

FCIL Newsletter

FOREIGN, COMPARATIVE, AND INTERNATIONAL LAW SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION

The ASIL Annual Meeting: Quick Tips To Get the Most Out of It

Amy Flick

This past April I was fortunate enough to attend the American Society of International Law Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. I've been twice now, and both times I had a great time and learned a great deal. Accordingly, I've compiled a list of "Quick Tips" to help you make the most of your ASIL Experience if you have the opportunity to go next year.

FIRST AND FOREMOST: GO TO THE ASIL MEETING IF YOU CAN

It's 2½ days of substantive information about current issues and research in international law, plus you learn what the international law professors are focusing their research on. A big-picture overview and knowledge of hot international law topics are useful for teaching and for assisting students and faculty. When much of your time at work is spent finding cited documents, the ASIL meeting can help with your knowledge of international law.

ATTEND THE UNOFFICIAL LAW LIBRARIAN DINNER

ASIL is attended mostly by international law professors and practitioners. Law li-

brarians are in the minority, so it's important to connect with your peers. This year we went to a Korean restaurant called Mandu. It provided a fun time to catch up and compare notes, and to aggravate waiters by asking for separate checks.

ATTEND THE WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL LAW GROUP (WILIG) LUNCHEON

The speaker and honoree this year was Anne-Marie Slaughter, and last year the honoree was former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. You get to meet multiple women who practice and teach international law and to hear about their projects and achievements.

ATTEND THE CLOSING PLENARY

(Even if you're a little burned out by mid-day on Saturday.) This year's program was on the Senate Intelligence Committee report on the CIA detention and interrogation program, with panelists from the UN Committee Against Torture, Human Rights First, the Center for National Security Law at the University of Virginia, and a former General Counsel with the US Navy. They all noted the costs to US interests for engaging in torture, including loss of

credibility and authority, alienation of our allies, and deterrence of intelligence resources.

LOOK FOR PROGRAMS THAT ARE A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT

Most programs consist of panel speakers, but my favorite program screened a documentary called "The Agreement," which showed negotiations between Serbia and Kosovo over border controls. It was followed by a panel that included a diplomat involved in the negotiations who gave some background not provided by the film, such as the unequal status of the parties at the table, the influence of the European Union as it decided on Serbia's candidacy, and the unusual lack of constraints of treaties and international law in the negotiations.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR GOOD HOMEWORK PROBLEMS

If you take notes, star or highlight any examples from programs that would make good homework problems for your classes. It will make them much easier to find later in a stack of notes. I

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

BIALL Conference, "Charting the Cs: Collaboration, Co-operation, Connectivity," June 11-13, 2015 in Brighton, England.

AALL Annual Meeting, "The Power of Connection," July 18-21, 2015 in Philadelphia, PA.

IFLA World Library and Information Congress, "Dynamic Libraries: Access, Development, and Transformation," Aug. 15-21, 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa.

IALL Annual Course, "Within and in Between: German Legal Tradition in Times of Internationalization and Beyond," Sept. 20-24, 2015 in Berlin, Germany.

From the Chair

Teresa Miguel-Stearns

It's hard to believe this is my last "From the Chair" and that we are less than two months from the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia! It's been an enjoyable year at the helm, with great strides made generally in our organization, and specifically in our educational programming.

As you know by now we've got quite a line-up at this year's AALL Annual Meeting with programs and meetings to keep us engaged, teach us new skills, and help us move forward in our profession. Please see the handy schedule of meetings and programs on p. 3 of this newsletter.

In addition to our SIS colleagues who are presenting on a variety of topics, we will welcome special guests from across the Pacific and across the Atlantic. Mr. Atarino Helieisar, Chief Law Librarian at the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia Law Library, is our FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians recipient. His talk is entitled "Federated States of Micronesia Supreme Court Law Libraries: Bridging Legal Information in the FSM States & Beyond." Mr. Ian Thomson, Director of the European Documentation Centre at Cardiff University and Executive Editor of European Sources Online, will instruct us in the FCIL-sponsored workshop, *Researching the European Union*.

