

FCIL Newsletter

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From the Chair

Jean M. Wenger

Welcome to the New Year. I hope 2004 brings health, happiness and peace to all. January is upon us and for some, with a wintry vengeance. Never fear. It is only six months until warmer weather and the 2004 Annual Meeting: Boston to Mumbai: The World of Legal Information. On behalf of the SIS, I would like to thank all those who worked on and developed FCIL-sponsored proposals. They were all first-rate. Many thanks to the Education co-chairs, Mirela Roznovschi, Vice-Chair (New York University) and Dennis Sears (Brigham Young University), who despite blackouts and computer glitches reviewed and delivered all fourteen programs to AALL by the deadline. As a member of the Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC) I, along with AMPC member Marci Hoffman (UC Berkeley), had the opportunity to review all the proposals submitted to AALL. AALL members submitted more than 230 proposals for 69 program slots. I am thrilled to announce that AMPC accepted the workshop, five programs and the cosponsored program. *Shopping in the Global Marketplace: Information Sources for International Trade* is a one-day workshop on Friday, July 9, which requires separate registration. The other accepted programs cover diverse world regions and topics: *Treaty-Making—Really; Hijab, Jihad, Riba and Hudud: Islamic Law in the 21st Century; Globalization Moved my Cheese: Or, How Do I Find Foreign Law?; The European Union at a Crossroads: Freedoms in a Federated Europe; Envision New Possibilities for Research Training and Collections for International LLM Students; A Current Appraisal of Chinese, Japanese and Korean Legal Research* (Asian Law Librarians' Caucus, cosponsor FCIL SIS). (See page 3 of this issue for more about these and other programs). Just a reminder, it is never too early to start thinking about program ideas for the 2005 Annual Meeting in San Antonio!

The FCIL Nominations Committee, Tracy Thompson, Chair (NELLCO), Louise Tsang (Georgetown) and Bill Ryan (American University) did an outstanding job this year in nominating a slate of candidates for the 2004 election. Pursuant to Art. VI, Sec. 1 of the

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FCIL SIS Bylaws, as amended, the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect is the only open position to be slated in even numbered years. Congratulations to Stephanie Burke (Boston University) on her nomination. Stephanie is the Senior Reference Librarian at Boston University and has been the FCIL Newsletter Editor-extraordinaire, commencing with the October 2001 issue. Stephanie is an active and enthusiastic member. Please read her biography on page 7 and remember to vote!

The FCIL SIS Executive Committee is very pleased to announce that Velma Newton, Law Librarian at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill will be the guest speaker for the Executive Committee Presents Program. Velma will address Caribbean legal systems and new technology initiatives in the region. Many thanks to Rhonda Gold (Nova Southeastern University) for her work in contacting Velma and making the introductions. Look for more information on Velma's program in the May issue and on the FCIL website and listserv.

Ellen Schaffer (International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea) is exploring avenues for additional funding for the Schaffer Grant, given the financial markets' negative effect on the grant's annual income. The 2004 Schaffer Grant Committee is chaired by Nona Beisenherz (Loyola University School of Law Library, La.). Information and the application will be posted on the FCIL website, listserv and are available at page 8 of this Newsletter.

Watch for the gradual evolution of the FCIL SIS website. Anne Burnett (University of Georgia), our intrepid webmaster, who put the FCIL SIS on the virtual map and has maintained our presence, is working to migrate the site to the AALLNET server. New information is being added and a new design is in the planning stages. The goal is to make the FCIL SIS website a destination website for information and activities of the SIS and the place to find resources and contacts for international law research.

The FCIL SIS is also pleased to be cosponsoring an upcoming one-day workshop, *Islamic Law in a Changing World: Traditions and Transitions*. This workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 31 at the Law Library of Congress, before the ASIL Annual Meeting. Many thanks to Malo Bernal (Law Library of Congress) and Herb Somers (George Washington University) for spearheading this program. For additional information about this workshop, see page 10 of this issue.

The FCIL SIS is planning an AALL Professional Development moderated listserv discussion. Topic? Foreign, comparative and international law librarianship. When? Scheduled for April 12-25, 2004. This will be a great educational experience for our members and AALL members interested in foreign and international law. What do you want to discuss? How can we share our individual and collective knowledge with our colleagues? Look for future announcements for suggested topics on the FCIL listserv. This will be another great opportunity to introduce our SIS to AALL. Many thanks to Stephanie Burke for this great idea!

