

FCIL NEWSLETTER

Foreign, Comparative, and International Law
Special Interest Section



From the Chair

BY MEREDITH CAPPS

Greetings from Nashville, where as I draft this column in early October it is ostensibly fall, yet we keep sweating through a seemingly endless summer. This past (actual) summer, many of our members gathered in Portland, Oregon for the AALL Annual Meeting, the highlight of which for many FCILers is typically welcoming the always extraordinary annual recipient of our Schaffer Grant award. We were immensely disappointed that our 2024 awardee, Judy Wairimu Ng'ang'a, was unable to secure a visa to travel to the U.S. to attend the Annual Meeting in-person, a situation that may sadly become more common.



However, Judy graciously agreed to present virtually to our members in June, and we hope that in future years our grant recipients will continue offering this virtual presentation, allowing us to broaden our audience...while *also* attending the Annual Meeting in-person and engaging with our community.

***Editor's Note: See links
to Judy's presentation
page 3.***

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From the Chair

The Schaffer Grant Selection Committee, led by Joseph Hinger, has been both persistent and adaptable in approaching a challenging environment for international travel in recent years, and we greatly appreciate the committee's ongoing efforts to sustain this valuable initiative.

Also in a virtual capacity, our membership gathered online this summer ahead of the Annual Meeting for our annual business meeting. Acknowledging our annual member award recipients is always a highpoint of the meeting, and you'll find in the meeting minutes below not just a list of honorees, but selected glowing comments provided by recipient nominators. I encourage everyone to send their colleagues virtual kudos, and to bookmark this year's excellent awarded publications for future reading and reference.

Editor's Note: See award recipients page 15.

Members also hosted several outstanding webinars this summer, including “African Digitization Stories,” organized by the African Law IG and moderated by Yemisi Dina, a panel discussion concerning volunteer opportunities within our SIS, and a panel discussion convened by the DEI Committee and Teaching FCIL IG regarding how FCIL librarians are coping with disorienting world events. Those who attended the meeting in Portland enjoyed programming featuring a number of FCIL members, including Traci Emerson Spackey in a discussion concerning cataloging foreign materials, Alex Zhang and Heidi Frostestad sharing wisdom concerning legal research textbook publication, and C.A. “Dean” Deane discussing wage challenges in the profession.

Looking ahead, in the coming year you may be hearing from Charlotte Daugherty and Lucie Olejnikova, who are convening an FCIL-SIS History Task Force. Our SIS formed 40 years ago - check out, on our History website, our SIS Timeline covering 1985 to 2005. In addition to updating our oral histories, Charlotte, Lucie and team will bring our SIS timeline to the present. Feel free to contact them to contribute memories and insights!

AALL / FOREIGN, COMPARATIVE, & INTERNATIONAL LAW SIS / ABOUT US / HISTORY / TIMELINE /

TIMELINE

- ANNUAL REPORTS
- BYLAWS
- COMMITTEES & GROUPS +
- LEADERSHIP
- STRATEGIC PLAN
- JOIN
- HISTORY -
 - Oral Histories +
 - Timeline**
- BROCHURE

FCIL-SIS TIMELINE: 1985 TO 2005

Created for the AALL Centennial in 2006.

July 1985[1]	FCIL Special Interest Section created. The first Chair is Claire M. Germain [2] FCIL-SIS incorporates the AALL Special Committee on International Placements as a permanent subcommittee.
July 1986	FCIL-SIS members first sit together at the AALL meeting luncheon.
1987	Vol. 1, No. 1 of the FCIL Newsletter [then un-numbered] is published. The editor from this issue until October 1988 is Dan Wade [3]
1987	The SIS elects Maria Smolka-Day as its first Secretary-Treasurer.

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From the Chair

I'm also excited to welcome this month a new member to the Executive Committee - Yemisi Dina as our 2025 - 2026 Vice Chair/Chair-Elect. Yemisi hardly requires an introduction given her many contributions to the profession and the SIS, and we are so fortunate that she was willing to serve when I transitioned early into the Chair role. Thanks to Alison Shea, Traci Emerson Spackey, and the Nominating Committee for their quick and diligent work in identifying a strong candidate to fill this vacancy outside of the typical nominations cycle. Welcome, as well, to Sue Silverman, who has led the DEI Committee in recent years, notably directing its popular "What in the World" webinar series, and who is beginning her 2-year term as Secretary/Treasurer. We are all grateful to be serving with the unfailingly dedicated Caitlin Hunter, our Immediate Past Chair, now in her fifth year on the committee following her terms in other roles.



Judy Wairimu Ng'ang'a, Recipient of the 2024 FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians

Effective Strategies for E-resource Management in Academic Libraries: A Kenyan Perspective
FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant Presentation

By: Judy Wairimu Ng'ang'a
Senior Library Assistant – Systems
(Kenya School of Law - KSL)

JUNE 26, 2025

**Venue: American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)
International Conference**

THE KENYA SCHOOL OF LAW

A centre of excellence in professional legal training, research and consultancy. www.ksl.ac.ke

To access Ms. Ng'ang'a's presentation slide and recording, visit [our website](#).



Volunteer!

Volunteer Highlight:
Continuing Education Committee
Sophia Kingsley

After a year of working with Caitlin Hunter, Sophia Kingsley and Louis Myers II became the FCIL-SIS Continuing Education Committee co-chairs in July 2025. Rebecca Domm also joined us as the committee's newest member. We are very grateful to Caitlin for all of her support and training, and for providing us with this opportunity to contribute to the SIS.

Currently, we are reviewing webinar ideas previously proposed by members. Possible topics include:

- The work of The Pathfinders, an international organization that promotes access to justice initiatives worldwide (proposed by Diane Rodriguez in 2024).
- Several ideas from Lyonette Louis-Jacques: the history/future of FCIL librarianship; customary religious law; legal translation (including the best bilingual legal dictionaries, and machine translation); and FCIL cataloging/metadata.
- An updated version of the presentation on legal information in U.S. territories.
- Hawaiian customary law and the digitization of Hawaiian state archival material (proposed by Jolande Goldberg).

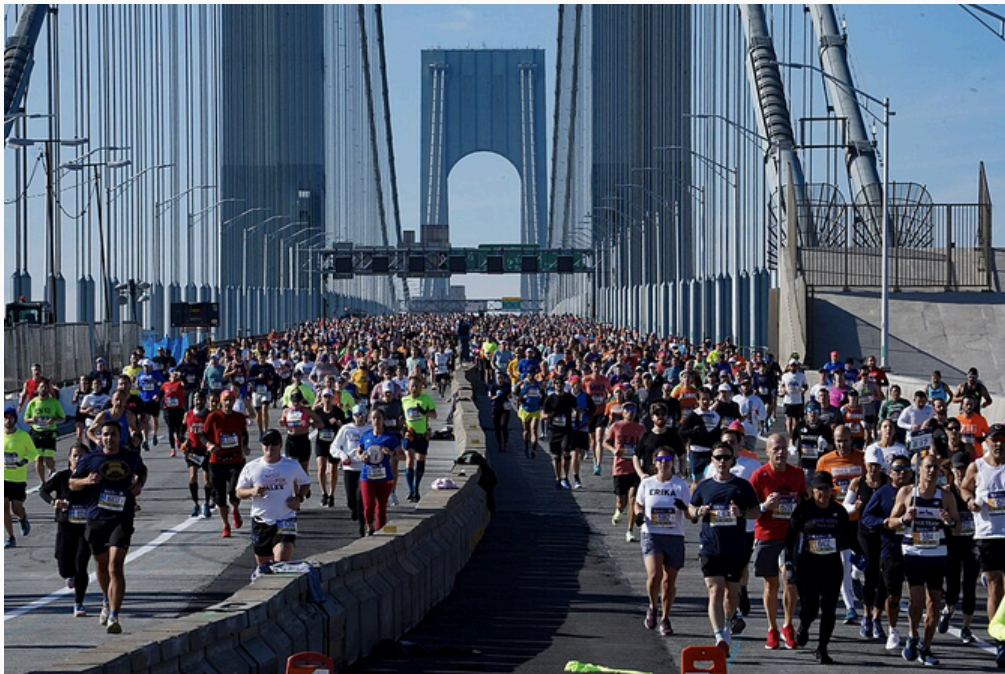
If any members are interested in these topics or would like to propose additional topics for webinars or other educational events, please contact us as at sophia.kingsley@sidley.com or lmyers@loc.gov. We especially encourage members with rejected AALL conference proposals to reach out.



