



**Library and Information Services, January 2006**

Dear Colleague,

New Year's greetings from everyone at the Institute Library! It's an opportunity for us to offer you some news from the Library and associated services:

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**Free Access to Commonwealth and Common Law**

Free internet access to over 400 legal databases is offered by **CommonLII**, the Commonwealth Legal Information Institute. This comprehensive new service was launched in September 2005 in London at the 14th Commonwealth Law Conference, and it can be found on the web at <http://www.commonlii.org/> The Australasian Legal Information Institute, AUSTLII, is leading the CommonLII initiative, and the new service is supported in the UK by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and by the Commonwealth Lawyers' Association. Access is free and the service is not-for-profit.

The press release for the launch states:

“CommonLII already allows browsing and searching of 464 databases from 50

Commonwealth and common law countries and territories. Many of these databases are located on existing LIIs in Commonwealth countries, but CommonLII contains databases from 30 additional countries. Additional databases are under development. There is a Catalog of law websites for all Commonwealth countries. Notable database collections on CommonLII include those from India (very extensive), from Singapore and Malaysia, from most Caribbean countries, and from ten African countries. It is also possible to search Commonwealth-wide legislation (from 30 countries), or case law or law reform.”

Users of the new service can search and navigate in ways which are familiar in existing LIIs such as BAILII, HKLII, AustLII etc. Thus it is possible to browse by jurisdiction for court decisions and legislation, and also possible to search by words, phrases or document titles. For some jurisdictions, law reform documents and selected journal titles are also available. In addition, CommonLII offers a catalogue of links to legal websites in Commonwealth countries.

*Please see page 8 below for an update on the BAILII / JISC Open Law Project.*

**New Café at IALS**

Visitors to the IALS building at 17 Russell Square in Bloomsbury will be pleased to learn that the Institute finally has its own café! CaféLex can be found on the lower ground floor L1, and offers a great range of coffee and refreshments. It's a pleasant place to meet friends and colleagues over a cup of coffee. CaféLex is open from 09:00 to 16:00 every day, Monday to Friday.

**Sabbatical Visit to IALS Library**

*By Bob Menanteaux, Information Services Librarian,  
Seattle University Law Library  
Seattle, Washington, USA*

I was in residence at the Institute's Library for two weeks in April of 2005. Generally, you'll find me around 7,000 km west of London at my library in Seattle where I focus on collection development and reference in the foreign, comparative and international law areas in addition to general information services duties. My liaison responsibilities with teaching faculty have led to the development of specialized research sessions for international environmental law, development law, as well as the school's international human rights clinic and Jessup moot court program. I also sit on the law school's governing committee on foreign, comparative and international law.

I used my time at IALS to focus on three areas. The greatest effort was expended on a sabbatical project devoted to writing a text on international and foreign law research for an online environment. Currently, no standard text published in the U.S. covers this area. My work will produce a document that is designed to appeal to students with different learning styles through the addition of media components. To date, preliminary work has been finished on six chapters with three more scheduled for completion this spring. Marshalling the media components will signal the next phase of the project which involves the development of standards for design consistency as well as textual pacing and sequence. Scripts for video or voice-over illustrations and questions and assignments are among the tasks which also remain. Beta testing is anticipated in the summer 2006.

Continuing work on a formal collection development policy for foreign, comparative and international law was also a part of my sabbatical residency in London. Such policies are important

baseline documents in establishing collection growth and management priorities. The collections of IALS were invaluable in providing hands on experience with European and other foreign sources for both this project and the research class text.

In addition to these tasks, I pursued an investigation of legal information literacy standards, using the residency to focus on current British criteria. Standards such as these ensure that legal research training within a given jurisdiction shares a common set of instructional objectives. The Association for College and Research Libraries in the United States has proffered both standards and objectives on general information literacy for college undergraduates. The MacCrate report, issued by the American Bar Association's Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar in July 1992, addressed general competencies that American law students were expected to acquire prior to graduation. IALS library staff facilitated an exchange of views with Dr. Peter Clinch, Information Specialist for Law at Cardiff University. This timely conversation provided valuable insights into comparable UK standards.

