

FCIL Newsletter

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From the Chair

Submitted by Jean M. Wenger

The sunny Northwest provided an invigorating backdrop for the 2003 AALL Annual Meeting. Four FCIL-sponsored programs were held focusing on such diverse topics as the Council of Europe, the CISG, Maritime Law and American Indian Law. I had the opportunity to attend several committee and interest group meetings, and was again reminded of the many collection and research issues facing foreign, comparative and international law librarians and how generous you are in sharing your ideas and concerns. I strongly encourage members to attend interest group meetings as they are a rare opportunity to meet personally with colleagues. Reports from these meetings are available in this issue of the newsletter. (See pages 3-12)

We had the distinct pleasure of welcoming Emmanuel Darkey, Librarian at the Faculty of Law Library, University of Ghana as the 2003 recipient of the Ellen Schaffer Foreign Librarian's Grant. During the African Law Interest Group meeting, Emmanuel spoke of his often challenging situation at the University in providing legal resources to faculty and students. We owe a thank you to Rhonda Gold, the Schaffer Grant Committee, and those FCIL members who helped to make Emmanuel's visit possible through their generosity. (See, "Memories of the 96th Annual AALL Meeting", p. 12)

The theme of the 2004 Annual Meeting, *Boston to Mumbai: The World of Legal Information*, resounds like a drum roll for the inaugural year of our new Strategic Plan. The Boston meeting's focus on foreign and international law and globalization is a unique opportunity for the FCIL SIS to highlight its role in the vitality of AALL and its prominent place in the field of law librarianship. Enthusiasm for the 2004 Boston

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meeting was certainly contagious as one workshop, fourteen programs and one FCIL cosponsored program were submitted to the Annual Meeting Program Committee. A note of appreciation is due Dan Wade (Yale). Dan drafted a proposal for eight international law workshops to be held in conjunction with the AALL Annual Meetings. The first pre-conference workshop on international trade, "Shopping in the Global Marketplace: Information Sources for International Trade" was proposed for Boston.

The prominent theme running throughout the new FCIL Strategic Plan is education: 1) education of new and experienced members in foreign, comparative and international law; 2) education of our stakeholders, especially directors, about the need for more foreign, comparative and international law positions; and 3) education of AALL and its membership about the unquestionable need for foreign, comparative and international law specialists and resources in the twenty-first century.

Our SIS must capitalize on ways to present our educational needs to AALL. The proposal for the series of eight international law workshops was presented to AALL Executive Director, Susan Fox. The letter outlining the proposal focused on the successes of earlier Institutes, the current need for similar training, and strategies for making the workshops economically sustainable. At present, Susan and the AALL Board are awaiting the report of the Career Development Needs Assessment Survey, which is due later this fall. They expect this report to be the basis for the tone and structure of future educational initiatives of AALL. Whatever the outcome, our SIS must be committed to plotting our future course in the changing and uncertain environment. Quality programs and workshops, listservs, website, print promotional materials, committees and interest groups give us a reservoir of resources to rely upon to advance our educational objectives. These resources coupled with our collective drive and dedication is our legacy to the next generation of foreign, comparative and international law librarians.

Many, many thanks to interest group leaders, committee chairs, program coordinators, moderators and speakers, and the numerous members who attend meetings and contribute through listservs and other ways. You keep FCIL vibrant. I am looking forward to an exciting year. Coming to an inbox near you - look for future announcements about a new membership and public relations committee, and a revitalized education committee. As chair, I am just a temporary custodian at the helm of the FCIL SIS. Your ideas, enthusiasm and dedication will keep us on course. Thanks for your support.



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 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”.

The newsletter can be read on the world wide web at:

<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/fcilsis.html>.

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For more information about the FCIL
SIS, visit the Web site at:

<http://www.lawsch.uga.edu/fcil/fcil.html>

REPORTS FROM THE 2003 AALL ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes of the Business Meeting

Submitted by Mirela Roznovschi, Past Secretary/Treasurer; Vice Chair/Chair Elect

Welcome and Introduction: Kenneth Rudolf, FCIL-SIS Chair, welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order.

Approval of minutes: The members approved by unanimous vote the minutes of the 2002 meeting published in the October 2002 issue (volume 17, No.1) of the FCIL Newsletter
(<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/vol17/issue1/171busrpt.htm>)

The Secretary/Treasurer Report was presented by Mirela Roznovschi. The current balance as of 05/31/ 2003 is \$8,641.56. The Secretary/Treasurer pointed out that the FCIL Newsletter switched to a “primarily electronic” format in pdf and html beginning with the October 2001 issue. This format change provided significant savings to the section, which has devoted the majority of its budget in recent years to the printing and mailing of paper copies. This current balance reports the members’ dues for the years 2002 and 2003. FCIL-SIS made a donation in the amount of \$250.00 to Charles University Faculty of Law from Prague (Czech Republic) for flood relief on September 2002. The Treasurer’s report was adopted unanimously.

Reports of Committees and Interests Groups:

The Nominating Committee: Jean Davis (Chair), Rhonda Gold and Wei Luo, nominated the following candidates: Mirela Roznovschi, Reference Librarian for Foreign & International Law, New York University School of Law Library for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect; and Mary Rumsey, Foreign, Comparative & International Law Librarian, University of Minnesota Law School Library for Secretary/Treasurer. In May 2003, the committee reported the result of the Section's 2003 election of officers. Both candidates were elected. (<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/feilsis/vol17/issue3/173officers.htm>).

The Education Committee: Jean Wenger, the Vice Chair/Chair Elect and the co-Chair of the Education Committee gave a brief report about last years programs. Eight programs were submitted last year for the 2003 AALL Annual Convention and four were accepted.