As we finalize Annual Meeting planning, we are also finalizing Committee and Interest Group leadership for the next

one-to-two years. Over the last month or so, I sent out a call for volunteers for various Interest Group and Committee chairs and members. Our newest chairs are:

- Asian Law Interest Group: Eugene Hsue
- Electronic Research Interest Group: James Hart
- Foreign Selectors Interest Group: Marci Hoffman
- Teaching Foreign and International Legal Research: Catherine Deane
- Website Committee: Ryan Harrington
- Nominating Committee: Dan Donahue

New members of Committees are:

- FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians Selection Committee: Mark Engsborg
- Nominating Committee: Gabriela Femenia and George Tsiakos
- Publicity Committee: Anne Burnett and Anne Mostad-Jensen

Thanks to all who volunteered for these new assignments, and those who are continuing in their current roles. A full list of all Committee, Interest Group, and Task Force chairs can be [found on our website](#).

If you are interested in the future in taking on a leadership role in the FCIL-SIS or in becoming involved in any Interest Group, Task Force, or Committee, simply email the chair or attend the group's meeting in Philadelphia. A few groups have limited membership but most do not. You can learn more about each Interest Group and Committee at our Business Meeting where each chair will give a report on the past



Teresa Miguel-Stearns, FCIL Chair

year's activities. *Get involved!*

The SIS leadership will change at our SIS Business Meeting in Philadelphia. We will have a lovely continental breakfast thanks to the sponsorship and support of the William S. Hein, Co., Inc. We are in good hands with both our incoming Chair, Lucie Olejnikova, with whom I have been working closely this year, our incoming Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Alison Shea, and our incoming Secretary/Treasurer, Loren Turner. Congratulations, Alison and Loren! Many thanks to our over-100 voters who supported Alison and Loren in this year's election. Thanks, also, to our outgoing Secretary/Treasurer, Roy Sturgeon, for conducting another flawless election.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Philadelphia this summer!

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](#).

We welcome submissions. Contact us for more information.

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FCIL-Related Programming in Philly

SATURDAY, JULY 18

9:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Researching the European Union – Workshop (at University of Pennsylvania Law School)

Coordinated by Alison A. Shea, et al. and co-sponsored by the FCIL-SIS

European Union information specialist **Ian Thomson** will introduce participants to the European Union through an intensive, one-day course, addressing institutions, legislative acts, and the policy-making role of the EU, while demonstrating key sources for EU information and how to stay current.

SUNDAY, JULY 19

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Jurisdictions Interest Groups Joint Meeting (Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, Indigenous Peoples, Customary & Religious Law) (Marriott-Grand Ballroom Salon C)

Topics:

- Welcome and Introduction (Joan Policastri) – 5 minutes
- Customary & Religious Law: First year and future projects (Susan Gualtier) – 10 minutes
- Africa: Launch of African Primary Source project (Victor Essien) – 5 minutes
- Asia: ASEAN Integration: An Update (Evelyn Ma) – 10 minutes
- Europe: Ukraine and ICC (Peter Roudik) – 30 minutes
- Individual Interest Group business meetings – 15 minutes

1 – 2 p.m.

Cross-Border Disputes: Dissecting the International Investment Arbitration (PCC-Room 201BC)

Coordinated by Saskia Mehlhorn

This program will address the research needs of international commercial arbitration practice in law firms, will equip all law librarians with skills to create and offer ICA research education, and provide instruction on collection development principles for ICA materials for law school, law firm, and court libraries.

4 – 5 p.m.

Designers' Workshop: Subject Guides That Create the Effect You Want (PCC-

Room 103BC)

Coordinated by James W. Hart

The speakers will outline ways to assess whether there is a need for a new subject guide and, if so, what that need is, present an example of an original subject guide that would serve as a good model, describe characteristics of a well-designed and user-centered subject guide, articulate a few fundamental design guidelines to follow, and offer an approach to creating an effective internal guide creation system that ensures publication of original and user-centered-designed subject guides.

5:15 – 6 p.m.

Foreign Selectors Interest Group (Marriott-Room 306)

6 – 7 p.m.

