

FCIL Newsletter

FOREIGN, COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION

Buenos Aires: A Bibliophile's Journey

Julienne Grant

I have had the idea for this piece on my mind since travelling to Argentina last May and am now finally getting around to putting it on paper. That is generally the wonderful thing about travel: even after a year has passed I still have vivid memories of my journeys.

Argentina has long been known for the tango, its volatile politics, and its fabulous cuisine. So, when I ventured to Buenos Aires last May with my mother, we did take in a milonga (tango session in a ballroom setting), visited the Casa Rosada (Argentina's Presidential Palace), and enjoyed more than our fair share of empanadas. What Argentina is perhaps less known for (at least outside of Latin America), however, is its rich literary tradition. There are, of course, the great Argentine writers that I read during my student days as a Spanish major -- Jorge Luis Borges and Julio Cortázar. In Buenos Aires, though, I found much more than the legacies of these two great writers. Much to my delight and surprise, my stay in Buenos Aires segued into a true bibliophile's journey as we explored the Argentine National Library, met with a young Uruguayan writer who resides in Buenos Aires, took in the "Tower of Babel" of books,



A view of the "Tower of Babel," a temporary installation in the Plaza San Martín, which commemorated Buenos Aires's role as the UNESCO 2011 World Book Capital

and shopped in the sumptuous El Ateneo Grand Splendid bookstore.

Housed in a modern building that almost looks like a concrete spaceship, the Argentine National Library (Biblioteca Nacional de la República Argentina) is tucked away in the famed neighborhood of Recoleta. Prior to our visit, I had contacted the Asociación Pro-rectores de la Biblioteca

Nacional (more or less a "Friends of the Library" group), and they had kindly arranged for us to have an English-language tour. Our assigned tour guide, Ms. Susana Jurado, spoke wonderful English and was extremely knowledgeable about the Library.

The history of the National Library starts in 1810 with

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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

BIALL Annual Conference,
June 14-16, 2012 in Belfast,
Ireland

AALL Annual Meeting,
"Learn, Connect, Grow,"
July 21-24, 2012 in Boston,
Mass., USA

IFLA Annual Meeting,
"Libraries Now! - Inspiring,
Surprising, Empowering,"
Aug. 11-17, 2012 in Helsinki,
Finland

ALLA Annual Conference,
"Respect the Past, Embrace
the Future," Sept. 12-14,
2012 in Brisbane, Australia

IALL Annual Course on
International Law and Legal
Information, Sept. 30-Oct.
4, 2012 in Toronto, Canada

From the Chair

Sergio D. Stone

As my tenure comes to a close, I send out a heartfelt thanks to the FCIL-SIS membership for allowing me to serve as FCIL Chair. I extend my appreciation to everyone who served on a committee or interest group, proposed an Annual Meeting program or workshop, volunteered for a project, or made a suggestion to improve the FCIL-SIS.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude for the extraordinary support of Heidi Kuehl, Vice-Chair/Chair Elect and Lucie Olejnikova, Secretary/Treasurer. One could not have asked for a better team. I am also deeply indebted to Jeanne Rehberg, Marilyn Raish, Dennis Sears, and Teresa Miguel for their help, wise counsel, and good cheer throughout the year. Working with such outstanding colleagues is one of the main benefits of serving in an SIS leadership position.

Final agreement has been reached with the William S. Hein & Co., Inc. and AALL to post the full run of the FCIL Newsletter on HeinOnline's Spinelli's Law Librarian's Reference Shelf. Copies will remain on the FCIL-SIS website, but placement on HeinOnline will allow the newsletter to reach new readers, especially outside the United States. Special thanks to Pat Court of the Cornell Law Library for sending print copies to Hein for scanning.

MEMBER MILESTONES

Please join me in congratulating Jules Winterton, Associate Director of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies at the University of London, who will receive AALL's Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographical Award for co-editing *The IALL International Handbook of Legal Information Management*. Dick Danner, a long-time friend of the FCIL-SIS, is also being honored with the same award for his work on the *IALL International Handbook*.

FCIL-SIS ONLINE PRESENCE

Thanks to Teresa Miguel, Don Ford, and Alison Shea for expeditiously and expertly handling all requests for improvements and updates to the website this past year. Eu-

gene Hsue and Lucie Olejnikova also did a fantastic job creating our FCIL-SIS Facebook page. In addition, Deborah Schander handled the newsletter editing duties wonderfully this year.

The AALL CMS website migration will occur after the Annual Meeting. Now is the time to start thinking about how to improve our FCIL-SIS webpages. We will need help with improving and integrating social media, posting content to the blog, and possibly adding audio and video content. Please share your ideas with Marilyn Raish, Chair of the Electronic Issues Interest Group, and the FCIL-SIS Executive Committee.

ANNUAL MEETING

Prepare for a full schedule of FCIL related programming in Boston. The FCIL-SIS is hosting seven AMPC programs and two independently produced programs by the Roman Law Interest Group and the Teaching Foreign and International Legal Research Interest Group.

Thanks to the outstanding work of the FCIL Schaffer Grant Selection Committee (Ryan Harrington, Gabriela Femenia, and Kristina Alayan), Ms. Priya Rai of National Law University, Delhi is this year's recipient of the FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians. We are able to continue funding the grant due to the wonderful efforts of the FCIL Schaffer Grant Fundraising Committee (Lucie Olejnikova, Laura Cadra, and Amy Emerson). Priya's presentation titled "Access to Indian Legal Information in the Digital Environment: A Comparative Study of Electronic Commercial Databases and Public Domain Resources in Law" promises to be one of the highpoints of the Annual Meeting. The presentation is scheduled for Monday, July 23rd at 12:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend the AALL/FCIL-SIS/IALL Joint Reception for International Attendees on Monday, July 23rd at 6:30 p.m., generously underwritten by Bloomberg Law/Bloomberg BNA, LexisNexis, Thomson Reuters, William S. Hein & Co., Inc. and Wolters Kluwer Law and Business. Special thanks to Mark Engelsberg and Petal Kinder of IALL and Pam Reisinger for their assistance in planning the event.