Schaffer Grant Committee: Chair Kenneth Rudolf reported on the Committee's selection of Emmanuel Darkey, Librarian at the Faculty of Law Library, University of Ghana, as the 2003 recipient of the Ellen Schaffer Foreign Librarian's Grant. Northwestern University supplemented the Schaffer Grant by paying his air fare to the US and paying also for his visa. FCIL SIS also supplemented the Schaffer Grant from its funds and member donations in the amount of \$200. Rhonda Gold, the Chair of the Committee, added that the Ellen Schaffer Foreign Librarian's Grant deserves better publicity and more has to be done to get more applicants from

developing democracies. Funding and getting the word out are the most important tasks of the committee. Ellen Schaffer thanked FCIL SIS and members for contributing to the fund. She wants to join the Grant Committee and help with the selection of candidates and publicity.

Publications Committee: Stephanie Burke reported on the meeting and reported on the Committee's dedication to creating and adding more content to the FCIL SIS website. She also reported on members' willingness to offer program(s) for those not fortunate enough to work with other experienced FCIL members. She suggested for the ones new to the field a formula similar to "getting up and running as an FCIL librarian."

Clearinghouse for Internships and International Personnel Exchanges: David McFadden, the Chair of the Clearinghouse, reported that there were no requests for exchanges or visits and no new surveys were added in 2002/2003. There was a member considering taking over as chair of the Clearinghouse. The focus of the Clearinghouse in the upcoming year will be to promote awareness through links to and from groups with similar efforts including SLA, ALA and the Oregon Library Association, a *Spectrum* article and listserv postings. Carole Hinchcliff drafted "Guidelines for Visits" which will be placed on the Clearinghouse page. The Clearinghouse survey will be updated. There was also a discussion of submitting a 30-minute program for Boston dealing with visits and exchanges. This seemed appropriate given the theme next year.

Mentoring Program for Attendees from Abroad: Tracy Thompson reported about the FCIL-SIS Host Program to match up visitors with experienced AALL members at the Annual Meeting . She spoke about contacting other associations and about the new Home Page for Visitors from Abroad at the AALL Home Page (<http://www.aallnet.org/events/abroad.asp>). She expressed concerns about publicizing, getting out the information, and about hosting foreign visitors. She will continue to be the key person for the mentoring program. She also welcomes any input about how we might get the word out to potential visitors about this opportunity.

CIS and East European Law Interest Group: Mary Strouse reported a productive discussion during the meeting. The SIS is planning to launch a web page. One of the attendees of the CIS SIS business meetings expressed concern that many people are doing a lot of projects but they do not come to the meeting to share their knowledge and experience. CIS SIS members are considering starting a working group to network and have a better profile.

Latin American Law Interest Group: Dan Wade reported on the discussion about Mexico online resources.

Electronic Issues Interest Group: Marylin Raisch explained that the focus of the meeting was on the FCIL website. Members considered that it has to contain database reviews, feedback from members, descriptions of collections, collection expertise, and articles on the balance between print and electronic collections.

Teaching Foreign and International Legal Research Interest Group: Bill McCloy, although he is not the coordinator, attended and reported on the meeting. Bill reported on a generic discussion on this subject.

Special Committee on Bylaws: The Chair brought into discussion the issues that were on the agenda of the committee chaired by Jonathan Franklin: 1. Succession when the Chair, Vice-Chair, or Secretary/Treasurer is unable to take their elected position or must step down mid-term; 2. The timing of the election due to changes in the Newsletter publication cycle and transition to electronic format; 3. The ongoing leadership of the FCIL interest groups. These proposals were published in the May 2003 issue of the FCIL SIS Newsletter (<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/vol17/issue3/173bylaws.htm>). David McFadden asked about an unclear formulation related to the timing of the vacancies. The Chair proposes a motion to accept the bylaws as printed with the acceptability of an inversion of words.

The printed version:” ***Interest Groups leaders shall have two-year terms. The Executive Committee will publicly announce, via the list and the newsletter, which terms are ending by April 1, and request volunteers for the position to submit their names to the Committee by May 1.***”

The modified and approved version: ***Interest Groups leaders shall have two-year terms. The Executive Committee will publicly announce which terms are ending by April 1, via the list and the newsletter, and request volunteers for***

the position to submit their names to the Committee by May 1.”

The bylaws were adopted unanimously.

Special Committee for Strategic

Planning: Jean Wenger, the Committee Chair, discussed the FCIL SIS three year Strategic Plan 2003-2006 (<http://www.law.uga.edu/fcil/strategicplan2003.html>). She thanked Jean Davis, Jolande Goldberg, Mary Rumsey, and Dan Wade for being involved in this process. She explained the three important goals of the strategic plan: to promote education in Foreign, Comparative, and International Law; to increase active and broad participation of FCIL SIS members; to enhance the position of SCIL SIS within AALL. The Chair commented on the necessity to know each other better, in promoting new members, and invited the attendees to submit new ideas. The Strategic Planning Committee will be a standing committee that will look at the activities of the FCIL SIS. The members of the 2003-2004 FCIL Education Committee are: Ralph Gaebler - Indiana University School of Law Library (Bloomington); Xinh T. Luu - University of Virginia Law Library; Mirela Roznovschi - New York University Law Library (co-chair); Dennis Sears - Brigham Young University Howard W. Hunter Law Library (co-chair); Beatrice Tice - University of Michigan Law Library; Dan Wade - Yale University Law Library.

Recognition of Volunteers: The Chair thanked members that helped him during his tenure. He gave special recognition to Rhonda Gold, and Tracy Thompson. Special appreciation awards were given to Rhonda Gold, Stephanie Burke, and Jonathan Franklin. The 2003 recipient of

the “Spirit of FCIL SIS” award is Mila Rush for her admirable work as FCIL SIS listserv owner and for her activity over the years behind scenes on behalf of the FCIL SIS and also for being list owner of INT-LAW.

