

# Thirty-Five Years of International Cooperation: the Case of the IALL

**Adolf Sprudz**

Foreign Law Librarian and Lecturer in Legal Bibliography, Emeritus, University of Chicago, Immediate Past President of IALL and member of IALL Board of Directors

Ten years ago I had the pleasure of contributing an article to the issue of the *Law Librarian* which honoured my friend and colleague Willi Steiner. It dealt with the history of the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) and its activities during its twenty-five years of professional life (Sprudz, 1984). Now is again an appropriate time to bring the IALL story up-to-date, as it recently marked its 35th anniversary with an impressive 13th IALL Course on International Law Librarianship at the Peace Palace in the Hague.

According to Art. II of the IALL Constitution (as amended in 1975) the purposes of the Association are "to promote on a cooperative, non-profit and fraternal basis the work of individuals, libraries and other institutions and agencies concerned with the acquisition and bibliographic processing of legal materials collected on a multinational basis, and to facilitate the research and other uses of such materials on a world wide basis". To achieve these aims the IALL concentrates its efforts mainly in two areas of continuing education: international conferences, workshops and courses, and the publication of the *International Journal of Legal Information*, now in its 23rd volume. IALL activities are planned and guided by a president, officers and a Board of Directors elected by its international body of regular members for a period of three years.

## IALL CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

During the presidency of Dr. Klaus Menzinger (1983-1986) a unique international conference was organized at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, July 21-26, 1985, on "Law in Multicultural Societies; The Role of Cultural Heritage in Modern Legal Systems (Israel as an example)". Dr. E.I. Cuomo, Director of the Bernard G. Segal Law Library of the Hebrew University was responsible for the conference programme and local arrangements, as well as the publication of its proceedings which appeared in 1989 (Cuomo, 1989).

Following the established pattern in IALL cooperation with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) of presenting a special IALL program at annual IFLA

conferences, an IALL Round Table was organized and moderated by the writer at the IFLA conference in Chicago, August 18-24, 1985. Several speakers presented papers on various aspects of the general topic "Access to Information in International Legal Research". The very substantial paper prepared by Joachim Schwietzke (Germany) remains to this day a unique reference source (Schwietzke, 1985).

In April 1986 as the IALL Nominating Committee under the chairmanship of Rob Brian (Australia) was completing its work of selecting and presenting candidates for IALL elections, IALL President Dr. Klaus Menzinger suffered a stroke and died on April 22nd. His services to the IALL had been many and important, including long years as editor of the IALL official journal. His sudden and untimely death was a shock and a very painful loss to the whole profession of law librarianship. Dr. Menzinger's death was followed only twenty days later by that of Dr. Lajos Nagy, the illustrious Hungarian legal bibliographer and former member of the IALL Board of Directors.

A new IALL Board of Directors assumed leadership on July 1, 1986, with the author as president and colleagues from Australia, Barbados, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Singapore and the USA as IALL officers and members of the Board. The number of women members of the Board had again increased to one-third (four) and the geographical representation had been significantly improved. The first meeting of the new IALL Board took place in Tokyo, during the 52nd IFLA annual conference, August 24-29, 1986, with a good majority of the Board able to attend. There was also, as usual, a special, somewhat extended IALL programme in Tokyo and Osaka, with a good participation of Japanese colleagues. It was arranged and effectively guided by Professor Yoshiro Tsuno of the University of Tokyo in his capacity as Vice-President and long-time member of the IALL Board of Directors. A three-day programme devoted to Japanese and Chinese legal developments and materials and other legal research problems was expertly combined with visits to the Supreme Court and National Diet libraries in Tokyo. There was also a special IALL session in Osaka for Japanese colleagues who could not come to Tokyo.