Publicity Committee (Marriott-Room 308)
Internships and International Exchanges Committee (Marriott-Room 310)

MONDAY, JULY 20

7:15 – 8:30 a.m.

Business Meeting (PCC-Room 110AB)

3:15 – 4:15 p.m.

Teaching Foreign and International Legal Research Interest Group (PCC-Room 112A)

4 – 4:30 p.m.

FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians Fundraising Committee (Marriott-Conference Suite 2)

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarian Recipient's Presentation (Marriott-Grand Ballroom Salon D)

5:45 – 6:45 p.m.

AALL/FCIL/IALL Joint Reception for International Attendees (Marriott-Grand Ballroom Salon I)

TUESDAY, JULY 21

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Mighty MT: Enhancing the Value of Machine Translation Tools for FCIL

Reference and Collection Development

(PCC-Room 103BC)

Coordinated by Donald L. Ford

Machine Translation (MT) tools are becoming more accurate, and are proving useful to users having at least a rudimentary academic knowledge of a document's source language. Speakers will discuss, evaluate, and demo web-based tools, such as Google MT and Systran, Linguee, Beolungus, and UN resources.

12:30 – 2 p.m.

Roman Law Interest Group (joint meeting with the Legal History and Rare Book SIS) (PCC-Room 105A)

1 – 2 p.m.

Education Committee (Marriott-Grand Ballroom Salon B)

Electronic Research Interest Group (PCC-Room 104B)

Bylaws Amendments

The following proposed bylaws amendments will be voted on at the Annual Meeting:

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

These bylaws may be amended at the Business Meeting of the Section at the AALL Annual Meeting by a majority of the members present and voting; or by majority of the votes cast by electronic ballot conducted by the secretary/treasurer at some other time during the year.

Section 2.

If the bylaws will be amended at the AALL Annual Meeting, members unable to attend may submit proxy votes to the secretary/treasurer no later than 7 days prior to the Business Meeting.

Section 3.

Notice of proposed amendments shall be provided to the AALL Bylaws & Resolutions Committee at least 60 days prior to the election. At least 30 days in advance of the meeting or of the distribution of ballots, notice of proposed amendments shall be provided to the special interest section's members either in the special interest section's newsletter or via some other print or electronic communication.

Finding Your FCIL Niche as a New(er) Member: Chinese and American Forum on Legal Information and Law Libraries

Anne Mostad-Jensen

NEW MEMBER (RELATIVELY) STATUS

I am a relative newcomer to AALL and FCIL-SIS. I first attended the AALL Annual Meeting in 2013. But because I was studying for the California bar and looking for employment at the same time as attending the conference, the majority of my time was spent writing practice essays in Starbucks and interviewing for jobs rather than fully participating in the conference.

During my second conference in San Antonio I tried to make up for my Seattle experience by jumping into the conference headfirst. It was overwhelming. Attending CONELL helped minimize

some of those overwhelmed feelings, but there was still a lot to take in within a very short period of time. I found that it is really hard to find your niche(s) within the AALL organization in the course of an annual meeting. Unfortunately, I think that is the route a lot of new law librarians take in attempting to become more involved in AALL. Luckily, I already knew prior to the conference that I was interested in one organization, the [Chinese and American Forum on Legal Information and Law Libraries](#) (CAFLL).

So why the interest in CAFLL? Serendipity. It all started when Intermediate Danish was not offered after I had finished Beginning Danish at the Universi-

ty of Minnesota. Because Danish wasn't offered, I wanted to enroll in another language course. I narrowed my choices down to Arabic, Japanese, and Chinese. I have an intense dislike of hot weather, so Arabic was out. My sister laid claim to Japanese. And I was fascinated by China, thought learning the language would be a challenge, and that it would be the most useful language of the three. I proceeded to take two years of Mandarin language courses while working in the libraries at the University of Minnesota.

I continued pursuing my interests in China and Mandarin while attending law school at Santa Clara University School

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Member News

Roy Sturgeon recently published an article on Chinese legal history (with 4 photos) in the *Florida Journal of International Law*. It's titled "China's Homegrown Free Speech Tradition: Imperial Past and Modern Present. *And Post-Modern Future?*". The article is freely [downloadable on SSRN](#).

