Resource Reviews: ECOLEX

Juan-Andrés Fuentes

INTRODUCTION
ECOLEX is a free electronic legal database that is a product of joint efforts by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

HOW WELL-KNOWN IS THE SOURCE?
Among environmental law experts, there is consensus about the prestige and usefulness of ECOLEX. However, in times when environmental law must be a priority for all, especially politicians and civil society, the dissemination of technical and accurate information on the topic leads us to write this review. In that sense, some efforts could be dedicated to improving the ranking appearance of this source in commercial search engines. Terms of art such as “international environmental law database” did not list ECOLEX in the results. Having said that, the results of this query could vary, depending on the device used, its location, and the browser used, among other factors.

HOW ACCESSIBLE IS IT?
ECOLEX is a free source, available on computers, tablets, and it also has a mobile web design. There is no need to create an account to access it, which is a distinctive feature. Likewise, its images are sharp and the load-speed of the website is optimal.

Perhaps one issue that could be improved is that when searching for the word “ECOLEX” on popular search engines, it does appear first on the results ranking, but it is stated that “no information is available for this page” because the website prevented the search engine from creating a page description. Taking care of this aspect might help to increase its accessibility to users.

HOW AUTHORITATIVE IS IT?
This source involves collaborative work by three specialized entities with universal scope: FAO, IUCN, and UNEP. Therefore, it is trustworthy.

HOW COMPREHENSIVE IS IT, IN TERMS OF ITS CONTENTS?
This database is comprehensive because it aims to cover every aspect of the legal environmental field, as will be detailed below. So far, it has made significant progress towards that objective.

HOW EASY-TO-USE (USER-FRIENDLY) IS IT?
The main content of the website is visible on the home page. Users do not need special training to take advantage of ECOLEX because the website is intuitive. The legal content is organized into five (5) topics, which are self-explanatory and are listed below the search bar: treaties, treaty decisions, legislation, jurisprudence, and literature.

Even though the information is accessible in the original language it was adopted, ECOLEX fulfills its purpose to be a universal specialized database because the website structure is in simple English, French and/or Spanish, with helpful keywords that give the user a basic idea about the content of the search-result documents. Additionally, searches can be performed in other languages.

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

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We had a fantastic time in Denver this past July during the Annual Meeting. It was a great opportunity to meet in person, reconnect with one another and welcome new members into our SIS. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to every single member who stepped up and helped in any way possible to make sure our presence during the Annual Meeting was a resounding success. Thank you, thank you and thank you!

Believe it or not, we are already busy gearing up and brainstorming for AALL’s next Annual Meeting: Boston 2023. The deadline to propose panels was October 11th. Our Education Committee is busy reviewing your proposals, and selecting two which will receive our sponsorship. Those who do not get selected for sponsorship will still be considered for online webinars throughout the year.

We are also busy selecting new Chairs and members to our various interest groups and committees. This year, we have our very first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, as well as a new Strategic Planning Committee. These two committees will be instrumental in keeping our group vibrant and forward-looking for all our members.

Last but not least, I would be remiss not to mention the fantastic Executive Committee team I get to work with. They are Michael McArthur, Caitlin Hunter and Loren Turner. They represent exactly what makes this group so unique, active, and a pleasure to lead.

This database is fantastic for answering both common and rare questions, thanks to the “filters” feature that appears on the right side of the home page. All the topics share common filters such as “country” and “geographical area”. In addition, each of the topics has tailored refiners. For instance, “treaties” has filters such as “status” (“in force”, “superseded”, etc.). “Type of document” (e.g. “decision”, “recommendation”) helps to limit the results for “Treaty decisions”. Categories like “national – higher court” and “national – lower court” do the same for “Jurisprudence”.

ECOLEX fulfills the expectations of users because the information found is current and relevant. Certainly, this database not only greatly assists those who want to perform research or learn more about international environmental law, but also those who are interested in doing it from a comparative or foreign perspective.

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, 2023

QUESTIONS?
Contact Melissa Abernathy.
Minutes for the FCIL-SIS Business Meeting, July 18, 2022

Caitlin Hunter

Minute-taker: Secretary/Treasurer Caitlin Hunter, hunter@law.ucla.edu
Location: Denver, Colorado

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marcelo Rodríguez at 5:35 Mountain Time.

Marcelo welcomed and thanked the members:

Our members have really stepped up this year to do some great work and to support each other during this difficult and unprecedented year! Thanks to those who volunteered for our Interest Groups and Committees, to everyone who attended our social events and continuing education programs, and to everyone who contributed to committee and IG projects, the newsletter, and the blog!

Marcelo introduced the current Executive Committee:
- Vice Chair and Parliamentarian: Michael McArthur
- Secretary/Treasurer: Caitlin Hunter
- Immediate Past Chair: Susan Gualtier

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes from 2021 Business Meeting:
The 2021 business meeting minutes were published in the FCIL-SIS Newsletter at Volume 36, Issue 1, page 4 (October 2021). Mark Engsberg moved to approve the minutes and David McFadden seconded. Michael McArthur counted votes to approve the minutes. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

2. Secretary/Treasurer Report:
   - Finances: Caitlin Hunter reported that, as of July 6, 2022, the most recent reports that AALL has available are for March 31, 2022.
     a. As of March 31, the balance of the FCIL-SIS operating account was $18,787.42 Since then, members have requested $985.34 in reimbursements for annual meeting awards, reducing the total to $17,802.08. However, this will likely be increased by additional dues and decreased by costs for the reception and other annual meeting events.
     b. Also as of March 31, the Schaffer Grant account had $52,000 in its endowed corpus and $68,248 in its excess, for a total balance of $120,248.

