

VALL REVIEW

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In this Issue

From the Editors	1
Librarians Speak at VALA Meeting ..	1
UBC Library's New Catalogue & Web Site	2
Internet Corner	3
Vendors Corner	4
Membership Matters	7
VALL Meeting Dates & Tentative Programs	8
Statement of Income and Expenses	8

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VALL REVIEW is the official newsletter of the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries, composed of law library community members interested in discussing issues and sharing ideas that affect it. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent VALL policy/position. Unsolicited submissions are welcome. VALL reserves the right to edit submissions.

FROM THE EDITORS OF VALL

Elizabeth Kinersly & Anna Holeton

Welcome back everyone! This year's VALL Executive is looking forward to serving you by providing interesting speakers at lunch meetings, informative newsletters and by representing your practical concerns to publishers and the legal community.

Members of the VALL Executive for 1997-98 term are:

President: Gwendoline Hoar ghoar@LawsonLundell.com
Secretary: Sara Munro bccls@bccls.bc.ca
Treasurer: Wendy Holmes w Holmes@davis.ca
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Past President: Susan Cryslar smc@mccarthy.ca

This issue of the VALL Review contains a variety of articles and regular features that we hope you both enjoy and find useful. Our next issue will include a message from the Executive. This regular feature was omitted from this issue because *Gwendoline Hoar* was enjoying a much-needed vacation at press time!

Contributions to **VALL REVIEW** are encouraged and greatly appreciated. We especially wish to thank those people who contributed to this issue. Please submit **electronic** copy to either:

Anna Holeton at aholton@campney.com, OR

Elizabeth Kinersly at gek@swinton.ca

[or FAX copy to 688-0829 or 643-1200, respectively].

LIBRARIANS SPEAK AT VALA MEETING

Reported by Elizabeth Kinersly, Swinton & Company

The September meeting of the Vancouver Association of Legal Administrators (VALA) featured two of our colleagues speaking on the topic of technology in the law firm library. *Joan Bilsland* of *Russell & DuMoulin* and *Susan Cryslar* of *McCarthy Tetrault* discussed the full range of technology issues facing law firms and their libraries, focusing on the role the library and library staff play in enhancing the work product of the firm through the effective and appropriate use of technology.

VALL REVIEW

LIBRARIANS SPEAK AT VALA MEETING, continued...

Joan began their presentation by discussing how library staff can help law firms realize a return on their investment in technology with respect to reducing staff and providing faster access to information at a lower cost. She pointed out that librarians are trained to assess and evaluate both the content and the actual cost of electronic products. Actual costs of electronic products include licensing fees (yet to be standardized among Canadian publishers), training and the fact that libraries often cannot cancel equivalent print copies right away, if at all. One successful product at Russell and DuMoulin has been the telephone directories on CD-ROM, which replaced the large, heavy and expensive Criss Cross directories.

Susan then presented the implementation side of the technology picture. The cost of implementation is always a consideration and can dictate usage. CD-ROM products may not be networked because it is too expensive. With implementation, Susan noted, timing is everything. Users must have both the hardware and the training to make effective use of electronic products, otherwise frustration sets in. In addition, the systems department needs to keep the library informed of new developments so that library staff can in turn help users when questions arise about how to use the new technology with library materials. It is also important to make sure updates are installed promptly, by either library or systems staff. If there is good communication between librarians, the systems department and administration implementing new technology can be successfully accomplished.

The discussion moved on to the issue of formats and whether CD-ROM is becoming "dinosaur" technology to be replaced by the Internet. One potential cost-saving use of CD-ROM is when a CD can replace multiple office copies of the same item. The Internet has turned out to be an excellent resource and can provide a firm with a competitive edge when it comes to marketing and client development. However, the Internet is not without its problems, which include the

time it can take to access information and the inability of some printers to manage the data flow. The audience also raised some concerns about firewalls and security.

The talk ended with a discussion of the future of technology in the law firm library. Susan and Joan pointed out that most libraries have not given up much of their print collections and technology has not yet resulted in cost savings to the law firm. However, it appears that fewer print products will be available in the future. Potential developments include the electronic delivery of publications and more subscription charges on the Internet. CD-ROM is likely to become a storage format. Libraries and law firms are already experiencing more seamless integration between internal and external systems; for example, it is already possible to update some CD-ROM products via the Internet. Library staff roles will be essential to help locate and organize materials — and to provide training. Experienced staff add value to the product delivered to clients.

