Inside the Dag Hammarskjöld Library of the UN

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The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) defines mecca as a “… place regarded as supremely sacred or valuable, or where a faith, policy, truth, etc., originates. Also, more generally: a place which attracts people of a particular group or with a particular interest; …” 1 It can be said that Paris, France, is the mecca of fashion, or that Naples, Italy, is the mecca of pizza. We would add that the United Nation’s (UN) Dag Hammarskjöld Library is the mecca for international legal research.

With 193 member states and two observers,2 the UN is the largest intergovernmental organization. One of a number of policies associated with the UN is its promotion of “the rule of law at the national and international levels….”3 This necessarily includes access to these rules of law. One manner of access is through the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the librarians who are dedicated to serving the information needs of UN member states’ delegates.

While the world community and many international law librarians use the UN website, which is available in the six official languages of the UN, few of us have reason to visit the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, because most documents are available through the Official Document System or through a UN depository library or information center. In connection with a book that we are writing, we were welcomed to tour the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and to attend a couple of the research training courses offered through the library.

The UN Headquarters, built in 1952, is a complex of buildings located on the east side of Manhattan covering roughly 17 acres. However, because the UN enjoys extraterritorial status, it is not technically a part of Manhattan. In late 1959, the UN accepted a gift from the Ford Foundation to build a UN library. Approaching the UN on foot, as we did via 42nd Street, one first notices the colorful flags of the UN member states flying in front of the 39-story Secretariat building. Arranged alphabetically from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, these flags have become an icon of the UN Headquarters.

Entering through the Visitor’s Center, we cleared security and crossed an outdoor plaza that faces the East River. We paused to view the newly-installed, permanent Memorial to the Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade. This memorial com-
From the Chair

Lucie Olejnikova

I am honored and excited to serve as the 31st Chair of the FCIL-SIS. Following in the footsteps of so many class acts, it is a privilege to continue to work with and learn from all of you. I’d like to take a moment and thank Teresa Miguel-Stearns, our Immediate Past Chair, for the invaluable guidance and support she continues to extend. My thanks also go to many of our colleagues whose work, participation, ideas, and efforts made the Philly 2015 Annual Meeting a grand success.

I know I speak for everyone when I say that we had a wonderful conference in Philadelphia in July 2015. We began with a jam-packed Researching European Union workshop delivered by Mr. Ian Thomson, the Director of the European Documentation Centre at Cardiff University and Executive Editor of European Sources Online. Many thanks go to Alison Shea and Gabriela Femenia for their efforts in putting on this successful event!

Additionally, our members gave three well-attended FCIL conference programs: Cross-Border Disputes: Dissecting the International Investment Arbitration; Designers’ Workshop: Subject Guides that Create the Effect You Want; and Mighty MT: Enhancing the Value of Machine Translation Tools. Many thanks to Don Ford, Jim Hart, Saskia Mehlhorn, Natalie Lira, Ingrid Mattson, and Joëlle Sciboz for sharing their knowledge and expertise in these areas! Moreover, AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Recipient Ryan Harrington presented his paper on Researching International Agreements Other Than Article II Treaties. Congratulations! And just in case you were not aware, the FCIL-SIS maintains a collection of Annual Meeting Programs resources and materials, to which you are welcome to contribute. Many thanks go to all who proposed a program, offered suggestions, and helped to make our programming a reality.

Our interest groups, committees, and task forces organized programs and held meetings to discuss their current and future projects. You can learn more about each group and how to join on our website. Thanks to our Website Committee for keeping the information current and fresh for us – Ryan Harrington (Chair), Harvey Morrell, Alison Shea, Deborah Schandler, and Teresa Miguel-Stearns.

At this year’s Annual Meeting, we continued Don Ford’s creative idea of converting various interest group meetings into an opportunity to present more content-filled program-

ming. The Jurisdiction Interest Groups Joint Meeting offered four short and well-received substantive presentations: Customary & Religious Law: First Year and Future Projects; Africa: Launch of African Primary Source Project; Asia: ASEAN Integration Update; and Europe: Update on Situation in Ukraine. Many thanks to Susan Gualtier, Victor Essien, Alison Shea, Evelyn Ma, and Peter Roudik for your informative presentations.

The Foreign Selectors IG offered number of short presentations on collection development by several libraries including the Law Library of Congress, LA Law, Harvard Law Library, the Northeast Foreign Law Librarians’ Cooperative Group, Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals, and LLMC Digital. The Roman Law Interest Group held a joint meeting with the Legal History and Rare Books SIS offering yet another substantive program on the Corpus Juris Civilis. Many thanks to Fred Dingley, Senior Reference Librarian at the Wolf Law Library of the College of William & Mary for his fascinating and informative presentation!

The Publicity Committee rocked the Exhibit Hall with a great table display and represented us at CONELL. Many thanks to Loren Turner, Susan Gualtier, Dan Wade, Anne Burnett, Daniel Donahue, Alyson Drake, Mark Engsberg, Anne Mosted-Jensen, and Megan O’Brien. Internships and International Exchanges Committee informed us of new opportunities. Many thanks to Marty Witt and David McFadden! Attendees at the Teaching Foreign and International Legal Research Interest Group meeting shared experiences about new teaching approaches, strategies, and upcoming projects. Many thanks to Alison Shea for organizing another great roundtable discussion meeting. Electronic Research Interest Group introduced new projects. Many thanks to Jim Hart and Alex Zhang for their hard work in determining how best to meet what F/I has to offer with the needs of researchers.

More thanks go to the members of the FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant Fundraising and Selection Committees who work tirelessly each year to provide us with an opportunity to meet a foreign law librarian and to attend their presentation. Thanks to Victoria Szymbczak, we gave Mr. Atarino Helisar, the Chief Law Librarian of the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Law Libraries, a traditional South Pacific welcome as the 2015 FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant Recipient at the Annual Meeting. Mr. Helisar is responsible for overseeing the operations of its four library locations in the FSM island states of Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae. He delivered a well-attended talk entitled The Federated States of Micronesia Supreme Court Law Libraries: Bridging Legal Information in the FSM States & Beyond. Many thanks to Sherry Leysen, Ryan Harrington, and Gabriela Femenia for their work on the Selection Committee; and to

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Sarah Ryan, Jennifer Allison, and Jim Hart for their work on the Fundraising Committee. Special thanks to Ellen Schaffer, the founder of the grant, for her continued support and involvement; and to all the members who contribute to the grant allowing us to bring speakers such as Atarino to our Annual Meeting.

And there is more! For the second consecutive year, we had the opportunity to join a book group. This year Dan Wade led a discussion of *The South China Sea: The Struggle for Power in Asia*, by Bill Hayton. As reported on the FCIL’s DipLaw-Matic Dialogues blog by Marilyn Raisch, it was a well-attended, informal meeting where everyone shared insights and had a fabulous time. Speaking of our blog, many thanks to Loren Turner and Susan Gualtier, who continue to bring us new stories, new resources, and coverage of ongoing conferences and meetings. We encourage more members to contribute. And let’s not forget about our FCIL-SIS Newsletter. Many thanks to Deborah Schander and Camero Valero for bringing us three juicy issues each year, giving us an opportunity to share articles, experiences, agendas, and to memorialize the history and development of our group as a whole.

As you know, in response to suggestions from our members, FCIL-SIS began the process of reviewing its Bylaws. Many thanks to David McFadden, Kristina Alayan, Kenton Brice, and Jason Blevins, for initiating this important process as part of our Bylaws Task Force. The membership voted on the first proposed change at the FCIL-SIS Business Meeting on July 20, 2015 in Philadelphia. Article VII was amended by adding language that now allows those unable to attend the Annual Meeting to still vote on important issues via proxy. The task force will continue to systematically review the language of the FCIL-SIS Bylaws in an effort to update them over the upcoming years.

