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IALS September Update

Welcome to the September issue

of IALS Library News, which reports on developments in the Library and associated services. We give you an update on space and photocopying improvements, and we are pleased to tell you more about the award for customer relations which the Library received in June. We look forward to keeping in regular contact with colleagues in law schools and law libraries throughout the new academic year, and to welcoming many researchers from UK and elsewhere to Russell Square.

Gerard Power
Access Librarian

is organised by the Institute of Legal Information Theory and Techniques of the Italian National Research Council. It will focus on digital legal information, examining the freedom of digital legal culture and how technological progress is shaping law. Topics will include free access to law, web 2.0 developments, quality assurance, open source and open technical standards.

Joe Ury

Executive Director, BAILII www.bailii.org

IALS Receives Award for Customer Relations

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies received an award at the June annual study conference of BIALL, the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians!



The IALS Document Delivery Service was presented with the BIALL 2008 Customer Relations Initiative Award in recognition of its quality, speed, efficiency, and willingness to meet customer needs and expectations. The presentation was made at the annual conference dinner, and it was clear from audience reaction that it was a popular award!

From 1st July 2008, the Document Delivery team have been offering an improved service to subscribing practitioners. Customers can opt to receive photocopies by Express Service (within one hour), or by Standard Service

British and Irish Legal Information Institute - BAILII



BAILII, the British and Irish Legal Information Institute, had a substantial hardware upgrade during August. New servers were installed at IALS and a mirror site in

Belfast is being established. These improvements will help BAILII to continue to provide free access to British and Irish primary legal materials. BAILII thanks the Practical Law Company for their recent donation, which made these improvements possible.

BAILII will be represented by two of its trustees at the forthcoming "Law via the Internet Conference 2008", to be held in Florence, 30-31 October. The conference



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(orders are dispatched on the same day if received before 12 noon). Documents are now normally dispatched by e-mail, and we know from trialling the new service that this is the most popular delivery method. But customers can opt to receive documents by fax, courier or post, if they prefer. A new simpler all-inclusive flat-rate pricing structure has also been introduced based on speed of delivery: Express £30.00 per item, Standard £15.00 per item. Charges include all copying, delivery, and any copyright fee.

Students and academic staff from law schools can use our Document Delivery Service for Academic Researchers, which currently offers delivery by post or fax. In the new academic year, we will be investigating how to offer secure electronic delivery to academic researchers also.

Extending the Library

Last summer IALS Library remodelled the 4th floor to create a dedicated space for electronic legal research. The room is also used for legal research training and has proved very popular with postgraduate students. This summer, the Library has carried out a small building project to extend the Library on floor L2 and provide much needed additional space for the foreign and international print collections.

A wall was demolished, the area re-furnished and an additional twenty ranges of shelves were installed. Most of the new shelves are rolling stacks to enable us to make the most intensive use of the new space while allowing researchers to access the volumes themselves. During the building phase of the project, a sturdy hoarding protected the existing library area so that we were able to keep the reading room open and maintain direct access to the books shelved on L2 for most of the 7 weeks needed to complete the work. A few books and serials had to go into temporary storage in crates elsewhere in the Institute building but Library Staff offered a regular fetching service so that researchers were not deprived of material vital to their summer research.

During the Library's annual closure in September, Library staff re-shelved the books which have been in temporary storage; moved the Australian open access collection from the 3rd floor onto the new mobile shelves so that it sits alongside the New Zealand material; moved the private international law material up to the 2nd floor adjacent to the public international law section; now there will be room for new volumes coming into the Library. The extra space created by this extension project will enable IALS Library to continue to develop its collections and

to make them easier to use by bringing related material together.

Lesley Young
Information Resources Manager

IALS Library Improves its Photocopying Services

IALS Library is pleased to introduce our new fleet of photocopiers, replacing our old stock which was approaching 5 years of age. The functionality of the new Konica Minolta copiers is virtually identical to the old ones, but with a quicker copy time, first copy time and warm up speed. They also all come equipped with a larger, moveable operations screen to make them easier to use for readers with disabilities.

Paying for photocopying will still be through a card system. However, in line with requests from our readers, we are delighted to announce that from the start of the new academic session adding credit to existing copy cards will become cheaper! From Monday 29th of September, every £1 of credit added to a copy card will result in 20 copies being added to the card, as opposed to the 18 credits which are currently being added. This will reduce overall copy charges to 5p per sheet. Once our existing stock of copy cards for original purchase (which currently come loaded with 18 credits) have all been sold, we will be extending this reduction in costs at point of purchase, with all new cards coming loaded with 20 copies. We are expecting this to happen over the coming year.

