

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Chair	2
FCIL Librarians Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic	5
Report on Covid-19 Response in Ireland	6
2020 Business Meeting Minutes	8
Committee and Interest Group Reports	11
Recent Member Publications	25

UPCOMING MEETINGS

AALS Annual Meeting, "The Power of Words," January 5-9, 2021 (Virtual).

ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits, January 22-26, 2021 (Virtual).

ASIL Annual Meeting, "Reconceiving International Law: Creativity in Times of Crisis," March 24-27, 2021 in Washington, DC.

FCIL Librarians Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Alison Shea

One of the most wonderful aspects of being part of the foreign, comparative, and international law (FCIL) librarian community is our incredible enthusiasm to disseminate information from all over the world. Although the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 has cancelled all of the in-person gatherings which many of us look forward to each year, the members of the FCIL-SIS have not sat idly by. From the very start of the pandemic, many of our members have engaged in a project which aims to gather information on how different countries have responded to the pandemic.

This article is intended to memorialize the development of this project, which will hopefully serve as a historical point of reference for future FCIL-SIS members. It will also serve as an introduction to the European Law IG's series of reports, with the first report on Ireland directly following the conclusion of this article.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE FCIL-SIS' IG RESPONSES TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

After ensuring the health and safety of our families and loved ones, and, for most of us, establishing a new work-from-home routine, some of our FCIL-SIS members embarked on a new initiative to track various countries' responses to COVID-19.

This initiative can be credited to Marcelo Rodriguez, Research and Training Librarian at the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. In his *DipLawMatic Dialogues* blog post of March 30, 2020, Marcelo stated that the impetus for tracking responses to COVID-19 came not only from his concern for family, friends and colleagues in Latin America, but also from the desire to highlight what was happening outside of our

own country. "I'd like to think that we have the expertise and the network to strive for a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding either right away or in the future," Marcelo said, "I hope this project achieves that and more."¹

Beginning almost at the very start of the COVID lockdown, the FCIL-SIS Latin American Law Interest Group and Latino Caucus started recruiting authors to monitor COVID-19 legal responses in the Latin America and Caribbean region. The first report covering Bolivia, Paraguay, and Peru was released on March 27, 2020; six more biweekly reports were posted on *DipLawMatic Dialogues* covering additional countries.²

In July 2020, the project switched from blog posts to new, stand-alone reports published on a dedicated website. These new reports feature collaborations between FCIL-SIS members and librarians working in the various Latin American countries; as of October 2020 there have been ten reports issued covering Bolivia, Brazil, Haiti, Martinique and Guadalupe, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, as well as regional overviews in some topics.³

¹ Marcelo Rodriguez, *Updates on COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru*, *DIPLAWMATIC DIALOGUES* (Mar. 30, 2020), <https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/2020/03/30/updates-on-covid-19-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-bolivia-paraguay-peru/> [https://perma.cc/F9NL-T6Q7].

² See "Biweekly Reports": <https://lawlibrariansmonitoringcovid19.com/2020/05/03/example-post-3/> [https://perma.cc/BJQ9-XBF8].

³ See "COVID-19 Reports on Latin America and the Caribbean" <https://lawlibrariansmonitoringcovid19.com/2020/05/03/example-post-3/> [https://perma.cc/BJQ9-XBF8].

From the Chair

Susan Gualtier

Hello, FCIL-SIS members and friends! Thank you so much for entrusting me with the office of Chair of the FCIL-SIS for the 2020-2021 term. I am so grateful to be serving you, especially during these unprecedented times. As we move forward, I want to reiterate that we are all facing new challenges and responsibilities, and that all of us need to prioritize self-care in addition to our work and professional development. As your Chair, I hope that you will reach out to me should you need any assistance during the coming year.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As I begin this term as Chair, I would like to thank Loren Turner for her incredible leadership over the past year. Anyone who has worked with Loren knows that she is a dedicated and passionate member of the FCIL-SIS, and her leadership, stamina, and grace under pressure were critical to our success in pivoting from an in-person conference to a virtual one this year. Loren will continue to serve as Past Chair in 2020-2021, and I could not be more excited to work with her. Additionally, I would like to thank Jennifer Allison for her service as Secretary/Treasurer. Jennifer will continue to serve in this office during the coming year.

Finally, please join me in welcoming Hunter Whaley to the Executive Committee as our new Vice Chair/Chair Elect. As is traditional for the Vice Chair, Hunter will also serve as Co-Chair of the Education Committee for the coming year. Hunter's commitment to the FCIL-SIS is evident in his past service, and I look forward to working with him this year.

AALL 2020 (Virtual Conference due to COVID-19): Programming & Events!

The Executive Committee thanks Dennis Sears, Co-Chair of the Education Committee, and everyone who created and submitted programs for the AALL annual meeting. Although we did not have the opportunity to meet in New Orleans as originally planned, your hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed. The Executive Committee especially recognizes Caitlin Hunter, Chair of our Continuing Education Committee, for her work in redesigning our preconference workshop, *Demystifying Civil Legal Systems for a Common*

Law Audience: Historical Traditions, Modern Developments, and Practical Research & Instruction Applications, for the virtual conference format. The workshop was a resounding success, and we are thrilled to have been able to bring you this carefully planned programming despite the current pandemic. Thank you to all who attended, and especially to our speakers who agreed to participate in the virtual format.

As a reminder, Powerpoint slides and other documents associated with FCIL programming at the AALL Annual Meetings (including preconference workshop programming) are available [on our FCIL-SIS site under the "education & training" tab](#). Thanks to Lucie Olejnikova, Chair of our Website Committee, for uploading these documents for our use and preservation!

Finally, thanks to the exceptional work of our Publicity Committee and its team of contributors, our blog, DipLaw-Matic Dialogues, has recaps of several AALL 2020 programs, including:

- [FCIL-SIS Civil Law Workshop Recap: The Role of Cases in Mixed and/or Civil Jurisdictions: Historical Traditions and Modern Developments](#), written by Melissa M. Hyland
- [FCIL-SIS Civil Law Workshop Recap: The Role of Civil Codes in France and Louisiana](#), written by Jessica Pierucci
- [AALL 2020 Recap: Fear and Loathing in Teaching Legal Research: Addressing Cultural Competence and Managing Implicit Bias](#), written by Sue Silverman

AALL 2019 (Washington, DC): Award Winners

At our business meeting during the AALL 2019 Annual Meeting, we were honored to give out a number of recognition awards.

Heidi Frostestad Kuehl received the [Daniel L. Wade Outstanding Service Award](#), which honors a FCIL-SIS member who has made outstanding contributions to the Section in the areas of section activity and professional service.

Heidi is the Director of the Northern Illinois University David C. Shapiro Memorial Law Library. Before her current position, she was the FCIL librarian and Associate Director at Northwestern Prizker School of Law Library. Despite her busy day job(s), Heidi consistently volunteers in service of the FCIL-SIS. She served as our webmaster back in 2005 and received a Spirit of the FCIL-SIS Award for her service in 2007. In 2008, she began serving a six-year tenure as a member of the FCIL-SIS executive board: Secretary/Treasurer (2008-2011); Vice Chair/Chair Elect (2011-2012);

continued on page 3

From the Chair *continued from page 2*

Chair (2012-2013); and Past Chair (2013-2014). She has served as a speaker for numerous FCIL-SIS sponsored programs, including last year's pre-conference workshop. Heidi is also quite prolific. She recently co-wrote a textbook with fellow FCIL-SIS member, Megan O'Brien, entitled *International Legal Research in a Global Community*. This book earned Heidi and Megan the 2018 Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo A. Flores FCIL-SIS Publications Award, which honors the FCIL-SIS member who has greatly contributed to the professional development of their AALL colleagues during any given year. Overall, Heidi's contributions to both the FCIL-SIS and the field of FCIL librarianship have indeed been exceptional. Congratulations, Heidi!

Thomas Mills received the [Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo A. Flores Publications Award](#), which honors a FCIL-SIS member who greatly contributes to the professional development of their AALL colleagues during any given year.

Thomas is the Director of the Kresge Law Library at the University of Notre Dame Law School. Before his current position, he was the Director of Collections and Faculty Services at Cornell Law Library. Thomas received the 2020 Reynolds & Flores FCIL-SIS Publication award due to his long tenure as the book review editor of the book review column in the *International Journal of Legal Information*. His efforts to recruit us to read FCIL books and write book reviews about those books certainly contributed to our professional development. Congratulations, Thomas!

[The Spirit of the FCIL-SIS Award](#) honors members whose work furthers our mission, serves the entire FCIL-SIS, and inspires others to act. This year, three FCIL-SIS members received Spirit Awards:

- **Caitlin Hunter.** Caitlin is a reference librarian at UCLA Law Library and the inaugural Chair of our FCIL-SIS Continuing Education Committee. Under Caitlin's leadership, the Continuing Education Committee has already produced several educational webinars for our members (satisfying Goal #1 of our FCIL-SIS Strategic Plan 2018-2021). Additionally, thanks to Caitlin's exceptional organization skills and tech competence, the FCIL-SIS workshop, *Demystifying Civil Legal Systems for a Common Law Audience: Historical Traditions, Modern Developments, and Practical Research & Instruction Applications*, occurred without a hitch (furthering Goal #2 of our FCIL-SIS Strategic Plan 2018-2021). Caitlin has plans to produce more webinars for our members in the upcoming year, so we can look

forward to those. In the meantime, join me in congratulating Caitlin!

- **Jessica Pierucci.** Jessica the research librarian for foreign, comparative, and international law at the University of California Irvine Law Library and co-Chair of our FCIL-SIS Publicity Committee, also received a Spirit of the FCIL-SIS Award this year. Jessica has done a phenomenal job maintaining the global reach of our FCIL-SIS blog, *DipLawMatic Dialogues*, and contributing to the blog with her own scholarship. Jessica also served as a moderator last December for a webinar on *Cross-Border Cultural Competency* (produced by the FCIL-SIS Continuing Education Committee). Thank you, Jessica and congratulations!
- **Marcelo Rodríguez.** Marcelo is the research and training librarian at the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the Chair of our Latin American Law Interest Group, received the third of our 2020 Spirit of the FCIL-SIS Awards. Marcelo is a recent member of the FCIL-SIS and he has already invigorated our Section with his energy and enthusiasm. His particular gift is to gather together librarians within and outside of the FCIL-SIS to create projects, programs, and webinars of interest to all. For example, he recruited and organized a group of law librarians to track government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America & the Caribbean. This project resulted in webinars and scholarship on the topic as well as inspiration for other FCIL-SIS jurisdiction interest groups, who initiated their own tracking projects related to their jurisdictions of focus. In addition to doing all that, Marcelo also regularly proposes and creates presentations for the AALL Annual Meeting on FCIL-related topics. He is a fantastic asset to our Section. Congratulations, Marcelo!

This year, the FCIL-SIS also introduced three new awards! We are excited to announce the inaugural winners:

The FCIL-SIS Blog Post of the Year Award is a new award that honors an AALL member who contributes an outstanding article for the FCIL-SIS blog, *DipLawMatic Dialogues*.