Editor's Corner

As usual, the bulk of the October issue is dedicated to the FCIL-SIS Business Meeting minutes from the AALL Annual Meeting and the reports of committees and interest groups. Please take time to peruse all of the amazing work being done and to find new opportunities to volunteer. Several interest groups are looking for new and continuing stewards.

As I write this column, I am inspired to utilize a well-used, perhaps poorly-worn, metaphor thanks to the upcoming New York City Marathon.



Marc A. Hermann / Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) [CC BY-2.0](#)

Things that are marathons, and most definitely not a sprint -

- Fall teaching
- Halloween with children
- Government shutdowns (apparently)
- Librarianship (generally) (This is perhaps more of a goal statement than a fact.)
- Hiring
- Writing
- Marathons (actual)
- Simply existing

All the best to you and the various marathons in each of your individual lives right now. The February issue will be here before I can blink, but for now, I can at least give you this statement, which is hopefully one of comfort - *Happy almost "let's circle back after the holidays" season!*

Janet



Introducing...Ana Delgado Valentín as the April 2025 FCIL-SIS Member of the Month

Editor's Note: Ana will be taking over as Editor of the Newsletter in 2026, and to welcome her into the forefront, I am reprinting [Ana's interview with the FCIL-SIS blog, DipLawMatic Dialogues](#), published 4 April 2025. Be sure to [follow the blog](#) to see all their posts!

1. Where did you grow up?

I had the best of both worlds growing up between San Juan and Mayagüez, Puerto Rico—city life on one side, coastal charm on the other.

2. Why did you select law librarianship as a career?

Law librarianship is where my love for history, research, and storytelling comes together. I get to preserve knowledge, guide others in finding it, and bring legal history to life—especially through my tours at the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico Law Library. It's like being part-detective, part-historian, and part-educator, all rolled into one.

3. When did you develop an interest in foreign, comparative, and/or international law?

Probably the moment I realized that laws tell the story of a society—what it values, fears, and aspires to be. My interest grew through study, travel, and curiosity about how different places shape their legal traditions.

4. Who is your current employer? How long have you worked there?

I work at the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico Law Library, where I enjoy leading historical tours and engaging with legal research. It's been a rewarding journey—I get to connect the past with the present every day. I've been in this role a year and a half.



Ian Poellet [CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

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Introducing...Ana Delgado Valentín as the April 2025 FCIL-SIS Member of the Month

5. Do you speak any foreign languages?

Yes! Spanish is my native tongue.

6. What is your most significant professional achievement?

Honestly, I always seem to find my next professional step almost serendipitously—one opportunity leading to another in ways I couldn't have planned. I'm not sure if there's one single achievement that stands out, but what I truly value is the ability to create, grow, and be part of something meaningful. Whether it's shaping projects, sharing knowledge, or building connections, that's what makes my work fulfilling.

7. What is your favorite food?

There's something magical about a perfect Margherita pizza—simple, yet delicious. The crispy-yet-chewy crust, the fresh basil, the balance of tomato and mozzarella... it's a classic for a reason. It's my go-to comfort food, whether I'm traveling or just craving something timeless.

8. What song makes you want to get up and sing/dance?

Honestly, I don't listen to music that often—at least not in the way that some people always have a soundtrack playing in the background. But when I do, it's usually tied to a specific moment or memory—a song playing in a café while traveling, a childhood favorite that pops up unexpectedly, or something my daughter enjoys dancing to. Music, for me, is less about constant noise and more about those little moments when a song perfectly fits the mood, place, or feeling. That said, Don't Stop Believin' always stands out—something about it feels timeless and uplifting, making it impossible not to sing along. And if I really want to feel the music, I absolutely love the Gipsy Kings—their rhythm, energy, and passion always make me want to move!

9. What ability or skill do you most wish you had (that you don't have already)?

I wish I could draw or create art effortlessly—to be able to capture moments, emotions, and ideas visually the way artists do. There's something so powerful about expressing a story or a feeling through lines, colors, and shapes. I love and appreciate art deeply, and it would be incredible to bring that creativity to life with my own hands.

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Introducing...Ana Delgado Valentín as the April 2025 FCIL-SIS Member of the Month

10. Aside from the basic necessities, what is one thing you can't go a day without?

My daughter. Every day, she reminds me to see the world with fresh eyes, to be curious, and to find joy in the little things. I also can't go a day without thinking about future travels—imagining new places to explore, cultures to experience, and adventures to share with her. Then there's my need to create something, whether it's a new idea, a plan, or just a fresh perspective on something familiar. And, of course, none of this would be possible without coffee—the fuel that keeps it all going!

11. Anything else you would like to share with us?

I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunities I've had—to learn, to grow, and to be part of meaningful projects and communities. Every experience, every challenge, and every unexpected turn has shaped my journey, and I wouldn't have it any other way. I truly value the chance to collaborate, to share ideas, and to build something bigger than myself. There's always more to discover, and I'm excited for whatever comes next!





Minutes for the FCIL-SIS Business Meeting, July 1, 2025

Minute-taker: Secretary/Treasurer Meredith Capps, mcapps@bradley.com

Location: Zoom

Introductions

A quorum of 15 members being present, the meeting was called to order by Chair Caitlin Hunter at 9 am PST. Caitlin introduced the current Executive Committee: Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Renu Sagreiya; Secretary/Treasurer - Meredith Capps; and Immediate Past Chair Michael McArthur.

Old Business

- Approval of Minutes from 2024 Business Meeting: The 2024 business meeting minutes were published in the FCIL-SIS Newsletter at Volume 39, Issue 1, page 17 (October 2024). A motion to approve the minutes was introduced, seconded, and passed.
- Secretary/Treasurer Report:
 - Finances: Meredith reported that, as of July 1, 2025, the most recent available SIS budget reports were dated March 31, 2025. As of that date, the balance of the FCIL-SIS operating account was \$12,000.87. Also as of that date, the Schaffer Grant account contained \$52,000 in its endowed corpus and \$99,586 in its excess.
 - Elections: Because Meredith ran for the office of Vice-Chair/Chair Elect and is currently serving as Secretary, Caitlin conducted this year's election and reported the results. Caitlin reported that the 2025 election was uncontested. Meredith Capps was elected Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and Sue Silverman was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

Editor's Note: Due to the nature of reporting, some information is duplicated in the Business Meeting Minutes and the Interest Group & Committee Reports (below). For a full accounting, see both sections.

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Interest Group Reports at the Business Meeting

African Law IG:

Yemisi Dina, Chair (2022-2024)
The African IG hosted an event on June 5 - African Digitization Stories. Yemisi would like to work with a successor to take over the IG - this individual need not be from the region. More than 20 members are currently participating in the community. Caitlin emphasized that chairing an IG doesn't require prior expertise or significant work. For example, hosting one webinar during each two-year period is adequate!

Asian Law IG:

Chair role currently vacant.

Customary and Religious Law IG:

This year, the interest group was working with another organization to co-host a webinar, and experienced scheduling issues. The chair role will be vacant next year.

European Law IG:

Traci Emerson Spackey (2024-2026)
Nothing to report.

Electronic Research IG:

Chair role currently vacant.

Foreign Law Selectors IG:

Alison Shea, Co-Chair (2023-2025),
Lucie Olejnikova, Co-Chair (2023-2025)
Meeting scheduled for next week on July 8th. Survey conducted last year reflected value of reports. Plan to continue collection development discussions.

Indigenous Peoples Law IG:

Joan Policastri, Chair (2024-2026)
Caitlin discussed collaboration with the Continuing Education Committee to host a webinar last year concerning indigenous law of Canada, available here:

<https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/education-training/continuing-education/>.

Latin American Law IG:

Ana Delgado, Chair (2024-2026)
Call for volunteers to assist with forthcoming initiatives in the new year.

Roman Law IG:

Paul Moorman, Chair (2024-2026)
The Roman Law Interest Group hosted a program last year with Prof. Clifford Ando on Roman Statutes (available on the [Continuing Ed](#) page), and Paul noted that Prof. Ando was a guest on the *Ius Commune* Podcast and provided an update on his Roman Statutes project:

<https://rss.com/podcasts/iuscommune/1835382/>. Paul will provide a bibliography of recent roman law scholarship in the IG's annual report.

Teaching Foreign & International Legal Research IG:

Stephanie Farne, Chair (2024-2026)
The Teaching IG's plan is to update the teaching materials repository, and work began this summer. Stephanie is seeking additional submissions and volunteers to help plan the update, and consider reorganization.