Continuing the earlier pattern of IALL courses on problems and issues in international law librarianship and combining the planned event with ongoing American celebrations of the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, the 9th IALL Course, entitled "Crossroads in Comparative Constitutional Law Developments" was organized in Washington, D.C., June 28-July 2, 1987, by Roberta Shaffer of the Library of Congress Law Library (at the time) and by Professor Anita Head, Director of George Washington University National Law Center Library. More than fifty participants from fifteen countries and a dozen prominent constitutional law experts from the USA and abroad discussed various concepts of constitutionalism on a global basis, with references to the multinational impact of the American Constitution. Facilities and arrangements at the National Law Center were excellent. Library of Congress, U.S. Supreme Court Library and U.S. Capitol Building were sites for some sessions and important professional orientation visits. Colleagues from seven different countries were selected to receive some travel awards granted by the American Association of Law Libraries to be used for coming to the annual AALL convention in Chicago, following the IALL Course in Washington.

At the 53rd IFLA conference in Brighton, England, August 1987, which was at that time the largest in IFLA history, the IALL had two sessions on "Computerized Legal Databases and their Content", with Howard Hood (Nashville, USA), Martin Felsky (Ottawa, Canada), Harald Müller (Heidelberg, Germany), Katalin Balázs-Veredy (Budapest, Hungary), Eugenio Cuomo (Jerusalem, Israel), and Diane Raper (London, UK) as the featured expert speakers, addressing more than seventy colleagues from many countries in attendance. One of the papers presented at the IALL in Brighton on "DISK and DAT: Recent Developments in Legal Databases and Emerging Information Technologies in the United States" by Howard Hood may be mentioned here as a good example of the very useful and up-to-date professional information that the IALL sessions in Brighton provided on this important subject (Hood, 1987).

In 1988 the IALL had two major events on two different continents. The first took place in Budapest, where the IALL had met in 1977 for a Roundtable discussion of legal literature of socialist countries, and the second in Sydney, where the IALL had had a course in 1981 on "Australian and South Pacific Law - Structure and Legal Materials". The IALL meeting on June 5-10, 1988 in Budapest was structured as the 10th IALL Course on International Law Librarianship under the auspices of the Library of the Hungarian Parliament. It dealt with the "Legal Aspects of East-West Trade and the Law Librarian" and was organized by Dr. Katalin Balázs-Veredy, Director General of the Hungarian Parliament Library and IALL Board Member. Prominent specialists from East and West, such as Professors D.A. Loeber (Germany), J. Martonyi (Hungary), E. Piontek

(Poland), E. Gabor (USA) and others gave professional insights on the latest developments in East-West trade relations, which were combined with reports and discussions of relevant materials and information sources by Professors A. Harmathy (Hungary), David Combe and Timothy Kearley (USA) and others. Professional visits with informative presentations and discussions at the Ministry of Justice, the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce, the National Library and the Hungarian Parliament Library completed the very rich and stimulating programme. This was the time in the East and Central European political calendar which was marked by intense hopes for positive changes, and some cautious first steps were being made towards a better political climate. (Joachim Schwietzke has very well captured the moving atmosphere and participants' feelings at this first-rate conference in his note) (Schwietzke, 1988). As later developments clearly demonstrated, the 10th IALL Course in Budapest was, indeed, witness to the beginning of a new era in East and Central Europe.

The second major IALL event of 1988 took place in Australia. First Vice-President of the IALL John Rodwell of the University of New South Wales Law Library participated in the organizational efforts for the 54th IFLA conference in Sydney, and was also responsible for organizing special IALL sessions on August 31 and September 1, with speakers from the USA and Australia, including Professors Rob Brian (Australia), Roy Mersky and Dr. Ivan Sipkov (USA) and others. There was also a special meeting arranged by the Australian Law Librarians' Group, designed as a follow-up of the IALL 1981 course, at which Alan Edwards (New Zealand) and Robert Watt (Australia) updated their 1981 papers and discussed the impact of on-line information retrieval systems.

In early 1988 Tim Kearley, Secretary of the IALL completed his work on the preparation of a new IALL Directory. It was published with compliments of William S. Hein & Co., a long-time IALL supporter, and remains at this time the latest IALL Directory available.

