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## IALS Summer Newsletter

**This Spring, IALS Library has taken to the road to visit seven law schools in the UK. Our roadshow aimed to promote the national services and expertise of IALS in facilitating law research.**

We welcomed the opportunity to meet researchers, academic staff and law librarians in their own university, and to hear from them about their research and services, and their research information needs.

At each law school, we demonstrated many of the IALS electronic projects, and associated services, including Eagle-i, the Foreign Law Guide FLAG, the Flare Index to Treaties, and BAILII the British and Irish Legal Information Institute. We also outlined some of the ways in which IALS Library can help researchers based outside London. We encouraged attendees at each roadshow to sign up for membership of IALS. We also managed to visit some wonderful university libraries to give us ideas about our own refurbishment programme at IALS.

We started the roadshows in late March with a visit to the Law School at the University of Essex. During April, we visited the School of Law and Social Justice at Liverpool University, and Brunel Law School. In May, we visited Nottingham Trent University, the University of Birmingham, Queen's University Belfast and the University of East Anglia.



*Steven Whittle during his presentation at the Brunel University Roadshow*

Thanks very much to our sponsors who made the roadshows possible: the School of Advanced Study, University of London, and the UK Centre for Legal Education. We were joined at Belfast and Norwich by colleagues from the UKCLE, who outlined the period of transition for this service and how some of their projects and initiatives will continue after July 2011.

As the organiser of the road shows, I would like to thank in particular: Maria-Elena Heed, Stephanie Tully, Lisa Hawksworth, Dr Holger Sutschet, Angela Donaldson, Dr Veronica Rodriguez-Blanco, John Knowles, and Professor Mathias Siems. Many thanks also to my colleagues at IALS for their help in delivering the roadshows: Steven Whittle, David Gee, Hester Swift, Laura Griffiths,



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*Laura Griffiths (left), Dr Veronica Rodriguez Blanco (centre) and Hester Swift (right) at the University of Birmingham*

Lindsey Caffin and Joe Ury.  
Thanks very much also to colleagues at UKCLE:  
Hansa Surti, Professor Julian Webb and Sefton  
Bloxham.

We aim to deliver more roadshows to law schools  
during the Autumn term.

*Gerry Power*  
*Access Librarian, IALS*

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## IALS Hosts Commonwealth Professional Fellow

From 6<sup>th</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> March, IALS Library was pleased to act as official host to Mrs Ufuoma Lamikanra who had been awarded a prestigious Commonwealth Professional Fellowship. Ufuoma is the Readers' Services Librarian at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) in Lagos, Nigeria, whose clientele includes researchers, postgraduate law students, legal practitioners and members of the judiciary ([www.nials-nigeria.org/](http://www.nials-nigeria.org/)).



*Mrs Ufuoma Lamikanra*

During her three months' fellowship, Ufuoma undertook a tailored training programme of in-house courses on library research skills and legal research methods, external management courses, visits to other national libraries such as the British Library, and one-to-one discussions on current law library management issues with members of the IALS senior management team. She also worked hard on two useful projects as part of her programme. Firstly, she expertly reviewed the Nigerian collections at IALS and suggested new books to acquire, and, secondly,

she created a free web research guide on free Nigerian legal resources,

[http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/guides/docs/Guide to Nigerian Legal Materials on the Web.pdf](http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/guides/docs/Guide%20to%20Nigerian%20Legal%20Materials%20on%20the%20Web.pdf)

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March Ufuoma gave two lively and interesting presentations to library staff on the role and activities of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and on the law librarianship profession in Nigeria. Slides from Ufuoma's presentations are on the IALS website at:

[http://ials.sas.ac.uk/news/docs/Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies a brief history.pdf](http://ials.sas.ac.uk/news/docs/Nigerian%20Institute%20of%20Advanced%20Legal%20Studies%20a%20brief%20history.pdf).

This was a very successful and enjoyable Commonwealth Professional Fellowship for Ufuoma Lamikanra, NIALS and IALS. It has assisted greatly with developing Ufuoma's professional knowledge and skills and will help to cement the long-established ties between these two national libraries.