At our business meeting, we were honored to give out few recognition awards. We began by recognizing Dan Wade as the FCIL librarian with the most longevity by presenting him with a UN baseball cap (a gift in Dan’s style) that Rosemary Noonan from the UN donated. Congratulations Dan and thank you Rosemary! Congratulations to Hunter Whaley, winner of the 2015 Newest FCIL Librarian. Congratulations to Joan Policastro, Susan Gualtier, and Jootaek Lee on receiving the 2015 Spirit of the FCIL-SIS Award. The 2015 Reynolds and Flores Publication Award was presented to Mirela Roznovschi for her outstanding contribution in creating and maintaining the GlobaLex electronic research publication, dedicated to international, foreign and comparative law research. The 2015 Reynolds and Flores Publication Award was also presented to Alison Shea and Ralph Gaebler for co-editing the second edition of *Sources of State Practice in International Law*. Congratulations to all three! Our congratulations also go to Jonathan Pratter, the 2015 recipient of the Daniel L. Wade Outstanding Service award, for his countless contributions to the FCIL-SIS and the profession in general.

Many thanks to the 2014-2015 Nominating Committee – Jim Hart, Dan Donahue, and Michelle Hou – for their work. With their help we are happy to congratulate Alison Shea, the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect and Loren Turner, the Secretary/Treasurer. We received over 100 votes, so thank you everyone who took the time to vote, and congratulations to Alison and Loren! Thanks again to Teresa Miguel-Stearns, our Immediate Past Chair and to Roy Sturgeon, our Immediate Past Secretary/Treasurer, for their service. Under Teresa’s leadership and with Roy’s assistance, the FCIL-SIS continued to shine, grow, and expand.

I’d like to encourage us all to invite and welcome all the “accidental FCIL”, “it’s only a small part of my job FCIL”, “I think I would like to be FCIL”, “de-facto FCIL without the designation”, “I just started FCIL” librarians to join the FCIL-SIS team and to know and feel free to consult our website and all of us as a resource. On that note, we will continue to implement the goals outlined in the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, namely:

- To better organize FCIL-related resources and to identify and implement ways to share these resources and information with all our colleagues, across disciplines; and
- To plan, organize, and coordinate an annual pre-conference Summit devoted to FCIL-related topics aimed at educating all law librarians, regardless of specialty or affiliation.

And that brings me to our Education Committee and the 2016 Chicago Summit Task Force. Both groups have been working tirelessly on soliciting program ideas, curating program proposals, offering guidance, securing speakers and locations, and planning our Chicago 2016 experience. Many thanks to Thomas Mills, Alison Shea, Dennis Sears, Susan Gualtier, Luis Acosta, Steven Thorpe, Kelly Vinopal, and Jean Wenger. Chicago is sure to be a great conference for FCIL programs!

I encourage everyone to get involved, check out our interest groups, committees, and task forces, and see where you’d like to get involved. Reach out to chairs or members to inquire about ongoing projects. Share a story with us in our newsletter. Use our blog to keep us informed about an ongoing event or a new resource. Invite others to join.

I’ve said enough, and all that’s left to say is: To a wonderful year ahead of us!
Inside the Library  continued from page 1

memorates the more than 15 million men, women, and children who were victims of a 400-year-long transatlantic slave trade. It was inaugurated on March 25, 2015, the International Day of Remembrance for this tragic chapter of history.

Passing through the courtyard, we entered the conference building which houses the Security Council Chamber. We walked past the Secretariat and the General Assembly buildings, down a corridor and around a corner, to arrive at the entrance to the library. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library is located next to the Secretariat building, on the southwest corner of the complex.

Just outside the library entrance is an oil portrait of Dag Hammarskjöld. It reveals little of the man’s complexity, intelligence, and spirituality. Dag Hammarskjöld, born in Sweden, was the second Secretary General of the UN and a remarkable statesman and peacemaker. He ran the UN from 1953 – 1961. He died in a plane crash in 1961 on his way to participate in a negotiated cease-fire in connection with the Congo Crisis. A UN investigation in 1962 failed to uncover the cause of the plane crash. Ban Ki-Moon, current UN Secretary General, recently appointed a panel of independent experts to further investigate the circumstances surrounding the crash. This panel submitted a report to the UN in June of 2015 indicating that it had found significant new evidence. Ban Ki-Moon conveyed this report to the General Assembly, adding that further inquiry was needed to establish the facts and full truth surrounding the death of Dag Hammarskjöld and the other 16 passengers on the plane.

Dag Hammarskjöld was awarded, posthumously, the Nobel Peace Prize in 1961. The library was dedicated to him in November of 1961. Dag Hammarskjöld’s only book, Markings, is a diary of reflections beginning in 1925 and continuing through a few weeks before his death. Dag Hammarskjöld’s diary entries offer a glimpse of the inner spiritual workings of a man who carried out his duties on the world stage with quiet diplomacy. While these spiritual explorations were largely a private practice, one outward manifestation of his spirituality is seen in his commitment to the 1956 renovation of the Meditation Room that is part of the UN Headquarters.

Above the entrance to the library hangs a plain, blue sign that reads “Dag Hammarskjöld Library,” evocative of the unassuming man. Upon entering the library we encountered the reference desk on our right and a portion of the old, wooden card catalog on our left. The reference desk was staffed with three librarians when we arrived. The librarians serve the Secretariat, permanent missions’ staff, UN delegations, and other official groups of the UN. The reference librarians also help people who visit the library both in person and online through the ASK Dag feature of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library page.

UN Law Librarian Susan Goard, who previously worked as a librarian at the Supreme Court of Canada, provided a tour of the library. The main reading rooms of the Dag Hammarskjöld library greeted us with rows of stacks containing international law monographs and treatises. The Assembly and Security Council reports lined the walls of the main reading room. The Woodrow Wilson Reading Room offers open space for carrying out research. The wavy ceiling architecture is the focal point of this room which faces west and offers a view of the main security entrance for UN staff. Lined with the card catalog, the warm, wooden tones of the décor and furnishings harken back to a pre-digital era.

Any UN monographs, treatises, or books that are pre-1979 require the use of this extensive card catalog and research librarian expertise. With over three million documents, the

Dag Hammarskjöld portrait courtesy of the UN. All other photos courtesy of Heidi Froestad Kuehl and Megan O’Brien.
archival and non-digitized information that is housed on
three floors of closed stacks is a massive data set for com-
prehensive historical research. Whereas the traditional card
catalog provides information for materials prior to 1979,
UNBISnet is the online catalog for all materials post-
1979 at the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the Library of the
UN Office at Geneva. While the majority of the library’s
print collection is in English and French, it does attempt to
collect in all languages of member states.

After touring the main reading room and the Woodrow Wil-
son Reading Room, we walked through the maps room,
which contains some of the over 80,000 maps available at
the library, and into the training room where we would eventually participate in a UN treaty research training ses-
don and a UN documents training session.

Overall, the tour of the reference area, the main reading
room, the Woodrow Wilson Reading Room, and the maps
collection helped to paint a more complete picture of the
UN’s print holdings and what must be an incredible effort at
collection development and collection maintenance in to-
day’s largely digital era. Following our tour, we enjoyed cof-
fee with Ms. Goard at the UN cafeteria, which offers a pan-
onomic view of the East River and Roosevelt Island. Con-
versations in French, one of the two working languages of
the UN, occurred nearby. Our informal chat covered a vari-
ety of topics including library operations and matters related
to providing library services to patrons both in person and
online using various platforms.

