

Wisdom from Mount Nebo (Hiei):
Advice to a Young Person Aspiring to Become
A Foreign and International Law Librarian

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There is an order of Buddhist monks in Japan whose practice is running. They are called the Marathon Monks of Mount Hiei. They begin running at one-thirty A.M. and run from eighteen to twenty-five miles per night, covering several of Mount Hiei's most treacherous slopes. Because of the high altitude, Mount Hiei has long, cold winters, because it is so cold, it penetrates any kind of illusion or intoxication. The monks run all year round. They do not adjust their running schedule to the snow, wind, or ice. They wear white robes when they run, rather than the traditional Buddhist black. White is the Color of death: There is always the chance of dying on the way. In fact, when they run they carry with them a sheathed knife and a rope to remind them to take their life by disembowelment or hanging if they fail to complete their route.

After monks complete a thousand day mountain marathon within seven years, they go on a nine-day fast without food, water or sleep. At the end of the nine days, they are at the edge of death. Completely emptied, they become extremely sensitive. "They can hear ashes fall from the incense sticks....and they can smell food prepared miles away." Their sight is vivid and clear, and after the fast they come back into life radiant with a vision of ultimate existence.²

Each fall I read this passage from the introduction to Natalie Goldberg's Long Quiet Highway: Waking Up in America at the

¹ Associate Librarian for Foreign and International Law, Lillian Goldman Library of the Yale Law School. This article is dedicated to Gene Coakley, who recently retired after working over forty years in the Yale Law Library and whose duties included the gathering of foreign and international legal materials for the Yale law faculty, and the international law librarians who have worked with me at Yale, one of whom has moved on to become Director of the University of La Verne Law Library, Ken Rudolf; one who is now the Director of the New England Law Library Consortium, Tracy Thompson; one who has moved upstairs to become Head of Reference, Mark Engsborg; and one who is about to begin, Teresa Miguel. The author wishes gratefully to acknowledge the assistance of Heather Heldman, undergraduate library assistant in the preparation of this paper.

² Goldberg, Natalie, Long Quiet Highway: Waking Up in America, New York: Bantam Books, 1993, drawing upon Stephens, John, The Marathon Monks of Mount Hiei, Boston: Shambala, 1988.

beginning of our course on Research Methods in International Law. Natalie, who combines her love of writing with her love of Zen and the Southwest, analogizes the marathon monks' experience to the art of writing for her novice writing students. I think it serves equally well to illustrate the requisite intensity of engagement and the perseverance necessary to conduct foreign and international legal research successfully. The analogy can perhaps be pushed further to include the highly rewarding career of foreign and international law librarian;³ the goal can be attained but only after running the race.

The zeal and passion, and perhaps perseverance, required of a foreign and international law librarian may be best idealized by Jean-François Champollion. Champollion, who for a period in his life, before he deciphered the Rosetta Stone and became curator of the Egyptian antiquities at the Louvre, served as both assistant librarian and for a six month period head librarian of the Grenoble municipal library, one of the earliest public libraries in France, established in 1772 (with a collection of 34,000 volumes).⁴ His brother, Jacques-Joseph, who was responsible for the publication of both Jean François' hieroglyphic grammar and dictionary and many of his papers after his premature death at the age of 41 (1790-1832), served for a while as the curator of manuscripts at the Bibliotheque Nationale and ended his career as the librarian at the Fontainebleau Palace Library. When he was younger he worked

³ Throughout the paper I use the term "foreign and international law librarian." Comparative and perhaps even transnational law is implied. A number of librarians in this field are also responsible for the law of religious systems: Canon and other ecclesiastical Law, Islamic Law and Judaic Law, and ancient systems such as the Greek and Roman. The professional Special Interest Section for the librarians in this field of the American Association of Law Libraries is the Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section.