UBC Library's New Catalogue & Web Site

*Reported by Zena Sihota Henriquez,
Swinton & Company*

UBC Library trainers, *Joy Kirchner* and *Larry Campbell*, generously donated their time and expertise to introduce UBC's new DRA library catalogue and web site at this year's September VOLUG meeting. In May 1997, the beloved and idiosyncratic UBCLIB was merged with the new DRA database. UBC library users now have the option of accessing the UBC library catalogue via three different interfaces: the World Wide Web, Infogate, or UBCLIB.

World Wide Web

(<http://www.library.ubc.ca/>)

This is the primary interface for the new UBC library catalogue, and home of the UBC Library Home Page. Via the web one can gain access to the library catalogue, article indexes, and borrower information, as well as find links to library branches, other library catalogues

VALL REVIEW

UBC Library's New Catalogue & Web Site, *continued...*

and reference tools such as *Books in Print*, or *Ulrich's Periodicals Directory*. Other extremely useful Internet search tools are also listed (search engines, subject directories, name directories, Canada and United States telephone directories).

Infogate

The Infogate interface can be accessed using Telnet software or by dialing in using a modem program. Infogate provides strictly text-based access to the library's catalogue and borrower information, and allows one to place requests on-line, a feature which is unavailable via the Web. However there is no access to article indexes and/or databases via Infogate. One particularly nice feature of Infogate is the ability to review searches, combine sets and sort results.

UBCLIB

Most of us are familiar with UBCLIB. However, it should be noted that some significant changes have taken place since the conversion to DRA in May of 1997:

Still available on UBCLIB:

- records for items catalogued to May 1997
- up-to-date access to article indexes
- document delivery

No longer available on UBCLIB:

- records for items catalogued after May 1997
- borrower information
- requests (holds, renewals) must be made via **Infogate**

So many interfaces, so little time to learn search skills

Once again, we find ourselves faced with new command languages and search syntax. An entire issue of the *VALL Review* would be needed to review search tips for the three available interfaces! My recommendation

is to take some time to familiarize yourself with the "help" screens. Remember, when searching for a call number via the Web or Infogate, punctuation must be included (e.g. z 679.7 k36 1995) — this is not the case in UBCLIB.

"Start Here" Guides

Copies of all "Start Here" guides distributed at the presentation are accessible on-line at:

<http://www.library.ubc.ca/home/about/instruct/newsys.html>

INTERNET CORNER

C.H.R.R. Web Site

The *Canadian Human Rights Reporter* announced its web site on August 25. The URL for the site is: <http://www.cdn-hr-reporter.ca/chrr>

The web site was created to give visitors an idea of what the *Canadian Human Rights Reporter* publishes and to provide an idea of what the important issues are in Canadian human rights law.

Visitors will find summaries of the leading cases in Canadian human rights law grouped by topics: Disability, Discrimination, Employment/Unions, Family Status, Hate Propaganda, Race Discrimination, Religious Discrimination, Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Orientation. They will also find links to other web sites of interest. Subscriptions, back volumes, casebooks and individual cases can be ordered by e-mail to:

chrr@cdn-hr-reporter.ca.

We welcome any comments or suggestions you might have about the C.H.R.R. site.

Barbara Hopkins, Editor, C.H.R.R.

British Columbia Law Institute

The *British Columbia Law Reform Commission* has ceased operations due to lack of government funding. Some of the LRC's functions have been assumed by a new organization known as the

VALL REVIEW

INTERNET CORNER, *continued...*

British Columbia Law Institute created in January 1997. *Marcus Patz* continues as BCLI's Librarian/Webmaster. To learn more about the work of British Columbia's new Law Institute, visit: <http://www.lawreform.gov.bc.ca/bcli/aboutbcli.htm>

VENDORS CORNER

Butterworths' news

The publishing activity in the last quarter of 1997 is going to be quite hectic as Butterworths continues to publish CD-ROMs and new editions of classic texts. *British Columbia Civil Practice Library* (i.e. *British Columbia Practice* and *British Columbia Court Forms* on CD-ROM) was just released at the end of September. *Canadian Forms & Precedents on CD-ROM* and *Intellectual Property on CD-ROM* (Hughes three services) are the next titles that will be released. All of these products include Butterworths' formfill feature which allows the user to fill in and print the forms. There will also be extensive hypertext linking within products.

