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Teaching FCIL as a Non-FCIL Librarian: **Go-To Resources**

Posted on May 7, 2019 by FCIL-SIS

By Janet Kearney (https://www.fordham.edu/info/23646/i - k/10740/janet kearney) & Michelle Penn (https://www.fordham.edu/info/23648/n_-_p/10728/michelle_penn)

This is the second in a set of posts from Michelle and Janet on FCIL for non-FCIL librarians; the previous post (https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/2019/02/13/goto-resources-for-the-non-fcil-librarian/) highlighted some go-to databases, and our next post will take a look at collection development. Michelle and Janet are both from Fordham Law Library, where Michelle is Faculty Services Librarian and Janet recently made the leap from Reference Librarian to FCIL Law Librarian. Thanks for having us!

When we first proposed this idea for a blog post, we did not realize just how often

(https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/category

/teaching-2/) DipLawMatic Dialogues discusses tips for new teachers and FCIL teaching. Our challenge was to make this a useful post that doesn't simply repeat the great advice of our colleagues who have come before us. We decided to once again focus on "go-to" resources in the hope that this will serve as a useful guide no matter what FCIL teaching situation finds you.

How might you find yourself teaching FCIL? In addition to the fact that we all do things outside our wheelhouse, teaching FCIL research can be a great way to help keep your FCIL research skills current even when you are not a FCIL librarian. Proposing a FCIL course can encourage you to brush up on your FCIL skills and help prepare you to move to a FCIL position in the future, if that's something you want. For the less experienced non-FCIL librarian, teaching a FCIL class in a general advanced legal class, or offering research instruction for a doctrinal class, such as International Criminal Law or International Business Law, can be great ways to gain teaching experience and subject matter familiarity, without committing to teach an entire course on the subject. Offering research help for FCIL student journals, is another good way to explore different areas of FCIL research.

Although there are so many great resources out there on teaching, like <u>7 Things I Wish I Knew Before I</u> Started Teaching Legal Research (https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/2018/03/27/7-things-i-wish-i-knew-<u>before-i-started-teaching-legal-research/</u>), here a few geared specifically towards FCIL.



Do not hesitate to ask for help from other librarians! Even though our job is to provide assistance, it can still be difficult to turn around and be the one asking for help instead. Many of your colleagues probably have varying degrees of FCIL research experience and may be willing to share their course materials and insights on teaching FCIL. This includes your immediate colleagues, but the wider world of the FCIL-SIS is incredibly helpful as well.

Where can I ask for help?

The FCIL-SIS website, <u>https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/education-training/teaching-fcil/</u> (https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/education-training/teaching-fcil/), has information on existing classes and contact information for people willing to answer questions. You can send out an email on a listserv, like the FCIL-SIS My Communities forum or the Int-Law listserv (http://www.slaw.ca/2018/03 <u>/13/the-int-law-email-discussion-list-migrates-to-google-groups/</u>). You could also leave us a lovely comment on this post!

Where can I find course documents, like syllabi or assignments?

The FCIL-SIS website also contains a Syllabi and Course Materials Database, <u>https://www.aallnet.org</u> /fcilsis/education-training/teaching-fcil/syllabi-course-materials-database/ (https://www.aallnet.org <u>/fcilsis/education-training/teaching-fcil/syllabi-course-materials-database/</u>). This resource is very helpful and mentioned in almost every teaching FCIL post on DipLawMatic Dialogues. Check out this entry, Teaching FCIL Research Series: Fun with FCIL Assignments, https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/2018/02 /13/teaching-fcil-research-series-fun-with-fcil-assignments/ (https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/2018/02 <u>/13/teaching-fcil-research-series-fun-with-fcil-assignments/</u>).

What are the best texts to help me prep/assign for reading?

The general consensus seems to be:

- Marci B. Hoffman & Robert C. Berring, Jr., International Legal Research in a Nutshell (2d ed. 2017).
- Marci Hoffman & Mary Rumsey, International and Foreign Legal Research: A Coursebook (2d ed. 2012).
- Heidi Frostestad Kuehl & Megan A. O'Brien, International Legal Research in a Global Community (2018).

For more on textual selection see this <u>AALL panel review (https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/2018/07</u> /23/aall-2018-recap-fcil-sis-teaching-foreign-and-international-legal-research-interest-group/) and this post (https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/2018/04/17/teaching-fcil-research-series-textual-selection/# edn3) on selecting books.

How can I find more helpful DipLawMatic Dialogues posts on this subject?

This blog allows you to find posts by subject using both tags and categories using the right-hand side menu. Check the posts tagged teaching here, <u>https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/tag/teaching/</u> (https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/tag/teaching/), and the category of teaching here, https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/category/teaching-2/ (https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/category/ <u>/teaching-2/</u>). Last May, Alyson Drake compiled a great list, *Teaching FCIL Research: Revisiting* 15 DipLawMatic Posts on Teaching, https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/2018/05/22/teaching-fcil-research-

² of 3² revisiting-15-diplawmatic-posts-on-teaching/ (https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/2018/05/22/teaching-

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