   Elections:
   a. Caitlin Hunter also reported that there were 69 votes in the 2022 election for FCIL-SIS Vice Chair, including 67 votes for Michael McArthur, 1 blank vote, and 1 vote for a write-in candidate. Michael McArthur was elected as the new FCIL-SIS Vice Chair/Chair-Elect.
   b. On April 18, Hunter Whaley formally notified the Executive Committee that he was unable to complete his terms as Chair and Past Chair due to competing work responsibilities.
   c. According to Article VI, Section 5 of the FCIL-SIS Bylaws: “The Vice Chair/Chair-elect shall automatically become Chair upon a vacancy in such office and shall continue in that office until the expiration of the term for which that person was originally elected to serve as Chair. All vacancies in other officers shall be filled by the Executive Committee for an interim term until the next regular election of officers, at which time said vacancies shall be filled by election.”
   d. According to Article VII, Section 3 of the FCIL-SIS Bylaws: “Any vacancy occurring after April 15 shall be filled by nomination from the floor and election at the annual meeting. The candidates with the largest number of votes shall be declared elected, provided there is a quorum.”
   e. According to Article V, Section 2 of the FCIL-SIS Bylaws, a quorum consists of ten or more members.
   f. Under Article VI, Section 5 of the Bylaws: Marcelo Rodríguez automatically became Chair upon Hunter Whaley’s resignation. The Executive Committee asked Michael McArthur to serve as interim Vice Chair until his official term began.
   g. Caitlin Hunter noted that there will be a vacancy for Immediate Past Chair once Susan Gualtier’s term ends.

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h. Sergio Stone nominated Loren Turner to serve as Immediate Past Chair and Mark Engsberg and Marisol Florén-Romero seconded.

i. There was a quorum of 24 members present and a unanimous vote confirmed Loren Turner’s election as Immediate Past Chair.

INTEREST GROUP REPORTS

1. Asian Law Interest Group – Sherry Xin Chen encouraged everyone to attend the Chinese and American Forum on Legal Information and Law Libraries (CAFLL). The forum will be held online through a series of webinars from September 6 to 23, 2022. The topic will be the Core Values & Evolving Roles of Legal Information and Information Professionals.

2. Latin American Law Interest Group – Juan Andrés Fuentes reported that the interest group is working on updating the AALL Latin American Journal List and produced a webinar on Implementing International Law Nationally: Incorporating International Law in Argentina, Chile, and Colombia.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Appointments Committee – Meredith Capps and David Isom reported that the call for volunteers closed on June 30 and that they received 14 responses, which is similar to previous years. They have almost finished allocating the volunteers.

2. Continuing Education Committee – Caitlin Hunter reported that the committee sponsored one webinar, in which Sarah Sutherland spoke about her recently released book, Legal Data and Information in Practice: How Data and the Law Interact. The committee also provided varying degrees of technical support and promotion for webinars produced by FCIL-SIS Interest Groups, including the FCIL-SIS Latin American Law Interest Group’s webinar on Implementing International Law Nationally and the FCIL-SIS Customary & Religious Law Interest Group’s webinars on Canon Law 101 and Get Refusal. Finally, the committee and Marcelo Rodríguez helped promote a Library of Congress webinar on The Most Improbable War: Legal Transformations in Ukraine and Russia Before and During the Invasion, which Marcelo had suggested to the Library of Congress and which FCIL-SIS was recognized as co-sponsoring. Caitlin noted how pleased she was that so many interest groups were planning webinars and said that she welcomed webinar ideas and was happy to provide any level of support that interest groups or members would like.

3. Education Committee – Marcelo Rodríguez reported that FCIL-SIS was the only SIS to have two AALL panels approved: How to Research Brazilian Law and Government Information and Kyoto, Paris, COP26: International Climate Change Mechanisms. Usually, only one panel is approved per SIS.

4. FCIL Schaffer Grant Selection Committee – Mark Engsberg thanked the members of the Schaffer Grant Selection committee: Sherry Leysen, Joseph Hinger, and Paul Moorman. He noted that there had been no winner for the past two years due to the pandemic. This year, the committee received 17 applications, including 13 from Africa. The committee selected three finalists: Asha Moncrieffe (St. Kitts & Nevis), Patience Osuji (Nigeria), and Nancy Kwangwa (Zimbabwe). All were strong candidates, but the committee ultimately selected Asha Moncrieffe. Among other reasons, the committee had not previously awarded a grant to a librarian from the Caribbean and Ms. Moncrieffe was new to the profession and a solo librarian, with few opportunities to travel or learn from other librarians. Unfortunately, in mid-May, Ms. Moncrieffe alerted the committee that her application had stalled with the U.S. State Department. The department has a significant backlog due to COVID and could not schedule a date for the mandatory personal interview until after this year’s AALL annual meeting. Ms. Moncrieffe will attend the meeting next year instead.

5. Newsletter Committee – Janet Kearney reported that the committee had published three newsletter issues, which the committee posted on the website and emailed to the FCIL-SIS listserv and the AALL Council of Newsletter Editors. She named and thanked the authors who had contributed to the newsletter this year and noted that the masthead had been updated to properly recognize the contributions of Jingwei Zhang, who has been helping to publish the newsletter for years. She encouraged members to email her ideas and reminded interest group and committee chairs to submit their reports to Melissa Abernathy by August 15.

