Launch of Humanities Digital Library with new edition of Stephen Mason’s *Electronic Signatures in Law*

*Steven Whittle, Information Systems Manager*

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies is developing an Open Book Service for Law (OBserving Law) as part of the School of Advanced Study’s Humanities Digital Library (HDL) ([http://humanities-digital-library.org/](http://humanities-digital-library.org/)) open access scholarly book publishing initiative.

The HDL resource combines new open access publications with digital versions of existing print titles that will now, for the first time, be freely available to, and reusable by, anyone. Each title is published as an open access PDF, with copies also available to purchase in print and EPUB formats.

We were delighted to launch the new service on 17 January 2017 with our first title, the fourth edition of *Electronic Signatures in Law*. It is written by IALS Associate Research Fellow Stephen Mason. As you may know, Stephen is a leading authority on electronic signatures and electronic evidence, having advised...
global corporations and governments on these topics. Editorial oversight for IALS Open Book Service for Law will be provided by an Editorial Board and Advisory Board with representatives drawn from the UK legal research communities and scholarly professional associations for law. We are developing a broad team of consultant editors with particular subject expertise in law.

We very much hope that you find the new service and latest edition of Stephen Mason’s *Electronic Signatures in Law* useful to your research. For more information please visit http://ials.sas.ac.uk/digital/humanities-digital-library/observing-law-ials-open-book-service-law/electronic-signatures.

New guide to Singaporean law resources

We are pleased to announce that we now have a guide to the law resources of Singapore available for free on our website. The guide, compiled by Document Supply Services Supervisor Helen Gaterell, lists key resources for those researching Singaporean law. The guide includes sources of legislation, law reports, encyclopaedias, books and journals that are available in the IALS Library or available on the internet. It is the latest addition to our range of research guides for foreign jurisdictions, all of which are available at http://libguides.ials.sas.ac.uk/jurisdictions.

Global Tax Treaties Commentaries

We are currently trialling Global Tax Treaties Commentaries, a module on the IBFD online platform. Global Tax Treaties Commentaries are “analytical commentaries on OECD and UN model provisions, drawing on actual tax treaty practice and country interpretations of the model provisions and their many common variations”. For more information about the resource and the trial please visit http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/legal-databases-and-digital-resources/electronic-law-library/trial-electronic-resources.

Let us know what you think by contacting Liz Murray, Information Resources Manager, at liz.murray@sas.ac.uk by 31 March 2017.

Don’t forget that the librarians at IALS are very happy to advise you if you need help with your research or with using the Library in general. You can get in touch with us by email (ials@sas.ac.uk), telephone (020 7862 5790) or at the Enquiry Desk on the 4th Floor. You can also make an appointment with one of the reference librarians who can provide you with one-to-one advice on the use of databases, legal research, library resources, OSCOLA and more.

Don’t hesitate to ask us for help if you need it.

**One-to-one advice available**

**BIALL / SLS Survey of Academic Law Libraries**

**Laura Griffiths, Academic Services Librarian**

IALS Library is preparing once again to undertake the annual BIALL / SLS Survey of Academic Law Libraries, which has been administered by David Gee and Laura Griffiths since 2011. This survey provides a snapshot of staffing levels, expenditure, subscriptions and services provided by academic law libraries in the UK and Ireland. It is the only survey of its kind and provides data that academic librarians can to use to bench-mark their own services. Indeed, last year the library was awarded the Wallace Bream memorial award at last year’s BIALL conference in recognition of our continued useful work in administering the survey. This year’s survey will be soliciting feedback for the 2015/16 academic year, and we hope to make the findings available in the forthcoming winter edition of *Legal Information Management*, and thereafter on the IALS website.
Socio-Legal Training success

David Gee, Deputy Librarian

Over the past five years the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS), the British Library and the Socio-legal Studies Association (SLSA) have successfully collaborated in organising a popular series of national socio-legal training days for the UK legal research community. The training days offer attendees presentations by experts on the key library and archive sources and research methodologies used in particular academic fields. Research topics covered in previous training days include legal biography (2013); law, gender and sexuality (2014); and criminology and criminal justice (2015).

The ongoing difficulties for researchers in identifying the key library and archive sources for certain research topics and the often bewildering choice of socio-legal methods that can be employed when undertaking scholarship in a particular field are the two main reasons why the SLSA, the IALS and the British Library want to organise these national socio-legal training days. Between us, we feel that we can identify a range of stimulating speakers who will be able to answer these questions for researchers. At the same time we are keen to highlight and promote often hidden specialist library and archive collections across the UK and provide a forum for interested academics and researchers to discuss the merits and challenges of using particular qualitative, quantitative, comparative and feminist approaches in their research work.

