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Dear Colleague,

With the start of 2005 and a new term, it's an opportunity to share with you some news of developments at IALS Library and associated services:

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Further details of the Institute's Library and Information Services, and of forthcoming lectures and events, can be found on our website at

<http://ials.sas.ac.uk>

Gerry Power, IALS Library

BAILII – British and Irish Legal Information Institute

<http://www.bailii.org/>

Update for 2005 from Joe Ury

The bulk of the BAILII team's time is now spent maintaining the current forty-nine plus BAILII databases (see list on page 4 below) - keeping them up to date, adding older material if and when we can get our hands on it, increasing the number of alternative citations covered by our hyperlinks, and the routine quality checking of existing material. Over the next three-year period we hope to get additional staff to work on infrastructure improvements. Some improvements to watch out for in

the 2005 – 2007 period are:

- development of a collection of historic cases and legislation
- incorporating materials currently not available on the service
- redesigning the BAILII user interface
- improvements to the BAILII search engine

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Visiting Law Librarian

Which one of the United States has a total population of nearly 650,000? Which state became the 49th State of the Union in 1959? And which one of the United States has an official emblem featuring the radiance of the Northern Lights over a landscape of mountains, a smelter, a train, forests and wheat fields? The answer to all of these questions is, of course, Alaska. I was very pleased to discover more about Alaska when I spoke recently to Cynthia Fellows, the IALS Visiting Fellow in Law Librarianship, and Alaska State Law Librarian.

Cynthia started working in Alaska in the 1970s as a reference librarian for the Court Law Library. Then she established a legal research and publishing business, serving Alaskan attorneys. Cynthia has been the Director of the Alaska State Court Law

Library since 1987. She has always been a keen user and advocate of online legal information services, and has used Westlaw extensively since she started working in Alaska.

The Law Library's main collections and administration are based in Anchorage, but library resources are available in 16 additional court locations throughout the state. Although only four locations are staffed, librarians in Anchorage provide reference and interlibrary loan service via telephone, fax and the internet to Alaskans statewide. This makes it a pretty impressive network, when you consider the vast extent of the State of Alaska. With an area of 586,412 square miles, it is the largest State in the Union. The Library's core users are the judicial staff and Court personnel, including about 55 recent law school graduates who are employed annually as clerks to the judges. The Library is also available to approximately 2,500 attorneys in the State, and is open to the public. Good access to legal information for everybody is a cornerstone of the service. Even self-represented litigants are frequent and forthright users of the court libraries and the court's Family Law Self-Help Center services.

When faced with a choice of electronic legal research services, Cynthia selected Westlaw for the judiciary, believing that the KeyCite and Digest features of the Westlaw databases are basic to good legal research. Westlaw is available as well to attorneys and to the general public at no cost in all court library locations. Cynthia has over 25 years' experience using Westlaw as a reference librarian, as a trainer and mentor, and as an administrator. She has been teaching users how to use the online services since the 1980s, and has kept track of users' changing research and training needs, and their perceptions of the online environment. Her recent surveys of users reveal their

confidence in searching by keyword and phrase, but the big question is: are they missing out on the good analytical tools in services like Westlaw? Value for money throughout the State Law Library is another key consideration for the librarians, and Cynthia has negotiated good deals with West to provide a balance of print and electronic resources in Anchorage and throughout the branch libraries.

Although currently based in the UK as a visiting law librarian, Cynthia is still in daily contact by e-mail with colleagues and users in Alaska, which makes for a very busy and fulfilling time! She has been helping the BAILII team to identify some key pre-1996 UK decisions in constitutional, administrative and tort law as possible additions to BAILII's coverage of case law. Her current research interests focus on the effects of increased reliance on electronic research on the development of the law, which is one of the topics on AALL's 2000 Research Agenda. Themes she is currently exploring include legal research behaviour, technology's effect on the practice of law, and judicial decisions in the digital age. In particular, she hopes to assess whether electronic research habits are having a significant impact on what authority is presented to, accepted by and relied upon in the case decisions of the judiciary in common law jurisdictions.

The site of the Alaska Court System and its Library can be found at <http://www.state.ak.us/courts/> To see some pictures of Alaska's outstanding natural beauty, have a look at <http://www.travelalaska.com/Gallery/index.aspx>

Cynthia Fellows will give a lecture on Alaska's Legal Culture, at IALS on Monday 7 March, 6 – 7 pm. If you wish to attend, please contact Belinda Crothers at Belinda.Crothers@sas.ac.uk

Series Book Project News

The project to automate the Library's Series Book started in November 2004, and steady progress has been made so far with more than 800 titles and about 25,000 items now searchable in the online public access catalogue, SASCAT. Halsbury's Statutory Instruments and West's United States regional and federal reporters are among the titles already automated.

When the project is complete, researchers will be able to use SASCAT as a research tool to help them find detailed information about all of the series held at IALS.

Bibliographic records for each title will be linked by the end of 2005 to a PDF image of a page, or sometimes several pages, from the Series Book. This will ensure that information is not lost in the automation. It will show how the IALS Library collection has developed over time, and also help to clarify the relationships between titles.

Generally speaking, the information in the automated catalogue mirrors that found in the Series Book, but occasionally extra details have been added, and sometimes the information has been presented in a slightly different way. Also, the meaning of handwritten notes in the Series Book is sometimes difficult to transfer to computer. In these cases it will always be possible to refer to the image from the Series Book to clarify the situation.

The Series Book will be rebound and will continue to be a useful resource even when the automation project is complete. The law reports and legislation section, in order of classmark, is organised in a very helpful way, with similar subjects being grouped together. Staff will still be able to look in

the series book to see all the legislation from a particular country, for instance, without having to look up several titles on SASCAT.