Sergio D. Stone, FCIL Chair

This month, AALL should release its recommendations for improving the Annual Meeting, based on the Velvet Chainsaw Consulting Report. Whatever specific changes are implemented, I'm certain that the FCIL-SIS will continue to be on the forefront of offering instructive and engaging programming. We should take advantage of the proposed changes to make the FCIL-SIS an even more integral part of the AALL Annual Meetings.

NEW LEADERSHIP

The FCIL-SIS is incredibly fortunate to have Heidi Kuehl as incoming Chair and to retain Lucie Olejnikova as Secretary/Treasurer. As the FCIL-SIS starts to implement its strategic plan, we could not be in better hands.

Special commendation goes out to the Nominations Committee, Megan O'Brien, Chair, Lyonette Louis Jacques and Jennifer Alison, for selecting Don Ford as Vice-Chair/Chair Elect. Don's experience with the FCIL-SIS Strategic Planning Committee and ASIL's International Legal Research Interest Group will prove invaluable in the incoming years. Under the leadership of Heidi, Lucie and Don, the FCIL-SIS is guaranteed to have a banner year in 2012-2013.

BIALLs and IALLs and JSIs, Oh My!: Considering an International Conference

Alison Shea

In her recent column, current AALL President Darcy Kirk wrote of the value she saw in attending international conferences. Beyond learning new and interesting facts about different countries' legal systems and library organizations, one of the main points she made was the value that comes from making connections with colleagues outside of the US. Connecting with an international librarian, she wrote, "enables us to broaden and diversify our AALL network, and, in doing so, we gain perspective about the legal profession, legal practice, and law librarianship beyond our shores."¹

As FCIL practitioners, many of us are well aware of the value these connections with foreign colleagues can provide when we are in need of documents and information from other jurisdictions.² By attending international conferences, we are able to make new connections and also put faces to names that we have seen on listservs. The network we gain from exchanging business cards and offering assistance is one of the most useful aspects of attending a conference, regardless of its location. And attending international conferences allows us to not only meet new colleagues but also to spend more time talking to fellow AALL members who are in attendance. While AALL meetings can often leave us feeling like we never saw half the people we wanted to see, most international conferences tend to be smaller in size and scope and therefore offer more time to

socialize as a group. By fostering both old and new connections, we return to our institutions offering greater value through a strengthened network of people resources upon whom we can call when necessary.

We all have personal anecdotes on how these connections have come in handy in our work, but how can we leverage these sometimes intangible benefits to convince our employer to say "yes" to a foreign conference? Here are some ways that international conferences can benefit your library:

In addition to connections with foreign librarians, international conferences allow attendees to make valuable connections with foreign vendors. Just like at AALL, legal information vendors are present at almost every international conference I have attended, and have afforded me the ability to learn about upcoming changes and new products that affect my library's subscriptions. Having developed a specialty in UK legal research, I greatly benefit from the opportunity to learn about new products and resources available to the UK market at the BIALL conferences, often learning about new developments before they are even marketed to US libraries.

If your library has a particular specialty in one or more foreign jurisdictions, attending a conference in said jurisdiction is an excellent way to acclimate yourself with their legal system and resources, as well as affording you the ability to visit local libraries that have significant holdings in that jurisdiction's legal resources. After meeting a Singaporean librarian at the IALL conference last year, I was able to make arrangements to have a tour of her library during my subsequent visit to Singapore and she was able to show me what Singaporean resources were considered

most vital to the students' work. This was far more instructive to me than simply reviewing a catalog of relevant titles on the jurisdiction, and I was able to make purchase recommendations based on the knowledge I gained from that library tour.

If teaching FCIL legal research is in your portfolio, keeping up to date on international legal issues and resources as well as gaining more knowledge of foreign legal systems can be very useful in planning and updating your curriculum. This semester I was able to re-tool some of my in-class exercises for Commonwealth jurisdictions to make use of the knowledge I gained on the Malaysian legal system and legal resources at the IALL conference.

Regardless of whether your employer is supportive of your participation in an international conference, the reality is we are all faced with budget and time constraints that can severely limit our ability to attend any conference, let alone an international one. I, like many FCIL librarians, enjoy traveling,³ and I have been fortunate to attend many international conferences in my short time as a professional law librarian, but all of these have been either partially or fully funded by myself—although my employer is incredibly supportive and grateful for my enthusiasm to participate in these conferences, it is not a professional development gravy train. Despite the costs incurred, I sincerely believe that my career has been helped tremendously by attending these conferences through both the

¹Darcy Kirk, "From the President: Connections with Our International Colleagues", AALL SPECTRUM, March 2012, 4-5.

²The benefit of people resources when addressing FCIL questions is discussed in further detail in Ly-onette Louis-Jacques and Mary Rumsey's article "Jumpstart Your Foreign, Comparative and International Research: Use People Resources," available at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/jumpstart.html>.

³Traveling is a hobby shared by many law librarians—my mentor once authored an article on researching travel options for conferences: Steve Young, *The Flying Librarian*, 48 LAW LIBR. LIGHTS 5 (2004). Although they are a bit dated, the travel booking tips in this article are still fairly relevant.

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BIALLs and IALLs and JSIs, Oh My!, cont. from page 3

information gained and the connections made.

For those who are looking for ways to attend international conferences without breaking the *entire* bank, here are some tips I employ when considering an international conference:

Present a session

Most foreign law librarian associations are much smaller than AALL and therefore have greater opportunity for members to participate in the conference programming. If you are a member of a foreign association, why not propose a session on researching US law or another FCIL-specialty area that you are familiar with? By participating in the conference as a speaker, you are often compensated with free or reduced registration fees, and sometimes even more, such as a free night in the conference hotel or travel expense reimbursement.

Use frequent flier miles to get yourself there

There is no way I would have been able to attend the IALL meeting in Kuala Lumpur had it not been for the 60,000 miles I had accumulated on Continental. There are a variety of frequent flier programs out there—find one that has the best earning and redeeming opportunities for your personal travel habits. Also

look into getting an airline sponsored credit card, as they often give substantial mileage bonuses for new card holders to help get you the miles you need to redeem international flights quicker.

