VALL REVIEW

Vol 11, No. 3   **March 1999**

VALL Executive

President: Anna Holeton
Campney & Murphy

Treasurer: Anne Ikeda
Lang Michener Lawrence & Shaw

Secretary: Kelly Higgins
Bull, Housser & Tupper

Membership Secretary:
Liisa Tella
Harper Grey Easton

Program Co-ordinators:
Graeme Dempsey
Russell & DuMoulin
& Wendy Ng
Ladner Downs

Past President: Gwendoline Hoar
Lawson Lundell

VALL REVIEW Editors:
Elizabeth Kinersly
Swinton & Co.
Tracey Carmichael
B.C. Courthouse Library

Desktop Production:
Sharon Wong
Continuing Legal Education Society of BC

Vancouver Association of
Law Libraries
PO Box 48663, Bentall Centre
Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1A1

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 express 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 EXECUTIVE OF VALL

Anna Holeton, Campney & Murphy

The last 3 months have seen a lot of changes in the local legal publishing scene. In December 1998 *CCH* closed its office in Vancouver after purchasing *CanTax* in Calgary. CCH's level of service has deteriorated as Vancouver customers have had to rely on email and their 800 number. *David Cottrell* has just been hired to cover part of the local territory and another CCH sales rep will be hired soon.

In early March, *Canada Law Book* announced that its sister company, *Western Legal Publications*, had become a mere division. The announcement seemed harmless giving little hint of the enormous changes which are occurring at WLP. All WLP staff in Vancouver have been given six months notice. Because WLP production and administration functions are being moved to Aurora, Ontario by October 1, 1999, WLP as we know it will cease to exist. A letter from *Stuart Morrison, President of CLB & WLP* clarifying some of the changes was distributed at the March 17 VALL meeting. The letter promised "an expansion of a combined WLP/CLB sales presence in British Columbia" and assured us that "hours of business will meet Pacific Time business hours Monday through Friday. Case ordering will be available 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday effective October 1999." However, many questions remain.

The VALL Executive has sent letters to both CCH and Canada Law Book voicing our concerns regarding the adverse effects their decisions will have on Vancouver customers.

VALL meetings have also been interesting and well attended. Our December social meeting featured a Christmas buffet, with singing led by one of our piano-playing honoured members, Tom Shorthouse. Over 60 members attended what has become one of VALL's most popular events.

In January, *Jennifer Jordan, Registrar, BC Court of Appeal,* explained the differences between oral and reserved reasons for judgment, and why it is more difficult to obtain oral reasons. She also explained that it is now virtually impossible to obtain pre-1977 non-family law decisions from the Supreme Court Registry because these files were destroyed due to lack of storage space. Fortunately Western Legal Publications has been able to supply judgments from 1972 onwards [*Quaere* whether obtaining these decisions will continue to be as quick and cost-effective after October 1999?]. BC judgments since 1996 are easily obtained due to the BC Courts' website: *http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/*

Allan Twigg, Editor, BC BookWorld, our February speaker, gave his perspective on BC's cultural identity and on local book publishing and distribution. His thought-provoking comments provoked some lively discussion after the meeting.

The March panel discussion on Y2K preparations for libraries was a success. The three panelists were: *Richard Brown* of *LGS Group Inc., Lynne Copeland, Systems Librarian, SFU,* and *Cherie Turner, Systems Manager, McCarthy Tetrault.* They provided us with an overview of the problem and described how they were preparing for a problem-free Year 2000. *Kelly Higgins* of *Bull, Housser & Tupper* moderated the panel and distributed a useful handout she had prepared which included a listing of legal and computer vendors' Y2K compliance statements. Excerpts from the handout are included in this issue of the *VALL Review.*

For April, VALL is planning a joint meeting with the CBA Legal Research subsection. *Martin Felsky* is coming from Toronto to speak about legal research precedent systems. We are all looking forward to hearing his thoughts on this topic.

