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## IALS Celebrates Its 60th Anniversary!

**The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies** held a special lecture followed by a reception on Tuesday 13th May 2008 to help celebrate the 60th anniversary of its establishment.



*Professor Avrom Sherr and Rt Hon Lord Hope of Craighead*

Many old friends and familiar faces were welcomed to this special event, including current and past staff and distinguished colleagues from the inter-connected worlds of law, academia and librarianship - all long-time supporters of the Institute and its national research library.

The special John Coffin Memorial Lecture in the History of Ideas, given by Professor Harry Arthurs, was a thought-provoking study on the future of constitutionalism which was very well received by the invited audience. At the reception afterwards the Rt Hon Lord Hope of Craighead (Chair of the IALS Advisory Council) and Professor Avrom Sherr (IALS Director) spoke eloquently about the history and many achievements of IALS. They also highlighted the progressive parallels between IALS and other national institutions founded in the same year which had equally stood the

test of time to become well managed and much valued national assets. Professor Sherr then raised a toast to thank everybody who had helped IALS to achieve the considerable success of the past sixty years and to look forward with pride to the next sixty.

*David Gee, IALS Deputy Librarian*

### BIALL award for IALS Library

The IALS Document Supply Service has been awarded the Customer Relations Initiative Award for 2008 by BIALI, the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians. The award was presented on 13 June at the BIALI Conference in Dublin, and accepted by Jules Winterton, IALS Librarian and Associate Director.

More details on this award in the September news!

### British and Irish Legal Information Institute - BAILII

*Joe Ury, Executive Director, reports on the new face of BAILII*

The new interface project which was begun in 2007 is now complete and BAILII now has a new website interface. The interface was developed over a six-month period during which the legal academic community actively participated in evaluating and testing the revisions. There



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are two major components of the subsequently adopted re-design: new versions of the home page, search pages, navigation links, and help pages; and refinements to the search engine. This work has been accomplished through the Open Law project, funded through JISC ([www.jisc.ac.uk](http://www.jisc.ac.uk)) — described at [www.bailii.org/openlaw/introduction.html](http://www.bailii.org/openlaw/introduction.html).

The second important component of the Open Law project is the identification and digitisation of leading cases in core subject areas. BAILII collaborated with the legal academic community to identify judgments for the Leading Cases lists. There are now 16 subject lists posted on the website. Additional material, such as Law Commission Reports and Consultation Papers, two books (<http://www.bailii.org/uk/other/books/>) and two journals (<http://www.bailii.org/uk/other/journals/Script-ed/> and <http://www.bailii.org/uk/other/journals/JILT/>) have also been added to the BAILII database as part of the Open Law project.

Comments and suggestions were solicited and received during the website revision and Leading Cases project and these have been vitally important to the success of BAILII's efforts to become a more robust and user friendly resource.

Key features of the new interface include:

- A revised home page with links to new content and search screens
- New individual search pages for Case Law, Legislation and Other Materials
- New Advanced Search and Multidatabase Search pages
- Alphabetical browse lists by type of material and jurisdiction
- Navigation links for new search and browse functions
- FAQs
- An online feedback form
- Enhancements to the search engine include:
  - Find by Citation for Case Law
  - The option to sort results by relevance, jurisdiction, title, and date
  - The option to include a date range in a search query
  - The option to highlight search terms

- Boolean connectors revised to be more user-friendly
- Refinement to truncation and wild card characters
- An advanced mark-up (highlighting) capacity.

### Statute Law Database materials

We recently discussed with representatives of the Statutory Publications Office at the Ministry of Justice how best to integrate the Statute Law Database into BAILII. We have already developed the processes required to include on BAILII, in fully searchable form, the most recent versions of the legislation covered by the SLD (sample Acts are at [www.bailii.org/uk/legis/num\\_act/1857/](http://www.bailii.org/uk/legis/num_act/1857/)) and we are researching into other options.

The main objectives for BAILII over the next years are:

- To maintain the website and the availability of existing databases of materials
- To update the existing databases with new material on a regular basis
- To continue to improve the quality of new data and the functionality of the system
- To obtain additional legal materials such as, books and journals, in order to extend coverage
- To promote BAILII and free public access to primary legal materials in general

With continued sponsorship BAILII will grow and will become an even more valuable resource for academic users, legal professionals and the general public. In the background BAILII (in concert with LII's worldwide) will continue to lobby all concerned for greater free public access to legal materials. BAILII is becoming increasingly robust, and as a result is emerging as a vital resource for users of legal information in the UK and Ireland and for users of legal information worldwide. Again, we need a flow of contributions in order to continue and to allow us to further improve and extend this major source of legal materials.

