Ms. Irene Kraft is the Associate Library Officer at the International Criminal Court (ICC) Library, The Hague, Netherlands. She handles complex inquiries on foreign, comparative, and international criminal law, and provides reference services to staff, interns, and visiting fellows at the ICC, including the Office of the Prosecutor, Chambers, and Defense Counsel. She implemented the ICC publication archive, and, along with the ICC Head Librarian, developed the ICC Library Permanent Premises project.

Fluent in English, French, German, and Spanish, Ms. Kraft earned a M.A. in Library and Information Science at the University College London, United Kingdom. She also holds a M.S. in Policy Research from the University of Bristol, and a B.A. in Latin American Development Studies from the University of Portsmouth, where she graduated with honors and a Special Distinction in Spanish Language.

From 2008 to 2013, Ms. Kraft was a Reference Librarian, specializing in U.K. and Commonwealth law, at the Chilean Library of Congress. As part of the foreign legal reference team, she assisted members of Parliament and in-house researchers. She also co-authored a paper, Defining Effective Knowledge Management to Empower Citizens and Members of Parliament, for the 78th IFLA General Conference and Assembly in Helsinki.

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The FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians was founded in 2000 with matching contributions from Ellen G. Schaffer and the AALL. The Grant provides financial assistance to ensure the presence and participation of a foreign librarian at the AALL Annual Meeting.

Special thanks goes to the 2014-15 FCIL Schaffer Grant Selection and Fundraising Committees!

What Past Recipients Have to Say

2001 Recipient Sonia Battalova (Kyrgyz Republic) is the Director of Information Resources and Technology at American University of Central Asia: “[W]inning the Grant was a great step ahead in my professional career development.[J] The experience ...helped us...develop a network of law libraries [in] all regions in our country.”

2003 Recipient Emmanuel M. Darkey (Ghana) works at the University of Ghana Law Library—Faculty of Law: “The conference...greatly...improved my skills. [It] gave me encouragement and determination to do something new for my library. Now, my library has computers and online materials. I feel satisfied to see our students access valuable information.”

2007 Recipient, Cheng Zhen (China) works at the National Library of China: “The FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Librarians was so important for me; without it, I would never have had the opportunity to work with librarians from other countries.”

2008 Recipient Leanne Cummings (Australia) is the Australian National Library Manager: “…I have acquired a broader understanding of issues and trends in law libraries across the globe and [can now] anticipate similar challenges and or trends occurring within the Australian landscape.”

2009 Recipient Ahmadullah Masoud (Afghanistan) is Law Library and Legal Research Advisor at the US AID funded Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilisation Program: “Participation in the AALL conference, its workshops and trainings have proved to be vital and very fruitful for me, since regular training is non-existent in my country.”

2010 Recipient, Ufuomo Lamikanra (Nigeria) heads the Readers’ Services Section at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies at the University of Lagos in Nigeria: “By working closely with the contacts I have made at the conference, the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies is [cooperating] with a major U.S. legal publisher to preserve Nigerian legal materials...in the not too distant future. Nigerian legal materials and possibly some African legal materials will become more easily accessible to legal researchers on electronic databases.”

2011 Recipient, Gloria M. Orrego Hoyos (Argentina) is currently at the Biblioteca Max von Buch, Universidad de San Andrés in Buenos Aires: “[T]he exchange of experiences and informal talks with the different attendees gave me networking opportunities, which [are] very useful in promoting the cooperative efforts between the Max von Buch Library and other libraries’ associates ... Winning the grant was the high point of a journey that began years ago. As an immigrant, I always looked for an opportunity to legitimize my work and to publicize professional librarianship in Latin America.”

2012 Recipient Priya Rai (India) is the Deputy Librarian in Charge at the Justis T.P.S. Chawla Library, National Law University, Delhi, India: “AALL provided a platform to share digital initiatives being done by governmental and non-governmental organizations on legal information and research in India. The experience ... has strengthened [my] confidence and will help to disseminate[e] effective information exchange with my Indian colleagues.”

2013 Recipient Bård Sverre Tuseth (Norway) is an Academic Law Librarian at the University of Oslo Library in Oslo, Norway: “As a total package the AALL Annual Meeting is unmatched for professional development, sharing new ideas and improving law libraries. Not only do I consider myself very fortunate for having had the opportunity to attend, but my law library will also benefit from the many new ideas that I brought with me from Seattle. ... [Furthermore, my presentation on English sources for Norwegian law] provided a reminder of the need to facilitate access to national legal sources for those who may not have detailed knowledge of the jurisdiction, or do not know the language. Since Norway is such a small jurisdiction with only a handful of law libraries, this effort is something we will need to follow up on at the University of Oslo Law Library.”