IALS Summer Newsletter 2016

IALS Library Wins the Wallace Breem Memorial Award 2016.

We are thrilled to announce that the Library was awarded the Wallace Breem Memorial Award 2016. The award recognizes especially good contributions to law librarianship and is sponsored by the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL) and the Inner Temple. Laura Griffiths and Katherine Read received the award from Karen Palmer, President of BIALL, at the BIALL Conference in Dublin on 9th June.

The Library won the Award in recognition for its work on two projects which were commended for being of great benefit to law librarians across the country. The first was the Current Awareness column, which is published in Legal Information Management and made available on the free caLIM database on the IALS website. The column highlights recent publications of interest to law librarians, arranged by key theme. It was described as “terrifically useful” and has been praised for its “impressive number of pertinent articles”. Katherine Read and Laura Griffiths have been producing this column for nearly ten years.

The second was 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 academic law libraries, which are 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 use to benchmark their own services. The report is published each year in the winter edition of Legal Information Management, and is made available on the IALS website.
New Indian Law Database: SCC Online

Hester Swift, Foreign and International Law Librarian

The Indian database SCC Online is now available via the IALS Electronic Law Library. The database is produced by Eastern Book Company and includes cases, legislation, journals, official reports, treaties and other material. Although it is primarily for Indian law research, a large collection of African cases and decisions from Asian jurisdictions other than India are also available.

SCC Online provides a very large collection of Indian cases, going from the late eighteenth century up to the present day, the earliest source being the Bengal Law Reports (1779-1875). Decisions of the Supreme Court of India and the Indian High Courts are available, as well as those of the Privy Council and other judicial bodies. The Case Index can be used to search by party name; for a full-text search, use the main search facility on the home page.

Decisions that have been overruled are marked in the list of search results by a red circle with an exclamation mark in it, as shown below:

The red 'overruled' icon ('D' denotes a digest and '11' refers to the number of judges).

The Indian legislation collection on SCC Online comprises:

- Central (Federal) Statutes, as amended (but including repealed acts)
- Rules and regulations, as amended
- Circulars, notifications and instructions issued by government departments, the Supreme Court and other official bodies
- Parliamentary bills

The Statutes page allows you to search by title only; for a full-text search, use the search facility on the home page.

The database includes articles from about twenty law journals, including the journal sections of Supreme Court Cases (SCC) and The Law Weekly. A few non-Indian journals are covered, such as the Singapore Academy of Law Journal and the Dhaka University Law Journal.

Other content includes Indian official reports and the debates of the Constituent Assembly, which drafted the Constitution of India.

Cases from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, numerous African jurisdictions and elsewhere are also available on SCC Online under our Platinum subscription. The largest collections, in terms of date coverage, include:

- Sri Lankan cases from 1898 to 2015
- Kenyan High Court and Supreme Court cases from 1938 to 2015
- Ugandan Constitutional Court and Supreme Court cases from 1961 to 2013
- Nigerian Supreme court cases from 1961 to 2012
- Bangladeshi cases from 1981 to 2013

Cases from many other jurisdictions are also available: see the Data Coverage page at http://www.scconline.com, under ‘Foreign Materials’.

Students and academics with current IALS Library cards can access SCC Online both remotely and on-site. For on-site access, unlike most of the databases in the IALS Electronic Law Library, SCC Online requires you to enter the IALS email address, then click on the ‘Sign In’ button, as shown above.

For remote access, enter your family name as your user ID and the barcode number from your IALS library card as your password (as for our other databases), then enter the IALS email address and click ‘Sign In’, as shown above.

Library Re-Classification Project

As part of our ongoing work to upgrade the IALS Classification Scheme, we are undertaking another project this summer to improve a small section of our Common Law (SJ) classification. Previous work has created new classmarks SG78 International Taxation and SA20 Feminist Jurisprudence and updated the Jurisdictional classification.
Judicial Committee of the Privy Council Case Papers Symposium at IALS

Steven Whittle, Information Systems Manager

A symposium on the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council Case papers held at the Institute on Friday 13th May 2016 was organised collaboratively by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, the Forum for Legal and Historical Research, University of Reading and the London Legal History Seminar. At this symposium, inspired by the IALS digitisation of its collection of case papers, a number of papers were delivered with regard to different aspects of the very broad jurisdiction of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The sessions were chaired by Professor Michael Lobban and Professor Catharine MacMillan and included presentations by:

