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## New Year Greetings from the IALS Library

**Greetings from everyone at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Library, and best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2011!** We hope that you will keep in touch with IALS throughout the year and that our collections and services can help you and your colleagues with your research at some stage.

This newsletter reports on a national training day for PhD researchers, on a new online citator developed by AUSTLII, on the development of the Eagle-I gateway at IALS, and a new forum for legislative drafters. If you need any further information on any of these, please do get in touch with us!

Regards,

*Gerard Power, Access Librarian*

### How to Get A PhD in Law: A National Training Day

Over 60 PhD researchers attended a one-day training event at IALS on 24 November 2010, "How to Get a PhD in Law". IALS Library facilitated and organised the event, which aimed to discuss the many challenges of doing a PhD today, to demonstrate the wealth of resources available at IALS Library, and to offer researchers an opportunity to meet and network with PhD students from other universities across the UK. We were pleased to welcome students from many



*Professor Avrom Sherr (right) and Dr Lisa Webley with an attendee*



*View from IALS on a snowy December day*

universities, including Aberdeen, Birmingham, Brunel, Cambridge, Dundee, East Anglia, Essex, Hull, Keele, Leeds, Leicester, London, Manchester, Oxford, Sheffield, and Surrey. The training day was chaired by IALS Deputy Librarian and Academic Services Manager, David Gee.

IALS Director, Professor Avrom Sherr, welcomed everyone and introduced the day. His talk "Trials and Tribulations of Libraries and Legalese" was delivered with lots of humour, and based on many years



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of experience. Dr Lisa Webley, University of Westminster, discussed the challenges of researching a PhD. Her talk was incisive and analytical, and discussed the skills which researchers need: asking the right questions, doing the literature review, choosing research methods, the quality issues, and the writing cycle. It was clear from discussion and



## BAILII – LawCite Search

LawCite ([www.lawcite.org](http://www.lawcite.org)) is a subscription-free automatically generated international legal case and journal article citator. It can be used to locate judgments (mainly from common law jurisdictions), and to see how these have been subsequently dealt with and commented upon or to see where journal articles have been cited. Over 3.5 million cases, law reform documents and articles have been indexed. LawCite is being built as part of a three year project that is funded by the Australian research Council in co-operation with a number of Australian courts and other commercial and non-commercial organisations. It is being developed at AustLII in collaboration with other members of the Free Access to Law Movement—in particular BAILII, HKLII, PacLII, SAFLii, NZLII and CYLAW.



*Dr Lisa Webley's session on the challenges of PhD research*

feedback that Dr Webley's talk was much appreciated by the attendees. Two research students from IALS, who had nearly completed their PhDs, gave interesting insights into how they did their research and the skills they needed. Two more researchers, from Essex and from IALS, spoke about the experiences of being an overseas PhD student in the UK, and gave lots of encouragement to other researchers.

The day also included a talk on free law electronic resources available from IALS, including the BAILII gateway (Steven Whittle and Joe Ury) and a demonstration of IALS foreign, comparative and international law collections (Laura Griffiths and Gerry Power). Hester Swift and Katherine Read offered library tours at the end of the day.

Feedback on the day was very positive and indicated lots of satisfied attendees. There is a clear need for similar events in the future, so do keep in touch with IALS for details of future events!

*Gerry Power, Access Librarian*



## IALS rescues Intute: Law records for legal researchers

As you may know, JISC funding cuts to the Intute service <http://www.intute.ac.uk/law> mean no new resources are being added to the Intute Internet catalogue now - just existing records and broken links are being checked until July 2011 only <http://www.intute.ac.uk/faq.html> Under our agreement with Intute, as section editors for law since 1999, the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies has harvested and is enhancing the records we created for Intute: Law – effectively rescuing them for further academic and legal research purposes.