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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Deadline for next issue is April 15, 2004.

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

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

AALL Annual Meeting 2004 **Boston to Mumbai: The World of Legal Information**

Some of the Great Programs which will be offered by FCIL members include:

HIV/AIDS: A Global Epidemic and an Issue of International Law

HIV/AIDS is a global epidemic with staggering numbers. This program explores the current state of the epidemic and its relation to the work of those in the law and library communities.

Librarians and scholars face the challenge of researching HIV/AIDS within the context of intellectual property issues related to drug treatments; immigration laws relating to persons with diseases; and discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS in violation of international human rights standards.

Speakers include law professor Jay Krishnan, author of *The Rights of the New Untouchables: A Constitutional Analysis of HIV Jurisprudence in India*, 25 HUM. RTS. Q. 791 (2003); Linda Sussman, Senior Technical Advisor for Children Affected by AIDS, U.S. Agency for International Development; and FCIL-SIS member Mary Rumsey.

Passport to the World of Legal Information: International Legal Materials on the Web. The speakers will be: Dr. Rubens Medina, Law Librarian of Congress; Luis Acosta, Legal Reference Librarian; and Jeannette Yackle, Head of Reference, International Legal Studies at Harvard Law School.

U.S. Immigration in the post-9/11 World Sharryn Ross, an experienced Boston immigration attorney, will be the speaker.

Attend a FUN AALL Annual Meeting Program on Collecting Foreign Law Sources! “Parlez-vous le droit?”

Who needs Alex Trebek when we can have **Dan Wade** as our “*Jeopardy!*” host in Boston... Prominent participants in this FL collection development version of *Jeopardy!* will include: **Jonathan Pratter** (has the inside track re. Mexican and Latin American legal sources);

Margie Axtmann (has the edge with Scandinavian legal sources); and **Pamela Bluh** (knows that her coll. dev. efforts re. Chinese legal materials will pay off in spades).

During *Jeopardy!*, Dan and his competitive contestants will discuss: approval plans for collecting foreign-language legal materials; consortia agreements and other cooperative collection development programs; and key foreign law vendors. Merv created the concept, but **Lyo Louis-Jacques** has perfected this show for your viewing pleasure in Boston!

Shopping in the Global Marketplace: Information Sources for International Trade Workshop

Whether you work in a firm, for the government or at an academic law library, come to this full day pre-conference workshop on Friday, July 9, to learn the most important information sources from the experts in international trade research. This workshop was developed to help educate newer foreign and international law librarians and generalists across the professional spectrum about the array of international trade organizations and how to locate and use key international trade law documents. The registration fee for this FCIL SIS sponsored workshop is \$170.00, with an AALL member discount rate of \$135.00. For more information, email Mark Engsborg, mark.engsborg@yale.edu.

Travel Grant To Attend AALL's 2004 Annual Meeting In Boston Now Available

The AALL Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section's Standing Committee on Lesbian & Gay Issues is offering a grant to travel to the 2004 AALL Annual Meeting in Boston. The grant is funded by a special bequest to the Standing Committee from former Ohio State University Law Library Director Alan Holoch, who died in 1991. The Alan Holoch Memorial Travel Grant is to assist individuals with travel expenses for the purpose of attending the Annual Meeting. An applicant must be a member of the Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section at the time of the submission and review of the application. Completed applications must be postmarked, faxed or e-mailed by May 1, 2004. To obtain a copy of the application form, please visit the Standing Committee on Lesbian & Gay Issues' web site, www.aallnet.org.sis/srsis/lgbt/ or contact the Chair of the Standing Committee, Scott Fisher at 732-855-6160 or sfisher@wilentz.com.

The AALL Mentor Project Wants You!

The AALL Mentor Project provides an informal, personal source of information for newer members, provides an avenue by which experienced law librarians may meet promising new members of the profession, and provides a network for members who are contemplating a move to another type of library

Who should participate?

All experienced law librarians willing to share their time and wisdom; all enthusiastic newer members; AALL members considering a move to another type of library.

Comments from the 2003 mentee survey:

It was a wonderful opportunity to meet an interesting and enjoyable person in the profession.

I feel that [my mentor] will be a good resource in the future.