Paris was the site for the 55th IFLA conference in 1989 at which an IALL workshop on "Supranational and Constitutional Courts in Europe: Functions and Sources", marking the 30th anniversary of the IALL was held at the Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire Cujas, with the very kind and effective cooperation of Mme Andrée Carpentier, Conservateur en Chef. Professor Claire Germain (Cornell University) was instrumental to the initial contacts and in the preparation of the workshop, the program for which was coordinated by Professor Igor I. Kavass, former IALL President and IALL Board Member. It included expert speakers from the European Communities, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and the USA. Proceedings of the IALL 30th anniversary workshop in Paris were later edited by Igor Kavass and published by William S. Hein & Company (Kavass, 1992).

In 1989 the IALL President and Board were re-elected for a second three-year term, with only one change - Welma Newton (Barbados), who had been appointed Deputy Director of the newly formed Caribbean Law Institute, could not continue as Board Member and was replaced by June Renie (Trinidad) of the Hugh Wooding Law School.

Extending its reach of cooperation in continuing education in law librarianship to the Caribbean, the IALL arranged for the first joint conference with the Caribbean Association of Law Libraries in Barbados on April 22-27, 1990. The topic was "Legal Information in the Caribbean: Sources and Access", discussed by law professors and government officials, as well as law librarians from Barbados, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and other Caribbean areas. This joint conference was organized by Professor Larry Wenger, University of Virginia and John Dyrud, University of West Indies at Barbados, and provided excellent opportunities for contacts between law librarians, law professors and law publishers from the Caribbean, Canada, Great Britain and the USA.

The major event in 1990, which had been in preparation for more than two years, was an international conference on "Ecology and Law in the Baltic Sea Area: Sources and Development" in Riga, Latvia, August 26-31. Organized by a special committee consisting of the IALL President, Professor D.A. Loeber, Dr. Katalin Balázs-Veredy, Professor J. Vebers, Dean of Law School, University of Latvia and A. Krastin, Rector's Assistant, University of Latvia, it was one of the first such open attempts for an international meeting of ecologists and legal experts to be held in the capital of a Baltic country, still under tight Soviet grip. The reader may remember that this was the exciting period of great changes in the Soviet empire before its final collapse in 1991. The brutal and bloody events of January 1991 in Vilnius and Riga were still to come, while the declared independence of the Baltic nations was still being strongly opposed by the central powers in Moscow. National awakening had taken place in the Baltics and hopes for freedom and real independence were high. Participants in the Riga conference could see and feel history being made before their own eyes. Organization of the conference was not an easy task. A complete story of communication difficulties, delays, volumes of correspondence and telexes, etc., etc. would fill quite a few pages and could be an interesting illustration in miniature of these historic times. Here it is sufficient to say that with the help of two former IALL Presidents - Dr. G. Dahlmanns and Prof. I. Kavass the final difficulties and complications, caused by my sudden need for open heart surgery a couple of months before the conference, were solved and the conference took place as scheduled. Jointly organized by the IALL and the University of Latvia, with the participation of the Frankfurter Institut für Wirtschaftspolitische Forschung (Dr. G. Dahlmanns, Director) and co-sponsorship by the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission in Helsinki, it was financially

