



## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

### **President's Report 6 September 2010 to 22 November 2011**

This is my first report to the membership as President of the International Association of Law Libraries. I took up office on 6 September 2010 at the conclusion of the Annual Course in The Hague. This report covers the period from the date of my predecessor's final report until the present.

The new Board took up its duties for the period 2010 to 2013 at the end of the Annual Course in The Hague meeting, following elections earlier in the year under the new Constitution. The Annual Dinner gave an opportunity for a formal handover and gave me an opportunity to express the thanks of the Association to Jules Winterton who was stepping down as President after serving for two terms, and to those members stepping down from the Board: First Vice President: Dick Danner of Duke Law School, USA; Treasurer: Ann Morrison of Dalhousie Law School, Canada.

#### *New Board Members for 2010 -2013*

New members of the Board came forward to take the place of those stepping down: Bård Tuset, University of Oslo Law Library, Oslo, Norway and Ivo Vogel, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany and Marci Hoffman (ex-officio), University of California, Berkeley, USA. Jeroen Vervliet became First Vice-President and Jennefer Aston became Second Vice-President. Jules Winterton is of course Immediate Past President. Marci has taken over as Chair of the Communications Committee, Barbara Garavaglia as Chair of the Scholarships Award Committee, and Jennefer Aston now chairs the Finance Committee.

#### *29<sup>th</sup> Annual Course on International Legal Information and Law*

IALL's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Course on International Legal Information and Law 'Dutch Gateways to International Law' took place from 6 to 8 September 2010 in the "Legal Capital of the World" and seat of international law, The Hague and also in Rotterdam, Netherlands. The conference maintained the high academic quality of IALL programmes. The programme was outstanding and the many visits afforded participants the unique and memorable opportunity to see and experience not only the Peace Palace and its magnificent Library, but also places closely associated with major scholars and jurists such as Grotius and Erasmus. Our gratitude and admiration expressed by many both formally and informally at the Conference itself, go to the Local Planning Committee for their professionalism and enthusiasm: Jeroen Vervliet of the Peace Palace Library. Rene Winter of Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Claudia Vonsee of Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Sunita Kalicharan, of Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Yaneke de

Roon, of Erasmus University, Rotterdam, and Ruth Bird of the Bodleian Law Library, University of Oxford, who was the member of the Board acting as Liaison.

#### AGM 2010

The Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 6 September 2010 and included reports on the work of the Association, its Officers and Committees. IALL's scholarship recipients for 2010, Ms Liu Ming, from the China University of Political Science & Law (CUPL) Beijing, China, Mr Benje Nubson, the Malawi Law Commission, Malawi and Ms Sharon Wang, from Osgoode Hall Law School, Toronto, Canada were introduced to the members by the Chair of the Scholarships Committee, Jennefer Aston. Ligita Gjortlere, Chair of the Website Award Committee, announced the winner of the 2010 award as the website of the International Committee of the Red Cross [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org). The Board of Directors of IALL met on 4 September 2010 before the conference in The Hague with newly elected members in attendance and the new Board had its first meeting on 10 September 2010 immediately after the conference.

#### IALL Strategic Meeting April 2011

With the inauguration of each new Board a strategy meeting to discuss the present and future role of IALL is held. The Strategic Planning meeting took place in April at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in London. It was an intensive two-day workshop the clear purpose of which was to open everyone's minds and thoughts to the future of the Association. The fundamental role and overall vision of IALL was the first item on the agenda for discussion. The members then looked back at the 2008 Strategy Meeting Actions list and used it as a springboard to focus their attention on ideas which would continue to strengthen and take IALL forward through to 2018. The desire to attract new members from all areas of the legal arena and how this could best be achieved together with new ways of sharing legal knowledge, scholarship and increasing access to legal information were among the items discussed. Following on from the desire to attract new members the Board made a later decision to charge a new student membership rate of US\$20.00pa.

David Gee, Deputy Librarian, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, attended for part of the Strategic Planning meeting to inform and discuss with the Board his proposal to carry out some limited comparative research into the provision of research support services in major law libraries around the world during 2012. With the assistance of the members of the IALL Board, David will design, circulate and report on a survey of IALL members. He also hopes to identify and survey other large law libraries who are not currently members of IALL to improve the quality of the survey results.

#### CAFLL and AALL

Individual members of the Association met on a number of occasions (in particular at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in July 2011 and at the IFLA Congress in August 2011) to discuss issues

concerning the Association. I was invited by the Program Committee of the Conference of the Chinese and American Forum on Legal Information and Law Libraries (CAFLL) to moderate one of the program sessions for Chinese university leaders and deans. IALL had been a strong supporter of the first CAFLL conference held in Beijing in 2009. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the conference which was being held just prior to AALL and, as we wished to continue our collaborations with, and support of CAFLL, I requested Jules Winterton who was attending AALL to attend both conferences on my behalf.

#### *International Journal of Legal Information (IJLI)*

A 3-year agreement between the Thomson–Reuters/West Group and the Association for the publication and distribution of the official journal of the Association, *International Journal of Legal Information (IJLI)* will conclude at the end of July 2015. The Board will commence examining options for publication and distribution of IJLI in the coming year.

