

## **Hastings College of the Law Library San Francisco, California USA**

### **THE FOREIGN, COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY (revised 7/9/2009)**

The mission of the Foreign, Comparative and International Law (FCIL) Department is to support the FCIL research and teaching needs of the Hastings College of the Law faculty and students. The FCIL department is responsible for developing the foreign, comparative and international collection and for providing access to these materials.

The FCIL collection focuses on the laws of various Commonwealth countries (United Kingdom, Australia, Canada), the European Union, laws from important U.S. trade partners such as Mexico and Germany, and international organizations such as the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, and the International Criminal Court.

The Library has collected comparative law titles, basic international law titles, historical materials, and EU/EC materials, and will continue to do so. The Library also collects important publications focusing on the international aspects of criminal law, antitrust, trade, international environmental law, immigration, human rights and refugee law, international and foreign relations, intellectual property, tax and the law of indigenous peoples.

The collection includes English-language materials, as well as certain laws and treatises in their original languages. Emphasis on particular countries is typically driven by the research and teaching needs of Hastings faculty and students. Recently we have focused our attention on Middle Eastern legal culture and on East Asian law and legal reform. There has been growing interest in the legal systems of China, Japan, and Korea in particular.

The collection also includes many overviews of the laws of various countries on a particular subject (such as the *International Encyclopaedia of Laws*), and a number of scholarly treatises of the laws of a particular country on a particular subject (such as *the Law and Practice of Mergers and Acquisitions in the People's Republic of China*). Recently, the Library has purchased many foreign law research guides and subject compilations of foreign laws.

There is a vast array of FCIL materials available online. Our FCIL collection development takes into consideration the availability of FCIL materials online and attempts to coordinate our print collection with available online resources (including subscription databases, free Internet resources, and Lexis/Westlaw resources). The FCIL department will continually endeavor to design bibliographies and research guides to help library users find useful online databases and to provide information about access to important titles available in other libraries' collections. Two examples of these are our Chinese law research guide and our guide on international war crimes research.

### **Considerations in Evaluating FCIL Materials:**

Besides the selection guidelines listed in the Hastings Library Collection Development Manual, Section IV, subsection B(3), the following questions pertain to whether a title should be included in the collection:

- ❑ Is the title already in our collection? In what format? If not, are there materials on the same or similar topics?
- ❑ Is the book/material relevant to a class or a professor's research, or relevant because it covers a country or subject we collect?
- ❑ Does the item support a seminar where students need these sorts of materials for their class projects?
- ❑ Does the title update an older edition in our collection? If so, is it still relevant? Should we skip an edition?
- ❑ Is the author well known or reputable? Do we own other titles by that author?
- ❑ If the title is part of a series, do we own other titles in that series?
- ❑ If the title is in looseleaf format but is one we should purchase, is there a comparable monograph available from another publisher?
- ❑ Is the information available online (through Lexis, Westlaw, another subscription database, or a free Internet resource)?
- ❑ Is the title available for use at a nearby library?

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