



**FOREIGN, COMPARATIVE,
& INTERNATIONAL LAW
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION**



“The object of the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Section shall be to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information of foreign, comparative, and international law; and to represent its members' interests and concerns within the AALL.”

– Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Special Interest Section (FCIL-SIS) Bylaws.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

FCIL librarians select and manage legal information on such diverse topics and in so many different languages that collectively we have a tremendous amount of knowledge about foreign and international laws and legal publications. When deciding how to limit or expand your foreign and international holdings, you may want examples of other libraries' collection plans or you may want to consult with a librarian who already collects materials for a jurisdiction that you need to develop.

The Foreign Selectors IG of the FCIL-SIS has compiled a sample collection profiles from number of libraries, at <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/about-us/committees-groups/foreign-selectors/>. To submit your FCIL collection policy, e-mail the Chair of the IG or the webmaster.

At <http://foreignlaw.wordpress.com> FCIL-SIS hosts a collaborative blog identifying foreign primary law in members' collections (updated as of 2010).

TEACHING RESEARCH SKILLS

Whether guest lecturing within firms, in law school seminars, or at local bar events—or even teaching semester-long classes—FCIL librarians design robust legal research curriculum and create presentations and activities to demonstrate legal research sources and strategies.

To get a sense of how much material to cover in a lesson, to be sure you know the full range of skills and content to teach, and to brainstorm about ways to teach a lesson, you may benefit from consulting another FCIL librarian's presentation or lesson plan. The FCIL-SIS compiles syllabi, lesson plans, and other course materials at <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/education-training/teaching-fcil/syllabi-course-materials-database/>. For mentoring or brainstorming, feel free to contact the Teaching Foreign & International Legal Research IG at <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/about-us/committees-groups/>, and check out its page.

We present programs on a variety of FCIL topics, sources, and strategies at the AALL Annual Meeting. Consult our running list of our past annual meeting programs is at <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/education-training/annual-meeting-programs/> where you may find interesting content ideas and presentation methods upon which to model your class lessons



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CONDUCTING RESEARCH

From reference desk questions to major research projects, an FCIL librarian's quest for foreign and international documents sometimes involves direct pleas for help. Post inquiries to the FCIL-SIS Community (for members only) (AALLNET-fcilsis@ConnectedCommunity.org) to get help from librarians from all over the United States and beyond. Also consider posting your inquiries to [Int-Law Listserv](#), [Law-Lib listserv](#), or the [IALL listserv](#).

Become part of the community by writing about your own experiences, whether collection development, instruction, or reference, share your ideas about research strategies, favorite sources, or other professional issues on our [DipLawMatic Dialogues Blog](#). Also check out our former, archived, [FCIL-SIS blog](#).

To help you get started researching an international, foreign, or comparative topic, consult our Jumpstart page at <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/resources-publications/research-resources/jumpstart/>. Other ways to get in touch with foreign law research specialists include contacting one of our past recipients of the [FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant for For Foreign Law Librarians](#); contact the Editor of [GloboLex](#); or contact the author(s) of the desired GloboLex article.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Your career can take many paths depending on the work you undertake as an FCIL librarian. Reading the FCIL SIS triannual newsletter (<https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/resources-publications/newsletter/>) offers current and historical information about the special interest section, its members, other FCIL librarians' outreach and involvement with foreign libraries and various international organizations.

In addition, the FCIL-SIS International Visits Committee has information about travel, official visits, and foreign exchanges opportunities at <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/about-us/committees-groups/international-visits/>. Becoming involved in one of the FCIL-SIS committees or interest groups can aid in developing your leadership, communication, and project organization skills, which can prove to be a useful management experience. See our list of committees and interest groups at <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/about-us/committees-groups/>.

Consider presenting a program at our annual meeting, publish an article in our newsletter, contribute to our blog, or publish in one of the other AALL publications (AALL Spectrum, LLJ) as a way to network and increase your own visibility. The FCIL-SIS provides guidance to interested members. Contact one of the officers <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/about-us/leadership/> for more information.