And for those who might want to consider employing some of these tips in the near future, here are some upcoming international conferences of interest:

British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL) Annual Meeting, June 14-16, Belfast, Northern Ireland. A wonderful, small conference that provides excellent opportunities to speak with UK librarians and vendors—especially at their fabulous social events.⁴

International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Annual Conference, August 11-17, Helsinki, Finland.⁵ Although more general in nature and much larger than other conferences, IFLA does have a section for law libraries⁶ and also for government documents, so there are generally quite a few

sessions of interest to law librarians. IFLA also has a very comprehensive calendar of library-related conferences.⁷

International Association of Law Librarians (IALL) Annual Course on International Law and Legal Information, September 30 – October 4, 2012, Toronto, Canada.⁸ IALL conferences are structured differently than most librarian conferences in that they focus on providing substantive legal information on the host jurisdiction and surrounding regions. This year's conference is conveniently located in Toronto and should provide a great opportunity for many US law librarians to attend.

Joint Study Institute, February 13-16, 2013, Melbourne, Australia.⁹ Similar in focus to IALL conferences, JSIs concentrate on the host jurisdiction's legal system and its interaction in the international area. A great article written in 2008 for the US-hosted JSI explains the conference in more detail.¹⁰

⁷ <http://www.ifla.org/en/events/calendar>

⁸ <http://www.iall.org/iall2012/>

⁹ <http://www.ala.asn.au/conferences/jsi2013>

¹⁰ Hazel L. Johnson, "AALL Hosts the 2008 Joint Study Institute in June," AALL SPECTRUM, February 2008 at 21, *available at*: http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Publications/spectrum/Archives/Vol-12/pub_sp0802/pub-sp0802-jsi.pdf.

⁴ <http://www.biall.org.uk/pages/belfast2012.html>

⁵ <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla78>

⁶ <http://www.ifla.org/en/law-libraries>

Seeking Contributions!

The FCIL Education Committee is soliciting new and updated contributions to our Syllabi and Course Materials database! If you have a syllabi, assignment, PowerPoint, or other document relating to teaching FCIL topics, and wish to share it with your colleagues, please send it to Alison Shea (aashea@law.fordham.edu) by June 30. Also, please consider attending our Committee's Roundtable on Teaching FCIL Topics, to be held on Sunday July 22, 2012 from 10:45-11:45 a.m. in the Sheraton-Independence Ballroom East. Attendees are encouraged to bring copies of their teaching materials to workshop with other participants, and also to bring ideas and techniques for teaching various FCIL topics to share. Stay tuned for more information!

Conference Report: BILETA 2012, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Edward Hart

The British and Irish Law, Education and Technology Association (BILETA) was founded in 1986 to promote the use of technology in legal education. The group's interest is comparable to CALI. Its activities include promotion of research projects, support of development and distribution of educational software, and making representations on technology and law through the production of reports. An example of the latest effort was last year's *Response to EU Commission Public Consultation on Cloud Computing* prepared in collaboration with the Information Technology Think Tank. Each Spring, BILETA holds an annual meeting to allow scholars and practitioners to discuss their research and developments in the interconnected areas of interest.

For 2012, the meeting's theme was "*Too*

Many Laws, Too Few Examples": *Regulation, Technology, Law and Legal Education*.

It took place in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, hosted by the Northumbria University Law School and held at the conference center of the Life Science Centre. In what could be a preview for the AALL meeting, Professor Richard Susskind gave the keynote address, "What Are We Training Young Lawyers to Become?" The other plenary speech was given by Professor Chris Reed, entitled "Why Does Lawmaking Fail in Cyberspace?" The wonderful thing about attending this conference is hearing about the similarities and differences in the concerns of legal scholars on both sides of the Atlantic. One common issue is the question of jurisdiction related to internet transactions, whether lawful business, Amazon, illegal transactions, or internet poker. A difference centers on legal education, with their

target audience being undergraduates. Another of the conference's attractions is that it is usually held at -- or close to -- the host schools, so attendees have the opportunity to visit and tour the institutions, including their libraries.

This conference usually has a few Americans in attendance as well as presenting. Billie Jo Kaufman once spoke to this group about AALL's inventory of state online resources. This year I had the honor of being asked to discuss the developments behind the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Law.

BILETA provides an online archive of Conference Papers back to its fifth meeting in 1990 at <http://www.bileta.ac.uk/Conference%20Papers/>.

Further details about BILETA can be found at their site: www.bileta.ac.uk.

FCIL @ AALL 2012

SATURDAY, JULY 21

6:45 p.m.

- Publicity and Membership Comm. Mtg

SUNDAY, JULY 22

7 a.m.

- African Law IG Mtg

- Asian Law IG Mtg

10:45 a.m.

- Teaching Foreign and International Law IG Presents "Teaching FCIL Topics Roundtable"

12 p.m.

- Electronic Issues IG Mtg

- Internships and International Exchanges Comm. Mtg

1:15 p.m.

- B4: Piercing the Veil of Sovereignty: The Sources of International Human Rights Law – Part I

3:45 p.m.

- C4: Piercing the Veil of Sovereignty: The

Sources of International Human Rights Law – Part II

5:15 p.m.

- CIS and Eastern European IG Mtg

- Foreign Law Selectors IG Mtg

MONDAY, JULY 23

7 a.m.

- Indigenous Peoples Law IG Mtg

- FCIL-SIS Latin American Law IG Mtg

10:45 a.m.

- Roman Law IG Presents "Connecting Roman Law Books: Commentaries, Marginalia, Bookplates, and More"

12 p.m.

- The Executive Comm. Presents the Recipient of the Schaffer Grant, Priya Rai. Topic: "Access to Indian Legal Information in the Digital Environment: A Comparative Study of Electronic Commercial Databases and Public Domain Resources in Law."

1:15 p.m.