*David Gee*  
*IALS Deputy Librarian*



## Reader satisfaction survey 2011

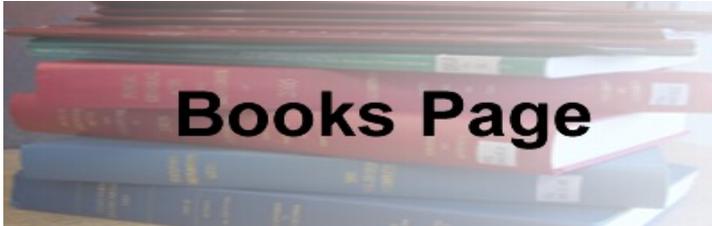
A survey of readers was carried out between Monday 7th March and Saturday 12th March 2011 in order to find out how satisfied readers are with the library's collections and information services. In total 164 completed survey forms were returned, of which 91 were from LLM students or other postgraduate taught course students, 40 from academic and research staff, and 33 from postgraduate research degree students. Respondents did not always answer every question.

The overall satisfaction rate (those who indicated they were either often or usually satisfied) was 95.09 % (95.31 % in 2010). The top rating was 98.76 % for helpfulness of the staff, with overall satisfaction at 95.09%, range of journals at 93.67%, range of books at 93.25%, range of electronic journals and databases at 91.51%, electronic training sessions at 90.83%, and ease of use of library catalogue at 91.19%.

To conclude, the Library is very pleased and reassured that since the first annual survey in 2003, we have received consistently high results across almost all categories in our annual user survey, despite our regularly changing reader base.

You can read the full report of the survey on the IALS Global Law Library website at: [http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/satisfaction\\_survey\\_results\\_2011.htm](http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/satisfaction_survey_results_2011.htm)

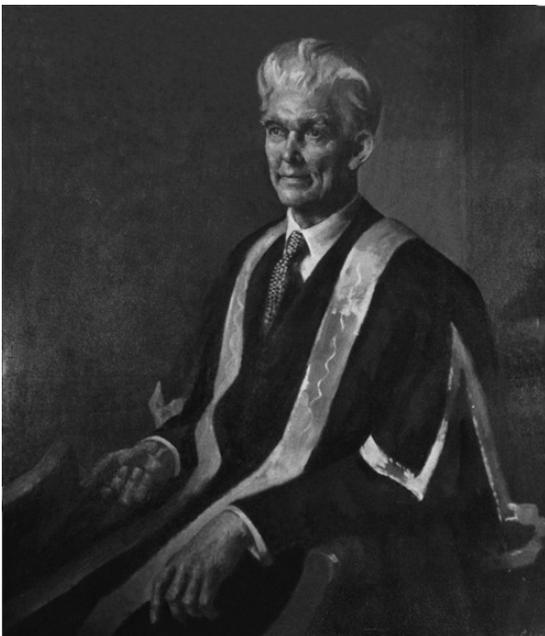
Laura Griffiths  
Assistant Librarian (Academic Services)



In this issue, Lesley Young, IALS Information Resources Manager, looks at a few recent legal biographies acquired by the Library and highlights some reference titles on the subject. The first biography is of particular interest to the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies because Hughes Parry was its first Director.

R. Gwynedd Parry, *David Hughes Parry: a jurist in society*; Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2010

There is a summary of Hughes Parry's career on the IALS website at [http://ials.sas.ac.uk/about/IALS\\_History\\_David\\_Hughes\\_Parry.htm](http://ials.sas.ac.uk/about/IALS_History_David_Hughes_Parry.htm). This new title provides much more detail and context. It traces his early education, practice at the Bar and his academic posts at Aberystwyth and LSE.



Professor Sir David Hughes Parry, IALS Director 1947-1958 (artist unknown, portrait from the IALS archive)

There are chapters covering his deep involvement in University administration within the wider University of London where his roles included Vice Chancellor and

Chairman of the Court and further afield. He was chairman of the University Grants Committee and he chaired a review of the university system in New Zealand. His interest in Welsh affairs included the National Eisteddfod for which he helped draw up the constitution and the legal status of the Welsh language.

Platts-Mills, J *Muck, silk and socialism: recollections of a left-wing Queen's Counsel*; Wedmore: Paper Publishing, 2011

This is actually an autobiography and includes a foreword by Tony Benn and an introduction by Michael Mansfield. Platts -Mills was born in New Zealand where he took his first degree and then came to Oxford. He was a member of the Inner Temple and in addition to his career at the bar was heavily involved in politics and was a Labour MP for five years before returning to the bar and eventually taking silk. The volume includes accounts of many of his more notable trials including the Krays and cases in Ghana, Dominica and Zambia, and his active interest in particular areas of law such as human rights both in the UK and overseas.