This year, **Alison Shea**, the Research & Instructional Law Librarian for Foreign, Comparative & International Law at Cornell University Library and Chair of our FCIL-SIS European Law Interest Group received the Blog Post of the Year Award with her article, [Locating UK and EU Guidance on Brexit](#). Congratulations, Alison!

The FCIL-SIS Newsletter Article of the Year Award is a new award that honors an AALL member who contributes an outstanding article for the FCIL-SIS Newsletter. **Julienne Grant**, the Reference Librarian/Foreign and Interna-

continued on page 4

From the Chair *continued from page 3*

tional Research Specialist at Loyola University Chicago School of Law Library, received the Newsletter Article of the Year Award this year with her prescient article, *An Introduction to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Legal Heritage & Carpenter v. Murphy*. Congratulations, Juliene!

The FCIL-SIS Committee/Interest Group Project of the Year Award is a new award that honors a FCIL-SIS Committee/Interest Group that produces an outstanding project for the benefit of FCIL-SIS and/or AALL members. Our **Latin American Law Interest Group**, chaired by **Marcelo Rodríguez**, received the FCIL-SIS Committee/Interest Group Project of the Year Award this year for its collaboration with the Latino Caucus to monitor the legal response in Latin America and the Caribbean. Congratulations to this consistently productive group for initiating this timely and collaborative project.

Congratulations to all of this year's award winners, and thank you for your dedication to the FCIL-SIS and for continuing to inspire and serve our membership!

BLACK LIVES MATTER AND TASK FORCE ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

In the wake of Black Lives Matter protests around the world this summer, the FCIL-SIS has stated unequivocally its full support of Black Lives Matter and the movement for change.

The FCIL-SIS is taking the following steps within our SIS to encourage Black voices to be heard and represented:

- We will create a Taskforce on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- We will memorialize our commitment to diversity in FCIL-SIS leadership through the Nominations Committee process.
- We will encourage SIS projects that explore issues of racial equality within FCIL.
- We will explore the ideas of: working with the Black Caucus on creating continuing education programming for FCIL-SIS members; organizing fundraisers in support of Black Lives Matter; and, if permitted, donating money from our SIS operating fund to an organization inside or outside AALL that champions Black law librarianship and/or racial justice.

To this end, the FCIL-SIS Executive Board is seeking volunteers/nominations for the position of Chair of our new Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, as well as

volunteers to serve as members of the Task Force. The Task Force purpose statement is as follows:

Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Chair of Task Force: TBA

Purpose: The purpose of the taskforce will be to develop the charge for a FCIL-SIS Standing Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and to identify opportunities for FCIL-SIS to support diversity initiatives within the organization and beyond. Such support will not be limited to financial support. The task force will submit the charge no later than June 1, 2021.

Term: 1 year (2020-2021)

The FCIL-SIS is committed to dismantling institutional racism and hopes to fill this position with a qualified and enthusiastic volunteer as soon as possible. If you would like to volunteer or to nominate an FCIL-SIS member for the position, please contact me directly at sgua@law.upenn.edu. If you are nominating someone other than yourself, please be sure to check with that person first to be sure that they would be willing to serve in the chair position if selected.

The Executive Committee also welcomes any and all ideas regarding other actions we can take within our SIS. Please contact any member of the FCIL Executive Committee to discuss your ideas for change. Thank you for your attention to this important issue and for your continued support.

FINAL COMMENTS

This has been an interesting year, to say the least, and I want to thank all of you again for your flexibility, hard work, and positivity in the face of the global pandemic and the host of other challenges that 2020 has placed before us. Your continued enthusiasm for the work that we do, as well as your genuine friendship, empathy, and support, have been an inspiration to me over the past few months and are often the things that keep me moving forward when things look most bleak. I hope that the FCIL-SIS will serve as a beacon for all of you during difficult moments, and I am humbled by the opportunity to serve as your Chair during what will surely be a most unusual term.

Last but not least, special thanks to our Newsletter Co-Editors, Melissa Abernathy and Janet Kearney, and Copy Editor, Carmen Valero, for their excellent work on the FCIL Newsletter, which is the archive of our SIS. Melissa and Janet are always looking for submissions, so please contact them at mabernathy@sandiego.edu and jkearney15@fordham.edu, respectively, if you wish to contribute.

FCIL Librarians Respond *continued from page 1*

Following the very positive reception of the Latin American IG's biweekly reports, Alex Zhang and Sherry Chen, co-Chairs of the Asian Law IG, began soliciting volunteers for a similar project covering Asian countries in May 2020. The purpose of this project was to "utilize the wisdom of the crowd to capture and track primary and secondary legal resources related to Asian countries' and jurisdictions' legislative, regulatory and judicial responses to the COVID-19 crisis."⁴

As of the writing of this article, the Asian Law IG has issued three Newsletters: one in June,⁵ July,⁶ and August.⁷ Additional Newsletters are forthcoming and will be publicized via the *DipLawMatic Dialogues* blog.

Given the groundswell of support and interest in these projects, the Continuing Education Committee, headed by Caitlin Hunter, put together a webinar in June 2020 which featured reports from the Latin American IG and the Asian Law IG. However, as the FCIL-SIS has two additional jurisdiction-specific Interest Groups – the African Law IG and European Law IG – invitations were extended to the Chairs of these two groups to participate in the webinar. Both Chairs accepted, and on June 18, 2020, the FCIL-SIS hosted a two-webinar series entitled "Law Librarians Combatting Infodemic During the COVID 19 Pandemic". One webinar was solely dedicated to the work of the Latin American IG,⁸ and the other covered the work of the Asian Law IG as well as updates from myself on behalf of the European Law IG, and updates on Africa from Yemisi Dina, Chair of the African Law IG, and Mariya Badeva-Bright from LawsAfrica.⁹

In addition to the recordings, copies of the presentations¹⁰ and a handout with recommended readings were also made available.¹¹

THE EUROPEAN LAW IG'S WORK

After being invited to participate in the Webinar, I felt that it would be both useful and important to solicit the assistance of any interested European Law IG member. Although we had not previously had any formal reporting, in anticipation of the webinar I sent out an email to the FCIL-SIS European Law IG listserv soliciting written contributions.

As will be clear to anyone who has read the reports from the Latin American IG and Asian Law IG, each IG has taken a unique, but similar, approach in what and how they are reporting. So, too, did I choose to create a unique format for

the European countries, asking country authors to format their report in two sections:

1. A brief narrative of the current situation relating to the regulation of COVID-19 in the country, including which agencies/departments/governmental entities are currently working on the crisis; a short description of how public health regulation works in that country; and information on how jurisdiction affects the regulation of public health.
2. A bullet-point list of the relevant websites that a legal researcher would want to consult

As you will see from Janet Kearney's report on Ireland (*infra*), these reports are aimed at providing a basic resource to researchers looking for information on how countries around the world are responding (legally) to COVID-19. Further reports from countries such as Belgium, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and others, are forthcoming shortly and will be posted on the *DipLawMatic Dialogues* blog. Discussions between the various IG Chairs on other repositories to archive these reports are also happening, so please stay tuned! I am especially grateful to all of the members of the European Law IG who responded to the call for

⁴ AALL FCIL-SIS Asian Law Interest Group, Asian Legal Responses to COVID-19, <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/about-us/committees-groups/asian-law/> [https://perma.cc/LZJ2-QC8L].

⁵ ASIAN LEGAL RESPONSES TO COVID-19 NEWSLETTER (FCIL-SIS Asian Law Interest Group), June 1, 2020, <https://online.fliphtml5.com/sftde/flyu/#p=1> [https://perma.cc/33PW-3FPX]

⁶ ASIAN LEGAL RESPONSES TO COVID-19 NEWSLETTER (FCIL-SIS Asian Law Interest Group), July 1, 2020, <https://online.fliphtml5.com/sftde/vyri/> [https://perma.cc/K8VF-XL7C].

⁷ ASIAN LEGAL RESPONSES TO COVID-19 NEWSLETTER (FCIL-SIS Asian Law Interest Group), Aug. 1, 2020, <https://online.fliphtml5.com/sftde/etzk/#p=1> [https://perma.cc/BBB3-8H6A].

⁸ AALL FCIL-SIS Continuing Education Committee, Law Librarians Combatting Infodemic During the COVID 19 Pandemic: Latin America and the Caribbean, YOUTUBE (June 18, 2020), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GO-Ek4Khfw&feature=youtu.be>

⁹ AALL FCIL-SIS Continuing Education Committee, *Law Librarians Combatting Infodemic During the COVID 19 Pandemic: Africa, Asia, and Europe*, YOUTUBE (June 18, 2020), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dd0PbHBSgkc&feature=youtu.be>; see also Jessica Pierruci, *Webinar Recap – Law Librarians Combatting Infodemic During COVID-19: Asia, Europe, Africa*, DIPLAWMATIC DIALOGUES (June 30, 2020), <https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/2020/06/30/webinar-recap-law-librarians-combatting-infodemic-during-covid-19-asia-europe-africa/> [https://perma.cc/3MNR-VTW6].

¹⁰ Africa, Asia and Europe webinar presentations here: <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2020/06/Law-Librarians-Monitoring-COVID-19-Africa-Asia-and-Europe.pdf> [https://perma.cc/FR9R-PJR7]; and Latin American & the Caribbean webinar presentations here: <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2020/06/Law-Librarians-Monitoring-COVID-19-Americas.pdf> [https://perma.cc/XDE9-XNLX].

¹¹ <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2020/06/Law-Librarians-Monitoring-COVID-Handout.pdf> [https://perma.cc/HG7B-845R].

FCIL Librarians Respond *continued from page 5*

report authors, and look forward to highlighting their work over the coming weeks!

CONCLUSION

In addition to new reports being issued by the various IGs, discussions between the IG Chairs on where to archive these reports are also taking place, so please stay tuned for further developments. And of course, the FCIL-SIS efforts are among many currently happening throughout the world in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. One site of note to consider alongside the FCIL-SIS IG's various reports is the COVID-19 Law Lab initiative < <https://covidlawlab.org>>. This project, which aims to gather and shares legal documents on COVID-19 from over 190 countries, is a collaboration between the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law and Georgetown University.

Although we do not yet know what the end of this pandemic will look like, it is clear that the FCIL-SIS members – along with the global legal information community – will continue to work on gathering, curating, synthesizing, and disseminating relevant information to be accessed for free by anyone in the world who needs it. The members of the FCIL-SIS responded when the need arose; that is something we can all be proud of.

Submissions For Next Issue

FCIL Newsletter is looking for submissions for our next issue.

ARTICLES

Conference reports, library visits, exhibit descriptions, resource reviews, member news, etc. Open call for authors.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

February 1, 2021

QUESTIONS?

Contact [Melissa Abernathy](#).