- F5: The Diplomat Librarian: Working with LLMs, International Scholars, Students, and Faculty

2:45 p.m.

- G1: Chinese Law – Real Time!

5:45 p.m.

- Business Mtg

6:45 p.m.

- International Attendees Joint Reception

TUESDAY, JULY 24

7 a.m.

- Education Comm. Mtg

- Schaffer Grant Fundraising and Selection Comm. Mtg

8:30 a.m.

- H5: Debating U.S. Policy for the International Criminal Court: Advising the Next Administration

10:15 a.m.

- I3: Right to Be Lost: Comparative Law Approaches to Internet Privacy and Personal Data Protection

2:30 p.m.

- J5: Class KIA-KIX: A Revolutionary New Classification Schedule for the 21st Century

Buenos Aires: A Bibliophile's Journey, cont. from page 1

the founding of the Public Library of Buenos Aires, which became a truly national library in 1884. Among the National Library's many prestigious directors was Jorge Luis Borges who served from 1955 to 1973. The National School of Librarians (Escuela Nacional de Bibliotecarios), which functions under the auspices of the National Library and is housed in the same building, first opened its doors during Borges' term.

The National Library's current home was designed in 1961 by Clorinda Testa, Francisco Bullrich, and Alicia Cazzaniga -- although the building did not officially open until 1992. Susana explained that the structure conforms to the Brutalist style of architecture, which is generally characterized by concrete construction and a lack of ornamentation; indeed, by all accounts, the building is quite austere and stark. The building's 10+ levels include three that are actually underground -- collectively designed to store up to 5,000,000 items and provide protection from light and other potentially damaging elements.

Susana first guided us to the 5th floor, which is the main reading room. There, patrons may request books from the closed stacks -- three at a time. When the books arrive, the patron's name appears on a television screen. From the 5th floor, a ramp leads to the 6th floor, where there is a large Reference Room and also a Students' Hall. The Students' Hall is heavily used by high school and university students who live in nearby boarding houses. Susana also arranged for us to tour the 3rd floor, which houses a number of the library's many treasures, including furniture from the original library and Jorge Luis Borges' desk. The library also owns a number of rare books that are stored on the 4th floor, including valuable works by St. Augustine, Dante, Cicero, and St. Thomas Aquinas. Overall, the two-hour tour of

the National Library was fascinating -- highly recommended for visiting bibliophiles. English speakers should specifically request Susana (she was delightful!).

Prior to arriving in Buenos Aires, I also arranged to meet local author Laura Chalar. Laura is a friend of Illinois attorney and author Lowell Komie (*A Lawyer's Notes; The Lawyer's Chambers and Other Stories; The Legal Fiction of Lowell B. Komie*) who is, in turn, a friend of my parents. Laura and I had been corresponding a bit before our arrival, so it was fun to finally meet in person. Laura is Uruguayan by birth, but currently resides in Buenos Aires with her husband. She is a lawyer, writer, and translator, and her collection of legal-related short stories "El Discreto Encanto de la Abogacía" (*The Discreet Charm of Lawyering*, 2007)¹ received an Honourable Mention in the Uruguayan Ministry of Culture's annual book award competition. She has also published another volume of short stories, two poetry collections, and has recently translated one of Lowell's books into Spanish (awaiting publication). After a lovely lunch with Laura (she speaks absolutely impeccable English), she suggested that we take a peek at a sculpture installation that she thought we would enjoy.

With Laura as our guide, we headed to the Plaza San Martín to see Buenos Aires' own "Tower of Babel." The Tower was constructed by Argentine artist Marta Minujín (born 1943) as a temporary installation to commemorate the designation of Buenos Aires as UNESCO's 2011 World Book Capital. The Tower, displayed for three weeks in May 2011, consisted of some 30,000 donated books published in 50 different languages. Each book was placed in a



Laura Chalar, a local author

plastic bag to protect it from the elements. The Tower was 82 feet high (seven stories), and visitors could hear an accompanying recording of the artist's voice saying the word "book" in multiple languages. This was really a remarkable work of art -- a true monument to bibliophiles, and a reflection of Argentina's great literary tradition.

Another unique attraction in Buenos Aires for book lovers is the El Ateneo Grand Splendid bookstore. Located on the fashionable Avenida Santa Fe, this is not like your typical Barnes & Noble. El Ateneo Grand Splendid, in fact, is often touted as the largest bookstore in Latin America and the UK's *Guardian* placed it in its "Top 10" list of the world's most beautiful bookshops.² Housed in a former theatre, the bookstore retains the theatre's glory with its frescoed ceiling and large stage, which is now a café. The

² Sean Dodson, "Top Shelves," *The Guardian* (January 11, 2008), available at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2008/jan/11/bestukbookshops> (last visited April 30, 2012).

¹ Laura kindly donated a signed copy of her book to our library (Loyola University Chicago Law Library), and it is currently housed in the Dan K. Webb Rare Books Room.

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theatre's box seat areas have also been furnished with comfy chairs where visitors can curl up and read. The bookstore offers a wonderful collection of Argentine CDs for sale, a large section of law books, and a fabulous collection of monographs on Argentine cuisine. I came back with a load of wonderful books and CDs in my suitcase. A written description does not do this place justice, so check out the vir-

tual tours of El Ateneo Grand Splendid on YouTube that capture its real ambiance.

Buenos Aires is indeed sometimes described as the "jewel" of South America, and I would have to agree with that description. Its grand boulevards, tango ballrooms, sumptuous cuisine, and fascinating history are alone worth making the trek from North America. Howev-

er, I also discovered that Buenos Aires is a haven for bibliophiles. It is a city of avid readers with a multitude of bookstores (including one of the most beautiful in the world), an impressive National Library, and a rich literary tradition that even permeates Argentine contemporary art.

Note: 2011 FCIL Schaffer Grant recipient Gloria Orrego Hoyos also extended an invitation to visit her library at the Universidad de San Andrés while we were in Buenos Aires, but we were unfortunately not able to go.

