Interest Sections generally and FCIL in particular and various bodies of the AALL. This discussion resulted in the FCIL Statement on Programming and Scheduling, which we addressed to Jim Heller, this year’s President, and sent to other AALL officials. The Statement, reprinted in this Newsletter, has been available on our Web Page since early August. The publication was then announced on the listserve. If any of you haven’t received any mailings from the list, please make sure that your name is on the membership list, and that your e-mail address is correct. We hope not to clog your mailbox with unnecessary mail (and subscribers to INT-LAW know Mila’s abilities to keep discipline), but the listserve will increase our ability to communicate between issues of the Newsletter.

Those members who did not attend the Anaheim conference will find in this issue a lot of information about it in the minutes of both the Special and Business meetings, reports from working groups and committees, and in the Statement. I would like to stress here just a few issues.

As mentioned above there was a lot of dissatisfaction, expressed both before and during the Conference, about our inability to influence effectively programming and scheduling of events addressing our special interests during the annual meeting. Due to intensive communication with the SIS Council, as well as with representatives of the Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee, with the AALL President and the Board, we hope that next year’s programs and schedules will meet our needs better than last year’s did. The AMPSC has selected six FCIL SIS-sponsored programs for the next Conference in Washington, D.C., including one all-day workshop. Please see the report of the Education Subcommittee in this issue for details about the selected programs. We also hope that committee and working group meetings will be closer to our traditional schedule. Looking farther ahead we felt that our SIS should plan its activities with a perspective longer than one year. We might also think about new forms of actions in addition to what we traditionally do. We felt that the section needs a strategic plan. A group of volunteers enthusiastically

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responded to this idea, and I was able to create the Strategic Planning Committee, consisting of Charlotte Bynum, Gail Partin, Jack McNeill, Amber Lee Smith, Tracy Thompson, Dan Wade, Stefanie Weigman and chaired by Margareta Horiba of Tulane Law School. The Committee’s mandate is to prepare for next year’s Business Meeting a draft of a five-year strategic plan for discussion and adoption at this Meeting. The Committee’s work will succeed if it has plenty of input from as many members as possible. Therefore, I want to encourage you to share with them your thoughts and ideas about our future directions, our place in the Association and our specific needs as a group. Contact Margareta (phone 504-892-8866) or any other member of the Committee. If you still want to join them, they will welcome your help.

There were many initiatives and ideas coming from various committees and working groups in Anaheim. I hope that many of them will be pursued during this year. The proposal of potentially general interest for many of us came from the Electronic Issues Working Group. You might already know about the AALL/Law Library of Congress Digital Law Task Force. Its concerns, articulated at the last Convention during the program, “Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: The Archivability of Electronic Records,” deal with the permanency of electronic records, especially those documents and publications which are distributed only electronically. Our Electronic Issues Working Group discussed these problems and came up with an initiative to compile a list of documents (or their categories) of permanent importance for international law research. Preservation of such documents should be treated as a first priority. By preparing such a list we would use our expertise and directly contribute to the general AALL Task Force of great importance. Let’s make sure that this initiative is not forgotten. Each of us working with international documents can add something to this project. During the next few month we will start preparing for this project. Let me know if you would like to get involved!

The initiatives of our working groups lead me to the last issue I would like to discuss, namely, making these groups more “permanent” or “structured” by maintaining a membership list of some sort. The groups (maybe just some of them) would keep a list of “core members” who would be interested in maintaining some contact, conducting some activity, or just exchanging information and help during the year. Working group meetings would still be open to everybody, since some people might want just to participate in an annual exchange of ideas without further commitment. It would, however, give a better chance of working on projects put forward at the annual meetings. Let me know if there is any interest in pursuing this idea, or if you think this is not a good idea, and why. Let me know if you are a person interested in joining in a particular working group.

If you want to contact me over the phone, please note that my listing in the 1997/98 AALL Directory is wrong. My correct phone number is 215-898-7442. I hope to hear from you soon.

The *FCIL Newsletter* is published in October, February and May by the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries. The main goal of this Section is “to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on foreign, comparative, and international law, and to represent its members’ interests and concerns within AALL.”

*FCIL Newsletter* is sent free to members of the FCIL SIS. It is available for that “exchange of ideas and information.”


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**Deadline for next issue:** January 15, 1999
New Global Legal Research Guide: A Review
Jean Davis, Reference Librarian and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School. Ian Merrill, International Business Law Fellow, Library Student Research Assistant, and International Legal Research seminar participant, Brooklyn Law School.


From its opening paragraphs, this excellent international, foreign, and comparative law research guide engages readers:

Those who love to travel know the feeling: You yearn to get out of town, to wake up every morning in a different place, with a clean slate . . . . And then the newness of traveling wears off and there are the frustrations: reading road signs, train schedules, and menus in foreign languages; driving on the ‘wrong’ side of the road; searching for a bagel outside of Manhattan; generally, doing without the comforts of home. Like traveling in strange places, research in foreign, comparative, and international law can be fascinating, challenging, and rewarding. And then there are the frustrations: overcoming language barriers, coping with legal concepts and systems that may sound American but are different, struggling to find a copy of a recent foreign law, maneuvering through the jungle of documents from international organizations.

The introduction characterizes Accidental Tourist as a foreign, comparative, and international law primer for the non-specialist. This is as understated as Gary Cooper’s performance in High Noon. Accidental Tourist will assist virtually all researchers. Legal practitioners who need treaties and treaty status data should refer to the clear, helpful charts in the “Finding Treaties and Other International Agreements” chapter. Information specialists who wish to develop foreign law research skills and collections should review the strategies and sources described in the “Finding Foreign Law” chapter and the “Specialized Topics” section. Both Palmer School of Library and Information Science students (in a seminar on international organizations) and Brooklyn Law School students (in a seminar on international and foreign legal research) have praised Accidental Tourist as a course text. Knowing that Accidental Tourist would aid Brooklyn Journal of International Law staff, International Business Law Fellows, Jessup International Moot Court participants, and many others, our library purchased five copies -- these books are hot items in the reserve collection!

