Hello and welcome to the spring term edition of the IALS Library Newsletter.

In this issue we tell you how you can access law e-resources from your laptop, we give an overview of the legal research training on offer, we introduce you to a new guide to our foreign and international collections, a new season of library roadshows, a new research centre and a new visiting fellow, Dr Priya Rai. We also give you an update on two worthy legal information projects; LLMC Digital and FLAG. And in Books News we highlight a selection of recent titles focussing on legislative drafting and language.

With best wishes,
Lisa Davies, Access Librarian

Connecting to e-resources

We are delighted to announce that students and academic researchers can now access all law databases from their own laptops whilst in IALS Library or the IALS building. There is no longer a requirement to use one of the Library’s own desktop PCs to access, for example, Lexis Library or Westlaw UK. A brand new WiFi network – called IALS Lib - has been set up for this purpose. Simply log in to the IALS Lib network with the same log in details as before (your library barcode number and your surname) and you will be able to seamlessly access any of the e-resources listed in our Electronic Law Library. Should you need any help with connecting your device to the new network please do not hesitate to get in touch.

For further details please visit  

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Springtime in Russell Square
IALS launches new information law and policy centre

To what extent do we want to police ordinary people’s use of the internet? How should drones (or ‘flying cameras’) be regulated? Does responsibility for privacy management lie at an individual or societal level? What does ‘jurisdiction’ mean in the context of recent information and communication law developments? And what do the ‘coffee men’ of the 18th century have to do with modern day copyright and the news industry?

These were some of the questions raised at the launch event of the Centre for Law and Information Policy on 24 February 2015. The new Centre will explore the ways in which information and data is controlled, shared and disseminated. It will also examine the way specifically legal information is communicated: from the courts, through private practice and scholarship, for example.

Based at the IALS and part of the School of Advanced Study, which aims to facilitate and promote national and international research, the Centre intends to develop a research base that will help support, inspire and advance scholarship in the field of information law and policy.

To this end, its launch event brought together academics and practitioners from a variety of backgrounds to share their research and ideas. Among the speakers at an afternoon workshop titled ‘Information flows and dams’ were Daithí Mac Síthigh, Reader in Law at Newcastle University, on ‘computers and the Coalition’ - an impressive digest of the incumbent government’s record on communication law; Marion Oswald, Senior Fellow at University of Winchester, on privacy vigilantism and information warfare; and Ian Brown, Professor of Information Security and Privacy at University of Oxford, on ‘dimensions of cybersecurity’.

More guests joined us for an evening lecture delivered by Timothy Pitt-Payne QC, barrister at 11KBW and specialist in information rights, on ‘Does Privacy Matter?’, an eloquent and thoughtful talk on the regulation of privacy in the UK and beyond, exploring social expectations and identifying the areas in most need of further research.

For more information about the Centre please contact: Judith Townend, Director, Centre for Law and Information Policy, IALS, judith.townend@sas.ac.uk.

How to get a PhD in law

There is still time to reserve a place on the How to Get a PhD in Law training day on Friday 20th March 2015. The theme of the day will be Preparing yourself for the Vivas. Getting yourself known: presenting skills, publishing your work, and networking. All students enrolled for an MPhil / PhD in law from across the UK are welcome to attend this specially tailored day of presentations, library tours and networking opportunities. To view the full programme and to book your place, visit http://events.sas.ac.uk/events/view/16663.

New guide to foreign, comparative and international law collections at IALS

IALS Library has one of the most comprehensive foreign and international law collections in Europe. It’s not surprising then that visitors often get confused about what is included in such a large library collection. To help researchers navigate our resources, Hester Swift, IALS’ Foreign and International Law Librarian, has put together a handy guide to our foreign, comparative and international law collections. This guide is the latest edition to the Library’s range of legal research guides and can be accessed at http://libguides.ials.sas.ac.uk/FCIL. To view the entire range of free online guides, please visit http://libguides.ials.sas.ac.uk/guides.
One-to-one library training

Don’t worry if you missed out on any of the legal e-resources training sessions in February and March; the library team will be offering one-to-one reference advice appointments from now until mid-September. In our experience students often get much more out of a one-to-one advice appointment than a classroom-based training session because it is led by you and allows you to ask questions about your particular research topic. During the session we can address your specific questions and tackle any points that you don’t understand. In short, these sessions provide you with tailor-made reference advice, so do take advantage of this free service and sign up for an appointment today. Here are some examples of questions we have been asked so far in 2015:

- Where can I find commentary on the definition of “British values”?
- Which are the key databases for tax law?
- What’s the best way to find the key cases on prostitution legislation in Australia?
- How can I find out what you have in the library on women and the law?
- Can you help me find articles on patent box tax regimes?
- How do I cite a foreign case using OSCOLA?

