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IALS Gets Set for Autumn

Dear Colleagues, hello from the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Library!

At this busy time, the start of the new academic year, we would like to remind you that IALS Library is here for all law schools and law librarians. Keep in touch with us during the year, and do contact the Library by phone or e-mail if you think we can help. If you are planning a trip to London and would like to visit IALS, please let us know and we can organise a library tour for you at a convenient time. We welcome law researchers from any university in the UK or elsewhere: university teachers, M.Phil. and Ph.D. students, and law librarians. We look forward to hearing from you in 2009-2010!



Library trainees (l-r) Jordan, Nicola and Adam ready for a busy new academic year

This newsletter reports on recent developments in IALS and associated services:

- News from BAILII, the British and Irish Legal Information Institute
- IALS Library wins a law library of the year award!
- The Digitisation Project at IALS
- Intute: finding the best of the free web for law
- Visits by law librarians to IALS during the summer
- The BIALL Conference in June

Best wishes,

*Gerard Power
Access Librarian*



BAILII – the British and Irish Legal Information Institute at IALS

BAILII has recently been working on the preliminary tasks for converting some 8,500 Privy Council judgments from 1860 to 1998 given to BAILII by the Privy Council as part of their clean-out before moving to their new premises at the Supreme Court. Of these judgments we think that only about 4000 were reported in commercial reports so this will prove to be an interesting resource once completed.

We have also recently added these new databases to BAILII:

- Upper Tribunal (Administrative Appeals Chamber) <http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKUT/AAC/>
- Upper Tribunal (Finance and Tax) - empty at this stage - <http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKUT/FT/>
- Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber) <http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKUT/LC/>



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- First-tier Tribunal (Health Education and Social Care Chamber)
<http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKFTT/HESC>
- First-tier Tribunal (Tax)
<http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKFTT/TC>
- United Kingdom Supreme Court
<http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKSC/>
- Irish Data Protection Commission Case Studies
<http://www.bailii.org/ie/cases/IEDPC/>

and are currently waiting for formal permission to publish the already created Irish Treaty Series database.

Of course the publishing of issues of the two journals we host is always taking place:

JILT <http://www.bailii.org/uk/other/journals/JILT/>
Script-ed <http://www.bailii.org/uk/other/journals/Script-ed/>

Jo Ury, Executive Director, BAILII
<http://www.bailii.org/>

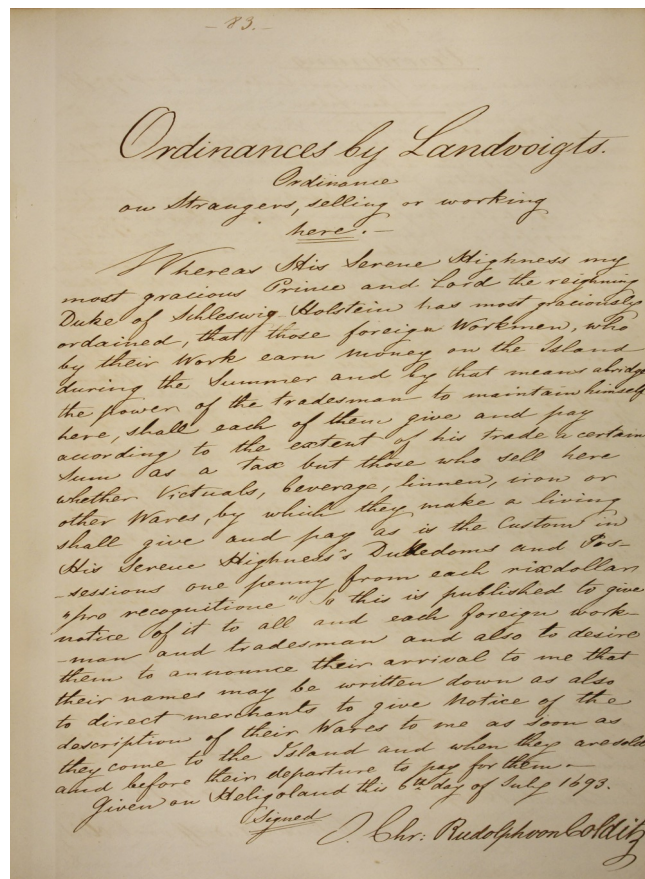
IALS Library Wins a Law Library of the Year Award

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Library is honoured to have been awarded the prestigious Halsbury's Award for the *Best Legal information Service (Non-Commercial Sector) 2009* by the LexisNexis Halsbury's Awards in association with the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians. The award was made in June 2009, and you can read more about it on our [website](#).