During the afternoon we attended our first UN research
training session, Treaty Research, which was presented by
Ms. Goard. Ms. Goard’s colleague, Ylva Braaten, handled
the second session, UN Documents, which took place the
following morning. These research training sessions are of-
fered periodically and are geared to those working at the
UN, including delegates, and NGO representatives. The
trainings were informative and offered useful tips for work-
ing with the UNTS and MTDSG databases as well as the
Audiovisual Library of International Law collection. In-
depth instruction was provided on reading document sym-
bols, working within the ODS, UNBISnet, and UNique da-
tabases.

As librarians, we are acutely aware that libraries have
evolved from storehouses of information to workshops for
specialized research. Our visit, including the training ses-
don that we attended and the librarians we met, embodied
this shift. The UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, true to its
namesake, is a quiet powerhouse supporting the internation-
al legal research community. Our thanks go to Ms. Goard,
Ms. Braaten, and the rest of those who have devoted their
professional work to creating a truly world-class library. In
sharing their expertise, these librarians play a crucial role in
the UN’s ongoing efforts to bring about a more just world.

1 “Mecca, n.” OED Online. Oxford University Press, March 2015,

2 As observers, the Holy See (Vatican City) and Palestine are pro-
hibited from voting at the General Assembly meetings, but may
participate and speak. See, UN Permanent Membership, http://
29 May 2015).


4 United Nations, International Day of Remembrance of the Vic-
tims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, http://

view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/132. See related documents at
Minutes of AALL FCIL-SIS Business Meeting, July 20, 2015

Roy L. Sturgeon

Approximately 40 members were in attendance. Call to order by Chair Teresa Miguel-Stearns. She introduced the current Executive Committee (Donald Ford, Lucie Olejnikova, and Roy Sturgeon), thanking it and all members for their support and help throughout the past year. She also thanked William S. Hein & Co., Inc. for providing breakfast food and drinks at the business meeting.

Teresa raised old business, asking for approval of last year’s business meeting minutes, as published in the October 2014 FCIL Newsletter and distributed via the FCIL-SIS listserv before the business meeting. David McFadden moved. Lyonette Louis-Jacques seconded.

Roy Sturgeon delivered his Secretary/Treasurer’s report:
- $16,425.95 FCIL-SIS budget balance as of May 31
- $46,000 endowed corpus balance (restricted fund) for Schaffer Grant as of May 31
- $20,885 excess balance for Schaffer Grant as of May 31
- He thanked members and encouraged them to keep contributing to Grant

Roy then delivered 2015 election result:
- Election held online April 14–28
- 110 votes cast
- Alison Shea at Fordham Law Library elected Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
- Loren Turner at University of Florida Law Library elected Secretary/Treasurer
- Roy and Teresa congratulated both Alison and Loren

Teresa asked for oral reports by Interest Group chairs.

**African Law:** Alison Shea (for Victor Essien)
As announced at July 19 jurisdictional meeting, the group intends to input data for African print primary sources into Google Docs (11 schools and LOC participated so far). The goal is to have this information displayed on the FCIL-SIS website. The next step is to add LOC holdings, followed by older electronic holdings.

**Asian Law:** Evelyn Ma
Presentation and discussion on ASEAN cooperation at July 19 jurisdictional meeting. Eugene Hsue will succeed Evelyn as Chair.

**Customary and Religious Law:** Susan Gaultier
New group (1 year old) that brainstormed about programming proposals at its July 19 meeting. Published article in Spectrum last month. LOC’s Kelly Buchanan attended the meeting discussing ideas for upcoming year. There is also a My Communities group. Encouraged members to sign up for notifications.

**European Law:** Lucie Olejnikova
Reported on presentation delivered at July 19 jurisdictional group meeting by LOC’s Peter Roudik. Encouraged members to partake in mapping print holdings of Eastern European countries available on Google Docs. Contact Lucie or Gabriela Femenia for access to Google Docs.

**Electronic Research:** Jim Hart (for Jennifer Allison)
Reviewing survey results on portal creation.

**Foreign Law Selectors:** Dan Wade
Dan has served as Chair for 10 years and is stepping down. Marci Hoffman will be new Chair. 28 members attended and shared reports. Collaboration with LLMC Digital. Collaboration of 30 libraries. Building collection accessible to Haiti (400K hits). Teresa thanked Dan and Marci.

**Latin American Law:** Julienne Grant
Mexico law guide was posted on SSRN and so far had lots of hits and views. The groups will continue pursuing this line of publication. A similar guide on Cuba, with the same structure, is in the works.

**Indigenous Peoples Law:** Joan Policastri (not present)
Joan will Chair for another 2 years. Part of July 19 jurisdictional group meeting.

**Roman Law:** Marylin Raisch
Lucia Diamond retired. Marylin is new Chair. She hopes to continue the group’s tradition. She spoke about the related joint FCIL/LHRB-SIS program, scheduled July 21, on researching Corpus Juris Civilis. Continue collaboration with LHRB.

**Teaching Foreign and International Legal Research:**
Alison Shea
Alison is stepping down and Catherine Deane is new Chair. Alison announced upcoming meeting on July 21, in which guidelines on teaching FCIL will be discussed. Kristina Alayan, Victoria Szmyczak, and Catherine Deane will share information on developing online FCIL education at their institutions. Attendees were encouraged to continue to contribute to the FCIL syllabi collection (assignments, activities, etc.). Members were reminded that current materials are always in demand, especially in light of the new assessment models for new ABA guidelines. Alison thanked all contributors, and Teresa thanked Alison for her work.

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Teresa next asked for oral reports by Committee chairs.

Education: Dennis Sears
Co-chaired by Dennis and Lucie. Dennis is longstanding member, working each year with the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. Alison joins Dennis this year. Dennis reviewed accepted programs and announced upcoming programs for AALL. Dennis spoke with Carolyn Watson about must-haves. There are 3 opportunities to submit programs: must-have, regular program, and hot topic. AALL will not focus on FCIL programming, so it is the FCIL-SIS that must organize FCIL programming. If you have an idea, please submit it as a must-have, a regular program, or a hot topic. Education Committee is meeting July 21 and everyone is invited to attend.

Schaffer Grant Selection: Sherry Leysen
Excited to welcome Grant recipient Atarino Heliesar from Federated States of Micronesia. Sherry invited everyone to attend Atarino’s talk on July 20. The committee received 12 applicants. Sherry thanked all who helped and to Ryan Harrington for his service.

Schaffer Grant Fundraising: Sarah Ryan
Meeting scheduled for July 20. Group will introduce new and exciting ways to fundraise.

Internships and International Exchanges: David McFadden
Committee is considering a name change. The committee is now on Twitter and is considering a poster session next year to publicize its work. The committee is looking to get testimonials or reports on any library exchange. David has been involved for almost 20 years, and Teresa thanked him.

Nominating: Jim Hart
Jim is outgoing chair. Dan Donahue is incoming Chair. Teresa thanked everyone for their work.

Publicity: Loren Turner
Ned Agrawal is stepping down as Co-Chair and Susan Gaultier is joining Loren as Co-Chair. Loren thanked everyone for helping with the exhibit table. Current initiative is the DipLawMatic Dialogues blog, which features book review column, member-to-member column, and others; aiming to market FCIL to everyone regardless of being FCIL members. In the future, the blog hopes to receive substantive additions to highlight libraries’ collections and feature posts about cataloging and acquisitions. Susan added that anyone is welcome to blog on anything they attended at AALL (such as the successful EU workshop), which would help to increase exposure, since conference coverage has traditional-ly been a success in the past. Contact Susan with any questions.

Newsletter: Deborah Schander
Published 3 issues last year and is cooperating with DipLawMatic Dialogues blog. October newsletter includes minutes, reports, etc. and anything else anyone would like to report on; just email Deborah.