FROM THE EDITORS

Tracey Carmichael and Elizabeth Kinersly

Spring has sprung (or so the calendar indicates) and librarians' hearts turn to . . . Year 2000 compliance issues! With this issue, we follow up the Year 2000 topics discussed at the March 1999 meeting with a couple of checklists, both personal and professional, and Year 2000 compliance information straight from the publishers. This issue is not intended to be an exhaustive or comprehensive Year 2000 resource, but rather a place for Canadian law librarians to begin their own research. Speaking personally, we are planning to buy a Year 2000 compliant clock with big numbers so that when the magic hour approaches we can watch the numbers roll over from 1999 to 2000. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to contribute to this issue of the *VALL Review.*

The next issue of the *VALL Review* is coming out in the fall. It is not too early to think about sending your submissions in electronic format (WORD 6.0, if possible) to the editors. **Tracey Carmichael** can be reached at **bccls@bccls.bc.ca** or 660-2821 (fax). With this issue, **Elizabeth Kinersly** completes her two year tour of duty as an editor.

NEWS

Vall's Belated Tenth Anniversary

When the Newsletter editors asked me to do a little retrospective piece to mark VALL's tenth anniversary, my reaction was surprise. How could the time have flown by so fast? March 1988 seems like just yesterday when the informal law librarians lunch group decided to see if there was interest in forming an association. *Joan Mulholland* of Davis & Company hosted a meeting that was planned for a handful of enthusiasts. When almost 40 people arrived, we knew the time was ripe and VALL was born. And it's time to make a confession: our goal was to keep VALL as unlike TALL as possible: no incorporation, no Roberts' Rules, no one excluded. I think we've done very well with the informal style that includes everyone who has an interest in law libraries. After all, the more people who understand what we are trying to do, the easier our jobs will be.

Our first executive consisted of *Anne Beresford,* Secretary, *Catherine Kerr,* Treasurer, *Carol Saxon,* Membership, *Peter Bark,* Programs, *Ed Lenz,* Editor, myself in the Chair, with *Diana Inselberg* organizing nominations. How times change. . . .

Another plan we had was to rotate meetings among substantive law, management of law libraries, and networking. This, too, we have more or less followed. Over time, our concerns and programs have been the same yet different: the Canadian economy (fussing about entering NAFTA) and technology (wondering if the law would ever take to CDs).

VALL's accomplishments are due to the lively support of the membership. I'll mention only a few landmarks:

the *VALL Review* and *Directory*; the Peter Bark Memorial bursary; (almost) annual workshops on technology; numerous contributions to local and national surveys, committees, and task forces. Most importantly, VALL has fostered a cohesive law library community. We are a mutual self-help body that looks outward, focusing the strength of numbers on our issues, as publishers and governments have discovered. I am confident that our membership will continue to thrive in the future with the same drive and dedication.

Contributed by Pam Clancy, Legal Resource Centre

FEATURE ARTICLES

The Quest for a Y2K Acronym!

McCarthy Tetrault began our *Year 2000 Project* in February, 1998. During the first month, we prepared a project outline and a general response letter to the queries from clients regarding our Year 2000 compliance. A target date of December 31, 1998 was set for the completion of our hardware and software inventory and June, 1999 as the completion of all the necessary adjustments to reach full compliancy. We are still fully immersed in this project and will continue to be until well past the ringing in of the new millennium. This project is hard to peg down since the essential elements are in constant motion and change!

Though my experience is one of "being in the trenches", VALL asked me to talk about the way in which McCarthy was dealing with the Y2K project. As I thought about how to present the phases of our project, I reflected on past presentations I have attended. Oh, those snappy acronyms delivered with such flair by the presenters! Surely I could achieve the lofty goal of the perfect acronym for the steps of a Y2K project! To my chagrin, however, the best I could come up with is "IRATRC". While I doubt Webster is rushing to add it to his dictionary of terms, it does itemise the various phases of a Y2K project in a law firm.

I Inventory

If you have it, list it!

All software, noting all versions and releases which are in active use. Do not forget any CD collections or software installed on workstation local drives. There are many programs on the market that will search each network workstation and record an inventory of the local hardware and software into a database format. We are using Seagate WinLAND.

All hardware, including the BIOS information for each PC. You also need to consider any electronic hardware you rely on (date and mail stamping machines, CD readers, etc.). Keep in mind any hardware that will be critical to running your business in the first few weeks of January, 2000.

All on-line services such as BC Online and QL which are used for legal research.

All interfaces which work between computer programs. This is a tricky one that has produced the most surprises in our research. These interfaces are usually the bits of programming which work between the cost recovery programs (telephone, photocopier, QL, courier, etc.) and the accounting program. In our case, the accounting and cost recovery programs were totally compliant but the interface needed overhauling!

All utilities you depend on such as electricity, phone, gas, water, elevators and building services.