supported by the Volkswagen Foundation, whose representative Mr. B. Rubess took a very active part in conference activities. Among the prominent experts who were speakers at the conference were Professor J. Symonides, Director of the UNESCO Department of Human Rights and Peace, Professor H. Veiner (Tallinn), former Executive Secretary of the Helsinki Commission, Professor O. Kolbasov (Moscow) of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and other specialists in law, ecology, political science, legal research and maritime affairs from Belgium, all three Baltic States, Denmark, Canada, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, USSR and USA, representing different economic and political systems. The University of Latvia Faculty of Law was responsible for the local arrangements and did its very best to make the conference a success under the existing circumstances. The local importance of the conference was underscored by two impressive receptions, one at the opening, given by Dr. J. Zakis, Rector of the University of Latvia, and the other given by the Honorable A. Gorbunovs, President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia, as well as articles in the Latvian press and a closing TV press conference. Plans for the publication of conference proceedings by the University of Latvia unfortunately could not be realized in this tumultuous period of historic changes, but some of the important papers have later been individually published elsewhere (Boczek, 1992). Preceding the IALL 1990 big event in Riga, the 56th IFLA conference took place in Stockholm. IALL members Britt Kjölstad and Marie-Louise Bernal made arrangements and found expert speakers for a one-day seminar, in conjunction with the IFLA annual meeting, on "Sources of Legal Information in the Nordic Countries", which could take place, thanks to the good offices of Bengt Alexandersen, Librarian of the Swedish Parliament, in a historic meeting room of the Swedish Parliament building. Among the speakers were well-known Professors Peter Seipel and Per Falk (Sweden) and legal information specialists Pal Bertnes, Halvor Kongshavn (Norway), Lotte Jacobsen (Denmark), Ingrid Kabir (Sweden) and Marjo Tolvanen (Finland). Some of these papers have later been published in the *International Journal of Legal Information* (Bertnes, 1993).

Moscow was the site for the 57th IFLA annual conference in August 1991, during the attempted *coup d'état*. The IALL had made a decision earlier not to have any programme for IFLA in Moscow and thus avoided experiencing first-hand the beginning of the end for the Soviet empire.

The 11th IALL Course on International Law Librarianship, entitled "Legal Information Sources and Changing Times in Europe" was organized by IALL Board Member Joachim Schwietzke, Director of the Max-Planck Institute Library in Heidelberg. The dates were September 8-11, 1991, and the site Max-Planck House in Heidelberg. Close to one hundred law librarians from various European countries, Canada, Japan and USA participated,

obtaining information on latest developments and legal sources in the historically unique European political situation. A few of the papers presented have later appeared in the IALL journal (Kudej, 1992). Heidelberg and the Max-Planck Institute certainly did live up to their famous reputation as very stimulating and intellectually appealing sites for enriching professional meetings.

A new IALL Board of Directors was elected in 1992 with Dr. Katalin Balázs-Veredy (Hungary) as President, and colleagues from Australia, Germany, Switzerland, Trinidad and USA as officers and members of the Board, many of them new to IALL Board membership. At the invitation of the AALL President, Dr. K. Balázs-Veredy came to the USA for the AALL annual meeting in San Francisco. Before that she had consultations with new IALL secretary Roberta Shaffer, treasurer M.L. Bernal and American Board members in Washington, D.C. At the Library of Congress Kathie Price, Law Librarian, arranged for a special meeting and luncheon in honour of the IALL President. Useful visits were made to the USIA and other governmental agencies in Washington to explore possibilities for cooperation. A full meeting of the new IALL Board was arranged by Roberta Shaffer and Fred Chapman, Director of the Library, Swiss Institute of Comparative Law and IALL Board Member, on November 13-14, 1992, at the Swiss Institute in Lausanne. One of the decisions for immediate implementation concerned the 12th IALL Course to be held in 1993. Dr. Jürgen C. Goedan, Second Vice-President of the IALL and Library Director at the Max-Planck Institute in Hamburg, agreed to accept responsibility for organizing this IALL event in cooperation with the recently founded Universitat Pompeu Fabra Law Library in Barcelona.

"Catalunya, Spain, Europe and Latin America - Regional Legal Systems and Their Literature" was the subject of the 12th IALL course at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, August 17-21, 1993. In cooperation with Catalan colleagues Dr. Goedan had prepared a rich and varied programme with the participation of prominent Spanish law professors, government officials and law librarians from different legal systems as lecturers. It was the first time IALL had held a professional meeting in Spain and this was an excellent opportunity for establishing new contacts among participants from twelve different countries, as well as among the Spanish colleagues themselves. Proceedings of the conference are being prepared for publication.