Sources Consulted

Biblioteca Nacional de la República Argentina, <http://www.bn.gov.ar/> (last visited April 30, 2012).

Biblioteca Nacional de la República Argentina and Asociación Protectores de la Biblioteca Nacional, *Bienvenido a la Biblioteca Nacional*, booklet published in six languages (undated).

"Bookish Buenos Aires gets own Tower of Babel," *Buenos Aires Herald* (May 11, 2011), available at <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/article/66822/bookish-buenos-aires-gets-own-tower-of-babel> (last visited April 30, 2012).



Outside the Casa Rosada, Argentina's Presidential Palace

FCIL Newsletter

FCIL Newsletter is a publication of the Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries. It is published in February, May and October of each year.

Current and past issues of FCIL Newsletter are available on our website, at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/newsletter.html>.

We welcome submissions. Contact us for more information.

EDITOR:

Deborah Schander
dschander@gsu.edu
Georgia State University

COPY EDITOR:

Carmen Valero
cvalero@mckennalong.com
McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP

Resource Reviews: An Introduction to the Series

As librarians, we know the difficulties of researching FCIL topics. No electronic access. No English translation. No current edition. So when we find a resource that helps us, we latch onto it with de-

light. But what happens when that website isn't updated anymore? Or when you have to decide "print or electronic"? In this issue, *FCIL Newsletter* presents a series of reviews, fresh looks at

several popular FCIL resources. Your colleagues offer their opinions on using LLRX, the International Encyclopaedia of Laws, World Constitutions Illustrated, and Foreign Law Guide. Enjoy!

REVIEW: LLRX

Amy Flick

Sabrina Pacifici's web journal LLRX (<http://www.llrx.com>) has been a staple of guides to foreign and international law research, including my own, since it began in 1996. Robert Berring and Elizabeth Edinger in *Finding the Law* (12th edition 2005 at 338) call the site "very strong in international sources and in research guides," and J.D.S. Armstrong and Christopher Knott in *Where the Law Is: An Introduction to Advanced Legal Research* (3d edition 2009 at 220), in their chapter on foreign law research, offer that "one of the best websites is LLRX's collection of articles on several dozen major foreign jurisdictions." But is it still the go-to source for guides to FCIL research?

LLRX's legal research guides section at <http://www.llrx.com/legal-research.htm> adds new guides and articles each month. But it has added few new guides in its category of Comparative/Foreign Law in recent years. Most of its FCIL guides were published between 2000 and 2005. A few guides have received fairly recent updates; Nicholas Pengelley and Sue Milne's *Researching Australian Law* was updated in 2009. The most recent FCIL guide is Steven Whittle and Peter Clinch's article on the FLARE Index to Treaties, published September 22, 2011.

Many of the older foreign law guides are still useful. A significant number of the countries in the Comparative and Foreign Law guide list are difficult to find information on. There are great lists of print resources and helpful historical

background. Quite a number of the links to resources still work. But after several years, notes like "recent changes to the law" are no longer recent, new developments are missing, and many of the links to resources are broken. A researcher using Lesley Dingle and Bradley Miller's 2004 guide to *U.K. Constitutional Reform* would find an extensive list of reforms, both historical and current as of 2004, and a lengthy bibliography and list of statutes, but would miss the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 creating the Supreme Court (although the guide includes background Consultation Papers before its creation), the Government of Wales Act 2006, and parliamentary reform acts from 2011, for example.

It is still worthwhile to keep track of new guides and articles on LLRX for a variety of other subjects, either by getting the monthly e-mail updates for LLRX or the daily alerts for the *BeSpecific* blog at <http://www.bespacific.com/>. *BeSpecific* has alerted me to recent LLRX articles that I passed along to students with related research projects, including Ken Strutin's February 2012 article on *Animal Rights in the Human Legal System*. I will keep LLRX in my guides to FCIL resources for the useful background information on multiple jurisdictions. But the first resource I check for foreign and international law guides will be NYU Law's *Globalex* at <http://www.nyulawglobal.org/Globalex/index.html>, with its longer list of research guides with more recent updates.

Next Issue

October is our annual AALL issue. Look for reports from the general business meeting, Interest Group meeting reports, committee reports and more.

Chairs, please submit your reports by October 1, 2012.

We're also looking for reports on BIALL, IFLA or other international conferences from the summer. Articles should be approximately 500-800 words. We also welcome your photographs to accompany these reports! These articles are also due October 1, 2012.

If you are interested in writing a conference report, contact editor Deborah Schander (dschander@gsu.edu) with any questions.

Have a great summer and see you all in October!

REVIEW: The International Encyclopaedia of Laws

Susan Gualtier

The International Encyclopaedia of Laws (IEL) is a staple in many academic law libraries. Published by Wolters Kluwer, it currently covers 25 subject areas and includes country profiles by over 1200 different authors. It is available both in print and online. However, recent decisions by Wolters Kluwer to cease publishing certain sections of the print volumes, and to begin offering its individual monographs as e-books, have led to speculation among law librarians that Wolters Kluwer may be moving away from the print encyclopedia and planning to make the IEL available exclusively in the online format. Wolters Kluwer has recently represented to members of the International Law Librarians List that they will continue to publish the IEL in print for as long as there is a demand for it. Nonetheless, working under the general assumption that more students and faculty prefer online resources to print, the benefits and drawbacks of both the print and online versions of the IEL certainly deserve consideration.

At the Louisiana State University Law Center Library, we recently evaluated both the print and online versions of the IEL in order to determine which best fit our needs. When I arrived at LSU as Foreign, Comparative and International Law Librarian, I found that most of our IEL loose-leaf subscriptions had been discontinued several years before and had not been reinstated. After speaking with our library director, we decided to reevaluate the cancellation of these services. In order to compare the online version with the print volumes we already had, we set up a trial subscription to the online version of the IEL that was limited to the five subject areas in which we were most interested. These included areas in which our faculty and students were doing significant amounts of research (Energy Law and Environmental Law), or in which we felt that researchers would benefit from having an extensive comparative overview available (Family and Suc-

cession Law, Constitutional Law, and Civil Procedure.) We then asked our reference librarians to review both the online trial and the print version, and to provide us with feedback about which would be more useful to our researchers, and why. We also requested input from other law libraries regarding whether they had found the online version to be beneficial to their libraries, and whether they were still subscribing to the print version.