⁴ For the fascinating biography of Champollion and the history of the decipherment of hieroglyphics, see Adkins, Lesley and Roy Adkins, The Keys of Egypt: The Race to Read the Hieroglyphs, London: HarperCollins, 2000. See also, Fagan, Brian, The Rape of the Nile: Tomb Robbers, Tourists, and Archaeologists in Egypt, 3rd ed., Boulder: Westview, 2004. Lesley Adkins has also written a colorful account of Henry Rawlinson, who worked to decipher cuneiform languages in the period immediately after Champollion, Adkins, Lesley, Empires of the Plain: Henry Rawlinson and the Lost Languages of Babylon, London: Harper, 2003. Perhaps the Yale counterpart of Champollion was Erwin Ramsdell Goodenough; a wonderful adventure is to be found reading his Jewish Symbols in the Greco-Roman Period, New York: Pantheon Books, 1953-1968, 12 volumes.

as Jean Francois' senior at the Grenoble city library at the start of both men's careers.⁵

First and foremost, Jean-François Champollion held on tenaciously to the question that obsessed him, namely the origins of the world and the decipherment of hieroglyphics and all that they would reveal. He held on to this reference question for years. He was a gifted linguist, at an early age learning Latin and Greek in depth, so that at the age of twelve he began studying Arabic, Hebrew, Syriac, Chaldean, and Chinese. Ultimately, he was to go on to learn Coptic, Ethiopic, Sanskrit, Zend, Pahlevi, and Persian, and, of course, English, German and Italian. Not all foreign and international law librarians need to know a bevy of languages, but certainly, linguistic demands are heavy in the major academic foreign collections.

Champollion was a popular teacher (Lycée of Grenoble 1809-1816 and College de France 1831-1832), of a seemingly arcane topic, Ancient Egypt and hieroglyphics. Many foreign and international law librarians teach both legal research classes and present lectures in substantive law classes.

He even was responsible for a major collection development coup, when he and his brother brought back to the Grenoble library 2000 manuscripts and incunabula from the Grande Chartreuse monastery north of Grenoble. These form the treasures of the Grenoble municipal library today. He, of course, brought back many Egyptian antiquities both from Italy and from his trip to Egypt. Collection development is a major responsibility of many foreign and international law librarians.

Finally, Champollion was a diligent, creative researcher, drawing on the many resources that Napoleon collected from throughout Europe, and which both men collected from their trips

⁵ Books seemed to run in the family, as their father had a book shop in a small rural town.

to Egypt. One could say he used multiple formats, sculpture, stelae, papyri, as well as books and manuscripts.

From my perspective as likely the oldest, though not necessarily the most experienced, foreign and international law librarian working in a full time position, it is perhaps my place to call on the young for passion in the profession, and to set the course for those contemplating a career in foreign and international law librarianship.⁶ One other item of biographical information should be mentioned. I was not young, however defined, when I entered library school, being 38 after teaching New Testament Greek, working as a paralegal in a tax department in a major corporate law firm, and attending graduate school, seminary and law school. I am particularly sympathetic to those who choose foreign and international law librarianship as a second career.

Moreover, I have served as foreign and international law librarian at Yale for nearly two decades now, and that experience is apt to give anyone a unique view. It is important to emphasize what follows is just one librarian's opinion, and that other senior foreign and international law librarians each working in a different context may have radically different views.

⁶ In fact, I am so old that my mother rode in a Conestoga wagon from Arkansas into the newly established state of Oklahoma. This was after the advent of the automobile, but perhaps cars were not so plentiful in Arkansas at the time.

I was born into a book culture; I don't even remember television in my earliest years. I probably did not have a computer before age 30. I don't own a laptop, a cell phone, an iPod, or an ATM card. It doesn't need to be stated that I don't know how to program my VCR, although I understand video cassettes are a waning technology. I am a child of the 60's, and have been counter culture since my college years, which doesn't necessarily help me appropriate modern technology.