6. Publicity Committee – Sue Silverman reported that, in 2021, the FCIL-SIS blog received nearly 13,000 views and published 93 posts. So far in 2022, the FCIL-SIS blog has received over 6,000 views and published 27 posts. She thanked everyone who had contributed to the FCIL-SIS blog, including Marcelo Rodríguez for his regular Through the FCIL-SIS Lens series and Jonathan Pratter for his regular From the Reference Desk series. She encouraged members to reach out to the committee with ideas for blog posts and noted that the committee was working on a project to standardize the blog’s tags and categories. She thanked Meredith Capps for joining Jessica Pierucci as the Publicity Committee co-chair and continued on page 5
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thanked Katie Siler and Kay Ming Cadena for creating the FCIL-SIS exhibit hall display. Sue noted that she and Marcelo had represented FCIL-SIS at the CONELL marketplace and collected emails for several new members interested in joining FCIL-SIS.

7. **Website Committee** – Evelyn Ma reported that Lucie Olejníková has continued to update committee and interest group pages as requested and is working on updating the FCIL-SIS History page. She also reported that Juan Andrés Fuentes is working on updating the Latin American Law Journals project. She encouraged members to reach out to the committee to request website updates and to volunteer to help update the History section of the website.

**CONFERENCE UPDATES**

1. **International Association of Law Libraries Update** – Sergio Stone reported that the 40th Annual Course of the International Association of Law Libraries will take place at Stanford Law School from October 9 to 12, 2022. He invited everyone to attend and thanked those who had already registered. He reported that the keynote speaker will be Corynne McSherry, Legal Director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and that there will also be presentations on international business law, human rights law, comparative constitutional law, tribal law, patent litigation, and legal design and innovation, as well as opportunities to meet bursary winners.

2. **International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Update** – Leslie Street reported that the 2022 IFLA World Library and Information Congress will take place in Dublin, Ireland from July 26 to 29, 2022, earlier than usual. The IFLA Law Library section will be presenting a program on copyright, featuring speakers from the EU and Africa, as well as the U.S. Law Librarian of Congress, Aslıhan Bulut. Bulut will discuss the Law Library of Congress’ project working with the Harvard library system to digitize gazetteers from countries around the world. Additionally, the IFLA Law Library section will collaborate with IFLA sections on government libraries to present a program on copyright in government publications. Mark Engsberg noted that 2019 Schaffer Grant recipient Mariya Badeva-Bright will be presenting in both programs.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **New Members** – Marcelo Rodríguez asked for anyone who had joined the profession or the SIS in the last year to rise. Janine Liebert from the LA Law Library, Dylan Dunn from Florida State University School of Law, Devan Orr from William & Mary School of Law, and Louisa Myers from the Law Library of Congress introduced themselves. Marcelo thanked the new members for being here and encouraged everyone to spread the word about FCIL-SIS.

2. **The Daniel L. Wade FCIL-SIS Outstanding Service Award** honors an FCIL-SIS member who has made outstanding contributions to the Section in the areas of section activity and professional service. This year’s recipient was Yemisi Dina, Chief Law Librarian, York University, Osgoode Hall Law School, Toronto, ON. Marcelo delivered the following remarks:

   a. Yemisi is the Chief Law Librarian at the Osgoode Hall Law Library of the York University in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
   
   b. Yemisi Dina is our Section’s expert on both Canadian law/legal research and African law/legal research. She is one of the most active members of our Section, working behind-the-scenes and in-front of the crowd to help us reach educational and networking goals that we would not otherwise accomplish.
   
   c. Yemisi joined AALL and our Section in 2007. Since joining our membership, she has consistently created educational programming with FCIL-related content. Almost every year without exception, Yemisi brainstorms, recruits, creates, and submits at least one educational program proposal during the AALL Annual Meeting Call for Proposals. Without members like Yemisi submitting program proposals, our members’ interests would not be represented at the Annual Meeting.
   
   d. Yemisi, as our longstanding Chair of the African Law IG, routinely provides substantive programming during our annual Interest Group meetings. Many of these programs feature African law and legal scholars who provide perspectives underrepresented in our Section, our national association, and legal academia. As an example, a few weeks ago, during the African Law Interest Group meeting, Yemisi invited Olabisi Akinkugbe, a Canadian law professor of Nigerian descent to speak about international economic law as it relates to Africa.
   
   e. Yemisi is also willing to act as a speaker for substantive programming hosted by other interest groups. For example, in July 2020, Yemisi gave a presentation on customary international law in Africa, during the Joint Meeting of the FCIL-SIS Customary and Religious Law IG, the Roman Law IG, and the Jewish Law Librarians Caucus.
   
   f. Congratulations, Yemisi!
3. **The Thomas H. Reynolds and Arturo A. Flores FCIL-SIS Publications Award** is given to an FCIL-SIS member or members who have greatly contributed to the professional development of their AALL colleagues during any given year. This year’s recipients were Alex Zhang, Associate Dean of Information Services and Director of the J. Michael Goodson Law Library, Duke University School of Law, Durham, NC, and Katherine Siler, Head of Reference Services, Stanford Law School, Robert Crown Law Library, Stanford, CA, for their work editing the book *Global Animal Law Research*, which many other FCIL-SIS members also contributed to.

4. **The Spirit of the FCIL-SIS Award** is presented each year to members whose work furthers our mission, serves the entire FCIL-SIS, and inspires others to act. This year’s recipients were: Meredith Capps, Foreign and International Law Librarian/Lecturer in Law, Vanderbilt University Law School, Nashville, TN. 
   David Isom, Faculty Services Librarian, University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, CA. 
   Janet Kearney, Foreign & International Law Librarian, Fordham University School of Law, New York, NY.