With the automation of the two series, legislation/law reports and journals, most jurisdictions are covered to some extent. The English language collection is extensive and contains all the leading journals and reports series from the UK, the USA and Commonwealth countries, as well as the key less well-known ones - this could well be the place to find that elusive article from the 'Beverly Hills Bar Association Journal'. Western Europe is also well served, and there is some representation of Eastern Europe, especially in publications concerning international law. There is also increasing coverage of Africa.

The oldest journal come across so far is the German *Archiv für Die Civilistische Praxis*, with copies dating back to 1842, and still going strong. Some real gems are being turned up. The journal of Norwegian shipping law, for instance, *Arkiv for sjørett*, includes an article in English by Lord Devlin - it's not the place where one would expect to find such a well-known figure from English legal history. Of historical interest, there are series of German law journals dating from the Nazi era and many discontinued or completed series such as *Prize cases of the wars of 1793 and 1803*, which could be of interest to researchers in many fields. From the essential to the curiosity, a veritable cornucopia of legal knowledge is being documented in a user-friendly form. - *John Huggett and Robert Turner, Series Book Project*

IALS Library is reviewing the content and presentation of its website, and would welcome any suggestions for new content. You can send your comments via the **Feedback** button on the IALS site - we would be delighted to hear from you! Our

web address at the top of page 1.

Spotlight on FLAG, the foreign law guide

Lesley Young, IALS Library Information Resources manager, reports.

The FLAG database is a collaborative Internet gateway to the holdings of foreign, international and comparative law in UK universities and national libraries. The database is freely available on the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies' website – just click on the red flag icon or go to

<http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/flag/flag.htm>

FLAG can be searched in a variety of ways.

Between 1999 and 2002, the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Library led a consortium of libraries (comprising the Bodleian Law Library, the British Library, the School of Oriental and African Studies Library and the Squire law Library) in a project to create the database and make it available. The project was funded by the Research Support Libraries Programme. The project manager, Dr Peter Clinch, identified the most suitable libraries and then visited them in order to survey their collections in some detail. FLAG describes in general terms the holdings of primary legal material in foreign, international and comparative law in nearly 60 libraries throughout the UK. In addition it also provides contact details and links to the individual libraries' web sites.

Most of the library visits were carried out in 2001 and in the summer of 2004, Dr Clinch conducted a comprehensive review and update of FLAG. This was achieved by inviting the libraries to update their own entries. The response rate was an excellent 87% and the updated information is now available. It is hoped that it will be possible to repeat the exercise every few years in

order to ensure that FLAG continues to be a valuable resource for researchers in this field.

BAILII Databases, *continued from page 1*

The following is a list of the databases, arranged by jurisdiction, that BAILII holds. Those with an asterisk beside them are currently being created or modified in some way (see the comment after the database name). All UK and Northern Ireland legislation databases are now updated with new acts, statutory instruments, orders and ordinances on a daily basis.

England and Wales

Court of Appeal (Civil Division)

Decisions

*Court of Appeal (Criminal Division)

Decisions (working on a keyword and summary system)

High Court (Administrative Court and Crown Office List) Decisions

High Court (Admiralty Division) Decisions

High Court (Chancery Division) Decisions

High Court (Family Division) Decisions

High Court (Queen's Bench Division) Decisions

*High Court (Commercial Court)

Decisions (working on a keyword and summary system)

High Court (Patents Court) Decisions

High Court (Technology and Construction Court) Decisions

High Court (Supreme Court Cost Office) Decisions

England and Wales Care Standards Tribunal Decisions

Welsh Legislation

Welsh Statutory Instruments

Other Materials

The Law Commission publications

Ireland

Irish Supreme Court Decisions
Irish High Court Decisions
Irish Competition Authority Decisions
Irish Information Commissioner's
Decisions
*Irish Court of Criminal Appeal
Decisions (new database on BAILII)

Irish Legislation
Irish Statutes
Irish Statutory Instruments

Other Irish Materials
Irish Law Reform Commission Papers
and Reports

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Court of Appeal
Decisions
High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland
Chancery Division Decisions
High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland
Family Division Decisions
High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland
Queen's Bench Division Decisions
Industrial Tribunals Northern Ireland
Decisions
Fair Employment Tribunal Northern
Ireland Decisions
Northern Ireland: Social Security and
Child Support Commissioners'
Decisions

Northern Ireland Legislation
Northern Ireland Statutes
*Northern Ireland Orders in Council
(new database on BAILII)
*Statutory Rules of Northern Ireland
(new database on BAILII)

Scotland

*Scottish Court of Session Decisions
(incorporating the new Neutral Citations
assigned by Scottish Courts)
*Scottish High Court of Justiciary
Decisions (incorporating the new
Neutral Citations assigned by Scottish
Courts)
Scottish Sheriff Court Decisions

Scottish Legislation
Scottish Statutes
Scottish Statutory Instruments

Other Materials
Scottish Law Commission publications

United Kingdom and Commonwealth

*UK Lands Tribunal (currently creating
this database)
*UK Dispute Resolution Service
(currently creating this database)
Privy Council Decisions
United Kingdom House of Lords
Decisions
United Kingdom Employment Appeals
Tribunal Decisions
United Kingdom Immigration Appeals
Tribunal Decisions
United Kingdom VAT & Duties Tribunals
Decisions
United Kingdom Special Commissioners
of Income Tax Decisions
United Kingdom Financial Services and
Markets Tribunals Decisions
United Kingdom Social Security and
Child Support Commissioners' Opinions

United Kingdom Legislation
United Kingdom Statutes
United Kingdom Statutory Instruments

European Union

Court of Justice of the European
Communities Decisions (including the
Court of First Instance Decisions)

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