Accidental Tourist includes 1) key differences between U.S. domestic law research and foreign, comparative, and international law research (M. Kathleen Price), 2) a description of Library of Congress “classes” for foreign, comparative, and international law (Jolande E. Goldberg), 3) an introduction to foreign and comparative law (Thomas H. Reynolds), 4) processes and sources for finding foreign law (Jeanne Rehberg and Mirela Roznovschi), 5) an overview of international law (Reynolds), 6) characteristics of published treaties and treaty sources (Rehberg), 7) a review of United Nations law-related activities and documents (Rehberg), 8) a survey of European Union legal sources (Marylin J. Raisch), and 9) research chapters focusing on transnational business law (Victor Essien), interna-

UDHR Web Site
Developed For 1998 Annual Meeting


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tional tax law, international environmental law, and international human rights (Radu D. Popa). The distinguished chapter authors reference numerous print works, microform materials, and electronic (LEXIS®-NEXIS®, WESTLAW®, Internet, and CD-ROM) resources. Authors who discuss international or regional organizations (such as Rehberg, Raisch, and Popa) describe official, and other commercially published, materials. Features such as Rehberg’s treaty research strategies for six typical problems and Raisch’s “mad cow disease” example of the European Union legislative process reveal that this book is much more than a bibliography.

Be sure that your collection includes Accidental Tourist and the George Washington Journal of International Law and Economics’ newly revised Guide to International Legal Research (3rd ed.). “Accidental tourists” in the unfamiliar territory of international and foreign law research and “seasoned travelers” will benefit.

Annual Meeting Minutes & Reports

FCIL SIS Special Meeting

A special meeting of the FCIL SIS was called for 4:30pm-5:30pm on Sunday, July 12, 1998, in Anaheim.

Submitted by Jonathan Franklin

The meeting opened with Chair Bill McCloy of the University of Washington Law Library introducing AALL President-Elect Jim Heller. Jim discussed the issue of SIS meeting and program scheduling for the 1999 Annual Meeting in Washington DC. He noted that he was endorsing the addition of 9 additional hours when SISs could hold meetings or programs. Although not finalized, the hope was that all the SISs could schedule programming at the following times:

Sunday 7am-1pm & 4pm-6:30pm
Monday 7am-8:30am & 4:15pm-6:30pm
Tuesday 7am-8:30am, 12:15pm-1:45pm, & 5pm-6:30pm
Wednesday 7am-8:30am

These added times would permit all the Working Groups to meet prior to the Business Meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday afternoon. Jim's revised schedule was met with appreciation.

Jonathan Franklin read a brief statement supporting the expanded schedule and expressing the need for continued support for the Working Groups of the smaller SISs.

Amber Lee Smith of Los Angeles County Law Library stated that the SIS needed to do more for experienced librarians, that these librarians had contributed to the five Institutes but had not been permitted to attend due to the Institutes’ goal of training new FCIL librarians. Other than the New England Foreign Law Librarians Meetings, not open to those outside New England, there were no other major educational opportunities in the US for experienced FCIL librarians. In particular, she noted that the FCIL working groups at the Annual Meeting were the one opportunity for experienced FCIL collection development specialists to work together and share information face-to-face. She further noted that the education for the Annual Meeting should address reference and collection development for experienced FCIL librarians as well as the mass audiences.

In addressing the AMPSC education committee aspect of program selection, she noted that there was insufficient feedback regarding why the program was rejected, thereby making it difficult to revise the program for future years.

In response to Amber’s comments, Marci Hoffman of the University of Minnesota Law Library noted that the FCIL education committee does what it can with the programs that are submitted. However, the complete turnover of the AMPSC means that every year the criteria are totally different and hence the proposed changes one year may completely conflict with the goals of the following year’s AMPSC. Furthermore, the program drafting guidelines change from year to year, requiring constant tinkering with a rejected program to submit it in following years. Marci emphasized the need to follow the Program Planner’s Guide to increase the chance that the AMPSC will accept the program. Marci further stated that the AMPSC’s interest in more advanced programs changes from one year to the next. Marci reinforced Jim Heller’s point that programs could also be presented in the SIS timeslots outside of the AMPSC vetting system.
David McFadden of Southwestern School of Law Library noted that although programs could be outside the system, there was no mechanism outside of using SIS funds for paying speakers for these programs. Furthermore, to the extent the programs are not included in Final Program, the turnout is likely to be much lower without extensive outside publicity.

Maria Smolka-Day, incoming FCIL SIS chair, of the University of Pennsylvania Law Library noted that for Washington DC in 1999 and Philadelphia in 2000, there may be excellent speakers for advanced programs who would be locally available.

Amber noted that AALL should fund the SIS-specific programs because the knowledge gained in these sessions would create more informed FCIL librarians, thereby aiding the AALL membership at large when they call on FCIL SIS members for assistance.

Gail Partin of Dickinson School of Law Library suggested that we should also publicize our programs to PLL SIS and ALL SIS in the hope that their members would attend.

Jeanette Yackle of Harvard Law School Library suggested we approach PLL SIS to help the FCIL SIS fund outside programs that would indirectly benefit their members.

Wiltrud Harms of University of California at Berkeley School of Law Library suggested that we should also emphasize the growing importance of the field and that more and more general members will be calling on FCIL librarians in the future.

Lyonette Louis-Jacques of University of Chicago D'Angelo Law Library noted that the 1999 Annual Meeting had an explicit FCIL track and supported the inclusion of such a track for future Annual Meetings as well.

Amber noted that funding could allow one outside speaker per session of programming outside the AMPSC selected programs.