If you aren’t based in London feel free to email us with your questions instead at ials@sas.ac.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

LLMC Digital – an update

Jules Winterton, IALS Director, is currently a member of the Board of Directors of LLMC, http://www.llmc.com. LLMC is a non-profit cooperative of libraries mainly in North America dedicated to the twin goals of preserving legal titles and government documents, while making copies inexpensively available digitally through its online service LLMC Digital. LLMC Digital is available at IALS, at the law schools of the University of London, and remotely to registered academic readers of IALS.

IALS is working with LLMC to make available in digital form large parts of its older legal materials from around the world to improve access for research and to ensure long-term preservation by maintaining its collections of original print materials and making a digital surrogate available.

LLMC undertakes special projects harnessing its worldwide network of law libraries. For example, after the disaster in Haiti, LLMC and a group of its member libraries decided that the most worthy and logical focus for its Law Library Community’s attention would be to help rebuild Haiti’s law libraries using every digital option now available. The goal of this project was to pool resources, combining strengths in the respective collections of its members. The result was the best collection of legal materials for Haiti available anywhere, freely accessible as part of the Digital Library of the Caribbean, http://dloc.com/illmc.

While attending the recent meeting of the LLMC Board, Jules Winterton attended the opening of the Global Law Reading Room at the Los Angeles County Law Library which for historical reasons houses one of the best foreign and international law library collections in the USA.

Journal of Law and Society special issue on legal life writing

The Journal of Law and Society’s latest issue, March 2015, is a special issue on legal life writing. Many of the authors of the articles in this issue were speakers at a national socio-legal training day on legal biography which was organised by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, the British Library and the Socio-Legal Studies Association and held at IALS in May 2013. To view the catalogue record for this title please follow this link http://catalogue.ulrls.lon.ac.uk/record=b2134777~S6. Alternatively here is a link to the journal on the publisher’s website: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jols.2015.42.issue-1/issuetoc.
This volume looks at the extent to which modern parliaments consider foreign and comparative law when drafting legislation. The contributors from the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, the EU, Israel, Italy, Spain, Romania, South Africa, Portugal, Brazil, Namibia and China, present their views on how legal translation and synthesis take place, where jurisdictions borrow from more than one source of law.

Freeman M and Smith F (eds), Law and language: Current legal issues, vol 15 (OUP 2013)

The contributors provide a broad overview of the interaction between law and language and the way they influence each other. The issues examined range from problems of interpretation, the difficulties of legal translation, to non-verbal expression (in a chapter tracing the use of sign language at the Old Bailey from the eighteenth century onwards) and the role of language and the law in a variety of literary works, including Hamlet. The authors also consider the interrelation between language and the law in a variety of contexts, including criminal, contract, family, human rights and EU law.

Tiersma P M & Solan L M (eds), Oxford handbook of language and law (OUP 2012)

This Oxford handbook offers a comprehensive guide to language and law. Contributors offer a mix of overview chapters, case studies, and theoretical descriptions to provide an account of past and current research at the interface between linguistics and law. The authors include academics and commercial practitioners in the fields of law, psychology, forensics, linguistics and computing, from a range of jurisdictions. Topics include the history and structure of legal languages, meaning and interpretation, multilingualism and language rights, courtroom discourse, forensic identification, intellectual property and linguistics, and legal translation and interpretation.