Joe Ury, e-mail [Joe.Ury@sas.ac.uk](mailto:Joe.Ury@sas.ac.uk)

## Library Collection and Retention Policy

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies' [collection and retention policy](#) is now publicly available on the Institute's website.

The Library has long been guided in its collection development work by a number of internal documents which lay out various collection policy decisions and procedures. This information has been organised into a single document and made publicly available. The main policy lays out the general principles which



EU Official Journal Publications located on the 3rd floor of the IALS library

direct our work in developing and managing the research collections and the 9 accompanying appendices provide more detail on particular issues.

It is hoped that the policy will be useful to the legal research community by making it aware of the scope and depth of the collections and the types of resources available at the Institute and also be of help to other law libraries in developing their own collections and engaging in effective collaboration.

The main policy is divided into 4 sections.

The Introduction provides details of the Library's mission, its readers and a broad description of the research collections. The next section lays out general acquisitions principles relating to issues such as collaboration and the different types of resource that are collected. The third section is concerned with the different methods of acquiring resources and how access is provided and the final section is concerned with the management of the collections including how different formats are made available and policies on retention and withdrawal. The appendices provide more detail on areas such as the depth to which the Library collects resources for individual jurisdictions, the principles governing the selection of electronic resources and how the collections are cared for. The policy is not intended to be a static document and

will be updated regularly to reflect future developments. It joins other useful web documents relating to the Library's collections including the recently revised research guides at [http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/guides/research\\_guides.htm](http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/guides/research_guides.htm); the newly updated FLAG database at <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/flag/flag.htm> with collection descriptions for many important UK law libraries in addition to the Institute; and the Institute's own annual reports at [http://ials.sas.ac.uk/about/annual\\_reports.htm](http://ials.sas.ac.uk/about/annual_reports.htm) which provide details of the library's activities in each academic year.

*Lesley Young, Information Resources Manager*

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## News in Brief

### ***Building works at IALS during 2008***

From July to September of this year, there will be some building work on one of the reading room floors, floor L2, at IALS Library. Some noise and disruption will be inevitable during the works, but quiet reading spaces will of course be available on other Library floors throughout the Summer. Some parts of floor L2 will need to be closed off for health and safety reasons, but there will be a fetching service by staff for selected material from this closed area. Details of materials which will be available on request will be put on the website nearer to the time.

Further details are on our website at:

[http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/libnews/Library\\_extension\\_L2.htm](http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/libnews/Library_extension_L2.htm)

and please phone us on **020 7862 5790** if you are planning to visit and have any questions or concerns. Be assured that during the building works, it will be business as usual for the Library, and the outcome of the works will be an expanded reading room on L2 with lots of extra space for shelving!

Also during 2008, the two IALS main lifts are being completely overhauled and refurbished (one at a time) from May to November. Work commenced on 19<sup>th</sup> May. As part of the contract, all noisy work will be done before 10.00am each day. Again, if you have any questions, do phone us on **020 7862 5790**.

### ***Reader Satisfaction Survey 2008 at IALS Library***

A survey of readers was carried out between Monday 3rd March and Saturday 8th March 2008 in order to find out how satisfied readers are with the



library's collections and information services. Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction on a 4-point scale from 1 ("rarely meets needs") to 4 ("usually meets needs") for a number of categories. In total 167 completed survey forms were returned, although respondents did not always answer every question.

The overall satisfaction rate (those who indicated they were either often or usually satisfied) was 95.18 % (96.29 % in 2007).

Further details on the website at [http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/satisfaction\\_survey\\_results\\_2008.htm](http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/satisfaction_survey_results_2008.htm)

*Laura Griffiths, Academic Services Librarian*

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## Current Legal Research Topics



A big **thank you!** to all the students, teachers and administrators in UK law schools who have helped us to update the Current Legal Research Topics database in 2008.

So far this year, over 100 new entries have been added, and 85 existing entries have been updated. The database aims to be a comprehensive list of subjects of research in progress by students studying for higher degrees in law in universities in the United Kingdom.

If you are doing a M.Phil. or Ph.D. in law or related topic (socio-legal, criminology, etc.) and details of your research are not yet on the database, please contact Gerard Power (contact details below) with details of the working title of your dissertation. The more entries on the database, the more comprehensive and representative it will be. Find out more at <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/clrt/clrt.htm>

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In our next issue: the September news will include an update on the Intute Law Gateway, and details of new research guides which we will publish on the web during July.

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