Other than the building services, we did not investigate the suppliers of goods and services to the firm. The library and the systems team worked together to complete the inventory phase, with our librarian providing invaluable assistance in itemising the library material and performing some of the Internet research. With over 96 applications identified on our network, all help was greatly appreciated!

We prepared a National database in Access 97 so that each McCarthy office could record their software inventory and update their research findings on the compliance of each product. The database included

fields for the software name, version and release information, manufacturer's name, web site information, compliancy status and text of the compliancy statement.

R Research

Time to surf the Internet, phone or write the manufacturers. You need a record of the compliancy status of each product on your inventory.

Do not assume anything! We found that a 1992 database program was totally compliant while our newly installed Windows 98 needed to have a Y2K patch installed.

There are many valuable resources for collections of Y2K information available. A good site to start with is http://www.can2k.com. Most hardware and software manufacturers are posting their Y2K statements on their own web sites. If a statement is not available, email the web site's system operator.

Make a point of bookmarking and recording the sites of any compliancy information. You will need to return to these sites periodically to find any later postings or updates.

A Adjust

Adjust the hardware and software to make it Year 2000 compliant. You only have 3 choices:

Repair it:

Download software patches (or program fixes) from manufacturer web sites and apply to the software. In many cases, we have had to actually upgrade to a full new version of the software in order to get a compliant version.

Make manual adjustments of databases and spreadsheets by increasing the date fields to include 4-digit fields.

Many PCs can become Year 2000 compatible by applying a flash BIOS update. The PC vendors need to be contacted regarding the appropriate updates for each model of PC.

Replace it:

By far the biggest part of our compliancy! Having just converted from the DOS platform, we were still in the process of upgrading our critical applications to Windows versions. This included our accounting program, word processing and network operating system. The library moved from InMagic to DB/TextWorks for the library catalogue and from Cardbox to ISYS for our legal memoranda.

Not all people see the move to upgrade and replace hardware for Y2K as a bad thing. There are several electronic filing initiatives going on in the Province at the moment from Land Registry to Court Registry. One of the reasons they are proceeding with such confidence is that they know that, due to Y2K upgrades, all lawyers will have the necessary hardware to proceed with a provincial program.

Scrap it:

This is an opportunity to take a serious look at the business processes that involve the hardware or software. There may be better ways to do the same tasks. The non-compliant unit may now be obsolete.

T Test and Document

Use "target dating" to test the software for compliancy: Enter dates for January 1, 2000; February 29, 2000; March 1, 2000; January 1, 2001. Also test a date calculation.

Involve users by having them define the key, critical functions of their application. These are the functions that must be available during the first few weeks of 2000. Make a point of testing these functions.

If possible, set up a test network or schedule a weekend to do a live test of the date rollover. Make sure you have perfect backups before the test!!

Keep a documented record of each test and a copy of all compliancy statements you have researched.

R Review

The information changes!

Revisit the web sites occasionally to find out if anyone has changed their minds about their compliance information. Microsoft has issued several different versions of their Y2K statements so far. Update your documentation with any changes.

C Contingency Plans

The final phase of the Y2K review is to set aside some time for planning for the "what if" situations on January 1, 2000. This is a valuable opportunity to review any existing disaster strategies and other business resumption plans of the firm. Refer back to the list of key program functions identified by the users. Your contingency plan should ensure that at least the critical functionality will be available January 1.

No matter how you phrase it, these are the key steps or phases of a Y2K project. This is not a simple project. It is a time consuming project and one that not many will even notice—at least, not until January 1, 2000!

Now, back to my acronym. Maybe a toss of my Scrabble tiles might help . . . . I still have 9 months to figure something out!

Contributed by Cherie Turner,
Systems Manager, McCarthy Tetrault

Y2K for the Thinking Person

Most of us have thought, or even have tentative plans, of what we will do to welcome the new millennium. However, these plans may be overshadowed by the ominous Year 2000 or Y2K bug. There are many books, web sites and articles about Y2K, with a wide disparity to the extent of how computers and computer-based systems will perform when January 1,

2000 comes around . On the extreme side, we have web sites like *Gary North's Y2K Links and Forums* (http://www.garynorth.com/y2k/search_.cfm) which has daily updates on the havoc and chaos that may result due to computer date-related problems. On the other side, we have media reports that suggest to treat the Y2K problem like a bad storm and have 3 days of food on hand ("Dispelling Y2K Angst", *Vancouver Sun*, February 27, 1999; "Prepare for Y2K, but Don't Panic, Officials Say", *Washington Post*, March 27, 1999). There are also hopeful articles like, "B.C. Winning the Battle Against Millennium Bug, Officials Say", *Vancouver Sun*, February 20, 1999 and, "Life Will Go on After Y2K", *USA Today*, March 25, 1999.