From early childhood, influences began that would lead me to foreign and international law librarianship. I remember playing a game with my Dad where I would read the names of places in the back of the gazetteer, and he would identify in what country the place name was located. I was horribly bookish. I avidly read the junior classics and even more so Classic Illustrated comic books to learn of far-a-way places from the Khyber Pass and King Solomon's Mines to the early France and England of the Three Musketeers and Ivanhoe. I remember as a fourth grader telling my teacher that when I grew up I wanted to be a professor of ants, as I somehow got the idea that ants were highly intelligent creatures. Needless to say a memorable experience—she thought that I was cute, which may well have been the last time someone did.

The Role of the Foreign and International Law Librarian

Being a foreign and international law librarian in the United States is being a member of a confraternity⁷ of about fifty law librarians, mainly academic, but a few working for the government or in the private sector. We form a national community of librarians committed to the service of providing research assistance and resources to those who are interested in foreign, international, comparative and transnational law. The librarians in an array of academic settings of various sizes perform a wide variety of tasks and spend different proportions of their work day on these tasks which might include reference, teaching,⁸ collection development, administration, creation of web pages, and writing, and even a few librarians are involved in technical services.

This group is to be distinguished from other law librarians who may have tangential responsibilities in these areas of the law.⁹ The United States community of foreign and international law librarians is connected to the world community of law librarians, and especially foreign and international law librarians through Int-Law, a list serve of the Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Librarians (FCIL SIS of AALL).¹⁰

⁷ Perhaps, I should use the word “consority,” as I believe there are more women than men in the group, but I can’t find that word in the Oxford English Dictionary.

⁸ In addition to the syllabi on the Foreign, Comparative and International Law SIS web site (www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/), see the course materials from a course on public international law legal research at the William Mitchell Law School in Minneapolis, Winer, Anthony S. and Mary Ann E. Archer, A Basic Course in Public International Law Research, Lanham: MD, University Press of America, 2005.

⁹ At Yale, every reference librarian is expected to have expertise in international legal research. One of Dean Harold Koh’s four goals for his deanship is to promote a global law school. Presumably, faculty and students will develop a global consciousness, and reference librarians are expected to respond to their research needs. This article is really not intended for those non-specialists, and they are referred to Whisner, Mary, “Practicing Reference...Learning a Little About the World: Foreign and International Research and the Non-Specialist,” 97(3) Law Library Journal 595-604 (2005). Mary is reputed to be one of the finest legal reference librarians practicing her craft. In fact, would-be specialists are strongly encouraged to read this article, as well. There is much wisdom in it!

¹⁰ Int-Law@ciesin.columbia.org

As foreign and international law librarians, we are global citizens. We know that almost half the world, close to three billion people, live in moderate poverty, on less than two dollars a day, and that one sixth, lives in extreme poverty on less than one dollar a day.¹¹ We know about American exceptionalism – that the United States is virtually the only country that has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.¹² While it may bemuse us, it does not surprise us that the people of Graz, Austria, took Arnold Schwarzenegger’s name off their stadium after he did not stay an execution under his watch,¹³ understanding that virtually the entire rest of the world does not tolerate the death penalty. We are dismayed by the opportunity loss of the five hundred billion dollar annual budget of the American military.¹⁴ Certainly we know that the only way to survive is through international cooperation, which we practice in our daily work to supply the world’s legal resources to those who need them.¹⁵ While some of us march in the streets, all of us know that lawyers matter and that the rule of law must prevail.

As an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren, one of the historic peace churches, along with the Quakers and Mennonites, every five years I must make my case that I am

¹¹ Perhaps more tellingly, more than eight million people a year (more than 20,000 a day) die because they are simply too poor to live, i.e., they die of preventable causes; they are too poor to purchase the medicines needed to keep them alive. Sachs, Jeffrey D., The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time, New York: Penguin, 2005, 1, 20-21.

¹² United Nations, Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 31 December 2004, New York: United Nations, 2005 (ST/ LEG/ SER.E/ 23), 238-239 and 306-307.