New editions of classic texts scheduled for this quarter include Castel's *Canadian Conflict of Laws, 4th ed.*, Estey's *Legal Opinions in Commercial Transactions, 2nd ed.* and Linden's *Canadian Tort Law, 6th ed.* Look for new editions of *Christie on Employment Law* and Palmer's *Collective Agreement Arbitration in Canada* to be published in the spring of 1998. Two new loose-leaf titles for the quarter are *Canadian Construction Labour and Employment Law* and *Federal Income Tax Litigation in Canada*.

Please contact me if you wish to see a demonstration of the CD-ROM titles prior to placing an order. You can reach me at 689-4133 or e-mail at: avaz@butterworths.ca.

Arthur Vaz,
Sales Manager, Western Canada

NEWS FROM CCH

New Fall Book Titles

The new *B.C. Company Act, 5th ed.* is now available. *Bennett on Bankruptcy, 5th ed.* reflecting recent legislative changes, will be available in early December.

CD-ROM Titles

Conversion of existing CCH services continues with the launch of the *Estate Planning Guide*, *Financial Planning Guide*, *Employment Benefits and Pension Guide*, and *Labour Law Reporter* on CD-ROM. The Corporate law services will be available in early 1998. These CDs will complement the existing Securities Law electronic products. All of these services use Folio 3.x search engine, and complement the award winning *TaxWorks* products.

Internet Access can soon replace CD-ROMs

CCH will be making all electronic products available via the Internet. This will give subscribers the option of CD-ROM or Internet access. The technology and pricing details are still being worked out, but a late fall launch is planned.

CCH Easy Suite

CCH has launched these leading-edge legal compliance products, in Corporate, Conveyancing, Wills and Liens. Future development is planned in Litigation, Divorce and other areas of practice. These electronic products will dramatically improve the efficiency and output of every law firm, and raise practice to a new level of client service.

For more information on these or any other products, call CCH at 688-7522.

David Pleasance,
Account Manager

NEWS FROM CARSWELL

Details of a new Key Account Program will be arriving soon in the mail. Two years ago, Carswell began a key account pilot project — providing service through a dedicated person at Toronto's corporate head office to a few key law firm accounts. This project proved so

VALL REVIEW

VENDORS CORNER, *continued...*

successful that this service has now been extended to all accounts. In future all of your daily service requests [e.g. for missing pages and replacement disks, or questions about orders or invoices] will be handled by direct access to prompt assistance from a specified representative. Details will be mailed to you soon.

TAXNET, our first Internet product is now available for tax professionals. Call for details on passwords and pricing. *The Canadian Abridgment on CD* is growing with the *Canadian Statute Citations on CD-ROM*. Carswell has special pricing for current *Canadian Case Digests CD-ROM* users.

If you subscribe to *McCarthy on Trademarks and Unfair Competition* in print, you'll be interested to learn that the new CD-ROM is available. This product covers five additional content areas, including case law, statutes, procedural issues and federal agency material. Until October 31, a special 25 per cent price reduction is available.

In the past you have received copies of AT-A-GLANCE outlining new publications. The latest update is now available. This is a handy reference to update our catalogue. Please contact me if you would like a copy.

For all orders — print or electronic — please contact me at my home office by calling (604) 531-5124, faxing (604) 531-5126 or sending e-mail to:

besau@carswell.com.

Barb Esau,
Key Account Representative

CLE News

New — Small Claims resources

Now available! *Small Claims Act and Rules — Annotated* is the latest in CLE's comprehensive series of practice tools. Collected for the first time are digests of all important small claims decisions, plus a complete and up to date text of the *Small Claims Act and Rules*. Edited by the *Honourable Administrative Judge Ellen Burdett*, it's a book lawyers will want to take to court!

Expected later this fall is the companion volume: *Provincial Court Small Claims Handbook*, a comprehensive, step-by-step approach to small claims practice. It will include a *free disk* of the pertinent forms and precedents.

Electronic version Square One coming soon!

CLE, with funding from the Law Foundation of B.C., will soon launch its first CD-ROM product, the new electronic *Square One Index to CLE Publications (1978-1997)*.

Published in FolioViews 4.0, this cumulative index will allow you to search thousands of abstracts by subject, by author, by title, and by publication number. Current to July, 1997, the Index offers you a thorough, efficient, and accurate reference for finding exactly the right article, case note, form or precedent. It's an *indispensable* tool.

