

## International Journal of Legal Information the Official Journal of the International Association of Law Libraries

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Volume 36

Issue 2 Summer 2008 - *Global Challenges & the  
Indian Legal System*

Article 4

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3-2-2009

### President's Report

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The *International Journal of Legal Information* is produced by The International Association of Law Libraries.

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#### Recommended Citation

Winterton, Jules (2008) "President's Report," *International Journal of Legal Information*: Vol. 36: Iss. 2, Article 4.

Available at: <http://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/ijli/vol36/iss2/4>

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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This is my fourth report to the membership as President of the International Association of Law Libraries, covering the period December 2007 to November 2008, just before our conference in Puerto Rico.

The new Board took office at the end of the Annual General Meeting on 3 December 2007 in Mumbai and is constituted as follows:

- President: Jules Winterton of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, England;
- Secretary: Jennefer Aston of the Bar Council of Ireland;
- Treasurer: Ann Morrison of Dalhousie Law School, Canada;
- First Vice President: Dick Danner of Duke Law School, USA;
- Second Vice-President: Halvor Kongshavn of Bergen University, Norway; Board members: Amanda Barratt of the University of Cape Town, South Africa;
- Ruth Bird of the Bodleian Law Library, England;
- Barbara Garavaglia of the University of Michigan Law School, USA;
- Ligita Gjortlere of Riga Graduate School of Law, Latvia;
- Petal Kinder of the High Court of Australia;
- Xinh Luu of the University of Virginia Law School, USA;
- Uma Narayan of the Bombay High Court, Mumbai, India;
- Anita Soboleva of JURIX (Jurists for Constitutional Rights and Freedoms), Russia.

The existing Board of Directors met on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007 before the annual conference in Mumbai with new members of the Board also present and the newly constituted Board met on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007, immediately after the annual conference. The new Board also had a special meeting on 31 March and 1 April 2008 in London at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies to discuss future strategy for the Association. Individual members of the Board took the opportunity to meet on a number of occasions, in particular at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in July 2008 and at the IFLA Congress in August 2008, and kept in contact throughout the year to discuss issues concerning the Association.

At its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December the new Board established a Finance Committee to assist with the handover of duties to the new Treasurer and take the opportunity to review budgetary procedures and establish more direct communication between members and the Treasurer. A Conference

Committee was also established to provide further means of retaining and transmitting knowledge about the planning of the Association's conferences.

The meeting of the Board in March / April in London was an intensive two-day workshop on the future of the Association and the implementation of the strategic priorities action plan, similar to the 2005 London meeting. The meeting discussed the fundamental qualities of the Association and the possibilities and challenges for the future and established that a great deal of progress had been achieved in implementing the action plan. It took a decision that the Association should adopt a policy of open access publishing for its journal in addition to the existing means of publication. The Board explored ways of increasing the utility and content of the Association website. It initiated a review of the Association's mission statement and also a review of the balance of duties between the posts of Treasurer and the Secretary with the long-term aim of further automation of the membership records of the Association.

The Association's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Course on International Law Librarianship on 'Global Challenges and the Indian Legal System' was held at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Mumbai in December 2007. The conference was inaugurated by the former Chief Justice of India, the Honorable Mr. Justice Y.V. Chandrachud, and many of the excellent speakers were drawn from among judges and advocates of the Supreme Court and Bombay High Court as well as from academic life, publishing and law firms. The academic program was widely held to be one of the highest quality programs presented at an IALL conference with a particular connection between law and its social context. The overall program for our course gave us an opportunity to experience some of the thriving, bustling city of Mumbai and its history and culture, opening with a magnificent cultural program of Indian folk dances, and included guided heritage walks, library visits, a city tour and a visit to the world heritage site at Elephanta Island as well as an annual dinner in a restaurant owned by Sachin Tendulkar, one of India's most famous sons. The Annual Course attracted almost 100 people from 22 countries, including Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, and Egypt. The Association received very complimentary comments from many delegates about the program, the locations, and the superb organisation. The event was covered in some depth by the Times of India.

Among the participants at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Course, we were glad to welcome the recipients of Association Scholarships. There were again three recipients:

1. Elena González, Law Library of the Ministry of Justice, San Juan, Puerto Rico,
2. Julienne Grant, Loyola University Library, Chicago, USA, and
3. Sarah Spells, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, England.

The Course was an administrative challenge dealing with a large number of official requirements, a range of important and busy speakers, and the logistics of travel around Mumbai. The impeccable organisation was handled by a small team headed by Board member Uma Narayan, with K S Narayan and Nileema Deo and colleagues in the Bombay High Court. It was handled with great attention to detail and personal charm by all those involved. The Association would like to repeat its thanks to them and to the institutions which welcomed us and the speakers who gave us their time and expertise.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007 and included reports on the work of the Association, its Officers and Committees. The accounts of the Association for 2006 were approved and the independent auditor reappointed. The new Board were presented to the membership and the opportunity was taken to thank the members of the Nominations Committee, Lisbeth Rasmussen (Chair), Blair Kauffman and Holger Knudsen for their work and to thank the outgoing members for their service on the Board and their support:

- Holger Knudsen,
- Gloria Chao,
- Jarka Looks,
- James Butler,
- Gina Kaskla,
- Bettina Picone-Maxion, and
- Silke Sahl.

