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INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN LEGAL RESEARCH RESOURCES AT THE LAW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Mark E. Wojcik*

Most United States law schools provide little if any training on how to conduct international and foreign-law legal research. Because legal research and writing courses are already stuffed with federal and state materials that students must master, international and comparative law legal research often falls by the wayside in many U.S. law schools.

There are exceptions, of course. Some law schools may offer an advanced elective in international or comparative-law legal research, allowing students who enroll in that course to learn and master research skills that other students will lack. Some students may attempt to make their own crash-courses in international legal research when they find themselves competing in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition or another international law moot court competition. Some students may take paper courses requiring them to conduct some international or foreign legal research. Further, at some schools, small groups of brave law students may find themselves writing, editing, and cite-checking articles on international and foreign-law topics. These students will presumably have some sort of instruction or guidance on how to conduct international and foreign-law legal research. But, even with these exceptional cases where law students might receive some training in international or foreign legal research, most U.S. law students receive no training on this increasingly important skill.

International and foreign legal research is no longer “the province of specialists.”¹ Instead, “[t]he increasing pace of

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¹ MARCI B. HOFFMAN & ROBERT C. BERRING, JR., *INTERNATIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH IN A NUTSHELL* 1 (2d ed. 2017).

globalization has moved international law to center stage.”² Because even those lawyers who intend to spend their entire professional careers practicing only local law may nonetheless encounter international or foreign law questions, the ability to research international and foreign law is “a necessary skill for every lawyer.”³ Indeed, the need to know how to conduct international and foreign legal research may arise suddenly.

Consider, for example, a lawyer advising a business that imports or buys imported merchandise from another country. In early 2020, a global outbreak of a novel coronavirus Covid-19 severely disrupted supply chains and affected production and sales across a range of industries around the world.⁴ Businesses shut down voluntarily or were ordered to close, schools and other institutions were closed, travel plans were disrupted, and people “hit [the] pause button on life.”⁵

A business with its overseas supply chain disrupted may seek legal advice on the rights and remedies that exist under their contracts. The lawyer, looking at the particular contract, may find that it does not include a *force majeure* clause that would take effect when an event that is neither anticipated nor controllable disrupts the seller’s ability to sell merchandise or parts. Does the absence of a *force majeure* clause in the contract itself mean that there is no such clause to govern the probable breach of contract? Here is one place where the need for international legal research comes in.

A U.S. lawyer should be able to locate the text of a treaty

² *Id.* at 2.

³ *Id.*

⁴ See, e.g., Mike Colias, *Auto Manufacturers Start Flying in Parts as Virus Threaten Supply Chain*, WALL ST. J., (Feb. 27, 2020), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/virus-fallout-threatens-u-s-auto-output-11582830773>; R.T. Watson, *Hollywood Faces Closed Theaters, Production Delays as Coronavirus Spreads*, WALL ST. J., (Feb. 27, 2020), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/hollywood-grapples-with-impact-of-coronavirus-11582801201>; Paul Ziobro, *Coronavirus Upends Global Toy Industry*, WALL ST. J., (Feb. 27, 2020), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus-upends-global-toy-industry-11582809430>; Simon Clark et al., *Banks in Asia, Europe Grapple with Coronavirus*, WALL ST. J., (Feb. 27, 2020), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/standard-chartered-warns-on-coronavirus-impact-on-growth-11582800495>.

⁵ Rebecca Davis O’Brien & Valerie Bauerlein, *How Coronavirus Remade American Life in One Weekend*, WALL ST. J., (Mar. 15, 2020), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus-remakes-american-life-in-a-weekend-11584293065>.

entered into by the United States. That lawyer should also have the ability to determine which other countries are parties to that treaty, and whether the United States or any other country attached any reservations, understandings, or declarations (RUDs) when it deposited its instrument of ratification. For example, several countries are currently parties to the U.N. Convention on the International Sale of Goods (CISG),⁶ a treaty that can govern the sale of goods when the buyer and seller have their place of business in two different countries that have each ratified the CISG.⁷ A lawyer must be able to determine whether the countries involved in the current dispute are among those countries that are parties to the CISG. For example, Australia, China, Republic of Korea, and the U.S. are all parties to the CISG.⁸ India, Pakistan, South Africa, and the United Kingdom are not parties to the CISG.⁹ Some countries have or will only recently become parties to the CISG in 2020; these countries include Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, and North Korea.¹⁰

Unless the buyer and seller specifically exclude the CISG from their contract, the CISG will govern a private contract between a buyer and seller who have a place of business in two

⁶ U.S. Dep't of State, *U.S. Ratification of 1980 United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods*, 52 Fed. Reg. 6262, 6264-80 (Mar. 2, 1987).

⁷ See United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, art. 1(1)(a) *adopted* Jan. 1, 1988, SEN. DOC. No. 98-9, 3 U.N.T.S 1489; see also *United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (Vienna, 1980) (CISG)*, U.N. COMM'N INT'L TRADE L. (UNCITRAL) (noting that because the United States took a reservation to article 1(1)(b) of the CISG, the CISG will apply to a U.S. buyer or seller only when the other party has its place of business in another country that is also a party to the CISG. "The adoption of the CISG provides modern, uniform legislation for the international sale of goods that would apply whenever contracts for the sale of goods are concluded between parties with a place of business in Contracting States. In these cases, the CISG would apply directly, avoiding recourse to rules of private international law to determine the law applicable to the contract, adding significantly to the certainty and predictability of international sales contracts.").

⁸ United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, *entered into force* Jan. 1, 1988, SEN. DOC. No. 98-9, 3 U.N.T.S 1489.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*; International Law Blogger, *Surprise! One Month From Now, North Korea Will Become a Party to the CISG*, INT'L L. PROF BLOG, Feb. 29, 2020, https://lawprofessors.typepad.com/international_law/2020/02/cisg-north-korea.html.

different contracting states.¹¹ The CISG will apply to that transaction even if neither of the parties or their lawyers know that there is such a treaty as the CISG. By virtue of the Supremacy Clause in Article VI of the U.S. Constitution, the CISG (as an international treaty) governs the private sales contract of the parties to that transaction, and it will incorporate a *force majeure* clause if the contract did not have one.¹²

That is but one small example of how lawyers (and their clients) will need to research and use international law. Attorneys in private practice will need to conduct international and foreign legal research because their clients increasingly will have international and foreign legal issues. In addition to the CISG and the international business issues just discussed, clients may have issues of international family law, foreign investment law, transnational employment law, or other issues arising across the spectrum of private practice.

Attorneys working for federal government agencies similarly may benefit from being able to conduct international and foreign legal research. The government must provide solutions for a wide array of legal problems. Many of these problems are ones that other countries have addressed—sometimes successfully and sometimes not. Government attorneys should be able to research how other countries have addressed problems also facing our country.

Judges will increasingly be called upon to decide issues involving international and foreign law. Even a straightforward application of a treaty will require judges and their law clerks to be able to research how other countries interpret and apply particular provisions of a treaty so that the treaty may be interpreted and applied uniformly. Additionally, when judges are called upon to decide a legal dispute either in conformity with international law or in disregard of international law, those judges are charged with deciding the case in a way that does not violate international law.

¹¹ See U.N. Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, *supra* note 8, at art. 6 (noting that parties can modify the application of the CISG or exclude it entirely).

¹² *Id.* at art. 79(1) (“A party is not liable for a failure to perform any of his obligations if he proves that the failure was due to an impediment beyond his control and that he could not reasonably be expected to have taken the impediment into account at the time of the conclusion of the contract or to have avoided or overcome it or its consequences.”).

With approximately 2.9 million volumes, the Law Library of Congress is the largest law library in the world.¹³ The collection is also the most comprehensive, covering approximately 260 jurisdictions including many former nations and colonies.¹⁴ Amazingly, much of the collection can be accessed by researchers all over the world, without having to travel to Washington, D.C.

The material that follows summarizes the proceedings held in January 2020 at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS). The panel on “International and Foreign Legal Research Resources at the Law Library of Congress” was organized by the AALS Section on International Law and co-sponsored by the AALS Section on Comparative Law. The moderator was Professor Mark E. Wojcik of the UIC John Marshall Law School, the immediate past Chair of the ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress and 2020-21 Chair of the AALS Section on International Law. Also serving as moderator was Professor Don S. De Amicis of Georgetown Law.

The speakers were Barbara Bavis, Legal Reference Librarian at the Law Library of Congress, and Peter Roudik, Director of the Global Legal Research Center at the Law Library of Congress. In the audience participation section, extended comments were also made by Dean Katharina Boele-Woelki, Dean of the Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, Germany, and the Claussen-Simon-Foundation Chair for Comparative Law at that school.

The material here is not a one-stop shop for understanding the full range of resources available from the world’s largest law library, but it should provide an enticing introduction to the collections and services available. For practitioners, judges, legislators, professors, law students, and other legal researchers, the Law Library of Congress is a gem hidden in plain sight, waiting to be discovered.

¹³ *About the Law Collections*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://www.loc.gov/law/find/collections.php> (last visited Mar. 7th, 2020).