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Committee Reports at the Business Meeting

Appointments Committee:

Anne Burnett and Josh Freeman, Co-Chair (2023-2025)

- Anne reported that the volunteer survey this spring yielded two dozen vacancies and seven responses to volunteers.
- The survey added information regarding responsibility for the interest group chair positions.
- Strategic Planning Committee and History Task Force remain outstanding for next year.
- Encourage anyone hesitant to volunteer!
- The committee may start the process earlier next year.

Continuing Education Committee:

Caitlin Hunter, Chair (2019-2025)

- This year, the committee consisted of Caitlin Hunter (chair), Sophia Kingsley, Louis Myers, and Britt Hunter.
- The committee organized three webinars:
 - Researching Indigenous Laws and Canadian Aboriginal Law
 - Law, Not Force: Ben Ferencz’s Legacy of Legal Justice for Human Rights Victims
 - Volunteer with FCIL-SIS!
- Thank you to everyone who participated in or helped organize the webinars, including Joan Policastri, Alison Shea, Yemisi Dina, and Janet Kearney.
- An especially big thank you to Sophia Kingsley and Louis Myers, who not only helped organize the webinars but have agreed to take over as co-chairs. Sophia and Louis will be the new Continuing Education Committee co-chairs, taking over after the AALL Annual Meeting.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

Sue Silverman, Chair (2023-2025)

- The DEI committee hosted a successful panel of FCIL librarians to reflect on being an FCIL librarian in a time of uncertainty and political upheaval. Sue hopes that the next committee will continue hosting the “What in the World?” series.
- No incoming chair for next year - encourages volunteers. Sue is happy to stay on the committee and assist with transition to a new chair.

Education Committee:

Renu Sagreiya, Chair (2024-2025)

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Committee Reports at the Business Meeting

FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians - Selection Committee:

Joseph Hinger, Chair (2023-2025)

- This year, the committee:
 - Worked with the Web Committee to update the Schaffer Grant portion, reflecting suggestions from the FCIL-DEI Committee, and clarifying wording regarding money/reimbursement based on interactions with AALL leadership.
 - Worked with the FCIL Executive Team and AALL Executive Team to (re)-define the financial terms and conditions of the Schaffer Grant, and how reimbursements will work (ie, airfare, hotel, etc.), as this has changed.
 - 2024/2025 Schaffer Grant recipient Judy N'gang'a, from Kenya was unable to obtain a travel visa to come to AALL, even applying twice. We worked with her to deliver her presentation electronically.
 - Selected the 2025/2026 Schaffer Grant winner. Received approximately 15 applicants, and Rabia Bashir, from Pakistan was ultimately selected. Due to the non-presence of a Schaffer Grant representative in 2025, we decided to informally select 2 runners-up, who would be offered the 2025/2026 Schaffer Grant if the main winner is not able to physically attend. We discussed the current global climate and feel that travel visas in the upcoming years may be quite difficult (or impossible) to obtain for travel to the USA. We felt that physical presence is preferred and would work to try to have physical representation and use the Schaffer Grant for its true intention - attendance at the Annual Meeting. The 1st and 2nd runners-up will be the 2nd and 3rd place selections from the top 3 grantee selections.
 - For 2026, Rabia, the winner, accepted the grant. 1st runner up was contacted and the "runner-up position" was offered to them, in case the winner could not attend. They politely declined, stating that the political climate had drastically changed from the time of application to the time of notification. The 2nd runner-up conditionally accepted, stating that all depended on the political climate, and security of travelling to the USA.
 - Caitlin noted success of recipient webinar, suggested that we continue to host the webinar in addition to in-person presentation to expand audience.

FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians - Fundraising Committee:

Sherry Leysen, Chair (2024-2026)

- This past year we continued to encourage new donors, we updated promotional materials used by the Selection and Fundraising Committees to promote the Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians, and we continued to support the work of the Selection Committee.
- Although we had planned to celebrate at this year's conference the 25th Anniversary of Ellen Schaffer's generous donation which took place in 2000, because the recipient for this year's conference was not able to attend in person, we've postponed the anniversary milestone and will plan to celebrate 25 years of Schaffer Grant Recipients (the first grant Recipient attended the Annual Meeting in 2001) at next year's Annual Meeting & Conference instead.

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Committee Reports at the Business Meeting

FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians - Fundraising Committee con't:

- Thank you to the Fundraising Committee members for your service, and as always we are so grateful to Ellen Schaffer and all of you for your continuing and generous contributions and support.
 - Some attendees asked whether per the grant the SIS can provide a stipend to recipients who can't travel. Currently no - the grant and AALL policy only cover travel expenses to the meeting.

FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians - Fundraising Committee:

Sherry Leysen, Chair (2024-2026)

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- Thank you to the Fundraising Committee members for your service, and as always we are so grateful to Ellen Schaffer and all of you for your continuing and generous contributions and support.
 - Some attendees asked whether per the grant the SIS can provide a stipend to recipients who can't travel. Currently no - the grant and AALL policy only cover travel expenses to the meeting.

International Visits Committee:

David McFadden, Chair (2024-2026)

- Survey instrument for institutions willing to host visits.
- Soliciting testimonials - if you or someone you know has visited librarians in another jurisdiction contact the committee.
- Established a community for the committee.
- Four members on current committee after a period of inactivity.

Newsletter Committee:

Janet Kearney, Editor (2024-2026)

- The submission deadline for all Interest Group and committee reports is September 12; submit by emailing a Word doc to Janet - janet.kearney@nyu.edu. (This info will go out again in My Communities in August.)
- We had 13 contributors this year, and I just want to thank you all for sharing your work with us! Thanks to Caitlin for her chair column. And thanks to the website team for posting it, our members Jingwei, Kristen, and Carmen for their hard work in gathering member publications and copy editing, and Ana for helping to coordinate special projects.

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Committee Reports at the Business Meeting

Newsletter Committee con't:

- Three issues as usual - one on the annual meeting, a special Mardi Gras issue, and one conference prep issue. We welcome ideas and contributions for future issues.
- Likely some special projects will be coming down the pipeline on content and format, so keep an eye out for that.

Nominating Committee:

Traci Emerson Spackey, Co-Chair (2024-2026) and Alison Shea, Co-Chair (2024-2026)

- This year, the committee:
 - Submitted a new slate of nominees.
 - The language on the Nominating Committee's page regarding the rules was outdated and didn't reflect the actual FCIL-SIS bylaws. We recommended changing the Nominating Committee's webpage, which now correctly refers to the FCIL-SIS bylaws.
 - Recommended new timeline for Nominating Committee actions: suggested completing nomination process by December 15 to complete before holiday breaks, and submitting the roster of candidates to the Executive Committee in January (before the February FCIL-SIS Newsletter deadline).
 - Encourage volunteers to start in committee and IG chair roles to gain experience and then seek executive committee roles.

Publicity Committee:

Devan Orr, Co-Chair (2023-2025), Kristin Wolek, Co-Chair (2024-2026)

Website Committee:

Charlotte Daugherty, Co-Chair (2023-2026) and Lucie Olejnikova, Co-Chair (2022-2026)

- Thanks to all who have sent updates. Review your own committee page and provide edits.
- Seeking volunteers to assist in FCIL-SIS history project in connection with 40th anniversary of the SIS. This will include drafting a timeline and interviewing key FCIL librarians active in the SIS.

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Awards

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.

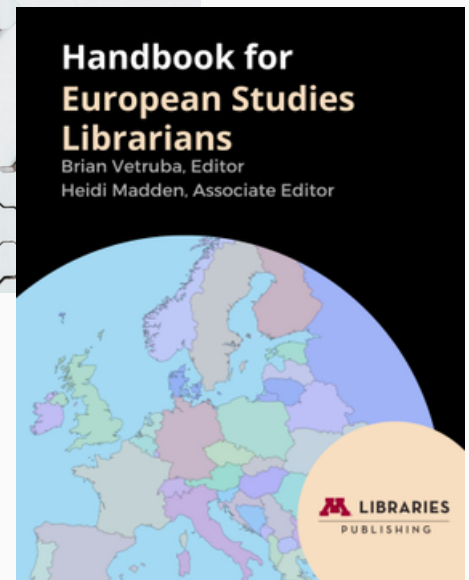
Anne Burnett, Foreign and International Law Librarian, University of Georgia School of Law Library. The librarian who nominated Anne praised her years of volunteering for FCIL-SIS Committees and wrote that “without dedicated volunteers like Anne who will continue to serve where asked throughout their career, we would not be able to keep our small but mighty SIS moving forward.”