Finally, I was able to assist the IALS library with an ongoing collection development project regarding the disposition of U.S. legal periodical titles held by the library. Spearheaded by Information Resources Manager Lesley Young, this effort is aimed at ameliorating a space shortage problem and ensuring that high value titles remain immediately available to library users.

Although two weeks were not enough to complete all the work that was planned, the residency managed to accomplish most of the goals that I set thanks to the professionalism, cooperation and warm hospitality extended by the IALS library staff.

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Ms Uma Narayan will be the Visiting Fellow in Law Librarianship at IALS for the first quarter of 2006. Ms Narayan is Librarian at the Judges' Library of the High Court in Mumbai, India. She is the holder of a Commonwealth Professional Fellowship, and we hope to offer news of Uma's time at IALS later in 2006.

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## **Legal Research in Germany**

By Jules Winterton

*Jules Winterton, Librarian and Associate Director of the IALS, was a research fellow at the Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht in November 2005. A fuller article about the Hamburg Institute and its Library will appear later in the year.*

The Library of the Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht, the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Private Law (the Hamburg Institute) is one of the outstanding comparative legal research libraries in the world. Its Library Directors have all been great internationalists, participating in professional activities, notably in the International Association of Law Libraries.

The Hamburg Institute itself is known through the reputation of its Directors and by the Institute's publications such as the *International Encyclopedia of Comparative Law* and *Rabels Zeitschrift für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht*. The Institute is dedicated to the tasks of fundamental research in areas of comparative and international law and these are closely allied to the creation and maintenance of a specialist legal library in which foreign legal literature, legislation and case-law as well as relevant material from supranational and international institutions are systematically collected and made available.

The Library contains about 430,000 volumes and a range of electronic resources; it adds 7,000 vols each year and there are 1900 current periodical subscriptions. The collection concentrates on foreign and international private law and avoids coverage in depth of the areas of research of the other Max Planck law institutes (see below). In addition to great collections of private international law and comparative law, the Institute has collections of primary sources of law from almost all other countries of the world. The collections for most continental European countries are outstanding and coverage of central and east European countries since 1991 is better than any in the UK and perhaps anywhere else. There are also particularly good collections from Latin America. The collections for the UK and other common law countries are good but not surprisingly do not rival those held in the UK. Coverage extends to Middle East and Far East countries calling on an impressive expertise in languages among the staff of the library and the Institute's researchers.

The Institute employs about 100 research staff and welcomes a number of academic scholars each year. Some guests are appointed as guest researchers, may be in receipt of a stipend from the Institute, and are treated as if they are members of the research staff. Other academic staff and research students in limited numbers may be admitted by prior arrangement on the basis of need for the specialist collections.

### **The Hamburg Institute Building**

The library at the MPIPriv occupies a majority of the building originally constructed in 1959. It is very largely accommodated in stacks on the basement floors to which there is restricted access; the relatively small reading rooms have a collection of heavily used material on open access. There was a major project in about 1974, at about the time the present IALS accommodation was being built, to

extend the building. There is currently project to extend and adapt the building, creating 1,500 sq m of space including space for library stock, a new reading room, a rare book room, a new entrance lobby for the building, a 150 seat lecture theatre with facilities for receptions and a seminar room. The plans have similarities with the proposed IALS building plans and show the same confidence in the role of the specialist library in legal research.

### **The Max Planck Society**

The Hamburg Institute, [www.mpipriv-hh.mpg.de](http://www.mpipriv-hh.mpg.de), is one of six legal research institutes (listed below) of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science which spent approximately 59 million Euros in 2005 on legal research, about 13.3 per cent of its total budget. The Max Planck Society is an extremely successful and influential non-profit research organisation, independent but funded largely by government, which operates over 80 research institutes and facilities located throughout Germany.