Website: Alison Shea
Alison is outgoing Chair and Ryan Harrington is incoming Chair (Teresa will train him). Great work done by Deborah. Alison reminded membership that the system is limited and encouraged everyone to put content on individual pages, as uploading is easy to do. Although there are limited capabilities, it is easy to upload reports, handouts, documents, etc. Please, contact Ryan to upload content. Congratulations to Ryan who was the recipient of the LexisNexis Call for Papers Award this year.

Strategic Planning: Thomas Mills (not present)
The Strategic Planning Committee completed and submitted its report, which has been adopted.

Teresa then asked for oral reports by Task Force chairs.

 Summit 2016: Susan Gaultier (for Thomas Mills)
Google Docs working space to brainstorm has been created. There is one potential topic so far: FCIL competencies. Lack of AALL support for FCIL programming led to the idea of creating pre-conference FCIL programming, such as a summit.

Foreign and International Portal Exploration: Jim Hart
Survey was conducted and a report on the feasibility of creating a database was compiled. The results will be discussed at a separate meeting later in the morning with the Executive Committee, in order to assess the next steps.

Bylaws: David McFadden
Congratulations to David who received the Bob Oakley Award this year. David reported on the need to update our amendment process and announced that in the coming year the task force plans to review the entire bylaws, mainly for technical consistency (nothing too substantive).

David read into the minutes the proposed amendments to Article VII, which he handed out in hardcopy at start of the business meeting. [Also, they were previously published in May 2015 FCIL Newsletter and posted to FCIL-SIS listserv on June 20, 2015.] Teresa asked members for comments. None were given. Jim Hart moved to approve. Dan Wade seconded. Count taken by Lucie, serving as the parliamentarian, totaled 37 votes in favor (not counting 3-member board) and 1 against. The amendments passed and became effective immediately.

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Teresa opened floor for other new business.

AMPC: Deborah Schander and Alison Shea
Deborah was asked to join to help represent the FCIL-SIS perspective and reported that must-have programs should be taken advantage of, and encouraged everyone to submit proposals. Alison encouraged everyone to consult with Deborah, Alison, and Dennis as soon as possible about programming for next year.

ASIL (meets in D.C.): Marylin Raisch
International Legal Research Group (5 years in existence). Jootaek “Juice” Lee is now Chair, Victoria Szymczak will become Co-Chair, Gabriela Femenia is Treasurer, and Marylin is Secretary. A program on big data infographics in FCIL websites was proposed and accepted, and the group had a good meeting about guides, and how to restart EISL and make it more interactive. ILRG has a newsletter and is looking for editors. ASIL also gives out a website award and awarded one to ICRC this year. ASIL has an overlapping membership of junior faculty, teachers, librarians, and others. If you plan to attend the ASIL annual meeting, visit ASIL’s website and get involved. The goal is to continue cooperation between FCIL-SIS and ASIL.

IALL: Teresa (for Kristina Alayan)
The 2015 conference will take place in September in Berlin and everyone can learn more details about it at the joint AALL/FCIL-SIS/IALL reception.

IFLA: Anne Burnett
Anne spoke at length on the IFLA representation situation, along with Sally Holterhoff, Marisol Flores, Yemisi Dina, and Marylin Raisch, who added to the discussion. Teresa suggested, as a temporary measure, that we appoint as a rep someone who already is going to IFLA conference in Columbus, Ohio. Teresa reported that Ellen Schaffer too supports continued relationship with IFLA.

Teresa took a moment to recognize Pedro Padilla, who recently passed away. He was a wonderful colleague and involved in many aspects of our profession.

Teresa recognized the 2015 FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant recipient, Atarino Helieisar. She also recognized other past FCIL Schaffer Grant recipients (Gloria Orrego Hoyos, Ufuoma Lamikanra, and Ahmadullah Masoud) whose lives were changed by the Grant. She thanked Ellen Schaffer for creating the Grant, and all those who continue supporting it.

Teresa announced recipients of the 2015 FCIL-SIS awards.
- Dan Wade presented the Newest FCIL Librarian Award to Hunter Whaley.
- Dan Wade was presented with the longest-serving FCIL Librarian Award.
- Spirit of the FCIL-SIS Award was presented to Joan Policastri (not present), Susan Gaultier, and Jootaek “Juice” Lee (not present).
- Reynolds and Flores Publication Award was presented to Mirela Roznovschi (retired and not present) for her 10-year work on the GlobaLex website and to Alison Shea and Ralph Gaebler (not present) for Sources of State Practice in International Law (2d ed.).
- Daniel L. Wade Outstanding Service Award was presented to Jonathan Pratter (not present).

Teresa thanked all members and the Executive Committee for a great year and passed the gavel (figuratively and literally) to new Chair, Lucie Olejnıkova.

Lucie thanked Teresa and Roy for their work, addressed Alison and Loren, and stated three objectives for the 2015-16 year: continue implementing the strategic plan, continue IFLA discussion, and focus on 2016 programming.

Lucie adjourned the meeting.
Internships and International Exchanges Committee Report

R. Marty Witt

During the 2014-2015 year, the Internships and International Exchanges Committee undertook the task of doing a complete update of our list of opportunities, using a new instrument (tinyurl.com/InternshipsExchangesSurvey).

This involved two major tasks: 1) we contacted every institution that had been willing to be listed in the past to make sure the contact information was current; 2) we identified and reached out to new partners in nearly every jurisdiction around the globe.

The updated list of opportunities (to be published soon in a revamped web format) includes partners from every continent except Antarctica, and from some jurisdictions that we haven’t had listed before (e.g., the Republic of Korea).

We also had some good advertisement for the Survey and the List of Opportunities via programming at AALL (Law Library Interns: How to Make Them Work for You) and coverage of that program (e.g., Is A Law Library Internship Worth Your Time? on Above the Law).

During the next year, we hope to continue to advertise the List of Opportunities more widely and explore the possibility of developing consistent branding (naming, logo, etc.) moving forward.

Customary and Religious Law Interest Group Report

Susan Galtier

The Customary and Religious Law Interest Group (CARLIG) met on July 19 at 11:30 a.m. as part of the FCIL-SIS Jurisdictions Interest Groups Joint Meeting. The group briefly discussed the year’s progress, which included acquiring approximately 35 members in My Communities, developing several programming proposals for the 2015 conference, and publishing an article in AALL Spectrum describing the group’s formation, purpose, and goals. The majority of the discussion then focused on 1) improving communication with the group’s membership in order to generate better response to the My Communities posts; 2) increasing the number of blogging and book review opportunities on customary and religious law topics and soliciting participation by the group’s members; and 3) developing and prioritizing additional projects for the coming year.

CARLIG intends to continue proposing conference programming, and a few ideas were brainstormed for the 2016 conference. The group discussed the possibility of putting together a panel of librarians and researchers who are currently working on comprehensive online portals or printed bibliographies of religious law resources. Kelly Buchanan, of the Library of Congress, also shared some preliminary information relating to an Islamic law program to be held at the Library of Congress in December. The group discussed potential opportunities for collaboration between CARLIG and the Library of Congress staff, which has been working on increasing the number of available customary law and religious law resources.

In addition to planning substantive programming, the group decided that CARLIG’s primary focus over the upcoming year should be to create teaching/research toolkits for customary law and for each of the major religious law systems. The purpose of these toolkits will be to encourage more librarians to incorporate customary and religious law research into their FCIL research classes or their presentations in substantive law classes. CARLIG will also work on some of the ideas proposed at the 2014 conference, including creating bibliographies of core resources for use in collection development, and identifying the major library collections in customary law and in each of the major religious law systems.