5. **The Blog Post of the Year Award** honors an AALL member who contributed an outstanding blog post for the FCIL-SIS blog, DipLawMatic Dialogues, during the previous year. This year’s recipient was Jonathan Pratter, Foreign and International Law Librarian, Tarlton Law Library, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, for his *From the Reference Desk* series.

6. **The Newsletter Article of the Year Award** honors an FCIL-SIS member who contributed an outstanding article for the FCIL-SIS Newsletter, during the previous year. This year’s recipient was Janet Kearney, Foreign & International Law Librarian, Fordham University School of Law, New York, NY for *Work-in-Progress: A Research Framework in FCIL Teaching*.

7. **The Interest Group/Committee Project of the Year Award** honors an FCIL-SIS Interest Group and/or Committee that produced an outstanding project for the benefit of FCIL-SIS and/or AALL members during the previous year. This year’s recipient was the Customary and Religious Law Interest Group (CARLIG), chaired by Renu Sagreiya, for the webinars *Canon Law 101* and *Get Refusal & Domestic Violence in the Jewish Community*.

8. **The Executive Committee Special Award** for Excellence is a special award given on a year-by-year basis at the discretion of the Executive Committee to honor individuals or groups that have made exceptional contributions to FCIL-SIS. This year the FCIL-SIS Executive Committee chose to grant the inaugural Executive Committee Special Award for Excellence to the FCIL-SIS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force:
   - Errol A. Adams, Reference & Scholarly Services Librarian, Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY
   - Dennis C. Prieto, Reference Librarian, Rutgers University Law School Library, Newark, NJ
   - Aamir Abdullah, Instructional Services & Research Librarian, University of Colorado Law School’s William A. Wise Law Library, Boulder, CO
   - Melissa Abernathy, Head of Reference/Foreign & International Specialist, University of San Diego Pardee Legal Research Center, San Diego, CA
   - Erin Gow, Associate Professor of Legal Bibliography, University of Louisville Law Library, Louisville, KY
   - Susan Gualtieri presented the award.
   - She thanked Marcelo Rodríguez and Michael McArthur for stepping into their roles earlier than they expected and for taking on the huge task of planning the first in-person meeting this year. The planning for the annual meeting began late this year and they were able to pull the programming and reception together thanks to their organization and levelheadedness.
   - She noted that the award to the DEI Task Force should have been given last year but was not, due to the pandemic.
   - She explained that, two years ago when Loren Turner was FCIL-SIS chair, the world saw protests against racially motivated violence, which brought to the forefront the need to encourage DEI. DEI is inherent in what FCIL librarians do because FCIL is concerned with diversity, inclusion, and understanding different cultures. The FCIL-SIS Executive Committee felt that it was important to put out a statement and lay out the steps FCIL-SIS would take to promote DEI.
   - One step was to appoint a task force to examine ways FCIL-SIS could improve its commitment to DEI. The task force created a committee charge for a standing DEI committee, in recognition of the fact that promoting DEI is, and should be, a never-ending task.
   - Susan noted that the end of the first year of the pandemic had been a really difficult time...
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for everyone, but the task force members had stepped forward to do incredibly important work for the FCIL-SIS, for AALL, and for the world.

- There was no place to honor the task force in the existing awards, so the Executive Committee created a new award.

9. Marcelo Rodríguez congratulated all of the award recipients and thanked Dennis Sears for continuing to buy the awards year after year.

10. Michael McArthur noted that he was creating a new working group to discuss how to coordinate the FCIL-SIS reception in Boston next year and going forward, given that AALL will no longer provide funding. He expressed his hope that the working group would problem-solve and find a way to continue a great tradition and create a venue to welcome visitors. He thanked those who had already volunteered.

CONFERENCE UPDATES

1. Marcelo asked for any other new business.

2. Susan Gualtier invited all members to join the FCIL-SIS Book Club on Friday, August 26, 2022 at 2 pm Eastern. She noted that Dan Wade had started the book club in 2014 and it was something members really looked forward to. The book club is usually held in person at the AALL annual meeting but, because this is a transitional year, the book club will be virtual. This year’s book will be American Sutra, suggested by the FCIL-SIS Customary & Religious Law Interest Group. Susan noted that she wanted to honor Dan Wade by continuing this tradition and encouraged members to stop by and chat even if they had not read the book. She also encouraged members to attend the FCIL-SIS reception and noted that the FCIL-SIS Executive Committee had really put a lot into making it happen.

3. Marcelo reminded committee and interest group chairs to submit reports to Melissa Abernathy and Janet Kearney for the newsletter by August 15 and thanked the committees and interest groups for all their work this year.


5. Marcelo made the following remarks:

I want to take this opportunity to thank Susan Gualtier immensely for her wise words, unending support and steadfast dedication to our SIS and its success. We simply wouldn’t be able to be here without her energy and enthusiasm. A heartfelt thank you as well to our amazing secretary/treasurer, Caitlin Hunter. Caitlin em-body the definition of a diligent, hardworking and reliable member. Although Mike McArthur and Loren Turner have been officially included into our Executive Committee today, they have already made themselves indispensable and vital to the continuation of our work. I also want to thank other FCIL members who stepped up this year: Lucie Olejnikova, Sergio Stone, Jessica Pierucci, Sue Silverman, Katie Siler, Kay Ming Cadena and Mark Engsberg. Of course, I must thank Teresa Miguel Stearns for her guidance and support as well as the entire team at the Daniel Cracchiolo Law Library for having dealt with me while I was juggling a million things at the same time in a new job, new city/state and a new role in our SIS.

6. Mark Engsberg moved to adjourn and Luis Acosta seconded. The business meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm Mountain Time.