¹⁴ *Id.*

**TRANSCRIPT FOR PANEL: SECTION ON INTERNATIONAL LAW,
CO-SPONSORED BY COMPARATIVE LAW****

INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN LEGAL RESEARCH RESOURCES AT
THE LAW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Washington, D.C.
Saturday, January 4, 2020

MODERATORS:

MARK E. WOJCIK

Professor at UIC John Marshall Law School, immediate past
Chair of the ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of
Congress, and 2020-21 Chair of the AALS Section on
International Law

DON S. DE AMICIS

Professor at Georgetown Law

SPEAKERS:

BARBRA BAVIS

Legal Reference Librarian, Law Library of Congress

PETER ROUDIK

Director of the Global Legal Research Center, Library of
Congress

EXTENDED COMMENT:

KATHARINA BOELE-WOELKI

Dean of the Bucerius Law School and Claussen-Simon-
Foundation Chair for Comparative Law for Bucerius Law School

** This transcript has been edited and excerpted. For the full recording, visit
<https://soundcloud.com/aals-2/section-on-international-law-international-and-foreign-legal-research-resources-at-the-law-library-of-congress/s-VZlwf>.

PROCEEDINGS:

PROF. WOJCIK: Hello everyone, thank you for coming to our session. My name is Mark Wojcik, incoming chair of the AALS Section on International Law. I'm a professor at UIC John Marshall Law School in Chicago. I am pleased to welcome you to the AALS Annual Meeting and to this Section on International Law session, co-sponsored by the Section on Comparative Law, on the topic of "International and Foreign Legal Research Resources at the Law Library of Congress."

I have had the pleasure of serving as the chair of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress and to serve now as a committee member of that body. I have been able to see firsthand many of the secret resources and treasures of the Law Library of Congress. It's an amazing, amazing resource. Some of you know it already, some of you base research exercises for your students on it already, some of you use it for your own research, and some of you use it for your own litigation.

It's also very helpful for legal scholarship. Let me give you an example. When I was the Editor of the American Bar Association Year in Review published in the *International Lawyer* and writing an article on domestic violence laws in Africa, and I needed to get a copy of a law from Lagos State in Nigeria. The first domestic violence law in Nigeria. I contacted the Lagos State Legislature, the Lagos State Legislature Library, and the Senator who introduced the bill. I'm still waiting to hear from all of them about how I can find a copy of the bill. What I remembered instead is that I could go to the website of the Law Library of Congress, even though I'm not in D.C. [District of Columbia], and I could ask the librarian for help finding this resource. Within three days, I got a PDF of exactly the law I needed, with the certainty that comes with getting the document from the Law Library of Congress. It took me only the time to write the question saying, "[h]ere's what I need, can you help me find it?", and it came back with an apology that "[w]e're sorry that it was taking three days to get this to you, but we were in the middle of a government shutdown and had to deal with some other things at the time" (*laughing*). The Law Library of Congress is an amazing resource that you should know about, use, and support, and I'm really pleased to have with us today

Barbara Bavis and Peter Roudik from the Law Library of Congress.

MS. BAVIS: Thanks so much Mark. Hi, I'm Barbara Bavis. I am the instructional librarian at the Law Library of Congress. I'm also a reference librarian, so if you give us a call at the number—don't worry, I'm going to give it to you in just a moment—I might be one of the people that you actually talk to in your initial phone call or your initial contact with the Library. I want to go over, in my part of the presentation, that initial consultation, what you can learn during that initial contact, and also what you can find online for free. Mark talked about our hidden, secret treasures. We're trying to make them less secret and less hidden. We want people to use them, so I want to talk a little today about how you can find them on your own through our website, or how to contact us and we can get you in touch with the right people to find it.

First, I'm going to give a little overview of the Law Library, because a lot of people just don't know a lot about our history. We're actually the largest law library in the world, sometimes we get challengers to that title, but they are wrong, and we're right, so it's fine. We were established by a law in 1832, and we actually serve all three branches of government. A lot of people don't realize that we are not an executive agency, we actually are in the legislative division.¹⁵ We have approximately 2.9 million volumes, and a lot of those volumes are actually in our building.¹⁶ This was a picture of our building when we were first created. That's actually in the Capitol Building. If you really got a magnifying glass and looked at that, you could see the books were already to the ceiling when they took that picture. We had to move to the Madison Building—so, a lot of people don't know there are three buildings in the Library of Congress campus. The Jefferson Building is the one you usually see on all the pamphlets with the great mosaics and everything. We are actually across the street from that in the Madison Building. It's actually the shrine to Madison in D.C. [District of Columbia]. Let me show you a little bit about what that looks like now. That is actually my tiny little head that you can see there at the

¹⁵ *History of the Law Library*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://www.loc.gov/law/about/history.php> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

¹⁶ *About the Law Collections*, *supra* note 13.

reference desk. It's much more modern, and we have about 30,000 volumes actually in the reading room, so you're welcome to give us a call, or come into the reading room. All it takes is about 15 minutes to get a card, and then you can access any of the rooms in the Library of Congress. We hope you come to visit us in Law, but you can also come to visit any of the other rooms. We have European and the Main Reading Room with the beautiful cupola at the top, so please, feel free to come in.

Before I move too far along, I would like to say, you can see there, we cover 267 nations and jurisdictions. Yes, that is more countries than exist as of now. We have historical collections as well as collections from groups or intra country groups that we think might become official in the future. So, about 267 nations and jurisdictions, and that keeps growing all the time.

If you were to come into the reading room, we are open eight-thirty [AM] to five [PM] Monday through Saturday. I realize not everyone here is in D.C. [District of Columbia] and that is perfectly understandable, please feel free to give us a call at the reference desk.

Two of us are on staff at any time and we can either answer your questions, or if it's something that we don't have the knowledge in immediately, we will direct you to one of our foreign law experts; and Peter [Roudik] is going to talk a little bit more about that in more detail later, but we do have a whole staff of foreign law experts. They typically have a law degree from their home country (or their prior country) and from the U.S. as well. They also are called on frequently to testify in front of Congress and to create reports for congressional committees and for governmental agencies. A lot of those reports we're going to talk about, we try to make available online for free, and I'll show you where you can see that on the website, and Peter [Roudik] will talk a little bit more in detail about how they're created. But what we do is we go back to the committee, or we go back to the agency, we ask them if their request, if we can make that available to the public, and they typically say yes, and we put it on our website. If you would like to contact any of our foreign law experts, so if you needed a law from another country, you're not having any luck finding it, please feel free to give us a call or use our website, our "Ask a Librarian" feature and we

will get you in touch with the person who covers that country.¹⁷

PROF. WOJCIK: Are there any questions so far?

QUESTIONER: Could you do the—could you go back to the—where you find the “Ask a Librarian” feature?

MS. BAVIS: Sure, it’s actually through, let me show you. I’m going to click this and hopefully the internet will work and it’ll take us there. I’m actually going to show you how to get here from our website. Our website is Law.gov and if you go up to the top of any Law.gov page, there will be an “Ask a Librarian” button.¹⁸

PROF. WOJCIK: It’s also in the lower-right hand corner.

MS. BAVIS: It is, yes. If you scroll down a little bit, we also make it available on the website as well, under “Ask a Librarian.”

PROF. WOJCIK: And when you click on that, it will ask you like what kind of researcher are you? For example, are you a professor, law student, or other student?

MS. BAVIS: Yeah, let me show you. You can get the phone number from here, but really what you’re going to want to use is this online form.¹⁹ The online form is where you would put your interests [and] your name. We’re not asking this information to track you down later, we’re asking this information so that we can get back in touch with you [because] we want to be sure to get back in touch with you.

PROF. WOJCIK: I tell my students that they have the option of calling, writing a letter (which they won’t do), or filling out this form, and that between calling and filling out this form, it’s

¹⁷ *Ask a Librarian*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Law Library of Congress Inquiry Form*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/ask-law2.html> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

better to fill out this form because they'll ask a more precise question, they'll ask a more intelligent question, and just the task of writing a question helps them get better results.

MS. BAVIS: Particularly for students, they might be doing that research after business hours, and it's easier to contact us after business hours using this form. So please feel free [to use] "Ask a Librarian." We do say give us six, now five business days. Mark, I'm so sorry (*laughing*).

PROF. WOJCIK: I know, it was five. It was probably five back then, and you apologize for having taken three days, but you were shutting down the government.

MS. BAVIS: And at that point if we can't answer it, we'll at least get back to you with more questions about—you know, specifically what you're looking for and more ideas about what we can and can't do, but we will definitely get back in touch with you within five business days. Alright, hopefully I can get this slideshow back up without throwing everyone off. There we go. So yes, please feel free to contact us. I'm happy to send these slides out or make them available through the app. that's just the direct link to that form.

PROF. WOJCIK: I think we had another question?

MS. BAVIS: Yeah.

QUESTIONER: Well, you just offered to send it to—

MS. BAVIS: Sure, yeah, happy to. Alright, so we talked about our foreign law experts. We are going to go more in-depth, you'll see two things mentioned here current legal reports and the Global Legal Monitor. Those current legal reports are going to be those reports that are created for Congressional committees and agencies.²⁰ Then Global Legal Monitor is—we are going to go more in-depth in just a second—but it's more like a newspaper. We put out one article every day on an area of the

²⁰ *Current Legal Topics*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/current-topics.php> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

world and something that is going on legally in that area of the world—new constitutional amendment, things like that, for different countries.²¹

PROF. WOJCIK: It is a great resource if you have students who are looking for law review topics.

