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Summertime at the IALS Library

Welcome to the IALS Library News for June 2010!

IALS Library will be open throughout the Summer, with our usual opening hours: Monday – Friday 09:00 – 20:00, and Saturday 10:00 – 17:30. If you have not been to IALS before and would like to visit us during the Summer, you will be very welcome! The Library is open free of charge to all academic researchers: law teaching staff at universities and M.Phil and Ph.D. students, as well as law librarians. See our website for more [information on joining](#). If you have any questions about IALS collections and services which you want to discuss in advance of your visit, please feel free to contact us by e-mail or phone – we can organise a brief tour and induction for you if you need it.

Please note that the Library will be closed for essential maintenance and stock-taking for two weeks in September, from 11th to 25th, re-opening on Monday 27th September. We will send a reminder of the closed period to law schools and libraries closer to the time.

The June news includes:

- Updates on BAILII, Eagle-I and Current Legal Research Topics
- Details of new books on constitutional law
- Reports from some visiting law librarians during March

With best wishes from everyone at the Institute Library,

Gerard Power
Access Librarian
Institute of Advanced Legal Studies



Document Delivery in Action: Laura Griffiths takes a call for the library's document delivery service



BAILII—The British and Irish Legal Information Institute

Joe Ury, Executive Director of BAILII, writes:

BAILII has added several new databases: the United Kingdom Treaties <http://www.bailii.org/uk/other/UKTS/> and the Irish Treaties <http://www.bailii.org/ie/other/IETS/>. Both of these databases contain some treaties in pdf format, in addition to many records of treaties. The United Kingdom Treaties is a work in progress and we'll be adding more and rearranging what is already there on a continual bases. BAILII staff are hard at work on the Privy Council Decisions from 1860 to date and we hope to have a grand opening of this full text database within the next month.



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Current Legal Research Topics

Gerard Power, Access Librarian, writes:

By the end of June, the [Current Legal Research Topics](#) (CLRT) list on the IALS website will have received its full annual update. Many thanks to UK law schools – research students, administrators, and research directors – for all your help in identifying new research in progress for listing in the database. The database aims to list all M.Phil and Ph.D research in law currently underway in the UK, and not yet complete. The list is designed to be of particular interest to current or prospective research students and their supervisors. It is always possible to add or update details of research titles at any time of the year. The quickest way is by e-mail – just send details to Gerard.Power@sas.ac.uk. I am always glad to hear from researchers about any updates to their research or new dissertation titles.

Eagle-I: Electronic Access to Global Legal Information

Steven Whittle, IALS Information Systems Manager, writes:

Work is commencing here at the Institute on a project to upgrade our Eagle-I (Electronic Access to Global Legal Information) Internet portal service <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/eaglei/eagle-i.htm> to continue to provide an important national online service for legal researchers. We'll be introducing a web database component to consolidate and continue the work we've been undertaking for the Intute Internet catalogue service through selective harvesting and safeguarding of Intute: Law records for ongoing evaluation and update in Eagle-i.



Under our agreement with Intute, as section editors for law since 1999, we are able to reuse and effectively rescue the records we created for Intute: Law. Eagle-I will feature a freely available searchable web database which will help ensure that evaluative records of quality web resources continue to be available to support legal studies and research for the UK. This important project is supported by modest funding from the School of Advanced Study, University of London.

Further information on future plans for Intute is posted on the Intute blog <http://www.intute.ac.uk/blog/2010/04/12/intute-plans-for-the-future-2010-and-beyond/>

Overseas Law Librarians Attend Training Programme at IALS

We welcomed distinguished visitors to IALS during March: Mr Dada and Mrs Lamikanra from Nigeria, Ms Kraft from Chile, and Mrs Narayan from India. Included here are brief reports from Nigeria and Chile:

Visit to the IALS Library, 1-11 March 2010

The disappointment one felt at first sight of the cold, grey exterior of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS), London was quickly replaced by admiration and respect after a few days of our eleven day visit to the IALS Library. The vast array of legal resources sourced from all jurisdictions, the variety of e-initiatives and the magnitude of productivity of the few, warm and friendly staff all contributed to making our visit a memorable one. The visit was enriched by the presence of Ms Irene Kraft, Reference Librarian of the Chile Library of Congress and Ms Uma Narayan, the Chief Librarian of the Bombay High Court Judges Library, Mumbai, India.



Mrs U Lamikanra and Mr T O Dada

Our visit was at the instance of Prof. Epiphany Azinge, the Director General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), Lagos, Nigeria. It was aimed at acquainting principal officers of the NIALS Library with the operations of a modern Law Library. The two man team from the NIALS Library was the Institute Librarian, Mr T. O. Dada and the Readers' Services Librarian, Mrs Ufuoma Lamikanra. The NIALS library patterned after the IALS library is in

the process of computerizing its operations after several failed attempts.

The first day of our visit was spent touring the Library and meeting with members of staff. Thereafter we were treated to a sumptuous lunch at an Italian restaurant. Other days were spent learning about the various legal information services that have made the IALS Library a unique institution in legal information service delivery. Visits to Libraries of the Supreme Court Library, Gray's Inn, London School of Economics and the British Library exposed us to interesting library architecture, practices and operations.