I was delighted to have [my mentor] and think he was just the perfect match.

Overall, spending time with my mentor was one of the highlights of the AALL convention.

FCIL members who served as mentors in 2003 recommend the experience:

For the past two years, I have had wonderful mentees who are interested in foreign, comparative and international law librarianship. As, many times, a newer FCIL librarian is the only subject specialist at his or her workplace, a mentor and professional connections are vital. – Stephanie Burke, Senior Reference and International Law Librarian, Pappas Law Library, Boston University School of Law

I volunteered as a mentor because I've learned the value of advice and support from more experienced colleagues. Whoever matched me with my mentee

must have really done their homework: We both went to school in Madison, WI; worked for a while at West; lived in Chicago; and have yellow labrador retrievers! I've really enjoyed getting to know my mentee via email and in person. – Mary Rumsey, Foreign, Comparative & International Law Librarian, University of Minnesota Law Library

Working as a mentor provides an opportunity for reflection and analysis about what's going on in law libraries and it makes you appreciate how much you have learned in your own career path. It's not rocket science and there's no right or wrong way to make it work. Even if your only time together is at the annual meeting, you have nothing to lose by trying it but, potentially, a lot to gain. – Suzanne Thorpe, Associate Director for Faculty, Research, and Instructional Services, University of Minnesota Law Library

How can you join the Mentor Project?

To learn more about the AALL Mentor Project and to become a mentor or mentee, visit our website at: http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/mentor_project.html

Mentors and mentees will be matched as closely as possible based on submitted applications.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES
Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section

TO: Members of the FCIL-SIS
FROM: Tracy Thompson, Chair, Nominations Committee
DATE: February 1, 2004
RE: Annual Election of Officers

Below is the official ballot for the election of FCIL-SIS officers. This year, FCIL-SIS members will elect a Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. Please feel free to vote for a write-in candidate of your choice—after verifying the write-in candidate's willingness to serve.

Mark your ballot, place the ballot in a plain envelope, seal the envelope and mail the sealed envelope to me in a cover envelope. **Your name must appear on the outer (cover) envelope for the ballot to be valid.** Do not write anything on the outside of the inner envelope. Please return your ballot by **March 24, 2004.**

**Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest
Section
Official Ballot 2004**

The Nominations Committee, consisting of Tracy Thompson (Chair), Louise Tsang and Bill Ryan, has nominated the following candidates:

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect:

[] Stephanie J. Burke, Senior Reference and International Law Librarian, Boston University School of Law Library, Boston, MA (Please see *Candidate Bio*, page 7).

[]

Please return ballots to:

Mary Rumsey
Foreign, Comparative & International Law Librarian
University of Minnesota Law School
229 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Candidate Biography

Stephanie J. Burke is Senior Reference and International Law Librarian at Boston University School of Law Library. She received her B.S. in political science, cum laude, from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law. After practicing law for several years, she entered the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College. While attending Simmons, Stephanie began working at the Harvard Law School Library, as a Reference Assistant in the International Legal Studies (ILS) reference department. In 1998, she moved over to the Harvard Anglo American reference department, transitioning to her current position at BU in 2000. In addition to serving as FCIL Newsletter editor since 2001, she is active in the Law Librarians of New England, the New England Law Library Consortium, and is a member of the 2004 Local Advisory Committee.

Ellen Schaffer Foreign Librarian's Grant 2004

The purpose of the Ellen Schaffer Foreign Librarian's Grant ("Schaffer Grant") is to provide financial assistance to ensure the presence and participation of foreign librarians at the AALL Annual Meeting. Foreign attendees enrich AALL events by sharing global perspectives to the benefit of all participants.

The Schaffer Grant for the 2004 Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts will include AALL Annual Meeting full registration costs, donated by AALL. In addition, a grant of US \$1,500 is being provided to assist with accommodations and travel costs, through the generous donations of **Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, an imprint of Brill Academic Publishers, Oceana Publications, Inc., and the William S. Hein & Co., Inc.**

Applicants for the Schaffer Grant must be librarians working in foreign countries who have not previously attended an AALL Annual Meeting. To be considered for this award, please send a letter of application, including a brief biography, your current position, your reason for interest in attending the Annual Meeting and what you hope to gain from attendance. The recipient will be asked to provide a written report on her or his experience at the Meeting for inclusion in the October newsletter of the FCIL SIS.