Laura A. Cadra, Head of Reference Services/Foreign & International Law Librarian, LMU Loyola Law School (Retired). The librarians who nominated Laura praised her many years of mentoring new FCIL law librarians and encouraging new FCIL librarians to become active in FCIL-SIS.

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. The winning “publications” may be print, digital, or electronic initiatives.

Yemisi Dina & Yasmin Morais, Legal Research Methods for the English-Speaking Caribbean (2024). One of the three librarians who nominated this publication predicted that the book would become “the go-to publication for teaching foreign and international law research in the Caribbean” and described it as “a must-have addition to any law library collection.”

Alison Shea & Jennifer Alison, European Legal Research, in Handbook for European Studies Librarians (Brian Vetruba & Heidi Madden eds. 2024). The librarian who nominated this publication described it as “an example of excellent scholarship that bridges the information gap and ensures access for all.”



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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.

Charlotte Daugherty, Foreign & Comparative Legal Research Librarian, University of California, Berkeley Law Library. The librarian who nominated Charlotte praised her “contributions and commitment to FCIL.”

Sarah Martin, Librarian, Global Law & Language Access, Los Angeles County Law Library. The librarian who nominated Sarah praised “her willingness to jump in and get involved in all things related to law librarianship.”

Paul Moorman, Senior Law Librarian - Research Services/Foreign & International Law, USC Gould School of Law. The librarian who nominated Paul praised him for “quietly and steadily contributing to the success of the FCIL-SIS for more than a decade” and being “a great team player who is always ready to volunteer and represent FCIL.”

The ***Blog Post of the Year Award*** honors an AALL member who contributes an outstanding blog post for the FCIL-SIS blog, DipLawMatic Dialogues, during the previous year.

Sarah Martin, [Hidden Gems of the LA Law Library: Treasure Hunting in the Stacks.](#)

The ***IG/Committee Project of the Year Award*** honors the FCIL-SIS Interest Group and/or Committee that produces an outstanding project for the benefit of FCIL-SIS and/or AALL members during the previous year.

The *FCIL-SIS Newsletter Committee* for their [February 2025](#) Mardi Gras themed issue.

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.

Newsletter Committee chair Janet Kearney, for her article “Janet’s Good but Not Well Organized or Methodical Bibliography” and for her work coordinating the Mardi Gras themed issue more broadly.

Caitlin congratulated all the award recipients.

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New Business

Lucie thanked all contributors to GlobaLex.

Caitlin sought updates concerning recent and upcoming conferences:

- Mark Engsborg reported attending CALL and some members attending BIALL. Encouraged members to attend one of those conferences. Promoted IALL in Houston this fall. Noted that this will be a very affordable meeting.
- Yemisi Dina congratulated Alison Shea on presentation at BIALL, and noted also that Marcelo Rodriguez presented at CALL.
- Alison Shea reported on IFLA as a member of the legal information section. August meeting in Kazakhstan, which will include a program on law libraries and civil society.

Gavel Passing

Caitlin recognized Renu as the new Chair and Meredith as the new Vice Chair. Caitlin acknowledged and thanked the various committee and interest group chairs and the other members of the executive committee.

Upcoming Events

Caitlin encouraged all members attending AALL to attend the following FCIL related programs:

- Sunday, July 20th, 12:45-1:45 pm, Room B117: FCIL-SIS Committee and Interest Group Meetings - Room available for any Committees and Interest Groups that would like to meet in person.
- Sunday, July 20, 2025, 2-3pm: Exploring the Globe: Cataloging Foreign Materials- Featuring FCIL-SIS member Traci Emerson Spackey as a speaker.
- Monday, July 21, 9:45-10:45am: Thriving Wages and Anti-Oppressive Compensation: Bold Ideas or Ethical Obligations for an Inclusive Profession?- Co-sponsored by FCIL-SIS, BLL-SIS, and SR-SIS and coordinated by longtime FCIL-SIS member and past FCIL-SIS Chair, Dean Deane.
- Monday, July 21, 2025, 11am-12 pm: From Idea to Publication and Beyond: Navigating Legal Research Textbook Creation and Leveraging Emerging Technologies - Sponsored by FCIL-SIS, coordinated by longtime FCIL-SIS member and past FCIL-SIS Chair Alex Zhang, and features as a speaker longtime FCIL-SIS member and past FCIL-SIS Chair, Heidi Frostestad.
- Monday, July 21, 2025, 3:45pm-4:45pm: Neighbors to the North: Understanding the Canadian Legal Landscape

Don't forget to stop by the FCIL-SIS table at CONELL (if you're attending) and to stop by the FCIL-SIS poster in the exhibit hall.

Finally, if you are a committee or interest group chair, please remember to submit your annual report to Janet Kearney, janet.kearney@nyu.edu, by September 12.

Adjournment

Mark Engsborg moved to adjourn, and Lucie and Alison seconded the motion. The chair asked all those in favor to say Aye. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 12 pm CST.



Interest Group & Committee Reports - 2024-2025

Publicity Committee

Kristin Wolek

During the past year, the Publicity Committee has continued its efforts in the public-facing functions of the FCIL SIS. This has included running the DipLawMatic Dialogues blog and performing outreach at AALL.

DipLawMatic Dialogues: Over the past year, several series have continued on this blog. This includes the FCIL Member of the Month, where each month a member of the SIS is featured in a blog post, and From the Reference Desk, which discusses different topics from the perspective of an FCIL librarian. We also had a number of standalone posts from a variety of members, including recaps from AALL and summaries of new GlobaLex issues. In 2025, there have been a total of 25 posts made (with more to come!) and over 8,000 views on the blog so far. We hope to continue using DipLawMatic Dialogues as a tool for outreach and a source of valuable content in the coming years.

At AALL, we were able to connect with many members and potential members of the SIS. At the Conference of Newer Law Librarians, those new to the profession had the opportunity to learn about the FCIL SIS. Additionally, the publicity committee had a poster featured in the AALL poster section that allowed AALL attendees to learn more about the SIS. AALL featured multiple presentations that were great for those interested in FCIL, including “Neighbors to the North: Understanding the Canadian Legal Landscape” and “Exploring the Globe: Cataloging Foreign Materials.”

The publicity committee also attended the FCIL-SIS Committee & Interest Group Meeting to connect with other members of the SIS and educate those interested in participating in a committee or in writing posts for DipLawMatic Dialogues. The AALL Annual Meeting proved to be a great avenue for spreading awareness about the FCIL SIS and for sharing experiences between its members.

The publicity committee continued its normal operations in 2025, which primarily included administration and content creation for the FCIL SIS’ blog and performing outreach at the AALL Annual Meeting. We hope to continue these activities in 2026.

International Visits Committee

David L. McFadden

2024-2025 was the beginning of a revitalization of the FCIL International Visits Committee.

With Adam Mackie, Renu Sagreiya and Traci Spackey as committee members, we updated the survey instrument to collect information about library visits and exchanges, we began to solicit libraries to complete the survey and we established a community presence on the AALL’s Communities.

In the coming year we have new member Clement Lin and plan on continuing the revitalization process.

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Interest Group & Committee Reports - 2024-2025

Appointments Committee

Anne Burnett and Josh Freeman

We surveyed committee and interest group chairs in the spring to determine volunteer needs. The results of that survey, along with input from the SIS Chair regarding a need for a 2026-2029 Strategic Planning Committee and a short-term SIS History Task force, informed the call for volunteers that we distributed in May. Thank you to the members who responded to that call, enabling us to fill many spots. There are still several interest group chair positions open (contact Anne aburnett@uga.edu for more information). A big thank you also to Caitlin Hunter, Yemisi Dina, Janet Kearney, and Alison Shea, all longtime FCIL SIS volunteers, for their informative May webinar about opportunities to volunteer with the section. Looking ahead, we plan to begin the process earlier next year.

African Law Interest Group

Yemisi Dina

The African Interest Group currently has 29 members on the community page.

On June 5, 2025, the IG held an event titled "African Digitization Stories". It featured a panel that discussed experiences about digitizing the history of Nigeria through preservation and archiving. Slides from the presentation are available on the African IG webpage - <https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/about-us/committees-groups/african-law/>

I am using this opportunity to seek and urge colleagues to consider stepping up to the leadership of this group. The position of Chair, or Co-Chairs if there are more than one, is very light. You don't have to be from the region; all you need are leadership skills and interest in research about foreign jurisdictions which would assist in building an interest in the region. For example, I am not knowledgeable about the entire African continent even though I am originally from there.