Roy spoke on this topic for the Asian Law Interest Group at the 2011 AALL Annual Meeting. We know our members will be interested in reading the published version.



Lyonette Louis-Jacques has been awarded the Global Legal Skills Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Legal Skills Education. It was originally awarded at the 2014 Global Legal Skills conference, but Lyo was not in attendance. Mark Wojcik, international law professor at John Marshall Law School, presented her with the award at the 2015 conference.

Finding Your FCIL Niche, continued from page 4

of Law. I took all China-related classes, studied abroad in both Mainland China and Hong Kong, and interned at a startup incubator in Beijing and a large Chinese law firm in Shanghai during the summers of my 1L and 2L years. Early in my law school career, I was also lucky to meet Mary Sexton, the FCIL librarian at Santa Clara. And she was enrolled in a Mandarin language course at the time!

Following law school I got my first professional law librarian position at Concordia University School of Law in Boise, ID. In another lucky happenstance, one of my coworkers, Ning Han, was already a member of CAFLL. We bonded over our shared interest in China and Chinese legal issues. Shortly thereafter I became an official member of CAFLL.

GETTING STARTED, VOLUNTEERING, AND PROJECTS

I must admit, I got off to a really slow start with CAFLL. Though I joined shortly after starting my job at Concordia, my first real interaction with other members (besides Ning) didn't happen until I attended the annual conference in San Antonio.

One of the most beneficial outcomes of the CAFLL connection at the Annual Meeting was that it gave me a talking point when visiting with other newer law librarians – especially those who also had an interest in China and Chinese legal issues. For example, I met Jingwei Zhang, from the University of Tennessee Knoxville, at CONELL, and we struck up a conversation that quickly turned to China and CAFLL. We attended the CAFLL meeting together later that day.

After the meeting in San Antonio my progress with the committee continued through research and presentation projects that arose from conversations with other members of the committee. At the CAFLL meeting, and later during the conference, I met up with Alex Zhang from the University of Michigan. Since the conference we have put together several conference proposals on a variety of Chinese legal research issues. Ning Han and I also started talking about developing a research project that would survey the current legal research education landscape in China. The members of CAFLL were especially helpful in helping to connect us with Yu Liying, from Tsinghua University.

Following the conference, I was invited to serve on the Translation Committee. I haven't done any work for the committee yet, but I am continuing to hone my Mandarin skills in anticipation of receiving assignments. And recently I was invited to moderate a panel at the upcoming joint CAFLL/Westpac conference.

In hindsight, I think I should have contacted CAFLL members in advance of the meeting to explain my background and interests. This would have allowed me to get more out of the CAFLL meeting in San Antonio. I also could have been more proactive in getting on committees and asking for projects.

CHOOSING A SMALL COMMITTEE/ INTEREST GROUP

So, with CAFLL, it wasn't me choosing a small committee or interest group, but really it chose me. There are lessons to be learned from my serendipitous journey towards CAFLL membership that could help other new members choose a small committee or interest group with which to become involved.

Take language classes. Though English is now the lingua franca, taking language classes helps you connect with other

members of the FCIL community and helps you develop a greater appreciation for other legal systems.

Match prior experiences and interests. Your pre-library experiences will often influence which organizations, committees, and interest groups you are interested in. And those experiences have probably left you with a set of skills that you can offer to those groups when you start to volunteer.

Find people. Look around your workplace or law school for other law librarians and faculty members who have an interest in international issues and ask them to be mentors or engage with them on topics of international law. You should also look outside your workplace for mentors and peers who have similar FCIL interests. I met several younger law librarians in San Antonio who were interested in Chinese law and didn't know about CAFLL, so I told them about it!

EXPERIENCED FCIL LIBRARIANS ARE SUPERSTARS

One thing I have learned from my experience during law school, with my involvement in CAFLL, and from my broader interaction with the FCIL community is that FCIL librarians are extremely generous in sharing their time, wisdom, connections, and FCIL expertise with new(er) law librarians.

I would encourage all law librarians who are interested in FCIL topics to engage with more experienced FCIL librarians, because they are superstars.

