

Foreign Selectors Meeting, Seattle AALL -- July 14, 2013

Dan Wade called the meeting to order and provided the agenda.

1. English-Language Sources for Norwegian Law – Bård Tuseth

Bård Tuseth, the 2013 FCIL-SIS Shaffer Grant recipient, gave a brief overview of the Norwegian legal system and available English translations of Norwegian law. He introduced his talk by saying, "I'll reveal my conclusion immediately; there isn't much." Nonetheless he provided a handout with links to sources.

Norway has three levels of courts, all of which have general jurisdiction. The Supreme Court decides about 500 cases a year; rights of appeal are limited except in criminal cases. Bård noted that there is no sustained effort to translate Norwegian legislation; a 1980 collection is unofficial and outdated.

All known translated legislation is available at <http://tinyurl.com/NorStatute>
The Norwegian Constitution is available in English at <http://tinyurl.com/NorConst>
Scarcely any court decisions have been translated; Bård's handout lists three.
For more detail, please see Bard's attached Power Point.

2. Report from the Library of Congress – Elizabeth Moore

Elizabeth Moore, who works in the Global Legal Resource Room at the Law Library of Congress, reported on behalf of Kurt Carroll, Chief of the Law Library's Collection Services Division.

The Law Library of Congress (LLC) has a flat budget (\$2.42 million) for the third year in a row. The budget for next year is unknown; at best, it will be flat. The budget for foreign monographs was flat this year.

Kurt has freed up some money by cracking down on getting copyright copies of domestic works, which leaves more money for foreign acquisitions. LLC is keeping fewer copies of publications; generally two of US works, and one of each foreign item.

The collection of foreign gazettes is still a key goal. A project in West Africa to increase receipts from eleven countries has had only limited success so far.

The Library of Congress is reviewing all its serial subscriptions, as it has been told to cut 20% of its serials budget by mid-July. The staff is looking for serials to cancel.

Asked about GLIN (Global Legal Information Network), Elizabeth said that "nothing is happening."

3. Report from LA County – Neel Agrawal

Neel Agrawal gave an informative summary about the Law Library of Los Angeles County (LALAW), and provided a handout highlighting its key features. (Please see attached.) LALAW still has a strong print orientation, including government gazettes. Its goal is to collect primary law from every jurisdiction in the world.

The collection has 400,000 volumes of FCIL material, most in closed stacks. The 2013-2014 budget for FCIL continuations is \$650,000, with \$30,000 for new FCIL purchases. LALAW has sufficient storage space for the next ten years.

Neel estimated the library receives 100 FCIL-related questions a month, and encouraged attendees to send questions to LALAW or to him.

LALAW has recently entered into a collaborative arrangement with LLMC (Law Library Microform Consortium) under which LLMC pays shipping costs to get discarded FCIL materials from other libraries to LALAW. When copyright on the material expires, LLMC will then scan the material. LALAW has already received many volumes from Fordam, University of Washington, and the Law Library of Congress.

Attendees expressed great interest in LALAW's list of foreign vendors, and Neel agreed to post that list.

4. Report on the Foreign Law Guide and the Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals –Marci Hoffman

Marci Hoffman, the new editor of Foreign Law Guide (FLG), asked the group for feedback on the new version of FLG available from Brill as of July 1. She explained that the previous version was a collection of thousands of static web pages, containing inconsistent coding. Brill had to convert and clean up all of these pages to create a database; currently, the content is the same, but slightly reorganized.

With the content residing in a database, it should be easier to provide consistency and more systematic updates. Currently, the Basic Search works better than the Advanced Search.

Marci emphasized that the database is still being modified; suggestions for improvements will be gratefully received. User feedback enables her to advocate for changes when she deals with Brill.

Marci also reported on the Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals. The committee met and accepted several new titles. Upcoming improvements include more frequent updating and the incorporation of foreign-language subject searching.

5. Report on the past year of the Northeast Law Librarians Cooperative Group—Gabriela Femina and Marilyn Raisch

Marilyn Raisch (Georgetown) reported on the fall 2012 NEFLLCG meeting.

The attendees at that meeting reviewed Indian law databases. Penn has Manupatra, but most other NEFLLCG libraries have SCC OnLine. The group also touched on Westlaw's and Lexis's Indian law products.

The group also discussed using the IFLP list of journals to create a union list among NEFLLCG members, and Hein and/or JSTOR might digitize those materials.

Marilyn mentioned Victor Essien's (Fordam) project to assess libraries' holdings of primary and, in a later phase, secondary sources of African law. Librarians are encouraged to contact Victor for more information.