Election results: Members approved by a majority the election results. Chair Kenneth Rudolf announced that Mirela Roznovschi has been elected as Vice Chair/Chair-elect and Mary Rumsey as Secretary/ Treasurer.

Installation of New Officers: Chair Kenneth Rudolf officially turned over the FCIL SIS leadership to Jean Wenger, the incoming Chair 2003-2004. Jean Wenger presented a gift of appreciation to Ken on behalf of the Executive Committee. She thanked him for his activity on behalf of FCIL SIS.

Jean Wenger feels privileged to work for the FCIL SIS together with Mirela Roznovschi as Vice Chair/Chair elect and with Mary Rumsey, the Secretary Treasurer. Jean will be a member of the Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC) and Marci Hoffman a liaison to AMPC. She reminds that Dennis Sears and Mirela Roznovschi are co-Chairs of the FCIL SIS Education Committee and all program proposals for 2004 AALL Annual Meeting have to go first to both of them. She calls for program proposals for the next year Annual Convention in Boston and asks members to look at the Program Planner handbook, a very useful source for drafting programs. She discloses a few proposals already drafted as well as the proposal for a one day workshop in Boston. The draft proposals have to be sent to the Education Committee by August 4th. The deadline

for submitting them to AALL is August 15th.

Adjournment: Jean Wenger declares the meeting adjourned.



Minutes of the Asian Law Working Group

Chair and minute recorder: Wei Luo

As a tradition, every attendee took turns introducing him or herself and reported news about his or her library's Asian law collection.

First, the participants discussed Japanese legal resources. So far there is no website that comprehensively covers Japanese statutes and cases. One of the most comprehensive Japanese law databases is *Haney Taipei* (Judicial Information System) in CD-Rom. This publication is very comprehensive including Japanese statutes and cases and very expensive (\$12,000 to start with and \$2,500 for annual updating). The CD-Rom is also difficult to use. Rob Britt pointed out an alternative to *Haney Taipei*. The alternative is called Legal Base in CD-Rom, which only costs \$2,000 for the initial purchase and \$1,000 for annual updating.

Second, the participants discussed Chinese legal resources. William McCloy said that his library bought a set of *Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo fa dian* = *Code of the People's Republic of China* in 130 volumes. This is the most comprehensive compilation of Chinese central and local laws and regulations in print format. The participants also discussed Chinese legal websites. Wei Luo talked about the new feature that Chinalawinfo.com developed. Under the new feature, a researcher can use hypertext to link relevant articles of Chinese laws and administrative regulations and cases together in its Chinese Law Database. For example, when you search Article 4 of the General Principle of Civil Law of the PRC, you will find there are 4 pieces of the Supreme People's Judicial Interpretations and 12 cases talking about this article. (Please see:

<http://law.chinalawinfo.com/newlaw2002/SLC/SLC.asp?Db=chl&Gid=2780>).

Wei Luo reported that William McCloy asked him to coordinate a program on Chinese legal research as a result of the strategic meeting of the FCIL SIS held in Seattle on July 12, 2003 and to invite the Asian Law Librarian Caucus to cosponsor this program. Wei Luo suggested the program to include Japanese and Korean legal research and seek someone from Harvard to talk about Asian law. The

attendees spent most of the time to discuss the next year's program. At the end, most of the attendees came to the consensus that the program should focus on Chinese, Japanese, and Korean legal research to fit the AALL next year's theme of "Boston to Mumbai: The World of Legal Information."

Minutes of the Electronic Issues Interest Group

Minutes submitted by Chair Marilyn J. Raisch, International and Foreign Law Librarian, Bora Laskin Law Library, University of Toronto

The theme which emerged from this year's well-attended meeting was a call for the centralization of useful information about electronic sources and initiatives by and for the FCIL-SIS itself- electronically, of course, at its web site. In addition, several of the attendees described projects and challenges at each of their respective institutions.

The number and scope of library-initiated electronic publications was varied and interesting, ranging from a religious freedom law database at the law school of Brigham Young University to the challenge posed by accessing official legal gazettes, not only through the Library of Congress GLIN database but also historically.

With regard to the centralization of information, particularly on foreign law, some concrete proposals were made (and some elaborated upon in a separate meeting) to attempt the following:

1. Mount on the FCIL-SIS web page some summary collection descriptions for different institutions, inspired by but updating and expanding upon some of the information gathered in Ellen Schaffer's *Directory of foreign law collections in selected law libraries* (Littleton, CO: F.R. Rothman & Co., 1991);
2. Create a clearinghouse of database reviews to assist FCIL librarians with evaluation for purchase (supplementing information which can be gleaned indirectly from some consortia websites);
3. Share and publicize developing regional initiatives such as ones mentioned for Caribbean legal materials

Most librarians in attendance reported that they are supporting graduate programs in law, which are increasing in size and in geographical scope. The growth of these programs makes necessary the provision of database manuals in languages other than English, distance learning for multi-location programs, and more specialized research instruction, as in sub-topics of environmental law, for example.

The integration of formats and the globalization of legal information have settled into the realm of the given at this point, and the questions, desires, and suggestions of the group underscored the importance of the themes that will be stressed in the upcoming banner 2004 AALL annual meeting for FCIL librarians, literally *from Boston to Mumbai*.

Meeting of the Clearinghouse for Internships, International Personnel Exchanges and International Placement Committee

Submitted by David McFadden, Chair

Attendees: Heidi Frostestad, Barry Herbert, Carole Hinchcliff, David McFadden, Pedro Padilla, and Lee Peoples.

There were no requests or new surveys added in 2002/2003.