Please feel free to reach out to Yemisi Dina for more information.

Continuing Education Committee

Caitlin Hunter

This year, the FCIL-SIS Continuing Education Committee consisted of Caitlin Hunter (chair), Sophia Kingsley, Louis Myers, and Britt Hunter. Britt Hunter left the committee after changing jobs outside of law librarianship- I thank her for her contributions! I am pleased to report that Sophia Kingsley and Louis Myers have volunteered to take over as co-chairs of the FCIL-SIS Continuing Education Committee following this year's AALL Annual Meeting. I have appreciated all their contributions to the FCIL-SIS Continuing Education Committee over the past two years, and I am glad to be returning the committee's work over to such capable hands!

This year, the FCIL-SIS Continuing Education Committee organized three webinars:

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Interest Group & Committee Reports - 2024-2025

Researching Indigenous Laws and Canadian Aboriginal Law provided an introduction to Canadian Indigenous law (law internal to Indigenous nations) and Canadian Aboriginal law (law regarding the constitutional rights of Indigenous Peoples and the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the Crown). Clare Asquith Finegan (Courthouse Libraries BC) provided information on researching Canadian and Indigenous law, described how the legal system of Canada has historically harmed and continues to harm Indigenous peoples, and provided an overview of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report (2015) and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. Amy Kaufman (Queen's University, Kingston) discussed current collection development practices related to Indigenous legal materials in an academic law library, reflecting on appropriate and respectful roles for non-Indigenous librarians. The webinar was moderated by Joan Policastri (William A. Wise Law Library, University of Colorado Law School). Alison Shea (University of St. Thomas School of Law) proposed the webinar and assisted with planning. Caitlin Hunter and Sophia Kingsley coordinated the webinar.

Law, Not Force: Ben Ferencz's Legacy of Legal Justice for Human Rights Victims honored Ben Ferencz, a Nuremberg trial prosecutor who played a crucial role in the establishment of a permanent International Criminal Court. John M. Geiringer (Partner and Regulatory Section Leader, BFKN law firm) spoke about Ferencz's role at the Nuremberg tribunal and Adam Weber (Associate Dean of International Programs, Associate Teaching Professor, Chicago-Kent College of Law) spoke about the international criminal courts that have continued Ferencz's legacy. Caitlin Hunter and Eugene M. Giudice (Senior Research Services Training Specialist, Dentons) developed the webinar.

Finally, Volunteer with FCIL-SIS! highlighted opportunities to volunteer with FCIL-SIS. Yemisi Dina (Chair, FCIL-SIS African Law Interest Group; Chief Law Librarian, Osgood Hall Law School, York University); Janet Kearney (Chair, FCIL-SIS Newsletter Committee; Reference/Foreign, Comparative & International Law Librarian, NYU Law); and Alison Shea (A past Chair of FCIL-SIS; Co-Chair, Nominating Committee; Co-Chair, Foreign Law Selectors Interest Group; Research Librarian, St. Thomas School of Law) spoke about their experiences volunteering. Louis Myers moderated the webinar and Caitlin Hunter and Sophia Kingsley coordinated it.

After 6 years of serving as FCIL-SIS Continuing Education Committee chair, I am glad to have ended with such a strong final year and pleased to turn the committee over to Louis and Sophia as co-chairs!

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Interest Group & Committee Reports - 2024-2025

Roman Law IG

Paul Moorman

The Roman Law Interest Group was relatively quiet this year after last year's successful [webinar](#) with [Prof. Clifford Ando](#) on his [Roman Statutes: Renewing Roman Law](#) project. Also, on a related note, Prof. Ando was a guest on the excellent [Ius Commune Podcast](#) in January to talk about this project; I encourage you to check it out if you want an update on the status of the project.

Please contact the [Chair](#) with any suggestions for a webinar or other types of programs on Roman law. While Roman law doesn't always translate well to annual meeting programming, the response to the Clifford Ando program shows that there is interest within the law librarian community for programming on this topic.

Finally, the chair of this committee sometimes includes a bibliography of recent Roman law publications in the annual report. To continue that tradition, here is a selected list of books on Roman law, published since the last bibliography from 2023, that may be of interest to the membership.

Babusiaux, Ulrike. *The Roman Law of Inheritance: The Evolution of the Roman Law of Inheritance During the Principate*. Edinburgh University Press, 2024.
<https://doi.org/10.3366/edinburgh/9781399531658.001.0001>

Grebieniow, Aleksander. *Estate Planning by Agreement in the Sources of Roman Law*, Brill, 2025.
<https://doi.org/10.30965/9783657795086>

Herz, Zachary. *The God and the Bureaucrat: Roman Law, Imperial Sovereignty, and Other Stories*. Cambridge University Press, 2025.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009629928>

Janssen, K P S. *Marginalized Religion and the Law in the Roman Empire*. Oxford University Press, 2024,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/9780191946400.001.0001>

Van Nuffelen, Peter. *Performing Justice in the Later Roman Empire*. Cambridge University Press, 2025.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009603706>

Newsletter Committee

Janet Kearney

The FCIL Newsletter continues to serve as both a source for sharing FCIL-related information and archiving important milestones of our SIS. Our largest issue was the October 2024 issue (vol. 39, no. 1) at 38 pages. The October issue included our 2024 Business Meeting Minutes and Committee & IG reports from the Annual Meeting as well as two resource reviews, World LII and Bloomberg Law. The February 2025 (vol. 39, no. 2) issue included one resource review, Globalcit, and several contributions to the overall theme of Mardi Gras/Carnival. (This issue won the Committee Project of the year award!) The May issue (vol. 39, no. 3) contained highlights for the 2025 Annual Meeting, the 2025 award winners, and a call for volunteers.

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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>. Thank you to the website committee for posting our publications.

Masthead change: We are happy to welcome a new member editor, Kristen Clarke Kellems, from BYU Law!

Need for new content: Like most other places, we are always looking for more contributions! We are looking for suggestions, especially for recurring content columns. This year we've made a concerted effort to publish some themed issues, and hopefully we can continue that push, perhaps with some contributions on collection development and other related FCIL topics.

Submission Deadlines: These will generally fall between the 1st and 15th of each month, but I will announce them closer to the publication deadlines for each issue. Calls for content and reminders will go out via My Communities. The upcoming deadline for Committee and IG reports is September 12.

I'd like to acknowledge our contributors this year: Marylin Raisch, Alex Zhang, Meredith Capps, Stephanie Farne, Elaine Tornés Blanco, Ugyen Thinley, Sally Brown Richardson, Juan-Andrés Fuentes, Esther Bélanger, David McFadden, Josh Freeman, and Anne Burnett.

Please email Janet Kearney (janet.kearney@nyu.edu) or Ana Delgado Valentín (Ana.Delgado@poderjudicial.pr) 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

Charlotte Daugherty and Lucie Olejnikova

The Website Committee thanks the FCIL-SIS committee chairs and members who have sent in updates over the past year. All FCIL-SIS members play an important role in keeping the information on our web pages current. The yearly changes to the website reflect the ongoing work of committees and interest groups.

FCIL-SIS education and training pages are continuously updated. Visit the [Annual Meeting Programs page](#) featuring the FCIL-SIS-related programming at the 2024 annual conference, and the [Continuing Education page](#) featuring webinars and events offered throughout the year.

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The FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant-related pages have been updated with information about our wonderful recipients for 2023, 2024, and 2025, and with a big thank you to the FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant Fundraising Committee, the BIO pages have been updated with new brochures. We are also excited to welcome next year's FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant recipient, Rabia Bashir, who is now featured on the updated FCIL-SIS home page.

We are grateful to the members of the International Visits Committee, who reviewed and updated their committee's homepage featuring guidelines for exchanges and testimonials from librarians who have gone abroad. The FCIL-SIS Newsletter Committee is doing a fantastic job publishing three issues of our FCIL-SIS Newsletter, and the Publicity Committee is doing a wonderful job keeping up the DipLawMatic Dialogues blog. Bylaws have been updated to reflect the most recent changes voted on in the 2025 election. The 2022-2025 FCIL-SIS Strategic Plan was posted. And let's not forget to congratulate our award and recognition recipients; the award pages are all up to date.