CAFLL/WESTPAC JOINT CONFERENCE

If there are any FCIL-SIS members who have an interest in China, Chinese legal issues, or law librarianship, you should join CAFLL. If you are a fan of warmer weather, you might also consider attending the [CAFLL/Westpac Conference](#), which will take place in Honolulu, Hawaii, October 8-10, 2015.

**The next issue of
FCIL Newsletter is
October 2015.**

Submissions due: Oct. 1.

Leaving An FCIL Job (But Do We Ever Really Leave?)

Mary Rumsey

Why would anyone want to stop being a foreign, comparative, and international law librarian? Surely, FCIL work presents the most interesting challenges and the most variety within a library.

Nonetheless, some FCIL librarians do move on to other pastures: for example, Ken Rudolf, Tim Kearley, Vicki Szymczak, Barb Garavaglia, and Heidi Frostestad Kuehl, who became law library directors; Kristina Ayalan, who became Georgetown's Head of Acquisitions and Content Management; and Tracy Thompson, who became NELLCO's executive director (and ass-kicker-in-chief).

Last year I also learned what it's like to leave the FCIL title behind, when I left the University of Minnesota Law Library after 14 years as its FCIL librarian. Not for a directorship, of course—it would be a strange library that hired me as a director, and frankly I'd rather clean ferret cages than manage a law library.

Instead, I took a job as a reference and instructional services librarian at Willamette University School of Law, a small school in Salem, Oregon. Why? Many reasons—a few of the blander ones are a desire to do more teaching, a long-term plan to end up in Oregon, and the cumulative effect of too many Minnesota winters.

FCIL WORK NEVER DIES

My new law school has a couple of international and comparative law luminaries, like Symeon Symeonides and Jim Nafziger. But the international law collection is small, and the foreign law collection even smaller. I didn't know whether I would get FCIL questions in my new job, or how I would answer them if I did.

After nine months here, I have answered questions about countless countries'

laws, including in-depth research on French and Swiss law, and have researched the constitutional histories of Namibia and Tunisia. I've helped human rights clinic students working on asylum cases; judged international moot court; guest-lectured on international legal research; and helped students research papers on topics such as EU constitutionalism, Islamic finance, Mexican and El Salvadoran criminal law, and the ICC.

After years of claiming that “every law library needs an FCIL librarian” I am proving it to my own satisfaction. Professors, students, and lawyer-patrons appreciate having someone around who can help them navigate unfamiliar legal systems and resources. Even students working in the family law clinic realized they needed international law help when they took on a Hague Convention child abduction case.

MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

Given the library's small collection, I've answered most FCIL questions using a combination of free sources and Westlaw/Lexis. Fortunately, I still have my best-loved database, the *Max Planck Encyclopaedia of Public International Law*, as part of our subscription to the Oxford Public International Law database. But I miss all the paper and electronic resources I had at Minnesota.

I'm still getting questions from Minnesota students and alumni, and I often dig back into the Minnesota Law Library's catalog to answer them. I recently responded to an alum who needed to answer a difficult question on Swiss corporations law—I sent him a list of books on that subject from Minnesota's fantastic FCIL collection. The next day, he messaged me that he was able to find the answer in one of them. *So* satisfying.

THE “RED BULL” OF NEW CHALLENGES

I didn't expect the energy boost that

I've felt from taking on new responsibilities, but I've enjoyed it! This spring, I finally got to teach Advanced Legal Research, something I've wanted to do for several years. I'm worming my way deeper into the first-year legal research teaching than we were able to get at Minnesota. The faculty here has never had extensive research support, and it's rewarding to show them how much the library can do for them.

When I asked Heidi Frostestad Kuehl to reflect on her transition, she replied, “I would say that I miss all of the frequent interactions with students and faculty who have difficult FCIL research questions and need those unique (and fun!) sources, but I enjoy the new role as director because it provides new opportunities for teaching (international business transactions class) and encouragement of scholarly endeavors (writing articles/book and having research support in new ways via RAs/GAs).”