An agreement made during the 2009/10 financial year with H. W. Wilson (Wilson) to include the full text of the Journal in their databases: Library Literature & Information Science Full Text and Index to Legal Periodicals has been affected by the recent merger of Wilson and EBSCO. The existing contract with Wilson will no longer be valid after December this year. Steps are being taken to renegotiate a contract with EBSCO.

#### *IALL Website*

The Association was most fortunate in securing the appointment of Marci Hoffman, Berkeley Law School, University of California, as Chair of the Communications Committee when the inauguration of the new Board took place in September 2010. The website was hosted at Cornell Law School and the Association would like to offer its thanks to Claire Germain and Sasha Skenderija, both of whom handled the task for many years in a most effective and excellent manner. Claire Germain left Cornell in 2010 and a decision was made by the Board to transfer the website from Cornell to a new host. Marci Hoffman with the expert assistance of Mike Lindsey successfully moved the website to a new server, Hurricane Electric, in mid March 2011. Some of the new additions/changes to the website implemented by Mike Lindsey are:

- A new RSS feed for the calendar was installed
- A new search engine was designed using Google rather than Atomz
- Creation and addition of a new sitemap
- Creation of an online nomination form for the Website Awards

During the London Strategic Meeting held in April, a list of possible changes to the website was proposed. For further and more detailed information related to the list I refer you to the Report from the Communications Committee.

#### *IALL Handbook of Legal Information Management*

The Association was delighted and proud to announce that the IALL International Handbook of Legal Information Management edited by Richard Danner and Jules

Winterton was published by Ashgate Publishing in July 2011. The blurb stated, "Around the world, legal information managers, law librarians and other legal information specialists work in many settings: law schools, private law firms, courts, government, and public law libraries of various types. They are characterized by their expertise in working with legal information in its many forms, and by their work supporting legal professionals, scholars, or students training to become lawyers.

In an ever-shrinking world and a time of unprecedented technological change, the work of legal information managers is challenging and exciting, calling on specialized knowledge and skills, regardless of where in the world they practice their profession. Their role within legal systems contributes substantially to the administration of justice and the rule of law.

This International Handbook addresses the policy and strategic issues with which legal information managers and law librarians need to engage in the context of the diverse legal environments in which they work. It provides resources, analysis, and considered studies on an international basis for seasoned professionals, those about to enter the field, and anyone interested in the evolution of legal information in the twenty-first century."

Members were advised by email that an IALL member discount was being offered of purchase of the Handbook

### IFLA

The Association was represented at the International Federation of Library Associations in San Juan, Puerto Rico in August 2011 by Immediate Past President, Jules Winterton. The Law Section and the Government Libraries Section co-sponsored the first session, "Political and constitutional status of Puerto Rico: a continuing challenge." This session was organised by Board Member, Pedro Padilla Rosa who, in conjunction with the Supreme Court Librarian, Ivette Torres, also organised a highly successful reception at the Library of the Supreme Court of Puerto.

During late 2010 a decision was made by the Board not to renew its membership of IFLA. The economic climate was not favourable and the cost of membership was a significant factor together with the knowledge that AALL was also not renewing its membership of IFLA. IALL played a major role in setting up the Law Section of IFLA in 2008 and helped fund the Standing Committee events in Quebec in 2008. Since that time the no special sponsorship has been requested and the Standing Committee has gathered impetus and developed its own strategy and agenda. Moreover, it has recently elected a very strong Standing Committee which will not require the support previously given by the Association. The Association stands ready to co-operate, offer support and assistance should it be consulted. The Association also will continue its representation through a personal member who has the same status as other IFLA members in relation to the Section.

### 2011 Conference – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

During the past year and all of this year preparations have been undertaken for the IALL's 30<sup>th</sup> Course on International Legal Information and Law at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. The then President, Jules Winterton, made an early visit in 2008 for an initial investigation. Substantial support in principle was given to the conference by both the University of Malaya and the Faculty of

Law. The Local Planning Committee (LPC) was formed with Harvinder Kaur of the Lincoln Resource Center as Chair and Janaki Sinasamy of the Library, University of Malaya as Co-Chair. Other members of the LPC included Ratnawati Mohd Amin of the Law Library, University of Malaya and Associate Professor, Dr Mary George, of the Faculty of Law, University of Malaya. A great amount of effort and hard work was undertaken by the LPC together with the Board Liaison, Uma Narayan. No doubt this Course will be a highlight of the next report and a valuable educational experience.

#### Future Conferences

Planning is well under way for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Course on International Legal Information and Law. The conference will be hosted jointly by Osgoode Hall and the University of Toronto. It will take place from Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup> to Thursday October 4<sup>th</sup> 2012 at the University of Toronto conference facility, 89 Chestnut Conference Centre, Toronto. The Board Liaison for this conference is Janis Johnson.

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Course on International Legal Information and Law will be held in Barcelona in 2013 and hosted by the University of Barcelona, Faculty of Law. The Board Liaison for this conference is Pedro Padilla Rosa.

Both of these conferences will present each of us with the opportunity for a new learning experience in long established and venerable settings.

Petal Kinder, President, IALL  
Australia, 15 November 2011