Application letters should be sent to the Schaffer Grant Committee Chair:
Nona K. Beisenherz
Foreign and International Law Librarian

Loyola University Law Library
7214 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118
Tel. (504) 861-5641; Fax: (504) 861-5895
E-mail: beisen@loyno.edu

Qualifications: An applicant must be a librarian who resides and works in a country other than the United States of America. If circumstances prevent use of the Schaffer Grant by a recipient, the grant will revert to the AALL FCIL SIS Grant Committee ("Grant Committee") for disposition at the discretion of the Grant Committee.

Deadline: The Chair of the Grant Committee must receive all applications by **April 30, 2004**. The Grant Committee will not consider late or incomplete applications.

Selection Criteria: The Grant Committee will not consider applications from individuals who have received the Schaffer Grant during the preceding two years.

Notification: The Grant Committee will notify the Schaffer Grant recipient and other applicants of its award decision. The Grant Committee also may post a general announcement in AALL publications and listservs.

Responsibilities: The Schaffer Grant recipient will agree to help educate law librarians by completing one of the following activities: writing a brief article for the AALL FCIL SIS web site; or participating in an AALL FCIL SIS Interest Group or Committee meeting at the AALL Annual Meeting. The Schaffer Grant recipient can discuss appropriate methods of sharing knowledge with the Grant Committee.

**American Association of Law Libraries
Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Special Interest Section
Ellen Schaffer Foreign Librarian's Grant Application Form 2004**

Name:

Job Title/Position:

Work Address and Telephone Number:

E-Mail Address:

Check the statement below that applies to you: _____ I have never attended an AALL Annual Meeting

_____ I have previously attended one or more AALL
Annual Meetings.
Year(s) _____

Will your employer pay any percentage of your registration and travel expenses for the AALL Annual Meeting?

_____ NO

_____ YES (if YES, please describe below the percentage and types of expenses that your employer will pay)

Check the statement below that applies to you:

If I do not receive a grant: (Check one)

_____ I will be unable to attend the AALL Annual Meeting.

_____ I may not be able to attend the AALL Annual Meeting.

_____ I will attend the AALL Annual Meeting.

Are you a member of AALL or any other library organization(s)?

Please attach your statement, describing why you are a strong candidate for the Schaffer Grant. Please include all factors that the Grant Committee should consider in your application.

If I receive the Schaffer Grant and am unable to attend the AALL Annual Meeting, I shall return the money to the Chair of the AALL FCIL SIS Grant Committee. If I receive the Schaffer Grant, I will help to educate law librarians by writing an article, actively participating in an AALL FCIL SIS Committee or Interest Group meeting at the AALL Annual Meeting, or sharing knowledge in another manner as discussed with the Grant Committee.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Please send one copy of your application to:

Nona K. Beisenherz
Foreign and International Law Librarian
Loyola University Law Library
7214 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118
Tel: (504) 861-5641 Fax: (504) 861-5895
E-mail: beisen@loyno.edu

Applications must be received by April 30.

**International Human Rights Law
Institute: Library Technology
Specialist for the Iraq Legal
Education Reform Project**

The International Human Rights Law Institute is seeking a dynamic, entrepreneurial human rights activist and library specialist to provide technical and administrative support to identified colleges of law in Iraq. The Institute, under the leadership of Prof. M. Cherif Bassiouni, President of the Institute, and David E. Guinn, Executive Director, have pioneered a project that will assist Iraq in the rebuilding of its law schools. Over recent years, the Institute has been active in providing training and educational material on international human rights, humanitarian law and international criminal law in the Arab world.

The Library Technology Specialist will work in Baghdad under the direction of Sermid al-Sarraf, Project Chief of Party, to advance the goals of the project, including: accessing library and technology needs of identified colleges of law in Iraq; working with local librarians and legal administrators in organizing library and technology services; coordinating the ordering and delivery of necessary legal research materials and educational technologies; and working with USAID and US authorities within Iraq; the candidate will relocate to Iraq for the term of the project.

The new Library Technology Specialist will also be encouraged to explore and develop new or existing projects that would further the educational reform objectives in Iraq.