Fortunately, even law librarians who become directors don't leave FCIL research behind—for example, I know Vicki Szymczak was chasing down North Korean law last year. Apparently, even those of us who move on from FCIL work find it's hard to give it up completely. And why would we want to?

Committee & IG Reports

Committee and IG Chairs:

Each Committee and IG Chair should plan to submit their reports for the October issue of the newsletter. Email your report in .docx or .rtf format to Deborah Schander (dschander@gsu.edu) by October 1.

FCIL Librarians Rock the Global Legal Skills Conference

Lyonette Louis-Jacques

“Everybody knows how to Google, but nobody knows how to do it right.” This, along with how to teach your child to ride a bike, was one of the many bits of wisdom dropped by foreign, comparative, and international law (FCIL) librarians at the [Global Legal Skills](#) conference held in Chicago May 19-22, 2015.

The [GLS](#) conference was celebrating its 10th anniversary. The GLS conference has been held in Chicago (1st & 10th), Washington, D.C., Mexico, Costa Rica, and Italy.

“The first Global Legal Skills conference was held at The John Marshall Law School, an intimate conference connecting legal writing professionals who had an interest in teaching international students and foreign lawyers. Since then, GLS has grown to include not only legal writing faculty, but also international and comparative law professors, clinical fac-

ulty, linguists, librarians, court translators, and others. The conference returns to Chicago for its 10th iteration. The conference draws professionals from many disciplines and from around the world. At past conferences, as many as 35 countries have been represented.”

This year’s conference was sponsored by The John Marshall Law School, Northwestern University School of Law, and the Facultad Libre de Derecho de Monterrey (Mexico).

I presented on [two Thursday afternoon program sessions](#) organized by Anne Abramson, the FCIL librarian specialist at John Marshall Law School.

The first session featured four presenters on “The Foreign, Comparative & International Law Research (FCIL) Toolbox”: Julianne Grant (Loyola University Chicago School of Law), Tove Klovning (Washington University

School of Law), Jean M. Wenger (Cook County Law Library), and me, Lyonette Louis-Jacques (D’Angelo Law Library, University of Chicago Law School).

Tove talked about useful sources to help students find a writable topic, like these blogs: [JURIST](#), [Global Legal Monitor](#), and [ASIL Insights](#). The latter lists international legal news by topic – very handy.

Tove had general FCIL research tips:

- Use research guides (find your favorite LibGuide – the UN Library has great [research guides](#)); try to locate a specialized research guide whenever possible! These days they are called LibGuides, research guides, and pathfinders.
- Make Bluebooking a breeze by remembering to log the 4Ws (who=author, what=title, where=volume, journal, when=year) during your research quest.
- Remember: “FCIL research can be easy, but only if you take the time to set up a research plan.” Do not just Google. Always remember to explore all options. A combination of library resources and sources on the web is usually the best way to go.

Jean spoke next and mentioned that attorneys come to Cook County Law Library mostly with questions about foreign and private international law, not public international law. She discussed the difference between foreign law, comparative law, and international law, and the importance of appreciating the differences between legal systems. “French law is not US law in French.” For example, the US has juries, but there are no juries in civil proceedings in other common law jurisdictions, and no juries in civil law jurisdictions. Jean suggested key FCIL research resources such as the [European e-Justice Portal](#), [ECOLEX](#), and [WorldLII](#).

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Julianne Grant, Lyonette Louis-Jacques, Anne Abramson, Jean Wenger, and Tove Klovning at the Global Legal Skills Conference.

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In the Q&A, Jean said that librarians can expect questions on hot topics like Islamic law, laws of African countries, and child abduction. She also reminded librarian attendees not to forget human resources. Call your colleagues!