A review of the daily clippings on Y2K such as those available at *The Year 2000 Information Center* (http://www.year2000.com/y2karticles.html) suggests the following:

1. Governments, agencies and corporations continue to spend a lot of money and effort so that January 1, 2000 will be interpreted correctly by computers and computer-based systems.

2. In spite of everyone's best efforts, it seems likely that there will be some kind of disruption to our power and communication systems.

3. Some personal preparedness is recommended.

Edward and Jennifer Yourdan in their book *Time Bomb 2000* (Prentice Hall PTR, 1998) provide a detailed explanation as to how computer malfunctions will impact transportation, communication systems, utilities, banking services and the food supply and how this may affect us from a two-day to a 10-year failure. What will you do if there is no power in your house or apartment, there is no dial tone on your telephone, you only have $11.00 in cash and the bank machines are not available, public transportation is not running and your car will not start? With some advance planning, you will have some options. Here are some suggestions:

• If public transportation is not available, walking or riding a bicycle may be the only reliable transportation means that you have. Is your bicycle in good working order? Are you in reasonable physical

condition to be able to withstand walking or riding several kilometers? Perhaps, a little exercise needs to be factored into your current lifestyle.

- Ensure that you have good working batteries and portable radios that accept AM, FM or even short-wave frequencies.

- Talk to older people that you know, especially those who have lived part of their lives without the modern conveniences that we have today. How did they manage without power on the farm? We can learn from their experiences and gain from their resourceful tips and advice.

- Will you be able to stay warm or cook your food without electricity? (e.g. do you have a gas fire-place, kerosene heaters, portable generators, camping stoves, barbecues, etc.). These will have to be in good working order with sufficient fuel to be useful. Also, any fossil fuel fired units need to be vented in a correct manner according to manufacturer's instructions for your health and safety. Check on the number of blankets and sleeping bags that you have.

- Have plans to go to another location in the event that you cannot stay in your home.

- Have enough money to take care of a few incidentals and unexpected expenses. In the event that certain commodities become more valuable than money, do you have anything that you can trade or exchange for goods and services. Are there any skills that you have which can be exchanged for goods?

- A minimum three-day supply of food and water is recommended for most emergencies. Take a look at the food supply you have already and build on it ensuring that you have a variety of tinned or bottled food which you like to eat. In case you need to purify water, have a supply of bleach or iodine.

- Check your first-aid supplies and replenish. Do you have on-going medical prescriptions or medications that you need on a daily basis? Will you need vitamins and dietary supplements? Perhaps a supply of these and other necessities are in order. Also, if you have pets, you will have to think about their food and medicinal requirements.

- Check the local newspapers and bulletin boards at the Library for any Y2K preparedness activities that have been planned for your community.

- Emergencies are times of high stress. Cards, games, toys, puzzles, and books will help to relieve some of the emotional stress.

- Have a test run. Try having a weekend where you do not use any electrical power or appliances to see how you manage.

Unlike natural disasters that may or may not happen, Year 2000 is a sure thing; 240 days and counting. Hopefully, the impact of the Y2K bug will be very minimal and short-lived but it may be wide-ranging, possibly having national and global affects. We may have a situation where we will not be able to count on assistance from elsewhere because elsewhere will be experiencing similar problems. Somehow, we must be prepared to help ourselves as well as be able to provide some assistance to our neighbours. Even if all we do is one thing to prepare for Y2K disruptions, we will be doing our part so that, as U.S. President Clinton said in his State of the Union address, ". . . this Y2K computer bug will be remembered as the last headache of the 20th century, not the first crisis of the 21st."

By now, all of us have heard enough about the possibility of Y2K disruptions; we also have some plans as to how we will manage. As the last days of 1999 approach, most of us will be thinking about our parties and celebrations to welcome a new century. I am hoping that Year 2000 will be simply—Happy New Year . Cheers!