There was a discussion of the future of the Clearinghouse in light of the lack of activity and other available resources from similar groups within the American Library Association, private exchange pages and information at the Oregon Library Association website. There was no strong feeling to discontinue the Clearinghouse. Instead, the discussion shifted to ways to promote the Clearinghouse including using the FCIL table in the Exhibit Hall, links to the Clearinghouse page from other similar efforts at ALA and OLA and possibly SLA, updating the survey to encourage others to participate, promoting it at the upcoming IALL meeting and other similar meetings, using the meeting newspaper and Spectrum, using the new 30-minute slots in Boston to have a program to promote visits and exchanges since this seems in keeping with the conference theme, posting information about the clearinghouse on lawlib, the FCIL listserv and elsewhere and getting linked from other law library web sites even if they don't have similar programs.

There was also a discussion of the Guidelines for Visits which was written

by Carole Hinchcliff. (Text is included in these minutes.) She will be doing any other needed changes so that it can be ready to be added to the Clearinghouse Page.

FCIL-SIS Clearinghouse for Internships & International Personnel Exchanges for Law Librarians: Guidelines for Visits

Visiting another law library can provide a unique opportunity for a law librarian to acquire new skills and practical knowledge, impart expertise, and learn by experiencing law librarianship as practiced in a different work setting. An entire issue of *Legal Reference Services Quarterly*, entitled "Law Librarians Abroad" edited by Janet Sinder is devoted to personal accounts by law librarians who have participated in foreign visits and exchanges.¹ This issue makes for informative and inspiring reading for a law librarian contemplating a foreign exchange or visit to another law library or prospective host law libraries curious as to how visits by law librarians have been conducted by other law libraries. The following guidelines recommend information that should be shared between the visitor and host library in arranging a visit. Visits normally last between a week and a year and are usually straightforward to organize. There are more issues to be negotiated in arranging an exchange and some references under the heading below, "Resources" address these details.

Purpose of Visit: In planning a visit, the first step for the visiting law librarian is to determine the purpose of the visit, to decide what type of experience is desired

¹ 18 *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* No. 3 (2000).

and what specifically the visit will accomplish in terms of personal, professional goals. This information is key to planning a productive visit that is successful for both the visitor and the host library. Visiting law librarians have undertaken a wide variety of activities and projects at their host institution including cataloging, collection assessment and collection development, learning and teaching legal research, reference, writing, preservation and archives work, staff training and advising on online systems. Having a clearly defined purpose for the visit and determining how the visit will also benefit the librarian's employer and the host library are essential. This information can be used for scheduling and planning purposes to ensure that the visit is productive and best meets everyone's needs.

Visitor: Most visits are initiated by the visitor. A list of willing law library hosts can be found at the web site of the FCIL-SIS Clearinghouse for Internships & International Personnel Exchanges at: <http://www.lawsch.uga.edu/fcil/clearinfo.html> Other times, prospective visitors directly contact law libraries in the country they wish to visit.

The visitor usually initiates the visit by submitting a resume and cover letter to the host library including information such as:

- professional education and training
- employment history
- current title, including description of job responsibilities
- language skills
- special interests
- reason for selecting host library
- desired length of visit and time of year for visit

- description of desired type of work to be done during visit
- details regarding how the visit is to be funded
- other reasons for wishing to undertake the visit

Host Library: When a host library agrees to host a visiting librarian, they should designate a contact person who is responsible for arranging and overseeing the visit. Prior to the arrival of the visitor the contact person communicates with the visitor and can provide information and assistance to the visitor on areas such as:

- Library and its larger institution (if applicable)
- Visa requirements (if applicable)
- Recommended web sites and print information on the local area, which is usually available from local tourist information office
- Accommodation options and costs
- Transportation – public transport and car
- Health insurance
- Weather and clothing
- Safety information
- Office space, access to telephone, personal computer and email
- Library tour/orientation arrangements on arrival

Resources: The American Libraries Association's International Relations Round Table Exchanges Subcommittee includes helpful information for prospective visitors and hosts on its web site including:

- [International Opportunities and Funding Sources for Librarians](#)
- [Foundations and Organizations Supporting International Exchanges and/or Short-term Travel](#)

- Preparing for International Travel and Exchanges
“Checklist for Preparing for International Travel Exchanges”
and *“Guidelines for Short-term Visits to the U.S. by Foreign Librarians”*.
- International Employment Opportunities for Librarians
- Exchanging Jobs -- A free, non-profit matching service specializing in job shadowing and job exchanges for people who work in libraries and the information field.
- International Job Exchange: Bibliography

Linda Eileen Williamson, (Prepared under the auspices of the American Library Association’s International Relations Committee/International Relations Round Table Committee on International Exchange of Librarians and Information Professionals) *Going International: Librarians’ Preparation Guide for a Work Experience/Job Exchange Abroad*, American Library Association (1988).

Although dated, this guide offers detailed practical advice and checklists for a librarian planning a visit or exchange in a country outside of the United States.



Meeting of the Publications Committee

Submitted by Stephanie Burke, on behalf of Anne Burnett, Chair

Attendees: Lyonette Louis-Jacques, Mark Engsborg, Stephanie Burke

Three main topics were discussed:

Migrating the FCIL website to the AALLnet server: the group talked about using templates to make it easier to add content; the committee will write or obtain for AALL the instructions for uploading to the AALLnet server; several people should have access to server to share workload; the committee will create web guidelines, including timetables for updating and checking links; Stephanie will check on possibility of link checking software available through AALLnet; talked about the techstuff listserv and subscriptions. Stephanie is currently subscribed and can forward messages to anyone interested. The techstuff listserv is for AALLnet webmasters to share information. The FCIL newsletter section of the website is already on AALLnet, so FCIL already has an account. Although AALLnet experienced many technical problems over the past year or two, it seems to have stabilized and the current uploading software system has been relatively stable.