Electronic Research Interest Group Report

James W. Hart

The ERIG has just recruited 3 members: Steve Perkins of Greenberg Traurig, Sherry Xin Chen of Boston College, and Yemisi Dina of Osgoode Hall. The Chair is James Hart of the University of Cincinnati. The interest group’s first task is to agree on a list of tasks to work on this year. The ERIG would be happy to welcome new members.
Schaffer Grant Selection Committee Report

Sherry Leysen

The Federated States of Micronesia, France, Germany, India, Nigeria, Serbia, South Africa, Uganda—the 2014-2015 FCIL Schaffer Grant Selection Committee was thrilled to receive applications from our remarkable colleagues working as law librarians and information professionals in these countries.

This cycle’s applicants possessed a wide array of skills and held extensive responsibilities. Consistent among them was their interest in fostering relationships, sharing their expertise and knowledge with us and their colleagues at home, and participating in a prestigious conference that is dedicated to law librarianship.

We were very pleased to welcome the 2015 Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians recipient, Mr. Atarino A. Helieisar, to the Annual Meeting & Conference in Philadelphia. Atarino is the Chief Law Librarian of the Supreme Court Law Libraries in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). From 1999 to 2007, he served as Library Technician Coordinator of US government documents, UN Documents and FAO Collections at the College of Micronesia Learning Resource Center, joining the FSM Supreme Court Library in 2007. In his current role, Atarino oversees the operations of four library locations and ensures the delivery of legal reference and information services to the judiciary, bar members, staff, and the public throughout FSM’s four island states.

During the selection process, his application impressed us for a number of reasons, one of which was his enthusiastic dedication to the profession at the local and regional levels. Whether serving on the FSM National Law Day Committee or as President of the Pacific Islands Association of Librarians, Archives, and Museums (PIALA), we were inspired by his desire to bring legal information to those who need it.

Speaking with passion and sincerity, Atarino’s talk on The Federated States of Micronesia Court Law Libraries: Bridging Legal Information in the FSM States & Beyond was informative and enlightening. He introduced us to FSM (among the more than one million square miles of the Pacific Ocean are the 607 small islands of FSM), formerly part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and organized among four major island states: Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae. FSM’s estimated population in 2010 was just over 102,000 people.

Atarino shared the challenges of the region that limit access to legal information. He explained that infrastructure and technology challenges are due to the physical distance of the island states, expensive telecommunications and Internet access, frequent power outages, and limited electricity. This is coupled with law library development challenges due to the lack of on-island training opportunities and expensive tuition and travel, resulting in a limited number of professionally-degreed librarians. His enthusiasm to provide access to legal information and bring the law to the community led to the creation of the FSM Supreme Court and FSM Supreme Court Law Libraries websites, and an extensive public education outreach program about them. He described the extensive training and hands-on workshops that he and his team conducted throughout the region to explain the websites and their contents (especially primary law sources). The outreach was not easy. It often involved visits to local communities only accessible by boat and on foot, with no Internet access.

Atarino’s dedication to the profession and his perseverance to ensure the availability of legal information to patrons of the FSM Supreme Court Libraries was so inspiring. We are grateful he was willing to make such a long journey—thousands of miles and several days of travel—to share his experiences with us!

Looking ahead, Kristina Alayan, Gabriela Femenia, and I would like to express our sincere thanks to our dedicated and hard-working committee colleague, Ryan Harrington, who has completed his term on the Selection Committee. Thank you, Ryan, for sharing your knowledge and insight. We’d also like to extend a warm welcome to Mark Engsberg who will be joining us on the Selection Committee for the 2015-2016 application cycle. As always, our sincere thanks to the FCIL-SIS Executive Committee and Ellen Schaffer for their valuable input, support, and guidance.
Asian Law IG Report

Evelyn Ma

The Asian Law Interest Group met as part of the FCIL-SIS Jurisdictions Interest Groups Joint Meeting on Sunday, July 19 at 11:30 a.m. in Marriott Grand Ballroom Salon C.

I gave a 10-minute update on the progress of ASEAN’s (Association of South East Asian Nations) effort towards economic integration. ASEAN is a political and economic intergovernmental organization uniting 10 Southeast Asian countries (Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Brunei, Cambodia, and Vietnam). The 2007 ASEAN summit elaborated the ASEAN Economic Community blueprint and established a target timeline for achieving a regional economic community by December 2015. The brief update included a short introduction to the organization’s legal and institutional frameworks, its limitations, and the progress it has made thus far towards achieving a regional market. The group concluded the meeting after a short round table discussion with interested librarians including Roy Sturgeon, Dan Donohue, and Alice Izumo.

I will be stepping down as Chair of the Asian Law Interest Group and wish to welcome our new Chairman Eugene Hsue, Head of Research and Training Services at the Second Circuit Law Library.

Latin American Law IG Report

Julienne Grant

The Latin American Law Interest Group met at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 19, 2015 as part of the combined jurisdictions interest groups meeting. Five people attended, and a number of agenda items were discussed. Attendees first addressed the group’s web page, which needs to be updated. Julienne said that she would talk to Ryan Harrington about making several changes, including adding a link to the recently-updated Latin American book vendors list. A link to the “Mexican Law & Legal Research” guide will be retained, along with info about the weekly update.

The group discussed the possibility of publishing the Mexico guide in Legal Reference Services Quarterly (LRSQ). Steven Alexandre da Costa (Boston University) volunteered to talk to the editor, Michael Chiorazzi (University of Arizona). Posting the Guide on SSRN and the Loyola University Chicago School of Law eCommons has been successful. As of the end of June, there had been 947 abstract views and 132 downloads from SSRN, and 134 downloads from the Loyola Law eCommons.

Attendees also talked about the possibility of compiling a guide on Cuban law and legal research. Julienne said she could serve as coordinator and editor. All of the attendees agreed to serve as contributors. Julienne indicated that she would send out an email to the full group seeking additional volunteers for the project. RettaLibros (Montevideo) might be a source of information as they supply Cuban books.

Publicity Committee Report

Susan Gualtier & Loren Turner

The Publicity Committee (Anne Burnett, Daniel Donahue, Alyson Drake, Mark Engsberg, Susan Gualtier (Co-Chair), Anne Mosted-Jensen, Megan O’Brien, and Loren Turner (Co-Chair)) would like to thank everyone who helped staff the FCIL-SIS table in the Exhibit Hall in Philly this year. We hope you had fun educating visitors about our FCIL-SIS. Also, we offer a special thanks to Dan Wade for the Micronesian-inspired corner of our table (the coconuts were quite eye-catching)!

In the upcoming year, the Publicity Committee will continue to develop content on the FCIL-SIS blog, DipLawMatic Dialogues. As all of you know, DipLawMatic Dialogues launched in 2014 as a way to promote the FCIL-SIS worldwide. Since its launch, the blog has received approximately 13,830 views from readers in over 110 nation-states. Quite a success! The current initiatives for the blog include maintaining content coverage of: individual FCIL-SIS members; FCIL teaching advice; FCIL collection development considerations; and international conference coverage. The future initiatives for the blog include adding content coverage of: individual library collections; cataloging strategies for FCIL titles; and any other topic of interest to the FCIL-SIS. Anyone interested in contributing content to DipLawMatic Dialogues is encouraged to contact Susan Gualtier or Loren Turner. Follow us on the blog!

Also, the Publicity Committee maintains Facebook and Twitter pages. “Like” and “follow” us so we can keep you updated on FCIL interests and events!
European Law IG Report

Lucie Olejnikova

The European Law IG\(^1\) had a great meeting in Philadelphia this year. The group welcomed new Chair, Alyson Drake, re-ignited its ongoing project to map holdings of materials from Eastern European and former Soviet bloc countries by recruiting new participants, and put on a short substantive program. We thank everyone involved and encourage anyone interested in the laws of, legal research, and/or historical and current development of Europe to get involved and reach out.

