



Library and Information Services, September 2006

Dear Colleague,

Greetings from the Library of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies! As we prepare for a new academic year, we would like to offer you an update on the IALS Library and Information Services, and on associated services:

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Gerry Power, Access Librarian

The BAILII/JISC Open Law Project *By Jenny Burnett*

As reported in the last edition of the newsletter, this project aims to identify and add to BAILII, the British and Irish Legal Information Institute, a number of judgments that are important in teaching and learning the law.

Teachers, academics and law librarians have been contacted for their input, and published texts examined in determining the content, and so far about 1500 cases have been identified in the core areas of criminal law, constitutional law, contract and tort, trusts and land law. A further 400 or so have been identified in the areas of

family, tax, employment law and the English legal system. These lists can be viewed from a link on BAILII (<http://www.bailii.org/openlaw/>). Lists in other option areas are also being draw up.

Some of these cases have already been digitised and are available on BAILLI. These are the cases which are not subject to restrictive copyright issues, for example about 200 recent decisions which we are able to acquire from our usual sources. A further 150 or so cases are very old and now out of copyright and these are being reproduced from the English Reports. Negotiations are on-going with a number of publishers about granting permission to BAILII to reproduce the remaining reports. The possibility also exists to reproduce the printed, manuscript and transcript versions of judicial speeches held in the Parliamentary Archive and in the Supreme Court library, and the technical requirements involved in the data capture and conversion of these materials are being resolved.

The project also seeks to provide supplementary legal materials useful to the teaching syllabus. With the cooperation and kind permission of the Law Commission, the Northern Ireland Office of Law Reform, and the Northern Ireland Law Reform Advisory Committee, BAILII is creating a back catalogue of reports starting from 1966.

The other main area of work taking place on the project is an assessment of BAILII's usability. This seeks to make the

information on BAILII more accessible, regardless of legal searching expertise. BAILII has undertaken a preliminary analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the website, focusing primarily on navigability and search engine performance. The analysis involved interviews with legal information specialists, a review of the literature examining student search behaviour in legal databases, observations of search behaviour in legal databases, and a review of BAILII search logs.

BAILII is in the process of implementing enhancements to the database on a test server. The enhancements include visual improvement of the screen displays; more points of access for initiating searches and selecting databases; additional options for locating documents by title; additional options for results display; revised search help and some basic subject indexing. Through the Open Law Project, BAILII will also add content of a descriptive nature to help students, faculties, practitioners and the public understand the nature of the legal information on BAILII and how to best utilise the search engine.

As the enhancements to BAILII are implemented on the test server, legal information experts will be invited to comment on the changes to navigation and search options and other added features to the website. Law students and faculties will be invited to participate in usability studies during October and November 2006.

To keep in touch with Open Law, JISC and BAILII have set up a JISCMail email list. This list will ensure that the legal community is kept up to date with developments in the Open Law Project and will enable the community to get involved. To join this email list, enter your email address and name at <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/openlaw.html>

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Then and now: 35 years in IALS Library

Reference and Online Service Librarian, Paul Norman, retires from the IALS Library this September, after over 35 years' service. Congratulations to Paul on being presented with the 2006 LexisNexis Award for Academic Legal Information Professional of the Year! The award was presented at the Annual Dinner of the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians in Brighton in June.

Here Paul reflects on the many changes he has seen in IALS since he started all those years ago.

When I first arrived to work for IALS in 1970, it was housed in two shaky terraced houses at 25- 26 Russell Square. They had been patched up after World War II but there were leaky roofs, suspect plumbing, no lifts, no photocopiers and no computers! For photocopying, we had one of the attendants walk round to Senate House, rain or shine, with the volumes and an invoice pad (with carbon paper of course).

Depository meant exactly that – the warehouse in Egham, Surrey – and there were regular deliveries by van. We were the most popular tenants with our unique numbering system! RES (reserve), what other libraries call “stacks” – was a particular pleasure: space rented in the basement of no. 28 Russell Square. Collecting involved unlocking four intervening doors in the cellars of the houses in between.

High ceilings allowed high book stacks, necessitating long and precarious ladders not for the faint-hearted. One of the first

floor reading rooms was designated as a smoking area, and one of our sets of *The Law Reports* bears the brown stain to this day. Another relic of former days still to be seen is the felt-tip stripes on all three exposed edges of books – no book security system then, just an attendant watching the door for unauthorised removal of easily identifiable material. Authorised removal involved presenting an exit slip given out when the book was issued (oh my, I've just remembered that part!)