Report on Covid-19 Response in Ireland

Janet Kearney

SUMMARY

Ireland had its first confirmed case 29 February 2020, and the government shut down schools (12 March) and bars (15 March) leading up to a larger “Stay at Home” order issued by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar on 27 March mandating work from home where possible.¹ On 18 May, the roadmap to reopen the economy was published.² On 29 June,³ the country entered Phase 3 of reopening, still encouraging people to work from home where possible and mandating masks in retail and public transportation; museums, cinemas, and things like child care camps were open but had limits on the number of participants and must use social distancing.⁴ Phase 4 was scheduled to begin 10 August,⁵ but restrictions were eased in some counties, while others saw more restrictive measures put into place.

By 15 September, the government moved to a system of various levels of restriction on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the most restrictive.⁶ The plan, designed to help the country “live with COVID”, began with all counties at a Level 2,

¹ Public Health Measures in Place until 5 May to Prevent Spreading COVID-19, Dep't of Health & Dep't of the Taoiseach (Apr. 1, 2020), <https://web.archive.org/web/20200416202044/https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/cf9b0d-new-public-health-measures-effective-now-to-prevent-further-spread-o/?referrer=/en/publication/539d23-stay-at-home-the-latest-public-health-measures-to-prevent-the-spread/>.

² Government Publishes Roadmap to Ease COVID-19 Restrictions and Reopen Ireland's Society and Economy, Dep't of the Taoiseach (May 29, 2020), <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/c5e599-government-publishes-roadmap-to-ease-covid-19-restrictions-and-reopen/>.

³ Note that on 27 June, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar was succeeded by Micheál Martin when a new government was convened following a February 2020 election. Marie O'Halloran, Micheál Martin to Prioritise Fight against Covid-19 as Leaders React, Irish Times (June 27, 2020), <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/miche%C3%A1l-martin-to-prioritise-fight-against-covid-19-as-leaders-act-1.4290661>. Varadkar now serves as Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

⁴ Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business, Dep't of the Taoiseach & Dep't of Health (July 15, 2020), <https://www.gov.ie/en/news/58bc8b-taoiseach-announces-roadmap-for-reopening-society-and-business-and-u/>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ What's in the Government's medium-term plan for living with Covid?, RTE News (Sept. 15, 2020), <https://www.rte.ie/news/2020/0915/1165322-living-with-covid-summary/>.

⁷ Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19, Dep't of the Taoiseach, <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/resilience-recovery-2020-2021-plan-for-living-with-covid-19/> (last updated Oct. 9, 2020).

continued on page 7

Response in Ireland *continued from page 6*

planning to allow the government to place restrictions by county. (For example, when this plan was announced, Dublin was subject to extra restrictions.)⁷ At Level 2, there is indoor dining, religious services and museums can be open, but all have restrictions on the number of people allowed. After experiencing a large surge in cases, the government moved all of Ireland to Level 3, with additional restrictions in Dublin and Donegal; as of 14 October, that is scheduled to last through 27 October.⁸ At Level 3, religious services and indoor cultural activities move online, and there are increased restrictions on indoor dining.

Several groups have been formed across the national government to coordinate between health executives, experts, and government officials.⁹ The National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHEM), under the Department of Health, provides guidance and implementation strategies.¹⁰ The Department of Health (An Roinn Sláinte) is the main government body issuing statutory instruments and guidance, along with the Department of the Taoiseach.¹¹ The NPHEM is supported by special subgroups, and works with officials from the public health service, the Health Service Executive.¹² From the executive, the Cabinet Committee, headed by the Taoiseach, is supported by the Senior Officials Group, made up of senior executive department officials.¹³ There is a single Communications Group to spearhead the publication and sharing of decisions and information agreed to by these groups.¹⁴

Note that the government continues to update the same webpages and remove old information, rather than archiving. For older versions, try copying the URL into the Way-Back Machine at <https://archive.org/web/>.

RELEVANT WEBSITES

- General government landing page: <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c36c85-covid-19-coronavirus/> → Links to the latest statistics and updates, reopening information, current health guidance, etc.
- Statutory Instruments Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/1f150-view-statutory-instruments-related-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>
- Guidelines for Re-Opening Pubs, Fáilte Ireland: <https://covid19.failteireland.ie/business-supports/business-reopening/pubs/guidelines-for-re-opening/>

TRACKING NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- Government latest updates: <https://www.gov.ie/en/news/7e0924-latest-updates-on-covid-19-coronavirus/> → latest news, guidance, regulations, etc.
- Irish Times Coronavirus Section: <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/health/coronavirus>. Note the COVID-19: Lives Lost page, <https://www.irishtimes.com/covid-19-lives-lost>, a series of articles focused on the victims of the pandemic.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Government Publishes National Action Plan on COVID-19, Dep't of the Taoiseach (March 16, 2020), <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/47b727-government-publishes-national-action-plan-on-covid-19/> [hereinafter, National Action Plan].

¹⁰ Fiach Kelly, *Who Are the NPHEM members overseeing Ireland's Response to COVID-19?*, Irish Times (Apr. 30, 2020), <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/who-are-the-nphet-members-overseeing-ireland-s-response-to-covid-19-1.4241823>.

¹¹ Statutory Instruments related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dep't of Health (July 18, 2020), <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/1f150-view-statutory-instruments-related-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

¹² National Action Plan, *supra* note 7.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

Minutes of AALL FCIL-SIS Business Meeting, July 22, 2020

Jennifer Allison

Minute-taker: Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Allison
(jallison@law.harvard.edu)
Meeting started 4:03 pm Eastern

Loren Turner introduced herself as the chair, started the meeting and welcomed the more than 40 people in attendance.

She reminded us that there is a reason for optimism in our locked-down, virtual world: in the last 3 days we have had unprecedented numbers of people who were interested in, and attended, our events:

- African Law IG = 46 registered
- Carlig = 104 registered
- Webinar = 160 registered, average attendance was 125 people actually attending that meeting
- Informal meetings – numbers were also unprecedented

She named several advantages that have emerged in this format: meeting new people, no competition with other programs and no running around a convention venue.

Introduction of outgoing executive committee

- Susan Gualtier = Vice Chair, Chair Elect
- Jennifer Allison = Secretary/Treasurer
- Catherine Deane = Immediate Past Chair

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. Posted **minutes** from October 2019 newsletter, motion to approve and seconded.

2. **Secretary/Treasurer Report** given by Jennifer.

3. **African Law IG report by Yemisi Dina.** They are working on the repository of African law primary source holdings and applying for a grant to make a searchable database. Yemisi participated in COVID-19 webinar. News about African law librarian association – Yemisi is looking forward to working with them and mentoring them, and will reach out to us for help. They do not have a website but they are active on social media. Suggestions regarding software for African holdings project? Please reach out. African Law IG interest group meeting was recorded and is available to anyone who registered or still registers.

4. **Asian law Interest Group report by Alex Zhang.**

They were not too busy this year until after COVID outbreak. Their ongoing project is documenting Asian national legal responses to COVID, two newsletters have been re-

leased so far. That will be the focus of the upcoming year as well, and they plan to implement changes suggested by members in the meeting this morning. They need volunteers to help with that project! Also considering reviving a survey like the African Law IG – mapping the Asian law collections, continuing the work started by Evelyn Ma at Yale about 5 years ago. They also participated in Caitlin's COVID panel discussion. They desperately need volunteers!

5. **CARLIG report by Lyo Louis-Jacques.** The Customary and Religious Law Interest Group met on July 20th and had a great program. Speakers: Yemisi on African customary Law; David Hollander from Princeton and Marylin Raisch discussed Jewish law. One attendee suggested we do something about Buddhism and the law. Hopeful to get this person to develop some content (web, bibliography). Would also like to do something related to COVID and religious communities (Catholicism). Please contact Lyo so that they can do more next year!! CARLIG meeting was also recorded, will be available to registrants.

6. **European Law IG report by Alison Shea.** The group did not meet this year. They plan to do something similar to Asian and Latin American groups – responses of different European countries to COVID. They also participated in the webinar with contributions from Euro specialists. They are ready with about 9 European country reports. Another thing planned is a podcast series. If anyone is interested and not on European IG list, contact Alison and she will add you to the list.

7. **ERIG (Electronic Research Interest Group) report by Erin Gow.** They met earlier this afternoon and discussed ongoing projects. A major project is resource reviews in the FCIL newsletter. For any reviews missed, they are available on the website. Also, thanks to Lyo for help with list of online discussion forums update. Current project – updating jumpstart list on the website in a time-efficient way. Volunteers needed!

8. **Foreign Law Selectors report by Marci Hoffman.** Their meeting was also today. Resolutions – COVID, collection development, and equity related to online materials. Time to educate the rest of the FCIL colleagues and others in AALL. Reports from LLMC, Law Library of Congress, LA law library will come out as written reports.

continued on page 9

Business Meeting Minutes *continued from page 8*

9. **Indigenous Law Interest Group report by Joan Polcastri.** They had a small group meet this morning that went over the expansion of KI classification over Latin America. They have invited people to pick a topic and make contributions to FCIL newsletter, which they have been doing. Marylin Raisch established the group 10 years ago, thank you! That meeting was recorded.

10. **Latin American Law IG report by Marcelo Rodríguez.** Marcelo is thrilled to be here! Major project – COVID legal response in Latin America. Another round of biweekly reports will start again at the end of July, bringing on board librarians who work in the region. They are grateful to Loren and Caitlin for making the COVID webinar happen because it really increased the visibility and interest among librarians outside the US.

11. **Roman Law IG report by Marylin Raisch.** Thank you to FCIL for opportunity to participate in the civil law workshop! They have also worked with the legal history and rare books workshop, so it was great to work with FCIL this year. Marylin created bibliographies and put them in a “box” folder (link was sent out during the workshop). Interesting to explore how ancient people addressed topics.

12. **Teaching FCIL Research IG report by Paul Moorman and Amelia Landenberger.** This group had two goals this year, almost finished one of them (pandemic definitely impacted ability to accomplish things). Syllabi database updated, but has not been re-organized yet. Shoutout to many people who submitted syllabi and course materials. They decided to not to have the Teaching FCIL Roundtable this year. They may do one later in the year and will have one next year.

13. **Education Committee by Susan Gualtier and Dennis Sears.** They had 11 draft programming proposals, several did get in, including the civil law workshop. Then the entire conference was moved online and they were faced with dilemma of moving them online: two of them were, as well as the workshop (shoutout to everyone who organized and gave presentations). It was an incredible year for education.

14. **Schaffer Grant selection committee report by Mark Engsborg.** There were 22 applications this year from 17 different countries. Then the COVID situation happened and they decided to cancel bringing a foreign visitor to the US this year. They asked all applicants to watch again for next year, and many will re-apply. The maximum amount of the grant was raised from \$2500 to \$3000, and got a bit

more flexibility in ability to pay for a few more things in advance. This is helpful for participants who have to pay out of pocket, which would be a full-year’s salary for some people.