To follow up on the first ever FCIL-SIS book discussion,\(^2\) organized by Dan Wade at the 2014 Annual Meeting in San Antonio and focusing on the Foreign Affairs: Crisis in Ukraine by Gideon Rose book,\(^3\) we were delighted to welcome Peter Roudik as part of the Jurisdiction Interest Groups Joint Meeting (Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, Indigenous Peoples, and Customary & Religious Law) on July 19, 2015 in Philadelphia. Peter Roudik, the director of legal research at the Law Library of Congress, delivered an excellent presentation on the developing situation in Ukraine (summarized below). As the director of legal research, Mr. Roudik oversees a staff of lawyers and other professionals trained in the laws of foreign jurisdictions, and he offers research assistance on laws of the former Soviet republics and East European countries. Mr. Roudik has authored\(^4\) a variety of legal reports for the U.S. Congress, executive agencies, and the federal judiciary. He has testified before the U.S. Congressional Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, served as an expert witness in the U.S. federal courts, and provided commentaries on the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty radio sta-

Peter Roudik engaged the audience by discussing legal developments in Ukraine, which occurred since Russia annexed the Crimean peninsula and started supporting separatist movement in the eastern part of Ukraine. He focused on legal measures aimed at bringing efficiency to the government and reviving economy on one side, discussed the on-going constitutional reform prescribed by Minsk Agreements,\(^5\) and commented on the draft of new Constitution announced on the eve of the presentation.

5. Minsk Agreement on Ukraine Crisis: Text in Full, The Telegraph (Feb. 12, 2015), http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/ukraine/11408266/Minsk-agreement-on-Ukraine-crisis-
text-in-full.html; See also, Roland Oliphant, Ukraine Crisis: Minsk Deal Brings ‘Glimmer of Hope’ That End Could be in Sight, The Telegraph (Feb. 12, 2015).

Presentation Summary: Update on the Situation in Ukraine

Peter Roudik

The main goal of the new government formed by President Petro Poroshenko is to reduce spending, reform major sectors of the economy, especially in the field of energy and banking, secure stability in the country, and ultimately conduct political reform which would preserve democratic development of the country. The New Cabinet of Ministers is much smaller than all previous governments and consists of only 20 people. It is more pro-Western government than any other Ukrainian government, shown by the fact that 18 out of 20 ministers are comfortable speaking English. Moreover, foreign citizens with experience in conducting democratic reforms in their home countries were admitted to the cabinet level positions.

To save the economy, the government imposed a temporary freeze on placing new orders for government purchases and restricted current activities related to administering government affairs, eliminated bonuses and seniority payments, and introduced a cap on salaries of the executive-level officials. The structure of the government institutions has also been amended.

The Ukrainian legislature, Verkhovna Rada,\(^1\) passed a number of legislative acts with the purpose to avoid financial catastrophe. Ukraine implemented changes in the taxation system (new rates for corporate income tax and VAT, new base for real estate taxation, and right of authorities to set local taxes), banking sector (e.g., a ban on rate manipulations and anonymous banking), social security (reduction of retirement benefits), and deregulation of the natural gas market.
Situation in Ukraine continued from page 12

In order to maintain control over law enforcement, National Guard and National Police were established in Ukraine. The law defines the National Guard as a military organization with law enforcement functions. The National Guard’s duties also include counterterrorism and defense against illegal paramilitary groups. The National Guard will be composed of military and civilian personnel, including soldiers performing military service under contract and on-call reserve personnel who are ready for duty. An interesting detail about the national police force is that all personnel is hired for a limited term only, and it is required for the local government bodies to have confidence in all police activities. Lustration of judges, other civil officials, and comprehensive reorganization of the State Attorneys’ offices throughout the country were aimed to achieve the rule of law. There are concerns that the actions of the government will not change easily because the old operational framework remained in place and no additional measures for transparency were provided.

Additionally, the proposed constitutional amendments are aimed at the decentralization of power and providing autonomy to local governments. The decentralization of power in Ukraine and the adoption of the Law of Ukraine on Provisional Local Self-Government in Selected Areas of the Donetsk and Lugansk Provinces (Law on Special Status) were foreseen by the Minsk Agreement of the Three-party Contact Group for the implementation of the peace plan in the eastern part of Ukraine. The law grants amnesty to those who participated in the military conflict within illegal military formations, and provides for more autonomy of selected areas authorities in establishing language policies and selecting Russian as the official language, forming police forces, appointing heads of courts and law enforcement bodies, and conducting cross-border cooperation with Russia. One can argue that the adoption of this law proves that the government of Ukraine accepted its obligations to conduct special policies aimed at further economic and social development of the affected territories. In March 2015, this law was amended with a provision that made its implementation subject to the election of new, local self-government bodies elected under Ukrainian law and in accordance with the principles of free, equal, transparent, pluralist elections conducted under OSCE monitoring. The amending law emphasized the necessity of removing illegal military formations, military equipment, and mercenaries from the territories where elections are to be conducted.

The decentralization-related amendments to the Constitution were introduced in the Verkhovna Rada by the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko on July 1, 2015. President Poroshenko stated that the major novelty of the proposed amendments is the fact that the central power will not just delegate the lion’s share of its prerogatives to local government authorities but it will transfer to them management of financial resources. Further the President proposed future territorial division of Ukraine which would consist of communities formed on the basis of historic, economic, geographic, ethnic, and cultural traditions.

Lastly, Ukraine initiated a number of cases in the international tribunals. For example, the inter-state application against the Russian Federation filed by Ukraine with the European Court of Human Rights and Ukraine’s decision to give wider jurisdiction to the International Criminal Court to handle any crimes that occurred in the eastern part of Ukraine since February of 2014. On April 9, 2014, Ukraine submitted the 12(3) Declaration with the International Criminal Court, submitting itself to the jurisdiction of the Court and asking the Court to hold senior officials of Ukraine criminally liable for alleged crimes against humanity committed during peaceful protests that took place in Ukraine between November 21, 2003 and February 22, 2014. Ukraine since expanded its acceptance of ICC jurisdiction by submitting a second 12(3) Declaration in which it extended the Court’s temporal jurisdiction from beyond February 2014. The Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) acknowledged the receipt of both Declarations and pursuant to the Rome Statute initiated preliminary examination to determine whether the Prosecutor can initiate official investigation. Ukraine is in Phase 2 of preliminary examination.

Marisol Florén & Sally Holterhoff

South Africa’s “Mother City” provided a unique and memorable setting for the 2015 International Federation of Library Associations conference, held August 15-21. With the theme of Dynamic Libraries: Access, Development, and Transformation, the 81st World Library and Information Congress featured a full measure of the educational programming, networking, and collaboration that are hallmarks of an IFLA conference. Experiencing Cape Town, with its vibrant mix of cultures, spectacular scenery, and complex political history, was an additional benefit. The 3,200 delegates came from 112 countries, with a large number from countries on the African continent. U.S. attendees numbered around 230. Although the total of seven AALL members from the U.S. attending this year was less than in recent years, the convenience of next year’s conference location in Columbus, Ohio, will provide a special opportunity for U.S. law librarians to attend and be involved.

The Opening Session featured music, dance, and storytelling in the custom of Africa. In her welcoming remarks, IFLA President Sinikka Sipilä spoke about the Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development (Note: AALL is a signatory to this declaration as of Nov. 2014). She underlined the crucial impact of libraries in society, and the work of IFLA in advancing libraries and the information sector in Africa. She highlighted the importance of the conference for exchanging knowledge and building strong personal networks. The Keynote speaker was Dr. Rob Adam, a nuclear physicist who is Director of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) South Africa Project. He spoke about this international effort to build the world’s largest radio telescope, and explained that SKA is also a supercomputing system. Big data technology will have a major effect on the library and information world and will bring new challenges.