Requirements: The Library Technology Specialist should have excellent oral, written and problem solving skills. The candidate will have the ability to meet deadlines and organize workflow independently. The Specialist will be fluent in Arabic and should have expertise in Islamic and Middle Eastern legal materials.

Qualifications: The Library Technology Specialist will have knowledge of Iraqi or comparable Middle East legal expertise and an expertise in library science. The Specialist will have U.S. law experience, preferably with a U.S. law degree. The candidate will also possess 5+years of significant experience in library administration and management.

The initial appointment runs through September 30, 2004, and is renewable for an additional 2 years subject to funding. Send Resumes to ihrl@depaul.edu

**FCIL Professional Development
Moderated Discussion**

April 12 through 25 has been reserved at AALL for a professional development moderated discussion. What would you like to hear about? Talk about? What questions can inspire and stimulate interest in foreign and international law librarianship? The topics can run the gamut: collections/acquisitions, administration, cataloging, reference, foreign and international law training, cooperative arrangements with foreign institutions. We need your questions and suggested topics for discussion. You can view earlier discussions at: <http://www.aallnet.org/prodev/listserv.asp>

This is a wonderful opportunity to intrigue, interest and educate our section members and all of AALL. As anticipation builds for the Boston Annual Meeting, this moderated discussion can be the kickoff to the July event and be a great opportunity to highlight the expertise of FCIL SIS members.

Please forward your ideas and suggestions to Mary Rumsey at (612) 625-2905 or (rumse006@tc.umn.edu) or Jean Wenger at 312-603-5131 or (jwenger@cookcountygov.com).

Pre-ASIL Workshop: *Islamic Law in a Changing World: Traditions and Transitions*

On Wednesday, March 31, 2004, this one-day workshop will highlight Islamic law in today's world. With the increased focus on Islamic societies, it is critical for faculty, lawyers, students and librarians in the U.S. to possess a basic understanding of Islamic law and its interaction with secular law, and to be well equipped to find relevant information. This workshop will describe and highlight prominent issues of Islamic law and focus on the best resources for finding legal information. Handouts will cover relevant resources in both print and electronic formats.

Speakers include the Law Library of Congress' specialist for the Middle East and Arabic-speaking countries in Africa, Issam Saliba; Krishan Nehra, Senior Legal Specialist; Stephen Clarke, Senior Legal Specialist; and Dr. Azizah Y. al-Hibri of the T. C. Williams School of Law, University of Richmond.

The workshop is sponsored by the Law Library of Congress, the Friends of the Law Library of Congress, Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C. (LLSDC), the American Society of International Law (ASIL) and the AALL Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section (FCIL SIS).

Registration: \$50.00 (non-refundable), includes continental breakfast, lunch, and program materials. Space is limited. For registration information and a complete schedule for this program, see the FCIL Web Site and Listserv Announcements. The workshop will be held at the Law Library of Congress, National Digital Learning Center, Atrium, James Madison Memorial Bldg., 101 Independence Avenue SE, Washington, D.C.

If you have questions, please contact Herb Somers, George Washington University Law School, (202) 994-5177, hsomers@burns.nlc.gwu.edu.

AALL OBS/TS Joint Research Grant funding available for 2004

The Online Bibliographic Services/Technical Services Joint Research Grant, to provide support for technical services law librarians to perform research that will enhance law librarianship in service to our clients, is available each year. Applicants must be members of AALL, and must show evidence that the research will benefit technical services law librarianship. The goal of the Joint Research Grant Committee is to award grants in a single year ranging in amount of no more than \$1,000.

Additional general information about the grant is available at:

<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/obssis/research/researchinfo.htm>

The agreement form for grant recipients can be viewed at:

<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/obssis/research/agreement.htm>

Grant recipients will be announced at the annual AALL meeting. Award amounts will be mailed to successful grant recipients as soon as final approval is received by the JRGC Chair. For additional information, please contact this year's chair of the committee, Eloise Vondruska, by email at: [e-vondruska@law.northwestern.edu](mailto:vondruska@law.northwestern.edu) or, by phone at: 312-503-7369.

AALL/LexisNexis™ Call for Papers Competition

Have you been thinking of writing an article of interest to law librarians? Maybe you just need a push to get started? Whether for fame or for fortune, this is your chance to enter the AALL/LexisNexis™ Call for Papers Competition.

The AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee is soliciting articles in three categories:

Open Division for AALL members and law librarians with five or more years of professional experience

New Members Division for recent graduates and AALL members who have been in the profession for less than five years.

Student Division for budding law librarians still in school. (Students need not be members of AALL)

The winner in each division receives \$750 generously donated by LexisNexis, plus the opportunity to present his or her paper at a special program during the AALL Annual Meeting in Boston. Winners' papers will also be considered for publication in the Association's prestigious *Law Library Journal*.

For more information, a list of previous winners and an application, visit the AALL website at http://www.aallnet.org/about/award_call_for_papers.asp. **Submissions must be postmarked by March 1.**

If you have any questions, please contact either Kathryn Hensiak, k-hensiak@law.northwestern.edu or Virginia Davis Davis@UH.edu, member of the AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee.

The Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations: A new way to meet a basic legal research need

Peter Clinch, Information Specialist
Law, Cardiff University

Legal abbreviations can be a puzzle to both new students and experienced professionals. Traditionally, paper-based or electronic lists have been devised to help users identify to which legal publication an abbreviation refers. This web-based service, launched in June 2003, harnesses a relational database to the power of the internet to provide sophisticated searching, ease of updating and world-wide access. The Index is at <http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/>

This short article discusses how the idea germinated, how the project grew and the developments we hope to feature, both short and long term.

How the idea started

Between 2000 and 2002 I was seconded from Cardiff University to be Project Manager for the Foreign Law Guide (FLAG) Project run from the Library of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies(IALS), University of London. The aim of the project was to map the holdings of foreign, international and comparative law in UK universities, the national libraries of the UK, the Public Record Office and the Inns of Court, London. The major output of the project has been the FLAG Database which is hosted by IALS (<http://ials.sas.ac.uk/flag.htm>). For more on this project see Clinch, 2002.

The FLAG Project provided me with three valuable experiences which have led directly to the development of the Cardiff Index. First, I personally surveyed the foreign, international and comparative law collections of over 60 law libraries in the UK and handled legal materials from over 200 jurisdictions. To identify accurately the nature of the materials I was surveying often required considerable research and gradually I built up knowledge of the basic legal materials for jurisdictions across the world. Second, to create consistent database entries for FLAG I had to develop authority lists of countries and jurisdictions. Third, with the invaluable assistance of Stephen Whittle, Information Systems Manager, a two stage process for the creation of a relational database and its transfer to the

internet was used. A similar method is employed for the Cardiff Index.

During the final stages of the FLAG Project, the Management Committee recognised a number of avenues by which FLAG could be enhanced. One of them was to develop a web-based index to legal abbreviations. The database would cover abbreviations to law or law-related publications only and not abbreviations for legal processes or personalities. This same distinction has been applied to the Cardiff Index.

As the FLAG Project drew to a close I discussed my return to Cardiff with colleagues in Wales. Since I was returning in November 2002 the timing was inappropriate for me to take over the preparation and delivery of legal research skills training of students. So, I put forward the possibility of devoting my time during the academic year 2002-2003 to the creation of the Index. This plan was agreed.

Discussions with colleagues in the Computer Centre established that it was feasible to create the Index employing the same general plan as for FLAG. Entries would be keyboarded into a MS Access database. At intervals, a copy of the database would be converted to web format. The major difference was that with FLAG, commercial web software had been employed (InMagic's DB Textworks and Web Publisher) whereas, for the Cardiff Index, all the software for the design of the web pages and to undertake the searches had to be written in-house. The general design of the web pages has been determined by the agreed standards used by Cardiff University Web Team. Some of the search software

had been developed for an earlier web-based index on the Cardiff University web site, to permit searching of the deposited archive of the Cardiff born national newspaper editor, Sir Hugh Cudlipp (<http://www.cudlipp.cardiff.ac.uk/>). The reasons behind the decision to write all the software in-house were to ensure Cardiff could build in flexibility, tailor the software to particular needs and be in control of software upgrades.