MS. BAVIS: Yes, please feel free to use that. I talked about Law.gov a little bit, but I want to kind of focus on specific areas of Law.gov, where you can find things immediately for free, and it might be a one-stop place to turn. We just saw what the website looks like—this is Law.gov. If you forget our phone number, we've got our phone number here, we got the "Ask a Librarian" button at the top. If you ever want to know if we have a resource that you're looking for, at the top you will also see a link to our library catalog.²² I want to give you a fair warning, it's the library catalog for the entire Library of Congress, so you might want to use some of the advanced search features to narrow down to law, if you are searching for something specifically in the legal arena. Scrolling down, you'll see everything we talked about today is linked here from the homepage. So the "Ask a Librarian," current legal topics, Global Legal Monitor, and our blog, the In Custodia Legis blog.

But first, I want to talk about the "Guide to Law Online". The "Guide to Law Online", we say it's a portal of over 9000 links, I think the buzz word now is "curated" links, of free legal resources from around the world.²³ So, we have the 50 states, and then the U.S. territories, and then we also have a website for each country. What we do is we walk you through—first that is our homepage for the "Guide to Law Online". You can select international, multinational, or nations of the world, and then you can select from the list the country you're interested in. I'm picking on Germany a little bit just because I know they have a lot of stuff on their site, and I think we have someone from Germany. So, it is going to be broken down, each page is going

²¹ *Global Legal Monitor*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <http://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

²² *Library Catalog*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://catalog.loc.gov/> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

²³ *Guide to Law Online*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide.php> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

to be broken down a little bit like this. There's going to be six entries. Constitution if there is one, legislative, judicial, and executive branches. Then we are going to break it down into two types of guides: general sources, which is going to give you more of CIA Factbook²⁴ kind of information; general information about the country; and then the legal guides. Legal guides are great if you, or your students, or your patrons are doing research in a country where they don't actually read the language of that country, the official language. These legal guides are typically pointing to English guides that kind of walk you through what is available in that country, where you should look for, for example, regulations, or that kind of document. We try to link you to resources that are free on the web, and direct you to free resources on the web for legal resources. And that is for each country, as many items as we can find. If you find any broken links, please let us know. We are constantly updating it, and we are happy to find a new link for you.

There's another entry on the homepage for research and reports.²⁵ I know a lot of what we are talking about today is more foreign and international materials. If you ever have to use historical U.S. materials for comparative law purposes, we have made historical U.S. federal law information available online.²⁶ We also have legal research guides there as well, both for U.S. law and foreign law.²⁷ You can see, "digitized materials" [is] where you're going to find those digitized resources. "Legal reports" links you to something we are going to talk about a little bit later, those current legal topics reports, and then the "Guide to Law Online", as well, is linked from here.

We do have a new website, our Research Guides website. It's Library-wide, so it's not just the Law Library, it actually has resources from around the Library of Congress and you can narrow by subject matter.²⁸ So, if you are interested in finding

²⁴ *The World Factbook*, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>. (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

²⁵ *Research and Reports*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

²⁶ *Digital Collections*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://www.loc.gov/collections/> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

²⁷ *Legal Research Guides*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/how-find.php> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

²⁸ *Index of Library of Congress Research Guides*, LIBR. CONGRESS,

guides on foreign law, you can do that, international law, [and] we have, as you can imagine, many under American law as well, but you can use the resources you find there to kind of use for your comparative law reports. Let me show you a little about what it looks like. This is what we are going to be using moving forward for all of our legal research guides. The “Guide to Law Online” I just mentioned earlier, we’re ultimately going to be moving those guides to this research guides format. If you don’t see it on Law.gov, it likely has been migrated here.²⁹ We’re going to be putting in a lot of resources to let you know when that happens. You’ll see here we have the guides listed and then I wanted to just show you a sample page that one of our foreign legal experts helped with. She actually did a lot of the E.U. [European Union] side of Brexit . . . Jenny Gesley is our specialist, and it walks you through—this has a timeline—but it also walks you through resources that we have at the Law Library or the Library of Congress as well as resources you can find on the web. So, please feel free to use it, it’s just guides.loc.gov.³⁰

I’ve kind of referenced these multiple times throughout the presentation, but I want to talk about current legal topics and the Global Legal Monitor. Peter [Roudik] is going to talk about them in much more detail, I just want to show you kind of how to access them. Current Legal Topics are those reports created for Congress and Agencies, we liken them more to a law review article, [they are] very detailed, very highly cited, usually [have] multiple countries based on what we’ve been asked to compare.³¹

The Global Legal Monitor is usually shorter and punchier, a couple paragraphs, still very highly cited, lots of cites in there. We try to link you to where things are available online for free, but it usually focuses on a country or, you know, a group of countries. It’s not quite as large as a comparative law report, but it does give you a place to start and, as Mark [Wojcik] mentioned, it’s great for a law review articles ideas as well.

This is what that current legal topics reports page looks like.³² You can see we break it down by topic area and you can

<http://guides.loc.gov/?b=s> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ *Current Legal Topics*, *supra* note 20.

³² *Id.*

look through and see if you were to open one of them, it would look a little bit like this. I have opened the one to, “Right to Peaceful Assembly,” and, in fact, I’ve even narrowed it down to “France,” and it actually walks you through the report.³³ You can download the report in PDF form as well, if you would like. One good thing about using it online is that you can actually use the hyperlinks and link to things that are available online for free. If you click any of these links [in the report] you’ll be taken down to endnotes. The endnotes, again, will have links if it’s available online.

Any questions so far? Still good, okay.

The Global Legal Monitor, as I mentioned before, is more like those short, punchy newspaper articles.³⁴ We’re always going to give you the last, about five articles on the homepage that we’ve written. But you can search by keyword, by topic, by date, as well as, by author. So, if you’ve become familiar enough that you know one of our authors covers a certain [part] of the world or certain countries, you can narrow down to them as well. Please feel free to use the keyword [search] at the top. We put the subject titles in there to help, but as we know, sometimes in the legal field, we like to use many different terms for one kind of topic area. If you’re looking for a specific word or a specific phrase please feel free to use that keyword search at the top. I’ll let Peter [Roudik] get into the nitty gritty of that in a little bit.

PROF. WOJCIK: Do we have any other questions?

QUESTIONER: Is this all internally generated content, so the Global Legal Monitor and the Current Legal Topics it’s everything that has been generated—

MS. BAVIS: Everything is—

PROF. WOJCIK: Your question is, is the content internally generated—

³³ *Right to Peaceful Assembly: Selected Foreign Jurisdictions*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/peaceful-assembly/foreign.php#france> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

³⁴ *Global Legal Monitor*, *supra* note 21.

QUESTIONER: Versus somebody else, an academic that's produced something?

MS. BAVIS: Right, the Global Legal Monitor and the Current Legal Topics are internally generated. They're created by our foreign legal experts. The links that you see on the guides of law online are going to be links to external items. We do sometimes link to our reports through the "Guide to Law Online" but it's very clear what's a Library of Congress item and what's not. Yes.

QUESTIONER: And how do you decide what topics to cover? Do you take requests on topics?

PROF. WOJCIK: The question is, how do you decide what topics to cover?

MS. BAVIS: For the reports we're typically asked by a congressional committee or an agency, for specific countries, and a specific topic. For the Global Legal Monitor, it's usually the subject matter expert writing [it]. So, there are foreign—sorry I didn't mean to speak for [Peter Roudik]—but the foreign legal experts usually know that something's happening in their country or countries of interest and they want to write something about it.

PROF. WOJCIK: We should point out that this is not only for our own research, but this is also for students who are writing international law notes, this is for moot court teams participating in the Jessup [Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition] or other international competitions, this is a supplement in the international law class. There are many applications that we can use even without being in Washington, D.C.

MS. BAVIS: And we are contacted by students and by faculty members all the time.

QUESTIONER: Speaking of contact, I teach international law in both the States and in Canada. So I'll definitely be referring

my Canadian, or my U.S. students for research.

MS. BAVIS: Oh, that's great! Thank you.

QUESTIONER: What about, Canadian students? Is that okay to refer them—

PROF. WOJCIK: The question is, can students from other countries also access this? And the answer is—

MS. BAVIS: Yes!

PROF. WOJCIK: Yes! (*laughter*)

MS. BAVIS: Everything you see here is free. The only things that you'll see on Law.gov that are not free are links to databases, and it's very clear on the database page what things are available online for free and what are not, but everything that we have talked about in this presentation thus far is free.³⁵

QUESTIONER: Does that include research assistance?

MS. BAVIS: Yes, it does, so please feel free to call, or e-mail us, or use "Ask a Librarian." We get questions from all around the world and we're happy to help. Depending on the size of the question, we might have to give ourselves a little bit more of a deadline, lengthen the deadline a little bit. I usually tell students that I give a similar presentation to, please do not use "Ask a Librarian" the night before your paper is due, because we cannot get back to you that fast. But we'll definitely work that out with the requester. Thanks.

QUESTIONER: I don't know whether you are going to come to this topic later on, but what about non-English language materials, including materials that are not even in alphabetic form, right. How do you search for that? And a connected question, how up to date are you on materials?

³⁵ LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://www.loc.gov/law/> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

MR. ROUDIK: I will cover that.

MS. BAVIS: Ok, Peter [Roudik] will. Sorry, the question was—

PROF. WOJCIK: Can you recover information that is not in English? And the answer to that is yes.

MS. BAVIS: And non-roman alphabets, yes.

QUESTIONER: So back to the current legal topics and the Global Legal Monitor. Is there a European Union Expert that covers E.U. [European Union] level directives and things like that?