15. **Schaffer Grant fundraising committee report by Sherry Leysen.** Tough year for fundraising. They check in with the prior year recipient every year, will include that information in the newsletter report. Would like to acknowledge the service of Dan Wade, who volunteered for the committee in 2016 and was a great friend to the person who comes. Would also like to acknowledge and thank Ellen Schaffer, who is here today.

16. **Publicity Committee report by Jessica Pierucci.** The blog had 21,000 views and 91 posts in 2019. On track to continuing to have lots of outreach for the committee. Posts are being read by members and other people from around the world. Major contributors – Janet Kearney (new librarian series), Amy Flick, Jonathan Pratter (from the reference desk), Loren Turner (members of the month), coverage of various conference (IALA, AALL, ASIL, many other smaller conferences like IFLA, BIALA etc.). Did not have an exhibit hall exhibit this year, but looking forward to continuing that tradition next year. Thank you to Alyson Drake for her fantastic work as co-chair in the past, looking forward to Marcelo Rodríguez joining as co-chair this year.

17. **International Visits Committee report by Alex Zhang.** There is a long list of action items for the coming year. They are pursuing the idea of virtual visits, especially due to COVID, so that people can learn about other libraries. They need to update their current list of libraries who are willing to host. They are always looking for testimonials, so if you have been in an exchange or visit, please let them know so that they can put testimonials on their website.

18. **Continuing Education committee report by Caitlin Hunter.** Thank you to everyone who has participated in their webinars because they always surpass expectations!
19. **Nominating Committee – Gabriela Feminia.** Grateful for help of Amy Emerson and Kurt Carroll, and suggestions have been especially vigorous. Going forward – they will have a running list of people who have expressed interest in leadership, now or in the future.

20. **Newsletter – Melissa Abernathy.** Janet Kearney will be added as a co-editor this year. The newsletter is published three times per year. Please send IG reports by October 1.

continued on page 10

Business Meeting Minutes *continued from page 9*

21. Website committee report by Lucie Olejnikova.

They have been very busy, working with almost everyone in the background and making the website up to date. The migration allowed for universal review and update to all website pages. Pages are regularly updated, visiting these pages is a good way to get involved. Email all updates to Lucie, including new work that you are doing that you want to highlight.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.** See listserv post sent by Loren earlier this Spring called “FCIL-SIS Statement on Black Lives Matter.” The executive committee has approved the task force and Catherine Deane will become chair of it, as she is rotating off the executive committee. Deane invited anyone who is interested in participating to contact her. We are seeing social radicalism, and we want to consider projects that consider economic radicalism as well, especially given the corporate responses to the current moment. Let’s get started and see if we can make a difference, get into good kind of trouble (John Lewis).

2. **Remembering Dan Wade.** We had a moment of silence for Dan, who passed away in May 2020. The next agenda item was the issuing of awards, and it was remembered that Dan loved presenting the “newest FCIL librarian” award. A special edition of the FCIL-SIS newsletter, dedicated to Dan, is now available on the website. We received over 50 submissions sharing the memories of Dan that are published in the newsletter. Compilation team – Jennifer Allison, Loren Turner, Lucie Olejnikova, Melissa Abernathy, and Carmen Valero.

3. **Welcoming our newest colleague!** We normally ask all of our newest colleagues to stand up and share when they officially became an F&I librarian. Since we are meeting over Zoom, asked all of our new colleagues who have become F&I librarians in the last year to please write in the chat the month they assumed this position. (*No responses, could be because the meeting ran late.*)

4. **Awards** This year, the awards were determined and announced earlier than normal so that recipients’ names could be in the AALL awards brochure. The brochure was released at the beginning of the conference last week. Thank you to Dennis Sears for acquiring the physical awards and arranging to have them sent to the recipients this year!

- Dan Wade Award = Heidi Kuehl
- Reynolds and Flores Publication Award = Thomas Mills
- Spirit Award = Caitlin Hunter, Jessica Pierucci, Marcelo

Rodríguez

- Blog Post of the Year = Alison Shea
- Newsletter Article of the Year = Julienne Grant (there is a sequel, longer piece, in LRSQ)
- IG Committee Project of the Year = Latin American IG (Marcelo Rodríguez)

5. **ASIL (American Society of International Law) update by Marylin Raisch.** A Contemporary Human Rights and AI research program was presented virtually, presenters were Jootaek Lee and Jenny Gesley (EU). Also, the newsletter has been revised: The Informer (edited by Jootaek Lee). The EISIL database is going to emerge again after several years of not being updated. They are hoping that research guides can be migrated onto ASIL insights platform and archived. The Jus Gentium award went to GlobaLex. Heidi Kuehl has proposed a program for next year: treaties that we decide we no longer want to be a part of. Librarians have made a lot of progress in ASIL.

6. **IALL update by Mark Engsborg.** The 2019 conference was in Sydney last October, Law Down Under – Australia’s Legal Landscape. There were great substantive programs. Sydney is a fabulous city. Rosemarie Rodgers, 2017 Schaffer Grant winner, was at the conference. This year was to be in Toulouse, France, and will be postponed and year. Funds are a problem for everyone, so start saving.

7. **IFLA update by Anne Burnett.** They had a call this morning. The meeting was supposed to be in Dublin in a few weeks and got canceled. Heather Casey was supposed to have a program. Next year the conference will be in Rotterdam. 2022 was scheduled to be in New Zealand, so they have rescheduled Dublin for 2022. Work includes advocacy issues on access to laws throughout the world.

8. Final Parliamentary Procedure: Loren Turner, Susan Gaultier, Hunter Whaley

Loren passed the gavel to Susan, Susan passed off the parliamentary procedure book to Hunter as the incoming Chair (all virtual). Susan gave her thanks. This will not be the term that she expected to serve, but it is a privilege to lead this group during a time of such innovation. Her primary goal is to not cause anyone any extra stress, because no one needs that.

No further new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 pm Eastern.

E-Resources IG (ERIG) Report

Erin Gow

ERIG met virtually on July 22, 2020 to discuss the group's direction for the next year.

In the previous year, the group has published four resource reviews in the FCIL Newsletter, with another due to be published in October. Many thanks to everyone who contributed reviews in 2020, and a special thanks to Jessica Pierucci who contributed two!

2020 Resource Reviews:

- HeinOnline's Multinational Sources Compared by Sherry Chen
https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2020/02/FCIL_vol34no2_February2020.pdf
- Library of Congress, International Tribunals Archive by Jessica Pierucci
https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2020/02/FCIL_vol34no2_February2020.pdf
- China Law Translate by Alex Zhang
https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2020/06/FCIL_vol34no3_May2020.pdf
- HUDOC by Erin Gow
https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2020/06/FCIL_vol34no3_May2020.pdf
- OUP Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law by Jessica Pierucci forthcoming in October newsletter

In September 2019, shortly after the last annual meeting, Erin Gow and Lyonette Louis-Jacques updated the list of online discussion forums on the FCIL webpage (<https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/resources-publications/research-resources/online-discussion-forums/>).

A survey was distributed in May 2020 to solicit updates to information for the JumpStart page (<https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/resources-publications/research-resources/jumpstart/>). Twenty responses were received and the group is now working on integrating those updates into the existing JumpStart list.

Publicity Committee Report

Jessica Pierucci

The Publicity Committee had a busy year focusing on soliciting, formatting, and uploading regular content to DipLaw-Matic Dialogues blog. Given the virtual format of the AALL Annual Meeting, the committee did not prepare the FCIL-SIS Exhibit Hall exhibit; but we plan to continue this tradition for future in-person meetings, with the tremendous help of Katie Siler.

The blog had just shy of 21,000 views and 91 posts published in 2019. By the time of the July 2020 FCIL-SIS Business Meeting, the blog had nearly 12,000 views and 49 posts published in 2020, well on the way to as many if not more views and posts than 2019. Also as of the business meeting, the top five posts of the past 365 days each had over 500 views, and the top thirty-seven posts each had over 100 views.

The committee would like to particularly thank our 2019-2020 regular scheduled contributors who make these views possible. Janet Kearney wrote for the New FCIL Librarian Series. Amy Flick and Jonathan Pratter both wrote for From the Reference Desk. Loren Turner continued the Member of the Month feature. Many additional volunteers helped recap IALL, AALL, IFLA, KALL, BIALL, and the brand new Association of African Law Library and Information Professionals conferences and meetings, along with webinars hosted by the new FCIL-SIS Continuing Education Committee. In light of COVID-19, the blog also featured the excellent work of FCIL-SIS Interest Groups tracking pandemic developments worldwide. We also featured a wide array of one-off posts on topics of interest to FCIL librarians throughout the year.

A huge thanks goes to Alyson Drake whose tremendous work as FCIL-SIS Publicity Committee co-chair for the past few years made the blog and committee what it is today!

If you would like to contribute a post for the blog, or have anything else to share with the 2020-2021 committee, please reach out to continuing co-chair, Jessica Pierucci, jpierucci@law.uci.edu, and new co-chair, Marcelo Rodriguez, marcelo_rodriguez@ca2.uscourts.gov.

Schaffer Grant Selection Committee Report

Mark Engsborg

Committee Members:

Mark Engsborg, Chair
Sherry Leysen
Hunter Whaley
Joseph Hinger

The Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians Committee began the process of selecting a grant winner for the 2020 AALL Conference to be held in New Orleans, LA, from Saturday, July 11, 2020 to Tuesday, July 14, 2020. The committee divided up geographic areas and marketed the grant opportunity to legal information professionals all over the world.

The closing date for Schaffer Grant applications was C.O.B. Friday, February 14, 2020. I'm pleased to say that we received **a total of 22 applications!** This is the largest number of applicants in a number of years. I believe we would have had even more applicants if the coronavirus had not already become such a major problem, as it was even then, particularly in Asia. The applicants we did receive were geographically diverse. Africa was particularly well-represented, and I was very pleased to have received four applications from Latin America, an area rich in legal traditions, but from which we have historically received relatively few applications.

The committee received applications from the following jurisdictions:

- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Canada (2)
- Chile (2)
- Colombia
- Germany
- Ghana
- India (2)
- Kenya
- Mexico
- Nigeria (2)
- Russia (2)
- Singapore
- South Africa (2)
- Tanzania
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Uganda

FCIL-SIS rules state that there must be at least 5 years be-

tween grant winners from the same country/jurisdiction, so that eliminated the two applicants from South Africa (our winner for 2019 was Maria Bedeva-Bright from South Africa). The other applications from countries with past grant winners were India (awarded 2012), Nigeria (awarded 2010), and Ghana (awarded 2003). As those countries had grant winners more than 5 years ago, we were free to consider this year's applicants from those countries. Unfortunately, the committee never deliberated and selected a grant winner for 2020.

Shortly after the grant application period closed, the novel coronavirus pandemic gained stronger footholds in Europe, the United States, and other areas around the world, and was spreading rapidly. Travel restrictions were put into place by many governments and throughout institutions of higher education in the US. This naturally led to doubt about whether the AALL Annual Conference would proceed or be cancelled, as so many other national and international meetings and conferences had already been cancelled or postponed. After much deliberation, the FCIL-SIS Executive Committee, in consultation with the FCIL Schaffer Grant Selection Committee, made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians due to the pandemic.