The project takes shape

I recognised that a number of features limit the use of traditional lists of abbreviations:

First, punctuation, ampersands (&) and upper and lower case letters control the order in which abbreviations are displayed on the page;

Second, it is possible to search only one way: from abbreviation to title and not in the reverse;

Third, there is some additional information which conventional lists often omit, but which, if provided, would make the database a richer resource and life easier for users:

- Details of alternative titles
- Details of publications which are part of a series, linking predecessor to successor titles – not just modern changes of journal or law report title but where, for example, an individual law reporter continued the work of a predecessor in the time of the nominate reports (in England and Wales, prior to 1865)

- The name of the jurisdiction (to aid identification where titles or abbreviations are popular and used to refer to several different publications)
- The preferred citation abbreviation, as given in the publication itself or from an authoritative list
- For law reports and statutes: the date range of information contained in a publication and for journals, the dates of publication
- Details of where historic law reports are reprinted
- The International Standard Serial Number (ISSN).

Having sketched out these requirements, I asked Paul McGeoghan, Application Support Specialist (Statistics and Databases) to design the MS Access database for me. The Access database design consists essentially of three main Tables: a Table for Titles, a Table for Abbreviations and a third Table named Titles and Abbreviations which is linked to the Titles and Abbreviations Tables. This design overcame the difficulty that a single abbreviation can refer to several titles and a single title might have many abbreviations. The main difficulty for Paul was designing a single data input screen, incorporating every field so that new abbreviations and new titles could be added on the same form. Paul, however, achieved the difficult job by mid-January 2003 and I started to keyboard entries, using a wide range of reference works, which are listed on the web site under the section about the database (<http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/about.html>). I also found a use for information I gathered as part of my PhD research (undertaken in the 1980s) into the development of law reporting in

England and Wales between about 1450 and 1985. This comprised some 700 handwritten index cards carrying details of every law report title published over five centuries. It formed the basis for the creation of the Index.

Initial work focused on creating a rich database of titles and abbreviations for the law publications of England and Wales. Then, in order, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Irish Republic, Isle of Man and Channel Islands were added. Next came the Commonwealth, in particular Australia, Canada, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore and South Africa. Hong Kong was also covered. Finally entries for law publications from the United States were entered. On the way, some international law publications have been entered and a large number of French language materials from Canada.

Frequently, time had to be spent checking information about titles and abbreviations since different sources provided conflicting information. It was also necessary to ensure that the Index contains a single entry for each title. I had to be on constant guard to prevent the creation of duplicate entries where a title is known under several names.

Where a publication is held in Cardiff University Law Library (the main academic law library) or Legal Practice Library (a small library to support the training of solicitors and barristers) a full entry has been created based on an inspection of the actual publication. Once the initial database building phase has been completed, we hope to return to those entries which are less complete (i.e. do not carry the ISSN or dates) and

insert the missing details. The priority has been to create as many entries of titles and abbreviations as possible, and fill in the missing detailed data at a later time.

As the MS Access database grew, a copy was made and handed over to Andrew Frayling, Web Developer, to create the web version that users see when they visit the site. Andrew created several test versions during April and May. The design and layout of the web pages had to conform to the University's standards, which is why a number of links to University services appear at the left side of the screen. In addition, digital photographs were taken and edited to provide the illustrative banner at the top of the web site pages. Andrew added a feature which was not in the project's original design and which holds possibilities for future development. He wrote a script to link the ISSN of a publication mentioned in the database to the entry for the same publication in Cardiff University's Voyager library catalogue.

From an early stage it was envisaged that the Index should be unveiled at the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL) Annual Conference to be held in Cardiff during June 2003. That was our deadline for completing work on the initial version. As those who attended the Conference saw, this aim was achieved. At the time of its launch the Index contained about 3,700 entries for titles and 7,000 entries for abbreviations drawn from over 130 jurisdictions.

Initial reaction

Apart from the 10 minute presentation during the final session of the BIALL

Conference, a message was placed in the following week on the lis-law e-mail discussion list. Law librarians in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the United States and the Caribbean have contacted the e-mail address at the site: legalabbrevs@cardiff.ac.uk to comment on and seek permission to link to the site.

From its launch in early June to the end of August, the only publicity given to the Index was via the BIALL Conference and the message on lis-law. It is a tribute to the use of e-mail as a medium for dissemination of information, and the ability of law librarians to network that, in those 11 weeks, people in 48 countries visited the web site. There were over 26,000 page requests, and the web site was used by people in Australia and New Zealand only slightly less than people in the UK. Also, it is not only the academic community which is accessing the site, for some large law firms have also used the Index.