FCIL website content: The group talked about what content would be useful on the website, including basic research guides, linking to other resources which are already available; info on FCIL careers; how to get involved with the SIS’ networking link; the “Sources of

Assistance: Foreign and International Law Librarians Willing To Help Non-Experts”

(<http://www.oceanalaw.com/default.asp>)

list posted directly on FCIL site, rather than the Oceana site; adding a separate mini guide of experts specifically available to mentor and assist librarians starting in the field of FCIL. The group thought the website was a great resource for those who are new to FCIL librarianship, especially those who are the only specialist at their institution.

PR for FCIL website: The group talked about publicizing the website, and its content via listservs, chapter and SIS newsletters, Spectrum articles, etc.

Actions Items:

- Recruit volunteers to create and update content on FCIL site
- Recruit volunteers to assist with transition of files form UGA site to AALLnet
- Recruit volunteers to add to list of mentors or willing to offer assistance for new FCIL librarians
- Form subgroup to work on PR for website
- Solicit suggestions from FCIL membership re: content they would like to see on website



Memories of the 96th Annual AALL Meeting in Seattle

By Emmanuel Mensah Darkey,
2003 Ellen Schaffer Grant Recipient

It was Friday, July 11, 2003 as I was getting myself ready for the 96th Annual AALL Convention in the cozy apartment of Chris Simoni. I wondered what it would be like in Seattle. I tried vaguely to remember my readings in World Geography about Seattle and Tacoma – about the vegetable and fruit growing industry, the fishing industry, the Boeing industry and so on and forth. But that was a long time ago, in the mid 1970's. Things must have changed now, I thought to myself; because things can change very fast in this part of the world!

Three years ago I was in Chicago, but what I saw now were dramatic changes – whole buildings have been pulled down and bigger and more magnificent ones built in their stead, new roads were being constructed everywhere I passed. The Pritzker Legal Research Center of the Northwestern School of Law has also undergone many changes to my admiration- new staff, new equipment and furniture and other marvelous things. Then I thought of the AALL Conference, what was it going to be like? The FCIL –SIS Members and Rhonda Gold - how were they going to receive me? Such were my lingering thoughts as I joined Professor Chris Simoni and his beautiful wife Julia, to fly from Chicago to Seattle for the 96th Annual Conference.

The flight from Chicago to Seattle was good and enjoyable. I sat by one of the windows of the airplane. As I looked

down from the window of the flying-machine, I could see such a wonderful scenery – meandering ice streams of rivers, ragged snowcapped hills with small patches of lakes, rectangular grid pattern patches of landscape which I guessed should be plots of farms and other beautiful things which made my heart rise and thrill within with happiness.

At Seattle, I was comfortably put up at the 6th Avenue Hotel. The next day, July 12, I went through registration formalities with Professor Chris Simoni. Later in the day, I met Professor Penny Hazelton (at my request). We had very fruitful discussion and she gave me some useful pieces of advice and encouragement.

On Sunday, July 13, I met Rhonda Gold, Ken Rudolf and Victor Essien. They all received me very warmly and congratulated me on winning the Ellen Schaffer Foreign Librarian's Grant. With Ken Rudolf, I attended the President's Luncheon for International Attendees. At the FCIL- SIS African Law Interest Group meeting, I was privileged to meet some members of the FCIL. I also gave a presentation on Rule of Law and Law Libraries in Ghana.

Other receptions and meetings I attended gave me the opportunity to meet and interact with several AALL members. We engaged in discussions of problems and issues of common concern. I was asked several questions about my country, whether this was my first visit to the United States, the incidence of HIV/AIDS, how I like Chicago and Seattle and of course about my Library, the students and how I was getting on

with my work as a law librarian in Ghana.

Before I begin to say something about my country and library, I must also say that I was very much impressed by the exhibitions mounted at the Conference. I visited most of the stands and had useful discussions with most of the vendors. I talked to Lexis/Westlaw and I told them that they should consider some scheme for third world countries like Ghana who cannot afford the high prices so that we can also benefit from their technology.

When I came back to Ghana, the first thing I did was to go straight to see Mr. Bentsi-Enchill of Data Centa. Mr. Bentsi-Enchill has been laboring for the past 11 years to computerize Ghanaian legal materials. I told him that the Faculty of Law must use his products because we have the infrastructure – computers and LAN. Our only problem however, is money and he must help us in spite of the teething financial problems of his company. I told him further that the market for his products should start with the students because when the students are hooked to online publications, then he has captured the market because they will go out and propagate it.

Mr. Bentsi-Enchill has agreed to slash down his price by 50% for the 33 computers that we have in the Faculty with an option to increase it to 50 in the future – that works to approximately \$10,000. He has also agreed to be paid in local currency. Unfortunately however, the Faculty could not find the money to buy these products. But we are not discouraged and we are still talking with him.

I have also given copies of the complimentary business cards I received from members at the AALL meeting to Mr. Bentsi-Enchill so that he can introduce his products to you.

My country Ghana is in West Africa. Comparatively, it is slightly smaller than the state of Oregon. It has a population of about 20,000,000. Ghana has a tropical climate; warm and comparatively dry along the southeast coast; hot and humid in the southwest and hot and dry in the north.

Temperature ranges between 20⁰C – 30⁰C throughout the year. The summer temperatures in Seattle were just like colder times in Ghana. – this partly explains why while I was in Seattle I was always tightly dressed in shirt and coat etc (as one of the participants jokingly asked me “why are you always in three layers?”)

Ghana is one of the few peaceful and dynamic countries in Africa. It is also the first country south of the Sahara to successfully and peacefully transfer power from an incumbent government to a new government in a multiparty free and fair election.

Ghana like other African countries is not free from the HIV/AIDS epidemic. As at the end of June 2002, a total of about 500,000 cases had been reported. Now people are educated on the causes, methods of transmission and prevention and control of the epidemic.

