

FCIL-SIS Foreign Law Selectors Meeting
AALL 2011 – Philadelphia
Sunday July 24 5:15pm

1. Welcome—Dan Wade (Yale)
 - Dan welcome all attendees and briefly explained the genesis of the group
2. Report from the Northeast Foreign Law Librarians Cooperative Group (NEFLLCG)—Dan Wade (Yale)
 - Highlights of the first NEFLLCG meeting in October 2010 included Harvard’s efforts to share the burden of collecting “everything” through their B2F2 program. There was also discussion at this meeting of the faculty foreign law survey being done amongst member libraries, as well as a report from Gabriella Femenia regarding Penn’s “Mind the Gap” program (with American and GW) whereby each school committed to maintaining print subscriptions to a third of Hein’s law journal library, thereby allowing for substantial cost savings through cancellations.
 - Highlights of the second NEFLLCG meeting in March 2011 included an update on new databases, as well as information on new Indian law database
 - A recap of both meetings is included as a separate attachment to this report
3. Report from the Gang Plus Meeting at Harvard on June 15th—Amy Emerson (Cornell)
 - The Gang+ meeting of law library directors was held at Harvard in June 2011. Amongst the topics discussed,
 - NELLCO reported it was looking into maintaining access to low-use database to ensure that members would continue to have access to them. In addition this is a good way for vendors to break into the US market. Preliminary cost would be \$500/library to opt-in to this new system, and there would be no trial arranged unless at least 5 member libraries demonstrated interest in a trial. There is nothing currently in place, but interested members should contact Tracy for more details, and also email her with suggestions on which database they would be interested in for this program
 - The NEFLLCG faculty foreign law survey was also discussed at this meeting, and it was noted that this survey not only helped members assess the usage of foreign law materials in their libraries but also identified which areas/languages faculty were currently interested in. The results will help with both collection development and collaborative efforts.
 - A registry of foreign law holdings, maintained through NELLCO, would allow users to search to see which libraries had what, but difficulties remained for some libraries to separate the law holdings from the main library holdings, as well as ensuring currency of the registry.
 - Another idea is an automated template for merging acquisition and cancellation records—NEFLLCG currently has a Google Doc for foreign database holdings amongst members to do something similar
 - One of the main topics of discussion was an arrangement for print retention of US law journals available on Hein based on a blueprint discussed at the 2010 Gang+ meeting. However, since that 2010 meeting, a number of regional retention programs have sprung up, making it more difficult to implement a larger program. Tracy Thompson mentioned that NELLCO might look into purchasing a large number of books and share the cost amongst members, but there was determined to be no need for that.

- At the FCIL selectors meeting held during the Gang+ meeting, there was substantial discussion of vendors and related negotiations. Silke Sahl mentioned that one of the main topics of discussion amongst the FCIL selectors was retention of foreign law journals
- Following the Gang+ meeting, the second day of the conference was the Future of Law Libraries meeting hosted by Harvard. Next year Roberta Shaffer will host the meeting at the Law Library of Congress.

4. Report from the Library of Congress—Mark Strattner (LC)

- The LC budget has been cut for the next fiscal year—about 9% but still waiting for approval from the House Appropriations Committee—but they are still able to maintain most subscriptions. They hope they can reduce staff to prevent major cuts in the collection; however, the Law Library has reduced the amount of money spent on foreign treatises.
- The Law Library began a new program to obtain primary source material from West Africa [see more information here: <http://news.caorc.org/2011/02/library-of-congress-west-africa.html>]
- LC also agreed to start a cancellation list for foreign titles and will submit it to the Gang+ members on a yearly basis; please email Mark if you would like to receive a copy of the list [see attached for a copy of the most recent list]
- The Law Library expects to run out of shelving space within a year
- Regarding the proposed changes and cuts to the GPO, a special White House committee reported that if the agency were to be split up, some parts of the GPO may be transferred to LC. There are also questions regarding the cost of foreign exchange programs in which the GPO participates.
- A question was raised as to what standards the LC follows when deciding what to cancel
 - Mark reported that legal specialists for each geographic area review their jurisdictions to decide on what can be cut; however, more US material has been cut this year than foreign material. Some decisions were based on historically incomplete holdings, while some material (for example, from the Netherlands) is given to LC free
 - LC has policy that all serials cancellations must be reviewed
- Dan asked whether there had been any thought given to working with Harvard on foreign monograph acquisitions
 - Mark replied that a recent study of Italian modules revealed that only 9% of the titles purchased by the LC are unique amongst law libraries. In the past LC has been very much against collaboration, but this is now changing especially as a result of budget cuts
- Dan also added that the new IALL Handbook has a great article on collecting foreign legal materials

5. Report from Harvard—Cathy Conroy (Harvard)

- Reporter not present, topic skipped

6. New Selectors

- At Yale, Ryan Harrington is taking over German selection
- Sventlana Kochkina is the new law librarian at McGill and is responsible for obtaining French material from Europe
- Jingjing Zhang at Peking University has extensive collection development responsibilities in comparative and foreign legal materials, including US and EU
- Juice Lee at Northeastern is responsible for selecting human rights and international IP materials and has been purchasing more Chinese and Korean materials

- Stephanie Myles at the Inter-American Development Bank selecting Latin American and Caribbean materials
- Marty Witt at Florida Coastal is also selecting Latin American and Caribbean materials

7. Profile of Big Ten Law Schools and Others—Dan Wade (Yale)

- Jenny Selby, selector public international law at Michigan, reported that Barbara Garavaglia will submit their report to Dan directly, but highlighted the following:
 - Michigan continues to collect broadly and comprehensively in FCIL materials, including foreign materials in the vernacular
 - Cost-cutting measures include looking more closely at foreign journals and focusing more on what is indexed by the IFLP. They are also cutting foreign looseleafs with a presumption against collecting them unless faculty members request them specifically
 - Michigan still maintains a number of approval plans but will hand-select material as necessary. They also continue to collect electronic FCIL materials and the budget for those resources continues to grow
- Ohio State reports that its focus has turned more towards Chinese materials
- Penn States is still collecting extensively in Austrian, French, Italian, German and Russian materials
- Mary Rumsey reported that Wisconsin continues to focus on the Commonwealth countries, as well as historical Latin American materials. They maintain their participation in the Indian and Pakistani depository program and are focusing on building up Asian collections and Islamic Law collections. The same budget and space constraints affect Wisconsin, but they are dealing with this by canceling print primary source collections in favor of online resources
- Case Western is a unique collection due to their extensive Canadian holdings, having participated in a Canadian depository program since 1967, in support of a Canada Law institute.

8. IFLP update – Marci Hoffman

- The IFLP is moving to HeinOnline, which will improve the usage of it and will enable linking to full-text of the articles which Hein has coverage of. More information on this move will follow when the specifics are ironed out.

9. The meeting concluded by participants introducing themselves and reporting on developments at their institutions.

Submitted by Alison Shea, Reference Librarian, Fordham University School of Law