The 59th IFLA conference followed the IALL meeting in Barcelona right away. IALL sessions there were entitled "Current Trends in Library Law and in Law Libraries" and were moderated by IALL Board Member Britt Kjölstad. Interest in the IALL presentations, from Library of Congress and WIPO, exceeded expectations and the meeting room had to be changed to a larger one. Impressions from IALL events in Barcelona have been well captured by one

participant at both meetings in the IALL journal (Horiba, 1994).

In 1993 the IALL suffered another painful loss - Dr. Ivan Sipkov, one of the few remaining active veterans of IALL early years, long-time editor of the IALL official journal, First Vice-President of the IALL and Chief of the European Law Division at the Library of Congress passed away on March 9, 1993. Dr. Sipkov had worked for the IALL in various official and unofficial capacities since its early days and his absence is painfully felt by his colleagues and the profession. The required changes were made at the IALL Board meeting in Barcelona. Professor Larry Wenger became First Vice-President, while Josep Sort Tico, Deputy Librarian of Universitat Pompeu Fabra was co-opted Board Member to fill the vacant seat.

The second joint conference of the IALL and Caribbean Association of Law Libraries was planned to be held in Trinidad in August, 1994 just before the 60th IFLA annual conference in Havana. Insufficient registration, however, forced the organizers to cancel the event shortly before the scheduled dates. For the IALL session at IFLA in Havana a programme on family law was organized and presented by Larry Wenger, with Professor John Dyrud (Barbados) as the main speaker.

Preparations for the main IALL event in 1994, the 13th IALL Course, marking the 35th anniversary of the IALL, were initiated by President Dr. K. Balázs-Veredy during her participation in an international conference at The Hague in 1993. Agreement was then secured from the T.M.C. Asser Institute and the Peace Palace Library for their cooperation in planning the course, and Jan S. de Jongh, Head of the Asser Institute Department of Library and Information was appointed in charge of all preparatory work, programme and local arrangements. The 13th IALL Course was entitled "International (commercial) arbitration and law libraries - A view from The Hague" and took place at the Hague Academy of International Law, Peace Palace, September 26-29, 1994 (Schwietzke, 1994). There were more than eighty participants from sixteen countries, including prominent representatives from international arbitration organizations and institutions, such as the Permanent Court of Arbitration, Iran-US Claims Tribunal, International Chamber of Commerce, International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes, UNCITRAL, UNIDROIT and others. Jan de Jongh had succeeded in securing an outstanding group of international experts, including such prominent personalities as Hans Jonkman, Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, Judge George Aldrich of the Iran - US Claims Tribunal and numerous other specialists in international arbitration and in legal information sources, resulting in a very high-level and well-organized conference. The Peace Palace grandeur, of course, added considerably to the great success of the meeting, which was also greatly enhanced by the

remarkable hospitality of Jacob C. Schalekamp, Director-Librarian of the Carnegie Foundation and his staff. Visits were arranged to the Peace Palace with its living history, and to the Dutch Parliament Library, where Parliamentary Librarian Jan Keukens and his staff provided valuable insights and a chance for a brief look at the Parliament in session, as well as to the unique scholarly resources of the Asser Institute which were opened for a quick glimpse to conference participants. Dutch hospitality, professional expertise and organization were superb and made the 35th IALL anniversary at the Hague Academy of International Law one of the best events in IALL history, long to be remembered. It is hoped that conference proceedings, which will constitute a most valuable addition to professional literature, will soon be available in published form.

### IALL PUBLISHING

Beginning with the *IALL Bulletin* appearing for the first time in September 1960, one of the main objectives of the IALL has been to promote publication of information that is of present and future relevance to international legal information specialists. Dr. B. Landheer, Director-Librarian of the Palace of Peace at The Hague, was Editor of the *IALL Bulletin* for its first ten years (nos. 1-24, 1960-1970), and was followed by Dr. W.M. Peletier and Dr. J.C. Korevaar, later joined by Dr. I. Sipkov for its remaining issues from No. 25-30 (1971-1972). The entire run of the *IALL Bulletin* was reprinted under the IALL presidency of Dr. Gerhard J. Dahlmanns by Verlag Dokumentation in 1975, and also included a cumulative index, compiled by two Dutch colleagues - W.M. Peletier and F.A. Fornara. The *IALL Bulletin* was a valuable source for news and articles on important international developments in law librarianship at the time.