Update on the Digitisation and Cataloguing Project

IALS Library's 6 month project to catalogue and digitise the full text of selected historical maritime law titles and to digitise some early colonial and Commonwealth legislation is nearing completion. The project team, which includes members recruited specifically for the project and existing library staff, has worked well together with everyone contributing different skills. The Library staff have acquired valuable practical experience in digitising texts and preparing images for public display.

All of the cataloguing and classification for the maritime volumes is now complete and the full text digitising of selected volumes is almost finished. The cataloguing work threw up some interesting discoveries that increased the total number of titles we were dealing with from 120 to over 140. For example, on closer inspection one seventeenth century Dutch volume proved to contain five additional titles each of which needed to be catalogued separately. The additional titles had been written on the spine in smaller letters underneath the first title.



Heligoland was a British possession between 1807 and 1890. It comprises two small North Sea islands and before 1807 was owned at various times by Denmark and the Duchy of Schleswig. IALS holds 3 volumes of legislation in English in manuscript and print covering 1652 to 1889. The image reproduced here is taken from the earliest manuscript volume and is an ordinance made by the Landvoigt von Colditz in 1693 concerning strangers selling or working on the island.

The in-house team digitised the title page and spine of each title and also anything of particular interest such as annotations. These images will appear in the catalogue records. A total of forty seven titles will be fully digitised; of these four have been done in-house and the rest by an outside bureau. In the light of experience the Library revised its original specification for the outside digitisation work, based on initial files received and on what has been achieved using the Library's own camera and software. Another major decision was the optimum file size for the public PDF

images in order to ensure that they will be easy to download. One of the larger titles has been divided into eight files in order to facilitate this.

Work has now begun to identify volumes of early colonial and Commonwealth legislation which will be suitable for full text digitisation. A long list was produced from a preliminary survey of the volumes in the collection as the basis for further investigations. IALS is keen not to duplicate work that has already been done elsewhere so before proceeding further we shall check what digital images have already been created elsewhere. Some of the volumes will be digitised in-house and others will be done by the bureau. They present a different set of challenges from the maritime material because many are in manuscript or a mixture of print and manuscript. Several have official seals which in some cases obscure the text; others are tightly bound and have pencil annotations in the margins which will be difficult to capture.



The IALS Library continues to work on the Law section of Intute the free online service providing access to the very best web resources for education and research. Intute: Law contains links and descriptive records to hand picked, high quality legal resources including primary materials (legislation, case law), secondary sources (journals, books), government websites, organisations, databases, academic sites and resource guides.

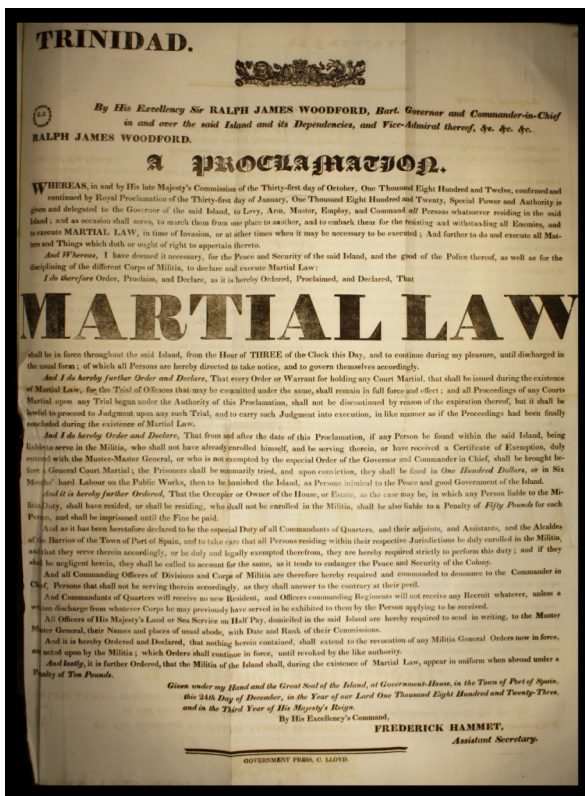
At the end of July 2009 the Intute site was relaunched with a new design and structure and updated versions of the Virtual Training Suite tutorials. The changes have been carried out as a result of user feedback from market research and usability testing.