LAW LIBRARIES SECTION AND STANDING COMMITTEE

Interacting with fellow librarians from around the globe is a great benefit of IFLA attendance. So is being involved with a smaller sub-group of colleagues with common interests. For most AALL attendees that sub-group is the Law Libraries Section. Currently the section has 50 members from 22 countries. The Section is led by its Standing Committee, which meets twice during the conference. The Chair of the Standing Committee (SC) for 2013-2015 has been Claire Germain. Because she was unable to come to Cape Town, the first meeting of the Standing Committee (held on Saturday, before the official opening of the conference on Sunday) was chaired by Pascal Sanz (National Library of France) and Sonia Poulin (Alberta Law Libraries, Canada). After recognizing the work of the outgoing officers, all of whom were at the end of their two-year terms, the next order of business for the SC was the election of new officers. The newly-elected leaders for the section are: Sonia Poulin, Chair; Elizabeth Naumczyk (International Criminal Court), Secretary; and Marisol Florén (Florida International University), Information Coordinator. Also during this first meeting, topics for possible programs to propose for IFLA 2016 were discussed.

Note: Members of the Standing Committee are nominated by an IFLA member and selected by IFLA for a term of four years. An individual may serve a total of two terms. Among those beginning their first terms on the SC in 2015 are Anne Burnett (University of Georgia Law Library), Yolanda Jones (Florida A&M), and Teresa Miguel-Stearns (Yale Law School). Anne and Teresa were unable to travel to Cape Town. Observers are welcome at the Standing Committee meetings. Among the observers at one or both of the SC meetings this year were Mark Engsberg (Emory University) and Leslie Street (University of North Carolina Law Library).

2015 marks the 10th anniversary of the Law Libraries Section. In recognition of this anniversary, both the current IFLA President and the incoming President stopped by the first meeting of the Standing Committee. Sinikka Sipilä, then

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is being organized by the IFLA Management and Marketing Section, and will be held at the University of Toronto in Canada.

Sally Holterhoff and Marisol Florén reported on the meeting they had with two members of the IFLA Committee on Standards to discuss the possibility of our section developing an IFLA standard or statement concerning the accessibility, preservation, and authentication of electronic legal material. During this meeting, Patrice Landry (Standard Committee Chair) and Frederick Zarndt (member of the committee) provided feedback and guidance about how to proceed, and a suggestion to start by drafting a statement, then seeking support from other IFLA entities, and then submitting the draft statement to the Committee on Standards. They plan to work on this in the coming months.

**LAW LIBRARIES SECTION 2015 PROGRAMS**

Usually IFLA sections sponsor one main program during the conference. However, this year the Law Libraries Section sponsored two programs, both of which featured valuable presentations and were well-attended. Links to papers from both programs will be available soon on the Law Libraries Section webpage.

**Access to Legal Information and Legislative Data in Africa: the Role of Libraries and Librarians**

This two-hour program was co-sponsored with the Africa Section and the Section on Library & Research Services for Parliaments. Margo Jeske from the Law Libraries Section was moderator, as well as the co-coordinator of the program, along with Victoria Okojie, Registrar/CEO Librarians’ Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN). Speakers from Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, and the United States spoke about the current status of legal and legislative information access in their countries and what libraries and librarians are doing to improve it. Across the countries the speakers mentioned similar challenges in sustaining technical and physical capacity to publish the law. Barriers are not only financial and technical, but also institutional, such as changes in government organizations. Speakers discussed the role that libraries, especially public libraries, can play as collectors and providers of legal information and services.

Rosemary M. Shafack (University of Buea, Cameroon) explained the results of a survey she had conducted. She found that even though her country has enacted laws to enable access to information, for various reasons those laws are not being implemented. There are still significant barriers and improvement is needed. Recently librarians have been taking the lead by working with the Ministry of Culture on a new copyright law.

Eric Yeboah Apeadu (University of Ghana Balme Library, President, and Donna Scheeder (who began her two-year term as IFLA President at the end of the Cape Town conference) addressed the SC members. They both praised the development of the section and the programs and projects its members have undertaken so far. Donna Scheeder spoke about IFLA’s strategic plan and how its initiatives will model the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Several days later, at the second Standing Committee meeting, discussion centered on events of the conference so far, as well as upcoming meetings and educational programs. Looking ahead to IFLA 2016, with the theme Connections. Collaboration. Community, it was agreed that the Law Libraries Section will work on proposals for two programs. These proposals must be approved by the IFLA Professional Committee if they are to go forward. One proposed program will be about digital privacy law and how this subject is regarded differently in various countries, including the concept of “the right to be forgotten.” The other will be focused on collaboration between public libraries and law libraries to facilitate access to legal information for members of the public, thus improving public access to justice. The topics were defined and program coordinators and teams were assigned. It was also agreed that the section would sign on as a co-sponsor of a 2016 pre-conference satellite meeting, Managing Human Resources in the Library and Information Context: How Do We Want to Work Tomorrow? It

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Speakers for Access to Legal Information in Africa program.

Front Row (L to R): Mariya Badeva-Bright (African LII, South Africa), Yolanda Jones (Florida A&M University), Caroline Itako (Makerere University, Uganda). Back Row (L to R): Raissa Teodori (Co-Coordinator & Chair of Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments--Italy), Margo Jeske (Co-Coordinator & Moderator), Victoria Okojie (Chair of Africa Section--Nigeria), Rosemary Shafack (University of Buea, Cameroon)
Ghana) explained that although the Parliament and Supreme Court libraries have comprehensive collections, access to those libraries is restricted. The Electronic Transaction Act of 2008 created a platform for online publishing of bills, but other major barriers still prevent open access to government information. One of these barriers is the conflicting roles of information technology professionals and librarians. Another is the current legal deposit law of Ghana that excludes legal documents and government publications. He suggests the creation of a consortium to collect legal and legislative information for the purpose of open access.

Oludayo J. Bamgbose (Nigeria Law School, Nigeria) and Etim Imaobong (University of Uyo, Nigeria) focused their presentation on what libraries can do to promote access to legal information through enactment of Freedom of Information (FOI) laws in Africa. Progress on this is being made, but today only about a quarter of the countries in Africa have enacted FOI laws. In 2010, the African Union (with the assistance of the Centre for Human Rights) drafted a Model Access to Information Legislation for Africa, designed to harmonize existing laws and serve as a model for those countries that had yet to pass such a law. Activities that libraries can do include user education campaigns on FOI laws, exhibitions providing background information, and outreach into rural settlements.

Mariya Badeva-Bright (Project Director, African Legal Information Institute) spoke about the efforts of her organization to facilitate free and open access to legal and legislative information from Africa. She pointed out that for government officials and the legal community, access to legislation and court decisions is as essential as a scalpel is to a surgeon.

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African LII is an online legal publishing portal, collecting and providing access to legal information of many African countries. It also tries to build local capacity for collecting, publishing, and upkeep of legal information. African LII started with 500 documents, and 10 years later it contains 150,000 legal documents. Although there are significant advances in collecting and publishing legal information on Africa, she emphasized that there are also many challenges. Not all countries in Africa are covered. It is difficult to digitize the law when print versions are unreliable and incomplete. Later, in the question period, she was asked if the need for digital authentication is being addressed. Her response was that at this point, digital authentication is very far from being possible and is “a bit of a science fiction” for her organization. However, she said that African LII does get its content directly from the originators and makes every effort for transparency in their methods.

Yolanda Jones (Florida A&M University College of Law) and Caroline Ilako (Makarere University Library, Uganda) discussed strategies and approaches that law libraries in the United States and in Uganda have used to facilitate access to legal information. They highlighted the Access to Justice movement and some challenges of accessing legal information that exist in both their countries. Yolanda described how her library functions as the law library for Orange County. They provide public access terminals for onsite use of Westlaw. They publish guides to free legal resources on the web and they partner with a local public library to do legal research instruction. She also spoke of previous work she had done when she worked in the state of Michigan, where librarians have been working with lawyers and legal assistance groups to support pro se litigants, under a program established under the auspices of the state supreme court. The Michigan Legal Help website provides a wide range of self-help tools and simple legal forms.