Naturally, we were all extremely disappointed. This was a difficult decision to make. The FCIL Schaffer Grant is an incredibly important event for the FCIL-SIS and AALL and it is one of our favorite ways to recognize and celebrate outstanding legal information professional colleagues from around the world -- but we had deep concerns for our foreign guests traveling to the United States from abroad. Among other things, the status of visa applications and all aspects of air travel were in flux, and were likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. While the annual AALL conference was still scheduled to take place in July in New Orleans, rapidly evolving events made it impossible to predict whether the conference would continue to go forward. Ultimately, we chose to prioritize the health and safety of AALL and FCIL-SIS members - and particularly the grant recipient - traveling to the United States during such unsettled times, and cancelled the 2020 grant competition and award.

After the decision was made, I sent a message to each applicant, informing them that we had made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians competition. I was gratified that most of the applicants replied that they not only understood our decision, but they

continued on page 13

Schaffer Grant Selection *continued from page 12*

agreed with it. In my letter informing them of the cancellation, I had also invited them to re-apply for the 2021 year's grant and many of them informed me that they intended to do so.

The Grant Committee is planning to launch the 2021 Schaffer Grant competition a bit later in the fall of this year, depending, of course, on the likelihood that there will be an in-person AALL conference in 2021. That event is currently scheduled to be held July 17–20, 2021 at the Huntington Convention Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

Latin American Law IG Report

Marcelo Rodríguez

The Latin American Interest Group has been busy working on its project, Law Librarians Monitoring COVID-19. We recently completed 9 reports which cover a few countries in South America and the entire CARICOM region. We also presented our project in the 2020 virtual Law Via the Internet conference on September 23rd. The group had a business meeting on Friday, October 2nd to make sure we infuse some energy into other projects such as Law Journals and Serials, a potential US – Brazil legal webinar and the Latin American Law Updates – News.

Teaching FCIL Research IG Report

Paul Moorman

The Teaching Foreign, Comparative, and International Legal Research Interest Group, co-chaired by Paul Moorman and Amelia Landenberger and assisted by Meredith Capps and Lucie Olejnikova, is happy to report that the [FCIL Syllabi and Course Materials Repository](#) was updated this summer with submissions from Meredith Capps, Janet Kearney, Michael McArthur, Wanita Scroggs, Ken Rodriguez & Traci Emerson. We thank all who contributed this year and in years past. New submissions are always welcome, so please send them to Paul Moorman at pmoorman@law.usc.edu.

African Law IG Report

Yemisi Dina

The Web - <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/about-us/committees-groups/african-law/>

The African IG was busy with a number of activities over the course of the year.

ANNUAL MEETING

One of the major highlights of the year was the first virtual meeting of the group during the July Annual Meeting. There was a large turnout of participants, with representation from different parts of the world.

The IG would like to acknowledge the efforts of Loren Turner who liaised and coordinated all the setting up for a successful virtual meeting on Zoom!

Representatives of the newly launched [Association of African Law Library and Information Professionals](#) spoke about the association and its initiatives.

COVID-19 WEBINAR

COVID-19 Webinar idea of a webinar came from Caitlin Hunter who suggested that each region should present on legal reactions to the pandemic. Yemisi Dina and Mariya Badeva Bright, of AfricanLII and 2019 recipient of the FCIL-SIS Schaeffer Grant, co-presented on the topic – Law Librarians Combatting Infodemic During the COVID 19 Pandemic: Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Recordings for the session can be found [here](#). The materials, slides and handouts are available on the [FCIL-SIS Continuing Education](#) page.

REPOSITORY OF AFRICAN PRIMARY SOURCE HOLDINGS IN PRINT

Repository of African Primary Source Holdings in Print
The Repository of African Primary Source Holdings in Print made a lot of progress with additional listings. There is still time to add your holdings.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1javGTR6APw3Mlj2P4AH5RLaha8_B9jhi/view

The next step is working on identifying a suitable software to create a database out of the list. Thank you to all who have contributed in one way or another to move the project forward.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

If you're reading this report and would like to join the African IG, please reach out to me directly or join us on the AALL Community Page under FCIL-SIS African Law IG.

Continuing Education Committee Report

Caitlin Hunter

This year, the committee presented three webinars, assisted with a virtual workshop, and began planning for the upcoming year's webinars. The committee's web page, available at <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/education-training/continuing-education/>, includes information on upcoming events and handouts, slides, and other materials from past events. Please join us for our upcoming webinar on Researching Indigenous People's Law at <https://www.aallnet.org/forms/meeting/MeetingFormPublic/view?id=3974A0000006C!>

WEBINAR ON TEACHING FOREIGN LAW STUDENTS

On December 5, 2019, the Committee hosted a webinar on teaching foreign law students, co-sponsored by the ALL-SIS Continuing Education Committee, and featuring Jodi Collova (Berkeley Law), Karina Condra (University of Denver), Heidi Frostestad Kuehl (Northern Illinois University), and Mike McArthur (Duke University School of Law). Jessica Pierucci planned, coordinated, and moderated. Caitlin Hunter recapped the event for the FCIL-SIS's DipLawMatic Dialogues blog, <https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/2020/01/21/5-tips-for-teaching-foreign-law-students-webinar-recap/>, and for the February 2020 FCIL-SIS newsletter

WEBINARS ON COVID-19

On June 18, 2020, the Committee hosted two paired webinars, highlighting the work of the FCIL-SIS Latin American Law, African Law, Asian Law, and European Law Interest Groups in tracking COVID-19. In the morning webinar, Alex Zhang (Washington & Lee), Alison Shea (Cornell), Yemisi Dina (Osgoode Hall Law School, York University), and Mariya Badeva-Bright (Laws.Africa) updated viewers on COVID-19 responses in Asia, Europe, and Africa. In the afternoon, Marcelo Rodríguez (US Courts for the 2nd Circuit), Dr. Michele A. L. Villagran (San José State University), and Victoria De La Torre (AALL Latino Caucus Chair) introduced viewers to Law Librarians Monitoring COVID-19, their project tracking COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and provided updates on COVID-19 responses in the Americas.

WORKSHOP ON CIVIL LAW

The FCIL-SIS Education Committee had planned a pre-conference workshop on civil law. When the in-person AALL conference was cancelled, FCIL-SIS chair Loren Turner (University of Minnesota) enlisted the Continuing Education Committee's help in converting the workshop to a virtual format. The virtual workshop on civil law was held

in July 21 and featured Marylin Raisch (Georgetown), Oliver Moreteau (Louisiana State), Xavier Beauchamp-Tremblay (CanLII), Jennifer Allison (Harvard), Katarina Daniels (McGill), and Janet Kearney (Fordham).

UPCOMING WEBINAR ON RESEARCHING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S LAW

The committee will host a webinar on Researching Indigenous Peoples' Law on October 29, 2020 at 11 am Central. Please join us for presentations by Chris Dykes (University of Houston Law Center), Victoria Szymczak (University of Hawai'i, Richardson School of Law), Kurt Meyer (LLMC), and Dr. Jolande Goldberg (Library of Congress). Darla Jackson (University of Oklahoma Law Library) assisted in planning the webinar. We encourage you to register now at <https://www.aallnet.org/forms/meeting/MeetingFormPublic/view?id=3974A0000006C!>

FUTURE EVENTS

The committee is always looking for new ideas! Thanks to suggestions by Lyonette Louis-Jacques (University of Chicago), the committee is planning a series of four webinars in 2021 on pursuing an FCIL career, teaching FCIL research, FCIL collection development, and the history and future of FCIL librarianship. If you are interested in participating in or assisting with these webinars, have suggestions for speakers or topics you'd like to see covered, or have any other idea for an FCIL event outside of the annual AALL meeting, please reach out to Caitlin Hunter at hunter@law.ucla.edu.

Member Publications

Have you recently published an article or blog post? We would love to highlight it in our Recent Member Publications.

Send your information to [Jingwei Zhang](#) for the next issue.

Foreign Law Selectors IG Meeting, August 2020

Marci Hoffman

I. Introductions

During the virtual meeting on July 22, we discussed the following:

- 1) The SALALM Resolution: Collection Development and Equity in the Time of Covid-19 (info provided by Alison Shea in an earlier post). Alison will lead the discussion.
- 2) What our libraries are doing regarding the collection of foreign, comparative, and international law during this pandemic and budgetary situation. I will lead this discussion, but I would love for folks to chime in. I will set up some people to brief us to get the discussion going.

Here is the link to the recording of the [FLS meeting discussion on the SALALM Resolution: Collection Development and Equity in the Time of Covid-19](#).

The other portions of the meeting were not recorded.

II. Library Collection updates

Harvard Law Library (Jennifer Allison)

1. Our collections budget is impacted by COVID; we were also planning for the possible impact of an economic recession even before that. We foresee a significant reduction in the budget in FY22 because it is dependent on endowed funds. In other words, money will be much harder for us to come by for the foreseeable future.
2. We are currently doing the first pass on a print serials cancellation project across all jurisdictions. As part of this project, we are assessing how to make print retention decisions, looking at (a) nature of electronic availability (factors: stability of jurisdiction, likelihood of continued electronic access to current and archived materials), and (b) what our consortial obligations are.
3. We are especially considering whether we want to continue to maintain subscriptions to looseleaf services, for several reasons that have emerged during this project: (a) space on shelves, (b) labor to maintain, (c) lack of archive (replaced pages are thrown away), (d) the fact that no one will be there in the library to look at them for a while, (e) the availability of bound sources that have similar content, and (f) in general, their targeted audience (practitioners vs. academics).

4. Bridget Reischer, our collection development librarian for foreign and international law, is retiring next week after 28 years at Harvard. She has done amazing work to build our collection during her time with us, and we will miss her.

Law Library of Congress (Kurt Carroll)

The Law Library of Congress continues to develop its foreign law collections. There are currently twenty-one foreign law selectors. Seventeen have country, region, or language specific responsibilities, three recommend globally, and one selects for our rare and special collections. The Library collects at the national level for all nations if possible. There is a more concentrated effort to collect those jurisdictions for which we have assigned legal specialists in support of their work for Congress.

In addition to selecting, our specialists have published over 400 articles on foreign and international law in our [Global Legal Monitor](#) over the past year.

The Law Library is digitizing its historic legal reports, most of which had been prepared for Congress or other U.S. federal government agencies on foreign, comparative, and international law issues. This collection numbers in the thousands of reports, dating back to the 1940s. This spring we released 250 reports, available via [Publications of the Law Library of Congress](#). To aid in access, the Law Library has partnered with the [U.S. Government Publishing Office](#) (GPO), which is providing full bibliographic records for this collection. In addition to their availability on our website, the reports will also be discoverable through the [Catalog of U.S. Government Publications](#) (CGP).

