



# Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Library and Information Services

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## News from IALS Library

Dear Colleague,

As we prepare for a new academic year, we would like to take this opportunity to share with you some news from IALS Library and some associated services:

- Helsinki Conference
- BAILII
- SOSIG
- Archives at IALS Library
- Retroconversion
- Enhancements to searching

## International conference in Helsinki 2004

*The International Association of Law Libraries held its 23<sup>rd</sup> annual course in international law librarianship in Helsinki and Tallinn from 15 to 19 August 2004. IALS Librarian, Jules Winterton, reports on the event.*

The conference attracted over 100 delegates from 25 countries. Among them were the recipients of two IALL scholarships: Mrs Uma Narayan, Librarian of the Judges' Library of the Bombay Supreme Court and Mr Cristian Santos from the Tribunal Superior de Justiça in Brasilia. Delegates were welcomed at a reception on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> by the Secretary General of the Parliament of Finland as the first guests

in the newly opened Annex to the national parliament building.

The conference's topic was 'Protecting the environment: a challenge across borders – legal issues and information resources in Finland and Estonia' and dealt with a range of environmental issues in sensitive areas in terms of rights, jurisdiction, and practical procedures. There was also a session on the Finnish legal system and on the publicly available legal information system Finlex, <http://www.finlex.fi/>

The main venue was the University of Helsinki building near to the Senate Square in the heart of Helsinki. However, the Conference moved for one day to Estonia and, in addition to a tour of the Old City of Tallinn and the House of Parliament, held a session at the National Library dealing with Estonian legal reforms and the Estonian judicial system in relation to the European Union and on the Estonian Legal Language Centre which played such a crucial role in the years leading up to accession.

Speakers at the conference were drawn from faculties of law, the Ministries of Justice of the two countries, the Parliaments, and included Julia Laffranque who is probably the youngest Supreme Court Judge in Europe.

The newly elected Board of the

Association met and comprised 15 members from 11 countries. One of its duties was the presentation of the IALL website award 2004 to the American Society of International Law for EISIL: the Electronic Information System for International Law, <http://www.eisil.org/>. Another part of the business of the Board was the planning of the next IALL conference at the European University Institute near Florence in 2005 and the following conference in 2006 in Russia.

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### **BAILII, the British and Irish Legal Information Institute**

The British and Irish Legal Information Institute (<http://www.bailii.org>), a non-profit making charitable trust, now has 43 databases covering 7 jurisdictions and we are still growing, thanks to the cooperation of those who support and contribute to this educational charity.

*Please you can help the BAILII effort by arranging letters of support on official letterhead from your law library and or law faculty/department to be sent to us at:*

British and Irish Legal  
Information Institute  
Institute of Advanced Legal  
Studies  
17 Russell Square  
London WC1B 5DR  
United Kingdom

Since August last year about 27,000 judgments have been added to BAILII and during this period we have added fourteen new fully searchable databases of decisions, such as the Court of Justice of the European Communities (including Court of First Instance Decisions), the United Kingdom Employment Appeals Tribunal, the United Kingdom Immigration Appeals

Tribunal and the Finance and Tax tribunals.

This year we are celebrating our 5th anniversary, so please consider attending:

**Five years of Free Law  
British and Irish Legal Information  
Institute  
5th Anniversary Celebration**

**Chairman:  
The Rt Hon Lord Justice Brooke**

**Monday 1st November 2004  
18.15 hours for 18.45 hours**

**Venue: Baker & McKenzie  
100 New Bridge Street  
London EC4V 6JA**

**Meeting fee £25.00  
Reduced meeting fee for full time  
academics and students in full time  
education £15.00**

A registration form and more details are soon to be posted on the BAILII home page: <http://www.bailii.org>

### **SOSIG**

*In 2004/5 IALS Library is pleased to be continuing work, in partnership with the University of Bristol, on the law section of the Social Science Information Gateway. Heather Memess, SOSIG Project Officer, reports.*

The SOSIG Law Gateway <http://www.sosig.ac.uk/law> aims to provide an overview of the best legal web sites for UK education and research. We evaluate and profile key sites covering UK, foreign, comparative and international law along with a full range of jurisdictions and legal topics from around the world enabling

researchers to quickly identify the most important sources of legal information. A range of different resource types is represented on SOSIG including primary and secondary sources, as well as government and organisational web sites. If you are aware of any web sites not already on SOSIG that you think should be included please let us know. Suggestions can be submitted on this feedback form

[http://www.sosig.ac.uk/new\\_resource.html](http://www.sosig.ac.uk/new_resource.html)

The SOSIG gateway also includes Grapevine- the 'people oriented' side of SOSIG where you can find details of conferences, events, courses, and academic contacts. Another feature, My Account, enables you to customise SOSIG to create your own, tailored SOSIG information services.