Last, but not least, the Website Committee continues to seek volunteers to participate in the effort to update the FCIL-SIS history pages. To commemorate 40 years of FCIL, we plan to update the historical timeline of major milestones and the oral histories consisting of interviews with FCIL librarians who have influenced our profession. Thank you to the Executive and the Appointments Committees for their support and assistance in soliciting volunteers. If you have volunteered at some point and did not hear from us, please reach out. If you would like to volunteer, also, please reach out. If you are interested in either project or simply have updates, corrections, or suggestions for new content on the FCIL-SIS website, please contact Lucie Olejnikova and Charlotte Daugherty. We love to hear from you!



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Interest Group & Committee Reports - 2024-2025

Foreign Law Selectors Interest Group

Lucie Olejnikova and Alison Shea

The Foreign Law Selectors (FLS) Interest Group (IG) held its spring 2025 virtual meeting on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 2 PM EST. In a survey conducted in 2024, the respondents expressed interest in hearing from other libraries with foreign law collections about their foreign law collection development strategies, commitments, and challenges. As such, during the July meeting, several libraries provided brief reports on the libraries' respective foreign law collections, foreign law collection development and policies, the historical approaches, the current situation, and intentions for future commitments, often mentioning space issues, language expertise challenges, and interest in collaborative models. Below is a compilation of reports from libraries that participated in the reporting on July 8, 2025, including Berkeley, Columbia, Duke, Harvard, Iowa, NEFLLCG, New York University, the University of Chicago, and Yale. We would like to thank all participants and attendees for taking the time to join us and for preparing such informative reports. It was a great meeting, and we hope to hear from more libraries next time around.

Additionally, we began two short-term projects: compiling foreign law databases, and surveying membership about which regions they'd be interested in discussing collection development practices and strategies. We now have a list of topics and hope to organize smaller regions and/or subject-specific collection development discussions throughout the upcoming year. We hope to bring together foreign law librarians from across the country to exchange information and learn from one another. In advance, we thank everyone for participating.

Compilation of Law Library Reports from July 8, 2025, Foreign Law Selectors Virtual Meeting, including Berkeley, Columbia, Duke, Harvard, Iowa, NEFLLCG, NYU, University of Chicago, and Yale.

U.C. Berkeley Law Library

By Charlotte Daugherty, Legal Research Librarian for Foreign & Comparative Law (cndaugherty@berkeley.edu)

General Collection Philosophy

The U.C. Berkeley Law Library collects materials to support the research needs of faculty and students. Berkeley Law has strong international law course offerings, particularly in human rights law. Students can participate in human rights-centered clinic work through Berkeley's Human Rights Clinic and through the Human Rights Center, and can engage with public international law topics through the Miller Institute for Global Challenges and the Law. Correspondingly, the library collects books, journals, and databases that provide worldwide legal scholarship perspectives on international law and topics in comparative law.

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U.C. Berkeley Con't

The Law Library collects publications in foreign, comparative, and international law in the vernacular and in English, focusing on secondary sources because primary authority can increasingly be found online. For example, the Library no longer collects print U.N. and E.U. primary authority publications since ample web resources exist for finding and accessing these. The Library purchases primary authority from many countries, such as major Codes from civil law jurisdictions, in translation or in the vernacular, particularly those with included commentary. In 2025, the Law Library is cataloging the gift of a collection of Korean law monographs and serials published in recent years.

The Library purchases monographs and serials, mainly through subscription packages of e-books and print, and through standing orders, and has not generally used approval packages or demand-driven acquisition. As the host institution for the Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals, the Berkeley Law Library subscribes to over 700 international and comparative law journals and essay collections published all over the world on topics of international, comparative, and national law. In addition, librarians also select individual monograph titles.

E-book Packages

- International and comparative law from the following publishers: DeGruyter-Brill (Human Rights & Humanitarian Law; International Law), Elgar, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Routledge, Hart-Bloomsbury, Springer.

Print Subscriptions Include Serials and Monographs

- Library of Congress: Pakistan law publications. including annotated legislation and case law. Some monographs.
- Hogarth: publications from countries throughout Africa, in English, French, and Portuguese. Monographs and occasional serials.
- Print series from Harrassowitz, Erasmus, and Casalini.

Individual Title Selections

Titles with international law or comparative law content from the following vendors:

- Harrassowitz (publishers Nomos, Peter Lang, and Mohr Siebeck, Stämpfli, etc.) (French, German, English)
- Gobi: individual books not included in the e-book packages listed above (English)
- Erasmus (Dutch and European languages)
- Amalivre (French)
- Eastview (Eastern European countries & China, Japan, Korea)
- Casalini (Spanish & Italian books & journals)
- Atlantis Livros (Brazilian books; Portuguese)
- Vientos Tropicales (Central & South American books)

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U.C. Berkeley Con't

Databases

Berkeley Law subscribes to the following foreign law databases containing primary and secondary authority:

- China: PKU/ChinaLawInfo; Lexis China
- CIS Legislation: 11 independent former Soviet Countries
- England: Westlaw UK Edge; ICLR; vLex Justis
- Germany: Beck
- France: Dalloz
- Italy: DeJure
- India: SCC Online

Multi-jurisdictional databases include:

- vLex Justis (Central, South American collections are stronger than African, European, or Asian collections).
- Global Regulation
- Trans-Lex
- Westlaw / Lexis: International Materials & Practical Law Global collections
- Int'l Commercial arbitration databases: GAR, Jus Mundi, Kluwer Arbitration, Juris (Arbitration Law)
- Taxation: IBFD: tax laws, treaties, cases, and secondary literature

U.S. and Common Law Collections

The Berkeley Law Library budget for English-language common law jurisdictions primarily covers U.S. secondary and primary authority, as well as secondary authority from Australia, Canada, and the U.K. The Library increasingly relies on governmental or Legal Information Institute web access to primary authority from Australia, Canada, the U.K., and Ireland, but also provides access to U.K. law via databases Westlaw UK Edge, vLexJustice, ICLR, and Hein collections of historic English law.

Collection Weaknesses

The Law Library has not historically collected Asian law in Asian languages and has primarily acquired comparative law books about this region in English, in part to accommodate the widest population of library patrons. Similarly, the Law Library does not have a large Arabic-language collection, and instead collects research works on Islamic law in English and other languages.

Robbins Endowment

Berkeley Law's continued collecting of foreign civil and comparative law is made possible by the Robbins Endowment. The Robbins Endowment supports purchases of both modern foreign and comparative law books and materials, and a separate collection of historical civil and religious law works, discoverable through the Law Library catalog.

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U.C. Berkeley con't

The Robbins Collection Research Center is housed in a separate area of the law school and is staffed by librarians, experts in canon and religious legal texts, most dating from 16th-century Europe, with some works dating back to the medieval era. In addition to canon and Church of England law, the Robbins Collection also maintains extensive collections of Islamic and Jewish law.

Columbia Law School

By Silke Sahl, International, Comparative and Foreign Law Librarian
(ssahl@law.columbia.edu)

I was so glad to attend the AALL FCIL-SIS Foreign Law Selectors meeting in July. It was great to hear about the many great foreign law collections and to see you all virtually. Many thanks to Lucie and Alison for arranging this productive meeting.

Columbia Law School Library has a proud history of collecting foreign law in most jurisdictions of the world. Our foreign and comparative law collection includes more than 200,000 titles of both primary and secondary law. You can search our foreign law collection in the Columbia University Library Catalog CLIO and filter the results to limit to the location 'law' to see the breadth and depth of our collection.

We collect at a high level for 20 countries, at an intermediate level for 47 countries, and some materials for most other countries in the world. We are currently working on revising our collection development policy, which will likely include changes to our level of collecting in some countries. I will share more details once the new policy is complete. I would love to hear from any of you about how you address foreign law selection in your collection development policies.

The past five years at our library have been challenging. COVID, protests, federal budget issues, and a 2-year complete renovation of the law library have often caused strains on our workflow and budget. Unfortunately, we have had to temporarily halt foreign law ordering several times during this period. Fortunately, we are back to ordering foreign law now. While my selection focuses on current and recent materials, I also review any titles we may have missed during the buying freezes to fill any gaps in the collection.

We are very excited about the major renovation of our library. More information about Reimagining the Law Library is available online, and a Behind the Scenes the Law Library Renovation video is also available. We hope you can visit once the new library opens this winter. Please feel free to reach out to me at ssahl@law.columbia.edu if I can provide any additional information about our collection.