FCIL Newsletter

FCIL Newsletter is a publication of the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries. It is published in February, May, and October of each year. Current and past issues of FCIL Newsletter are available on our website. We welcome submissions. Contact us for more information.

MEMBERS

| Melissa Abernathy                | Carmen Valero            |
| University of San Diego         | Dentons US LLP           |
| Janet Kearney                  | Jingwei Zhang            |
| Fordham University             | Rutgers University       |

FCIL-SIS EXECUTIVE BOARD 2022-23

CHAIR
Marcelo Rodriguez

Vice Chair/Chair-Elect
Mike McArthur

Secretary/Treasurer
Caitlin Hunter

Past Chair
Loren Turner
Roman Law Interest Group

Marylin J. Raisch,

Following the 2020 program on Civil Law and its history, the Roman Law IG has been quiet and has not produced any formal programs. The current Chair, Marylin Raisch, has retired from Georgetown Law Library effective June 2021, so this year it is anticipated that a new chair will take on the Interest Group. This is the last report filed by M. Raisch as Chair.

I have been very happy to carry on the work of Lucia Diamond of the Robbins Collection at UC Berkeley Boalt Hall Law School, and during this time, programs, and publications such as Timothy Kearley’s *Lost in Translations: Roman Law Scholarship and Translation in Early Twentieth Century America* (Carolina Academic Press, 2018) were a focus for us along with bibliographic work I did for the civil law panel.

In a blog post for the Roman Law IG posted by librarian and Professor Kearley in mid-June 2022, he describes a second edition of the title as follows: “The new edition (which I self-published on Amazon via my Veterrimus Publishing—what an education that was!) is entitled *Roman Law, Classical Education, and Limits on Classical Participation in America into the Twentieth Century*. It tells part of the "rest of the story." That story is of the "others," such as women, Native Americans, and African Americans, who were largely barred from the world of classicism when the men noted above were making their mark in that world. The "others" were substantially excluded from the educational and professional opportunities that would have enabled them to perform the scholarship and translation done by the white men whose stories were told in the original edition. I think it’s especially important to include the stories of these other groups in the midst of the current debate over systemic racism and misogyny.”

I was honored to write the Foreword to the book, as my review suggested there may be other groups to cover in the broader topic of classical education, but the enormous work and great digging Tim did to create the follow-up title was not something I could have envisioned. So, while we have intense work and interest among a few of us, I have also suggested we might merge into another IG or perhaps call this one Ancient Law. We work closely with the Customary and Religious Law Interest Group (CARLIG) and have hoped to work on Buddhist law. I am still researching and working on scholarly projects, so I hope to contribute in the future. We have partnered with and co-sponsored informal talks and business meeting presentations with the Legal History and Rare Books Interest Group as well.

What follows is a brief, selective update for Roman Law titles, new or newly digital, in English, published after the 2020 bibliography for the civil law program described above:

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**ROMAN LAW**

(laws of ancient Rome through to late antiquity)

(OSO=Oxford Scholarship Online or UPSO)


Electronics Resources IG

Erin Gow

Since the last annual meeting, the group has continued to publish resource reviews in the FCIL newsletter.

Resource Reviews:

Mechanism for the International Court of Justice Case Database by Juan-Andrés Fuentes

EU Legal Materials in Westlaw & Lexis by Meredith Capps

Australian Materials on Westlaw & Lexis by Erin Gow

In October 2021, Lyonette Louis-Jacques worked with Erin Gow to completely update the information on the Online Discussion Forums webpage ([https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/resources-publications/research-resources/online-discussion-forums/](https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/resources-publications/research-resources/online-discussion-forums/)). Erin reviewed this page again, in July 2022, to ensure all information was current. Special thanks to Lucie Olejnikova for making all these updates to the website!

Indigenous Peoples Law IG

Julienne Grant

Julienne Grant took over as chair of the Indigenous Peoples Law Interest Group from Joan Policastrì and Jolande Goldberg last July. The IG has 24 members. Julienne forwarded information and various blog posts to the members—primarily from the excellent "Turtle Talk" blog. Julienne, Joan Policastrì, and Sue Silverman wrote a post for DipLawMatic Dialogues as part of the "Related Organizations" series (March 22, 2022). The IG met virtually on July 12, 2022, and engaged in a robust discussion on "land acknowledgment" statements, among other important and timely topics. Several IG members agreed to explore how the IG could survey academic institutions to compile what appears to be great diversity in the content and presentation of these statements.

Publicity Committee

Jessica Pierucci

The Publicity Committee had an exciting year primarily focusing on soliciting, formatting, and uploading regular content to the DipLawMatic Dialogues blog. In addition, given the return to an in person meeting for the 2022 AALL Annual Meeting, Katie Siler, Kay Cadena, Grace Lo, and Rachel Shields revived the FCIL-SIS Exhibit Hall display. Also, Sue Silverman and Marcelo Rodriguez represented FCIL-SIS at CONELL. Thanks to these volunteers for promoting the SIS!

The blog had nearly 13,000 views and 92 posts published in 2021. By the time of the July 2021 FCIL-SIS Business Meeting, the blog had over 6,000 views and 27 posts published in 2022. Also as of the business meeting, the top 15 posts of the past 365 days each had over 100 views.

To make these views possible, the committee would like to particularly thank our 2021-2022 regular, scheduled contributors. Marcelo Rodriguez wrote the regular feature, Through the FCIL Lens. Jonathan Pratter wrote for From the Reference Desk. Many additional volunteers helped recap conferences, meetings, and webinars. Throughout the year, we also featured a wide array of posts on topics of interest to FCIL librarians.