¹³ New York Times, December 27, 2005, “How Austrians Show Their Anger With What’s-His-Name”, A 4.

¹⁴ www.nationalpriorities.org

¹⁵ I think most, if not all of us, would agree with Brian Urquhart’s analysis of American empire: “At this depressing time, we should not lose sight of the fact that under a different concept of US leadership, international cooperation to prevent war and confront the great global issues on which our future depends is still entirely possible. It is indeed the best, perhaps the only, serious hope for the future.” Urquhart, Brian, “World Order & Mr. Bush,” The New York Review of Books, October 9, 2003, 8, 12 and the Dalai Lama’s conclusion, “Today, the world is so small and so interdependent that the concept of war has become anachronistic, an outmoded approach.” Gyatso, Tenzin, the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, “War is Anachronistic, an Outmoded Approach,” in Abrams, Irwin and Wang Gungwu (eds.), The Iraq War and Its Consequences: Thoughts of Nobel Peace Laureates and Eminent Scholars, Singapore: World Scientific, 2003, 6.

engaged in ministry. I argue that my position as a foreign and international law librarian facilitates others in their struggle for peace and justice, whether they are engaged in human rights, humanitarian law, international criminal law, disarmament issues, or some other facet of foreign and international law. As a Protestant, I believe in the “priesthood of all believers.” Thus foreign and international law librarians, I feel, have a “calling,” a mission like mine.

But perhaps, I have overstressed the seriousness of foreign and international law librarianship. This job is fun! It is a job to die for! It is an absolute delight, albeit a lot of work. It is always fun to help others, and the subject matter of foreign, comparative and international law is truly intellectually stimulating and challenging. The field focuses on global human relations, the relations among the approximately 190 states of the world, and how people of those states govern themselves. There is then the opportunity to compare how people govern themselves among the various states and again how the domestic law of any given state interacts with international law, i.e., transnational law. As I have just described this, it seems rather arid, but the study of human behavior is anything but dry.

Part of understanding the fun is raising the jurisprudential question, “what is law?” The policy-oriented New Haven School of International Law, which has prevailed at Yale during the last half of the twentieth century, focuses on political elites’ decision-making.¹⁶ Yale has been heavily influenced by legal realism.¹⁷

¹⁶ See Beck, Robert J., Anthony Clark Arend and Robert D. Vander Lugt, International Rules: Approaches from International Law and International Relations, New York: Oxford University Press, 1996, 110-112, Wiessner, Siegfried and Andrew R. Willard, “Policy-Oriented Jurisprudence and Human Rights Abuses in Internal Conflict: Toward a World Public Order of Human Dignity” in Ratner, Steven D. and Anne-Marie Slaughter, The Methods of International Law (Studies in Transnational Legal Policy: No 36) Washington, D.C.: 2004 at 47, and Reisman, W. Michael, International Law in Contemporary Perspective, New York: Foundation Press, 2004.

¹⁷ Kalman, Laura, Legal Realism at Yale 1927-1960, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986. See also, Kalman, Laura, The Yale Law School and the Sixties, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005.

The School emphasizes, even today, the interdisciplinary nature of the study of law, giving a special place to both history and economics.

I am fond of the characterization, which though almost a half century old, details the difference in the understanding of law between Harvard and Yale:

Yale trains judges, Harvard trains lawyers. Yale doesn't teach you any law, Harvard teaches you nothing but. Yale turns out socially-conscious policy makers, Harvard turns out narrow legal technicians; Yale thinks that judges invent the law, Harvard thinks that judges discover the law; Yale is preoccupied with social values, Harvard is preoccupied with abstract ideas; Yale is interested in personalities, Harvard is interested in cases; Yale thinks most legal doctrine is ritual mumbo-jumbo; Harvard thinks it comprises a self-contained logical system; Yale cares about results, Harvard cares about precedents; Yale thinks law is what the judge had for breakfast; Harvard thinks it is a brooding omnipresence in the sky.¹⁸

All of this is to say that law is much more than just a body of rules. It is inextricably connected to human behavior and human culture in all its myriad forms. Its study allows us to understand how we who are so different can live together peacefully and cooperatively on this planet—a fascinating subject.