Though feedback from other universities tended to support the purchase of the online database, the consensus among the reference librarians at LSU was that the print version better served our needs than did the online version. The online version of the IEL consists of large PDF files containing the same individual country profiles found in the print volumes. The files are not broken down beyond the monograph level. Researchers can browse the files by clicking through several levels of folders before arriving at the PDFs. The files are also searchable using OCR technology. While we agreed that most students would likely prefer to use an online database, especially if they were able to use it remotely, it was generally felt that the large PDF files were too cumbersome to read through and that the search capability of the database was not sophisticated enough to add significant value over the print version of the IEL. More importantly, we felt that the comparative value of the IEL would be lost if the researcher were to search for keywords and retrieve individual country profiles, rather than looking through multiple country profiles and gaining a comparative overview of the topic of interest rather than a single-country perspective. By contrast to the database, the print volumes allow the researcher to browse through a variety of countries and to get an immediate sense of the information available before zeroing in on a particular country on which to focus. This can be done without opening and closing cumbersome computer files

or printing large numbers of pages. We judged this comparative value of the IEL, rather than any particular individual country information, to be its most important feature given the amount of comparative work being done at LSU. Ultimately, we decided that our students and faculty would be best served by a simple print service that could be pulled off the shelf, flipped through, and read with an eye to obtaining a comparative understanding of the topic in question, rather than by a database that encouraged a narrower focus through targeted keyword searching, and that did not provide the researcher with the same ease of browsing through the resource.

Since subscribing (and, in some cases, re-subscribing) to the loose-leaf version, we have observed an increased use of the resource by the students. In particular, the volumes on Family and Succession Law, an area in which the law can vary drastically depending on the country and/or legal system, and in which some customary and religious laws can be especially difficult to research, have proved to be quite valuable to students in our family law classes, as well as to our international LLM students. As FCIL Librarian, I have been able to introduce the IEL to an increasing number of students and to steer them toward the resource as an introductory source of foreign legal information. The students have been receptive to the resource and have not expressed any difficulty using the print version, or any disappointment that the information was not available online or through remote access. Since subscribing to the loose-leaf version in our five initial areas of interest, we have added some additional subject areas to our subscription and have, for the most part, stopped purchasing the individually-published monographs. While we do not currently have any plans to subscribe to the online database, we are keeping abreast of developments at Wolters Kluwer, and we continue to keep the online version in mind for future purchase.

REVIEW: World Constitutions Illustrated

Jennifer Allison

About the collection, from HeinOnline:

“This library enables legal scholars to research the constitutional and political development of every country in the world. It includes the current constitution for every country in its original language format and an English translation, as well as substantial constitutional histories for countries such as Australia, Brazil, China, France, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and many more. It also includes constitutional periodicals, thousands of classic books, other related works such as the World Fact Book, links to scholarly articles and online resources, and bibliographic references.”

I am relatively new to FCIL librarianship, so in a way I feel ill-prepared to write a review of World Constitutions Illustrated. However, despite my inexperience, I sincerely believe that Hein is fully justified in extensively hyping this collection. The World Constitutions Illustrated library was established in 2010 and is updated continuously. It is a valuable resource that collects comparative constitutional primary and secondary resources from around the globe, compiling and displaying them in a way that is easy to browse, highly searchable, and extensively cross-referenced.

For each country, both the most recent and the historical versions of the actual constitutional text are provided, in the national language(s) as well as English. As an example, a legal historian interested in reviewing in historical progression the original versions of the English/UK constitutional documents discussing habeas corpus, can run one search that facilitates access to documents covering a nearly 800-year span, including:

- Magna Carta of 1215
- Magna Carta of 1223-5
- Petition of Right of 1627
- Habeas Corpus Act of 1679
- International Criminal Court Act of

2001

- Constitutional Reform Act of 2005

“Access” means not only a digitized, readable version of the original document, but also a bibliographic summary of the document itself, including the official reference number, document source, and date and language information.

To be honest, the prospect of finding all of those materials in print in an academic law library collection would likely be beyond the grasp, or interest, of modern law students.

World Constitutions Illustrated also provides access to current and historical secondary sources that discuss the constitutional law principles of each country in its collection. On each national page, this information is divided into three sections:

1. **Commentaries & Other Relevant Sources**—*Books and treatises about the constitutional law principles, many of which are older and historical in nature.*
2. **Scholarly Articles**—*Current law review articles from the HeinOnline Law Journal Library.*
3. **Bibliography of Selected Constitutional Works**—*A list of additional articles and books available outside of HeinOnline. OCLC links are provided for books.*

This collection is not limited to English-language sources. German speakers, for example, can browse Germany’s “Commentaries” collection and discover resources like Karl Heinz Ludwig Pölitz’s *Die Europäischen Verfassungen seit dem Jahre 1789 bis auf die Neueste Zeit: Mit Geschichtlichen Erläuterungen und Einleitungen*. This three-volume set, published in 1833, explores the constitutional history of many European nations at that time. Although this treatise is also available elsewhere in digital format,

such as the Bavarian State Library’s Digital Library Collection, American legal researchers may be more likely to find and learn about Pölitz in Hein’s collection first. They can then search for later editions and other Pölitz treatises elsewhere.

Hein’s PDF page-image format, which allows the researcher to download and print documents immediately, can also be helpful when examining treatises like Pölitz’s, which is written in older German script. I personally feel much more comfortable reading documents written in this format if I can mark them up.

Because this collection includes such an extensive array of comparative constitutional resources, it may overwhelm some users. However, on the opposite end of the breadth-of-coverage continuum, the selection of treatises may seem frustratingly historical (read: old) to others. Both of these issues are easily remedied by taking the time to understand how the collection is organized, learning how best to search it, and appreciating it for what it is: an extensive digital supplement to a law library’s print collection.