Last, Sue Silverman undertook a project to standardize the categories and tags on the blog to improve our metadata; we’ll be implementing this standardized method moving forward to make posts easier to find.

If you would like to contribute a post for the blog or have anything else to share with the publicity committee, please reach out to the 2022-2023 co-chairs, Jessica Pierucci (jpierucci@law.uci.edu), and Meredith Capps (meredith.a.capps@vanderbilt.edu).

Nominating Committee

Gabriela Femenia

Thanks to the gracious assistance of Susan Gualtieri and Alison Shea, the Nominating Committee advanced Mike McArthur as nominee for Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, in the Spring, and he was duly elected by the members. Gabriela Femenia is now cycling off as chair of this committee.
African Law IG

Yemisi Dina


ANNUAL MEETING

The group had its meeting in the form of a special virtual event featuring guest speaker Prof. Olabisi Akinkugbe, Viscount Bennett Professor of Law at the Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

The speaker and participants had an interesting discussion about the “Developments in the African Continent on Free Trade”, especially the impact of the African Free Trade Agreement (AfCTA) that was launched on January 1, 2021.

Prof. Akinkugbe started the discussion by providing a brief historical background of trading activities among African states, noting that they needed to build a power bloc to negotiate with the international world. The essence of AfCTA is to promote development in Africa. According to him, AfCTA has a long history of challenging regional precedents because there were many other regional organizations that existed prior to this. A total of 54 states have signed the agreement while 41 have become state parties.

He described some of the advantages of the agreement as being the free movement of goods and services as well as the free movement of persons around the continent. He identified the challenges facing the agreement as enormous and categorized them as external and internal. The external ones include colonial linkages of the many African countries, and power dynamics through international organizations functioning in international economic governance. The internal challenges include low agricultural productivity, insecurity in many African countries, GMOs and killing of natural seeds, and high cost of food processing. He concluded that Africa being at the lowest rank on the global value chain also puts them at a disadvantage.

PROJECT UPDATE

The African Interest Group activities focused on completing the compilation, revision and editing of the African Law Print Holdings List originally prepared by Alison Shea and Victor Essien.

As of July 2022, the list is now available on the Open Access page of LLMC Digital. www.llmcdigital.org. No subscription is required to access the downloadable list from the LLMC database.

Asian Law IG

Sherry Xin Chen

Since the beginning of 2022, the Asian Law Interest Group is actively engaged in the planning of the 2022 Conference for the Chinese and American Forum on Legal Information and Law Libraries (CAFLL).

Founded in 2010, CAFLL has been active for over a decade in its mission of encouraging, developing, and facilitating exchanges between Chinese and American law libraries and librarians. Through conferences, visits, lectures, training and other channels, libraries and librarians from both sides have formed strong bonds and long-lasting friendships.

The CAFLL 2022 Conference will center on the core values and evolving roles of legal information and information professionals. Starting from early September, panelists from both China and the U.S. will engage in a series of webinars discussing librarians’ evolving roles in the age of transformation—as scholars researching Chinese legal intellects, as education specialists in both traditional law school classrooms and other programs, and as technology specialists revolutionizing reference services with the newest tools. At the foremost forum on Chinese and American law librarianship, you will also hear stories on how to build a Western-style law library in Shenzhen, China, and comparative reports from both Chinese and American law librarians on the current status of the legal research curriculum.

To register for the webinars at the CAFLL 2022 Conference, please look out for announcements at the conference website: https://caflilnet.org/2022-cafll-conference
Nominating Committee

Meredith Capps & David Isom

The Appointments Committee created and publicized this year’s annual volunteer survey, which was open June 21–30. We received 14 responses—exactly the same number of people who expressed an interest in joining a committee, or serving as a chair of a committee or interest group, as last year. Last year’s survey did receive more total responses (18), but four of those were from individuals who were only interested in joining IGs as members; since members must self-add on the AALL My Communities site, we included directions on doing so in the survey announcements this time around and removed the questions about IG membership from the survey itself.

Everyone who responded this year was already a member of FCIL-SIS, and a majority had served on FCIL-SIS committees or IGs previously, but a handful were volunteering for the first time. We worked to balance the interests and preferences expressed in survey responses with the needs of the committees and IGs, and completed the work in the last week of July.

We welcome suggestions on how the committee’s work can be improved in future years—we’d be particularly interested in hearing any thoughts on how the publicity and reach of the survey could be broadened. Please contact Meredith (meredith.a.capps@vanderbilt.edu) or David (david.isom@georgetown.edu) with suggestions.

Newsletter

Melissa Abernathy

The FCIL Newsletter continues to serve as both a source for sharing FCIL-related information and archiving important milestones of our SIS. This year we successfully published all three issues of volume 35. Our largest issue was the October 2021 issue (vol. 36, no. 1) which included our 2021 Business Meeting Minutes, Committee, and IG reports from the Annual Meeting as well as resource reviews on EU Legal Materials in Lexis and Westlaw as well as the Mechanism for the International Court of Justice (MTICJ) database.

**The 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/](https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/resources-publications/newsletter/) by Chris Siwa.

**Masthead change:** The Newsletter now formally lists Jingwei Zhang on the FCIL-SIS Newsletter masthead. Jingwei has been compiling the Member Publications list since 2017!

**Need for new content:** Our February 2022 and May 2022 issues were remarkably light on content. Everyone seems to be tapped out on bandwidth. We are looking for suggestions, especially for recurring content columns.