Stefanie Weigmann of Boston University Law Library proposed seeking outside funding from publishers for the non-AMPSC programs. Several members mentioned that this had been explored in the past and that there had been some problems with SISs individually soliciting funds from those donors whom AALL was also approaching.

Maria Smolka-Day, incoming FCIL SIS chair of the University of Pennsylvania Law Library stated that the coming year would involve the drafting of a strategic plan. The goal of the committee drafting the plan would be to have an initial version completed by the Washington DC Annual Meeting. She requested volunteers for the Strategic Planning Committee. Amber Lee Smith, Tracy Thompson, Dan Wade, Jack McNeill, and Stefanie Weigmann volunteered.

Bill summed up the viewpoints and suggested the drafting of a broad statement that would be made at the Business Meeting on Wednesday on behalf of the attending members of the SIS. He further encouraged everyone to take five minutes to write down their concerns and goals for the SIS so that these could be incorporated into the statement to be read at the Business Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 and was attended by 31 SIS members.

1998 FCIL SIS Business Meeting
Anaheim
Wednesday, July 15, 1998 at 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Submitted by Jonathan Franklin

Bill McCloy of the University of Washington Law Library, SIS Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. There were 27 members in attendance. Bill welcomed everyone, especially the Attendees from Abroad, who were given a warm reception. The minutes of the 1997 FCIL SIS Business Meeting were unanimously approved.

Jonathan Franklin of the University of Michigan Law Library, FCIL SIS Secretary/Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report, noting that the SIS was under last year’s spending level and had not yet received the annual income from SIS memberships. As of the Annual Meeting, the SIS balance was $1748.31. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.
Mila Rush of the University of Minnesota Law Library raised the issue of archiving the FCIL SIS listserv for future access. She also encouraged members to update their e-mail addresses for improved access. Several members endorsed the idea of archiving the listserv, but some were concerned that internal casual communications could be inappropriately forwarded. It was suggested that this issue could be discussed on the listserv itself and decided by its members.

Maria Smolka-Day of the University of Pennsylvania Law Library, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of the SIS, reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. She announced that Katherine Topulos had been elected incoming Vice-Chair/Chair Elect and noted that the Secretary/Treasurer serves a two year term and is only elected in odd years.

Stefanie Weigman of Boston University Law Library reported on behalf of the Teaching Foreign and International Legal Research Working Group. There is interest in starting a Web site with FCIL syllabi including PowerPoint presentations, possibly building on the archive started by Christine Corcos. Jean Davis and Victoria Szymczak of Brooklyn Law School Library are teaching an 8-week “Introduction to International and Foreign Law Research” course this summer. Mirela Roznovschi, Jeanne Rehberg, and Radu Popa of New York University Law School Library will be teaching a Palmer School institute on foreign law in the summer of 1999. Stefanie is teaching a full semester course on FCIL at Boston University.

Ken Rudolf of Yale Law School Library on behalf of the Electronic Issues Working Group described the forthcoming Archiving Summit to be held in New Orleans at the time of the January AALS meeting. He suggested that the FCIL SIS should try to have members invited who can address the issue of archiving electronic foreign and international documents. Marie-Louise Bernal of the Law Library of Congress reported that the Archiving Summit is being coordinated by Judy Meadows, outgoing AALL President, and Rubens Medina, Law Librarian of Congress. She also mentioned that the list of attendees was not yet finalized. Maria Smolka-Day noted that she had talked to Claire Germain about the archiving of foreign and international electronic documents and that Claire will be keeping Maria informed of issues and progress on that front.

At this point, Bill introduced Roger Parent, AALL Executive Director, who had asked to speak to the SIS. Roger announced that the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) would be meeting in Boston in 2001 (August 15-26). The theme of the meeting will be “Libraries: Making a Difference in the Information Age.” IFLA’s 2001 meeting is being cosponsored by the six national-level American library organizations. Larry Wenger of the University of Virginia Law Library is a delegate to the IFLA Organizing Committee.

Roger continued by requesting FCIL SIS member involvement in the 2001 meeting, asking for volunteers with organizational interests or language skills for coordination with various IFLA committees, and for escorting and mentoring foreign IFLA members. He noted that IALL would also be in Boston that year, either before or after IFLA, so attendees could go to both conferences. He hoped that we would start publicizing the 2001 IFLA conference in our newsletters and professional publications starting now so that there is sufficient advance notice when it comes.

Maria suggested that we try to get IFLA members to attend AALL in Minneapolis as well as IALL & IFLA, but noted that there may be too much time between them (one month). Roger noted that one reason to work hard on the IFLA conference would be to raise the visibility of AALL and of the FCIL SIS, hopefully increasing the number of members and the prominence of law librarians in general. After concluding his remarks, Roger remained for the rest of the Business Meeting.

Stefanie Weigman reported on behalf of the Latin American Law Working Group that she was the International Documents Task Force (IDTF) liaison to the OAS for GODORT. She also noted that Pedro Padilla might be proposing a program on Cuba through the SIS and that Dan Wade was working to determine if the New England Foreign Law Librarians Coalition could get access to the legal texts in GLIN (the Global Legal Information Network of the Law Library of Congress).

Maria Smolka-Day reported on behalf of the Asian Law Working Group that they discussed Chinese
legal databases, particularly CEILaw, which is free up to 1996 and $200 for 1996 on. There are databases available in China that are not marketed here, and we should encourage foreign database producers to market their systems in the US. Wei Luo of Washington University in St. Louis has instructions for a few Chinese legal databases on his Web site as does Mirela Roznovschi on hers. The Asian Law Working Group also discussed access to GLIN.

Roger Parent noted that the AALL President and the Executive Director generally pay an annual visit to the Law Librarian of Congress and that he would address the issue of GLIN access at their meeting this year. He solicited further talking points for this forthcoming meeting.