PROF. WOJCIK: Is there an E.U. [European Union] expert? Yes.

MS. BAVIS: Any other questions? No, okay.

I want to talk about our blog. We are very proud because our blog made it to ABA [American Bar Association] Blawg Hall of Fame list, so I have to put in a little plug for that. One thing that I think would be of interest to you and your students is that we also cover foreign and comparative law items on our blog as well. And you can set up an email alert for our blog, as well as the Global Legal Monitor, to get an alert when we post something. In fact, do you mind if I take a second to look at that, because I think—I think that is something that is very helpful. I am going to go back to Law.gov, and then I'm going to go to our blog, *In Custodia Legis*.³⁶ Note up here at the top of the blog there's going to be a subscribe button. If you hit that subscribe button you're going to get the opportunity to set up an email alert or RSS feed on *In Custodia Legis*, just regular news and events for the law library, [and] also the Global Legal Monitor and those legal research reports that I talked about. So, if you want something in your inbox, letting you know we've updated, either of those items, you can just set up that email alert from here.

³⁶ *In Custodia Legis: Law Librarians of Congress*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://blogs.loc.gov/law/> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

PROF. WOJCIK: And it will give you a short description of what the update is, as well, so you don't have to check every time to see what [the update is], so it's pretty useful. I have this set up and I check it, not every day, but maybe once a week, once every two weeks, and just go through a couple of them at the same time and see what's new.

MS. BAVIS: So I know we're talking about foreign international comparative law, but I do want to talk briefly about Congress.gov.³⁷ We are the contact point for Congress.gov. Congress.gov is the official legislative information system for the U.S. Congress. What I think might be of most interest to you guys, even though you can find information about bill text from 1989 to the present (and that's each version of a bill as it moved through Congress, not just the final version), also, you can find information from the *Congressional Record*, or the debates of Congress, from the mid-nineties to the present. Both of those can be of interest, but I particularly want to draw you to treaty information and CRS [Congressional Research Service] reports.

Has anyone here used a Congressional Research Service report in the past? Great, awesome! I saw some hands go up for those of you not here. That's great.

The Congressional Research Service I think is very helpful, also, for foreign comparative international law materials, particularly with regard to trade and monetary items. In fact, I just had a question recently where someone was looking at that kind of information. You can search now CRS [Congressional Research Service] reports going back to—they're still working on it, they're still updating it now, but—at least five years back, often, you know, even twenty years back, depending on how quickly they've uploaded something. Please feel free, you can get to it from Congress.gov. There's a link on the homepage to CRS [Congressional Research Service] reports, and feel free to use that and do a keyword search. Also—I'm just going to skip ahead one more. Also, there is the ability to search from the homepage for treaty documents. If you ever are doing research with regard to treaties where the United States is a party, treaty documents can be searched here. It goes back to 1973. Now, the

³⁷ CONGRESS.GOV, <https://www.congress.gov/> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

actual [treaty] documents in your search go back to usually the nineties, forward. But you can, at least, get information about the ratification of a treaty going back to 1973. And, all you have to do is do a search, either by number or by keyword in the search box, and just pick “treaty documents” from your pull-down list.

PROF. WOJCIK: We have another question, two questions.

QUESTIONER: This is for clarification. When you say “treaties” do you include non-senate ratified agreements?

MS. BAVIS: As long as it is being considered in the Congress from 1973 forward, it will have its own page here. Now the question at that point comes to the documents that are available, we’d have to do a search and see what documents are available. But, as long as it’s being considered, or it’s been introduced, then yes, you can find information about it.

QUESTIONER: But, executive agreements, for example?

MS. BAVIS: Executive agreements, no. Just treaties.

PROF. WOJCIK: And we have another question from Professor Thomas McDonnell of Pace Law School?

QUESTIONER: Yes, treaties that the United States has not ratified, would that be included? My second question is, treaties that have been signed, but not ratified by the United States is that—

MS. BAVIS: Not—the question is—not ratified and/or signed but not ratified. It should still be included here, as far as I know, because there are treaties in there that have just been in consideration since 1973 that have never been ratified. We already had a research question on that recently, so—

PROF. WOJCIK: How about treaties that have been ratified but we don’t follow them? (*laughter*)

MS. BAVIS: No comment. (*laughter*)

PROF. WOJCIK: Okay.

MS. BAVIS: I know I skipped ahead and you can now know how to search for treaty documents, how to search for CRS [Congressional Research Service] reports. But what I want to do is go back one more step and just let you know anything you search for on Congress.gov, you can set up a search alert for and you can get an email anytime something changes on your search. So, for instance, if you were searching for legislation and a new bill was introduced with your keywords included, you would get an email that that new bill has been included. If action has been taken on a bill in the current Congress, you'll get an email when those actions are taken. So, if you know let's say a Senate bill got passed in the Senate and got taken to the House, you'd get an email alert letting you know that that happened. Usually, at this point, people get a little panic on their faces, and they don't want five million emails a day; I promise you, at the most, you will get two emails a day on each search alert. They give you one, if something happened the night before [or] in the morning, and then one in the afternoon if something happens during the day.

You can also set up search alerts on the debates of Congress, because sometimes, things are brought up on the floor of Congress that aren't necessarily related to a specific bill being considered. Just as an example, I have one set up for the Library of Congress, so every time the Library of Congress is mentioned, I get an alert. Feel free to do that, and again, you'll only get, at the most, two a day. One in the morning, if something happened the night before. One in the evening, if something happened during the day. To do that, you will have to set up an account. I promise you it's free, and all we need is your email address. But please use one that you actually check. If you're using your hotmail account from 20 years ago that you don't know the password for anymore, it won't work because you do get a notification email.

Sorry, I'm going to skip ahead, and then I'm going to wrap up and turn it over to Peter [Roudik] after talking about the Foreign Law Web Archive.³⁸ This is something I find that a lot

³⁸ *Foreign Law Web Archive*, LIBR. CONGRESS,

of people don't know exists, so I wanted to be sure to bring it up to you today. In light of the fact that, you can see up here, a lot of jurisdictions have moved to just Internet-only options for putting out their materials and also, even with those jurisdictions and other jurisdictions that [also] put their information online. Sometimes, that information can just disappear. What we tried to do is create an archive where you can see prior instances of official websites. On here, you're going to see largely legal gazettes. Our collection's largely legal gazettes but also judicial and legislative websites for different countries. Let me just show you what that looks like. It's got, I think, a very nice layout, and you can limit by location. If you're looking for a specific country, you can see that in the location bar on the side as well. Yes?

QUESTIONER: Yes, do you do anything on United Nations Security Council Resolutions or United Nations General Assembly Resolutions? It's something from New York, like a McKinneys, like an annotated code or anything like that that makes that material more manageable?

PROF. WOJCIK: The question is: do—does the Law Library of Congress follow the General Assembly or Security Council Resolutions from the United Nations?

MS. BAVIS: Yes, we do. We do have materials on international organizations. I'm not sure if we have something like what you're discussing for the U.N. Security Council, but we do have links to U.N. materials on the website and things like that, but I don't think we have an annotated kind of item—

QUESTIONER: The difficulty is that they're so voluminous that trying to wade through that material is sometimes a challenge. So, I'm wondering if you have taken it upon yourself to you know, make it more manageable?

MS. BAVIS: Right, right. The question is, have we done, kind of, annotations or something to make it more manageable, and

<https://www.loc.gov/law/find/foreign-law-web-archive.php> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

as far as I know, we have not done that as of yet.

PROF. WOJCIK: The United Nations website itself has a brilliant law library page with video law library lectures and documents, but it's not the kind of thing that you're thinking of. That would be something really useful if there were such an animal.

MS. BAVIS: Yes?

QUESTIONER: Would the foreign law that you're capturing from your original websites of jurisdictions, do you indicate on what day they were scraped or captured—

MS. BAVIS: Yes.

QUESTIONER: As you say, we've seen things that were posted online, and then, all of the sudden, they're not anymore.

MS. BAVIS: Yes. You definitely do. We give you the date in the entry. And it will tell you the last time it was scraped. And it goes back, as you can see there, about 2010. The best coverage, I believe, is from 2014 forward, but you'll see a few that do go back further than that.

Any other questions? Alright, well, thank you so much for having me. I focused more on, kind of, what you can find on the web and what happens when you talk to us in person, and Peter [Roudik] is going to give you much more information about our foreign and comparative law materials. Thank you. (*clapping*)

MR. ROUDIKA: Good afternoon. Thank you, Mark [Wojcik], for being such a great advocate for the law library. Barbara [Bavis] did a wonderful overview of all our operations, collections, and what we are doing. I will just emphasize a few things related to foreign law research. So talking about the collection, yes we are the largest law collection. Our general counsel doesn't allow me to say that we are the best. We must use quantitative measurements, so we always say we are the largest.

PROF. WOJCIK: I'll say it's the best because I am not under that restriction. (*laughter*)

MR. ROUDIK: Every year we receive 85,000 new materials. And what makes the collection really unique, the fact that 60% is in foreign languages. 60% cover non-American, non-English law materials. By law, we are required to collect all official documents, all official gazettes from all existing jurisdictions. So, I will repeat what our Law Librarian of Congress says: we have laws of the countries of the past, present, and future. Countries of the past are those countries that ceased to exist: The Roman Empire, Eastern Germany, Former Yugoslavia. By the way, we constantly receive requests about laws of the former Yugoslav republics or even Yugoslavia as a union. Former Soviet laws, for example.

