

VALL REVIEW

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VALL Executive

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Campney & Murphy

VALL REVIEW Editors:

Tracey Carmichael

B.C. Courthouse Library

& Lynda Roberts

Bull, Housser & Tupper

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

Jane Wells

This will be the last VALL Review for the twentieth century. Quickly approaching is the time that we have all been anticipating and we will soon learn whether our systems and back up systems are ready for the millennium.

We had a diverse program for our VALL monthly meetings. Our guest speaker in September was Sandra Wilkins, the University of B.C. Law Librarian. Sandra reviewed the events of the past year and explained that a new strategic plan was being formulated and a user survey would be conducted which will identify issues such as space, access to the collections and staff renewal.

Our October meeting was called a "Pink Tea" in celebration of Person's Day. October has been declared as National Women's History Month and Person's Day in recognition of the achievements and contributions of the women who fought to ensure that women were legally persons and eligible for appointment to the Senate. In recognition of this, Tara Britnell, of the West Coast Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, was our guest speaker. She gave a brief history of LEAF and explained that their main focus was to challenge legislation. LEAF has sponsored cases in the past on behalf of individual women but more recently they have acted as intervenors in cases before the courts.

At the November meeting we pay our annual tribute to Peter Bark, a well remembered member of VALL. Anna Holten, Past President, announced that, upon recommendations from the Peter Bark Committee, Anna Holten, Anne Ikeda and Liisa Tella, the executive had made changes to the Peter Bark Memorial Fund. The bursary would be increased to \$1000.00 and the name had been changed to the Peter Bark Professional Development Bursary. The purpose of the Bursary is to assist members demonstrating financial need to attend the CALL Conference, meetings of library associations, continuing education workshops and professional development activities. Everyone meeting the basic criteria is eligible for the bursary and application forms will be available at the VALL meetings. Linda Morrison, reference librarian at the B.C. Courthouse Library, was our guest speaker for that meeting. She outlined the current condition of the courthouse library services. Linda detailed their plans for the coming year and costs to be expected for future services.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the joint Christmas event with SLA and VOLUG members on December 8th and wish you all a happy and joyous festive season

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FROM THE EDITORS

Tracey Carmichael and Lynda Roberts

We would like to extend our thanks to those librarians who provided us with a glimpse inside their libraries for this month's feature article on core competencies and the law firm librarian. We realize that spare time is almost non-existent in a law firm and appreciate the time you took to answer our questions.

We are always looking for submissions from our members. If you have any news to report or an issue you would like to make the membership aware of, please take the time to write up something for the *VALL Review*. Of course, full fledged articles are also appreciated!

The deadline for submissions for the April issue is Wednesday, March 22, 2000. Providing your computer survives Y2K, please send your material in electronic format to Lynda Roberts: ljr@bht.com or Ana Rosa Blue: arblue@bccls.bc.ca. If technology is letting you down, please call Lynda at 641-4878 to make alternative arrangements.

NEWS

Copyright Decision Finally Released

Its rare in the legal arena that all parties to a lawsuit claim victory but that is exactly what occurred when the Federal Court of Canada released its long awaited copyright decision in *CCH Canadian Ltd. v. Law Society of Upper Canada*, (November 9, 1999) T-1618-93 (F.C.T.D.)
[<http://www.fja.gc.ca/en/cf/1999/orig/html/1999fca25519.o.en.html>]

In 1993 CCH, Carswell and Canada Law Book sued the Law Society of Upper Canada for copyright

infringement regarding its photocopy services operated by its Great Library. The publishers were seeking an injunction to restrain the library from copying its publications without payment of royalties. The library had previously refused a Cancopy license.

The court refused to grant the injunction and held that copyright does not exist in a single reported judicial decision even if it contains "headnote, catchlines, parallel citations, running heads and other matter added by the publisher". The judge felt that it did not have the "creative spark" necessary in its test of originality. This is certainly a victory for libraries as the bulk of copying is of reported cases. The publishers are considering whether to appeal this ruling.