The Max Planck Society does not run libraries itself, rather it is the research institutes which maintain, manage and develop libraries. The Librarian of each of the Max Planck Institutes reports to the Director of that Institute and in this way there is a clear mission and direction for the library as part of the Institute and the Institute can maintain a coherent strategy and pattern of management. The independence of the Institutes and of their libraries is balanced by increasing cooperation and collaborative initiatives within and outside the Society which are generally managed by project groups rather than additional central structures. The Society was built from the success of the Institutes and their directors and has generally espoused a devolved model of management.

The libraries of the Max Planck Institutes do not all use the same automated library

management system. However, there is a growing adoption of the Aleph system by Institute libraries through an initiative of the Society, which commissioned a central installation. Since 2001 about 30 Institute libraries have adopted the system for their own catalogues.

The Max Planck Virtual Library project at <http://vlib.mpg.de/> offers a flexible search across library catalogues and other electronic resources including full text databases based on SFX software. In addition individual resources can be identified by a sophisticated search based on full bibliographic records of resources and can then be searched via their original interface.

The open access movement is an information management issue of direct concern to librarians and researchers. The Society, true to its mission to carry out research of benefit to society, initiated the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, [http://oa.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlin\\_declaration.pdf](http://oa.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlin_declaration.pdf) signed on 22 Oct 2003 by major European research institutions and funding agencies.

### **The Legal Research Max Planck Institutes**

Max-Planck-Institut für Geistiges Eigentum, Wettbewerbs- und Steuerrecht / Max Planck Institute for Intellectual Property, Competition and Tax Law in Munich

[www.ip.mpg.de](http://www.ip.mpg.de)

Max-Planck-Institut für europäische Rechtsgeschichte / Max Planck Institute for European Legal History in Frankfurt/Main.

[www.mpier.uni-frankfurt.de](http://www.mpier.uni-frankfurt.de)

Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht / Max Planck Institute for Foreign Private and Private International Law in Hamburg

[www.mpipriv-hh.mpg.de](http://www.mpipriv-hh.mpg.de)

Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Strafrecht / Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg.

[www.iuscrim.mpg.de](http://www.iuscrim.mpg.de)

Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches öffentliches Recht und Völkerrecht / Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg

[www.mpil.de](http://www.mpil.de)

Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Sozialrecht / Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Social Law in Munich.

[www.mpisoc.mpg.de](http://www.mpisoc.mpg.de)

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## Update on services and developments at IALS

### NELLCO

IALS Library has applied for international affiliate membership of NELLCO, originally known as the New England Law Library Consortium, and looks forward to a pilot two-year membership with effect from July 2006.

The Consortium is a co-operative non-profit network of many well-known law libraries in the United States, and includes the law school libraries of Harvard, Yale, New York and Boston among its 25 full members. The Consortium also has 62 affiliate member libraries in the US. Benefits of the international affiliate membership for IALS will include negotiated pricing and licensing (if the vendor is amenable), the internships and exchanges programme, and the legal scholarship repository. IALS will be able to work closely with other consortium members on concrete international initiatives. The two-year pilot international affiliate membership will bring IALS Library into close contact with a large

network of law libraries whose collections are also rich in foreign, international and comparative law, as well as in Anglo-American and common law. NELLCO's website can be found at

<http://www.nellco.org>

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## Inter Library Loan and Document Supply services

IALS Library is happy to make the collections accessible to academic users outside London by offering an inter-library loan and document supply service. Two options are available.

- Please visit your own library or any public library to make inter-library loan requests. There may be a charge from the requesting library. IALS mainly supplies photocopies. Loans are only available for previous editions/older books from the depository, which are in good condition.
- Individual academic users may make personal requests for photocopies direct to IALS by phone, fax or e-mail. This is usually a faster service for which there is a minimum charge of £5.00 plus postage/fax charges and VAT (where applicable). Full details of this service and an order form are available on the web site <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/aservice/adelivery.htm>

Please note that all requests are subject to copyright regulations.

Katherine Read, Principal Library Assistant, Academic Services  
[ials@sas.ac.uk](mailto:ials@sas.ac.uk)

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## **Current Legal Research Topics database**

*Current Legal Research Topics* is maintained by IALS Library, and is a database listing subjects of research in progress by students studying for higher degrees in law in universities in the United Kingdom. The database is updated every year, and all law schools will be contacted shortly to arrange to send to IALS updates on dissertations in law currently underway, but not yet completed. The database can be found as one of the options on the Library website, and can be searched or browsed in various ways.