PROF. WOJCIK: And law of Sikkim. I have seen it in the archives as well.

MR. ROUDIK: Regarding the countries of the future, I can give you the example of Palestine. At this time, it's not a country, but we collect their official legal documents in case we will be asked [in the future]. All legal documents from secessionist unrecognized territories in Europe, like Abkhazia and Transnistria, for example are included in our collection. We were the only place in Washington [D.C] where laws of the Crimean Republic could be found before the Russian occupation of Crimea in 2014. So, we collected primary legal materials for these jurisdictions.

How [did we collect them]? We have vendors in most of the countries, and there is also another secret, it is [that] the Library of Congress has six overseas offices. Many years ago, when there was a surplus of non-convertible currency in the United States, nobody knew what to do with this money, and [the] government decided, let's give it to the library. So, [the] Library got the money, and now, we have Library of Congress offices with American embassies in Rio de Janeiro, Jakarta, Nairobi, Islamabad, New Delhi, and Cairo. And these offices are serving as our regional representatives, and when we need materials from these countries or regions, if they are not in our collection, we can always contact these offices and [make a] request.

For example, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is constantly in need of [the] reviewing [of] some newspapers; for example, from local areas in Nepal or in Pakistan, and they need to verify if documents they obtained are real newspapers or not. So, we contact our office in Islamabad. They send someone on a donkey through the mountains, and they make a copy of the newspaper published in a particular village. Also, we have vendors in other countries. And the same service is available to all of you. If you need the material, which is not in our collection, you may contact us, and we will try to obtain it.

Who deals with our collection in the office? Our staff of several foreign law specialists, our reference librarians, and foreign legal informational specialists. Most of the people working with us, as Barbara [Bavis] said, usually have two legal educations: from the countries they are from and from the United States in order to speak the same language with the American attorneys, and explain, not translate the law. As we say, we translate the idea behind the law. Our staff members explain how foreign law is integrated in a foreign country, how it is applied, how local courts interpret this law. And that's why we need these people with legal educations from these foreign jurisdictions. It all started in the 1930s. Before that, Congress collected foreign official legal documents since the beginning of the 20th century. But then Congress realized it's not enough just to have laws on the shelf. They needed people who would be able to explain how laws work in a foreign country and how to resolve a problem which appears in a foreign country under the laws of the jurisdiction. And that is when in the 1930s, the first group of our so-called foreign law specialists was created. The name is a little bit deceptive, because unlike normal lawyers who focus on a field of law, our specialists cover countries, or jurisdictions. And calling them specialists is also wrong because they are more like generalists. They have to be ready to respond to any question about law. France, Japan, Germany, Russia, for example. This group, as I said, was created in the 1930s, and you can hear from my accent, I was originally hired as a specialist for the former Soviet countries. My—not direct predecessor but the first person who covered then the Soviet Union in the 1930s was Alexander Kerensky, the last prime minister of the Russia before the Bolsheviks. Now, we have people from more countries which serve as their primary

jurisdictions.

We do not have the luxury of having have specialists from all countries of the world, but to tell you about the caliber and qualifications of these people, not so long ago, one of our specialists who cover Iran retired. He was Chief Justice under Shah [Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi]. Shah [Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi] was kicked out, and this gentleman emigrated in a couple years. He was very open about his culture, dedication, background, and worked fine, and we were proud to have him. One of the most recent hires is our specialist for the Pacific region. She worked as a Parliamentary Secretary for the prime minister in New Zealand. The government lost elections, so because of her dual citizenship, she came to the United States to build her career. And we are very lucky to [have] her.

In addition to their major jurisdictions, our foreign law specialists cover other countries of the regions. Depending on similarities in legal systems, and our staff language skills, we divide the world among the legal specialists. Talking about the European Union—

PROF. WOJCIK: So, just looking at this chart, someone who is the specialist for Pakistan will also do Afghanistan and Nepal?

MR. ROUDIK: Yes, in this case all South Asia. As I said, I was hired as a specialist for Russia as [my] primary jurisdiction, but all countries from the former Berlin Wall to the Great Wall of China are in my jurisdiction—still are in my jurisdictional portfolio.

PROF. WOJCIK: Wall to wall coverage, that is great. *(laughter)*

MR. ROUDIK: So our specialist for Japan, she covers all Southeastern Asia, for example. Africa is divided among three specialists. We have someone working on Sub-Saharan English-speaking African countries; Francophone African countries are covered by our French specialists; and Northern Africa is covered by our specialist for Islamic law.

International organizations are divided among the specialists based on their language skills, interests, [and] professional focus. Of course, people have specialties. For

example, if a person worked as a tax prosecutor in her country before coming to us, most of the questions related to tax legislation will go to her, and she can create an outline for a project, and she gives advice to other specialists. The European Union is covered by our German legal specialist because Germany is a major part of the European Union, and this person is also our specialist on financial law because she, before coming to us, she worked as a law professor in the University in Frankfurt. [She] [p]ublished books on financial transactions. One of her books was recognized as one of the best law book published in Europe two years ago.

What [are we] doing? Most of the time we are working for Congress. And we are writing these big reports, I have a couple of samples. When a Congressman wants to introduce a bill, he wants to know if other countries have similar legislation. He asks what impacts these laws have on social, political, and economic issues. What kind of problems did these laws encounter during their implementation? What are the best practices, for example? And they are asking us to write such report.

Recently, we have published reports on restrictions on GMO's, bitcoin regulation, artificial intelligence. Right now, we are working on review of cosmetic circulation rules, regulation of e-cigarettes for example. We ask our requesters [for] permission for publication. We remove all identifiable information and publish these legal materials on our website. For [the] Government, we are allowed to issue legal opinion, because all our specialists are admitted attorneys in the U.S. and in foreign jurisdictions, and that is why we also write reports for the government, but it's more like practical work. For [the] government, we respond to specific questions—if for Congress, it is more academic writing of long multi-national comparative studies, then for [the] government, it is more like answering specific questions how to resolve a problem under laws of a particular country. Did two ships collide somewhere, [the] government wants to know if the principle of sovereign immunity can be invoked. Because we are part of the Library of Congress, we are open to everyone and as Barbara [Bavis] told you, everybody can get onto our website, click the button “Ask a Librarian,” submit a question, and we will answer—

PROF. WOJCIK: If the price is right. (*laugher*)

MR. ROUDIK: Of course, [we] don't give legal opinions to private requesters and most of the time limit our responses to providing references, but for law professors we will give a much more specific response. Also, all our research can be customized because of needs of the requester. What we have used—here are some examples of our work product.

PROF. WOJCIK: So, one question that has come up is how can someone know that they have found an official copy of the law from a particular jurisdiction, and that it hasn't been changed in some way? Is there some greater level of confidence when you get that document from the Library of Congress?

MR. ROUDIK: Yes, because it is the responsibility of the legal specialist to check and verify the exact date. For example, just couple days ago, I was asked, "[w]e know that Albanian family code was adopted in 2002. What was the exact date when it entered into force?" And I had to go over and see what the code says about it entering into force, six months after the publication in the official gazette then it went to the presidential decree about proclamation of the code. Then, I found the publication in the official gazette. Most of the document can be found through our online catalog. To find these documents on our website, you can just transliterate foreign titles into Latin letters and make a search, or you make [a] subject term search, or you can just go to the catalog and type "Albania law" for example, "Albania family law," and you will see publications in English, in Albanian, and in foreign languages, if they were published somewhere else.

PROF. WOJCIK: For those of you who have written articles on foreign and international law, and I know this room is filled with those people, and you send it to a journal where they cite check it, very often, we've gotten back the cite check "cannot find this source." Unfortunately, a lot of those students don't know about the Law Library of Congress, so if we can tell them, "[i]f you can't find it, ask them where to look," that would be helpful for all of our research.

MS. BAVIS: And that's a question we get a lot at the reference desk as well. We get a lot of students asking us for cite checks and things like that.

MR. ROUDIJK: And what we have just started to do together with the Harvard Law School we are preserving our links which we use for citations and save them in internal CC in order to avoid the problem of broken links and preserve the website which we cite exactly how it was on the date when it was visited by our specialist. And, of course we can go to the gazettes or to the databases because the library subscribes to many legal databases from foreign countries.

For example, in my area of responsibility, just a couple of weeks ago, the library acquired access to the CIS legislation database. You know about this database. It's a very good resource for all countries of the former Soviet Union, especially because they publish documents in English, and they also put consolidated versions with the most recent amendments. We can follow and check for you to let you know what it is. The most current version of the law, or the version of the law on the date when you needed it, because most of the time we receive requests about specifically dated [materials], based on the claim, for example, or, some events we should review.

So, the Global Legal Monitor Barbara [Bavis] told you about it, it is not a complicated resource. Topics are selected by our legal specialists based on their understanding what could be of interest to our readers. Of course, we will try to avoid writing about something that was covered everywhere, we will not describe an issue if the New York Times or Washington Post wrote about it. We will try to focus on something more interesting, more legally specific for this jurisdiction. I would say, this is a very good source of legal information. It is a great starting point for research because you can see what is going on in a particular jurisdiction. You can see that all items are heavily cited to official documents, so it could be a good source for locating original materials. Also, you will see who wrote it and you can get back in touch with the specialist and ask questions about this jurisdiction, this particular topic, or anything else that is needed. So that's just a couple of examples of articles in particular on this—

MS. BAVIS: If you do have a legal expert that you've seen has written something of interest and you want to get in touch with them directly, please just feel free to use that "Ask a Librarian" or give us a call at the desk, and we can get you in touch with that person.