Contributed by Yoko Beriault, Thorsteinnsons

Bibliography for Year 2000

Robertson, Guy. "Preparing for the Year 2000: Compliance Process for Library Systems" in *Feliciter*. June 1997. pp. 36-38

Budd, Terry and Chris Michael Temple. "Preparing for the Millennium Bug: Practical Tips for Avoiding a 'New Age' Problem" in *The Defense Practitioner's*

Guide to the Year 2000 Problem. Illinois: DRI, 1998. pp. 1-23

Dukes, David et al. "Intellectual Property and Software Licensing Issues in the Y2K Context" in *The Defense Practitioner's Guide to the Year 2000* Problem. Illinois: DRI, 1998. pp. 41-73

Faulkner, Anne. "The Year 2000 Problem and its Implications for the Information Profession" in *Journal of Information Science.* 24(4) 1998. pp. 255-265

Young, Jim and Vicki Slagle Johns. "The Year 2000: Millennial Implications for Libraries?" in *Journal of Academic Librarianship.* 24(1) January 1998. pp. 53-57

Contributed by Kelly Higgins,
Bull, Housser & Tupper

INTERNET CORNER

Year 2000 Information

Publishers and Vendors

Butterworths—http://www.butterworths.ca/front/htm

CCH—http://www.cch.com/y2kcomp.htm

Carswell—http://www.carswell.com/newbox/y2kupdate.htm

Dialog—http://library.dialog.com/y2000.htm

Dun & Bradstreet—http://www.dnb.com/ry2k/progrep.htm

Eloquent—http://www.eloquent-systems.com/

Folio—http://www.folio.com/y2k/folio.cfm

Infomart/Dialog—http://www.infomart.ca/corporate/y2k.htm

Inmagic—http://www.inmagic.com/pr-2000.htm

Lexis—http://www.lexis-nexis.com/y2k/Presidentletter.asp

Quicklaw—http://www.quicklaw.com

West Group—http://www.westgroup.com/newsinfo/year2000/

Hardware and Software Vendors

Adobe—http://www.adobe.com/newsfeatures/year2000/prodsupport.html

Apple—http://www.apple.com/about/year2000/index.html

Corel—http://www.corel.com/year2000/index.htm

EBSCO—http://www.ebsco.com/ess/services/y2k.htm

Hewlett-Packard—http://www.hp.com/year2000/index.htm

Microsoft—http://www.microsoft.com/technet/year2k/

Netscape—http://www.netscape.com/products/year2000/index.html

Novell—http://www.novell.com/year2000/

Other

Industry Canada—SOS 2000—http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/yk04743e.html

Industry Canada—Task Force 2000—http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_mangb/y2k/burst.html

Library of Congress—Marc Records—http://lcweb.loc.gov/marc/yr2000marc.html

Library of Congress—OCLC—http://www.oclc.org/oclc/new/n232/feature_y2k_oclc.htm

Contributed by Kelly Higgins,
Bull, Housser & Tupper

VENDORS CORNER

Year 2000 Information

Butterworths

Butterworths Canada products are licensed to use Folio VIEWS software package. Folio (a software house based in Provo, Utah) issued a Year 2000 Compliance Statement in November 1996 saying that:

"The Folio VIEWS 3.x product line is Year 2000 compliant. The VIEWS 3.x family of products will function and operate in accordance with the program specifications and logic in the year 2000. Therefore, end users will experience no interruptions to business and incorrect results from the use of the VIEWS 3.x family of products in the operation of business. We do not anticipate any bugs or problems with the year 2000 support. In the unlikely event we discover a problem, we will deal with it immediately."

Butterworths takes the Year 2000 problem very seriously and is working with our suppliers (including Folio) on the issues involved. Butterworths has implemented an aggressive company-wide program to address the Year 2000 needs and concerns of its customers. The program addresses product readiness, services and internal systems and is designed to help protect customers against the possibility of serious Year 2000 related issues.

Butterworths has recently published a monthly newsletter, *Y2K—The Millennium Problem—Legal Commentary and Analysis of the Millennium Crisis.* This title will bring you the expertise of a team of leading legal, accounting and business experts and will keep you current with the best practices in minimizing your risks relating to the Y2K "millennium bug". The cost of this subscription is $190.

Contributed by Arthur Vaz,
Butterworths Sales Manager, Western Canada

Canada Law Book

Canada Law Book Inc. uses FolioViews on the CD-ROMS. Folio has stated that they are Year 2000 compliant. Please refer to Folio's Year 2000 compliance statement at their website (http://www.folio.com).