*Gerry Power, Access Librarian*

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## **Update on new electronic resources**

*By Lesley Young, Information Resources Manager*

### **e-Kenya law reports**

The Library is currently in the middle of a 6 month trial of the e-Kenya law reports site following a visit from the editorial team to IALS in October.

The site offers access to some material for free while other sections are accessible to subscribers only. Of particular interest are the Kenya law reports and legislation.

The same editors are responsible for publishing the hard copy of the law reports that have resumed publication after a long gap and the IALS is also acquiring these volumes for its collections.

### **LexisNexisFrance**

IALS will be subscribing to this major French resource in 2006 and regular users of LexisNexis Butterworths will find the screens very familiar.

Material available on the database includes the Juris Classeur

encyclopaedias; law reports, some in full text; and the 3 sections of *Semaine juridique*. IALS has some of this material in print already but the online database offers much more. Once the database is available, Academic services library staff will produce brief guides to the content and on how to get the most out of it.

### **The Series Book Project**

Work on this is progressing well and the end is nearly in sight. A task that appeared to be quite daunting when work began over a year ago with almost 8,000 pages of detailed information to be transferred from the manual series books onto the online public access catalogue now looks quite manageable.

To date, the dynamic team of John Huggett and Robert Turner have created nearly 145,000 individual item records on Millennium and made links to the bibliographic record from the PDF image of the original historic series book page for most titles. Although the pace of work inevitably slowed down in the summer while the merger of the catalogues of Senate House Library and School of Advanced Study was completed, the project is still firmly on course for successful completion in the spring. In addition to adding historic records to the catalogue for all to see, the project team has also helped to research and resolve problem records so that information on some of our more obscure titles has been enhanced.

Now that nearly all of our detailed serials holdings information are available on the public access catalogue, work flows within the library have been altered to ensure that these records are updated as soon as new volumes are received to ensure that the public catalogue keeps everyone fully informed.

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## **Library catalogue and management system convergence project**

*By Steve Whittle,  
Information Systems Manager, IALS*

The IALS Library Catalogue can now be searched separately from <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/catalogue.htm> or as part of the wider SAS and ULRLS catalogues <http://catalogue.ulrls.lon.ac.uk/>.

A major project in 2005 has been the creation of the University of London Research Library Services (ULRLS) catalogue, which includes the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Library catalogue.

The ULRLS shared library management system and catalogue has been built, on a high performance server with suitable capacity for several years' expansion, by merging the Innovative Millennium systems previously run separately by IALS for the School of Advanced Study, and by Senate House Library.

The project, managed by Steve Whittle at IALS for the School, and Steve Clews for Senate House Library, in collaboration with our system suppliers in the USA, Innovative Interfaces Inc. (<http://www.iii.com/>) has involved many months of planning, preparatory code changes, record migration and service consolidation. The system is crucial to the delivery of the public catalogues and the behind-the-scenes operations controlling membership records, book loans, access to electronic resources, acquisitions, serial control and cataloguing.

For the record: 706,202 bibliographic records; 882,047 item records; 68,151 order records, 17,113 serial checkin records, 14,238 membership records; 1018 Authority records; 543 Vendor records and 77 Course records were migrated from the SAS system to the new shared server. In addition, all live transaction data was migrated

successfully and many system options and settings were harmonised and updated. The project was accomplished without the need for downtime to the public catalogue.

The IALS Library Catalogue can now be searched separately from <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/catalogue.htm> or as part of the wider SAS and ULRLS catalogues <http://catalogue.ulrls.lon.ac.uk/>. New search screens and options for advanced keyword searching have been developed. There is now also a facility to limit a search specifically to the IALS Library's Short Loan Collection.

The full ULRLS catalogue contains records for the collections held by: Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Library, Institute of Classical Studies Library, Institute of Commonwealth Studies Library, Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies – Germanic Studies Library, Institute for the Study of the Americas – Latin American Studies Library, Institute of Historical Research Library, Senate House Library, and Warburg Institute Library and additionally records for a number of associate libraries: Bibliographical Society, Heythrop College, and Wallace Collection.