- Rt Hon Lord Carnwath of Notting Hill CVO (Justice of The Supreme Court and Chair IALS Advisory Council)
- Professor Catharine MacMillan (Research Advisor to the IALS JCPC case papers project) (University of Reading)
- Professor Paul Mitchell (University College London)
- Dr Charlotte Smith (University of Reading)
- Professor John Strawson (University of East London)
- Professor Carol Tan (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London)
- Jonathan Blaney (Institute of Historical Research, SAS, University of London)
- Joe Ury (British and Irish Legal Information Institute – BAILII)
- Steven Whittle (Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, SAS, University of London)

The academic speakers are currently engaged in researching areas concerned with the jurisprudence of the Judicial Committee. The first panel addressed overarching themes concerned with the Judicial Committee. The second panel gave a presentation of research resources developed recently in the School of Advanced Study to facilitate further research into JCPC case law. The final panel featured two papers concerned with specific areas of the Judicial Committee’s jurisdiction.


A small exhibition on the ground floor at the Institute over the summer displays examples from the case papers in the collection at IALS Library and features extracts from an exhibition originally created for the UK Supreme Court.

Word Training

During June and July of 2016, the IALS Information Services team will once again be running the very popular Word for Dissertation hands-on training sessions. These sessions are designed to make the formatting of dissertations and theses as easy and as stress-free as possible leaving students to concentrate on the content.

Students will be shown how to format a Word document to given specifications (fonts, headings, line-spacing, margins etc.) using built-in styles. They will also be shown how to generate automatic table of contents and bibliography, insert and format footnotes, page numbers, headers and footers, merge documents, obtain an accurate word count and lots more.

The sessions will take place in the training room on the 4th floor of IALS Library and run from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. There will also be two evening sessions which run from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

See http://libguides.ials.sas.ac.uk/training/summer for details.
IALS Library on the Road

Lisa Davies, Access Librarian

Each year the librarians at IALS take to the road to speak to researchers and staff at law schools across the country. The purpose of the road show series is to remind legal researchers that the Institute Library is the national library for legal research and free to use for all academics and postgraduate researchers in the UK and overseas.

We highlight the breadth of the collections and show researchers how they can log in to several legal databases remotely using their own computers. We outline the many services provided by the Library, including research skills training, reference advice and one-to-one clinics to help with formatting a PhD thesis. We also take the opportunity to demonstrate some of the free online research tools that are available on the IALS website, including:

- Eagle-i: a database of good quality websites that provide legal information for teaching and research purposes
- Current Legal Research Topics: a database of working titles of MPhil and PhD theses that are currently underway in the UK
- FLAG: Foreign Law Guide: a database of libraries in the UK that hold primary law materials for foreign jurisdictions
- FLARE Index to Treaties: an online index to multilateral and bilateral treaties that provides citation information and links to full-text treaties

In the current academic year we have visited Aberystwyth University, Bangor University, the University of Brighton, Kingston University, Middlesex University and the University of Wolverhampton, speaking to around 120 researchers, academic staff and librarians. If you would like to arrange a road show visit for your law school please email me at lisa.davies@sas.ac.uk.

Reader Satisfaction Survey

Laura Griffiths, Academic Services Librarian

In order to find out how satisfied readers are with the Library’s collections and information services, a survey of readers was carried out between Monday 7th March and Sunday 13th March 2016. Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction on a 4-point scale from 1 (“rarely meets needs”) to 4 (“usually meets needs”) for a number of categories. In total 189 completed survey forms were returned.

As per the last 5 years running, the top rating was for helpfulness of the staff, at 97.3%, with overall satisfaction at 95.3%, electronic training sessions at 92.1%, and range of journals at 90.2%. The fact that the rating for our electronic training sessions has, for the ninth year running, remained above 90% is particularly gratifying as we are continually expanding and developing these, and this result clearly shows that researchers and students view our annual programme of training sessions as a major value-added service. We were also very pleased to note that our rating for quality of computing services has been showing year-on-year increases and now stands at 88.9%, reflecting the impressive work our Information Systems team have been doing, such as streamlining the procedure for logging onto the wireless network. The full results of the survey can be found on our website.

IALS Library would like to thank everybody who took part in the survey for your feedback - your comments and ratings help us very much to keep our services and collections on track!
Lesley Young, Information Resources Manager

This month we offer a selection of recent books on international courts.

Eds. De Baere, G. & Wouters, J.
The contribution of international and supranational courts to the rule of law (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2015)

This volume contains an edited collection of lectures given at the University of Leuven in 2013. Contributors include academics, judges, prosecutors and other officials from various international courts and organisations such as the WTO, the International Court of Justice, and several international tribunals. The book is arranged in four sections focussing on the theoretical framework, global and regional courts and tribunals, special tribunals such as that for the Former Yugoslavia and the Iran-US Claims tribunals and rounded off with an epilogue. The collection covers the fundamental principles underpinning these bodies as well as noting the differences between them.