In staffing news, Aslihan Bulut was appointed Deputy Law Librarian for Collections in September 2019. This spring, the head of the Library's cataloging team, Clara Liao, transferred to the institution's Cataloging Policy section. Veteran cataloger Aaron Kuperman is now the acting section head and is leading the panel to select a permanent replacement for Clara. The Law Team currently has eight catalogers (down from 10 in February). There are three cataloging technicians, and two non-cataloging technicians.

Book Budget

We began this fiscal year (October 1, 2019) with optimism regarding the book budget and collection building. As we have all experienced, this optimism ended with the spread of

continued on page 16

Foreign Law Selectors *continued from page 15*

coronavirus. We received a flat budget this year which allowed us to plan acquisitions without any resource cuts. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 related shutdowns and disruptions to distribution systems, many approval plan dealers have reported they will not be able to exhaust their allocations. Our FY2021 proposed book budget is flat, with no significant changes or adjustments to foreign acquisitions. There is no word, and I don't wish to speculate on Congress, if any budget cuts will be imposed.

We do continue to benefit from the U.S. Copyright office being located in the Library of Congress. Special relief agreements have been made with Brill, Cambridge University Press, and De Gruyter. These agreements waive the publishers' requirement to deposit published works (which would then be considered for LC collections). In return for this waiver, these publishers provide the Library with online access to the monographs and journals through their online platform. The respective databases appear in LC's electronic resources catalog and are accessible onsite to all and to staff remotely via VPN access.

Shelving and Storage

As reported last year, we continue a compact shelving replacement project in the Law Stacks. We are now in the third and final phase of replacing the shelving in the second of four shelving quads. This project will run through early 2021. We will pursue Congressional funding to continue this project into the other shelving areas as the failing system poses health and safety issues.

Due to COVID-19, most of the activities of the Library's Collection Management Division have been suspended. This includes circulation and the transfer of collection items from our onsite Law stacks to offsite storage. We had been transferring approximately 4,000 volumes per month to LC high density storage.

Despite the unpleasant challenges this year, our rare books curator, Nathan Dorn, has been able to build on our special collections. The following are three items he is especially happy to have acquired:

Memoire, pour Jean Boucaux, negre, demandeur, Contre le Sieur Verdelin, defendeur. This item contains printed legal argument from a high profile Paris trial in 1738 that made a case for the freedom of a person brought to France as a slave from Saint-Domingue. Its acquisition builds the Law Library's collection of historic trials from foreign nations with a document that records an important step in

the evolution of France's laws of slavery.

Ulozhenie gosudaria tsaria Aleksieia Mikhailovicha. Moscow, 1649. This item's acquisition builds the Law Library's collection of early Russian legal imprints with an incredibly scarce first variant of the 1649 first edition of Russia's first printed legal title.

Canis, Johannes Jacobus. De Modo Studendi in Utroque Iure. Padua, 1476. This item's acquisition builds the Law Library's collection of 15th century printed books with a first edition of an important handbook for the study of the learned law.

As we enter the fall academic term, I know many will have difficulties accessing their collections. As I mentioned, LC's circulation services have been suspended. Law Library of Congress staff cannot bypass circulation, but do reach out if you have a need for something in our collection. We would like to find solutions where we can.

Looking forward to better days and hope to see you soon.

LLMC Digital (Kurt Meyer)

Progress in the past year, strategic plan going forward, new opportunities:

- Foreign legal and government information continues to be an integral part of the LLMC Digital service.

Top foreign collections viewed:

- Canadian Federal
- British Empire Studies
- Canadian Provincial
- International Law
- India
- UK Judicial
- Foreign Official Gazettes
- Palestine
- Haiti
- South Africa
- Sizeable collection additions in the past year include:
 - Mexico
 - Brazil
 - Cuba
 - Germany
 - Hong Kong
 - United Kingdom
 - South Africa
- Specifics:
 - Latin America: Mexican state and federal constitutions/codes, Argentinian judicial materials,

continued on page 17

Foreign Law Selectors *continued from page 16*

- and the Brazilian *Diario Oficial*.
- South African Gazette (coverage currently 1943-52 and is rapidly growing as we digitize).
- United Kingdom: LLMC fiche collections which include nominative reporters; other treatises and trials.
- Germany: Ongoing projects with the Berlin State Library and University of Pennsylvania are producing historical treatises and dissertations. Many Prussian treatises added in the past year.
- Cuba: Historical session laws and a run of the *Gaceta Oficial* (1948-64).
- Dominican Republic: Many additional volumes of historical laws and decrees.
- Yemen: Colony of Aden Ordinances (1938-65).
- Hong Kong: Ordinances (1844-1995).
- Indigenous Law Portal: Tribal resources from Canada and Central America - continuously updated by experts.
- At any time, from our LLMC website, you can view and sort the current title list. You may also download it as a spreadsheet.
- Users can now search collections based on page tag (e.g. Indices, maps, and manuscripts).
- 2020-21 initiatives include:
 - Deepening Canadian coverage: Digitizing provincial gazettes from film; Quebecois primary sources.
 - Berlin State Library: Rare lander/principality-level treatises from the 18th and 19th centuries.
 - University of Pennsylvania: Doctoral dissertations from late 19th/early 20th century (e.g. Germany, France, Italy, and Sweden).
 - Gazettes: Collaborations with Laws.Africa/AfricanLII, Google, CRL, University of Michigan, and LOC to digitize gazettes from around the world. Our focus is on Africa and Latin America. Currently digitizing a lengthy run of South African gazettes.
 - Partnering with CRL for additional Latin American, Eastern European, and South Asian coverage; also historical Spanish and French civil law. Additional focus on gazettes and other primary sources from former colonies around the world.
 - Cuba: Collaboration with FIU, Columbia, University of Florida, Miami, and DLOC continues.
 - UK: Digitizing Non-CLA Fiche collection which includes a variety of historical reporters,

primary sources, and Inns of Court materials. Currently working on Scottish session laws.

- Requests help us prioritize what is processed and what we seek out.
- Please think of LLMC if you are withdrawing print foreign titles; we are especially interested in foreign official gazettes.
- Feel free to contact Kurt Meyer (kurtm@llmc.com) with requests and donation queries.

NEFLLCG (Gabriela Femenia)

The Northeast Foreign Law Librarians Cooperative Group (NEFLLCG) held its fall meeting at Fordham in December 2019, and its spring meeting was hosted by Yale over Zoom in June 2020. The participants gave updates on databases and vendors; shared information on collection budgets, space issues and other concerns; and continued the discussion about the functions and membership of NEFLLCG. At the June meeting, discussion of the COVID-19 effect on both collection development and foreign reference was the main area of discussion. We also commemorated Dan Wade, and wished Bridget Reischer a happy retirement.

A few highlights from the meetings:

- Discussion of new databases or changes to current ones:
 - [Jus Mundi](#): Brill acquired this resource recently and offers both a free and “upgraded” subscription version with search enhancements. The general consensus was that the free version probably provides enough content and the upgrade is not necessary for most libraries.
 - [ICC Digital Library](#): Offers different channels, some of which contain information only available through print books, e.g. Incoterms, at about \$1700. Georgetown has the dispute resolution channel.
 - [vLex-Justis](#): There is no cost savings for the new combined platform, although it may include some additional e-books and journals. Since full Justis functionality will not sunset, most members are staying with Justis and, if subscribed to vLex, separately subscribe.
 - Lexology/Getting the Deal Through: There have been proxy issues since the switch to the new platform but Georgetown has found a technology workaround. Lexology offers visualization and added functionality but at double the price.
- Current projects:
 - The group is reassessing the original Vigorous Collecting Responsibilities in light of changes

continued on page 18

Foreign Law Selectors *continued from page 17*

over time in both the countries and in the member libraries' circumstances.

- NEFLLCG is also drafting an updated mission statement.

Our next meeting will be hosted over Zoom by Columbia in the fall.

Yale Law Library (Lucie Olejnikova)

The Yale Law Library focuses on about twenty jurisdictions and a set of subjects, including constitutional law, human rights, environmental law, legal history, and books about the legal system of a given jurisdiction. France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom are the most heavily collected European jurisdictions, while Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela are the major ones for Latin America. We actively collect in English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Chinese. We also occasionally acquire items in Japanese and Korean as gifts or ad hoc purchases. Although not as vigorously, we collect monographs in English for almost any jurisdiction in the world, including Russia, the Slavic speaking jurisdictions, the Arabic speaking jurisdictions, the Norwegian jurisdictions, and more.

Dan Wade's passing earlier this year has had a significant impact on our collection development efforts. We have a team of four foreign law selectors now. John Nann is responsible for the English speaking jurisdictions of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Ireland, India, and the European Union; Cate Kellett selects for Iberia and Latin America; Evelyn Ma selects for East Asia as well as Singapore and Malaysia; and Lucie Olejnikova is responsible for the German speaking jurisdictions of Germany, Luxembourg, Austria and Switzerland, and as of recently public, private, and comparative international law. Evelyn and Lucie are also responsible for evaluating F/I electronic databases. All selectors work in consultation with Fred Shapiro who is responsible for selecting for American Law, nonlegal subjects from around the world, and oversees the overall library's collection development.

As all law libraries, Yale too has felt the impact of COVID-19. The library has made some immediate and short-term adjustments and is continuously reviewing its long-term intentions. The library is currently incorporating a slight cut in its collection development budget and is focusing its purchasing on e-formats. Although we already had a number of law e-packages in place, including Oxford, Cambridge, and Elgar, to name a few, the library is buying a greater number

of e-books, mainly based on the requests of faculty and students of the Law School, to soften the impact of not having access to our physical collection. For the new fiscal year, we are going to be devoting more funds to e-formats than in the past. Yale is also implementing some deliberate cancellations. Our intended print cancellations mainly focus on serials, including several foreign and domestic law serials and several looseleaves.

The law library will stay closed to patrons for the fall semester. It is in the process of slowly re-opening for some staff members, mostly to begin offering scan on demand services. The library is exploring the possibility to begin circulating physical books.

Before the library closed its physical doors, the following exhibits highlighting our F/I collection were curated:

- Blessed Barriers: Highlighting Foreign Language Materials in Law by Lucie Olejnikova & Evelyn Ma
- The Largest Witch Hunt in World History: The Basque Witch Trials (1609-1614) curated by Dan Wade
- Customary and Religious Law by Eduardo Colón
- Wang Chung-hui and the History of US-China Relations by Jingjian Wu (Yale JSD Candidate)

We have also had significant acquisitions into our Rare Book Collection. Close to half of the titles acquired for the Rare Book Collection were in foreign and international law. Our early Italian Statutes collection, already the largest outside of Italy, grew by almost 100 titles. The most notable of the Italian titles are a late 14th-century manuscript of the statutes of the villages of Verrucolo and Fivizzano, and a volume of 25 official publications concerning the criminal court of Bologna, 1553-1625, all of them the only North American copies. In addition, we acquired a 40-volume collection consisting mostly of 19th-century editions of medieval Italian municipal statutes.