Work is continuing on the introduction of new features to provide improved access to electronic information resources, including detailed holdings information on titles available electronically. There will be facilities to search separately for serial titles and to search separately for electronic resource titles. Further development work on context-sensitive links from catalogue records to other relevant electronic resources and facilities to cross-search appropriate electronic information services is planned for 2006.

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## SOSIG Law Gateway

The IALS Library continues to work, in partnership with the University of Bristol, on the law section of the Social Science Information Gateway. The SOSIG Law Gateway (<http://www.sosig.ac.uk/law>) is a free Internet service providing an overview of the best legal Websites for UK education and research. As well as the Internet Catalogue SOSIG has a number of other services for researchers and practitioners including Grapevine and My Account.

Grapevine (<http://www.sosig.ac.uk/gv/>) provides details of conferences and events and links to the law departments of all UK higher education institutions. The Likeminds section enables you to view the interests and contact details of other people working in your subject area. My Account (<http://www.sosig.ac.uk/grapevine/User>) is another free facility enabling you to create a personal profile identifying your areas of interest. You can then sign up for weekly email alerts informing you of new Internet resources, conferences and events and like-minded colleagues whose interests match your own. Instructions for registering on My Account and creating a personal profile can be found here <http://www.sosig.ac.uk/help/custom.html>.

*Heather Memess, SOSIG Law Gateway  
Project Officer*

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## The BAILII/JISC Open Law Project

*An update from Jenny Burnett, Open Law  
Project Officer, British and Irish Legal  
Information Institute.*

The IALS newsletter reported in its last issue how BAILII has been provided with a funding grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (via the Joint Information Systems Committee) to

digitise and make freely available on line the most important judgments and judicial opinions from the past.

Since September there have been a number of developments. BAILII's staff has increased with my appointment as the Open Law Project Officer and a steering group comprising BAILII staff and trustees has been set up to oversee the implementation of the project's aims.

The specific aim of the Project is to support teaching and learning by providing a database of those cases most useful in the delivery of legal education at Universities and Further Education Colleges in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. A first step in the process of creating the database has been to identify its potential content.

In order that the facility reflects the needs of our end users we have been canvassing widely - teachers, academics, law librarians and IT professionals have been contacted by post and e-mail and by bulletin board and newsletter seeking their input in compiling the lists of cases which will eventually comprise the database.

### **Which subject areas are covered?**

Initially we are focusing on the following core areas of law:

- Constitutional law
- Contract
- Criminal law
- Family law
- Property/Land law
- Tort
- Trusts

There is still time to make your requirements and preferences, and those of your colleagues, known to us.

Send us any material, which will help us identify which cases are most useful in your work:

- Lists of cases you have created yourself
- Copies of your reading lists
- Lecture notes
- Links to material you may have loaded onto virtual classrooms using WebCT, Blackboard or your own website for example.

We intend dealing with other important areas later during the project, so please send us your submissions for areas such as Company law, Employment law, Competition law, Intellectual Property, Human Rights, Legal History and so on as well.

The materials you send us will be processed to extract the cases you cite. Only the project team will have access to these and they will be held in confidence and not used for any other purpose.

Please send your submissions to me by post to IALS or by attachment to: [OpenLaw@bailii.org](mailto:OpenLaw@bailii.org)

*Open Law at the JISC 2006 Conference*

For those of you who would like to hear more about the Open Law Project and how it is illustrative of JISC's collection strategy, we will be taking part in the presentation: Widening access to online resources: A case study of how JISC e-Resources can enrich education and research, at the JISC 2006 Conference at Birmingham in March. For more details see:

[http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=conf06\\_home](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=conf06_home)

*JISCMAIL email list*

Also 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 remain involved.

To join this email list, please go to <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/> then choose the search box on the right-hand side, type in Openlaw (all one word) and click Go. This will take you to the Jiscmail page of the BAILII Open Law Project, and you can follow the option to join the list.

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