Amber Lee Smith proposed that GLIN offer an NGO membership where you could get access to GLIN's legal texts in exchange for indexing or specialized language knowledge. Bill McCloy noted that the University of Washington Law Library has already been talking with the Law Library of Congress about such a partnership related to Chinese legal documents.

Tracy Thompson of Yale Law School Library reported on behalf of the CIS and Eastern European Law Working Group. Mary Strouse will be proposing a program for 1999 on the dissemination of legal information by Eastern European governments. Furthermore, given the location, there was hope that CEELI (the Central and East European Law Initiative of the A.B.A.) might be willing to participate in the 1999 annual meeting. There was discussion about compiling English language translations or summaries of Eastern European constitutional court decisions, especially those of the Polish court, as well as compiling sources for English translations more generally (including legislation). The group also discussed creating an annotated list of contacts (particularly in foreign libraries) who have special expertise and would be willing to help in a foreign legal area. It was further noted that if these materials are to be put on the Web, Anne Burnett at the University of Georgia Law Library is the person to contact.

Dennis Sears of Brigham Young University Law Library and Marci Hoffman of University of Minnesota Law Library presented the Education Committee Report. There were five FCIL SIS programs sponsored in 1998, out of ten proposed. In the coming year, Marci and Gail Partin will be stepping down and Katherine Topulos will co-chair the committee with Dennis. The deadline for program proposals to be received at AALL Headquarters is August 17th, so any FCIL proposal must get to the Education Committee by August 7th.

The Education Committee discussed the issue of advanced vs. mass appeal programs. In the context of this discussion, they addressed the possibility of an advanced level program which would involve meeting with the subject specialists at the Law Library of Congress on the Friday before the 1999 Annual Meeting. Marci also noted that the SIS will be proposing a workshop on Treaties, co-coordinated by Marci and Stefanie. Other proposed programs for 1999 include Cultural Property (Tracy Thompson), Offshore Jurisdiction/Gambling (Jonathan Franklin/Patricia Kasting), Cuba (Pedro Padilla), and TRIPS Dispute Resolution for 2000 (Jonathan Franklin).

Dennis addressed the fact that the 1999 meeting has an FCIL track, so we have up to 10 slots to fill with FCIL programs. He encouraged any proposals and noted that other SISs are drafting proposals at the meeting, rather than afterwards. He further noted that Working Groups could propose programs on particular geographic areas. Maria noted the importance of following the Program Planner's Handbook. The use of buzzwords and active verbs seems to improve the odds of acceptance by the AMPSC (Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee) regardless of the intrinsic quality of the program.

There was no report from the African Law Working Group.

There was no report from the Publications Subcommittee.

Everyone expressed their thanks to Anne Burnett for her excellent work on the FCIL SIS Newsletter, and Stefanie volunteered that she would be interested in contributing to it.

David McFadden reported on the Clearinghouse for Internships and International Personnel Exchanges. The Clearinghouse's questionnaire has now been translated into Chinese and will be sent out
with a cover letter this year. They are pursuing having it translated into French and Portuguese. The possibility of distributing the questionnaire on INT-LAW and EURO-LEX was also discussed.

At this point in the meeting, Bill turned the gavel over to Maria Smolka-Day, the incoming Chair of the SIS, for the New Business portion of the agenda. As the first item of new business, she asked Bill to report on the Special Meeting held on Sunday to discuss the concerns of our membership regarding programming and scheduling at the annual conference.

Bill reported that he had rewritten the draft statement read at that meeting and incorporated the oral and written comments from Sunday’s lively discussion. He then read the revised statement prepared for AALL President Jim Heller, the AALL Executive Board, and the chairs of the other SISs (NOTE: this statement has since been mounted on the SIS’s Web site and is reprinted elsewhere in this newsletter). The statement was met with widespread praise and appreciation for both its substance and tone. John Perkins of Oklahoma City University Law Library noted FCIL’s importance to libraries without major foreign collections and agreed with the statement’s characterization of the FCIL SIS’s widespread benefit to all AALL members.

Roger Parent noted that it was the right tone and that it reinforced the need for long-range plans for each SIS. He further encouraged us to consider having narrower programs put on by working groups during their scheduled meeting times as well as more in-depth seminars. Maria noted that the problem with working outside the program structure officially sanctioned by the AMPSC is the lack of funding and publicity for these programs.

Bill and Amber both spoke to the need for publicity for any such programs in the Annual Meeting program guide.

At this point, Maria introduced her plan for a Strategic Planning Process to occur over the coming year. Five people volunteered on the spot, and Maria indicated that she would ask for further volunteers on the FCIL SIS listserv. If the group of volunteers is large, they might break into working groups initially to draft specific portions of the plan and then discuss the drafts as a group.

Malo (Marie-Louise) Bernal brought materials from IALL including the program guide for the Rome meeting and also a copy of the International Journal of Legal Information. She is editing IJLI and requested submissions from SIS members.

Rebecca Rungsang asked anyone interested in Thai law or in her volunteer work assisting Thai women with late stage AIDS to see her after the meeting.

Maria as the new Chair thanked everyone and particularly Bill for working so hard over the past year.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. and was immediately followed by the annual Reception for Attendees from Abroad.

Asian Law Working Group Business Meeting
July 1998, Anaheim

Submitted by Wei Luo

Attendees:

Bill McCloy, University of Washington Law Library; Maria Smolka-Day, University of Pennsylvania Law Library; Dan Wade, Yale University Law Library; Mirela Roznovschi, New York University Law Library; Faith Gan, Drew and Napier, Singapore; Rebecca Rungsang, Tilleke & Gibbins; Wei Luo, Washington University Law Library

The Asian Law Working Group business meeting was held at the Anaheim Hilton on July 15, 1998. Wei Luo, the chair of the group, convened the meeting. Because the meeting schedule was on Wednesday and started so early (7:30 am), only eight people attended the meeting this year. A significantly fewer number of librarians joined the meeting than did last year. The meeting started with librarians introducing the current status of Asian law collections from their institutions. A number of interesting topics and issues were raised and discussed during the meeting.