Marylin also referred to follow up by Penny Hazelton (director of U Washington), on an earlier meeting organized by John Palfrey (former Harvard Law Library director). This group discussed the need to survey libraries about surveying current country holdings and perhaps designating a “copy of last resort” (in the future). Countries that libraries have collected in the past but which they may have to stop collecting under budgetary constraints or changes in policy. The group also discussed surveying libraries about what countries are not collected at all by US law libraries.

On the topic of e-book collecting, only NYU has an actual e-book format preference.

Gabriela reported on the spring 2013 meeting of NEFLLCG. The group shared information on cancellations, and on cooperative arrangements such as the one between Penn, George Washington, and American.

The group also discussed the database LawData (Chinese, Hong Kong, and Taiwanese law) and LawNet Singapore.

Finally, the group discussed the Voluntary Collection Responsibilities (VCRs) and the need to reassess them, including the need for new VCR subjects such as Canada and Australia.

For lack of time, the Foreign Selectors Meeting did not include a round-robin with all attendees.



UiO : **Universitetet i Oslo**

Norwegian Law in English

An overview



The Norwegian legal system

- Civil law tradition
- Courts of general jurisdiction
 - District courts – Appeals courts – Supreme Court
- Methodology: Scandinavian legal realism

Sources of law

- Statutes
- Preparatory works
- Case law
- Administrative practice
- Private customs
- Legal theory
- Policy considerations

Statutes

- *Norwegian laws etc. selected for the Foreign Service*, Oslo 1980. (997 p.)
- Translated legislation:
 - <http://tinyurl.com/NorStatute>
- Constitution:
 - <http://tinyurl.com/NorConst>

Preparatory works

- Norwegian Public Report (NOU)
 - <http://tinyurl.com/mxmht8u>
- Proposals for parliament (St.prp.) and (Innst. S.)
- Debates in parliament (Forh. S.)

Case law

- Very few translations
 - RG 2012 s. 1153 (The Breivik terror case)
<http://tinyurl.com/l88l6yv>
 - Rt 2009 s. 750 (The right to a fair trial)
<http://tinyurl.com/l55koqr>
 - RG 2004 s. 414 (Digital content protection)
<http://tinyurl.com/lyaxw7p>
- Lovdata.no
- International Law in Domestic Courts (7)

Legal theory I – Books

- Norwegian law in foreign languages (until 2009)
 - <http://tinyurl.com/NorTheory>
- Common for books that try to be part of the global legal discourse
- Rare when dealing with national issues

Legal theory II – Journals

- Scandinavian studies in law (partly free)
 - <http://tinyurl.com/scanstudies>
- Nordic Journal of Human Rights (paid: idunn.no)
- Tidsskrift for Rettsvitenskap (paid: idunn.no)

GLOBAL LAW OVERVIEW

LA Law Library, the country's second largest public law library, is a leading center for research in foreign, comparative, and international law (FCIL). The print collection and subscription databases consist of primary and secondary sources from every jurisdiction around the world, international legal materials, and religious law.

CURRENT PROJECTS

- Respond to 80-100 FCIL research requests per month from firms, practitioners, and scholars around the world.
- Collect legal materials for all foreign jurisdictions and international topics.
- Teach global legal research courses to attorneys (MCLE), paralegals, librarians, academics, and the public.
- Create resource lists to supplement programming of the local and state bar associations.
- Partner with LLMC on processing large donations of FCIL materials for storage and scanning.
- Publish FCIL educational and outreach materials on enhanced website.

PRIMARY LAW

- Gazettes published by governments
- Statutes and codes
- Case reporters and digests
- Treaties and decisions of international tribunals

SECONDARY LAW

- Practice guides and loose-leafs on all major topics, arranged by jurisdiction
- Monographs, treatises, encyclopedias, commentaries, dictionaries, and form books
- Journals, yearbooks, and periodicals in various languages

DATABASES

- Foreign Law Guide
- Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals
- HeinOnline
- RIA Worldwide Tax & Commercial Law
- LLMC Digital

COLLECTION

- Current and historical FCIL sources comprising approx. 400,000 volumes (41%) of overall collection
- FCIL reference materials (reading room) and additional 3 floors (closed stacks)
- \$650,000 FY 2013/14 budget for FCIL continuations and \$30,000 for FCIL new purchases (22% of total collection budget)

FORMER FCIL LIBRARIANS

- William Bernhard Stern (1939-1971)
- Earl Weisbaum (1966-1987)
- Amber Smith (1991-2005)
- Paula Hoffman (2007-2012)

CONTACT:

Neel Kant Agrawal
Librarian, Global Law
LA Law Library
nagrawal@lalawlibrary.org
(213) 785-2536
301 West First Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3140
www.lalawlibrary.org