Nongovernmental organizations, educational institutions, religious organizations, and of course the government, are doing their best to send the AIDS message to the people especially in the rural areas, where because of ignorance and poverty, some

people still do not believe that AIDS can be transmitted through sex.

The faculty of Law of the University of Ghana was established in 1960 to train lawyers to service the public and private sectors of the country. In the 2001/2002 academic year, the law course in the faculty was changed from an undergraduate degree course running for three years to a graduate course running for 2 years. Currently the faculty has about 200 students.

In the last decade there has been a growing but limited stream of foreign students from other Commonwealth African countries who have trained in the law faculty and then returned to their home countries to be called to the bar.

Until the 2003-2004 academic year, when the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology established a law faculty, the Faculty of Law of the University of Ghana was the only law faculty in the country. This coupled with the fact that the law faculty library has the most comprehensive law collection in the country, has placed it and the staff who manage it in a crucial and important position in the legal information delivery system.

Generally, libraries in Ghana have faced many years of neglect because of the fact that the priorities of government and policy makers have always been placed elsewhere. Libraries take a lower priority in funding to health care, food, education and other basic needs. Most libraries in Ghana depend on foreign donations to supplement what comes from government. My library, for instance, has continued to enjoy the goodwill and support of the Public Affairs Section of

the United States Embassy through its Democracy and Human Rights Fund.

In 1997, the Public Affairs Section of the United States Embassy in Accra and the American Library Association (ALA) sent a Library Fellow to provide training and consultation to the staff of the Ghana Supreme Court Library, University of Ghana Faculty of Law Library, Parliament and the Ghana School of Law Libraries to broaden the staff's knowledge of American legal research, United States librarianship and law librarianship. In all, ten librarians from seven law libraries took part in the program.

After the training, the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy through its Democracy and Human Rights Fund provided computers and a cataloguing software to the Faculty of Law Library and two other law libraries. The Public Affairs Section (PAS) also paid for a year subscription of Internet connectivity to these libraries (to date, it is only my library which is operating the system). With the Internet facility, the Library started providing e-mail service to the faculty staff and also begun creating a database of the library's holdings. The former Dean of the Faculty, Professor Akua Kuenyehia and other members of staff became interested and convinced that technology could be brought to the library.

Under an educational partnership program between Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago and the University of Ghana Faculty of Law, the library was roped in with Northwestern School of Law required to support and develop the University of Ghana Faculty of Law Library. In July

2000, I visited Northwestern School of Law Library for training. The Librarian of the Northwestern Law School, Professor Chris Simoni, also visited the Faculty of Law Library to provide training to the Library staff in accepted law library practices and to recommend strategies about implementing information technology in the library. Following his recommendations, I again appealed for assistance from the Public Affairs Section of the United States Embassy (PAS) to procure an updated version of the SLIMS 3.4 cataloging software for the library. They responded by providing us with entirely new Cataloging software (Winnebago) the kind they were using in their own library. The Dean of the Faculty also provided two new computers for the library and an additional sixteen to the faculty offices

With the assistance of Professor Chris Simoni, we were able to export data from the old database to the new database. Now the entire database of the library is available on the faculty LAN – the first available Online LAN in the University. OPAC Online Public Access to the holdings of the library enables users from different faculty offices to have online access to our collection.

The Internet and the LAN are a novelty in the faculty. The students are eager to learn and to use the Internet. The training I received from Northwestern School of Law Library has improved my competence greatly and I now handle the Internet training and the orientation programs for the new students with authority and much confidence. Our major problem, however, is unreliable power supply and the unstable and unpredictable Central University ICT

network system. I hope, however, that when the new Law Faculty building is completed, provision will be made for a generator and also an ICT personnel will be employed to take care of our computing needs.

Finally, I want to conclude with much gratitude to all those who have contributed in cash or in kind to make it possible for me to attend this great 96th Convention of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). I am particularly grateful to all members of the AALL and FCIL-SIS for their support. My sincere gratitude and thankfulness to Ellen Schaffer, Ken Rudolf, Rhonda Gold, Victor Essien and other members of the Foreign Librarian's Grant committee for giving me this great opportunity. I sincerely hope to build on it.

I want also to address special thanks to my mentor, Professor Chris Simoni, his wife Julia and all the staff of Pritzker Legal Research Center of Northwestern School of Law for preparing me fully for the convention. My good friend Jim Macmasters, I thank you so much for your care and wonderful companionship. May you all be rewarded for your efforts.

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Worth Noting: AALL Executive Committee Presentation on the Indonesian Legal System

by Annette Demers

The tumultuous history of the Indonesian legal system came to center stage at AALL in July thanks to the FCIL Executive Committee. Dan Lev, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Washington, offered a candid view of the bitter history of a country ravaged by corruption.

Professor Lev has a Ph.D. from Cornell University and is a specialist in the comparative politics, legal systems, and human rights of Southeast Asia. He has published several works in this area, including the 2000 title, "Legal Evolution and Political Authority in Indonesia: Selected Essays" published by Kluwer Law International. His book, "Islamic Courts in Indonesia", from the University of California Press, is published in English and Indonesian. His other publications include: "The Transition to Guided Democracy, Hukum dan Politik di Indonesia" (Law and Politics in Indonesia), a collection of his essays in Indonesian translation, as well as other articles and essays on Indonesian and Malaysian politics, legal institutions, and human rights. He is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Legal Pluralism in the Netherlands².

Professor Lev's presentation began with a cautiously hopeful account of recent efforts by Indonesia to initiate legal

² From University of Washington, Department of Political Science.
<http://www.polisci.washington.edu/direct/directorylist.asp?personneltype=faculty>
Date accessed: September 16, 2003.

reforms in an effort to recreate the rule of law after President Suharto was forced out of office in May, 1998. Indonesia is a Constitutional Republic. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of the population is Muslim, representing a diverse array of ethnicities. Professor Lev emphasized the particular religious complexity of this nation.