Bjorge, E.
Domestic application of the ECHR: Courts as faithful trustees (Oxford University Press, 2015)

The author begins by emphasising the importance of applying the European Convention on Human Rights in a way that makes a positive contribution to the overall development of the law in this area. He notes that the Court establishes a “two-way” bridge between international and domestic law and goes on to analyse the jurisprudence of the French, German and British legal systems in this context. These three have been selected as representative of three traditional approaches to European administrative law.

Chazal, N.
The International Criminal Court and global social control: International criminal justice in late modernity (Routledge, 2016)

This book explores the challenges faced by the ICC and the ways in which the gaps between rhetoric and reality have arisen. It looks at the issue from a criminological point of view rather than from the perspective of law, international relations or politics. It also considers how such tensions can be regarded productive as they enable the Court to navigate a complex international environment driven by geopolitics.

Dothan, S.
Reputation and judicial tactics: a theory of national and international courts (Cambridge University Press, 2015)

The author presents a theory of courts as institutions that differs from the more usual approach that focuses on individual judges. He argues that national and international courts seek to enhance their reputations through the strategic exercise of judicial power, relying on reputational sanctions to ensure compliance with their decisions and to shape the behaviour of states and governments. Two chapters illustrate the author’s views by focussing on specific examples: the Israeli Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights.

Lock, T.
The European Court of Justice and international courts (Oxford University Press, 2015)

This title looks at the issues arising from overlapping jurisdictions and analyses the international legal framework for the resolution of conflicts, noting that such conflicts are often characterised as treaty conflicts. It also provides a critical analysis of the European Court of Justice’s far-reaching jurisdiction and discusses the special relationship between the CJEU and the European Court of Human Rights. The final chapter looks ahead to the likely effects on this relationship of the European Union’s accession to the ECHR.

Mexican Law – A Brand New Research Guide

A free legal research guide for Mexico is now available on the IALS website, bringing the total number of foreign and international law research guides available to 31. The new guide highlights the key print sources of Mexican law that are available in the IALS Library collection as well as those that are freely available online. It covers key constitutional sources, legislation, law reports, journals, digests, books and websites, both in Spanish and in English.

To access this guide and to see the full range go to http://libguides.ials.sas.ac.uk/guides.
Spotlight On…

… FLAG

FLAG (Foreign Law Guide) is a free database on the IALS website. It can be used to find out which libraries in the UK have foreign primary law collections in print and microfilm. If, for example, you want to know if a library near you has Nigerian law reports, or Canadian legislation, simply choose those options on the search page and you will be presented with a list of libraries that have holdings that match your search criteria. The results page will also indicate whether the collections are still being added to. Access to FLAG is via the IALS homepage: http://ials.sas.ac.uk/.

People News

Lesley Young, Information Resources Manager at the Institute Library retired at the end of June 2016. She has been one of the pillars on which the success of the library is built. Lesley joined the library as a Senior Library Assistant in the Acquisitions, Continuations and Binding Department on 1st July 1983 so rather neatly completing exactly 33 years.

Lesley, along with her teams has been responsible for all the collections of the library, print and electronic – for developing them in a consistent and strategic way, their selection, purchase, recording them and making them discoverable, accommodating them, and conserving them as assets of the Institute.

The post is a demanding role including the management of teams of library staff, of limited space, ever-increasing collections, limited budgets, and an often difficult environment to preserve collections. She defended the interests of researchers and the long-term importance of the national collections at IALS tenaciously in an era of pressure on resources.

Lesley has unique experience and knowledge of legal publishing and all aspects of caring for a great legal research library and her expertise will be sorely missed.

David Gee, Deputy Librarian, has been elected as Secretary of the Board of the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) for the 2016-2019 term. IALL is a worldwide, cooperative non-profit organization of librarians, libraries, and other persons and institutions concerned with the acquisition, dissemination and use of legal information from sources other than their own jurisdictions. There are over 400 IALL members and most represent the major law libraries across the world. Representing IALS, SAS and the University of London, David is the only law librarian from a UK university on the new IALL Board.

Extension of Sunday Opening Hours

We are pleased to announce that in the autumn term 2016 we shall be extending our Sunday opening hours. From 2nd October 2016 onwards the Library will be open from 12:30 to 20:30 on Sundays.

This extension has been implemented following feedback in the reader satisfaction survey that was conducted earlier this year.