The court, however, found that copyright was infringed when the library copied a "substantial part" of a legal text. It also found that copyright existed in annotated statutes, specifically *Martin's Ontario Criminal Practice 1999*. Amongst others, the library put forth a defence of "fair dealing" which was rejected by the courts who concluded that fair dealing should be strictly construed.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Core Competencies For The New Millennium

by Tracey Carmichael, B.C. Courthouse Library Society and Lynda Roberts, Bull Houser and Tupper

As the millennium comes to a close we thought that we should take some time to reflect upon how our jobs have changed in the past few years. The role of today's law firm librarian is shifting from information organizer and retriever to knowledge manager and information consultant. How are librarians responding to these new challenges and responsibilities?

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In 1996, The Special Libraries Association prepared a document entitled *Competencies for Special Librarians of the 21st Century*¹. It outlines those professional and personal competencies we are all supposed to possess as librarians. It is a handy checklist to see if you are meeting the expectations your employer should have of you by virtue of your training and professionalism. As the 21st century is now here, we decided to ask several local law firm librarians for some practical examples of how they are fulfilling these competencies by changing the way they operate and by undertaking to provide new and innovative services to their users. The only certainty these days is change, so how are law firm librarians responding?

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES

The Special Librarian...

1.1. has expert knowledge of the content of information resources, including the ability to critically evaluate and filter them.

Librarians usually evaluate the content of information resources based on information contained in publisher's advertisements and book reviews. Increasingly we are using other sources to compliment these activities: library listservs such as 'newlawbooks' that may disseminate information from less mainstream publishers and law library electronic discussion lists such as 'CALL-L' and 'Law-Lib' where librarians will often evaluate and compare resources and provide recommendations for colleagues who are evaluating their collections and considering possible purchases. These listservs also provide libraries with a valuable service by

quickly exposing errors in trusted publications and highlighting questionable publishing practices.

With more resources being offered in electronic format, it is harder to evaluate content. Many CD-ROMs need to be checked to ensure that forms, appendices, and other features that are available in print are also available electronically, and in a usable format. Many publishers promote the "value added" features of their electronic products without being able to describe in detail what is available in terms of content; starting dates for a collection, the currency of consolidations of legislative materials and the source of commentary materials are just some examples. We must now have the skills to do forensic research to determine what is included, to what date, in what format, how is it structured, how is it searched, etc.

Word of mouth with colleagues was mentioned by several librarians as being an invaluable source of expert information on content. We rely upon the experiences of others, especially with electronic information, to guide us in our purchases. The amount of time it takes to verify content in new electronic products makes it undesirable to undertake this kind of work for marginal titles. A quick call to a colleague who has looked at the product and is able to answer our questions allows us to avoid wasting our time with products that are unsuitable for our needs, whether from a content or technological point of view. Many publishers have specialized representatives that support their electronic products who often do not have expert knowledge of the content of the products they sell. In our experience, many content questions can now not be adequately answered by vendors and we don't have the time to conduct detailed investigations of every product that we may have a marginal interest in. Librarians are notoriously harsh critics of products and many of us rely upon the candid views of our library colleagues.

¹ *Competencies for Special Librarians of the 21st Century*. SLA, 1996. Executive summary available at <http://www.sla.org/professional/comp.html>

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When evaluating content, consulting with lawyers who are experts in the area of law is especially important. Not only does the library benefit from purchasing those materials that are comprehensive and reliable in their legal content, but by consulting with lawyers, the librarian gains some expertise in that area of the law. Which brings us to our next point....

1.2. has specialized subject knowledge appropriate to the business of the organization or client.

The majority of law firm librarians don't have formal training in the law but we all manage to learn a great deal through day-to-day contact with our users in the research process. One of the challenges of new technology is that as research applications are transferred directly to the lawyers' desktop, the librarian may become less familiar with the research problems/needs of her users.