Part of the book stock (English legal history) was shelved in the Director's office, and as he was a man of formidable presence, one approached his Secretary and his room with trepidation when something was requested. By the time we moved to no.17 Russell Square in 1976, technology *had* begun to arrive, in the form of a smelly photocopier requiring both toner and fixing fluid, and perched on one of the half-landings of an 1820s dwelling!

But we had yet to see a computerised catalogue, the first manifestation of which was a set of microfiches distributed to several locations in the library. We were using a list of subject headings and a classification scheme devised when IALS was set up thirty years before, and points of strain were beginning to tell in both. Fortunately we now use Library of Congress headings, but are left with our own classification scheme. This has shown ever-increasing signs of strain, most notably in the past with the proliferation of European organizations and communities. There is talk of moving to Library of Congress or Moys, but that will be for the next generation. Eventually PCs arrived (for library staff not students) with monochrome monitors and two 5.25-inch floppy drives, with much swapping and rebooting, MS-DOS and Basic

No computers did not mean no research tools; law has been well served by

indexes for a century and more. Answering the question "How do I find" was easier, as there were fewer resources to turn to. The *English & Empire Digest* (now just *The Digest*) and *Current Law* were the standard tools for the UK. *Legal Journals Index* didn't arrive till 1986, in response to the large numbers of new journals starting in the 70s and 80s.

Now we have to convince students that sophisticated research tools and subscription databases produce better results than an unstructured Google search, and that it is worth understanding what Boolean searching is. Perhaps the best way to do this is to exploit the technology to deliver tutorials and guides that are more lively and attractive to students than the plain text of a Word document.

We can now provide links between our own library catalogue and external resources both print and electronic, but these links have to be carefully designed to produce results that are both expected and relevant, particularly for users who may be Internet addicted, but are not IT literate.

When I retire in September 2006, I shall watch electronic developments with interest, but no longer with apprehension!

- Paul Norman

Document supply service for academic researchers

The IALS Library provides a photocopying service for currently registered academic staff and students, by mail or fax, within normal copyright restrictions, to individuals in the UK and around the world. The Library also participates in the British Library scheme and can handle requests for photocopies from academic libraries in UK and Ireland. Full details are on our website, or phone us on 020 7862 5790 to discuss your requirements.



SOSIG: Law to Intute: Law

The Intute service (<http://www.intute.ac.uk>) was launched on Thursday 13th July 2006. Intute is the new face of the Resource Discovery Network (RDN) and is a free national service enabling lecturers, researchers and students to discover and access quality Internet resources. Intute is a composite name derived from 'Internet' and 'Tutorial' and is intended to convey the experiences of guided learning and online resource discovery. SOSIG has become Intute: Social Sciences which contains the Intute: Law Gateway- a new service continuing the work of the SOSIG Law Gateway (<http://www.intute.ac.uk/socialsciences/law/>).

IALS Library continues to work on this service, in partnership with the University of Bristol Law Library, selecting high quality, online resources of interest to law lecturers, researchers and students in UK higher and further education. We quality check and produce profiles of key sites covering UK, foreign, comparative and international law including a full range of jurisdictions and legal topics from around the world enabling researchers to quickly identify the most important sources of legal information. A range of different resource types is represented on Intute: Law including primary materials (legislation, case law), secondary sources (journals, books), government websites, organisations, databases, academic sites and resource guides.

Intute: Law can be searched using a simple search box or an advanced search option which enables you to search keywords in the title or description and to specify resource type. Law subject

headings and sub-categories can also be browsed on Intute. Further information on using the service can be downloaded from the Intute site at <http://www.intute.ac.uk/socialsciences/support.html>

In addition, Intute offers a selection of new features including details of law related conferences and events and MyIntute which allows you to personalise your use of the service. Registering with MyIntute creates a personal account enabling you to save searches and records of interest or export records to your own web pages, course materials and reading lists. You can also sign up for email alerts listing new records added to the database which match your specified subject areas. Help with using the MyIntute feature is available here http://www.intute.ac.uk/supportdocs/quick_guide_intute_myintute.doc

Information and materials from Intute are freely available for you to use in your own site, for further details and tools to help you with this, please see <http://www.intute.ac.uk/embedding.html>

Heather Memess
Intute Law Project Officer

Current Legal Research Topics database

This database lists subjects of research in progress by students of law in the UK. The database aims to be a comprehensive listing of dissertation titles for higher degrees in law, M.Phil. or Ph.D., currently underway in universities in the United Kingdom. Thank you to all students, lecturers and administrators who have helped us to update the database during 2006. We will be in touch again in early 2007 to encourage law schools to send us their updates. You can find the database listed as one of the options on the IALS Library website.