Foreign law accounted for most of the additions to our illustrated law book collection. These include a dozen German books (17th-18th centuries) with engraved frontispieces, and *Lex Regia* (1709), a gorgeous collection of Danish laws consisting entirely of 20 large engraved plates.

Our Rare Book Librarian, Mike Widener, curated two online exhibitions:

- "[Trial by Media: The Queen Caroline Affair](#)," a joint exhibition of the Lewis Walpole Library and the Rare Book Collection. The colorful exhibition documents the media frenzy provoked two centuries ago by the attempt of King George IV of England to divorce his consort Queen Caroline on the grounds of adultery.

continued on page 19

Foreign Law Selectors *continued from page 18*

- "[Precedents So Scrawl'd and Blurr'd: Readers' Marks in Law Books](#)" is the most recent exhibition from the Rare Book Collection. The 39 volumes in the exhibition, spanning seven centuries and three continents, were selected for their research potential and for the insights they provide into the roles law books have played in people's lives.

A noteworthy publication includes an article authored by Evelyn Ma on the researching of trading systems in the Asian-Pacific Region titled, *UDPATE: Researching the Trading Systems in the Asian-Pacific Region – APEC, ASEAN, TPP, CPTPP, RCEP and their Members*, *GlobaLex* (May/June 2020).

Worth highlighting is also the work on *GlobaLex* of the Head of Foreign and International Law, Lucie Olejnikova. This past year, *GlobaLex* published 50 articles and has surpassed one million page-views. In May 2020, *GlobaLex* received the prestigious *Jus Gentium Award* from the International Legal Research Interest Group of the American Society of International Law, recognizing the editorial work and the publication.

Yale remains committed to the vision of maintaining a state-of-the-art foreign and international law collection not only for the present use, but also for future generations. It remains committed to its vigorous collection responsibilities for the assigned jurisdictions. It highlights its foreign and international law collecting and continues to acquire print, aiming at creating a well-balanced collection that includes print as well as other formats. To complement its monographic collection, the library continues to review electronic databases. Starting this past year, we have been reviewing our foreign and international law electronic databases focusing on utility and accessibility.

To quote our late colleague Dan Wade: "The Yale Law Library considers itself a national and international resource. Its foreign collection development policy makes sense only if others make use of them. We invite you to do so!"

III. Updates: *Foreign Law Guide and Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals* (Marci Hoffman)

Foreign Law Guide, since last year's AALL meeting.

New:

Botswana
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Israel

Ivory Coast
Russia
Taiwan
Papua New Guinea
Uruguay

Updated:

Brazil
Denmark
France
Italy
Kenya
New Zealand
Nigeria
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
South Africa
United States

Coming Soon:

Cuba
DRC (update)
Ecuador
Egypt (update)
El Salvador
Guinea
Rwanda

Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals (IFLP)

<https://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/iflp/>

As you can imagine, IFLP has been impacted by the pandemic in many ways. Because we cannot get access to most of the journals for indexing, we will be focusing on indexing electronic journals (both subscription and open access).

Customary and Religious Law IG (CARLIG) Report

Lyonette Louis-Jacques

CARLIG was started in 2014 by Susan Gualtier and Kelly Buchanan, and had about 20 members initially. They met at AALL in San Antonio, Texas, and discussed possible projects and programming such as creating bibliographies of core customary and religious law resources, sponsoring educational programs at the AALL Annual Meeting, having coffee talks, and book discussions.¹ This year, the CARLIG eCommunity has 33 members.

During the virtual three-day extravaganza of meetings and educational programming held by the FCIL-SIS via Zoom in July, in lieu of a formal business meeting, the CARLIG Chair, Lyonette Louis-Jacques, Foreign and International Law Librarian and Lecturer in Law, D'Angelo Law Library, University of Chicago Law School, invited speakers for a one-hour session on July 20, 2020 on CARLIG topics.² She co-hosted the program with Shira Megerman, Senior Legal Information Librarian, Boston University School of Law, and Co-Chair (with Daniel Perlin) of the Jewish Law Librarians Caucus. The speakers were:

- **Yemisi Dina**, Chief Law Librarian at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University; Chair, FCIL-SIS African Law Interest; Author of the Caribbean law and Nigerian legal information guides on GlobalLex. She provided general information on customary law, talked about recent developments in Africa, and updated the group on her project on customary court decisions in South Western Nigeria.
- **David Hollander**, Librarian for Law and Legal Studies, Princeton University Library, discussed an overview of Jewish law and how COVID-19 has impacted Orthodox Jewish communities in New York. He distributed a [handout of sources](#) about COVID-19 in the Jewish community for use by attendees.
- **Marylin Raisch**, Associate Director for Research and Development, Georgetown Law Library, discussed the seminar at Georgetown on Jewish law, and scholarship comparing Jewish and Roman law. She made her [slides](#)

and [handout](#) available to attendees.

The program was very well-received. There were 101 registrants with about 60 attending. Loren Turner, Chair of the FCIL-SIS, helped everything run smoothly. A recording of [the session](#) is available. Other presentation materials are available at the AALL FCIL-SIS [Annual Meeting Programs](#) page (see “2020 Virtual Annual Meeting [Due to COVID-19]”).

The Chair will solicit information from the membership about best dates to discuss the following CARLIG business via the eCommunity or Zoom:

- **Call for volunteers and ideas**
 - Monitor religious law responses to COVID-19? Governments, religious communities, and COVID-19 law?
 - Create a CARLIG COVID-19 law-related bibliography/LibGuide?
 - Pursue the CARLIG educational goals from 2014 including creating a bibliography of core CARLIG resources, coffee talks (may be virtual in 2021?), and book discussions?
 - Goals related to the 2018-2021 FCIL-SIS Strategic Plan?
 - More education webinars?
 - Pre- or post-annual meeting conference programs?
 - Updating and creating the FCIL-SIS CARLIG website content?

In terms of CARLIG achievements this year, in addition to the educational program, several CARLIG members (Eduardo Colón, Joan Policastri, Marylin Raisch, Renu Saggiya, and Alex Zhang) are working on a bibliography on Buddhism and the Law which will be posted on CARLIG's Resources page when completed. It will cover Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana Buddhism.

¹ Susan Gualtier and Kelly Buchanan, “Tackling the Most Foreign of Foreign Laws: The formation of the FCIL-SIS Customary and Religious Law Interest Group” 19 AALL Spectrum 8 (June 2015), at 22.

² The CARLIG program was held via Zoom on July 20, 2020 from 1-2 p.m. CDT and billed as a joint meeting of the Customary and Religious Law Interest Group and the Roman Law Interest Group.

Website Committee Report

Lucie Olejnikova

The FCIL SIS took advantage of the most recent migration and reviewed all its pages. Many pages were streamlined, some were deleted, many were updated, and others were identified as needing an update. All pages have been systematically updated, fitting within the charge in the most recent [Strategic Plan](#). Pages for our committees and interest groups are regularly updated (multiple times a year) and show current projects that individual teams are working on. Visiting these pages is a good way to learn about what is going on and how to get involved.

Aside from our standard updates, please note that the [FCIL SIS Annual Meeting Programs](#) includes our 2020 virtual extravaganza, the [Online Discussion Forums](#) page was updated in fall 2019 for those looking to get involved globally, and the [Publication Opportunities](#) page was updated in spring 2019 for those looking to publish. In addition, the newly formed [Continuing Education Committee](#) has its own page. In a close cooperation with the Education Committee, it develops continuing education opportunities throughout the year. These trainings are archived on the [upcoming and past events organized by the Continuing Education Committee page](#), listing all events with related documentation.

[The FCIL-SIS home page](#) traditionally features the FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarian Recipient. Due to COVID-19, we were not able to welcome a recipient this year. As such, the home page was updated to feature a snapshot of our current developments. Our [FCIL Syllabi and Course Materials Repository](#) was updated in the summer of 2020 with new submissions. All our awards pages have been updated with the most recent recipients and the new awards are now listed on our general [awards and grants page](#).

The website committee continues to work with FCIL-SIS members to keep our pages up to date. The Latin American IG is reviewing its Latin American Journals & Serials pages to assess the feasibility of maintaining it up to date. The Electronic Resources IG is working on updating Jumpstart Your Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Research, which was last updated in 2016.

Thank you EVERYONE, truly: all the chairs and members. Your contributions, clarifications, and continuous updates make our pages alive and useful. Please continue to reach out to me with information and ideas, so we can collectively keep our pages relevant.

Newsletter Committee Report

Melissa Abernathy

The FCIL Newsletter continues to thrive as both a source for communicating news to our membership and archiving important milestones of our SIS. This year we successfully published all three issues of volume 34. Our largest issue was the October 2019 issue (vol. 34, no. 1) which highlighted our Schaffer Grant recipient, Mariya Badeva-Bright, and included our 2019 Business Meeting Minutes, Committee, and IG reports from the Annual Meeting.

New Member: 2019-20 the Newsletter Committee consisted of myself and Carmen Valero (copy editor). Moving forward we are adding Janet Kearney as a co-editor.

Mailing List: The FCIL Newsletter is currently distributed through the FCIL-SIS listserv and cross-posted to the CONE (Council of Newsletter Editors) list-serv.

Publication Schedule: The FCIL Newsletter is published three times a year in February, May, and October. The newsletter is distributed electronically to FCIL-SIS members and an archived version is placed on the FCIL-SIS website here <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/resources-publications/newsletter/> by Chris Siwa.

Special Issue: In July 2020, the Newsletter Committee, in conjunction with Loren Turner, Lucie Olejnikova, and Jennifer Allison, put out a special issue commemorating the life of FCIL legend Dan L. Wade.

Article of the Year: This year the Newsletter Article of the Year Award went to Julianne Grant, *An Introduction to Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Legal Heritage & Carpenter v. Murphy*.

Submission Deadlines: February 1st, May 1st, and October 1st. A reminder is sent to the listserv a month before each deadline.

I'd like to acknowledge Mariya Badeva-Bright, Loren Turner, Sabrina Sondhi, Erin Gow, Sherry Xin Chen, Alyson Drake, Mark Engsborg, Yasmin Morais, Caitlin Hunter, Marci Hoffman, Sherry Leysen, Lucie Olejnikova, Yemisi Dina, Anne Mostad-Jensen, Paul Moorman, Amelia Landenberger, Jessica Pierucci, Alex Zhang, and Jingwei Zhang for their photographic and written submissions this year.

Please contact me with articles, pictures, and/or suggestions for the newsletter. I am always open to hearing how to make the FCIL Newsletter even better! Melissa Abernathy mabernathy@sandiego.edu or (619) 260-4734.

Roman Law IG Report

Marylin Raisch

This year no separate IG meeting was held; the Roman Law IG joined in with the July 20th meeting of the FCIL Customary and Religious Law IG (CARLIG), where Chair Marylin Raisch presented a short talk and handout on *The Jewish Law Seminar at Georgetown and Scholarship Comparing Jewish and Roman Law*.