It was a very rewarding visit especially as we were given a free hand to select valuable materials from the IALS Duplicate Collection which will enrich our collection. We intend to make a difference in our library with the support of the IALS Librarian, Mr. Jules Winterton and members of staff of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.

T. O. Dada and Ufuoma Lamikanra, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies

Visitor from the Library of Congress of Chile

On Saturday the 27th of February the fifth strongest earthquake ever registered, struck the central and southern regions of Chile in the middle of the night, only to be followed by several tsunamis that left over 500 people dead and thousands of people homeless. While the catastrophe unfolded back home I had arrived in London just a few hours earlier and spent most of the weekend trying to get in touch with loved ones, while communication lines were down. Still when I arrived late on Monday to the IALS Library only the "severe delays" on the Central Line were to blame. As a constant flow of emails confirmed luckily family, friends and colleagues were safe.



Ms Irene Kraft

Once at the Library, the warm welcome, the interesting and tight programme and the different visits, left little time to worry. As a reference librarian at the Chilean Library of Congress, my main aim had been to learn from the IALS experience in order to improve our services and collections regarding foreign and comparative law.

The visit offered much more than expected, particularly due to the time and dedication of IALS staff who went out of their way to answer the constant questions and who were extremely generous in sharing their knowledge and experience. Coming from a library with only a recent interest in foreign and comparative law I was particularly impressed by the extent of the collection, but also the degree of expertise of librarians.



Leaving tea for IALS visitors

At the same time, I was able to familiarise myself with the UK and Commonwealth legal system and consult some of the key resources for these jurisdictions, in order to make acquisition suggestions back home. The chance to share my programme with visitors from both Nigeria and India, was also very useful as there was always a chance to exchange opinions and learn from our mutual experiences.

Tired, but extremely pleased with all I had learned, I left the IALS library, hoping others will have the chance to benefit from these visits in the future, so important for librarians from countries where best practice examples in such a specialised field are hard to find.

Irene Kraft, BCN, Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional, Chile



Books Page:

A Selection of Recently Acquired Books

This year's [Hart Legal Workshop](#) at IALS is entitled "Comparative Perspectives on Constitutions", and it will be held 29 June – 1 July. In keeping with the theme of this year's workshop, we offer details of some recently acquired books in IALS Library:

Bogdanor, V. (2009) *The new British constitution*, Oxford: Hart

This book describes recent constitutional change in Britain, and looks into the future towards a codified constitution. The initial chapters analyse the importance of Bagehot and Dicey as writers on the constitution, and the main body of the book looks at changes since 1997 due to the Human Rights Act, devolution and other factors.

Harlow, C. and Rawlings, R. (2009) *Law and administration*, 3rd edition, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

This book aims to further the study of law in the context of public administration, politics and public policy. Its approach is pluralist, seeking to articulate the views and voices of public bodies and of the legal profession. It is part of the *Law in Context* series, and there are chapters on the changing state, judicial review, legislation, rules and "soft law", regulation, contracts, and tribunals, among many more.

McIntosh, S.C.R. (2008) *Kelsen in the 'Grenada Court': essays on revolutionary legality*, Kingston, Jamaica: Ian Randle Publishers

This collection of essays considers the work of the Grenada Supreme Court after March 1979, and looks at other examples from around the Commonwealth. It considers the legal consequences of the Grenada coup d'état of March 1979. The analysis is informed by the theory of revolutionary legality of the late Professor Hans Kelsen. The author is Dean and Professor of Jurisprudence, Faculty of Law, University of the West Indies at Cave Hill, Barbados.

Kende, M.S. (2009) *Constitutional rights in two worlds: South Africa and the United States*, Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press

This book considers the South African Constitutional Court's role in social change in South Africa. Comparisons are made throughout with the United States Supreme Court. Themes include the death penalty, gender equality, gay rights, remedies for racial discrimination, freedom of expression and of religion, and social and economic rights. The author quotes frequently from the South African Court's decisions and from scholarly literature from South Africa.

Poulis, P. (2008) *Droit constitutionnel et institutions helléniques*, Paris: L'Harmattan

Considers the modern Greek Constitution of 1975, as revised in 1986 and 2001: the institutions of state, sources of constitutional law, and individual liberties. The author is professor emeritus of the University of Thrace, Greece.

Singh, M.P. (2008) *V.N. Shukla's Constitution of India*, 11th edition, Lucknow: Eastern Book Co.

The text of the Constitution of India with commentary and annotations. A reference work widely used among researchers, scholars, lawyers and the courts, according to the preface. The first edition appeared in 1950.

Do you know that you can view details of new books available at IALS Library by clicking on ["latest acquisitions"](#) on our website!

Also on the theme of constitutional law, IALS subscribes to [World Constitutions Illustrated](#), a new electronic module available on Hein Online. This new electronic resource is available onsite to IALS Library users and offsite to University of London law staff and postgraduate students. It offers contemporary and historical documents and resources, both primary and secondary material. It is now easy to find constitutions from countries around the world on your desktop. We will analyse this new service in more detail in the September Library news.

News produced in PDF format by Lindsey Caffin, Senior Library Assistant—Computing Services (Information Systems)

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