Caroline described the situation in Uganda. An innovative partnership has been set up between the African Innovation Foundation (AIF) and the Supreme Court of Uganda, along with Makerere University, to collect legal resources and develop a repository for open access to them. The Uganda LII provides free public access to legal information, but the information is not up-to-date. Many barriers exist, including an information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure that is inadequate or completely lacking. Another barrier is language, since most of the legal information is in English, which many of the Ugandan population do not speak, so they require interpretation. She mentioned the role of law librarians in Uganda and that “access to justice starts in the library.”

Kirsty MacPhee (Knowledge and Business Development Manager, Tottle Partners, Australia) spoke about how law firm libraries have been adversely affected by changes in the information profession and the business of law. She would prefer to see libraries and librarians on the leading edge of these changes, in the interest of their future survival. As legal information professionals, we must change our focus to the business of law and must acquire business interpretation skills and business knowledge, in order to deliver value to clients. She also suggested that librarians implement professional development programs for lawyers, providing formal or informal training.

Carole Aippersbach and Katy Moore (Alberta Legal Information Society, Canada) described how their organization is currently developing LegalAve, a public website that will serve as the first point of access to legal information and services in Alberta. Visitors to the website will be able to find information via a “Guided Pathway,” which is a step-by-step approach designed to point visitors to legal information relevant to them by asking them to answer a series of questions, similar to the initial interview that an attorney would conduct. Initially the site will focus on information about family law issues: marriage, divorce, adoption, elder care, domestic violence, and child support. ALIS has set out to gather existing legal content, identify the existing gaps in legal information; and increase Albertans’ awareness of their legal rights and how to exercise them both in and out of court. LegalAve will not only connect users with legal information, but will also identify community services and will

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Another project focusing on the future of access to legal information is the African Law Library. John Miller (Senior Librarian) and Shella Hurree (Online Librarian) described the African Law Library (ALL), which was established in 2012 as a private initiative of the African Innovation Foundation (AIF). As a resource on African law and governance, ALL provides available primary, secondary, and customary legal texts on Africa. Content is available in original languages, mainly English, French, and Portuguese. It also offers full-text access to African legal journals or articles on African law published outside of Africa. One challenge they mentioned is how to increase the scope and content of the database, with content providers located in so many different countries. One country mentioned in the earlier program was Uganda, where AIF and the Supreme Court have a partnership in place, as described by Caroline Ilako.

The following three speakers, all from the Library of Congress (Department of Legislative Services and Documentation) spoke about efforts their organization is making to improve the future provision of legal information.

Allen Guerra-Bustamante explained that a major legal issue in Chile is the coexistence of current and repealed norms. Legal institutions and the citizen are confronted with repealed or current legislation without any indication that allows for the identification of their current status, ultimately leading to multiple interpretations of the law. This issue is critical due to its effect on the legal certainty and the security required in the norms. The Chilean Law database, Ley Chile is made up of 288,000 norms, but only 12,903 of these are expressly repealed by the legislature. In order to assure the integrity of the text, the Chilean Library of Congress has signed agreements with the official gazette (Diario Oficial) and other government institutions. The library is working to process the norms to establish the current legal system, developing a Juridical Digest and learning from the experience of other countries, mainly Italy, Argentina, and Nicaragua.

Denisse Jimena Espinace Olguín and Carolina de los Ángeles Salas Prussing explained their work on the History of the Law, a project to make the legislative history of enacted laws accessible to all citizens of Chile. They are collecting all the reliable background information about laws, including messages, motions, committee reports, discussions, and official letters. Then they add specialized metadata which allows identification and retrieval of various types of information from these documents. The project organizes the information in dossiers that allow the user to navigate the legislative history of an entire law or of a specific article. This information will be accessible online, through an open and interoperable access system. It will use custom selection criteria, depending on the needs of each user search. The history of all laws enacted since 2004 is available in pdf format. This project eventually will include the Constitution, the history of the codes, and subject compilation of laws including all versions of the bills.

Ali Irhammi and Joko Santoso (both from the National Library of Indonesia) and Yani Nurhadryani (Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia) explained that the e-government provision of law in Indonesia is not effective and efficient. They examined 34 e-government portals that provide access to laws and regulations, evaluating the computer interface, interoperability, and management of components of each portal. Their study showed that international standards were not being applied, and revealed inefficiencies due to unorganized repository management. They conclude that in the future the Indonesian government needs to redesign its e-government services in order to improve access to the law and to legal libraries in government agencies.

SOCIAL EVENTS

With a large and varied group of delegates from around the world attending the IFLA conference each year, social events are particularly valuable for providing informal networking opportunities. On Monday evening, members of the Law Libraries Section, local law librarians, and other guests enjoyed a reception hosted by the Organisation of South African Law Libraries (OSALL), held at the new Cape Town law office of Bowman Gilfillan. This lovely event had been arranged through the efforts of OSALL.
Chair Charmaine Bertram (Library Manager, Norton Rose Fulbright in Johannesburg). Our host for the evening was Diana Riley, Senior Librarian at Bowman Gilfillan, along with other librarians and staff from the firm. We were joined by law librarians from other offices of Norton Rose Fulbright (who had arranged to hold a retreat in Cape Town the following day), and some local law librarians. As we toured the library and admired the spectacular harbor views from the library’s balcony, we enjoyed good wine and food provided by Juta (a South African legal vendor). It was an evening of laughter and friendship, providing an opportunity for section members to discuss both legal research sources and sightseeing options with our local hosts. A heartfelt thank you to Charmaine Bertram, Diana Riley, and our South African law librarian colleagues for being such gracious hosts.

On Tuesday, delegates enjoyed the traditional “cultural evening” that is part of each year’s IFLA conference but also unique to the host country. This year’s event took place at the convention center, with an array of food from around the African continent; the entertainment included singing and dancing, face painting, and actors dressed as animals native to Africa.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS

One of the highlights of this year’s IFLA conference is the impact of the Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development, and the recently approved United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs articulate that “…access to information, knowledge and technologies are critical for the eradication of the major development challenges…the strengthening of democracy; and the promotion of social justice and cohesion …” This great accomplishment demonstrates IFLA’s advocacy to influence the United Nations (UN) for the inclusion of libraries within their post-2015 development agenda.

As mentioned earlier, IFLA 2016 will take place in Columbus, Ohio, August 13-19. At that time it will have been 15 years since the last IFLA conference was held in the United States (Boston in 2001). The location in the U.S. Midwest will present an uncommon opportunity for librarians in our country to attend an IFLA conference “in our own backyard,” while also welcoming thousands of colleagues from around the world, showcasing our libraries, and exchanging ideas. Planning many of the details for this conference are the members of the 2016 National Committee, which includes representatives from the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries, and the Special Libraries Association. Also a member is David Mao, Acting Librarian of Congress. To encourage librarians from outside North America (U.S. and Canada) to attend IFLA 2016, a Fellowship Grant program has been established by the National Committee, supported by “generous donations from the North American library community.” The fellowship will cover travel, accommodation, a per diem food allowance, and conference registration fees. Priority will be given to younger professionals, with a minimum of 5 years of experience in the field of libraries who do not usually attend IFLA Conferences. While these grants won’t help AALL members in the U.S. or Canada to participate in IFLA 2016, resourceful law librarians can perhaps find other sources of funding to enable them to take advantage of this special opportunity to experience IFLA close to home.

Finally, at the end of the 2015 conference, the location of the 2017 meeting was announced: Wroclaw, Poland.