Sir William Dale Centre for Legislative Studies



Sir William Dale (1906-2000)

The Centre celebrates the centenary of its founder, Sir William Dale, with an array of activity ranging from teaching initiatives to research and publication. The MA in Advanced Legislative Studies examines the wider regulatory, institutional and operational environment in which legislation is drafted and aims to promote quality in legislative texts by means of training participants to the national and international legislative processes in the multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional field of legislative studies. The MA draws students from the Commonwealth and the EU as its two directions accommodate both prisms of the discipline: Commonwealth drafters are trained in Comparative Legislative Studies, Legislative Drafting and Themes in Legislative Studies, whereas EU drafters receive lectures in EU Legislative Studies, Themes in Legislative Studies, Drafting for EU Membership and Accession and Theories of European Integration. The last two half-modules carry the prestigious Jean Monnet seal of approval of the Commission of the European Union. Themes in Legislative Studies is taught by

a selection of guest speakers drawn from academia, the practitioner legal community and the civil service, mainly the Parliamentary Counsel's Office, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Home Office and the Northern Ireland Office of Law Reform.

The one-month intensive professional Commonwealth Course in Legislative Drafting attracts an increasing number of drafters and legal officers from the Commonwealth, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. It is a sign of its reputation that funding for Course participants is awarded through governments, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office via the British Council and directly via High Commission at the country of participants' origin.

Further teaching/training initiatives include courses for EU judges and prosecutors funded by the Justice and Home Affairs Directorate General of the European Commission, as well as tailor-made courses offered in country and funded by governments, the British Council, the UK Department for International Development and other donors.

Research in legislative studies is undertaken by Centre staff, Visiting Fellows and consultants who attempt to fill the gap of much needed reviewed articles in the field of legislative studies. The work of MA alumni and PhD students is utilised in a number of publications combining the fresh approach to legislative studies of younger drafters trained at the Centre with rich experience of drafting personalities offering their advice, guidance and services to the Centre in the form of lectures or research contributions. Examples of publications include the annual Sir William Dale Memorial issue for the *European Journal of Law Reform* and the forthcoming collection of essays on Quality of Legislation to be published by Ashgate/Dartmouth in Memoriam Sir William Dale for publication in 2007.

The annual Sir William Dale Memorial Lecture is delivered by a prominent UK or international personality tackling a topical subject in the field of drafting. Past speakers have included Dame Judge Rosalyn Higgins of the International Court of Justice, The Rt. Hon. the Lord Goldsmith, QC, Her Majesty's Attorney General, The Rt. Hon. Lord Hope of Craighead, Jean Claude Pirus, Director-General of the Legal Services of the Council of the European Union, and Sir Geoffrey Bowman KCB, First Parliamentary Counsel.

The Centre collaborates with the Statute Law Society in the organisation of four annual open seminars in the field of legislative drafting.

Students, Visiting Fellows and staff of the Centre would be unable to provide training and conduct research without the immense assistance of the IALS Library. Finding material for our work – teaching foreign legislation, preparatory and explanatory materials for UK and foreign laws, and indeed commentary and academic writing on such laws – is a hefty task for every researcher and teacher. However, a combination of materials in hard copy, the exceptional range of electronic resources offered by the IALS library and the new meta search engines available in the library make research and training possible. In view of the international nature of the work of staff, students and Visiting Fellows, remote access to such a wealth of relevant materials allows the Centre to operate not only in the UK but also abroad.

*Dr Helen Xanthaki,
Academic Director
Sir William Dale Centre for Legislative
Studies, IALS*

IALS Library joins NELLCO

*Jules Winterton, IALS Associate Director
and Librarian, reports*

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Library has joined NELLCO, a consortium of law libraries in the United States whose members include Columbia Law School Library, Harvard Law School Library, and Yale Law School Library. NELLCO was first established in 1983 by fifteen New England Law Libraries as a cooperative network to enhance the research and educational opportunities at the libraries through programmes of cooperative collection development and resource sharing. Today the Consortium has over 100 members and offers a range of member benefits including reduced rates on electronic and print legal information resources, collaborative review and assessment of new information resources, the implementation of cutting edge technology solutions, internship and exchange opportunities, advocacy, and enhanced opportunities for professional development.

The Consortium maintains a digital repository for scholarly materials, powered by Berkeley Electronic Press technology, to improve dissemination and visibility of a variety of scholarly materials throughout the academic and legal research communities. The Consortium is a registered non-profit organisation composed of academic (ABA accredited), private non-profit, and government law libraries. Its mission is to provide efficient and effective access to legal resources by cooperating in a full range of resource sharing services that support the objectives of the individual law libraries of the member institutions and the group as a whole.