The bulk of the presentation consisted of a detailed history of turmoil and corruption in the Indonesian political and legal system. The 1945 Indonesian revolution precipitated the emergence of the New Parliamentary Constitutional Government in 1949, after Indonesia was granted independence from the Netherlands. The Constitution that was adopted in 1945 was later amended in the early 1950's in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Professor Lev stated that at this time, the constitution actually worked, the Judges were diligent in their efforts, and the police targeted corrupt government officials. Since the government represented the nationalist movement and an ethnically diverse population, the legal process had to embrace neutral norms to suit all groups.

Professor Dev then went on to explain how the destabilization of the government began in 1957, with the onset of regional rebellions supported by the United States. Martial law was declared, the press was closed down and the 1945 constitution was restored. Indonesia then went through a period of "guided democracy", which included military rule, a break down of the legal system, the centralization of political power, prosecutorial corruption, defense lawyers engaging in bribery and the

emergence of what Dev called "the judicial mafia". The only real hold-outs at this time were the Supreme Court judges, who became increasingly impoverished as a result of their refusal to engage in the complex web of bribery and corruption within the legal system.

In 1964, a military coup resulted in the death of over a million people in Indonesia. A further deterioration of the legal system ensued. The government was simplified - the army governed alone, there were no political parties. Corruption sky rocketed. Private lawyers remained critical of the system and were sometimes thrown out of the courts for their persistence.

Professor Dev's talk continued with a glimpse of the challenges facing Indonesia today. One hundred and eight billion dollars worth of debt remains after one third of all aid monies to Indonesia was pocketed by corrupt governments over the decades.

In 1997-1998, President Suharto was forced out of office, in part due to the nation's financial crisis. Three presidents in the last five years have been unable to pull the legal system together. Professor Dev presented two approaches to repairing Indonesia's political legal system. The first approach he described as a "Napoleonic Approach" requiring a quick and complete overhaul of the legal system. A second gradual approach would entail more expense. The gradual approach would include a significant investment in legal education and an emphasis on organizing the legal profession into a cohesive, influential group. He also emphasized the need for the legal

profession to be encouraged to join the judiciary.

There are some positive developments arising in Indonesia today, Professor Dev indicated. He stated that the number of lawyers has gone up from just 200 in 1965 to between 15,000 and 18,000 lawyers today. There are also four new law journals which have emerged out of the local universities. He also suggested that Malaysia's legal system could be looked to as a model for effectively organizing law and government for ethnically diverse nations. The involvement of local organizations such as the Center for the Study of Law and Policy, of which the speaker is a member, is also essential in the process.

In all, Professor Dev was a very animated speaker whose observations were related with candor. His presentation was rendered most persuasive as a result of his detailed knowledge of Indonesia's history and demographics. His genuine concern for the future of Indonesia was evident and his contributions were invaluable.



FCIL New Member Profiles

submitted by Mary Rumsey

Note: To help introduce newer FCIL-SIS members to the SIS, the Newsletter will run occasional profiles. If you would like to submit a profile of a new FCIL librarian, please contact editor Stephanie Burke at sjburke@bu.edu

FCIL New Member Profile: Chenglin Liu

In 2002, Chenglin Liu became the Foreign & International Librarian at the O'Quinn Law Library, University of Houston Law Center. This job might have intimidated a lesser lawyer/librarian, because Tropical Storm Allison submerged the entire Foreign and International Law Library in 2001.

Chenglin, however, has stepped into his new role with ease. He brought with him an impressive list of credentials, including an MLIS degree from University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Before library school, he received an L.L.M. degree in European law from Lund University in Sweden, and an L.L.M. degree in U.S. law from Washington University in St. Louis. He had already received a Master of Law degree from Dalian University of Technology, China. Some might think that would be enough degrees, but Chenglin is currently working toward a J.S.D. (Doctor of Judicial Science) from Washington University.

Chenglin has finished part of a book on SARS and Chinese law, which will be published by Hein. This book will include translations of major PRC laws and regulations related to SARS. He has

published other books on Chinese law in Chinese. This fall, Chenglin is teaching Chinese law, which he also taught for several years in China.

Chenglin's research interests include comparative antitrust law, public international law, international trade law, international business transaction, EU law, and Chinese law. His most recent interest, however, is his daughter Jennie, born in February of this year.

Chenglin hopes to bring his wife and daughter to the AALL Meeting in Boston, so perhaps you'll see them there!

**FCIL New Member Profile:
Heidi Frostestad**

Last year, Heidi Frostestad took on foreign and international librarianship duties when she joined the Marquette University Law Library. Although her title is Reference/Instructional Services Librarian, her FCIL work at Marquette includes teaching foreign and international law topics, and helping with international collection development.

Like many FCIL librarians, Heidi has to know U.S. legal research as well as the international side. Fortunately, she has the necessary background and enthusiasm for this challenge. Heidi received her law degree from Valparaiso University in 2000 with a concentration in International Trade and Development, and her M.L.S. from the University of Iowa two years later. She was the Executive Editor of publication for the Valparaiso University Law Review, and published an article on international jurisdictional issues of private

international law. She studied law in Cambridge, England, and worked for a London law firm during the summer. She also participated in the Jessup International Moot Court Competition and received Best Brief, Central Division (Spring 2000).



Heidi Frostestad

Her enthusiasm extends to every aspect of her job, so far. Asked what she likes least about her job, she replied, "I can't think of anything that I don't like so far (perhaps ask me after my second year....)."

Heidi majored in music and English as an undergraduate, and "love[s] to read, play the piano, and attend concerts." She also enjoys jogging, Iyengar yoga, and cooking. In addition to the UK, she has visited Russia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Italy, Germany, Austria, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Denmark, and Norway.