Julienne then spoke about non-traditional FCIL research sources ([slides](#)) such as:

- Expatriate Press (English-language news sources such as the *Santiago Times*, *Latin American Herald Tribune*, the *Japan Times*, and *Phnom Penh Post* discoverable via [OnlineNews-papers.com](#) under “in English”)
- Dissertations & Theses (via ProQuest (commercial), the [Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations](#) (NDLTD), the South African [National ETD Portal](#), and the [DART-Europe E-theses Portal](#) (DEEP))
- Area Studies Materials (journals and their indexes/full-text databases such as JSTOR, Index Islamicus, and Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI))
- Business/Economics Materials (journals and magazines and their indexes/full-text databases such as Business Source Complete, ABI/INFORM Global, and EconLit)

I spoke last and talked about resources for keeping current and for updating FCIL research findings ([slides](#)). Researchers can use citators and noter-ups such as KeyCite, Shepard’s, BCite, Bad Law Bot, LawCite, and JustCite for common law jurisdictions. You can note-up cases and statutes on CanLII. For all legal systems, old-school searching in full text databases to locate new cases citing your case, treaty, resolution, etc. works for updating primary law. You can set up RSS feeds and e-alerts, save searches in subscription databases, and check IGO, NGO, and court websites to get up-to-date information.

You can use library catalogs like [World-](#)

[Cat](#) to locate new editions of books. [SSRN](#), [Google Scholar](#), [Peace Palace Library](#), and [Twitter](#), can help you discover new journal articles and scholarship. Blogs (such as [Opinio Juris](#) (and its blogroll/links), [International Law Prof Blog](#), and [I*CONnect](#)), [Twitter](#) ([@JURISTnews](#) and [@peacepalace](#)), e-newsletters (such as [International Law Reporter](#), [Bloomberg BNA](#), and [Law360](#)), and conferences can provide the latest information. Listservs (such as [INT-LAW](#) and [IALLmembers](#)), “Ask a Librarian” reference, chat, FAQ services (UN Library’s [AskDAG](#) and [Law Library of Congress](#)), and [Twitter](#) ([@montserratj](#) and [@lyolouisjacques](#)) can be used for crowdsourcing and getting research help in a pinch.

In the Q&A, I mentioned how to handle information overload and figure out what is the best and most important information. You can identify the most cited, most downloaded, or most recent articles, but you may want to find someone who knows the field, and find a curator – someone who obviously selects the best information to share.

Anne Abramson joined me, Julienne, and Tove for the second session on “Teaching Legal Research to Global Law Students: Perspectives and Reflections from FCIL Librarians.”

Anne led off with a talk about “Developing the ‘Perfect’ FCIL Assignment” ([slides](#)). She discussed and critiqued the results of the questions she created for her FCIL research class in the Advanced Legal Research (ALR) course at John Marshall. She mentioned how much the students learned from doing oral presentations, and she stressed “the need for a hypo to direct students’ research.” One “lesson learned” from her FCIL teaching experience was that “in a Google World, we still need to do research and analysis.”

Julienne followed with details on her “Adventures in Teaching & Training” at Loyola ([slides](#)). As part of her regular duties, she teaches first-year legal research and does research lectures for many FCIL-interested user groups, in-

cluding LL.M.s and visiting scholars from outside the US. “Anyone who walks in the door from a foreign jurisdiction” gets referred to Julienne. She also teaches Advanced Legal Research and a 1-credit, 14-week FCIL research course after regular work hours as an adjunct professor.

Julienne’s ways of managing her teaching load include devising research exercises that are easy to grade and creating research guides (using the [LibGuides](#) platform) for frequently-asked questions. Many of you are aware of her great guides to researching Chilean law and international commercial arbitration. A very cool fact – she has made translations of her “Research Guide for Foreign LL.M. Students and Visiting Scholars” available in [Spanish](#) and in [Italian](#)! If you can help translate it into French, let Julienne know!

I was up next. I focused my talk on innovative FCIL teaching techniques ([slides](#)). I mentioned that the AALL FCIL-SIS Teaching Interest Group has a [Syllabi and Course Material Database](#) and examples of [in-class innovations](#) like Skyping and polling that they can use when considering new FCIL research offerings. I suggested developing research courses that complement a substantive law class as an innovative model. I discussed the importance of incorporating new and emerging technologies in research classes that students will need to use in practice. I also mentioned that teaching experiments can fail (see [Second Life](#)), but failing is okay.