The main change you will notice on Intute is that there are now 19 subjects (including Law) which can be accessed directly from the Home Page. These subjects are related to university courses, making it easier for students to find the resources they need for their studies. The Home Page also features user comments and popular resources, links to records recently added to the catalogue and the latest posts on the Intute Blog.

From the Law page you can browse or search the Law catalogue, view the latest legal resources and link to details of legal conferences and events. You can also link directly to the Internet for Law tutorial. This is one of the Virtual Training Suite tutorials designed to help university students develop their internet research skills. The Internet for Law tutorial has been recently updated by Steven Whittle, Information Systems Manager at IALS, to include new sites and examples and to take account of Web.2.0 features such as blogs, social networking sites, social bookmarking and video sharing sites. The tutorial has also been redesigned to be shorter and easier to read online and to include more graphics and interactive exercises.

The MyIntute service can also be accessed directly from the Law page and is now easier to use. MyIntute is the personal workspace on Intute where you can store and manage your own set of records from resources you have identified on Intute. Using this feature you can save records and tag them with your own headings, email or export them to another website and set up e-mail or RSS alerts of new records added to the Intute catalogue in your chosen subject.

As ever we are always pleased to receive your suggestions for new websites to add to Intute. You can submit suggestions using this form or contact us directly at IALS.



Proclamation on martial law, Trinidad, 1823

We have learned a lot over the last few months and we hope that the Library can continue to digitise selected material from its collections of rare and unique early legal materials now that we have built up a high level of expertise.

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*Heather Memess,
Intute Law Project Officer*

Visits to IALS by Law Librarians

During the summer months, we welcome many visitors to IALS from the UK and from other countries. Among the visitors this year were Lori-Ann Foley from Jersey, and Tania Schriwer from Seattle in the US. Tania has written a short piece on her visit, which is below.

Ms Lori-Ann Foley visited the IALS Library from 13 to 15 July. Lori-Ann is the manager and librarian of the new [Institute of Law](#), Jersey. The Jersey Institute provides a focus for the study and development of Jersey law, and a centre of excellence for legal research. The IALS has been in discussion with the new Institute of Law during its planning and development. Lori-Ann's visit to IALS was hosted by Lesley Young, and gave her an opportunity to learn about many aspects of IALS collections and services: cataloguing and classification, collection development, photocopying service, information literacy training for students, and electronic resources. The Jersey Institute of Law opened officially in September 2009, and we wish them every success for the future.



Tania Schriwer

Tania Schriwer visited from Seattle for 3 weeks during July. Here is her report:

It is the 200-year anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, I learn, as I sit here at the annual conference of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) in Washington D.C. I have come to this conference as a new law librarian, having just completed my studies at the University of Washington in Seattle.

My law librarianship course has helped me leave my former life as a litigation attorney for that as a law librarian and so far, I am enjoying my new librarian life very much. But who wouldn't when the AALL conference has proved to be even bigger and better than I had expected. A lot of my time has been enjoyably spent collecting a lot of free swag at the exhibit hall – LexisNexis wine coolers anyone? – as well as sipping champagne and nibbling desserts in the beautiful, marble halls of the Library of Congress – LexisNexis chocolates anyone? I have, of course, also attended many lectures – and that is why I find myself here, listening to two extensive projects aimed

at bringing the words and thoughts of America's revered 16th President to the people.

I learn that these digitization projects have placed a treasure trove of Lincoln's writings on the internet and within everyone's reach. I urge you to visit them at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/malhome.html> and <http://www.papersofabrahamlincoln.org>, after all – some of Lincoln's letters fetch upwards of \$13 million on the auction block!