Heidi's research interests include international law, particularly the history of treaty interpretation; commercial law; Internet resources and web development; arbitration; health care; and other federal legal issues.

Keep an eye out for this Midwestern dynamo at the ASIL conference or the Boston AALL meeting!

Volunteer in South Africa!

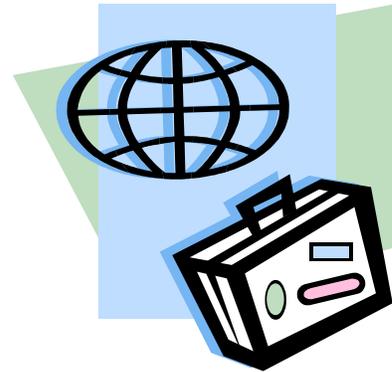
Join the 2004 Inform the World Library Skills Exchange. The ITW Library Skills Exchange is a 4-week hands-on volunteer program primarily for Library Science students and professionals (some non-librarians also accepted). The goal of the program is to provide structured training and assistance to South African librarians, library committees and teachers with little or no formal librarian training. The program is called a "skills exchange" because African and international librarians bring their expertise together to create unique answers to the information needs of rural African communities.

Sometimes the solutions are based on international standards, like using a recognized method for classifying books. Other times, they are unique adaptations to local conditions, like delivering books by donkey cart or making paper from elephant dung. Most often, each volunteer and African librarian contributes to creating a library as special as the community it serves.

There are two groups who will visit different locations: Limpopo: July 12 - August 12 and KwaZulu Natal (KZN): July 16 - August 17.

For more information, please see <http://worldlibraries.org/itw/itwoverview.shtml> or contact Laura Wendell, Executive Director, The World Library Partnership, 3101 Guess Rd. Suite D, Durham, NC 27705, 919-479-0163 or Donna Nixon, World Libraries Volunteer 2001, and Executive Board Member, Reference/Access Services Librarian & Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, Kathrine R. Everett Law

Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 100 Ridge Road, Chapel Hill, NC, (919) 843-7890, dnixon@email.unc.edu.



Joint Study Institute

The fourth Joint Study Institute (BIALL, CALL, AALL, ALLG) is being hosted in Sydney in February next year. Please visit the web site at:

<http://www.allg.asn.au/jsi> where you will find an overview, general information, a draft program, the registration form and much more. We encourage you to register and make your travel plans to attend SOON!

Remember, you will be heading towards the end of winter, and have the opportunity to attend a stimulating (and very social) conference at the best time of year in Sydney's summer!! Please feel free to contact me or any of the other contacts about the JSI, or about any other information you might need about having a holiday in Australia.

Submitted by: Mary Greenfield
<mailto:mary.greenfield@lexisnexis.com.au>

AALL/Aspen Publishers Grants Program Seeks Applications for \$5,000 in Research Grants

The Research Committee of the American Association of Law Libraries is accepting applications through Oct. 27 for research grants from the AALL/Aspen Publishers Grants Program, totaling up to \$5,000.

The committee will award one or more grants to library professionals who want to conduct research that affects librarianship. The grants program funds small or large research projects that create, disseminate, or use legal and law-related information. Projects may range from the historical (indexes, legislative histories, bibliographies, biographies, directories) to the theoretical (trends in cataloging, publishing or new service models in libraries) to the practical (implementation models for collection, personnel or infrastructure management).

The Association's Research Agenda offers suggestions for research projects that cover the profession of law librarianship, law library patrons, law library services, legal research and bibliography, legal information resources, and law library facilities. However, projects are not limited to those described in the agenda; the committee will consider all applications and research projects. To review AALL's Research Agenda, please go to <http://www.aallnet.org/committee/research/agenda.asp>

The AALL/Aspen Publishers Grant Program was established in 1996 with a generous contribution of \$50,000 from Aspen Publishers, a New York-based

legal publisher. Aspen Publishers considers its contribution as an investment in research that will provide a prospective look at the role of librarians, researchers and legal information providers and will yield results to which publishers can respond. Aspen's goal is to sponsor research that will have a practical impact on the law library profession and inspire products and changes in the marketplace.

To apply for the grants, all applicants must provide resumes and statements of their qualifications for carrying out their projects. The applications must demonstrate experience with research projects and an understanding of the dissemination and use of legal and law-related information. Priority will be given to practicing law librarians and AALL members, working individually or in partnership with other information professionals. The grant application and complete guidelines are available at http://www.aallnet.org/about/aspen_grant_application.asp

The submission deadline for applications is Oct. 27, 2003. Grants will be awarded and announced in December. Allocation of the research grants will be at the sole discretion of the AALL Research Committee. For more information about the grants, please contact Ellen McGrath, chair of the AALL Research Committee, at emcgrath@buffalo.edu.

The members of the AALL Research Committee are: Ellen McGrath, chair, University at Buffalo; Scott Childs, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Edwin Greenlee, University of Pennsylvania; Michael Jeffrey Slinger, Cleveland State University; Trina

Tinglum, University of St. Thomas;
Susan Tulis, Southern Illinois
University.

**Job Opening: American Society of
International Law**

The American Society of International Law, a nonprofit membership association and scholarly publisher on Embassy Row seeks Manager of Information Services for a specialized library with web-based resources and 20,000 volume print collection. Responsibilities include maintaining library and electronic resources, providing reference services to users, and developing electronic information

tools. Strong verbal, written, and interpersonal skills required with understanding of how information is generated, organized, and accessed. MLS or equivalent from ALA-accredited program and background in international law preferred. Send resume to Information Services Search, ASIL, 2223 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008 or by e-mail to sliebel@asil.org <<mailto:sliebel@asil.org>>. Salary dependent on experience.

FCIL Newsletter

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