In addition to dealing with today's legal systems, the foreign and international law librarian must know of the world's past legal systems, at least going back 3,000 years. Further, there are the religious legal systems: canon law, Islamic law, and Judaic law, as well as those of the Eastern religions and ecclesiastical law of the countries of the world.¹⁹ Legal anthropology, legal folklore, and

¹⁸Id. at 40, quoting Navasky, Victor, "The Yale vs. The Harvards (Legal Division)" New York Times Magazine, September 11, 1966, 47, 49.

¹⁹ See the recently posted site by Marylin Johnson Raisch, Librarian for International and Foreign Law at the John Wolff International and Comparative Law Library of the Georgetown Law Center at www.nyulawglobalex/Religious_Legal_Systems.htm. For the study of comparison with respect to religion, see Smith, Jonathan Z., Relating Religion: Essays in the Study of Religion, Chicago: University of

the legal systems of contemporary indigenous peoples are also important. The field of foreign and international law librarianship is vast, and it requires a lifetime of work ala Champollion to appropriate it.

The Necessary Aptitude

What does it take to become one of this confraternity? To begin with, it takes a good deal of luck. The position of foreign and international law librarian is not like that of a policeman, fireman, or even a mayor. Positions are few and far between, and one must be willing to move to assume one. Perhaps the first step along this career path is self-assessment. Do you have the values and the motivation to become a foreign and international law librarian?

Before self-assessment, it is important to understand the implications of becoming a law librarian, or perhaps, better, an academic law librarian. Reading Mary Whisner's article, "Choosing Law Librarianship: Thoughts for People Contemplating a Career Move" is mandatory.²⁰ In fact, I urge readers to turn to her article now, for it is an absolute prerequisite to reading what follows below.²¹

The aspiring foreign and international law librarian must further consider other important matters. The main consideration is understanding and recognizing early on that the value of learning and knowledge supersedes that of money. While foreign and

Chicago Press, 2004. If I could give one gift to my colleagues who are foreign and international law librarians, it would be to introduce them to Professor Smith's work. See the list of his writings at the back of this work.

²⁰ <http://www.llrx.com/features/librarian.htm>.

²¹ In fact, one piece of solid advice I can offer is that if you are considering attending library school, I strongly urge you go look into the law librarianship program of the University of Washington. As a student, you will be given the opportunity to work with Mary in the University of Washington Law Library. For more information on the program see <http://lib.law.washington.edu/lawlibrarianship/index.asp>

international law librarians are paid a modest and fair income, they are called to stretch it very far, and cannot expect to have the necessary conferences and foreign travel funded by their employer institutions. It is imperative that foreign and international law librarians be frugal and creative in finding ways to pay for their professional educational and travel expenses.

Certainly, one expensive item is education. Several excellent foreign and international law librarians of my generation have proven that one does not need to go to law school to be an excellent foreign and international law librarian. It is today the standard, however, to have a law degree, and an LL. M. in international law would obviously prove immensely helpful. In fact, two of the three past international reference librarians at Yale have held Ph.D.'s! Many of us assume positions and then audit courses and attend lectures to expand our knowledge of foreign and international law. And if you are a self-starter there is no end to what can be learned reading.

The foreign and international law librarian also has to have significant expertise in computer skills. It is a haunting realization to this writer, that if he were becoming a librarian today, he would probably be deterred by his lack of aptitude with computers. One wonders if there is any young person who does not feel completely comfortable with computers. If there should be anyone, he or she should not contemplate entering the profession of law librarianship. No doubt, many more would agree with the young person interviewing for a reference position who said that he used a computer like a fountain pen.