The audiences for these training days are mainly academics, researchers and postgraduate research students based at universities across the UK. Each training day has gained a fresh audience from researchers dedicating precious time to their particular focus of scholarship and those tempted to attend training in subject fields outside of their main research interest.

A selection of articles deriving from the presentations given at these training days have been published in academic journals and made available in pre-print format on the IALS website: http://ials.sas.ac.uk/study/research-training/socio-legal-research-national-workshops-ials.

The most recent joint socio-legal training day was held at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies on Friday 25th November 2016 with Professor Rosemary Hunter (Chair of SLSA), Jonathan Sims (Curator for law and socio-legal studies at the British Library) and myself selecting the speakers and organising the programme. The topic this time was the socio-legal sources and methods in international law.

**Sources for international law research**

During the morning Hester Swift gave a very useful presentation on the extensive international law collections at IALS Library, Lesley Dingle talked about the history of the international law sources and the key academics and librarians who developed them at the Squire Law Library at Cambridge University and Jeroen Vervliet spoke about the specialist international law collections available to international researchers at the Peace Palace Library in the Hague, the Netherlands. Later in the day Jonathan Sims expertly surveyed the often hidden international law collections at the British Library. Specialist archives were also highlighted with eye-opening papers by Mira Siegelberg (Queen Mary) on the archives of international legal history and Ruth Frendo on the recently-catalogued treasure trove of archives and records of the International Law Association (ILA) held at IALS.

**Socio-legal methods used in international law research**

Presentations illustrated numerous different socio-legal research methodologies and approaches and included inspirational talks by Luis Eslava (Kent) on “Ethnographic thinking in international law”; Isobel Roele (Queen Mary) on “How does the UN Security Council work? Beyond paper and procedure”; Yassin Brunger (Leicester) on “Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain. Revealing international legal cultures through empirical evidence”; Jessie Hohmann (Queen Mary) on “Objects and material cultures of international law”; and Emilie Cloatre (Kent) on “Actor-network theory, materialities and the study of international law”.

It is hoped that a selection of articles deriving from some of these presentations will be included in a forthcoming special issue of *Legal Information Management*. 

Ever since Edward Blyden, the Liberian of West Indian origin, began to conceptualize a West African state, African leaders, scholars and activists have envisaged cooperation, integration and also unification of the continent. The model form for them has been European unification and the enduring puzzle for African unification is why Europe has managed to craft and develop strong institutions and organizations while African unification lags behind. While much research has been produced to explain this, African Unification tries to open up new lines of inquiry. Using an interdisciplinary approach, the author demonstrates the importance of insights from historical jurisprudence, contract law as applied to international law and organization, and the new institutional economics in understanding why African unification remains problematic.

The CAM-CCBC Arbitration Rules 2012: a Commentary edited by Frederico José Straube, Claudio Finkelstein and Napoleão Casado Filho ( Eleven International Publishing 2016)

The prominent role of the Centre for Arbitration and Mediation of the Chamber of Commerce Brazil-Canada in the context of international commercial arbitration in Brazil is already well established, but its recognition will be enhanced by the fact that it will serve as the relevant set of rules to be applied in the 2017 edition of the Vis Moot Competition. This means that thousands of law students around the world will be working with these Rules in their fictional commercial dispute, as they prepare for the highest level of competition in Vienna.

The present commentary provides a detailed road map of the international arbitral process as contemplated from a Brazilian perspective and through the particular prism of the rules of Brazil’s pre-eminent arbitral institution. It thus provides the English reader with a valuable opportunity to consider how international arbitration is meant to function in Brazil.

Meaning, Narrativity, and the Real: Semiotics of Law in Legal Education by Jan M Broekman (Springer 2016)

This book examines the concept of meaning and our general understanding of reality in a legal and philosophical context. Starting from the premise that meaning is a matter of linguistic and other forms of articulation, it considers the inherent philosophical consequences. Part I presents Klages’, Derrida’s, Von Hofmannsthals and Wittgenstein’s explorations of silence as a source of articulation and meaning. Debates about 20th century psychologism gave the attitude concept a pivotal role; it illustrates the importance of the discovery that a word is globally qualified as ‘the basic unit of language’. This is mirrored in the fact that we understand reality as a matter of particles and thus interpret the real as a component of an all-embracing ‘particle story’. Each chapter of the book focuses on an aspect of legal semiotics related to the chapter’s theme: for instance on the meaning of a Judge’s ‘Saying for Law’, on law students training in varying attitudes or on the ties between law and language.