The First Vice-President thanked Gloria Chao in particular for her long and dedicated service to the Association as Treasurer and made a presentation.

IALL's newly re-designed website at <http://www.iall.org/> was launched in spring 2007 and enhanced during the year under report. In particular a section of the website showcasing the contribution to the profession of Association members around the world has recently been added. The section allows members to have their publications on law librarianship and legal information management listed with links to the full text where accessible online. I would encourage all members to send bibliographies of

their professional writing to Petal Kinder, Chair of the Communications Committee, so that your country and you yourself are represented in this growing bibliography.

The Board has approved a contract with Ashgate Publishing for the publication of an 'IALL Handbook of International Legal Information Management' to be compiled over the next year or so and edited by the President and the First Vice-President. Initial letters have been sent to commission chapters for this substantial volume on current issues in legal information management with a global perspective. The published volume will be available at a discount to members of the Association.

Last year the Association established a new scholarship in addition to the three professional development bursaries which assist law librarians to attend the Annual Course. The new grant provides financial assistance of up to US\$3,000 each year for a law librarian to undertake an internship or placement or extended visit to a law library outside their own country. In 2008 Ms Le Thi Hanh, librarian at the Hanoi Law University Library, Vietnam, became the first to be awarded the IALL internship grant and she will be hosted by the Cornell University law Library. She tells us: "I am applying for an internship in the technical services department of the Cornell Law library in order to observe and learn the challenges and principles of the classification of legal materials using the Library of Congress system. Our Library in Hanoi plans to proceed with a major change in its classification scheme; we will migrate from a Vietnamese classification system to the Library of Congress system. This significant change is fully supported by the Swedish project 'Strengthening Legal Education in Vietnam' with whom our Library has closely worked in the past few years."

It is part of the role of the Association to collaborate with national and regional law library associations and, where possible, to assist in the formation of new associations. I can report continued contact with the several new regional and national organisations mentioned over the past two years. I again represented the Association at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in July 2008 at the kind invitation of its President where I spoke briefly at the business meeting and hosted a joint reception with the Foreign Comparative and International Special Interest Section sponsored by Thomson Legal and Regulatory and organised by Mark Engsborg on behalf of the Association. I gave papers at the Scottish Parliament in February 2008, the meeting of the Philippine Group of Law Librarians in April 2008, and at the British Library in November 2008 and attended a meeting of Experts on Global Cooperation on the Provision of

Online Legal Information on National Laws in October 2008 at the Hague Conference on private International Law..

The Association continued to support the new Section of Law Libraries of the International Federation of Library Associations formed following representations by IALL and the American Association of Law Libraries. The Chair of the Section continues to be our former President, Holger Knudsen. The Section arranged two successful academic programs at the IFLA World Congress in Quebec City in August 2008. I attended the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Section and IALL made a small financial contribution to a reception held by the Section at the library of the Assemblée Nationale du Québec. The Association continues to offer support to the new Section as it contributes to the programs within the World Congress (which next takes place in Milan in 10-15 August 2009) and contributes to the policy-making and lobbying activities of IFLA on behalf of associations such as our own. The 2010 World Congress of IFLA by coincidence will take place in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The archives of the Association have been supplemented in the past year with small donations including one from the University of Toronto. The whole collection of papers, which had preliminary sorting on arrival, have now been catalogued and listed by a professional archivist at the expense of the Association. The list appears on the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies website, with a link from the IALL site, at <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/archives/archive.htm>. I would again urge anyone with records of the Association, particularly early records, to contact me with a view to depositing them so that we can build a full record of the Association's history.

As I write, our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Course on International Law Librarianship, 'Puerto Rico and the Caribbean: Legal Information in Multiple Legal Systems', at the Caribe Hilton Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from 30<sup>th</sup> November to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008 is imminent. The conference benefits from a large group of local law librarians as organisers co-chaired by Pedro Padilla and Maria M. Otero de Leon of the University of Puerto Rico Law Library. I am confident that the conference will be another great success, drawing on expertise across the Caribbean, educating us in the complexities and diversity of legal systems and cultures and providing us with an experience of the warmth and vivacity of Puerto Rico. I am looking forward to meeting many of you at our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Course.

I finish this report by looking forward to the next two conferences. I am delighted to announce that, following a visit by the Board Liaison Holger

Knudsen, arrangements are progressing for the Association's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Course in International Law Librarianship will take place at the Bilgi University in Istanbul from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009 under the title 'Turkey in a Global Context: Law and Legal Information. The conference is under the care of Sami Cukadar, former IALL scholarship holder, and Kerem Kahvecioglu from Istanbul Bilgi University. Looking even further forward I am pleased to announce that the 2010 conference will take place at the home of international law, the Peace Palace in The Hague, in the wonderful modern new extension housing the library and an auditorium, and other facilities. The Local Organising Committee chaired by Jeroen Vervliet, Librarian of the Peace Palace, with René Winter and other Dutch colleagues.

*Jules Winterton*