Prest, W.R. *William Blackstone: law and letters in the eighteenth century*; Oxford: OUP, 2008

This biography of necessity takes a different approach since the "raw material" is harder to come by. Prest is a legal historian specialising in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and covers Blackstone's life in some detail from the entry of his birth in the register of his London parish church to his burial in the family vault in 1780. Appendices include his earliest known poem and details of the income derived from his Commentaries and his lectures.

Girard, P *Bora Laskin: bringing law to life*; Toronto ; Buffalo: Published for the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History by University of Toronto Press, c2005

This title is part of a series published by the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History which includes several biographies of prominent Canadian lawyers. Bora Laskin was an academic who became an Appeal Court judge in Ontario, moved to the Supreme Court and was finally appointed Chief Justice. In 1969 he became the first Canadian to deliver the Hamlyn Lectures. The main Law Library of the University of Toronto is named in his honour.

Bennett, J.M. *Sir James Dowling: second Chief Justice of New South Wales 1837-1844*; Sydney: Federation Press, 2001

This is one of the early titles from a series on the lives of the Australian chief justices covering nineteenth century justices from across the six states. The volumes are well referenced and usually around two to three hundred pages long. Dowling was born in London where he began his legal career and was called to the bar at Middle Temple. His main

contribution was in the field of law reporting both in England, where he published decisions from the King's Bench and at Nisi Prius and in Australia. While Chief Justice he began to prepare decisions of the Supreme Court of New South Wales for publication but died before completing the task. They eventually appeared in 2005 as Dowling's select cases 1828 to 1844 published by the Francis Forbes Society for Australian Legal History.

Among the reference titles in legal biography the Library holds:

Newman, R.K. (ed.) ***Yale biographical dictionary of the common law***; New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009

This volume offers short biographies of over 700 men and women who are deemed to be important in the field of American law. Entries are arranged alphabetically and include a brief bibliography and occasional photographs. According to the introduction a few non-Americans and non-lawyers are included because of their importance. Living persons also feature and in at least one case the same person appears both as a contributor and a subject. Entries include Jefferson, Madison, Clinton, Giuliani and Starr.

Simpson, A.W.B. ***Biographical dictionary of the common law***; London: Butterworths, 1984

This takes a slightly different approach to the Yale title in that it excludes living persons and the entries are much shorter. Non-lawyers such as Harold Laski are included and in addition to providing illustrations it includes details of the locations of known portraits and drawings. There are also entries for Ivo the patron saint of lawyers and Thomas More, the only common lawyer to be made a saint.

Butler, W.E. & Tomsinov, V. ***Russian legal biography: Series 1, Russian historical legal biography***; London: Wildy, Simmonds & Hill, 2007

This volume is of particular interest as it provides short biographies of over seventy Russian jurists. They are mostly from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and largely unknown in Western Europe, with the exception of Paul Vinogradoff. Entries vary in the amount of detail provided and include brief bibliographies, many have been translated. There is list with dates of the people included at the beginning of the volume.

Holborn, G. ***Sources of biographical information on past lawyers***; Warwick: BIALL, 1999

This title performs a different task in that it looks at the source material for the various types of function

connected with the law, mainly in England and Wales. The first half of the book describes the general categories of roles covered and the second part contains the bibliography of over 550 publications with brief annotations.

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## Graduate Series of Seminars at IALS

The Sir William Dale Centre for Legislative Studies at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies is pleased to announce the establishment of a new Graduate Series of Seminars. This series aims to promote research in legislation and law reform by provoking a dialogue amongst members of the IALS postgraduate community and beyond, at national, regional and international levels. The academic convenors welcome offers of papers from graduate researchers relating to legislation and law reform, both from within IALS and further afield. Thus the series offers a forum to all postgraduate students allowing them to present and receive feedback to the core argument, or even side arguments, of their work. This helps researchers test the validity of their hypothesis, their chosen methodology, the structure of their analysis, and the universality or topicality of their conclusions. It is hoped that the series will encourage early career researchers to present their work, while enriching research cross-fertilisation and research facilitation within the drafting and law reform community.

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