A foreign and international law librarian should have an aptitude and proficiency for foreign language study. At Yale, this writer uses six languages (English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese) on a daily basis, and has formally studied, i.e., in an academic setting, thirteen. But there are many librarians

who are getting by on fewer, and there may be others who use more. My lack of Russian and other Slavic languages is frequently felt in the Yale context. I suspect that the next generation will probably be called upon to learn more specialized languages, such as Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.

In fact, as Chinese is spoken by one-sixth of the world's population, it would behoove all of us to learn it, especially American school children. To some extent, people choose languages based on the part of the country in which they wish to reside--Spanish in the South, Southwest, and West; Asian languages in the Northwest, and French and German, and to a lesser extent Italian and Spanish in the Northeast. Of course, there is no guarantee in what part of the country the next position will open, so it is best to study several! There are currently about six thousand languages in the world today to choose from, but they are disappearing at an alarming rate. Nevertheless, one can always study the dead ones such as ancient Greek and Latin.²²

Finally, there is the sociability factor to consider when becoming a foreign and international law librarian. Spending most of my eight hour day at the computer, at times I feel like I have melted into it. I talk to it, I curse it, I don't understand it very well, but it is probably my most intimate associate. This is not the ideal, and I am thankful for my few hours at the reference desk and in the classroom.

A foreign and international law librarian cannot be simply an anti-social nerd. A librarian needs to relate to faculty and students or other patrons. It can't all be business. Some of the most successful librarians I know play sports with their patrons. Presumably others could go drinking (my sport!) with their patrons. It is incumbent to get beyond the reference interview to determine

²² Ostler, Nicholas, Empires of the Word: A Language History of the World, London: HarperCollins, 2005, 7.

what really is of concern to our patrons--an especially important task for librarians who work with graduate students who are writing dissertations.

Foreign and international law librarians also need to feel comfortable in the classroom, speaking on their feet. We are called upon to make foreign and international legal research or whatever other subject we are teaching come alive for our students. (The writer co-teaches a course in Contemporary Legal Issues in Africa.) Some of us are more successful at this than others, but we should all recognize a responsibility to our students.

Thus, thriftiness and frugality, a passion for learning, an aptitude for languages and technology, an out-going personality, and a true concern for one's patrons are all requisite to becoming a foreign and international law librarian. Once you decide you have what it takes, how do you prepare, that is, outside of pursuing your library and law school educations.

Preparation/Education

The suggestions of Lyonette Louis-Jacque, Foreign and International Law Librarian at the University of Chicago d'Angelo Law Library, offered over a decade ago for the education of foreign and international law librarians prepared for the National Legal Resources Committee Planning Session on "Training the Future Generation of International and Foreign Law Librarians" remains quite useful. It should be reviewed by the prospective foreign and international law librarian, as it contains many good ideas and argues for a broad range of methods.²³

²³ Louis-Jacques, Lyonette, "Training the Next Generation of Foreign and International Law Librarians: Challenges of the Nineties and Beyond, An Issue Brief," in Wright, Judith, Training the Future Generation of International and Foreign Law Librarians, Chicago: American Association of Law Libraries, National Legal Resources Committee, 1992.

Given my love of books, I would argue that the best approach whether one is in college, library school, law school, or working in a law library aspiring to join this select field is self-study, perhaps under the guidance of a mentor. Those who are comfortable in a television/video culture can even begin by watching videos. These may be dated and will certainly need to be supplemented by new online resources, but they provide a good start. The American Society of International Law has produced a series of ten, 30 minute tapes each introducing the viewer to the substantive issues of international law.²⁴ Though they are now a decade old, they are still quite valuable. Also the revered Bob Berring, former Librarian of the Boalt Hall Law Library of the University of California at Berkeley, dedicated the 7th of his Commando Legal Research series to International Law, which addresses legal research skills.²⁵ Bob did a subsequent video-recording with Marci Hoffman, now international and foreign law librarian at Berkeley, which included a session on foreign law.²⁶