Laura Griffiths
Academic Services Librarian



The IALS Library continues to work on the Intute: Law Gateway (<http://www.intute.ac.uk/socialsciences/law>). Intute is a free online service providing access to the very best web resources for education and research. Intute: Law contains links and descriptive records to hand picked, high quality legal resources including primary materials (legislation, case law), secondary sources (journals, books), government websites, organisations, databases, academic sites and resource guides.

While the internet catalogue is the primary feature of

Intute, the site contains a number of other services which are also made freely available to users. A recent addition is the Intute Repository Search (IRS) service <http://www.intute.ac.uk/irs/>. This search service is part of a JISC funded project being undertaken by Intute in partnership with UKOLN and SHERPA. The aim of the Intute Repository Search is to facilitate access to academic, educational and research information stored in institutional and academic repositories throughout the UK. Educational and research materials are increasingly being made freely available on the internet in digital repositories and the IRS provides a common interface enabling users to search all these repositories at once. There is a simple keyword search facility and an advanced search option where users can search for keywords in the title, description, subject and author fields and select particular repositories to search in. The service currently provides access to 87 academic repositories including 340379 working papers, journal articles, reports, conference papers and other scholarly items. Records include author, title, description and resource details along with a link to the originating depository. A discussion forum on the site encourages users to leave feedback and the project team blog provides news of developments in the service. The project is due to run for three years with future enhancements planned including RSS feeds and personalised alerts. SAS-SPACE, the School of Advanced Study's E-repository <http://sas-space.sas.ac.uk/> is included in the IRS service and features materials published online by IALS.

As part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science in March 2008 Intute subject editors wrote short articles on their favourite blogs. These articles are available to read in the Intute blog archive. With over 70 million blogs available online, and the Justia Blawg Directory listing more than 3000 law blogs, there were plenty to choose from. Apart from the blogs featured in the articles Intute:Law provides links and descriptions to other legal blogs. If you know of any good legal blogs or other high quality legal websites not already mentioned on Intute, please forward details to us using this form:

<http://www.intute.ac.uk/socialsciences/suggest.html>

*Heather Memess
Intute Law Project Officer*

News in Brief

History of IALS

IALS celebrated its 60th anniversary in May of this year, and to mark this milestone, David Gee and Laura Griffiths compiled profiles of previous directors,

librarians and secretaries of the Institute. You can read the profiles and see the photographs on our website at http://ials.sas.ac.uk/about/IALS_history.htm as well as Willi Steiner's history of the IALS, published in 2000. Also, recently come to light in time for the anniversary, kindly loaned by Mr Beardon, are some fascinating old postcards of the New Zealand Soldiers' Club, Russell Square, the building which used to occupy the site at 17 Russell Square, where IALS now stands.



New Zealand Soldiers' Club

Commonwealth Lawyers Association

The CLA is an association of Commonwealth lawyers and law associations. During the summer, the CLA moved office, and is now in the same building as IALS, at 17 Russell Square in Bloomsbury.

Its objectives are to promote the rule of law in the Commonwealth and to ensure that the Commonwealth is served an independent and efficient legal profession. Commonwealth lawyers share a common heritage and much can be gained by strengthening the links between them.

The CLA undertakes a wide range of activities in both the official and unofficial Commonwealth. It is represented at the Meetings of the Commonwealth Heads of Government, Commonwealth Law Ministers and Meetings of Senior Officials. It works closely with the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Membership of the association is open to individual lawyers, institutional and corporate bodies. Information on CLA membership and activities is available at www.commonwealthlawyers.com or the CLA office 505a, 5th Floor, IALS.

Finally ...

We have published 4 new research guides on our website this summer: Australia, Canada, South Africa and New Zealand. The research guides to different jurisdictions aim to profile the strengths and extent of IALS collections for different jurisdictions, to identify the main finding tools, and to signpost the major free sources on the web for primary materials. You can find the new guides, and the other recently updated ones, on our website at http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/guides/research_guides.htm If you have any suggestions for new research guides or new content for the IALS Library website, please let us know. We will be doing a short survey in November to discover how we can develop and improve our services for researchers.

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