Canada Law Book will be year 2000 compliant by the summer of 1999. System checks are being carried out continuously and will be complete shortly. Should there be any questions regarding this policy, please direct them to our Marketing Director, Brian Loney at bloney@canadalawbook.ca

Contributed by Peter Roberts,
Sale Representative

Carswell

Our website (http://www.carswell.com) has a full description of our progress regarding Year 2000. We've posted a series of frequently-asked questions, and you should be able to find the information you're looking for. If you still have questions, please call us or e-mail your question to

y2kinfo@carswell.com

By the end of the first quarter of 1999, all of our current products and new releases will have been thoroughly tested for Y2K compliance. We will indicate on our website those products that have completed testing.

A product compliance chart, currently in preparation, will be posted on our website within the next few weeks.

If you have any technical or detailed questions about a specific product, please call or send them via e-mail to the above e-mail address.

Contributed by Barb Essau,
Key Account Representative

CCH Canadian

The following letter is being sent out to CCH customers in response to their Y2K queries:

This letter is in response to your request for information regarding the actions we are undertaking in connection with the issue of "Year 2000 Compliance".

We recognize that our information systems are vital to our operations and essential to the services we provide to our customers. We also recognize that the continued viability of our products is essential to our very existence. Consequently, we have developed a comprehensive compliance and testing program to identify and resolve all known Year 2000 Compliance issues.

We are pleased to report that our "TaxWorks", "HRWorks", "LegalWorks" and "BusinessWorks" CD-ROM and diskette product lines are "Year 2000 compliant". These products use dates in only two respects: (1) to enable searching within a specified date range; (2) in "Rights Management" to set the expiry date of an infobase. We have thoroughly and independently tested this date functionality for Year 2000 compliance. The software used in these products is FolioViews. A link to the software manufacturer's Statement re Year 2000 compliance can be found at http://www. openmarket.com/y2k/folio.cfm.

This Statement contains our answers to a number of frequently asked questions. We are certain that you can appreciate that by the very nature of the significant size of our customer base we are unable to provide you with any more specific details or responses to questionnaires.

We thank you for your understanding, share your concern, and assure you that we will continue to seriously address the challenges imposed by Year 2000.

Yours truly,

Ronald J. Maddock
Director, New Content Technology

For information regarding U.S. products, please refer to http://www.cch.com

Contributed by David Pleasance,
Business Development Manager

CLE

The Continuing Legal Education Society of BC publishes three types of electronic products: the Square One CD-ROM; disk products accompanying most of our practice manuals; and the Case Digest Connection (CDC) e-mail and archive products. We are committed to ensuring that these products will not be affected by Year 2000 problems. Based on our assessment to date, we do not anticipate any Y2K issues arising from our products that will adversely affect customers.

The Square One CD-ROM uses FolioViews 4.1. FolioViews and Open Market's "Folio Products Year 2000 Compliance Statement" states that "The Folio 4.x/5.x generation software and the infobase formats are designed to work beyond the year 2000" (see http://www.openmarket.com/y2k/foliocomp.cfm for the full Statement). In the next update of Square One, to be released this Spring, we will continue our testing for Y2K problems and provide a statement with the update CD-ROM outlining any Year 2000 issues.

The CDC e-mail and archive digest products were developed with Y2K issues in mind. CDC is based on e-mail and World Wide Web technologies, so any Y2K problems experienced by customers with their own e-mail system and web access may affect their ability to use CDC after January 1, 2000. We are confident that the CDC product itself, however, will not be affected by any Y2K issues.

As for the disk products accompanying CLE practice manuals, they include word processing files in Word for Windows 6.0, WordPerfect 5.1 for DOS and WordPerfect for Windows formats. Again, any Y2K problems experienced by customers with their own word processing systems or computer hardware may

affect their ability to use the CLE disk products. How-ever, we are confident that the disks themselves will not be affected by any Year 2000 problems.

Contributed by Karen Imeson,
Sales & Marketing Liaison, CLE

LEXIS-NEXIS Canada

Being Year 2000 compliant is a priority for LEXIS NEXIS (in fact, if I haven't visited your office yet to upgrade your LEXIS NEXIS software to the Y2K version, I will be soon).

Here is our Year 2000 Readiness Disclosure Notice, followed by our 5 Year Plan:

LEXIS-NEXIS is proud to announce that we have Year 2000 compliant software, tested and certified to rigorous international standards. Choose to access the LEXIS -NEXIS services through the Web using your current browser. Or upgrade your existing LEXIS-NEXIS software, free of charge and free of hassle, with our new Year 2000 compliant software. Either way, you'll be OK . . . for Y2K.