Work is in progress at IALS on a project to upgrade our Eagle-i (Electronic Access to Global Legal Information) service to include a searchable Internet resource catalogue and so continue to provide this important national online service for legal researchers <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/eaglei/project/eiproject.htm>

We are developing the Eagle-i Internet Portal for Law [www.ials.sas.ac.uk/eagle-i.htm](http://www.ials.sas.ac.uk/eagle-i.htm) to consolidate and continue the work we undertook for Intute through selective import and enhancement of Intute: Law records for ongoing evaluation and update in Eagle-i. The Eagle-i Internet Portal for Law features a freely available web database which will help ensure that evaluative records of quality web resources (including important new additions) continue to be available to support legal studies and research for the UK. The project is supported this year by modest initial funding from the School of Advanced Study, University of London. A preliminary quick guide to the service is available for download from the IALS website:

[http://ials.sas.ac.uk/eaglei/project/docs/EAGLEI IALS quick guide.pdf](http://ials.sas.ac.uk/eaglei/project/docs/EAGLEI%20IALS%20quick%20guide.pdf)

Steve Whittle, Information Systems Manager at IALS

issues or any legal issue that has a specific association with legislative drafting. It would also be an ideal repository for short articles which contain thoughts or research that are worth sharing with colleagues internationally but which may not be suitable for inclusion in a journal: it is hoped that from time to time some of these articles will be extracted from the forum and included in a dedicated online journal which will provide a corporate memory for the site. Particularly in its early formative stages, all drafters are warmly invited to become involved in the forum and to help to shape it in a way that will enhance its usefulness to them in the future.



## IALS launches Legislative Drafters' Forum

Legislative Drafters is a forum for the international drafting community established by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, available online at <http://legislativedrafters.blogspot.com/>

The forum was begun as a collaborative exercise between Daniel Greenberg, who proposed the idea, Helen Xanthaki and Constantin Stefanou.

Daniel Greenberg was Parliamentary Counsel (UK) from 1991 to 2010 and is now Parliamentary Counsel in the Parliamentary Team at Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP in London, editor of Craies on Legislation, Stroud's Judicial Dictionary and Jowitt's Dictionary of English Law, as well as the General Editor of Annotated Statutes, Westlaw UK. Daniel is an Associate Research Fellow of the IALS. Helen Xanthaki and Constantin Stefanou run the Sir William Dale Centre for Legislative Studies at IALS, carrying out research and offering an LLM in Advanced Legislative Studies and various shorter courses.

The purpose of the forum is simply to serve as a method of communication for drafters in any jurisdiction around the world, to share ideas, problems and solutions. Anyone can start a thread or leave a comment on an existing thread. The hope is that drafters will feel able to use the forum to seek ideas from their colleagues around the world on technical

Three well-known citation guides are now available in IALS in new editions, for the UK, US and Australia respectively:

*OSCOLA: Oxford Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities* (4<sup>th</sup> edn, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford 2010). This new edition is edited by Sandra Meredith and Donal Nolan. It gives rules and examples for UK primary sources and secondary sources, and for newer media like blogs and websites. The EU and European Court of Human Rights are included. Guidance and examples on Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have been expanded. A useful quick reference guide is available at the end. *OSCOLA* is available on the web at [www.law.ox.ac.uk/oscola](http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/oscola) This new edition does not contain guidance on international law sources, but a separate document on citing these, from the previous edition, is on the website.

*The Bluebook: a Uniform System of Citation* (19<sup>th</sup> edn, Harvard Law Review Association 2010). This is "the definitive style guide for legal citation in the United States" (page 1), to help lawyers and researchers to communicate clearly about the sources and authorities cited in their work. The volume is in three parts: Bluepages, a guide to the basics of citation; the Bluebook system of citation, containing rules of citation and style; and tables for the US and other

jurisdictions, which show which authority to cite and how to abbreviate. A comprehensive index is also included. Also available for the 19<sup>th</sup> edition is a user's guide in booklet form, by Alan Dworsky, aimed mainly at practitioners.

*Australian Guide to Legal Citation* (3<sup>rd</sup> edn, Melbourne University Law Review Association Inc in collaboration with Melbourne Journal of International Law Inc 2010). A comprehensive citation guide widely used in Australian law schools and law reviews. This new edition is divided into six sections: general rules, domestic sources, secondary sources, international materials, foreign domestic materials, and an appendix of law report abbreviations and table of neutral citations. An index and quick reference guide are also included.

Another new book of note is the second edition of Lisa Webley's book. Lisa Webley, *Legal Writing* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn, Routledge-Cavendish 2010) is clearly aimed at students and is a guide to essay writing, answering problem questions, tackling dissertations, using research findings, how to do references and citations, how to review your work, and how to understand the assessment process and criteria.

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