Faith Gan is the first law librarian from Singapore participating in the meeting. She offered her willingness to help us with Singapore law if we have
reference questions. She can be reached via e-mail at faith.gan@drew-and-napier.com.sg.

Rebecca Rungsang mentioned that her firm in Thailand publishes and maintains a series of introductory articles to Thailand’s laws on her firm’s Web site at http://www.tginfo.com. These publications are very helpful for those who are not familiar with Thailand’s laws.

Bill McCloy reported the University of Washington Law Library has finished its recon project of all CJK and the new bibliographical records should be downloaded into RLN soon. He is now undertaking a cooperative project to help New York University Law Library to catalog its CJK law collections on RLN. Bill also shared his discovery of the Japanese Supreme Court Web site at http://www.courts.go.jp/english/ehome.htm, which includes Japanese Supreme Court decisions published in Japanese.

Maria Smolka-Day reported that her library may begin collecting Chinese law books sometime in the future because her law school has hired a tenure-track professor who teaches Chinese law.

Dan Wade reported that his library may expand the Chinese law collection because one of the members of the law faculty was appointed by the White House to be an advisor to a program promoting the rule of law in China. Also, many of the law students at Yale are requesting the addition of Chinese law courses to the curriculum.

Mirela Roznovschi raised the issue that the general public cannot access the GLAN database. All the attendees agreed that they would like the FCIL of AALL to negotiate with the Library of Congress to seek the possibility of letting law librarians get access to the GLAN database.

Wei Luo reported that Washington University Law Library (in St. Louis) has been trying to build up its Chinese law collection since 1997. Recently, the law library acquired 400 volumes of Chinese law books published in China in recent years. Among these books, two case report publications are worthy of mention here. They are:

(1) Renmin fayuan anli xuan = Jen min fa yuan an li hsuuan (Selective Compilation of the People’s Courts Cases), Pei-ching : Jen min fa yuan ch’u pan she, 1992-. 4 issues annually. This is an official compilation of cases published by the People’s Court Press. The Supreme People’s Court authorized the Chinese Practicing Law Institute (Zhongguo Yingyong Faxue Yanjiusuo) to select and compile this publication from the influential, important or controversial cases which were tried and decided by various level of courts. In 1997, four volumes of 1992-1996 Cumulative Compilations were published.

(2) Zhongguo shenpan anli yaolan = Chung-kuo shen p’an an li yao lan (Important Collections of Chinese Judicated Cases), Pei-ching : Chung-kuo jen min kung an ta hsueh ch’u pan she, 1992-, annually. This publication is compiled and edited by the Training Center for Chinese Senior Judges and People’s University School of Law and published by Chinese People’s Public Security University.

The Washington University School of Law Library also subscribes to CEILaw: CEI Chinese Law and Regulation (http://www.ceilaw.com.cn/) on the Web. This Web site is hosted by the State Information Center, a Chinese central government agency. The contents are in Chinese but some laws and regulations have an English version as well. It includes two major databases: the National Laws and Regulations Data Bank which is a free and searchable database for Chinese laws and regulations covering from Oct. 1, 1949 to the end of 1996; and the New Laws and Regulations Online Searching which is free for searching although only subscribers can download the text of laws. The New Laws and Regulations database is updated daily and includes a list of laws published in the last 60 days. The databases include not only Chinese laws and regulations, but also cases and judicial interpretations. This Web site is probably the most reliable place to search and retrieve Chinese laws and regulations on the Internet. However, to download the files from the New Laws and Regulations Online Searching Database is quite complicated. Wei Luo wrote detailed instructions on how to set up the computer system to download the files. This instruction can be accessed at http://ls.wustl.edu/Infores/Library/Webscript/ceilaw.html.

Joan Liu, Serial Librarian from New York University School of Law Library, did not attend the meeting this year because she went to Beijing, China with her
boss, Kathleen Price, the Director of NYU Law Library, during the AALL Annual Meeting. She reported they attended a workshop called CHINA CENTER FOR AMERICAN LAW STUDY (July 3-18, 1998) held by the PRC’s State Education Commission and Ministry of Justice and the US Committee on Legal Educational Exchange with China. Kathleen Price co-directed the workshop. She and Joan Liu did a program to show how to do legal research via the Internet. Besides introducing the American/Chinese law databases and other resources on the web to the participants, they also emphasized research methodology and reviewed the most current development of legal information access in the world. They received very good feedback from the participants via e-mail after the workshop.

[Note: the following includes reports from both the 1997 and 1998 meetings]

FCIL Clearinghouse for Internships and International Personnel Exchanges
20 July 1997, Baltimore

Submitted by David McFadden

Attendees: David McFadden, Telle Zoller, Maria Smolke-Day, Suzanne Thorpe, Lyonette Louis-Jacques, Katherine Topulos, Catherine Krieps, Charlotte Bynum

There was a discussion of ways to distribute the questionnaire through Int-Law, EURO-LEX, and other lists including Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and others.

There was also a discussion of other ways of contacting potential libraries for exchanges and visits and other ways to distribute the questionnaire. It was suggested to distribute the questionnaire through foreign legal scholars visiting the United States. It was suggested that the questionnaire be translated and put on the Web. It was later suggested to have the English version of the questionnaire on the Web as well. Bill McCloy said he could arrange a Chinese or Japanese translation of the questionnaire. Another source of information was librarians doing internships from abroad. It was discussed that we should have an article in the AALL Spectrum about the Clearinghouse and foreign exchange/visits. Having law library directors help with the Questionnaire. Contacting the AALS Exchange Committee was another place for information about exchange/visits and a way of possibly distributing the questionnaire. Working with Summer Law School Programs was suggested as a means to disseminate and gather information for exchanges and visits. Other specific contacts were also discussed.