"CLE Customer service, Susan speaking..."

Susan McLean joins *Sheila Sanders* in our Customer Service Department, accepting orders, recommending purchases and dealing with account matters. Call (604) 893-2162 or toll free 1-800-663-0437.

CLE's on the Web

Please visit CLE's site at www.cle.bc.ca. Click on "What's New", to find free sample chapters and tables of contents for all of CLE practice manuals. The 1997 Catalogue, will soon be current to July '97. Please sign our guest book and tell us what you think, because we value your comments!

Account Manager Service to serve you better!

As you know, CLE strives to offer you the best in legal information. *Karen Imeson*, Sales and Marketing Liaison, can work with you to help identify gaps of CLE materials in your library's collection. Karen brings years of experience in the legal information field to CLE's newest service. Karen can be reached at (604) 893-2110 or via e-mail to: kimeson@cle.bc.ca

Karen Imeson, Sales & Marketing Liaison

VALL REVIEW

VENDORS CORNER, *continued...*

WESTERN LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

The Universal Subject Locator:

Western Legal Publications' new digest citation numbers

Many of our long-standing and valued customers, including law librarians, lawyers and library clerks, have contacted us about the new numbering system we introduced in 1997 for all our digest series. The numbers are one of the features of our new *Universal Subject Locator*.

Classification numbering schemes should allow for the addition of new categories and the deletion or amendment of old categories. They should also reflect how finely the classified information is sifted. The citation numbers for our old scheme were shorter, well-known and easy to interfile. Unfortunately, they were no longer able to accommodate changes in the law, and did not express the hierarchy of the scheme.

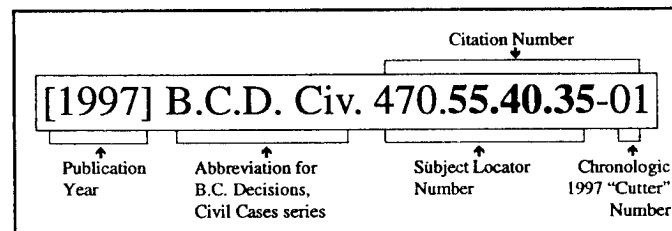
In addition, many subject categories were too broadly, or conversely too narrowly defined. We also wanted to publish, for the first time in 25 years of digesting decisions, a complete classification scheme. In the old system, only the first-level subject categories were published under "Index" tabs in the front pages of each digest series. We also wanted to create unique citation numbers for each digest series.

To create the *Universal Subject Locator*, the author reviewed 15 years of case law and identified the subject areas that needed revising and updating. The goal was to retain the best of the subject titles and to adapt and update the difficult-to-research areas of law. The *Universal Subject Locator* integrates the classification schemes for all of Western Legal Publications' case digest series. It includes a Case Digest Locator with each title to direct researchers to the annual volumes containing digests under the relevant subject. Extensive cross-referencing throughout the *Universal Subject Locator* ensures that the user's historical research is accurate and complete.

The final step in creating the *Universal Subject Locator* was to design a number reflecting the tri-level classification scheme and assigning each sub-classification a unique citation number. After considering alpha-numeric, mixed-numeric and flat numeric sequences, we settled on our new nine-digit format plus a two-digit cutter number. The first three digits allow for up to 999 subjects, and currently there are 99 subject titles. The next three sets of two digits allow for up to 99 headings per level. Despite its length and complexity, we adopted this number in the hope that as our subscribers worked with it, they would find the sequencing pattern more recognizable and the precision of the classifications a significant research time-saver.

To make interfiling easier, we have published volume separator sheets in releases to be interfiled in multi-binder sets. In addition, we are changing the type of the number to more clearly differentiate between the three-digit subject number, the sub-heading numbers (the next three sets of two digits), and the "cutter" number at the end.

Sample Citation:



For 1998, we are also looking at making the following improvements:

- **Improving our tabbing system for all our digest series**

Our digests can also be filed alphabetically by their "index strings". Digests indexed under subject titles starting with the letter "A" are filed under the "A" tab. Now, under our new system, the first "A" title also has a corresponding three digit number. In the civil series, for example, our subject title "Aboriginal Peoples" is

VALL REVIEW

VENDORS CORNER, *continued...*

subject 005. So we will add 005. to our old "A" tab. The samples below show what we have in mind.

