

Foreign, Comparative and International Law SIS Annual Report 2017-2018  
August 31, 2018

The members of the Executive Board of the FCIL-SIS for 2017-2018 were Alison Shea (Past Chair), Alex Zhang (Chair), Catherine Deane (Vice Chair/Chair-Elect), and Sabrina Sondhi, (Secretary/Treasurer).

2017 to 2018 is a fruitful year for FCIL-SIS. Among the countless accomplishments we have achieved as a community in the past year, I would like to highlight the following:

### **Sharing and Collaborating**

One of the primary objects of our SIS is to “provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information of foreign, comparative and international law.” We continued to fulfill this goal in the last year through our quarterly [Newsletter](#), our [DipLawMatic Dialogues](#) blog, and our [online community](#). Electronic Research Interest Group led by Sherry Chen published a series of thoughtful reviews in our newsletter featuring some of the key FCIL resources: The Foreign Law Guide, The Globalex, The United Nations Treaty Collection, Hein’s World Constitution Illustrated, Hein’s World Treaty Library, Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals Case Law Database, and the Peace Palace Library.

Our Publicity Committee chaired by Alyson Drake and Susan Gaultier continued to develop and expand social media efforts to promote the SIS and encourage collaboration and information sharing online. In 2017, we attracted 12454 views, the record of which was surpassed in 2018 before the year’s halfway points. We are expecting to double the 2017 views by the end of 2018.

Latin-American Special Interest Group headed by Yasmin Morais published yet another gap-filling legal information literature on Cuban Law and Legal Research in the Summer 2017 issue of the International Journal of Legal Information.

We had a successful business meeting in Baltimore and all of our standing committees and interest groups met separately to discuss important updates and share new legal research information and resources. We also had several successful FCIL-related programming at the annual conference in the area of Jewish law, religious arbitration and private dispute settlement, FCIL teaching, Brazilian law librarianship, and FCIL metadata basics. For recaps, please check out our [DipLawMatic Dialogues](#) blog.

### **Outreach and Membership Expansion**

Our Publicity Committee continued to play a significant role in promoting our SIS and attracting new members through multiple efforts such as connecting with CORNELL attendees, setting up display posters at the Exhibit Hall, and promoting new members’ profiles through DipLawMatic Dialogues. Many members have helped promote our community formally and informally throughout of the year. As of August 30, 2018, we have a total of 297 members.

As an SIS, we always aim to make contributions to the entire (law) librarianship profession. Electronic Research Interest Group headed by Sherry Chen continued to update our [jump-start expert list](#), a list that includes FCIL research specialists who volunteer to help with FCIL research information inquiries.

In the past year, we reached out to the global community enthusiastically as always. The FCIL Schaffer Grant committee chaired by Mark Engsborg made an outstanding selection of the 2018 FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians recipient: Ms. [Daniela Reis](#), a law librarian from Brazil. We would like to acknowledge the generous contributions of our donors. Learn more about the [FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant](#). At the annual conference, we co-sponsored the International Attendees Joint Reception attracting many law librarians globally. Our members continued to be closely involved and make significant contributions to the profession in other international and national organizations.

### **Election**

Loren Turner was elected to be the vice chair/chair elect of FCIL-SIS for the 2018-2019/2019-2020 term.

### **Bylaws Amendment**

FCIL-SIS members met on Monday, July 16, 2018, at the annual business meeting. In the meeting, we discussed and voted on the Bylaws amendment. The Bylaws was successfully amended after the meeting incorporating both in-person and proxy votes.

### **Awards**

The Spirit of the FCIL-SIS award goes to Loren Turner, our incoming vice chair/chair-elect.

We delivered the well-deserved and long-term overdue Daniel L. Wade FCIL-SIS award to Victor Essien.

FCIL-SIS Reynolds & Flores Publication Award was presented to authors of the following two publications. Both publications benefit a broad audience in the law librarianship and fill a critical gap in the international and foreign law legal research field.

- Multinational Sources Compared: A Subject and Jurisdiction Index (co-authors: Sherry Leysen & Alena Wolotira, 2017)
- International legal research in a global community (co-authors: Heidi Frostestad Kuehl & Megan A. O'Brien, 2018)

For more details about award recipients and their accomplishments, please see the [AALL 2018 Recap: FCIL-SIS Awards](#) by Alex Zhang.

### **Strategic Plan 2018-2021**

During the business meeting, we discussed the 2018-2021 FCIL-SIS Strategic Plan drafted by the Strategic Planning Committee chaired by Paul Moorman. The Plan was approved by the Executive Committee and the EC is working on implementation. The Plan will be posted on our homepage soon.

Submitted by Alex Zhang on behalf of FCIL-SIS