MR. ROUDIK: Because *In Custodia Legis* is more for free writing for our specialists yes, we publish their guides but also we publish blogs on topics of interest for our specialists. Sometimes, it is related to a particular date or event—for example, when the Russian ambassador was killed in Turkey a couple years ago, I wrote a blog about all assassinations of Russian and Soviet ambassadors which were killed in the past. Or, we were updating one report about a company's advertising rules. All over the world. And then, our specialist for Germany wanted to focus on German stuff. But again, it is a good resource which can be used by students for broad overview of what is going on in foreign countries. For example, a lot of stuff was written about Brexit, and we will talk about how we cover Brexit later. This is our general statistics, and you will see that law schools are our major users—the figures are changing every year but not significantly, and they are pretty stable. We receive about forty-fifty questions every year from the law school faculty members.

PROF. WOJCIK: What?

MR. ROUDIK: Yes, not many.

PROF. WOJCIK: Not many?

MS. BAVIS: Well with foreign and comparative.

MR. ROUDIK: With foreign and comparative. For just "Ask a Librarian" it is much, much more.

PROF. WOJCIK: Wow. Alright. We'll have to check that number next year. (*laughter*) After we do this presentation, see if that doubles at least.

MR. ROUDIK: And these are some examples of questions we've received from the law schools; and most of them are, from my understanding, coming from people who are working on specific research projects or on assignments for a law clinic, for example. We receive many questions about maternity protection, family law, immigration questions, or requests for help in locating a particular document to find the specific court decision from a foreign country. We are always ready to help with these questions. These are just a few universities which are sending requests—or where from we are getting the questions most of the time. But we say constantly, we are always hoping for collaboration and we are working with different law schools on different projects. For example, we are open for internships, and we have agreements with the University of Washington. They have [a] special Asian law program, and every year, they send one of the people from this program to us to work as interns during the summer helping our specialists for Asian countries to cover these jurisdictions.³⁹ Or, we have a special agreement with the University of Montreal, which is not an American university, but many years ago, when we didn't have a French specialist, our Canadian specialists wanted to get some help and we needed assistance with reviewing French legal information, and we got an agreement, and now the University supports two graduates every year.⁴⁰ They select two people, support them financially, and send them for two months to Washington [D.C.], and they work with us under the supervision of our Canadian—one of them is under the supervision of our Canadian specialist; another one is under the supervision of the French specialist. Also, for the law schools our services could be just helping to locate materials which could be included in teaching and resources and new materials. We can help with access to legal documents. We can put our experts in touch with your students, for example, and help them in preparation for research work or classes, or maybe moot court competitions. Law clinics, I think, is a good area where we can be of help, because when the students work to develop things and coming to us or call us and ask for help with specific cases.

³⁹ *Internship Opportunities at the Law Library of Congress*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://www.loc.gov/law/opportunities/internships-metadata.php> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

⁴⁰ *Id.*

Another area for cooperation is the internship program. We are getting the students working with us as legal specialists helping with jurisdictions of interest, and it's very good for them. They get access to resources of the libraries, and they understand what is going on here.

PROF. WOJCIK: I understand, on this topic of internships, that you've also taken LL.M. students from other countries to work in the library because they will have some special knowledge about the countries that they come from that you may not have in one of the existing specialists, and the interns can provide a service in recognizing the material that you might otherwise not be able to give direct attention to.

MR. ROUDIK: Yes, our LL.M. students are usually asked to review collections and suggest what kind of materials we need to get from the countries that they came from because they have [the] experience of doing legal work in these countries. It helps, and it works for both sides. And also, what would be good for you is we can share our information from our subscription databases, of course under the licensing agreements and following the rules, but definitely the Law Library of Congress has much more access to data than any other law library.

Also, now we started a project on archiving our own historic records for Congress, since [the] 1930s, and they will be on the website. It's very interesting to see how Congress, for example, was interested in a particular area or how a specific issue was regulated during different historic periods. For example, cyber security, how it was in the 1980s when IT technology started to develop actively. Then in the early 2000s, when Internet appeared, and cyber security now, how it is regulated in different countries, what Congress is looking at or was looking at during these periods. You will see it from the reports which we will publish on our website.

In two weeks, we will start our comparative law series of webinars, and we will start with the first webinar on Brexit. Our specialists for the United Kingdom and for [the] European Union will discuss it. United Kingdom specialist will cover of course British Law. E.U. specialist will look at Brexit from the E.U. perspective, and also, she will focus on example of Greenland because Greenland was the first example of a country to split

ties with the European Union when Greenland declared its autonomy—expanded its autonomy from Denmark, and we will cover all these issues.

Later, we will go over to review foreign Parliament and their legislative agendas, major policies, pieces of legislation under consideration in foreign parliaments, and we will also give webinars on major issues, which we have been researching, and if we will get Congressional permission, we will put these topics online for discussion. They all will go on the third Thursday of every month.

I would like to emphasize that we are also open for faculty and not only for students, and we have many opportunities for faculty to work with us. We can help with the collection of rare materials. We have about 60,000 books which cannot be found anywhere else. For example, we have the first set of the laws of the Plymouth Colony. Everything from the 1800s is considered to be rare for American materials, and for foreign materials, it is maybe medieval documents that we have—first textbooks that were handwritten textbooks which were used in medieval law schools in 15th-16th Century in Europe. We have handwritten scrolls which were used by Russian peasants of the 16th Century when they submitted claims to what was then the government, for example. We provide many opportunities for faculty members to do research. If you want to work on an article and want to come to us, we can offer a status of scholar in residence. People can receive full library privileges, like staff privileges to get all materials, special workstations, [and a] special office. You will get regular access to all [our] materials and you will work on your research. Also, we [are] think[ing] about starting a so-called comparative law institute probably next year. We want to start a pilot where we will invite people, young faculty members teaching comparative law, to come to Washington [D.C.] for two to three weeks in [the] summer to spend time working on their own research and to have consultations with our specialists. We will have [a] special educational program for them also during the first part of the day and it will be one of the programs we will announce we hope, soon. And again, everything we are doing can be customized and we would be happy to answer all of your questions, all of your needs, and don't hesitate to contact us if you need foreign comparative international law materials. (*claping*)

PROF. WOJCIK: We've covered a tremendous amount of material and part of it is what to remember that we can tell our students, but we don't have to do that because my understanding is that some of your previous sessions have been recorded and can be downloaded from, the website. Can you tell us about that for a second?

MS. BAVIS: Oh, sure. We've been working more and more on trying to reach out to people who cannot be in D.C. [Washington D.C.] We realize that it is hard to get here when you're across the country or around the world. So we have done more and more webinars and we are planning, as Peter [Roudik] discussed, on doing more webinars in the future. Right now, you can find recorded copies of congress.gov⁴¹ webinars so if you have any students that are international students and are interested in kind of the U.S. side that congress.gov is a great starting point for that. We also have one on our website for a website that we make available through our library website called "A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation."⁴² It is the first hundred years of Congress. We digitized a lot of those documents other than the handwritten bills, that was too difficult. But other than that, you can find journals of the House and Senate. You can find antecedents to the congressional records, you can find bills, and resolutions. So we have a webinar that kind of walks you through how to do that, as well. And then, again, I would strongly suggest signing up for those comparative law seminars. We're going to be offering them monthly and it's going to be similar to what you see in the congressional reports, as well. And then we're also going to be making webinars available for—we're colloquially calling them the three branches, but a series of classes, three classes, on U.S. case law, U.S. circulations, and U.S. legislation. So please feel free to sign up for those, as well, and you'll see that on our website under "Educational Opportunities."⁴³

⁴¹ CONGRESS.GOV, *supra* note 37.

⁴² *A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

⁴³ *Educational & Research Opportunities*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://www.loc.gov/law/opportunities/> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

PROF. WOJCIK: We have a colleague from Bucerius University in Hamburg who uses the resources from Germany. I'm wondering if Dean Katharina Boele-Woelki, Dean of the Bucerius Law School in Hamburg might tell us what exactly you are doing with library sources and how you assign it to your students?

DEAN KATHARINA BOELE-WOELKI: I would love to. I have a session on comparing comparisons. I ask the students to analyze and present comparative studies and comparative article on specific subject, including several jurisdictions. And they have to analyze and present it to the class. And I also—one of the selective topics is one of your websites where you explain how legislation takes place, how it is organized in various countries. They take their website and then they have to answer several questions. Is this comparative law? Which jurisdictions have been selected? Who are the authors of the various national reports? Is there a comparative analysis? No, there is not to a certain extent. So all these kind of methodological questions they should address and then we compare and we answer the questions; what kind of comparative study has been analyzed and has been presented? And we see that there are very, very different ways of comparing issues and topics. And that you provide the building blocks for making comparisons and so students learn to—well get around with your website and the information that you provide but also that they critically assess other articles or studies, comparative studies, and compare them and how they are structured, how they are presented and whether they fulfill the requirements that we should put to comparative studies.

PROF. WOJCIK: Thank you.

MS. BAVIS: Thank you.

PROF. WOJCIK: Any other questions, comments?