Part II of the book illustrates our general understanding of reality as a matter of particles and partitioning, and examines texts that prove that particle thinking is basic for our meaning concept. It shows that physics, quantum theory, holism, and modern brain research focusing on human linguistic capabilities, confirm their ties to the particle story. In contrast, the book concludes that partitions and particles are neither a fact in the history of the cosmos nor a determinant of knowledge and the sciences, and that meaning is a process: a constellation rather than a fixation. This is manifest once one understands meaning as the result of continuously changing attitudes, which create our narratives on cosmos and creation. The book proposes a new key for meaning: a linguistic occurrence anchored in dimensions of human narrativity.
Spotlight on…
…Slavery in America and the World

An impressive library of nearly 9,000 volumes on the subject of slavery has been added to HeinOnline database. The collection, entitled ‘Slavery in America and the World: History, Culture & Law’, consists of federal and state slavery statutes and all reported federal and state cases on slavery, together with books, academic journal articles, historical periodicals and tracts, and a bibliography.

All academic members of IALS Library can use HeinOnline in the library, and our licence also covers remote access for those of our readers who are from the University of London. (Access is via the Electronic Law Library at http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/legal-databases-and-digital-resources/electronic-law-library.) Philanthropically, however, WS Hein have also decided to make the slavery collection available to all, free of charge. However, while the free version covers the vast majority of the content, it does not offer access to the full text of the Scholarly Articles section; this must be for copyright reasons, since many of these articles are from recent decades.

The statutes in the slavery collection go back to the late eighteenth century, the earliest one being An Ordinance for the government of the territory of the United States North West of the river Ohio, 13 July 1787. Many of the cases are even older, since they include decisions of English courts, such as Cartwright’s Case of 1569 (2 Rushworth 468), as well as cases from the courts of the early American colonies. Users of the collection will find these old cases contained within Judicial Cases concerning American Slavery and the Negro, edited by Helen Tunnicliff Catterall and originally published by the Carnegie Institution of Washington (1926-1937).

Hein’s Slavery in America collection includes a large set of anti-slavery periodicals from the 1800s - such as Liberty Bell, The African Repository and the Anti-Slavery Examiner – accompanied by the proceedings of anti-slavery associations from the same period. This material is all found in the Periodicals section, along with Congressional publications from 1774 to 1880.

The Scholarly Articles and Other Documents section has sub-divisions devoted to America, the British Empire and other categories, to facilitate browsing. As well as covering the well-known era of slavery from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century, the Scholarly Articles section includes many articles on slavery in ancient times and a few on human trafficking and modern slavery. It is worth noting that the search facility for the Slavery in America collection as a whole does not cover the Scholarly Articles section; if you would like to do a wide-ranging search for articles on slavery, use HeinOnline’s Law Journal Library instead of the slavery collection.

Another part of the collection provides online versions of fifty books published by University of North Carolina Press (UNC Press) from 1985 to the present day. Most of them are histories of slavery in the United States, but a couple are broader in scope, for example Masters, Servants, and Magistrates in Britain and the Empire, 1562-1955 (edited by Douglas Hay and Paul Craven). This UNC material is complemented by the final section, the Bibliography, which lists key titles from other publishers.

Paul Finkelman, Editor-in-Chief of Slavery in America, has developed a tool for researchers called the ‘Slavery Quick Finder’, which is available on the All Titles page. It allows users to focus their research on pro- or anti-slavery material, or to select ‘any position’. It can also be used to select a jurisdiction, type of document and/or topic. There are twenty-six different document types to choose from, including not just the obvious categories of legal document (statutes, cases and so on), but also sermons, letters, biography, histories and even poems and songs. The variety of categories illustrates the breadth of this new HeinOnline resource, which will be invaluable to researchers in the field of law and beyond.

People News

Eleanor Dale was promoted at the beginning of 2017 and took on the role of Senior Library Assistant in Serials. Eleanor is looking forward to working more closely with journals and helping to maintain the currency of the collection. She previously worked in the Acquisitions and Cataloguing team.

News produced in PDF format by Lindsey Caffin, Senior Library Assistant—Computing Services (Information Systems)

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