

**First recipient of the new Ellen Schaffer Foreign Librarian's Grant attends AALL Annual Meeting**  
submitted by Sania Battalova, first recipient of the Ellen Schaffer Foreign Librarian's Grant

It is a real honor for me as the representative of the Library Centre for Legal Information (LCLI) from the Kyrgyz Republic to attend the 2001 Annual Convention of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). AALL has almost a century of history and plays an important role in the area of democracy and development of law librarianship. The history of democracy in my country dates back only 10 years and the LCLI at this moment celebrates its five year jubilee. We are only beginning our path to democracy and we must make many changes to succeed. The knowledge I will obtain at this conference will help us.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the people who helped me to attend this conference. I want to express my thanks to Ellen Schaffer and to the Foreign Librarian's Grant Committee for selecting my application from a large number of candidates. This is a real honor for me, for my library and for my country. I want to address special thanks to Ms. Tracy Thompson and to Ms. Jean Davis for their care and wonderful friendship. Their support and friendly advice helped me get here, overcoming many difficulties. And I must thank Ms. Mirela Roznovski, my best teacher, who helped me learn about the Ellen Shaffer Grant. I also want to express my gratitude to the Organizational Committee and to all members of the AALL and FCIL-SIS for their support.

Now, I would like to say a few words about my workplace. The LCLI where I work opened in 1996. This important project was implemented as a result of a joint activity of the Association of Lawyers of the Kyrgyz Republic and the National Library of the Kyrgyz Republic, with active assistance from the American Bar Association (ABA)'s Central and East European Law Initiative (CEELI).

We express special gratitude to ABA's CEELI Coordinator, Mrs. Terri Rogers. The establishment of the first public Library Centre of Legal Information is a reality mainly because of the enthusiasm and professionalism of Mrs. Rogers. We are also very thankful to Mrs. Mary Strauss, the American librarian, for her input in the process of our Centre's establishment. She worked with us during the most difficult and crucial time, the period of formation, opening and first activity. It is very difficult to estimate the practical experience obtained with her assistance.

Other organizations that contributed to our Centre's establishment and its further development include the following: the UNHCR Administration, Democratic Commission of the US Embassy, the Miller and Chevalier Foundation and the Soros Foundation.

From the first, the LCLI founders and organizers strictly defined the Centre's mission as a depository of new information. At LCLI, technologies and resources are open to all categories of users. We have a strong demand for legal information, legal documents, and primary and secondary sources in our country. Every year our Centre is visited by more than 30,000 people who receive

more than 150,000 copies of information sources. We work seven days per week, from 8:00AM until 6:00PM. The average number of users reaches 150 to 200 per day.

The Centre's information potential is constantly improving. At present our collection includes 14,000 volumes. We subscribe to more than fifty periodicals and serials. The Centre also has six informational and legal databases, including the texts of 200,000 legal and normative documents of the Kyrgyz Republic and CIS countries. We are increasingly using Internet resources in our everyday work. We are also constantly establishing and maintaining contacts with comparable centers and legal libraries in other countries. We keep business contact with legal centres and libraries in Uzbekistan, Byelorussia, Russia and Kazakhstan.

Our Centre is highly efficient. A similar Library Centre of Legal Information opened in Osh in 1998. We maintain close contact with our colleagues, sharing work experience, providing assistance in the area of book fund augmentation, acquisition of electronic information media and solving common operational problems. This year, with the assistance of the ABA's CEELI, we are planning to establish and open additional legal libraries in three regions of our country.

Specialists from the ministries and authorities, public and international organizations are the regular clients of our Centre. In particular, the Ministry of Justice, the Constitutional Court, and the President's Administration, as well as the Parliament, public and private law firms, students and lecturers from

institutions of higher education all utilize our Centre. We also have priority users to whom we offer some incentives and advantages when using our services. They include the members of the Association of Lawyers of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Judges Association of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In 1996, the top-priority of the Centre included the collection of information in the area of human rights protection and international legal cooperation. Later, we received a lot of requests for literature in the areas of business and international contract law.

Consequently, we have developed and successfully introduced a project to establish a business law section within our Centre. This project has been financed by the Eurasia Foundation and the Democratic Commission of the US Embassy.

The LCLI widely propagates legal knowledge. It organizes exhibitions, conducts seminars and organizes special "Days of Information" for interested organizations. Every academic year we also provide special training lectures on database operation and searching for information to the legal departments of higher educational institutions at our Centre. Together with the ABA, we have conducted a number of seminars on small business and entrepreneurship, and training courses for lawyers on searching for information on the Internet. Special meetings of lawyers and discussions of draft laws are regularly organized at the LCLI.

The LCLI plans to continue its work in the area of readers' information services. We are also continuing our work in the

development of new directions of our activity and expanding horizons of cooperation with international organizations working in the area of legal information.

I am very excited to meet you and learn from you. Finally, I want to express one more time my gratitude for being here with you!

*We are shocked deeply by barbarous terroristic act in the USA. With all our hearts we sympathize the American people in their grief caused by the tragedy. We hope that the American government and the the world community in cooperation will be able to overcome terrorism. The staff of the Donetsk regional library is sharing your feelings and mourn with you.*

- Ukraine

*It was frightful to see the scene that the World Trade Center tower collapsed while we were watching the soccer game between Vietnam and Malaysia. Hope that there are LESS people killed.*

- Vietnam

*This is the tragedy not only for the American folks, but also for the whole humanity. I grieve and share your pain deeply.*

- Russia, Republic of Karelia

*Dear friends! We are shocked with the events connected to acts of terrorism in USA. Your pain and indignation are close to us. The terrorism is a common trouble. We express the condolences to all citizens of USA. We are with you. Tula regional universal library (Russia).*

- Russia, Tula

### **New Research Guide**

submitted by Susan Van Syckel, Foreign & International Law Librarian, UOP McGeorge School of Law

The Gordon D. Schaber Law Library at UOP McGeorge School of Law will be publishing a new research guide, "Strategies for Identifying Sources of Foreign Law: An Integrated Approach" at its Web Page the first week in October. The Guide was originally published in the fall 2000 issue of The Transnational Lawyer (one of the school's law journals). The text of the print version is currently available on Westlaw & Lexis in the journals databases at 13 Transnat'l Law. 289. The Web version has been revised and updated through September 2001 by its author, Librarian Susan Van Syckel.

It's a modest guide, intended for "law students and practitioners with little experience in researching foreign law...." It emphasizes "starting points" and "strategies"--the basic research skills needed to locate these sources in various formats. It is not a compendium of sources of foreign law, but a guide to locating (among other sources) the excellent print compendiums and Internet portal sites already compiled.

*I just wanted to write any say how distressed we were to hear about the terrible events in New York yesterday. I have no idea how you all must feel. It is somehow incomprehensible to us that such acts can take place in today's world. Our thoughts are definitely with all of you in the US, and we certainly hope that you and your family and friends are all safe and well.*

- UK