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Duke Law Library

By Mike McArthur, Assistant Director for Access and Collections
(michael.mcarthur@law.duke.edu)

While we are not a major selector, we have tried to maintain a robust foreign law collection.

This past fiscal year, we've added approximately 200 new foreign law monographs to our collection. We were also very fortunate to receive a notable gift of over 300 Russian legal titles, mostly from the 20th century, which significantly enriches our historical holdings. However, we anticipate our acquisitions budget will be reduced to some degree in the upcoming year, which will directly impact our ability to acquire new foreign law materials.

Considering recent overall budget restraints, we've taken a strategic and preservation-focused approach to foreign law collection development:

- We are winding down our approval plan with Cambeiro (Brazilian and Argentinian titles).
- We no longer receive Japanese Foundation funding and have paused acquiring new Japanese titles beyond maintaining our current serials.
- Preservation efforts have become a central priority, including targeted binding of cancelled foreign law serials and decisions about moving some titles off-site while retaining difficult to use titles on-hand to ensure proper accessibility.

In addition to these collection activities, we've also conducted a detailed license analysis of all vendor contracts, including those for foreign law resources.

Harvard Law Library

By Caroline Walters, Manager of Collection Development
(cwalters@law.harvard.edu)

Budget

Due to prevailing financial pressures on Harvard University, the Harvard Law Library's collection development budget is provisionally flat for FY26, although we've been warned this may change at any time. Looking ahead, we know we will be getting a 1.5% reduction in FY27. We are therefore exploring strategies to manage both potential mid-year cuts and the confirmed FY27 reduction. To that end, the Law Library is conducting a review of our print and electronic resources, considering factors such as cost, patron usage, open access availability, jurisdictional stability, and our consortia collection responsibilities.

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Interest Group & Committee Reports - 2024-2025

Harvard Law con't

Our Collections

Harvard Law Library has worked hard over the past year to further enhance its foreign and international and US law collections. We continue to build global and multilingual collections across all areas of law. This work follows the Library's ABC system which codes each country by levels of preservation strength:

A=Jurisdiction's ability to preserve law is uncertain or we have a mandate to collect in depth - collect and archive

B= Jurisdiction's ability to preserve law is mixed or its law is not of primary interest to us to support our users, collect and archive what we can

C= Jurisdiction's ability to preserve law is good - law is available in a stable, digital format - rely on access only

We are also supported by two Area Studies programs: the Islamic Law and the East Asian Law Programs. Our Librarian for East Asian Law and Librarian for Japanese Law collect extensively for Chinese, Japanese, and Korean legal materials, among other East Asian countries. And our Librarian for Islamic Law collects for Arab countries. Our collections from these jurisdictions are as comprehensive as possible for pure law subjects and are collected in vernacular and Western languages. Print remains our preferred format, supplemented by digital resources where appropriate.

We remain committed to our Vigorous Collection Responsibilities (VCR) under the Northeast Foreign and Comparative Law Group (NEFFCLG) and are actively working to strengthen selection in our assigned jurisdictions.

We continue to value our partnership with the Library of Congress Cooperative Acquisition Programs (LC-CAP), including CAPSEA, MECAP, PIACAP, and SACAP. These programs play an important role in enriching our foreign and international law collections.

We have also expanded our access to jurisdictional legal databases, including new Lexis modules for Australia and New Zealand, as well as expanded UK coverage through Lexis Library UK, Lexis South Africa, and EBC Reader for law eBooks for India. In addition, we recently upgraded to vLex Academic Core for more comprehensive coverage in the countries they cover.

Staffing and selection responsibilities

Staffing remains a significant challenge. Our Collection Development Unit is currently too thinly staffed to meet the demands of our large and complex mandate. The ongoing hiring freeze further complicates our ability to respond to workload demands and develop our collections as fully as we would like. It also limits our capacity to manage space and collections in a sustainable way. We fully expect to recover in these areas when staffing levels improve.

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Harvard Law con't

Despite these challenges, we made a key hire in January 2024 with the appointment of Yasmin Morais as FCIL Collection Development Librarian, following the passing of Stephen Wiles. Yasmin selects for approximately 240 jurisdictions and collaborates with 10 reference and area studies librarians, including our newest colleague, Shay Elbaum, who joined the library this spring.

We recently completed a jurisdictional review that led to adjustments in selection responsibilities, reflecting both librarians' language proficiencies and workload balance.

Vendors

We maintain strong approval plans with key vendors including Harrassowitz, Casalini, Erasmus, Hogarth, Amalivre, and Eastview, among others. We recently transitioned to a print-preferred model for our GOBI approval plan and no longer purchase Brill and Springer annual eBook packages, preferring instead to receive materials on our approval plan for Erasmus in print. Our switch to print-preferred is not complete as we continue to purchase eBook packages for Elgar, Cambridge University Press, De Gruyter, and Oxford University Press.

We are undertaking a comprehensive review of all vendor relationships to ensure we are receiving timely and complete slips and catalogs for each jurisdiction. This includes targeted efforts to improve access to difficult-to-source materials, such as legal publications from Iceland and Greenland. Our goal is to ensure comprehensive, reliable coverage across all jurisdictions we collect.

Print to Electronic Migration and Preservation Challenges

As a research library committed to maintaining a historical legal collection, we are increasingly concerned about the shift from print to electronic formats in legal publishing. While digital access offers many benefits, it poses serious preservation risks because vendors do not reliably retain earlier editions of treatises or maintain stable archives. This is why we continue to prefer print when possible; however, maintaining a large print collection is both difficult and costly, further compounding our preservation challenges. We are actively working with vendors and peer institutions to establish sustainable preservation commitments.

Looking Ahead

In the face of ongoing financial and staffing pressures, the Law Library remains committed to thoughtful stewardship of our collections. Our participation in cooperative programs, collaboration with area studies librarians, and vendor partnerships continue to support strong collecting in difficult-to-source jurisdictions.

We are grateful to the staff who make this work possible. Their expertise and commitment are essential as we navigate shifting formats, evolving user needs, and constrained resources.

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University of Iowa College of Law

By Don Ford, Head of Research and FCIL (donald-ford@uiowa.edu)

FCIL-SIS Collection Development and Curation 2025

The Foreign, Comparative, and International Law (FCIL) collection at University of Iowa College of Law Library (Iowa Law Library) began with the Iowa Law Library's founding in the late 19th century. The FCIL collection grew throughout the 20th century, with robust collecting of primary and secondary sources from all common law jurisdictions. Thus, jurisdictions such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, which are primarily common law jurisdictions, have comprehensive collections. In addition, collections from common law jurisdictions admixing religious and customary law, like India and Nigeria, have also been extensively developed.

Moreover, for most of the 20th century, the legacy non-English language legal collections were in French, German, and Spanish. These languages continue to be the main non-English language vernaculars in the Iowa Law Library FCIL collection. In addition, Portuguese language Brazilian legal materials have been added in the early 21st century. While the Iowa Law Library does not collect new non-Roman alphabet materials, it does accept donations and needs/offers acquisitions in languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian.

Professor Arthur E. Bonfield, Allan D. Vestal Chair, was appointed Associate Dean for Research and Head of the University of Iowa College of Law Library in 1985. Dean Bonfield began an aggressive expansion of the Iowa Law Library's collections for all subjects and jurisdictions. He oversaw the robust growth of FCIL new purchases and FCIL acquisitions from needs/offers lists.

Dean Bonfield served from 1985 until 2014. During his tenure the Iowa Law Library integrated into the University of Iowa campus-wide Ex Libris Integrated Library System (ILS). The Iowa Law Library ILS and Yankee Book Peddler's GOBI system are also fully integrated. The majority of FCIL collecting is done through GOBI; nonetheless, selected vendor catalogs and websites are used for selection, particularly from non-English speaking jurisdictions.

The Iowa Law Library has a strong commitment to print and will continue to acquire print products whenever possible. To that end, the Iowa Law Library is fortunate to have good shelving and storage options.

The Iowa Law Library is dedicated to working with its colleagues in other United States law libraries on discussing, promoting, and implementing law library collection development policies and practices as law libraries face increasing difficulties.