A number of members of the subcommittee volunteered to work on some of these suggestions.

FCIL Clearinghouse for Internships and International Personnel Exchanges
12 July 1998, Anaheim

Submitted by David McFadden

Attendees: David McFadden, Anne Burnett, Jeanette Yackle, Maria Smolka-Day, Bill McCloy, Lyonette Louis-Jacques, Katherine Topulos, Charlotte Bynum, Tracy Thompson, John McNeill, Rick Goheen (others were in attendance since the Special FCIL Meeting was being held at 4:30 in the same room.)

It was reported that the clearinghouse questionnaire had been translated into Chinese by Nongji Zhang of Harvard. Bill McCloy will help select libraries with law programs in China to send the questionnaire and cover letter. Katherine Topulos and Catharine Krieps volunteered last year to do the French translation and will continue to work on that. Jeanette Yackle agreed to do the Portuguese translation. It was also suggested that a request for other help with translations of the questionnaire be posted on Int-Law and the FCIL listserv.

David McFadden agreed to arrange to have the questionnaire posted in English on Int-Law and EURO-LEX.

Lyonette Louis-Jacques volunteered to draft a letter for all AALL/AALS law school deans and library directors to solicit their help in distributing the questionnaire and in other ways helping us gather contacts for possible foreign visits/EXchanges. Her deadline is the end of September.

Anne Burnett will help with getting questionnaire information in the FCIL Newsletter and on the Web site.

Lyonette Louis-Jacques also agreed to help identify
other organizations and groups that have librarian exchange programs that we could work with. Her deadline is the end of September.

Charlotte Bynum will be contacting all of the libraries that have previously responded to the questionnaire, which was last published in the FCIL Newsletter, Vol.10, Nos. 2/3, February/May 1996, and update their information.

Report of the East European Working Group

Submitted by Tracy Thompson

The East European working group was held on Tuesday, July 14, 1998. The eleven attendees represented a wide range of interest and expertise in the subject matter. Some members had a personal interest, others had a professional interest but lacked institutional support for collection development in this area, and others had intensive institutional collection development interest. In attendance were Malo Bernal, Mary Strouse, Jim Licke, Xinh Luu, Maria Smolka-Day, Michael Estle, Bill McCloy, Marta Kiszely, Dan Wade, Margareta Horiba and Tracy Thompson.

The group developed four goals for the coming year:

1. Develop a program to examine the modes of dissemination of government information in East European and other non-U.S. governments. Mary Strouse (Howard U.) will pursue this idea. We hope to tap the resources of CEELI (Central and East European Law Initiative) in D.C for this program next year.

2. Compile a list of English-language sources of Constitutional Court decisions, as well as other primary and secondary legal materials. This would be an on-going project to which we would add sources as we come across them in our day-to-day work.

3. Compile a list of contact persons in various institutions, both here and abroad, who have shown a willingness to assist librarians in the acquisition of East European legal materials. The idea is not simply to create a list of those who are in official positions of responsibility for this kind of support, but rather a list of people known to us through our own experience to be helpful, knowledgeable and willing to assist in this manner.

4. Disseminate the information that we gather in #2 and #3 above via the FCIL website. In this regard the group intends to contact Anne Burnett to discuss the feasibility of space on the FCIL website for working groups to convey information.

In addition to these goals, the group discussed the possibility of using working group time slots for specialized programming in future years. Such programs could include invited speakers, and would be open to the Association at large, but would focus on an area of specific interest to the working group. We also shared information regarding relevant Web sites, vendors and other potential sources for acquiring East European materials.

Anyone with an interest in East European sources is encouraged to attend next year’s working group. If you have comments or questions about the group or its goals, please contact tracy.thompson@yale.edu.

Report of the Education Subcommittee
July 11, 1998, Anaheim

Submitted by Dennis Sears and Katherine Topulos, co-chairs FCIL Education Subcommittee

The Education Committee met on Saturday, July 11, 1998 at 5:00 p.m. at the Anaheim Hilton and Towers. The Education Committee focuses on the development, review, and submission of program ideas for the Annual Meeting. One of the principle issues we discussed was the concern of several FCIL SIS members regarding programming, especially for the more experienced members, who have a need for advanced, in-depth programs.

The FCIL Education Subcommittee generated some ideas for programs in Anaheim. We received a batch of interesting and thoughtful proposal ideas from FCIL SIS members as well. The Education Subcommittee reviewed all the proposals before sending them to AMPSC. We didn’t rank the proposals this year, on the theory that they were all worthwhile. Six out of eleven proposals were accepted; among them is an all-day workshop at the Library of Congress to meet with their foreign law specialists. The accepted
proposals are listed below in alphabetical order:

The Cuban Legal System: Challenges for the 21st Century

From Russia with Law: Research in the Laws of the Russian Federation and Newly-Independent States

Keeping Art or Sending It Back: The Repatriation of Cultural Property

Meet the Legal Specialists: Expert Advice on Research and Acquisitions of Foreign Law in the Vernacular (an all-day workshop)

Official Gazettes: The Ultimate Source for Foreign Statutes

Our Neighbors to the North and South: The Legal Systems of Canada and Mexico

[Note: the following includes reports from both the 1997 and 1998 meetings]

Report of the Electronic Issues Working Group
July 1997, Baltimore

Submitted by: Marylin J. Raisch

As usual for the past few years that this interest group has met, a lively discussion took place among the attendees, who represented the major research libraries and some overseas institutions as well. The suggested topics for discussion which emerged ranged across the following areas:

- CD-ROMs as indexing and archival tools, problems and prospects
- Subscription and fee-for-use databases, especially via the Web
- Home Page creation

Several attendees talked about the use of the Web in their work and the projects underway at their several institutions. Many talked of how to manage the vast amount of information about sites. Bill McCloy of the University of Washington indicated he felt the Asian law Web world was really mushrooming; it is very hard to keep up with the explosion of information. Lucia Diamond of Boalt Hall, Berkeley, indicated that she had hired a computer medievalist, although windows and new software had made many Web-related tasks easier, such as bookmarking and home page creation. Maria Smolka-Day of Biddle Law Library of the University of Pennsylvania announced that the bibliography of English language materials on Ukrainian law by Marta Tarnowsky would be on their home page by September, 1997. Lyonette Louis-Jacques of the University of Chicago spoke of Webmasters and of the new possibilities to make Web home pages for oneself so that links are always available and do not just sit on a machine, as do bookmarks.