HeinOnline’s search syntax takes some getting used to, especially for researchers who prefer to “just Google everything” or who are more familiar with Terms and Connectors searching in Westlaw or LexisNexis. The proximity search feature generally works well for me. The field searching feature is also valuable because so many fields are available. Links to matching terms on specific pages within books and articles are provided in the search results lists, which helps eliminate the need to skim a lot of irrelevant resources.

In the end, World Constitutions Illustrated is an invaluable tool for comparative constitutional law research. Hein promises to keep updating the collection as more items are discovered and become available. In my view, the most exciting thing about this collection is seeing what they add to it next.

REVIEW: Foreign Law Guide: Improving an Indispensable Resource

Eugene D. Hsue

Reynolds and Flores' Foreign Law Guide ("FLG") has long been a necessary staple for the foreign and international law librarian. Some of FLG's great features include: a) its identification of primary sources within foreign jurisdictions; and b) its reference to English translations of those primary sources, if available. FLG also gives advice on certain secondary sources, by giving guidance whether that secondary source will fulfill a specific research need (academic vs. practice).

FLG has long made a faithful fan of me. Each year, at Temple's International and Comparative Law Journal's annual staff meeting, I have demonstrated FLG's features to wide-eyed citecheckers during my training session. This short essay summarizes an informal evaluation of FLG with other databases, in hopes that it will continue to improve, and to empower future law librarians.

METHODOLOGY

During my informal evaluation, I asked these questions:

- Does the FLG or another database/research guide identify a primary source relevant to my research need?
- Does the FLG or another database/research guide provide live links to those primary sources?
- Does the FLG or another database/research guide identify English translations (if available) to those primary sources?
- Does the FLG or another database/research guide provide live links to those English translations, if they're available online?

I compared FLG with NYU's GlobalLex, the Library of Congress' Legal Research Guides, and some hardprint research guides. I tested each of these databases

or guides against a reference question which I received on-the-job. Because we have lots of exchanges between Tsinghua University and East China University of Political Science and Law, my country of choice in this example is the People's Republic of China. If the FLG fully provided satisfied a) through d), then I tended to not move onto other databases.

SAMPLE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Reference Question: "Please help me find the law governing value-added tax (VAT) in China!"

IDENTIFYING RELEVANT SOURCES

a) Within FLG, under the Subject Heading "Taxation," the FLG pointed me to "See also – Sales/Value Added Taxation." Here, FLG provided me with an exact citation of the original primary source in China that governed VAT ("State Council regulation of 26 Nov 1993"), as well as a State Council decree that amended it ("Interim regulations on the value added tax State Council decree 538 of 5 Nov 2008").

Therefore, FLG succeeded in providing a citation to a source relevant to my reference question.

FLG also provided a citation to where this source could be found in China's official gazette ("2008 no. 33"). It then provided a hyperlink to an entry within FLG that gave the English transliteration of this source (*Renmin ribao*), its name in English ("People's Daily"), and a hyperlink to a database where this gazette may be found ("<http://www.LawInfoChina.com>").

I double-checked FLG's identification of Chinese VAT law against BNA's Tax Portfolio, "Doing Business in China." For the most part, both FLG and BNA seemed to be consistent with

each other.

b) FLG did not provide a live link to the primary source, because (as FLG explains under its "Internet Sources" heading) there does not exist a fully updated online database which offers Chinese primary sources for free. FLG explained that online databases offering Chinese primary sources current till the present did so for a fee.

Under FLG's heading "Internet Sources," the sub-heading "Preferred Websites" gave me guidance as to which database provided comprehensive coverage or a certain range of primary sources without charge. Here, FLG identified LawInfoChina as providing comprehensive coverage.

FLG also stated that: "Lawinfo China's [sic] website also provides access to a separate range of legislation and regulation enacted through 31 Dec 2005 available to the public user without charge. One enters the database (under "For Public," click on "Basic Laws") for a sub-library containing translations of reasonably all laws, measures, regulations, circulars, etc., that any researcher could need." (Accessed May 15, 2012)

However, when I tested this guidance out on www.LawInfoChina.com, I could not find a link entitled "For Public." I did find a link entitled "Basic Laws."

Even though Temple Law subscribes to LawInfoChina, I accessed LawInfoChina without signing in, to see whether FLG's guidance that LawInfoChina offered free access for all Chinese laws up till 2005 to the public was correct. In the search field, I typed the keywords "value added tax," and then clicked one of the earliest VAT laws listed, "Provisions of the Min-

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REVIEW: Foreign Law Guide, cont. from page 11

istry of Finance for the Collection and Refund of Product Tax and Value Added Tax on Import and Export Products,” 1985. Unfortunately, after two sections, a notice truncated the primary source, informing me that I could not read the entirety of the law, due to not being a subscriber. This result seems to run counter to FLG’s guidance. FLG may need to update its substantive guidance on electronic sources periodically.

c) Although FLG identified a secondary source which translates subject-specific Chinese laws into English (e.g., Wolters Kluwer’s “China laws for foreign business”), it did not identify databases, free or proprietary, from which one could access English translations. Instead, under the heading “Internet Sources,” FLG gave this cautionary advice:

“There is no dearth of websites offering, or purporting to offer, full English texts of Chinese laws. Unfortunately there are often drawbacks. First, caution must be exercised since many of the laws and regulations displayed in provisional format may date back a decade and may have been overtaken by later revisions or versions. Second, many seemingly attractive sites turn out to be merely vehicles for advertisements, offers of legal services or anything but displays of promised texts and perhaps, filing and unreliable summary. Third, organization can be deceptive; the database may be arranged by title, alphabetically, but Chinese legislation often has confusing and extended titles that depend upon the whim of the translator. *Frequently the websites and their programs have been designed by the same people who provide the instructions accompanying the made-in-China alarm clocks that we have all despaired of setting.*” (Accessed May 15, 2012; emphasis added.)

From a personal perspective, I found that last sentence to be gratuitous and a little unprofessional.

