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Happy New Year from the IALS Library

Dear Colleagues, New Year Greetings from all of us at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies! We look forward to keeping in touch with law researchers, libraries and law schools throughout 2010 – please contact IALS Library at any stage if we can help. We are always glad to welcome visiting researchers and librarians to the Library in Bloomsbury: if you plan a visit to London this year, please get in touch if you would like a library tour or would like to discuss your information needs with one of the IALS librarians.

The IALS Library enjoys an excellent working relationship with the British Library, and has had a bilateral agreement with the BL recognising the national role of IALS Library in the provision of foreign, comparative and international law. We are pleased to include in this newsletter an overview by Jonathan Sims of the law research collections at the British Library. IALS Foreign and International Law Librarian, Hester Swift, gives us an account of a fascinating trip to Istanbul in October 2009. We include some pictures of a prototype Mars Rover which was on display in IALS during November, thanks to the London Institute of Space Policy and Law based at IALS. This caught visitors' imaginations and gave us a glimpse into future space exploration. Also included are some brief updates on services and collections at IALS.

Best wishes,

Gerard Power
Access Librarian
Institute of Advanced Legal Studies



Too Cold to Fly. Russell Square pigeons on a wet and windy afternoon



BAILII Makes it into the Guardian's List of 100 Essential Websites!

[BAILII](http://www.bailii.org), the British and Irish Legal Information Institute, which is based at IALS, has been included in a recently published list of the 100 Best Websites, as published on the [Guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk) on 9 December, and in the Technology news & features section of the *Guardian* on Thursday 10 December 2009. See the article in full at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2009/dec/09/best-websites-internet>

BAILII offers access to freely available British and Irish case law and legislation, European Union case law, Law Commission reports, and other law-related British and Irish material. You can find BAILII at www.bailii.org

Mars Rover on display at IALS

Bridget is the six-wheeled rover prototype of the ExoMars vehicle, to be launched in 2018, with the primary mission to search for life. This European system should send back highly detailed 3D maps of the surface.

Before she goes to Mars, however, she did a whistle-stop tour of London, and throughout November



Bridget at the IALS

Bridget was on display in the foyer of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, at Charles Clore House, 17 Russell Square. It is actually a full-scale model of Bridget (the original is worth several hundred million pounds!).

Sa'id Mosteshar, the Director of the London Institute of Space Policy and Law, based at IALS, was quoted on 28th October in the Independent as saying that Bridget won't feel quite as alien in the City of London as people might think: "Space contributes £6.5bn to the UK economy and is set to grow five per cent year-on-year until 2020".

IALL Annual Course on International Law Librarianship

In October the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) held its 28th Annual Course on International Law Librarianship, in Istanbul. Jules Winterton, IALS Associate Director and Librarian, was there as President of the Association. I attended as an ordinary delegate, with a grant from the University of London's School of Advanced Study, as well as an IALL bursary.

My Turkish experience could have started more encouragingly. The hotel failed to send their promised car to the airport - and I discovered that their booking confirmation slip did not give the address or telephone number. I was on my own at *Istanbul*

Atatürk Airport, at night, with no idea where the hotel was or how to get there. What should have been a thirty-minute journey into the city became a two-hour ordeal, involving the advice of about seven different strangers, a bus, two taxis – one of which crashed – and much trailing about lost, dragging my suitcase behind me. A character-building evening.



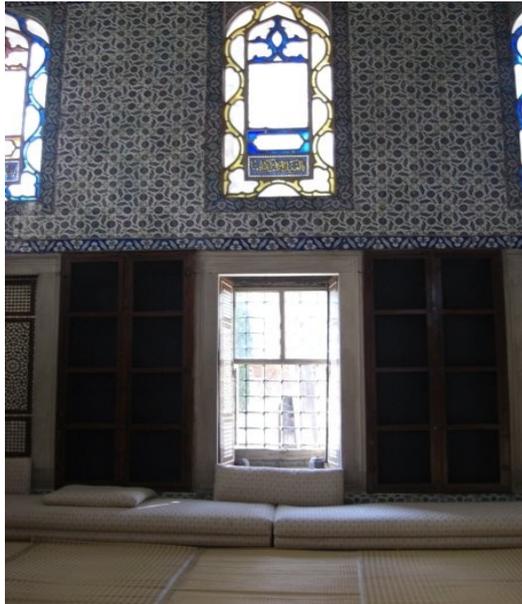
The Blue Mosque Istanbul

The four-day conference was held at Istanbul Bilgi University, a private institution established in the 1990s. The conference organisers made us very welcome at the opening ceremony - which was held in an atmospheric art gallery and former power station - and looked after us extremely well throughout our visit.