There was some discussion of the FCIL page and links to foreign sites. Bill McCloy pointed out that some regional sites are not as well linked as others from various major sites, particularly those for Africa and Asia. Lyonette Louis-Jacques commented on the good work done by the Asian-American Law Librarians' Group on their page. Almost everyone agreed that overall, the explosion of pages and organizing one's own work was like creating a whole new job for oneself, and in some cases for a consultant. Ken Rudolf of Yale talked of the need for continual updating of Web material as successive "editions."

With regard to CD-ROMs and fee-based databases, many people agreed that several products had formatting and printing problems, such as the UN Optical Disk System and the UN Readex index. It was mentioned that the *World Treaty Index*, ed. Peter Rhone, may become a CD-ROM product. To some extent there was a feeling that electronic alternatives had been oversold for archiving purposes, so that library planners might believe that no more space was needed for books. However, Barbara Tearle of the Bodleian Law Library, Oxford, UK, pointed out the new space needed for consultation of electronic sources, such as for laptops, etc. Everyone agreed that CD-ROMs were a problem for end-users, but may be necessary for archival purposes. There was general dismay that some sources may no longer exist in print. Lyonette Louis-Jacques pointed out that we as librarians need to tell publishers why we want certain titles continued in print.

At the conclusion of the talks, all attendees felt that these discussions are useful, and that the world of electronic information may become somewhat easier to manage but that in the meantime, information technology was requiring almost the same amount of attention from foreign and international librarians as in any other branch of the profession. Contrary to
reality, the increasing expectation of users is that the information they need is “all online or on the Web!”

Report of the Electronic Issues Working Group
July 1998, Anaheim

Submitted by Kenneth Rudolf

Nine people attended the meeting of the Electronic Issues Working Group in Anaheim on Sunday, July 12. Scheduling conflicts are probably the primary reason why this year’s attendance was smaller than usual. The topics included ranged from using electronic media in teaching FCI legal research, to archiving electronic documents disseminated by IGOs, to ideas for future directions for the working group.

Most of the conversation centered around the issue of archiving electronic documents. Because many librarians are concerned that government agencies that disseminate documents electronically may not keep these documents available on a long-term basis, AALL and the Library of Congress are planning a summit to discuss the possibility of developing a program to archive these documents. The working group felt that the same issues apply to documents disseminated by IGOs and foreign governments. It was suggested that the FCIL SIS should recommend that the summit include IGO documents in its discussion and that the SIS should be included in discussions about archiving IGO documents. Maria Smolka-Day, incoming chair of the SIS, said she would follow up on the discussion with Claire Germain, who is participating in the summit. There was additional conversation on various ways the SIS could become involved in the summit process.

During the discussion of using electronic media in teaching FCI legal research, Lyonette Louis-Jacques (University of Chicago) suggested that the working group might be a resource for people trying to incorporate new media into their teaching. Mary Strouse (Howard University) reported that ALA uses committee times to present educational programs. There is a possibility that the Teaching Foreign and International Legal Research Working Group and the Electronic Issues Working Group might cooperate at a future Annual Meeting and present a training session rather than the usual roundtable discussion.

Report of the Latin American Law Working Group
July 1998, Anaheim

Submitted by Dan Wade

Fourteen librarians convened the meeting of the Latin American Law Working Group on July 14th at the 1998 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries. Several important developments were announced at the meeting:

- The group celebrated the publication of their colleague, Lynn Shirey, bibliographer for Latin America at the Harvard Law Library, Latin American Writers, 1997, published by Facts on File.
- Stephanie Weigmann, Boston University Law Library, has accepted the role of GODORT liaison to the Organization of American States. She will invite a representative of the OAS to next year’s meeting. Stephanie also agreed to be the convener for next year’s meeting. Agenda items for the meeting may be sent to her.
- The group voted to support the program proposal of the University of Puerto Rico’s focusing on Cuba (the proposal was subsequently submitted to the AALL Program Committee). The University of Puerto Rico is collecting heavily in the law of the Caribbean region. They offer to send their Acquisitions list to those who are interested in it.
- Tim Mulligan, University of Houston, announced that he was working on a USAID research project that would create a pathfinder that would facilitate legal cooperation between the United States and Mexico. The University of Houston is acquiring most of their Mexican law books through a Puvill approval plan.
- The group following the Asian Law Working Group agreed to bring information on the publication of Constitutional law reports to the meeting next year.
- It was announced that Liberia García Cambeiro distributed publications lists via email. They also are publishing a print catalog, the Boletín Bibliográfico Latbook. Their Web site can be found at http://www.latbook.com.ar.
Jeanette Yackle, Harvard, declaring no civilized person would awake at the hour the Asian Law Working Group convened, announced that research guides on East Asian legal systems were being developed at the Harvard Law School. She promised to let the group know when these were published and available for acquisition.