Hopefully, this will make interfiling easier by adding one more marker. Hopefully, researchers will find that if they are searching by number, the addition of numbers on the tabs will provide the same kind of handy access that they have enjoyed with the alpha tabs.

- **Including an interfiling guide in all digest series**

The back cover of every *Universal Subject Locator* contains an illustrated Guide to the relationship between our new numbers and the *USL* classification scheme. We intend to publish this Guide on a tab for each digest series.

- **Publishing a quarterly, detailed set of filing instructions to enable subscribers to check the contents of their series against a master checklist**

This contents checklist will assist subscribers with ensuring that their digests have been correctly interfiled and with identifying any missing digests.

Our subscribers have not found the transition to our new system easy. We will continue to welcome all suggestions for improving our new system.

Cathy Anderson, Legal Editor

Sale of Knight-Ridder Information, Inc.

On October 2, 1997, Business Wire reported that *M.A.I.D. plc* had announced a \$420 million stock purchase agreement to acquire all outstanding shares of *Knight-Ridder Information, Inc.*, which includes the supplier of on-line business intelligence services, specializing in market research, business news, and stock prices. *M.A.I.D. plc* has regional headquarters in: London; Cary, North Carolina; and Hong Kong; *M.A.I.D.* shares are traded on NASDAQ and the London Stock Exchange.

Source: VOLUG listserv Infomart-Dialog.

Sample tabs:

A

005.

B

100.

C

150.

Membership Matters

New members to date are:

Darrell Evans, Executive Director, British Columbia Freedom of Information & Privacy Association; **Marcus Patz**, Librarian/Webmaster, British Columbia Law Institute; **Sandra Janzen**, Library Intern, West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation; **Christine Edwards**, Freelance Library Technician; **Jane De Martini**, Account Executive, Dow Jones & Company (based in San Francisco); **Norm Hawley**, C.I.C.A., National Account Representative (based in Toronto) and **Darryl Mills**, Sales Consultant, C.I.C.A. (based in Vancouver).

Diana Inselberg started a new job on July 15, ending her three-year "retirement" from paid employment. She is based at Vernon Jubilee Hospital but officially is the Librarian for the new North Okanagan Regional Health Board, working Tuesday to Thursday. Diana is not sure when she will be in Vancouver again but promised to try to get to a VALL Luncheon sometime this coming year. You may contact Diana Inselberg by writing to:

Librarian, Vernon Jubilee Hospital
2101-32nd St., Vernon, B.C. V1T 5L2
or by phone (250) 558-1219 or fax: (250) 542-0369
or by e-mail: dinselberg@nohr.org

Joan Bilsland is leaving *Russell & DuMoulin* for the Crown Prosecutor's office in Calgary. The position was posted on the CALL-L listserv on October 1.

Reminder: November begins the start of VALL's annual **Peter Bark Memorial** fund-raising drive.

CORRECTION

The Hotel Georgia notified VALL that due to increasing food costs, the association luncheon price was raised by \$1 each. Effective September 1, 1997, lunch meeting registration is \$21.

VALL REVIEW

VALL meeting dates & tentative programs

September 18:	Bill Clennan, "the Memory Man"	January 15:	half-day workshop—Internet Web Publishing (CCH, Carswell & Canada Law Book)
October 16:	"New developments at the British Columbia Courthouse Library Society"	February 19:	TBA
November 20:	Connie Kellough, re "Communicating with impact through effective use of your personal style"	March 19:	TBA
December 18:	TBA	April 16:	TBA
		May 21:	TBA
		June 18:	TBA

VANCOUVER ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

August 1, 1996 — July 31, 1997

INCOME	Membership fees	\$1020.00
	Bank charges / interest (Net)	9.00
	Lunch meetings (Net)	440.94
EXPENSES	Postage, printing, and stationary	\$470.05
	Post Office box	98.98
	Peter Bark Memorial Fund	500.00
	Westpac Conference	720.76
	Miscellaneous	73.87
NET INCOME	(Loss)	(\$393.72)
ASSETS		
Chequing Account	Balance as of July 31, 1997	\$3683.10
Shares		52.87
Peter Bark Memorial Fund	Term deposit (matures April 17, 1998)	10,500.00
	T-Bill Savings Account	251.08
	Shares	50.00