MR. ROUDI: I'd like to add a little bit about comparative studies. Usually comparative studies are published in the form of a report. When we receive the assignment, we are working in response. Unlike our sister agency Congressional Research

Services, we are not free to choose what we would like to work. So when we receive a request, we identify countries which could be of interest to congressional requesters and where legislation on this issue is more extensive, I would say. Or countries where are interesting examples of resolving this particular problem. Of course, there are some countries which are asked most of the time like Canada [or] Mexico because they are our neighbors. European Union and most European countries because they are our trade partners. Then there are other countries depending upon the specifics of the request. And we try to put these countries in our reports and sometimes have to ask to suggest which countries need to be included.

When we start writing, we analyze national official documents. First, we describe policies, issues regulated under laws of the country. Then they go to the next level of legislation to review the implementing documents, analyze court practice, and then we—choose secondary materials. We don't do our own research and we don't interact with [the] data. We have what you call limited statistics and [we] explain policies, what works, what impact it had, [and] how it is implemented and bring this information to the requester. Of course, we don't give our own opinion because we are a government agency. We will say from which angle a problem is viewed by local lawyers and scholars, and if there is another opinion, we will cite to both positions and it will be up to the reader to decide which position to take.

All our reports go through several levels of review and I'm the final reader and my job is to cross out, what in my opinion could put us in trouble. (*laughter*) Most of the time, we will appoint a coordinator for a project who will identify bigger problems, create an outline and draft a comparative summary and analyze major trends and find similarities and differences in resolving issues in other countries and the summary goes in front of the report. That is our methodology and how we are working occasionally. And most of the time we rely on the materials from the Library's collection, on the official documents. If needed, we also go to materials from the country, English language, of course, literature, and sometimes we need to interview local scholars, local government officials, and if we do that it is because there is no other information probably available, we cite to other sources.

MS. BAVIS: Leading off both of your comments, would you guys mind if I took a second to show you how to actually navigate to these things on the website so you can, or at least tell your students how to navigate to them? Would that be okay?

ALL: Yes.

MS. BAVIS: I am just going to hope that the internet is still working so let's just—

MR. ROUDIK: And we just recently hired a graphic designer, so we just started to do some maps and visual stuff and we try to make our reports more visually interesting.

MS. BAVIS: Not that it—not that they weren't fascinating before. (*laughs*)

MR. ROUDIK: But some groups of our requesters are not good readers, they need more concise information. We are working a lot with the European Parliament Research Service. They are masters in presenting information in different formats, in long reports and in short two-page flyers, something like “at a glance” for the members of the European Parliament. We are looking at them and use their products as examples for our work.

PROF. WOJCIK: And while we are doing that, I am going to invite Don De Amicis to come up and serve as moderator. Don is a professor at Georgetown.

MS. BAVIS: Hi!

PROF. DE AMICIS: Hello.

MS. BAVIS: Welcome. (*laughs*) So what I thought I'd do is just show you—so this is Law.gov.⁴⁴ I'm going to actually make it a little bit bigger hopefully. There we go. We always try to keep the highlights at the top, so what we recently added at the top of the screen. But I am going to scroll down just a little bit.

⁴⁴ LIBR. CONGRESS, *supra* note 35.

We talked about the guides of law online, we talked about the blog. After the blog, you're going to see an entry for those legal reports. I typically like to navigate to current legal topics.⁴⁵ The comprehensive index of legal reports is going to have reports that are from many years ago, so might not be quite as on point for what you're doing research-wise.⁴⁶ I am going to click on current legal topics. And you'll see here, we've broken it down by topic area. Actually, that first one is a pretty good one, the regulation of drones I think.⁴⁷ Because you'd be shocked, well maybe not shocked, but we get a lot of questions about drones and the laws regarding drones. And I just want to show you what it looks like generally. So I am going to click on drones, I don't know if that's the one we brought—sorry I'm putting Peter [Roudik] on the spot. What you're going to do—

MR. ROUDIK: Who did the drones?

MS. BAVIS: Oh hey, yes—so what we can do is we can download the full report, via PDF, or it's also broken down by the comparative summary, if there is one in the front, which you can open as kind of a HTML. Or you can go through each country. You'll see here there is a summary, you can click read more, and after the summary you're actually going to get a breakdown of the different areas of that part of the law, and the endnotes, where you can actually see the law itself, usually. Sometimes we're citing to secondary sources, that's where you are going to see a lot of those perma cc links. We try to link you to the page as it looked when we cited it. Let me just see here—so you'll see here, here is civil aviation regulations from Australia, and if you wanted to actually look and make sure it was the version as it was cited, you can actually see what it looked like on the Australian government's webpage. It's pretty easy to navigate within, let me take you back to—the homepage for current legal reports.⁴⁸ We have tried to just break it down

⁴⁵ *Current Legal Topics*, *supra* note 20.

⁴⁶ *Comprehensive Index of Legal Reports*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/legal-reports.php> (last visted Mar. 7, 2020).

⁴⁷ *Regulation of Drones*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/regulation-of-drones/index.php> (last visited Mar.7, 2020).

⁴⁸ *Current Legal Topics*, *supra* note 20.

by subject matter. These are the kind of things we have been asked for recently the last few years and you can just click through these topics to see the different reports on areas of interest. You can imagine what's in the news is typically what we get asked about—but if it is a subject of interest to you, I would strongly suggest checking it to see if we have something on it already.

MR. ROUDIK: If I may add by the way—

MS. BAVIS: Sure!

MR. ROUDIK: Also, the reports are—timed at the time when they were published. Usually, they are not updated. Sometimes for updates we use Global Legal Monitor issues. If there is a relation between the topic covered in the Global Legal Monitor and previously written report, then we will link those two items and we will write something in the report like basic information about specific legal development and the date for update. And then, for more information we will refer readers to the GLM [Global Legal Monitor] article.

MS. BAVIS: I'll actually navigate to GLM [Global Legal Monitor], so you can see that too.⁴⁹ GLM [Global Legal Monitor] is going to automatically update with the latest articles on there. If you wanted to just learn more or if you wanted to search, you could click read more articles. You'll get some more current articles listed there and you'll also get the search feature. The search feature is going to be at the top of the page. I actually—was thinking maybe we could search for journals and see if there was an update since 2016—No. Is there a good one?

MR. ROUDIK: I think report on bitcoin was updated.

MS. BAVIS: Bitcoin, oh gosh. Bitcoin we get asked that one a lot. Thank you. Alright, and you will see here it organizes it chronologically. You can look through and see what the latest articles on that have been. So, yeah it looks like we updated it

⁴⁹ *Global Legal Monitor*, *supra* note 21.

with new journals—

MR. ROUDIK: If I can.

MS. BAVIS: Yes, sure.

MR. ROUDIK: For example, we can go to the reports on bitcoin.⁵⁰ Like you will see how they are updated—we update them.

MS. BAVIS: Cryptoassests and bitcoin have been incredibly popular, as you could only imagine.

MR. ROUDIK: So, here is the list of the countries for example, Estonia. And you can see, update, next the date when something was added, and additional information and it will bring you back to the Global Legal Monitor article covering this.

QUESTIONER: What is the relationship between Congressional Research Service and what you do? And is this really sort of the legal reports part of that or they a different group entirely?

MR. ROUDIK: We are—we call ourselves sister agencies. We are sharing the same floor of the building of the Library of Congress. And Congressional Research Services is working exclusively for Congress. They only have one patron, Congress. We are a part of the bigger Library of Congress, and we are open for everyone. That is the main difference. Second, Congressional Research Service covers American law and foreign policy. They don't cover foreign law. We don't do research on American law, in depth research on American law, for Congress. We are doing in-depth research on American law for the courts, for the Executive Branch, and we provide references to members of Congress on American legal issues. That is the difference. Regarding foreign stuff, they are covering foreign policy issues, foreign trade, but they don't—they have no

⁵⁰ *Regulation of Bitcoin in Selected Jurisdictions: Estonia*, LIBR. CONGRESS, <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/bitcoin-survey/index.php#estonia> (last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

expertise in the field of foreign law. We are covering foreign law for Congress and sometimes we are working together. For example, just recently, we were working on a request about custom reforms—reform of custom officers in foreign countries we did it together with the CRS [Congressional Research Services] people. They covered economy issues. They explained how custom services are organized and we covered legal issues in the countries and analyzed national legislation on the customs service.

QUESTIONER: Thank you.

QUESTIONER: How does one, or what criteria do you use to get a book into the Library of Congress? In other words, an author might want you to have the book and how do you decide whether or not to do that?

MS. BAVIS: Yes, and that's actually—a lot of people think that we have every book that's ever been published—

QUESTIONER: Right.

MS. BAVIS: Which is not the case. Fortunately, or unfortunately, I think our buildings would just bow under the weight of it. But what happens is we get a lot of our books actually through copyright. Copyright is part of the Library of Congress. When those two books are sent in, our subject matter experts get to look at those books and decide whether we retain it in the collection. It's typically subject matter experts in those different areas of the law or areas of the world that look through and make sure that it's something that we think would be helpful to patrons.

QUESTIONER: Can you lobby?

MR. ROUDIK: Because we receive many books through donations, we can save money and buy books from abroad which are not copyrighted in the United States. And each legal specialist is at the same time the so-called recommending officer for the library. Each legal specialist has his or her own budget

and decides what publications for each individual jurisdiction under his or her responsibilities need to be purchased. When the books are coming to the library, each specialist decides what should be actually proposed for the reference collection, for the main collection. It's one of the responsibilities for each country law expert to monitor, maintain, [and] make sure that [the] collection of this country is updated.