In 2005, at the suggestion of Kathie Price former Law Librarian of Congress, the Librarian of IALS approached NELLCO with a proposal to admit overseas law

libraries on the basis that IALS and some others had a great deal in common with the large academic legal research libraries in the USA. In 2006 the new International Affiliates Program was launched and IALS Library, along with its partners the Bodleian Law Library, the Squire Law Library, and several leading law school libraries in Canada, joined NELLCO. Under the program, apart from the usual benefits, a series of Law Librarianship Colloquia will be held in the USA, Canada, and the UK, and an International Fellows Program will be established to facilitate visits between participating libraries in the three countries. (For further details see www.nellco.org).

37th Annual BIALL Study Conference – “Facing the Front” – British and Irish Association of Law Librarians

Laura Griffiths, Academic Services Librarian, reports

As a newer member of IALS Library staff, I was lucky enough to be able to attend this year’s annual BIALL study conference, and doubly lucky that it was being held in Brighton on a beautiful sunny weekend, hence the subtitle of the event “Facing the Front”. Not that this was just a pun, by any means, as the key themes of the conference were teamwork, motivation and leadership – literally forward facing subjects, and every speaker managed to weave at least one of these themes into their talk. This happened either explicitly, as in the case of Lesley Robinson’s extremely interesting opening talk “Demystifying Leadership”, where she explored the changing nature of leadership in the information professional’s world (and concluded that nobody would like to work for Alan Sugar!), or implicitly, as in Gerry Power’s discussion on workplace learning for busy information professionals.

All of the speakers and talks seemed to be very well received, but for me, the highlight of the event was Peter Clinch and Cathie Jackson’s presentation “Information Literacy – building the team”, which focussed on the challenges of getting an entire academic department to work together to embed information literacy in every aspect of a student’s learning experience. After an initial exploration of what information literacy actually was, and how it affected students, they went on to discuss the problems of actually incorporating this into an academic programme. Whilst the conclusions will necessarily be different for different institutions, the importance of having EVERYBODY involved in a student’s learning on board, and of designing information retrieval skills sessions around information that students actually need to know appear to be paramount. As the Academic Services team here at IALS spend a lot of time teaching information skills to our students, I felt extremely lucky to be able to benefit from the wisdom of two of the industry’s most respected professionals. I certainly came away with a renewed enthusiasm for next terms introductory information skills sessions!

Of course, BIALL study conferences aren’t just about the studying, and there was plenty of opportunity to meet up with old friends in the profession, and to make some new ones, in the sumptuous setting of the Hilton Metropole, over an informal dinner and pub quiz on the Thursday, and the grand annual dinner on the Friday night. I am delighted to report that our very own Paul Norman won academic law librarian of the year at the LexisNexis awards! As my first experience of a BIALL conference I was not disappointed, and shall look forward to attending again in years to come.

Study Tour of German Libraries

By Katherine Read, Academic Services

In May 2005 an advertisement in CILIP Update led me to apply for a bursary for a study tour of German libraries. I particularly welcomed the chance to brush up on my German, and rather surprised some of my hosts who had expected the language of conversation to be English! I was invited to choose the particular type of library I wanted to visit and my application outlined the planned focus of my visit. I decided to concentrate on academic and law libraries and my tour included several libraries in Hamburg: the University Library and accompanying Law Faculty library, the private Bucerius Law School Library and the Max Planck Institute as well as the State Library in Berlin and the Law Faculty and University Library in Leipzig. My questions focused on reader services with particular reference to the way in which libraries were using the Internet to present resources to users. I tried to remain flexible to consider other issues as they arose.

During February of this year, I set out on my two-week tour of German libraries. The following are some of the main themes, which featured in my report of the visit. A full article is due to appear in *Legal Information Management* in September 2006.

- Responsibility for presenting legal resources on the Internet has been awarded to the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin, which holds specialist law collections and has established the 'Virtuelle Fachbibliothek'. Further information can be found at www.vifa-recht.de
- I was particularly struck by the large number of card catalogues and closed access areas still present in some of the libraries visited. This could partly be

attributed to problems with building design and lack of manpower to complete retrospective conversion. However I sensed that there were other reasons, perhaps concerned with the whole approach towards the learning process and the role of the information professional.

- The copyright rules regarding document supply appeared very relaxed in comparison to the UK. The EU Copyright directive of 2003 has not yet been fully implemented in Germany. A Bill is going through the German Parliament at present.