Other than bemoaning the inadequacy of

English translations offered at official Chinese government websites, FLG did not identify other free or proprietary databases which could offer good English translations. I found that Joan Liu’s article on GlobalLex ([http://www.nyulawglobal.org/Globalex/China.html#Chapter Two: Major Chinese or Bili](http://www.nyulawglobal.org/Globalex/China.html#Chapter%20Two:MajorChineseorBili)) and the Library of Congress’ “Legal Research Guide: China” (<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/china.php#web>) at least identified for me possible print and online sources which offered English translations.

d) Because FLG did not highly recommend Chinalaw, the official government website, FLG did not provide a live link to it. Despite FLG’s criticism of Chinalaw, I believe it should have provided a live link, so that FLG’s end-users could see whether FLG’s criticism was well-founded. (The link to Chinalaw, I believe, is <http://www.chinalaw.gov.cn/article/english/#>). For court opinions for China’s highest court, FLG did provide a working live link to the English website of the Supreme People’s Court (<http://www.chinalaw.gov.cn/article/english/#>). FLG advised that most translations in this database stopped at 2002; however, I found under the links “Laws & Regulations” and “PRC Laws” translations up till 2005.

CONCLUSION

The Foreign Law Guide continues to be an indispensable starting point for the foreign and international law librarian. Most of the time, FLG correctly identifies primary sources relevant to a specific area of law. FLG also gives substantive advice on what the leading online database is, and whether it will supply the needed primary source for a charge or not. However, in the case of China, FLG advice on where to look for English translations for primary sources seemed wanting. FLG should update its advice in this respect periodically.

The foreign and international law librarian should check other online and print research guides to find good English translations of primary law.

FLG Purchased by Brill, May 2012

Editor’s Note: Brill announced on May 1, 2012 that it has acquired publication rights to the Foreign Law Guide (<http://www.brill.nl/news/brill-acquires-foreign-law-guide>).

According to the press release:

“The continued participation of the founding editors within a new and expanded editorial team will provide continuity in editorial policy and standards. Brill will invest in the design and implementation of a new content platform engineered to enhance the overall user experience.”

We look forward to watching the future of the Foreign Law Guide unfold!

New Member Profile: Barbara Swatt-Engstrom

Mary Ramsey

Our newest drive-by profilee is Barbara Swatt-Engstrom, who works as Reference Librarian & Adjunct Professor at Seattle University Law School. Swatt-Engstrom wandered the world before settling into law school, law librarianship, and parenthood.

She spent a year in Almaty, Kazakhstan, teaching English literature (in English) and taking a Russian immersion class. "One of the highlights of the stay in Kazakhstan was a road trip with several friends that started in Almaty, crossed Central Asia, passed through Georgia, and ended up in Istanbul. A favorite memory is skiing in Kyrgyzstan and discovering that the old-school pommel lift that I was riding not only lifted the riders off the ground, but ferried them over a road with traffic passing underneath. As pommel lifts are designed so that the skier's feet stay on the ground this was quite unexpected, especially since the Frisbee-sized seat that I was on was only half intact."

Swatt-Engstrom survived that experience and later spent some time in Cape Town, South Africa, including a stint with a friend running the restaurant side of an internet café. She was also able to travel around southern Africa. Just before entering law school, she squeezed in a trip to Israel, Jordan, and Egypt.

For the moment, though, Swatt-Engstrom's traveling days are over: "I have a five-year-old girl and a three-year-old boy who consume all of my free time (in the best way) and most of my disposable income."

At Seattle University, Swatt-Engstrom was drawn into FCIL work by the faculty members whom she supports as a research liaison. Increasingly, their work has involved foreign and international law scholarship. Fortunately, Swatt-

Engstrom says, "The more work I do in the FCIL area the more I just love it." She has learned FCIL research on the fly, with help from Bob Menanteaux, whom she describes as Seattle's "go-to person for FCIL research for many, many years." Swatt-Engstrom also comments, "[a]s I've become more involved in FCIL research, I have developed a great appreciation for what a supportive community we have. The FCIL-SIS, ASIL's international legal research interest group, and the Int-Law listserv have all been invaluable



Barbara Swatt-Engstrom

resources for making connections that have smoothed the way for my entry into FCIL research."

In addition to supporting faculty and student scholarship, Swatt-Engstrom also teaches year round: an electronic advanced legal research class in the fall, a more remedial legal research class in the spring, and two sections of an asynchronous, online advanced legal research class in the summer. Despite this heavy teaching load, she hopes to take on an FCIL research class at some point.

Discussing FCIL work at Seattle, Swatt-Engstrom notes, "I am always amazed that when I get requests for FCIL books, I rarely have to do an ILL request. Bob Menanteaux has done a fantastic job of building a very solid

collection."

One challenge she faces in her research is a language barrier. One of "her" faculty members works heavily with materials from Latin America, and teaches law classes in Spanish for summer abroad programs in Guatemala and elsewhere. "I'm often asked to find materials in Spanish and not reading Spanish presents a bit of a hurdle."

Not surprisingly, Swatt-Engstrom's plans for overcoming this barrier involve ... foreign travel: "I will be on sabbatical in the spring of 2013 and my sabbatical project is to start learning Spanish. I will be taking Spanish language classes here in Seattle and then hope to do a stay in a Spanish-speaking country. Any advice on traveling in Latin America with small kids is welcome."

Born in Marin County, California, Swatt-Engstrom grew up in Johnstown, New York, a small town near the Adirondacks. Growing up near the Adirondacks shaped her sense of adventure and gave her a love of the outdoors. "I love skiing, mountain biking and trail running although I find that it is much harder to get up to the mountains these days. We do manage to ski a lot, but now I'm more apt to spend time beach-combing or going on long walks in parks with my kids than biking and hiking in the mountains. Luckily, Seattle has great parks and beaches (as long as you don't require too much sunshine)."

While Barbara will not be in Boston for this summer's AALL meeting, you will see her in Seattle in 2013. Welcome, Barbara!

**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS
OCTOBER 2012**