Year 2000 Remediation in 5 Phases

LEXIS-NEXIS is conducting a five phase Year 2000 program to address not only the products that our cus-tomers have in their hands, but the many back office systems, such as accounting and billing systems, that support the LEXIS -NEXIS online services.

Our Plan

Project Initiation. Starting in February 1997, LEXIS-NEXIS appointed a project director, assigned personnel to the team, retained outside consultants, and determined projected methodol-ogy. We completed this phase in the last quarter of 1997.

Inventory. Begun early in September 1997, this phase involved identifying systems and software the company owns or works with to determine which elements use date processing. This included reviewing not only our systems, business proc-

esses, embedded microprocessors, and other equipment, but those of suppliers and other part-ners. We completed this phase for LEXIS-NEXIS in September 1997, and as of June 1, 1998, we are 90 percent complete for LEXIS-NEXIS subsidiar-ies.

Analysis and Prioritization. Starting in February 1997, the Year 2000 program team used a mix of automated tools and manual effort to determine which systems were Year 2000 compliant and which were not. If a system proved to be non-compliant, a potential solution was defined and a sub-project plan outlined. This process was com-pleted in September 1997.

Remediation. Begun in September 1997, this is the process of making all identified systems compliant with Year 2000 needs, and integrating them into the normal business processes. All critical systems are expected to be remediated by December 1998.

Maintain Compliance. This follow-up phase ensures that normal business activity does not introduce new non-compliance issues once the remediation activities are complete. This testing will continue after February 29, 2000.

From a content standpoint, the *Cyberlaw* data-base on LEXIS NEXIS contains specially selected cases relating to all areas of computer, Internet or cyberspace law, including Year 2000 issues, domain name disputes, jurisdictional questions, computer industry cases, and intellectual property issues. Also, there is access to the latest computer law/news publications and law reviews, as well as computer-related business periodicals from a variety of sources.

For more information, such as the free Y2K test library (designed to test the reliability of our software in your computer environment), please call Linda Yee at 604-899-4478 or visit our website at http://www.lexis-nexis-canada.com/ for more information and FAQs.

Contributed by Linda Yee

Quicklaw

Additional Information about QUICKLAW's Y2K Readiness:

1. There's an article about QL's Y2K readiness in the latest QUICK newsletter (Volume 3, Number 1, February 1999).

2. Electrical power and heat: Ontario Hydro: Hydro's web site at

   http://www.hydro.on.ca/OHNewSit.nsf/public/PofCY2K1 claims that Hydro is ready. QL has its own on-site emergency power to keep QUICKLAW running for up to five hours in the event of a temporary power failure, and offsite backup arrangements for longer power outages.

3. IBM central server hardware and software:

   We have links to IBM sites describing the hardware at: http://www.quicklaw.com/qlserver.html.

   The Enterprise Server/390 hardware, the Ramac RAID disk storage, and the OS/390 Operating Systems are the very newest from IBM, and IBM certifies them to be Y2K ready. Not fully satisfied with this, we are testing the hardware and Operating System software ourselves for Y2K problems.

4. Other equipment at our Kingston site: Air conditioners, Uninterruptable Power Supply: both brand new and Y2K certified. Elevators: None. PCs, Scanners, and PC software: We are testing these, and replacing critical components which don't pass the tests.

5. Communications Networks: Bell Canada informs us that their services are Y2K ready. We are replacing certain components in our communications networks which are not Y2K certified. In particular, we have replaced our Internet access routers, and we are replacing older X.25 PADs with new, Y2K certified TCP/IP terminal servers.

6. Other suppliers: We have reviewed QL's other suppliers of goods and services, and while we can't be certain that every one is Y2K compliant, we are confident that no Y2K-related failure of any of these will affect QL's ability to continue to provide uninterrupted QUICKLAW services.

Contributed by Joe B. Schmidt,
Manager, B.C. & Yukon Region

Queen's Printer of B.C.

Caroline Bell from the Queen's Printer (250-387-3309) confirmed that the electronic B.C. Statutes are y2k compliant. This product relies on Folio Views software and that company has confirmed that their software will experience no problems associated with the Year 2000.