MS. BAVIS: And no, you can't lobby us, I'm so sorry. (*laughter*) But, one thing I would suggest is if you have a book that's printed here in the U.S. you can lobby your publisher to make sure that they send us the copyright copies so that we can then access them. That makes it a lot easier for us.

QUESTIONER: That's lobbying. (*laughter*)

PROF. DE AMICIS: Maybe multiple copies. (*laughter*) Yes, ma'am?

QUESTIONER: That's okay you just answered my question. About the publisher—the role of publishers it's their responsibility to submit the copies to you?

MS. BAVIS: Right. They should be doing that as part of their copyright process. Sometimes they forget, so please feel free, if you don't see it in our catalog, please feel free to ask them if they have done so.

QUESTIONER: What do you do with the copies that—you get two copies as part of the copyright—what do you do with the ones that you don't retain? Used book sale? (*laughter*)

MR. ROUDIK: No, we have a huge program with libraries in the United States and abroad and we can send them to other libraries for charity purposes.

QUESTIONER: Very cool. Thank you.

PROF. DE AMICIS: Before we start. Yes, sir?

QUESTIONER: This question is on judicial opinions. How, I mean why does, how do you collect, I assume you collect some, right, I mean from foreign jurisdictions, so how do you, what criteria, what do—

MR. ROUDIK: It depends on the jurisdiction. It depends on the specialist—each specialist decides what needs to be collected. Of course, we try to collect materials of the highest courts of the country. For example, for the country where the case law is not—for not common law system countries. We collect materials of the highest court like the Supreme Court, the constitutional court of the country. But of course, we don't go down to regular courts unless they submit materials are make them available through different databases. And again, if needed we will try to obtain the document—the particular document for the purposes of the research.

QUESTIONER: I just have a structural issue. I really appreciate all the information and the excellent services you provide, especially the faculty. I'm just wondering—are you unique in the world? Or do other national libraries also provide these services? I'm wondering if there's a consortium that you work with if you have unmet needs, for example.

MR. ROUDIK: Yes, we are unique. There is only one similar institution—institution similar to us, it is in Switzerland. The Swiss Institute of Comparative Law.

QUESTIONER: Okay.

MR. ROUDIK: But they are under Ministry of Justice. They're in the executive branch. They don't have collection, such an extensive collection as we have. We collaborate with them, we train the librarians. Unlike us, they don't have permanent stuff. They have more flexibilities, they hire—they are also based on country division and have specialists for different countries, but their specialists are contractors and they hire them for specific projects. There is something similar starting to be created in the European Parliament, but it goes under the European Parliamentary Research Service they just created a small comparative law library but their model is slightly

different, they commission research reports on select topics to different university professors, constitutional court justices from different countries. For the United States, they are working with us and our specialists from the public services divisions because all our librarians, they have American J.D. [Juris Doctor] degree and they are American lawyers will write reports on American law for them.

PROF. DE AMICIS: I noticed one of your categories that you listed of the services that you provide for legal opinions, for federal agencies I suppose. Can you explain that a little bit that's very unique I think and interesting.

MR. ROUDIK: When the government needs information about laws of a foreign country, they come to us and ask for assistance. For example, somebody comes from a country X, gets American citizenship and then how [inaudible – 1:26:53] adopted children are going to follow this person. [The] government wants to know what are [the] laws on child adoption in this county. Somebody comes to the United States and gets married here and claims that he called back and divorced his wife over the phone. Homeland Security wants to know if a divorce on the phone is a valid form of divorce [that is] accepted under the laws of the country. We have special agreements with several United States federal agencies like Homeland Security, Social Security, [and the] State Department, they come to us and we help them. Sometimes we are [called on by] the Justice Department by State Attorneys to testify in court on foreign law especially during foreign law hearings before the trial when [the] judge decides if foreign law can be accepted as evidence and there are a couple cases I remember.

PROF. DE AMICIS: Sounds like quite a range. Other questions? Yes sir, in the back.

QUESTIONER: I didn't know whether you brought it up, but I am interested in Mexican

Law, and is it also provided whether you do that by states of the Mexican Republic and then the historical materials, whether you come across this thing called "paleography." The padres have written materials in the past that laws on

indigenous peoples, and I'm finding I'm having a hard time reading paleographic, the way those old Spanish writings are hard to read. Do you help with that in anyway?

MR. ROUDIK: As I said, Mexic[o] [and] Canada are our two most requested countries and usually we don't get materials on subnational level—from authorities on subnational level. But for Mexico, we do get all materials from all states in addition to federal documents because most of the time we get questions about family law and we need to look at family codes from individual states and provide an answer. Historic documents, government documents, they are in our collection. But with these handwritten documents they are more in manuscript division in our general collection. For example, we have [a] big collection of rare American [inaudible – 1:30:25].

MS. BAVIS: We work together with some of the other reading rooms in the library. Rare materials, and you know sometimes we also branch into the European reading room, not for Mexico, obviously, but things like that.

MR. ROUDIK: We have three specialists covering Latin America, we have one specialist exclusively for Mexico, one specialist for Central America, and one for South American countries, except for Brazil and we have a specialist for other Lusophone countries like Portugal, Brazil, and the colonies. If you have any questions, I would be happy to put you in touch with our specialist for Mexico and you can discuss with him.

QUESTIONER: Do you also look for English translation? If I said for example Angola, looking for the foreign investment law of Angola, would you then provide it in its Portuguese form, or would you also look for English translation—

MR. ROUDIK: If it exists in English. Of course, we try to obtain primary materials and official documents first. That is our obligation, then we try to receive them in English because that what is most needed for our readers, and then in other language which would be of bigger help to the readers, and then what is available. When I said of bigger help, for example, if we would look for material from Uzbekistan, we would buy books in

the Uzbek language because this is the official language in the country. However, if materials are published in Uzbek and in Russian, for example, I would prefer and choose materials in Russian because there are more people in the United States who can read Russian than [the] Uzbek language. We don't do translations, usually. Of course we can explain what the law says we can provide the explanation[s] and application[s] of specific provisions, but we are not doing the translations.

PROF. DE AMICIS: Yes Sir?

QUESTIONER: Yes, I have a quick question about e-book collection, just like the extension of print book rights, is it also decided whether to be collected by the Library of Congress by your legal specialist; but if, to be specific, if a book is written in Chinese for example, is it decided by the legal specialist also or by the eastern division collection of the Library of Congress, I mean for e-book, so, whether it's e-book—

MR. ROUDIK: [For] e-books it's slightly different. The library has special policies and by extent of the American Library Association, paper is still the only archivable format. The library tries to get and archive e-books, and when possible, but most of the time we rely on paper. [inaudible – 1:33:32] we are not involved as law library specifically in e-book preservation, and archiving. We rely on operations of the bigger Library of Congress.

QUESTIONER: Thank you.

PROF. DE AMICIS: Question?

QUESTIONER: Yes, thank you for this very helpful presentation. I was curious that the resources you have illustrated today are all free. I was curious if there were any that is, that you think is of help for international comparative law research that is paid? Or is everything that you offer free? Which would be amazing and wonderful, I was just curious is there something you didn't tell us about because it wasn't free?

MR. ROUDIK: You are paying your taxes, So— (*laughter*)

QUESTIONER: That is true.

MS. BAVIS: As I kind of mentioned at the beginning, everything you see that's on our website is going to be free unless it's a database. We do have a list of databases that we think are, you know, frequently used, legal databases that also include foreign and comparative materials. But we're going to show you, on that page in the chart, what is available for free and what is not. So you'll at least get a listing of the database, if not access to the database if it's a subscription.

MR. ROUDIK: But even if it is a subscription database you can access it from the Campus and if you are coming to the reading room you can access it for free because the library subsidizes it.

MS. BAVIS: Yes, please feel free to visit us.

MR. ROUDIK: Most of the databases we subscribe recognize our IP address and [are] open for free if you are using the library's computer.

QUESTIONER: Thank you.

MS. BAVIS: We are open 8:30 [AM] to 5:00 [PM] Monday through Saturday so please feel free. (*laughter*)

PROF. DE AMICIS: So it just closed five minutes ago. (*laughter*)

MS. BAVIS: Did it?

MR. ROUDIK: And we are working as long as Congress is in session. It is an interesting fact: by law we are required to stay as long as either chamber is in session. There is no such other institution. We must synchronize our schedule with the schedule of Congress. So if they are discussing the law until four o'clock in the morning, somebody is sitting in the reading room

until four o'clock in the morning. Yes Barbara [Bavis], I believe it is you. (*laughter*)

MS. BAVIS: Not just me but—

MR. ROUDIK: And send text messages to the members on the floor in response to their questions. If the government is shut down because of a snowfall for example, but the Senate meets for a ten minute pro forma session, somebody comes to the Library, opens the building, opens the reading room, and sends a message to the Secretary of the Senate saying that we are ready and the Senate starts its session.

MS. BAVIS: Yes, I have been there all night before. Climate Change topic on two years ago. Whenever that was. (*laughter*)

PROF. DE AMICIS: I want to thank Barbara [Bavis] and Peter [Roudik] for great information. I certainly learned a lot and have actually been over to your offices before and you know every time there is so much out there and I think we all learned that these are really rich resources and we all need to learn to navigate them, I suspect better for ourselves and for our students and I want to thank you very much. (*clapping*)

—End of Panel—