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Interest Group & Committee Reports - 2024-2025

Iowa con't

The second annual Iowa Law Collections Symposium will take place on October 2nd and 3rd, 2025, with presentations and papers on:

- Institutional Assessment & ABA Standard 315
- Collection Development in a Changing World
- Law Libraries & the Preservation of Democracy

NEFLLCG

By Janet Kearney, Reference/Foreign, Comparative & International Law Librarian (janet.kearney@nyu.edu)

The Northeast Foreign Law Librarians Cooperative Group Spring meeting was held in June 2025 and hosted by NYU Law on Zoom. The participants shared updates on the state of their primary collection concerns, particularly as regards budget, hiring, and space. Every institution expressed some uncertainty regarding the future of their budgets, with most anticipating cuts of some kind or at least a flat budget. A couple of institutions are facing hiring freezes while they need to have multiple positions filled and/or serious issues regarding space that have a short turnaround to be solved. Participants gave updates on databases, format preferences, and vendors, with many finding that it is helpful to collaborate on identifying vendors and troubleshooting purchasing issues. The next meeting will be hosted virtually by Penn in the fall.

New York University Law Library

By Alexander Burdett, Reference/Foreign & International Law Librarian (alexander.burdett@nyu.edu)

NYU currently has two FCIL librarians who handle the evaluation and selection of FCIL materials and resources at the NYU School of Law Library. This work is done with the guidance of the Associate Director, Collections and Access Services.

Retrospective collection development

Over the past year, NYU has worked on retrospective collection development covering the years 2019-2025 for several jurisdictions. The jurisdictions included:

- United Kingdom
- Canada
- Common law African jurisdictions (Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia)
- Argentina
- Mexico
- Romania

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NYU con't

Casalini's Torrossa e-book platform

For some European publishers, we have expanded our purchasing of French, Spanish, and Italian academic titles on Casalini's Torrossa e-book platform. Acquisition was limited to titles with perpetual access without DRM restrictions. Torrossa is one of NYU Libraries' main providers for Spanish, French, and Italian e-books. NYU Law Library worked with Casalini on adding specific titles on Torrossa that were previously unavailable on the platform.

E-acquisitions

There were no major new FCIL focused e-acquisitions in the past year. NYU Law Library has expanded our subscription to Dalloz.fr to cover more subject modules. New e-resource subscriptions with FCIL content included:

- HeinOnline's American Nominative Reports, English Nominative Reports, Irish Nominative Reports
- HeinOnline's U.S. State Commitments with Foreign Governments
- Center for Art Law
- Elgar Encyclopedia of Human Rights
- Elgar Encyclopedia of Comparative Law
- Elgar Encyclopedia of International Economic Law, Expanded Edition

The D'Angelo Law Library, University of Chicago Law School

By Lyonette Louis-Jacques, Foreign and International Law Librarian & Lecturer in Law (llou@uchicago.edu)

Since the pandemic, the D'Angelo Law Library (DLL) has focused more on purchasing foreign law via approval plans, e-book packages, consortial, and collaborative arrangements. We also moved from print-preferred to e-preferred, and changed our GOBI book approval plan profile to reflect that. We rely more on subscriptions to law databases and purchases of big-ticket items/e-resources for developing our foreign law collections.

In terms of approval plans, we receive foreign law books in English via GOBI, German law and legal history books via Harrassowitz, books on legal history and medieval canon law via Casalini, Mexican constitutional law and human rights books via Books from Mexico, and Brazilian law books via the Minas Gerais region approval plan.

We also build our foreign law collection by purchasing e-book packages from Cambridge, Oxford, Elgar, Springer, Hart/Bloomsbury, Nomos/Beck, and DeGruyter Brill.

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Chicago con't

Besides Lexis, Westlaw, and HeinOnline, we also subscribe to databases such as vLex (multiple foreign law jurisdictions), ICLR Online (UK), LAWnB (Korea) Nevo (Israel), PKULaw (China), Manupatra (India), SCC Online (India). We also rely on freely accessible foreign law sources such as the Legal Information Institutes (LIIs).

For developing our rare books and special collections, we firm order foreign law-related illustrated law books, children's books, books on witch trials worldwide, in print format, in various languages.

We also select foreign language translations in print of our Law School faculty publications. Besides insuring access to archival copies of our faculty's works in all languages, it is a way of assessing the international impact of our faculty's scholarship.

Lillian Goldman Law Library at Yale Law School

By Lucie Olejnikova, Associate Director for Foreign and International Law, Clinical and Experiential Learning (lucie.olejnikova@yale.edu)

Yale, although committed to maintaining its foreign law collection, is currently reviewing its Collection Development Policy. Yale continues with its Vigorous Collection Responsibilities (VCR) under the Northeast Foreign and Comparative Law Group (NEFFCLG) and continues partnering with the Library of Congress under the Library of Congress Cooperative Acquisition Programs (LC-CAP).

We have consistently selected within our vigorous responsibilities and continue to meet the goal set out in our collection development policy. We have been able to select consistently within other jurisdictions as well (largely driven by patron needs), focusing on hard-to-obtain items, smaller jurisdictions, and leading publications. With the current uncertain financial environment, we are reviewing our collections with the goals of prioritization and elimination of redundancies. Collaborative collection development will remain critical. We continue to review the collection to decrease the presence of looseleaf publications, and we actively avoid acquiring any new ones. Given the legal history focus at YLS, we continue to be committed to preservation and ensuring access to resources for future scholars.

The Foreign and International Law Team, anticipating attrition due to retirement this summer, continues to curate the foreign and international law collection. Our multi-year project to review and update the F/I Reference Room Collection is nearly complete, after reviewing all 768 titles. The team continues to review the overall collection to accommodate onsite and offsite storage challenges.

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Yale con't

We continue to balance our print and electronic resources. This past academic year, we made several additions to our electronic holdings, including the Jus Mundi database, the Elgar Encyclopedia of International Economic Law, the Elgar Encyclopedia of Intellectual Property Law, and the Elgar Encyclopedia of Crime and Criminal Justice. We also added the Case Genie AI tool to our already existing ICLR subscription. We additionally reviewed the Lexis Middle East, Westlaw Japan, Dalloz, and El Comercio Archive databases.



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.

Journal Articles

Jingwei Zhang, One Site for All: Using Universal Design Principles to Create an Inclusive Law Library Website for Neurodivergent Students, 44 Legal Ref. Serv. Q. 177 (2025).

Michael McArthur & Julie M. Wooldridge, Behind the Books: Global Insights from Law Librarians (Insights from Brazil), 53 Int'l J. Legal Info. 72 (2025).

Janet Kearney, A Bibliography on Judicial Independence in International Tribunals and Apex Courts, 53 Int'l J. Legal Info. 115 (2025).

Michael McArthur & Julie M. Wooldridge, Behind the Books: Global Insights from Law Librarians (Insights from Kenya), 53 Int'l J. Legal Info. 165 (2025).

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Spectrum

Havilah Bakken, Aamir Abdullah, Valerie Horton & Jason Tubinis, [Advancing DEIB: How to Gain Leadership Experience at Work in a Non-supervisory Role, 29 AALL: Spectrum, July / Aug. 2025, at 38.](#)

Aamir Abdullah, Charles Bjork, Charlotte Daugherty & Sarah Martin, [The Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals: A Not So Foreign Concept, 30 AALL: Spectrum, Sept. / Oct. 2025, at 14.](#)

GlobaLex Articles

Jonathan Pratter, [À la Recherche des Travaux Préparatoires: An Approach to Researching the Drafting History of International Agreements](#)

SIS Newsletter Articles

Government Law Libraries

Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong, [2025 GLL \(Breakfast\) Awards & Recognition Ceremony](#)

Blog Posts

IALL

Monica Ortale, [Welcome to Houston!](#)

DipLawMatic Dialogues

Lucie Olejnikova, [GloboLex May/June 2025 Issue is Live](#)

Sue Silverman, [What in the World... is Happening? Reflections on FCIL Librarianship in Challenging Times](#)

Book Reviews

Edward T. Hart, [Book Review \[The EU Reexamined: A Governance Model in Transition. Jorn Axel Kammerer, Hans-Bernd Schafer, and Kaushik Basu, eds.\], 53 Int'l J. Legal Info. 79 \(2025\).](#)

Jessica Pierucci, [Book Review \[Research Handbook on Asylum and Refugee Policy. Jane Freedman and Glenda Santana de Andrade, eds.\], 53 Int'l J. Legal Info. 80 \(2025\).](#)

Editor's Note: Have you recently published? We would love to highlight it in our Recent Member Publications.

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

FCIL NEWSLETTER

Foreign, Comparative, and International Law
Special Interest Section



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!

Send us your conference recaps, member news, and other contributions, such as works in progress or reviews.

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