FCIL SIS Statement Regarding Annual Conference Programming and Scheduling

To: Jim Heller, President, AALL
From: FCIL SIS
Subject: FCIL Programming and Scheduling at the Annual Conference: Concerns for 1999 and Beyond
Date: July 17, 1998

Cc.: AALL Executive Board; Tim Coggins, Chair, Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee; Bob Oakley, FCIL Liaison, 1999 Annual Meeting Advisory Task Force; Roger Parent, Executive Director, AALL; SIS Chairs

Scheduling Changes Appreciated

The FCIL SIS strongly supports the three proposed changes to the Tentative Schedule for the 1999 Annual Meeting that were proposed in the SIS Council Meeting in Anaheim and endorsed by you at the special meeting of the FCIL SIS which you attended. The revised schedule will permit our Working Groups to meet on Sunday, our Business Meeting to be held on Monday, and SIS-chosen programming to be presented on Tuesday and Wednesday. The back-to-back scheduling of our Working Group block is particularly important for the professional development of our members.

Concerns About Scheduling and Programming Long-Term

We are concerned that such scheduling commitments be long-term, not just for Washington, and that consistent program criteria as well as clear, predictable feedback on programs accepted or rejected become the norm for the future. In this regard, we wish to acknowledge that the Program Planners Handbooks prepared for the 1998 and 1999 annual meetings are a step in the right direction in providing clearer guidelines as to what types of programs are most likely to be selected by the Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee. After discussions with you and others, we feel much more positive at this point about the 1999 Washington Conference. Nevertheless, as the concerns of our SIS are of a long-term nature, reaching beyond that meeting, we have determined to appoint a Strategic Planning Committee for our SIS and to convey to you in this communication what we see now as the ongoing needs of our SIS as well as our unique contributions to the Association.

A “ Minority” SIS

The FCIL SIS is a relatively small group within the Association. However, our meetings and programs benefit all of AALL out of proportion to our size. We have taken as one of our chief purposes to put on programs, workshops, and institutes on foreign and international law which serve non-specialists within the Association as well as our own newer, “specialist” members. These basic (or “broad-based”) programs and institutes have generally been acclaimed by a broad range of “cross-over” members from other SISs and are not difficult to have accepted by the Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee.

Unfortunately, as a small group within a large Association, our needs are not promoted when programs are selected based on criteria gleaned from surveys of what Association members want. When the majority rules, we lose. We are concerned that the need for narrowly-focused FCIL programs is not appreciated by the Association and that such programs are not likely to be approved by the AMPSC. Although slots are being proposed for the Washington conference for SIS-selected programs (as well as a foreign and international programming “track”), there is concern in our SIS that in order to do the type of programming we need to do long-range (especially, for example, successive programs on multiple foreign jurisdictions) that we need both the assurance that this FCIL track will be continued and that we can have more control in the future over what programs we can put on in such
designated slots.

It has been suggested that in the future, SISs could present programs aimed at a narrower audience during Working Group meetings or in guaranteed SIS program slots, submitting to the AMPSC only programs of broad potential interest. While this might work very well for our SIS and others, we are concerned that opting to produce “programs” by whatever name outside the slots controlled by the AMPSC could mean a loss of the Association’s support for speakers, rooms, and publicity. Fostering a dialog on these issues would be extremely helpful. We would see written guidelines similar to those in the Program Planners Handbooks as an extremely positive natural outgrowth of this process.

The Importance of the Foreign and International Law Specialty

Foreign and international law teaching and practice have grown exponentially in recent years in most of our schools and firms. We feel it necessary to point out that highly specialized, esoteric programs (which may attract 25 or fewer attendees) can and do benefit all AALL members, not just the specialists. Whether it is a Working Group on Asian law or a program on the acquisition of foreign official gazettes, when the specialists can educate themselves in these areas, firm and law school librarians without special collections or expertise have someone to call when their attorneys, faculty or students need documents or answers to foreign or international questions. Before we can serve you, we must have the meeting slots and education programs to educate ourselves in these complex issues at what has been the only chance during the year for most FCIL librarians to gather professionally. Regrettably, some of our members have become so frustrated about programming and scheduling problems in our SIS that they are talking about or have already chosen to affiliate themselves with other groups such as the International Association of Law Libraries or the American Society of International Law, dropping their AALL memberships. We are doing our best to address these issues within our SIS through intensive discussions and through the Strategic Planning process. It is our sincere desire that the Association will take our concerns seriously as well.

Our Best Wishes

We will look forward to continuing to discuss these issues with you and with others in the Association. Please accept our best wishes for a successful and productive tenure as the new President of our Association.

Law Librarians Participate in USIA-Funded Grant Projects Abroad

Law librarians at the Vermont Law School (VLS) and the University of Georgia School of Law (UGA) are involved in sister-school programs funded by the United States Information Agency. VLS recently received a $300,000 grant to further develop ties with Russia’s Petrozavodsk State University. Carl Yirka, Director of the Julien and Virginia Cornell Library and Associate Professor of Law at VLS, will serve as the program’s director. In addition to aiding in the development of courses and a clinic, an important aspect of the VLS-Petrozavodsk program involves the development of the law library in Petrozavodsk. The VLS Law Library will serve as the model for upgrading the Petrozavodsk Legal Information and Library Resource Center.

At UGA, the USIA grant money is funding a three-year project affording faculty members at UGA and the Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the opportunity to cooperate in teaching and in curriculum development activities related to alternative dispute resolution. A discrete component of the project will focus on cooperation between the law libraries of the two faculties in the acquisition and exchange of educational materials and information about the legal systems of Argentina and the United States. UGA’s Foreign & International Law Librarian, Anne Burnett, will visit at the Universidad del Salvador in November 1998, followed by Computer Services Librarian Carol Watson in July 1999, to work with their counterparts at the Universidad del Salvador’s library in developing efficient means of exchanging information and in supporting the teaching and research efforts of both faculties.
To:

FCIL Newsletter
c/o Anne Burnett
University of Georgia Law Library
Herty Drive
Athens GA 30602