If you are a walker or a runner and listen to tapes, the programs of the American Association of Law Libraries are taped and can be found in your library or through interlibrary loan. Not that you couldn't listen to these tapes while you were perfectly stationery, even in bed!²⁷ The more recent programs may be found on the Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section web site, and for programs prior to 1995, one can consult Frank Houdek and Susan Goldner, AALL Annual Meetings: An Annotated Index of the Recordings.²⁸ The handouts that do not meet the deadline for the printing of the book of

²⁴ International Law Video Course, Primos, VA: WTL Productions, 1995.

²⁵ Berring, Bob, Commando Legal Research: Tape 7, International Law, Los Angeles: Legal Star Publications 1989-1990. There is also a research handbook.

²⁶ Berring, Robert C. and Marci Hoffman, Legal Reserch for the 21st Century: Advanced Research, St. Paul: West, 2001. Tape one is devoted to international law, while tape two addresses foreign law.

²⁷ Heather, our undergraduate library assistant upon reading this, asks if the tapes are available in MP3 format or for an IPOD—not to my knowledge, but I may be proven wrong.

²⁸ Frank G. Houdek and Susan D. Goldner, AALL Annual Meetings: An Annotated Index of the Recordings, Littleton, CO: F. B. Rothman, 1989-1997.

handouts will not appear there, and you will need to check with either the speaker or the coordinator of the program for them.

I must have seen the 1962 (my senior year in high school) movie “Days of Wine and Roses” at an impressionable age, for I still remember the protagonist, Kirsten Clay (played by Lee Remick), trying to better herself before falling victim to alcohol by reading through the Encyclopedia Britannica from A to Z.²⁹ There are three reference sets that lend themselves to this exercise and provide quite an education. In international law the Encyclopedia of Public International Law³⁰ should prove quite helpful; for foreign law, Reynolds and Flores, Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World,³¹ which is also online provides an excellent introduction to the legal systems of all of the major jurisdictions of the world, and many of the lesser ones, as well. For both foreign and international law, Germain’s Transnational Law Research,³² includes introductions to both international legal topics and foreign legal systems and provides a wealth of bibliography for further reading. It is a loose-leaf that is regularly updated.

A much less disciplined approach recommended by Mary Whisner is touring the stacks.³³ One can find all matter of useful,

²⁹ I confess having tried this several times in my life never to have made it past “Aardvark.” This powerful film can be seen on DVD, which is available through Amazon. Another riveting film from the same period is the 1965 film, “The Pawnbroker” with Rod Steiger. Having been reared in a sheltered environment, I grew up a lot watching it. I believe everyone should make it a part of their education.

Perhaps this approach is more feasible with single volume works. Four possible candidates come to mind: Walker, David, Oxford Companion to Law, New York: Oxford University Press, 1980; Grant, John P. and J. Craig Barker, Parry and Grant Encyclopaedic Dictionary of International Law, Dobbs Ferry, NY: Oceana, 2004; Boczek, Boleslaw A., International Law: A Dictionary, Lanham: MD, Scarecrow Press, 2005; and for the French readers, Alland, Denis, and Stephane Rials (eds.), Dictionnaire de la culture juridique, Paris: Presse Universitaire de France, 2003.

³⁰ Bernhardt, Rudolf (ed.), Encyclopedia of Public International Law, New York: North Holland, 1992-2003.

³¹ Reynolds, Thomas H. and Arturo A. Flores, Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World, Littleton, CO: F. B. Rothman, 1989-.

³² Germain, Claire M., Germain’s Transnational Law Research: A Guide for Attorneys, Ashley-on-Hudson, NY: Transnational Juris, 1991-.