B.C. COURTHOUSE LIBRARY SOCIETY

Printing News

Increasingly we find that law firms receive materials relating to their files on microform (e.g. medical records, government records), but have limited access to reader printers. Either they do not have a reader printer, or, if they do, the range of the lens is not adequate. At the Vancouver Courthouse Library there are three microform reader printers in the centre of the library easily accessible round the clock.

You can use them to print from the library's microforms or you can bring in your own film or fiche to copy. If you prefer, you can send your microforms to us to copy for you. (We will of course keep them confidential.) Our equipment produces good quality copies on plain paper and our lenses have a wide range of magnification. Call 660-2841 for further details or to arrange printing.

Also, lawyers wishing to print from their laptops can now do so in the Vancouver Courthouse Library. A cable is available to connect to one of the printers in the library; regular copying charges apply.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June VALL Meeting Topics

This year, as in past years, the June meeting will be the VALL members' opportunity to express their ideas, opinions, wishes, hopes, dreams, etc. about their association. The meeting will be in the usual roundtable format. There is also a possibility that *Stuart Morrison* of Canada Law Book will attend the meeting to field questions about the future of Western Legal Publications. If Stuart Morrison does attend, the June meeting agenda will quite full. It is hoped that members will take some time before the meeting to think about topics or issues they wish to discuss during the *roundtable* part of the meeting. What follows is a list of topics to help start the thinking process:

* program ideas

* seminar/workshop ideas

* VALL membership fees: amount and purpose (all into general fund or designate part of the fee for a specific purpose)

* Peter Bark criteria and bursary amount modifications

* greater use of e-mail/listserv for benefit of members and possibility of a website

Please bring your ideas to the meeting or forward your suggestions to the VALL Program coordinators, *Wendy Ng* at Ladner Downs (telephone: 640-4048, email: wng@ladner.com) or *Graeme Dempsey* at Russell & DuMoulin (telephone: 631-3131 ext. 3643, email: gjd@rdcounsel.com

CALL/ACBD '99 and the
CALL/Carswell Institute '99

The Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL) Conference Planning Committee for 1999 is very pleased to announce that the Conference website is now up and running:

www.ucalgary.ca/call-acbd99/

This year's theme is: "PEAKING" INTO THE NEXT MILLENNIUM, a play on our mountain theme and the impending new millennium. There will be three plenary sessions centred around People, Technology, and Resources, plus many varied Special Interest Group and Committee program sessions. There are just a few more details to be finalized. Changes will be posted to the site as they are ready, so bookmark it, and check regularly for current information.

It is being held at the Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta, May 30–June 2, a newly renovated conference and arts centre in the heart of the Canadian Rockies. Information on the Preliminary Program, hotel accommodation, travel and the golf tournament is all there at the website, with many links to tourism features. The Conference Planning Committee has, this year, opted NOT to distribute a printed preliminary conference information and registration package. To register, you must print off the registration form and send to CALL head office, to the address listed at the website. Registrants will, of course, receive a printed Final Program in their registration package when they arrive for the Conference.

The post-conference workshop, this year a joint effort between CALL and Carswell, is the CALL/Carswell Institute—LEADERSHIP 2000: REACHING YOUR PEAK POTENTIAL. It will be held in Calgary, June 3 and 4, at the Sheraton Suites. Information is also at the website. Although a block of rooms has been set aside for Institute attendees, the Sheraton has asked people to book accommodation as soon as possible, as it is Conference time in Calgary, and hotel space is in high demand (and scarce!) right now. Be sure you identify yourself as an attendee at the CALL/Carswell Institute to get the special rate.

Contributed by Sue Beugin,
Conference Planning Committee, Program Chair
(beugin@telusplanet.net)

VALL REVIEW

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Nominations are now open for the 1999/2000 VALL Executive. As the Executive is fairly large relative to the number of active VALL members, it's important that everyone take their turn participating. In fact, one of the reasons for a larger executive is to share the workload. Of the current Executive, Anne Ikeda (treasurer) and Liisa Tella (membership) have generously agreed to serve a second term, and Tracey Carmichael will be continuing as one of two newsletter editors. Positions to be filled are: president, secretary, two program co-ordinators, and one newsletter editor.

If you wish to volunteer or to nominate one of your fellow members, please contact current past-president, *Gwendoline Hoar* at Lawson Lundell (telephone: 631-9167, email: ghoar@lawsonlundell.com).

There are no new members to report.

Ashanti Fraser will be closing their Sammsati document retrieval service effective April 16, 1999.