In 1973 the *IALL Bulletin* was replaced by the *International Journal of Law Libraries* (IJLL) with Dr. Klaus Menzinger and Dr. Ivan Sipkov as editors. For the period 1973-1977 the IJLL was published by Verlag Dokumentation in Munich. Starting with no. 2 of volume 5 in July 1977, under the IALL presidency of Professor Igor Kavass, the IALL itself became the publisher of the journal, making direct arrangements for printing and distribution. Slowly, over the years the IALL periodical established a modest international base and became a recognized forum for discussion and news on problems and publications of importance to legal information. Dr. G. Dahlmanns and Professor I. Kavass, as IALL presidents in their respective terms, together with the long-time editors Dr. K. Menzinger and Dr. I. Sipkov, deserve much of the credit for overcoming numerous difficulties in the path of the journal. Professor Arno Liivak was Editor-in-Chief for volumes 9 through 12 (1981-1984) and managed to increase the frequency of publication for several years from three to six times a year. The title was changed with volume 10 (1982) to *International Journal of Legal Information*

(IJLI) to reflect its aim of broader coverage of modern legal problems in a complex society. In 1985, Professor Liivak resigned as Editor-in-Chief and was followed by Dr. I. Sipkov in that position for volumes 13-19 (1985-1991). Since 1989, the IJLI has been published for the IALL by the non-profit Institute for International Legal Information, and the present editors are Professor B. Reams and Professor I. Kavass.

Apart from timely articles on problems of law libraries and legal information by well-known international experts, issues of the journal have over the years presented valuable bibliographies on a variety of legal subjects, as well as comments and news on important legal developments. Robert W. Schaaf of the Library of Congress has for many years produced a much appreciated and informative section "International Documentation"; Timothy Kearley and later Jonathan Pratter have regularly reported on a multitude of new periodicals of international significance and interest to law libraries; extensive book review sections guided by this writer, later Marie-Louise Bernal and presently W.M. Walker, have presented many timely reviews by well-known legal authorities and law librarians, as well as many valuable notes and listings on new publications, providing much needed guidance for multinational book selection purposes. If one looks at the many issues of the *IALL Bulletin* and the IALL official journal, it is evident that over the past decades these thousands of pages have provided and contain not only a wealth of important professional information and historical data, but they also vividly mirror the dedication of colleagues who have managed to ensure the continued existence of this valuable source of information. Despite its many known and unknown difficulties, despite its occasional weaknesses and shortcomings, and despite its continued lack of a cumulative index, the IJLI is a publication that has and should continue to have its own deserving place in the still expanding field of international legal information.

### CONCLUSIONS

Various IALL meetings, conferences, courses and workshops have produced much professionally important, timely and interesting material. It has not always been possible for the IALL to have these contributions made available for publication. In some cases, thanks to the tenacity and perseverance of respective editors and the availability of some support, proceedings of IALL conferences and courses have been published as individual volumes. Although many individual papers and contributions have appeared in the IALL journal, others have not managed to reach a stage of a publishable item. Yet others have appeared as individual articles in non-IALL sources. Changing IALL administrations have not been able to establish a permanent place and procedures for central IALL archives, so the historical record in a complete form becomes more

and more difficult to reconstruct and preserve. During its thirty-five years of existence and professional activities the IALL has had various events in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia and Europe, reaching several thousands of participating law librarians and legal information specialists, but it never has been in a position to become a prosperous organization. Support of its small international family of members, the dedication of its presidents, officers and Board members as well as support from selected institutions and publisher-friends, have been crucial for its successes. The future of the IALL will likewise depend on the continued professional dedication of its leaders and the international cooperation and support of its members and friends.

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