There were 180 delegates from all over the world, including Europe, the US, Korea and Egypt. The speakers were Turkish academics, librarians and practising lawyers. Associate Professor Dr. Yesim M. Atamer, of the host university, spoke on the roots of Turkish law. She emphasised that Turkish law is entirely secular, with its secular origins pre-dating Atatürk: the nineteenth century Commercial, Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes and Civil Procedure Law were all based on French models. The Swiss Civil Code was imported by the Turkish Republic in the 1920s and German law later had much influence as well. Professor Atamer estimates that the new Turkish Civil Code of 2002 is still at least eighty to ninety per cent Swiss.

Other speakers covered the modernisation of Turkish law, academic librarianship and Turkish legal information. Turkey's European Union accession process was examined at length. It has involved the reform of the Constitution and of both criminal and civil law. However, the Europeanization process has not made consistent progress and enforcement of reformed laws is not always effective. It was suggested that the EU is no longer such a beacon of

progress to Turkey, due to its recent governance problems, particularly the struggle to achieve institutional reform by means of the Constitutional and Lisbon Treaties.



The Old Topkapi Palace Library

The conference was a rare opportunity to meet a large number of other information professionals specialising in foreign and international law, as well as directors of libraries with substantial foreign and international law collections. The contacts I made will be a valuable source of advice and information in the future.

The next Annual Course in Legal Information and Law will be held in September 2010 in the Hague at the Peace Palace, home of the International Court of Justice and the Hague Academy of International Law, <http://iall.org/iall2010/>

Hester Swift, Foreign and International Law Librarian, IALS

Defining and developing legal research collections at the British Library

Readers of this news letter may be aware that a significant number of respondents to the [IALS survey of researchers](http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/aservice/docs/IALS_researcher_survey_nov08.pdf) http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/aservice/docs/IALS_researcher_survey_nov08.pdf reported using the British Library. The British Library has a rich resource for varied approaches to legal research, and is committed to identifying, illuminating and developing it. These processes are informed by awareness of legal researchers' needs, and the

resources they value (both here and elsewhere), as well as by the Library's own views of its collection and service strengths. This article highlights some of Library's identified collections strengths, and suggests future collaboration with the research community to steer the development of appropriate collections and services.

Collection overview

The British Library's resource for legal research offers immense historical depth, international scope and a broad disciplinary base for both internal and contextual approaches to analysis of law and legal phenomena. This resource is woven through multiple on going and legacy collections that reflect our institutional purpose and history. Much current focus addresses electronic access and long term preservation of digital materials. This includes web archiving, digitisation, voluntary deposit of and subscription to electronic resources. Collections brought under the Library's umbrella also offer much of interest, and continue to be developed. To name a few these include the Patent Office Library, the state papers, manuscript and printed book collections of British Museum Library, the India Office library and records, and the National Sound Archive.

Collaborative collection development

Management of the British Library legal information resource has sought to integrate the development of collection and service strengths with those available elsewhere. A major part of this approach to date has been collaboration with IALS library and members of the [FLARE](http://ials.sas.ac.uk/flare/flare.htm) <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/flare/flare.htm> group, and the focus of this work pursues the identification and distributed collection development of municipal and international primary and preparatory legal resources. More recent effort, including a focus on socio-legal studies, additionally seeks illumination and development of other areas of the British Library collection. Internal collaboration across library departments, and review of literature on legal research methodologies has informed the identification of resources including those highlighted below. The voice of the legal research community, including, but not limited to current British Library users, is, however, critical to mapping and developing our collections.

Collection highlights

Comprehensive coverage of UK legal publishing is provided by statutory entitlement to one copy of print publications. The historical dimension of this collection is linked to the Royal Library's legal deposit right granted in 1662, and its subsequent donation to the British Museum in 1757. More recently however voluntary deposit and web archiving of electronic materials add legal research resources to the digital

library program. The extension of legal deposit to new formats pursuant to the 2003 Legal Deposit Libraries Act continues to be negotiated.

Digital collections

Digitisation projects that may interest the legal researcher include the Nineteenth Century Newspapers database

<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/news/newspdigproj/database/>

and the Library's manuscripts contributing to the IHR Early English Laws project. <http://www.history.ac.uk/eel>

Numerous subscription databases, freely available in the British Library reading rooms, cover both primary and secondary legal and official resources as well as extensive full text and discovery tools for disciplines that traditionally or more recently intersect with legal scholarship. Some highlights beyond WestlawUK and LexisLibrary include Isinolaw, Kodeks (Russian legislation), AGIS, United States Congressional Record, Hearings and Serial Set, Philosopher's Index, Index Islamicus, Sociological and Criminal Justice Abstracts and Anthropology Plus.