**Submission Deadlines:** February 1st, May 1st, and October 1st. A reminder is sent to the listserv a month before each deadline. Committee and IG reports due August 15th. I’d like to acknowledge Jennifer Allison, Anne Burnett, Heather Casey, Charles Bjork, Rachel Evans, Juan-Andres Fuentes, Erin Gow, Edward T. Hart, Caitlin Hunter, David Isom, Janet Kearny, Lyonne Louis-Jacques, Paul Moorman, Lucie Olejnikova, Jessica Pierucci, Marylin Raisch, Marcelo Rodriguez, Mabel Shaw, Hunter Whaley, and Stephen Wiles, for their written submissions this year.

Please email Janet Kearney (jkearney15@fordham.edu) with articles, pictures, and/or suggestions for the newsletter. We are always open to hearing how to make the FCIL Newsletter even better!

Website Committee

Evelyn Ma reporting on behalf of Lucie Olejnikova, the Chair.

The website committee continues to keep the FCIL-SIS pages up to date and works to align branding with the overall AALL look. The Latin American IG embarked on updating the Latin American Journals and Serials pages under the direction of Juan-Andrés Fuentes. Frequently updated pages are regularly edited. The History portion of the FCIL website needs to be reviewed and assessed, which is the next big project. To all committees and interest groups, please continue to reach out to Lucie Olejnikova with any updates to your pages, and if anyone is interested in being involved in an updating project (namely, the History portion of FCIL pages), please reach out to Lucie Olejnikova.
Continuing Education Committee

Caitlin Hunter

This year, the FCIL-SIS Continuing Education Committee presented one webinar and helped support five webinars. Except as otherwise noted below, recordings, handouts, and materials for the webinars are available at https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/education-training/continuing-education/.

I. Webinar on Legal Data and Information in Practice: How Data and the Law Interact

On March 22, 2022, the committee presented a webinar featuring Sarah Sutherland, the President and CEO of CanLII (Canadian Legal Information Institute). Sutherland discussed her recently published book Legal Data and Information in Practice: How Data and the Law Interact (2022). She explained why data use matters in the legal space, and described the issues that affect legal data and organizations in particular, emphasizing an international perspective.

II. FCIL-SIS Latin American Law Interest Group Webinar on Implementing International Law Nationally: Incorporating International Law in Argentina, Chile, and Colombia

The committee also helped promote and provided technological support for a May 20, 2022, webinar by the FCIL-SIS Latin American Law Interest Group on how international law is implemented in Argentina, Chile, and Colombia. The webinar was developed and moderated by Juan-Andrés Fuentes (FCIL-SIS Latin American Law Interest Group chair; FCIL librarian, Harvard Law Library) and featured three panelists: Marcos Nelio Mollar (Professor of Public International Law at the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina and at the University of Buenos Aires; Supervisor of the International Affairs Coordination Department at the National Social Security Administration of Argentina), Javiera Núñez Ortega (Legal Advisor of the International Cooperation Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile), and María Fernanda Penagos (an attorney with over a decade of experience in the insurance and transport sector and an adjunct professor at Universidad EAN, Colombia).

III. FCIL-SIS CARLIG Webinars on Canon Law 101 and Get Refusal

The committee also helped promote and provide technological support for an October 26, 2021, webinar by the FCIL-SIS Customary & Religious Law Interest Group on Canon Law 101. The webinar was developed and moderated by FCIL-SIS CARLIG chair Renu Sagreiya. The featured speaker was Brody Hale, an attorney who co-founded the St. Stephen Protomartyr Project, an organization committed to ensuring that alternatives to permanent closure are found for historic Catholic churches and sacred spaces. Hale introduced attendees to Catholic canon law, explaining the history of canon law’s development and how it is enforced through the canonical court system. He described how the system’s lack of modernization and intense secrecy hinders the ability to conduct canonical research and enables abusive and inequitable application of canon law.

The committee also helped promote a February 28, 2022, webinar on Get Refusal and Domestic Violence in the Jewish Community. The webinar was sponsored by FCIL-SIS CARLIG and the AALL Jewish Law Librarians Caucus, under the leadership of Renu Sagreiya and JLLC co-chair Shira Megerman. This webinar discussed the crisis of get refusal, in which husbands refuse to grant their wives religious divorces under halachic (Judaic) law, leaving their wives as agunot (“chained women”), who cannot religiously remarry and face social stigma. The webinar featured attorneys from two Jewish non-profit organizations that advocate on behalf of agunot: Shana Weiner, Esq. from Dinah, based in Philadelphia, PA, and Keshet Starr, Esq. from Organization for the Resolution of Agunot (ORA) in New York City, NY. The recording for the Get Refusal and Violence webinar is available here.

IV. Copyright Committee Webinar on International Interlibrary Loan

Several FCIL-SIS members contributed to the September 30, 2021, AALL Copyright Committee webinar on When ILLiad Becomes an Odyssey: Obtaining and Using Copyrighted Materials from Foreign Countries. The webinar featured Oludayo Bamgbose (Law Librarian, Ajayi Crowther University; Interim President, Association of African Law Library and Information Professionals), Hilary Thompson (Director of User Services & Resource Sharing, University of Maryland Libraries), Adam Woellhaf (Assistant Librarian, Middle Temple in the City of London), and Loren Turner (Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Librarian, University of Minnesota Law School). I served as coordinator for the webinar and FCIL-SIS members Sarah Reis (Foreign & International Law Librarian, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law) and Erin Gow (Online Services Librarian, Brandeis Law Library) helped plan the webinar, as did Copyright Committee members Matt Braun (Associate Director for
Continuing Education continued from page 12

Administration, University of Illinois College of Law) and Leslie Street (Director of the Library, Clinical Professor of Legal Research at William and Mary School of Law). The recording for When ILLiad Becomes and Odyssey is available here.