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### **Archives: Records of Legal Education Archive and IALS Archive**

The IALS holds two collections of archives. We hold the Records of Legal Education Archive (RLEA), a major collection of archive material relating to the history of organisations involved in legal education, and we also maintain the IALS Archive, which documents the history and development of the Institute.

Both archives receive regular accessions of new material. There is an ongoing cataloguing programme for additions to existing collections, and we also welcome new material which falls within our collecting policy.

The archive is used by a variety of academic and other researchers, many of whom are from a non legal background. Recent research interests have included the history of legal education for overseas candidates; background details for the biography of

a leading politician; the early history and development of a legal education organisation and the correspondence and papers of a former Director of the IALS.

Collection level descriptions and detailed catalogues of the RLEA, together with collection level descriptions of the IALS Archive are available on the IALS website at <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/archives>. Detailed catalogues of all our accessioned archive material are also available at the IALS Library enquiry desk and we also hope to make catalogues of the IALS archives available on the IALS website in early 2005.

The IALS is currently participating in a University of London Research Libraries working group to investigate the feasibility of developing a single archival database for all ULRLS holdings.

Access to the archives is by prior appointment with Elizabeth Dawson, IALS Archivist, who will be pleased to advise you on possible sources for your research (telephone 020 7862 5818; email [Elizabeth.Dawson@sas.ac.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.Dawson@sas.ac.uk) ) Most records are open for consultation but some restrictions have been placed on access to material as specified by depositors.

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### **Retrocon with a Difference**

*The Library's Series Books are a detailed manual record of its collections of primary materials and journals. A new project has just started, to automate the manual holdings records and include them in the online public access catalogue, SASCAT.*

The Series Books tabulate annual volumes of legislation, list

consolidations for different periods, and record holdings details of a wealth of formats: digests, indexes, law reports, and periodicals. They cover many jurisdictions around the world. The Series Books are in typescript format bound as a ledger, with many handwritten annotations down the years, and have only been available to IALS Library staff up to now.

At IALS Library, the series books are a valuable tool to help us answer questions on holdings like

- What series of nominate reports do you hold for the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century?
- Do you have all annual volumes of legislation from Nigeria for the 1990s?
- How far back do you have the Commonwealth Law Reports?

A project has been set up to convert the manual records into machine-readable form, and to incorporate the detail into the Library's Millennium Innopac web catalogue. In this way, the important serial collections at IALS Library will be made more effectively available to scholars.

An example of the kind of detail can be seen if you look at the record for the *Northern Ireland Law Reports Bulletin* in SASCAT, on which you can click to see a table detailing individual volumes held as well as the record image (PDF) for the original series book entry.

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### **SASCAT NOW OFFERS ENHANCED SEARCHING!**

You may have noticed some new developments on the IALS Library Catalogue recently. The web version of the catalogue, SASCAT, is the full catalogue of the School of Advanced Study library collections, which includes

the online catalogue of IALS and other member institutes of the School. It is now possible to search either SASCAT or the Senate House Library catalogue, or both catalogues at the same time. A new feature, WebBridge, allows you to extend your catalogue search to other library catalogues, research tools and web resources. For example, if I do a keyword search on "cassation" in SASCAT, from the results screen I can choose to extend the search to resources like Zetoc, COPAC and the Resource Discovery Network.

Another new search feature, Metafind, allows you choose one or more databases from a range of resources, and search across them, in advanced search. The databases include some freely available ones like COPAC and Zetoc.

This enhanced searching is a new stage in the development of the University of London Research Library Services (ULRLS). The libraries of Institutes of the School of Advanced Study and Senate House Library, University of London, will join forces over the next few years through a programme of convergence.

You can search the enhanced version of SASCAT at <http://library.sas.ac.uk/> and you can find the ULRLS web site at <http://www.ulrls.lon.ac.uk/>

### **Finally ...**

The IALS website has been updated during the summer and now includes a range of revised country, subject and quick reference guides. For more information, check out <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/library.htm>

*News compiled by Gerry Power, Access Librarian, IALS Library, Sept 2004*  
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