I am extremely impressed with the work that has gone into the digitization of Lincoln's works. Indeed, I have a great, new interest in digitization since my wonderful visit to IALS in July of this year. You see, my visit to AALL in D.C. comes on the heels of an even greater journey I made – the three weeks I spent as a library intern at IALS. The great law librarians at the Institute very kindly agreed to show me their library and the remarkable work they do at Britain's largest law library. I was given the rare opportunity to visit with the librarians and to learn of the many projects that they undertake in order to foster their standing as one of the world's outstanding research libraries and to promote IALS' expertise in the fields of foreign, international, and comparative law. I was awestruck by the breadth of the library's collection as well as the librarians' deep commitment to the collection and the service aspects of law librarianship.

In addition to teaching me about their library, the kind folks at IALS let me get my hands on their digitization project. IALS is nearing completion of a project digitizing their collection of rare and historical maritime and shipping law treatises and they plan to continue these efforts by digitizing their other collections of old and rare books. IALS' digitization efforts are part of a movement by many archives to bring historical books out of library depositories and into the light for all to see. It was such a great opportunity to be a small part of that effort and to learn about one of the many promising new ventures for libraries.

My journey to London and then to D.C. was an amazing way to cap off an intense year of study at the University of Washington. I am so grateful to have had the great opportunity to visit with the wonderful librarians at IALS and to learn first-hand from them what seems so much more abstract when presented in a lecture hall in an air-conditioned convention center. My internship at IALS was the most rewarding opportunity on my path to law librarianship and I thank them wholeheartedly for welcoming me so graciously into the world of law librarianship.

Annual conference of BIALL, the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians

In June, my colleague Laura Griffiths and I attended the 40th annual conference of the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL). The speakers included a provocative management guru, the Chief Executive Designate of the new Supreme Court, a digital publisher and librarians from all sectors of the profession.

Dave Snowden of the management consultancy Cognitive Edge was the keynote speaker. A former Knowledge Management expert, he declared that Knowledge Management is now dead. He advocated the use of wikis and social networking within organisations and announced that Twitter is the new Google. Not everyone in the audience agreed with his views, but it was interesting to hear from someone at the cutting edge.

The future of libraries and publishing was brought to the assembled conference by digital publishing expert James Gray, of the US company Ingram Digital. Mr Gray was in no doubt that digital will supersede print as publishing's standard format. The role of libraries as information repositories will decline correspondingly, he said, since digital content is stored on servers belonging to publishers and other commercial suppliers. Libraries need to work together as consortia, engaging in group buying, aggregation of e-resources and the collective digitization and archiving of print materials.

Together with Lesley Dingle from the Squire Law Library at the University of Cambridge and Peter Clinch of Cardiff University, I spoke at one of the smaller conference sessions. The collaborative foreign law initiatives FLAG and FLARE formed the subject of our presentations. Peter Clinch demonstrated the FLARE Index to Treaties (<http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/flag/introtreaties.htm>), a new internet resource which was described in the last Newsletter.

Jenny Rowe of the new Supreme Court gave a fascinating survey of the past and future of the UK's highest judicial body. The Supreme Court will open in October at the Middlesex Guildhall, Parliament Square. Its jurisdiction will be almost the same as that of the current law lords: it will hear civil and criminal appeals from England, Wales and Northern Ireland as well as civil (but not criminal) appeals from Scotland. In addition, the new Court will take over the devolution jurisdiction from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, that is deciding whether devolved measures are within the powers ceded by Westminster.

It was a particularly memorable conference for IALS, because for the second consecutive year the Library was presented with an award. In 2008, the Document Supply Service won the BIALL Customer Relations Initiative Award and this year the Library as a whole won the Halsbury's Award for the Best Legal information Service (Non-Commercial Sector). The crystal trophy was collected by the IALS Librarian, Jules Winterton, accompanied by Laura and me. Needless to say, all at IALS Library are extremely pleased to have had the Library service recognised in this way by the rest of the profession.

Hester Swift
Foreign and International Law Librarian

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