On Tuesday, July 21, 2020, the FCIL-SIS presented its [Webinar on Civil Law and Legal Systems](#) in which, once again, Chair Marylin Raisch was honored to be among the speakers. In keeping with the Roman Law IG links to legal history, she presented a talk entitled *Introduction to Civil Law Jurisdictions: Traditions, Origins, and Terminology* on the historical background for civil law systems. Starting with Roman Law but moving into the medieval and modern reception of that law (along with Romano-Germanic additions to its influence), the presentation covered the Roman law content of the civil law tradition. The purpose of the talk was to lay out some basic terminology for attendees to use as context for the excellent presentations that followed from Professors Moreteau and Beauchamp-Tremblay as well as FCIL colleagues Jennifer Allison, Katrina Daniels, and Janet Kearney.

The [Powerpoint](#) and handouts for the programs described above may be found in the list of FCIL programs for the 2020 Virtual Meeting at the [FCIL-SIS education page](#), with IG materials and the list of meetings. The [AALL2go](#) page posts the recordings.

These efforts constituted the work of this IG for the 2019-2020 year, and the extraordinary situation of a global pandemic provided opportunities for efforts such as COVID-19 surveys. For the coming year, the Roman Law IG plans once again to partner with CARLIG to work on a bibliography of Buddhist Law and ...wait, what's the connection? In addition to having inspired an ancient empire of the Mauryans, Buddhism has a connection with the Hellenic world and any Roman influences will be explored in a separate project.

The goal for this year is more regular communication and exploration of how the Roman Law IG might expand its leadership with a new Chair and continue to be a voice alongside or perhaps even within another FCIL IG.

Asian Law IG Report

Alex Zhang and Sherry Chen

This is a busy year for the Asian Law Interest Group, mainly due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The pandemic raised many issues globally; one of them, perceived as an opportunity as well as a challenge, relates to access to information from reliable sources. In response, we co-founded in May 2020 a project on Mapping Asian Legal Responses to COVID-19 to help collect, compile, and distribute primary and secondary legal information from Asian jurisdictions. So far, we have issued three newsletters that include country surveys, data trackers, and audio-visual resources discussing legislative, judicial, and executive responses to COVID-19 of more than twenty Asian countries and jurisdictions. Alex Zhang presented this project at the Law Librarians Combating Infodemic During COVID-19 webinar in June 2020. More information is available at the IG's official webpage, <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/about-us/committees-groups/asian-law/>.

The group charge is:

1. Provide a forum for the exchange of legal information related to Asian law.
2. Provide an informal environment for FCIL and non-FCIL librarians to discuss current trends and issues in Asian law.
3. Complete Asian law legal information related projects as resources and time allow.

Resource Reviews: Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law

Part of series of reviews prepared by the Electronic Research Interest Group

Jessica Pierucci

INTRODUCTION

The *Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law* (MPECCoL), edited by Rainer Grote, Frauke Lachenmann, and Rüdiger Wolfrum, is a valuable reference for starting research on issues across the field of comparative constitutional law. As an encyclopedia, the work provides entry points for comparative understanding of constitutional issues across the globe, with valuable citations and other features for expanding research beyond the individual entries.

HOW WELL-KNOWN IS THE SOURCE?

The encyclopedia is a recent resource, published in 2017 with an initial 70 entries that have since expanded each year, but it is already considered a preeminent reference publication in comparative constitutional law given its Max Planck affiliation, particularly known among librarians for the *Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law* (MPEPIL) also edited by Rüdiger Wolfrum. In my experience, the encyclopedia is already well known by comparative law scholars and practitioners, and the librarians who work with them.

HOW ACCESSIBLE IS IT?

MPECCoL is an Oxford publication available in the Oxford Constitutional Law (OCL) platform alongside Oxford Constitutions of the World and US Constitutional Law, and available at <https://oxcon.oup.com/home/MPECCOL>. Users familiar with the Oxford Public International Law (OPIL) platform will find familiar features in this Oxford database. The encyclopedia is only available electronically, which allows for seamless updates as entries are added and updated, and integration with other Oxford publications and the Oxford Law Citator.

HOW AUTHORITATIVE IS IT?

The three editors are two Senior Research Fellows and one Director of Max Planck institutes and foundations. The advisory board that engages in peer review of entries includes primarily judges and professors at courts and universities around the globe, allowing for a crucial global perspective in reviewing these comparative law entries. Editing is managed by the same Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law team as the MPEPIL, providing assurance that the entries are edited by a team with extensive experience producing a highly successful encyclopedia.

HOW COMPREHENSIVE IS IT, IN TERMS OF ITS CONTENTS?

MPECCoL includes entries on comparative constitutional law concepts, cases, and instruments. Browsing through the current list of 241 entries shows coverage of many major constitutional law issues, though with over 570 entries planned coverage will become more comprehensive in the next several years as planned entries are completed and the number of total entries more than doubles. As an encyclopedia, the MPECCoL seeks to provide entry points to research and understanding on a vast array of comparative constitutional law issues and, given the excellent coverage provided by the entries already in the encyclopedia, the MPECCoL is sure to only improve in comprehensiveness with additional entries.

HOW EASY-TO-USE (USER-FRIENDLY) IS IT?

The MPECCoL should be relatively easy to use for anyone already familiar with navigating the MPEPIL or OPIL in general but may take some getting used to for researchers new to the Oxford database platforms.

The Browse all and Subject browse options at the top of the screen allow users to open records for all or a subject-limited selection of entries, then narrow down the results through making selections under Narrow Your Choices or running a keyword search within the results. Alternatively, users can run a search from the top right corner of the screen or choose Advanced Search for additional search options.

Users will find that entries are heavily hyperlinked to allow access to related content available through other Oxford and/or Oxford Law Citator records, depending on the item linked. Integration with the Oxford Law Citator is particularly helpful because this tool allows the user to find connections between entries in MPECCoL, other Oxford resources including those in both OCL and OPIL, and cases and foreign or international instruments, many with links to their availability on relevant websites.

Entries also allow the user options to intuitively PDF, print, or save the entry from the options in top right corner of the screen. Saving requires creation of an individual user account.

continued on page 24

Max Planck *continued from page 23*

HOW USEFUL IS IT IN TERMS OF ITS ABILITY TO ANSWER BOTH COMMON AND RARE (DIFFICULT-TO-FIND) QUESTIONS?

The current selection of 241 entries is likely to answer questions from many users seeking encyclopedia-style answers and citation to additional resources on comparative constitutional law issues. Browsing through the current entry list, the editors appear to have prioritized completing the most generally applicable entries first, although this is only an anecdotal observation. As the rest of the planned over 570 entries are completed, the encyclopedia is likely to become increasingly capable of assisting researchers seeking an entry on most any comparative constitutional law issue, although users may sometimes need to refer to sources cited within the entries for answers when their question is too specific to warrant inclusion in an encyclopedia entry.

HOW CURRENT (UP-TO-DATE) IS IT?

The encyclopedia was first published in 2017. Updates and the addition of new entries are ongoing. Each entry includes a last updated date to easily allow the user to determine its currency.

Watch this Space

Janet Kearney

Have you ever wondered or been annoyed by the international materials section on Westlaw and Lexis? Each issue of the Newsletter has Resource Reviews, a series of reviews prepared by the Electronic Research Interest Group. The ERIG has plans to evaluate the foreign and international offerings available through US academic accounts on Westlaw and Lexis. US law schools, even without extensive foreign and international law collections, still have access to some of these resources through these databases. They contain a lot of material, but it can be difficult to determine what exactly is in there and what are the best ways to search. If you're interested in contributing to this project, reach out to Janet Kearney at jkearney15@fordham.edu. Keep your eyes on this space for future reviews!

Nominations Committee Report

Gabriela Femenia

The members of the committee for 2019-2020 were Gabriela Femenia (chair, University of Pennsylvania), Kurt Carroll (Law Library of Congress) and Amy Flick (Emory). Per the bylaws, we put out a call for nominees for Vice-Chair/Chair Elect in November 2019, received and reviewed nominations, and submitted Hunter Whaley as the nominee to the SIS leadership in January 2020. Hunter's nomination was approved by the SIS members and he began his term at the business meeting in July. Beginning this year, the committee is maintaining a list of members who have expressed interest in serving as Vice Chair/Chair Elect or Secretary/Treasurer so that we have an ongoing pool of potential candidates. Everyone on the list will, of course, be contacted at the beginning of the nomination cycle to confirm whether they would like to be considered a nominee that year or defer to another year. If anyone is interested in being added to the pool, they can email me at gfemenia@law.upenn.edu.

FCIL-SIS Member Recent Publications Roundup

Our SIS is fortunate to include in its ranks exceptionally talented and enthusiastic writers. With this feature, we are happy to spread the word of their recent publications.

SPECTRUM

- Janet Kearney, [*Conducting 50-State Survey Research: Lessons Learned Through Criminal Justice Research*](#), 24 AALL: Spectrum, July / Aug. 2020, at 23.
- Dolly M. Knight, Maribel Nash & Scott Vanderlin, [*The Ever-Evolving Workplace: Tips for Adapting to Change*](#), 24 AALL: Spectrum, July / Aug. 2020, at 60.
- Marcelo Rodriguez, Xavier Beauchamp-Tremblay & Luis Acosta, [*Global COVID-19 Research Efforts*](#), 25 AALL: Spectrum, Sept. / Oct. 2020, at 20.
- Errol Adams, [*My Personal Experiences With Systemic Racism*](#), 25 AALL: Spectrum, Sept. / Oct. 2020, at 44.
- Maribel Nash & Scott Vanderlin, [*Staying Connected While Working Remotely*](#), 25 AALL: Spectrum, Sept. / Oct. 2020, at 46.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Law Library Journal

- Alex Zhang & Sherry Xin Chen, [*The Gaps Model and Faculty Services: Quality Analysis Through a "New" Lens*](#), 112 Law Libr. J. 95 (2020).

BOOK REVIEWS

Law Library Journal

- Matthew S. Cooper, Book Review, 112 Law Libr. J. 141 (2020).
- Kevin Rothenberg, Book Review, 112 Law Libr. J. 152 (2020).
- Mariana Newman, Book Review, 112 Law Libr. J. 276 (2020).

International Journal of Legal Information

- Caitlin Hunter, Book Review, 48 Int'l J. Legal Info. 38 (2020).

BLOG POSTS

IALL Blog

- Lyonette Marcelo Rodriguez, [*Law Librarians Monitoring the Legal Response to COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean*](#)
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Member Publications *continued from page 25*

- Marcelo Rodriguez, [Report no.2 on COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean: Elections Postponed in Bolivia Once Again](#)
- Marcelo Rodriguez, [COVID-19 Reports on Latin America and the Caribbean: no.1 \(new series\)](#)
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- Traci Emerson Spackey, [Hugo Grotius – “Le Miracle de Hollande” – Part Two](#)
- Traci Emerson Spackey, [Hugo Grotius – “Le Miracle de Hollande” – Part One](#)
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- Alex Zhang & Sherry Chen, [Asian Legal Responses to COVID-19: Second Monthly Newsletter](#)
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