Tove concluded our session on an upbeat note with her talk on how teachers can motivate students to achieve ABA Rule 1.1 competence levels: start your class by referring to this rule. “In addition to teaching the nuts and bolts of legal research, it is also important to connect with your students! Be both a mentor and teacher.” Instead of lengthy feedback comments on their assignments, consider giving them a general feedback sheet (common mistakes made by all the students and how to avoid them in the

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future), and only use check marks on their assignments. This will make your grading process manageable. Did some students end up getting too many minus check marks? Consider inviting them to your office for a “show and tell session.” It is a more productive use of your time than hoping they will bother to read a lengthy individual feedback comment from you.

Tove shared an anecdote with the audience about teaching a child how to ride a bike which worked well with being interactive and also supporting the point about the importance of knowing how to use Google correctly. Did you remember to teach your child to use the breaks before letting go of the bike? Most people forget that step. Too many researchers forget that Google still offers an **advanced search** option. Put a minus sign just before words that you don't want!

Tove has these research tips for students:

- Always have a research plan. What are your options in print, subscription databases, and via the Internet? Why search all content on Google if you can limit your focus to items in **Google Books** and **Google Scholar**? The best resource may not be available via the Internet.
- “Search three to seven minutes maximum on any source, then move on to something else.”
- Know how to LAU (locate, access, update) all useful resources in your field of research.
- Remember TARC (terms, alternative terms, root expanders, connectors) when putting together a search query.
- Remember the 4 Cs. Is the source credible? How current is it? What is the coverage and content?

And Tove has these special tips for teachers:

- “We have obligations as teachers to motivate our students.”
- Use blogs, social media, **JURIST** (“what’s in the news today?”), and

YouTube videos to come up with cool topics and tutorials. Encourage students to find something they like and want to research.

- Teach them enough. “Stop scaring students with complex and lengthy assignments” (it’s less work for you and their lives are miserable enough - see ojarv001, **Law School Musical**, YouTube, September 3, 2007) (caution: language). Your objective is to teach them to become proficient researchers - regardless of jurisdiction. Offer meaningful assignments. Avoid assignments that mimic a treasure hunt.
- “It’s okay to be entertaining.”

The GLS audience was engaged, asked questions, and seemed to appreciate both presentations. It was great doing these talks with my FCIL colleagues. Thanks everyone! I hope we can “take [our] show on the road”. Next time, maybe talk about Zotero for managing research results or flipping the classroom? “Let’s do it again, like we did [this spring]”!

The ASIL Annual Meeting, cont. from 1

noted some examples of cases and negotiations that I plan to use with my class in the Fall.

ATTEND ANY PROGRAMS ON TEACHING

The program on “Teaching the Skilled International Lawyer” was the only program I attended which mentioned the importance of legal research skills. Speakers stressed the need for students in international law to be able to read and understand treaties, find secondary sources, perform research in international and comparative law beyond Lexis and Westlaw, and to be able to gather background information on foreign legal systems. The program also recommended using assignments that build on each other, and using people as research resources, two ideas I plan to incorporate next semester.

LEARN NEW THINGS

I learned some interesting points that I did not know, and I received confirmation on something I had noticed about treaties.

First, I learned that Hong Kong is a party to the ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), even though China has not ratified the treaty. Hong Kong’s Basic Law states that the ICCPR and the ICESCR are in force in Hong Kong. This could potentially be a good homework assignment, if my students could get past the list of treaty participants in the footnotes.

Then, I learned that my observation that there have been few new multilateral treaties was correct. A speaker in a program called “The Stagnation of International Law” noted that only 10

new multilateral treaties were deposited each year between the years of 2000 and 2010 and none have been deposited since. Speakers went on to say that there is an abundance of new international law in the form of writings, theory, informal law, guidelines, codes and standards, framework agreements, and international adjudications from courts and tribunals. The new law being made should provide plenty of material for student research assignments, but it is still a little harder for the instructor than just having students look up multilateral agreements.

ENJOY THE CITY

Washington, D.C. is a great city to visit as a tourist, as many museums are close by and free. Find a lunch break or an extra day in the schedule to visit a museum or the National Zoo. ASIL was held this year during Washington’s Cherry Blossom Festival which meant more fun things to do and see, but also required planning to avoid some of the crowds.