V. Library of Congress Webinar on The Most Improbable War: Legal Transformations in Ukraine and Russia Before and During the Invasion

Finally, FCIL-SIS co-sponsored a June 16, 2022, Library of Congress webinar on the war in Ukraine. FCIL-SIS chair Marcelo Rodríguez suggested the webinar to the Library of Congress, and both he and I sent emails promoting it. The webinar was created and presented by Peter L. Roudik (Assistant Law Librarian of Congress for Legal Research). Roudik provided an overview of the historic roots of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and examined legislation passed in Ukraine and Russia before and during the war. A recording of the webinar will be posted on the Library of Congress’ Event Videos page at https://www.loc.gov/collections/event-videos/.

VI. Future Events

I was excited that there was so much enthusiasm and initiative from FCIL-SIS interest groups this year. I am always happy to support webinars in whatever way works best, whether that’s providing advice, helping with promotion, or managing technology. I welcome ideas for new webinars, and volunteers to assist in organizing webinars, and I am especially interested in volunteers who would like to take over as chair once my term expires in July 2023. If you are interested in assisting with webinars or taking over as chair, 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

Customary and Religious Law IG

Renu Sagreiya

CARLIG had a fruitful academic year. In October 2021, CARLIG invited Brody Hale, Esq. to give a virtual talk titled, "Canon Law 101." In February 2022, CARLIG hosted a program titled, “Get Refusal & Domestic Violence in the Jewish Community: Culturally-Competent Services from Civil and Halachic Perspectives”, which featured two attorneys who lead nonprofit organizations that provide direct services to Jewish survivors of intimate partner violence. The guest speakers were Shana Weiner, Esq. of Dinah, and Keshet Starr, Esq. of ORA: Organization for the Resolution of Agunot. This program was jointly organized by CARLIG and Jewish Law Librarians Caucus (JLLC), and it was a recipient of the AALL/Bloomberg Law Continuing Education Grant. Thanks to these fantastic and well-attended programs, CARLIG won the Committee/Interest Group Project of the Year. Stay tuned for a program this fall semester on Hindu law and legal theory!

Latin American Law IG

Juan-Andrés Fuentes

Last year, the Latin American Law Interest Group began its ongoing efforts to update and expand both AALL existing lists: the General Latin American Titles and the Latin American Law Journals & Serials. This project has two main purposes. First, to show the preservation efforts of legal Latin American journals and serials made by U.S. law libraries willing to take part in this project. The second aim is that these lists become a reference tool for those who want to perform legal research in the region.

Likewise, on May, 20th, 2022, the Latin American Law Interest Group hosted the webinar “Implementing International Law nationally: Incorporating International Law in Argentina, Chile, and Colombia”. The Zoom event provided an overview on how to incorporate international law domestically in those countries, and how to perform research on international agreements in which said countries are parties. The speakers were three experienced international law attorneys and/or academics Javiera Núñez (Chile), Marcos Nelio Mollar (Argentina), and María Fernanda Penagos (Colombia).

If you would like to contribute by any means to the Interest Group, please reach out to its chair, Juan-Andrés Fuentes, jfuentes@law.harvard.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.
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**

**JOURNAL ARTICLES**
Legal Reference Services Quarterly

Globalex
- Heidi Frostestad Kuehl, *UPDATE: A Basic Guide to International Environmental Legal Research*
- Loren Turner, *UPDATE: Researching the Harmonization of International Commercial Law*
- Jootaek Lee, *The Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights: Four Realms of Discussion, Research, and Annotated Bibliography*

**BOOKS**

**BOOK REVIEWS**
Law Library Journal

International Journal of Legal Information

**BLOG POSTS**
RIPS Law Librarian Blog
- Peter A. Hook, *Data About the Profession—The Proximity of Our Law Schools*

DipLawMatic Dialogues
- Meredith Capps, *AALL 2022 Recap: Teaching FCIL Research Roundtable*
- Marci Hoffman, *What’s New with the Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals (IFLP)*
- Lucie Olejkova, *GlobaLex May/June 2022 Issue is Live*
- Lucie Olejkova, *GlobaLex July/August 2022 Issue is Live*
- Anahit Petrosyan, *AALL 2022 Recap: Impressions from the Brazilian Law Panel*
- Jonathan Pratter, *From the Reference Desk: Researching International Arbitration*
- Marcelo Rodríguez, *Through the FCIL Lens: Colombia, Somalia, Lebanon, The Philippines and Australia*
- Marcelo Rodríguez, *Through the FCIL Lens: Ecuador, UK/Rwanda, Iraq, Israel and North Korea*
- Marcelo Rodríguez, *Through the FCIL Lens: Antigua, Chile, Libya, Uzbekistan and Japan*
- Marcelo Rodríguez, *Through the FCIL Lens: Guatemala, Western Sahara, Kenya, Taiwan and Marshall Islands*
- Renu Urvashi Sagreiya, *FCIL-SIS Book Club Discussion: Friday, Aug. 26th*

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**
Academic Law Libraries SIS Newsletter
- Benjamin J. Keele, Program Reviews: Deciphering Statutory Codes: When is the Law not the Law, and Others Statutory Riddles
- Benjamin J. Keele, Program Reviews: Cryptocurrencies, Blockchain, and the Law
- Meredith Capps, Program Reviews: Speaking a New Language: The Whats, Whys, and Hows of Teaching Litigation Analytics

Legal History & Rare Books SIS Newsletter
- Anne E. Burnett & Rachel Evans, *Retoooling a Digitization Grant Application for Second-Round Success*