³³ Whisner, “Practicing Reference”, *supra.* at 595-598.

intriguing, and yes even interesting books in the stacks. The novice foreign and international law librarian should make regular ventures into the stacks. With heavy demands placed upon us, and attached to our computers, it takes some discipline just to take these jaunts into the foreign and international law collection stacks.

For an introduction to the substantive issues of public international law, one can turn to Mark Janis, An Introduction to International Law,³⁴ or the nutshell on public international law written by Thomas Burgenthal and Sean D. Murphy.³⁵ Anthony Aust's newly published Handbook on International Law³⁶ provides a significantly more substantive treatment. The often cited, A Concise History of the Law of Nations by Arthur Nussbaum,³⁷ offers a survey of the history of international law until World War II. For a useful survey of private international law, one can turn to The International Lawyer's Deskbook.³⁸

An understanding of the historical development of the discipline is imperative for the new foreign and international law librarian. Marti Koskenniemi, The Gentle Civilizer of Nations: the Rise and Fall of International Law³⁹ offers an excellent overview. Several works discuss the discipline with respect to approaches, perspectives or schools. My favorite is Robert J. Beck, Anthony Clark Arend and Robert D. Vander Lugt, International Rules: Approaches from International Law and International Relations.⁴⁰ Two others are Steven Ratner and Anne-Marie Slaughter, The Methods of International Law⁴¹ and a publication emanating out of

³⁴ Janis, Mark W., An Introduction to International Law, 4th ed., New York: Aspen, 2003.

³⁵ Buergenthal, Thomas and Sean D. Murphy, Public International Law in a Nutshell, 3rd ed., St. Paul: West, 2002.

³⁶ Aust, Anthony, Handbook of International Law, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

³⁷ Nussbaum, Arthur, A Concise History of the Law of Nations, Rev. ed., New York: Macmillan, 1954.

³⁸ Low, Lucinda, Daniel Drory and Patricia Norton, The International Lawyer's Deskbook, Chicago: Section of International Law and Practice, American Bar Association, 2002.

³⁹ Koskenniemi, Marti, The Gentle Civilizer of Nations: The Rise and Fall of International Law, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

⁴⁰ Beck, supra at nt. 16.

⁴¹ Ratner, supra at nt. 16.

the Yale international law faculty, Oona Hathaway and Dean Harold Koh, Foundations of International Law and Politics.⁴²

With respect to international legal research, the business of foreign and international law librarians, we at Yale begin with Chapter 15 of Morris Cohen, Bob Berring and Kent Olson's How to Find the Law.⁴³ Now fifteen years old and growing older by the day, this has to be supplemented by both more current print guides and online research guides, but it affords an excellent orientation to international legal research before the advent of online resources. While one could hope for more discussion of research strategy and method, the George Washington University Journal of International Law and Economics, Guide to International Legal Research⁴⁴ is a wonderful up-to-date, well-organized compendium of international law sources. But for true erudition and a state of knowledge probably not attained by any foreign and international law librarian working in the United States, the new librarian might turn to Public International Law: A Guide to Information Sources by Elizabeth Beyerly,⁴⁵ formerly of the United Nations library in Geneva.

In addition to the print publications, there is a burgeoning list of research guides on the internet. For international law, perhaps the place to begin is with the ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law at www.asil.org. Here there are electronic guides to a number of international subjects: human rights, international commercial arbitration, international criminal law, international economic law, international environmental law, international intellectual property law, international organizations,

⁴² Hathaway, Oona and Harold Hongju Koh, Foundations of International Law and Politics, New York: Foundation Press, 2005.

⁴³ Chapter 15: "International Law" in Cohen, Morris L., Robert C. Berring and Kent C. Olson, How to Find the Law, 9th ed., St. Paul, MN: West, 1989.

⁴⁴ George Washington Journal of International Law and Economics, Guide to International Legal Research, 6th ed., Newark, NJ: Matthew Bender, 2005.

⁴⁵ Beyerly, Elizabeth, Public International Law: A Guide to Information Sources, London: Mansell, 1991.