Disciplinary and geographic scope

The Library's broad disciplinary base, as well as historical depth extends to treatment of law and legal phenomena from beyond the presses of Anglophone and UK publishers. While a strong multi-national collection of academic law and social science journals continues to be added to, the character of the non English language book collections for legal studies remains an area for continued analysis. Practical texts are collected for some jurisdictions, while overseas collections also include interdisciplinary, and traditional academic treatments. Early print editions of Justinian with treatment from Bologna glossators illustrate the historical depths of civil law print collections.

Manuscript and archival resources

The Library's manuscript and archival collections includes an extremely rich resource for English legal history. While sources such as Yearbooks, and early judgments, peri-conquest codes, charters and cartularies, and substantial parts of the Cotton collection can easily be highlighted, input to identifying collection items of value to legal historians is especially sought. Among manuscript collections of potential interest however are historical legal and ecclesiastical papers from Navarre and Castille, and Arabic jurisprudence (Fiqh). An oral history stream within the National Sound Archive continues to collect substantial interviews with legal figures, and both facsimile and original papers of UK domestic policy makers, political parties and English judges can also be found.

Official publications, primary and preparatory legal sources

Among several kilometres of departmental and private records and papers of the British administration in India, is a comprehensive collection of pre1947 legislation for India and Burma. The Library's extensive collections of official publications from national governments and inter governmental organisations offer legislative, treaty and judicial sources as well as preparatory materials, policy documents, parliamentary reports and more. Deposit collections include US federal publications, U.N. (& League of Nations), I.L.O, W.H.O. and the E.U. While law reports are comprehensively collected for UK jurisdictions, a significant historical resource from overseas courts is also available. Together with officially produced decisions these primary and preparatory legal resources can be identified using numerous discovery tools and collection guides.

Using the collections

Practical advice and signposting on registering for a reader pass, opening hours, catalogues and collections can be found via our website home page at <http://www.bl.uk/>

Further signposting and collection guidance for the resources mentioned in this guide can be found on the Help For Researchers web pages at <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/index.html>

Future plans and collaborations

As mentioned above, the library is committed to working with researchers to identify, illuminate and develop the legal information resource. Please get in touch if you would be interested to contribute to discussions. Whether you use and value particular resources or services at the British Library, depend on the British Library for material that is unavailable to you elsewhere, or wish to highlight digital content for our collections we would love to hear from you.

Please email LegalStudies-Content@bl.uk

Jonathan Sims is

Content Specialist for Law and Socio-Legal Studies at the British Library

1. Collection discovery tools are available on the FLARE website <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/flare/flare.htm> and from British Library collection guides for official publications at <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelpsubject/socsci/offpub/officialpublications.html>

2. UK Web Archive <http://www.webarchive.org.uk/ukwa/>

3. See for example Catalogue of Manuscripts in the Spanish Language in the British Museum Vol 4 p.211 at <http://books.google.com/books?id=AMntPIpivvEC&printsec=frontcover&hl=en#v=onepage&q=&f=false> and Arabic Manuscripts at <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelplang/arabic/arabicsection/arabicmanuscripts/index.html>

4. See above at 1

Brief News from IALS Library



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Visit us on Facebook!

If you have a presence on Facebook, the social networking website, you can now find pages and images from IALS there. Just search on "advanced legal" and you will find us. Read updates

about Library collections and services, view photos from the Institute and its neighbourhood, or contact us. View details of recently acquired books and journals. Join up as an IALS fan! IALS would like to develop its presence on Facebook during 2010, as yet another way of keeping in regular contact with researchers and potential users. So keep posted for more content from us on Facebook this year, www.facebook.com

New acquisitions

Did you know that you can use the IALS catalogue to view a list of new books available at IALS? Just go to <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/acquisitions.htm> and click on latest acquisitions. The catalogue will then display a list of recently acquired books.

Information skills training at IALS

Over 800 places have been filled in electronic information training sessions in the IALS Library during the Autumn term. Sessions on offer to postgraduate students included an introduction to Lexis and Westlaw, an introduction to sources of EU law and international law, and demonstrations of the databases on the electronic law library. Feedback on the sessions has been positive yet again, and it is clear that many students would like more training on advanced searching and browsing techniques. During 2010 we will develop a session on advanced database techniques to help students prepare for their dissertations.

As well as providing training in legal research skill to our postgraduate law students, IALS will continue to fulfil its commitment to training the law librarians of the future with our annual Legal Reference Materials training programme this spring. These sessions are for new IALS staff, and also new staff and graduate trainees from a number of law libraries in the London area, and include lectures on sources and usage of EU, Commonwealth and Public International Law. The programme is always very well received, and IALS is delighted to be able to contribute in a positive way to the future of law librarianship in the United Kingdom.

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