Xanthaki H (ed), Enhancing legislative drafting in the Commonwealth: a wealth of innovation (Routledge 2015)

This collection of articles was originally published in a special issue of the Commonwealth law bulletin. It looks at the ways in which legislation now "speaks" not only to lawyers and judges, but also to lay users as it is more freely accessible. This shift of the legislative audience has changed the requirements for legislation and its drafting and the collection aims to alert policy officers, legal officers, law reformers, and drafters to the many innovations in the drafting of legislation within the Commonwealth. The contributors include drafters from Rwanda, Uganda, Sierra Leone and the Chagos Islands.
Road show season 2015 well underway
Lisa Davies, Access Librarian

Our series of 2015 library road shows got off to a great start at the University of Aberdeen in February. Adam Woellhaf and I received a very warm welcome from the staff at the Taylor Law Library and an enthusiastic response from those law PhD students from Aberdeen and RGU who were in attendance. At the road show, which took place at the end of a research conference, Adam explained the role of the Institute Library – to provide a national law library to all postgraduate law researchers in the UK and abroad – and gave an overview of Library’s collections, facilities and electronic resources, many of which are accessible remotely, which is ideal if you are based in Aberdeen and can’t very easily get to London! I then went on to demonstrate several of the free online legal research tools developed at IALS for the benefit of legal researchers across the country including the Current Legal Research Topics database, Eagle-i, BAILII, the FLARE Index to Treaties and the FLAG Database. Finally, all those in attendance had the opportunity to sign up for an IALS Library card, which is completely free for academics, law librarians and PhD/MPhil researchers from anywhere in the world. Thank you again to Elaine Shallcross and Dr Catherine Ng for organising our visit. If you would be interested in hosting an IALS road show at your law school please get in touch; we’d love to hear from you.

Spotlight on... FLAG

A major project to update the FLAG database was successfully completed by an IALS-based team in May last year. FLAG is an online directory of primary foreign and international law print and microform collections in UK libraries, available on the IALS website at http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/flag/flag.htm.

FLAG is a collection-level catalogue, so each record on the database covers one or more titles of the same type, such as legislation from Poland or law reports from Australia. It maps the relative strengths of library holdings, saying how many titles are held, giving the date ranges they cover and noting whether subscriptions are still active. This information allows researchers to locate the appropriate libraries for their foreign and international law research needs by means of a quick FLAG search.

To carry out the update, Gerry Power, Project Manager, Dr. Peter Clinch, Project Consultant and original compiler of FLAG, and Hester Swift, IALS Foreign and International Law Librarian, visited 56 libraries around the country to survey their collections. It was found that many libraries had disposed of some of their foreign and international law print collections, often because online versions were preferred and/or because the library needed to expand its study space. Over 1200 collections which were active in 2010 had since been closed, the subscriptions having been cancelled or having lapsed. Some new print publications also had been acquired, notably new codes for various civil law jurisdictions and new editions of revised laws for some common law countries. A few British Library card indexes covering old - and sometimes quite rare
- foreign materials were included in the survey; these materials had not previously been covered by FLAG. 120 new FLAG records were created for the new acquisitions and previously un-surveyed historical collections.

A significant number of collections had been moved from open shelves into storage because they were no longer current, or were not heavily used. Hundreds of relocated items had also been given new shelfmarks, so it was a challenge for the FLAG update team to track them down.

The FLAG update was backed by the FLARE (Foreign Law Research) group of libraries - IALS, the British Library, the Bodleian Law Library, the Squire Law Library and the School of Oriental and African Studies Library - together with the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL) and the School of Advanced Study (SAS) at the University of London. The full report on the FLAG rebuild project, by Gerry Power, is available on the IALS website.

People News

A warm welcome Dr Priya Rai, 2014 Commonwealth Professional Fellow.

Dr Priya Rai, Deputy Librarian and In-charge at Justice T.P.S. Chawla Library at National Law University Delhi and 2014 Commonwealth Professional Fellow, will be based at IALS until the end of April. Over to Dr Rai to tell us more about her Fellowship…

“The Commonwealth Professional Fellowship at IALS has provided me with the opportunity to develop my professional expertise and ability to cope with the many challenges of being a law librarian.

During my time as a Commonwealth Professional Fellow I have explored the different reader services offered by IALS, been introduced to the in-house library management system, attended training sessions on various electronic databases, and learnt how IALS manages and updates web guides on a number of legal topics. I have also been provided with the opportunity to have one-to-one meetings with senior library professionals.

I hope through this focused exposure at IALS I will be empowered with more knowledge to serve the academic and research community at the National Law University, Delhi."

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