The visit to Germany was a very valuable experience, which allowed me to meet a wide range of information professionals. I hope to keep in touch with some and to exchange information whenever the opportunity arises. I have already provided a tour of the IALS library for some German library trainees as a result of my visit. I have also used a CD presentation of photos from my visit to share my experiences with colleagues.

IALS does hold a significant collection of German legal materials, which concentrate on federal law. Library users may like to consult our research guide for Germany, which summarises the library holdings.

http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/guides/research/res_germany.htm

Visiting Fellow in Law Librarianship

Uma Narayan, Librarian of the High Court in Mumbai, completed her three-month Commonwealth Professional Fellowship and IALS Visiting Fellowship in Law Librarianship at the end of March 2006. She contributed records on Indian

resources to the Intute service (formerly SOSIG), reviewed the holdings of Indian law in the Library, wrote a guide to Indian law resources, and gave a presentation to staff. Uma will be the local organizer for the 2007 conference of the International Association of Law Libraries, to be held in Mumbai, India.

Richard J Matthews, Assistant Professor and Special Projects Librarian of the University Libraries at Wichita State University, will hold the Fellowship from 1st October 2006 to mid-January 2007. His research in the UK will relate to an on-going research project "Permanent Public Access, US and UK: a comparative inquiry into preservation and accessibility of electronic government information."

Visit to the University of Jos in Nigeria

During April of this year, I had the pleasure of visiting the Law Faculty of the University of Jos in Nigeria, to be the main presenter at their workshops entitled "Using the Internet as a Research and Teaching Tool for Academics, Lawyers and Judges". The workshops were organised by the Law Faculty at Jos, in partnership with the Carnegie Corporation. The hospitality and friendliness which I enjoyed from my hosts made my stay all the more enjoyable. The IALS Library was pleased to co-operate with Jos by allowing me to visit there for two weeks.

The workshops aimed to explore and use the internet as a legal research tool. Online demonstrations of searching and browsing the free legal web were held in the morning of each day, and in the afternoon participants had an opportunity to try out some of the key sites, such as **Intute** and **Commonlii**, by doing a number of hands-on exercises at a PC in one of the computer labs in Jos

University. Exploring and searching Westlaw and Hein Online were also on the workshop programme.

The opportunity to meet and work with many Nigerian people was a memorable experience for me. The workshops attracted several postgraduate students and lecturers, as well as some government lawyers and civil servants. Sessions were held in the law auditorium and in the well-appointed legal research computer lab, which is next door to the Law Library in the Law Faculty. Participants expressed a keen interest in using the many good resources, which the free legal web has to offer.

Jos is a large and busy city in a hilly upland area about 3 hours by car northeast from the Nigerian Federal capital, Abuja. As a state capital, Jos is an important legal centre.

The Law Faculty at Jos has been co-ordinating a major research project on Sharia law in Nigeria, and will be publishing the research findings during the next twelve months.

Gerry Power
Access Librarian

IALS Archives update July 2006

The IALS Archive is currently participating in the University of London Research Library Services Archival Database project, which will be completed by early 2007. This major project will result in a fully searchable online catalogue of the archive material held in ULRLS and the School of Advanced Study Institutes, and has already proved to be a major research tool.

Collection level descriptions for archives held at IALS are already available, and

detailed catalogue listings will be available by early October. The database can now be searched at <http://archives.ulrls.lon.ac.uk/> .

The HELPERS project (Higher Education Libraries in your Personal History Research), in which the IALS Archive also participated, was launched in October 2005 and is proving to be a useful tool for widening awareness of the collections. The database is available at <http://helpers.shl.lon.ac.uk/index.html>

There has been considerable use of the archive by researchers engaged in research projects during 2006. Users include a Japanese PhD student studying 19th Century legal education and the development of 19th Century Japanese law, and external Professorial researchers who are producing a history of the Society of Public Teachers of Law.

Elizabeth Dawson,
Archivist, IALS

IALS Library Opening Hours

Just to remind you that the IALS Library is open, free of charge, to all postgraduate research students in law and to all law teachers and research staff from universities. Full details of admissions are on our website. Retired university teachers are also welcome to continue to use the Library free of charge for academic research, as detailed in 1.1.c of the admission regulations. Our opening hours are from 09:00 to 20:00, Monday to Friday, and from 10:00 to 17:30 on Saturdays.

But **please note** that the IALS Library will be closed, for essential maintenance and

stock-taking, for two weeks from 15 September at 17:00, and will re-open on Monday 2 October 2006 at 09:00.

The lift which serves the five floors of the IALS Library will be replaced during 2007. The schedule for replacement has not yet been finalised, but the work is likely to take 3 months. Disruption will be kept to a minimum and we can look forward to a faster service and fewer breakdowns.

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