During June and July, new entries were created and by the end of July the first update of the Index was loaded so that the database contained over 6,600 titles and over 11,700 abbreviations drawn from over 180 jurisdictions. Reprints of law reports in 11 different series, including *The English Reports* and reprint series covering Scotland, India and parts of Canada, are mentioned.

In early September a third update was loaded bringing the database to over 7,000 titles and 12,500 abbreviations drawn from 197 jurisdictions. The new entries mainly cover international and comparative law publications. During September, a press release went out to

law publication editors both in the UK and overseas.

Future developments

Apart from keeping existing entries up to date, future work falls into three areas: first, adding materials from more jurisdictions including foreign language materials of European countries; second, filling gaps in information provided in existing records; and third, exploring the possibilities for making the ISSN link to interact with the library catalogue in the user's home location.

We are confident that we have now included entries for the major law publications of the British Isles, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa and the United States. Attention will turn to other jurisdictions such as African Commonwealth countries, the Caribbean and especially the publications and abbreviations for the most commonly used law materials of European countries. In addition, international and comparative law publications need to be identified in a more systematic manner than hitherto. Where an international law publication appears in the Index at present it is only because either it is in stock here at Cardiff or has been mentioned in the country lists reviewed to build the Index.

Undertaking the second area of future work, filling gaps in the information provided within existing Index entries, is going to challenge the 'detective instinct' in the law librarian!

On the third future development, there is a possibility that with some programming both at Cardiff and in

other institutions, the ISSN link can be made to point to the user's home library catalogue and so, by clicking on the ISSN, the user would be able to jump from the Cardiff Index to the relevant catalogue entry in their own library. So, a user in, say, Aberdeen would be able to search the Cardiff Index, identify the title bearing an obscure abbreviation, click on the ISSN and be taken not to the Cardiff University catalogue, but the entry for the publication in their own library catalogue. There are many policy and technical issues surrounding the concept of localisation to be resolved, not the least whether the scripts to be written will work for all library catalogue systems, how long the programming development process will take and its cost. This example of localisation is believed to be innovative and a highly worthwhile development for the legal research community. Since the Index is just part of the daily work undertaken by all those contributing, progress will depend on priorities determined outside the project.

We welcome your feedback on the Index so that it can be developed to fulfill the research needs of users more effectively. Please contact the team on legalabbrevs@cardiff.ac.uk

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Graham, a Computer Science student at Lancaster University.

Reference

Clinch, Peter. (2002) FLAG: the New Internet Gateway to Foreign Law Holdings in UK National and University Libraries. *Legal Information Management* 2(4), 37-39.

Cardiff Index: My Candidate for AALL's "Best New Product" Award

Nominated for the AALL "Best New Product" Award by: Jean Davis, Reference Librarian and Adjunct Associate Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School

Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations <http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/> is a highly useful free database that includes 14,800 abbreviations of legal materials and 8,800 titles of legal publications. Currently, *Cardiff Index* focuses on English-language sources from the United Kingdom, Commonwealth jurisdictions, and the United States. This valuable database includes international and comparative law sources. *Cardiff Index* also provides references to some key non-English legal publications. It is exciting that the project developers, led by Dr. Peter Clinch (who spoke at our AALL annual meeting in Minneapolis), are working hard to expand coverage to include more foreign jurisdictions' legal sources. The project developers plan to update *Cardiff Index* at least four times per year. In each update, the developers incorporate comments received through the e-mail address: legalabbrevs@cardiff.ac.uk. From e-mail correspondence with Dr. Clinch, I know that people in fifty

countries have used *Cardiff Index*, and that the database averages 750 user requests per day.

One can search *Cardiff Index* either by abbreviation (to obtain a title) or by title/words in a title (to obtain an abbreviation). When preparing entries, the developers of *Cardiff Index* consulted the following noted manuals: *Manual of Legal Citations (Part I: British Isles and Part II: The British Commonwealth)*; *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*; *Australian Legal Citation – A Guide*; and *Australian Guide to Legal Citation*.

I highlight this database in research classes at Brooklyn Law School—students are thrilled to have home access to a free web dictionary of legal abbreviations. If a law library catalogs internet resources, I recommend adding *Cardiff Index* as an entry. *Cardiff Index* is a unique resource. This free, evolving, global legal abbreviations dictionary deserves the AALL “Best New Product” Award.



FCIL Newsletter

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