It is increasingly important to maintain contact with your users in both formal and informal settings. Creating and fostering personal relationships with lawyers in your firm can often provide valuable insights into the legal issues that are of interest to your users. Networking in an informal way is often underestimated as librarians focus on garnering invitations to the power meetings of the firm.

Many librarians are now important parts of multi-disciplinary teams devoted to subjects like intranet creation. Librarians who attend meetings of associates or practice groups often do so to provide updates and information on resources available to assist with topics under discussion. An added benefit is that the librarian gains more knowledge of the legal issues of concern to the lawyers and their clients, allowing them to be proactive in selecting new resources and funnelling information to the people who need it most.

Monitoring trends in the law and the legal profession, while not central to our role as researchers, is nonetheless important if we want to foresee change and be pro-active. Monitoring the legal listservs that are subscribed to by members of your firm can allow you to scan for significant topics that may have an effect on your firm and their clients. Scanning journals as well as legal news sources is another way. The advent of news delivered by push technology - i.e.: the news you want on pre-selected topics "pushed" directly to your desktop on a regular basis - is an excellent source of current awareness for law firm librarians. Reading the minutes of the CBA subsections and scanning CLE's course offerings were both mentioned as additional ways of familiarizing yourself with the hot legal topics of concern to your users.

Keeping up with the issues of concern to the firm's clients is another matter. Again, push newsletters were mentioned as an excellent source of information on specific industries since many are business related. Keeping files on important news regarding the firms client's and their industries and disseminating it to interested parties within the firm increases the librarian's profile while increasing the likelihood that the lawyers will keep her/him more informed in the future.

1.3. develops and manages convenient, accessible and cost-effective information services that are aligned with the strategic directions of the organization.

Librarians must now be able to go beyond the content of the information sources they select and evaluate its availability in different format with differing pricing structures. For example you could subscribe to a service in print, on CD-ROM, on an online system using communications software or via the Internet. All are likely to have different pricing based on time, usage, number of users

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(concurrent or potential) or number of physical items purchased. Some offer a limited license for use while others represent an outright purchase. The librarian's ability to compare not only the content but the accessibility and cost issues of information services is invaluable to the firm.

Several librarians mentioned providing enhancements to the traditional library catalogue. To improve subject access, extensive content notes are being added as well as Internet URLs. Although this is not revolutionary in the technical services field, library catalogues in law firms have often been underutilized and under appreciated.

Acquisitions lists are a spin-off of the increased cataloguing effort. Many firms notify lawyers of new acquisitions through lists, newsletters or the firms intranet.

Law firm librarians are playing a larger role in the design, content preparation and maintenance of firm intranets. They may have a role in designing the site's information architecture - the backbone of content organization for easy retrieval that their library expertise provides. One librarian mentioned that she posts library, legal, client, and firm news to the intranet on a daily basis.

1.4 provides excellent instruction and support for library and information service users.

Training students has often been an important role for librarians. The time and energy invested in the newer employee often pays dividends later with a lawyer who has a greater understanding and respect for the job that we do - a client for life.

With the avalanche of new technology options for information retrieval, most firm librarians now offer a broader range of training and support services - CD-ROM and internet training, both in groups and one-on-one, quick reference guides to using the

systems customized to the needs of the user and instantaneous support when users encounter technical or searching problems. By helping users immediately when they are experiencing problems, you are offering the highest level of service to your users and taking advantage of the "teachable moment" when the person is most receptive to training and new information.

Hands on training was mentioned as being one of the most effective forms rather than formal lectures. One librarian offered the following quote, "I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." *Confucius*.

1.5. assesses information needs and designs and markets value-added information services and products to meet identified needs.

Assessing information needs relates back to how we acquire specialized subject knowledge (1.2). In addition to these efforts, several librarians are conducting periodic information audits within the firm to gain a deeper knowledge of existing communication patterns and evaluate how information needs are being met across the firm. Questionnaires are often a means of gaining feedback to better understand the needs of our users. We need to be aware of their expectations and be able to effectively evaluate whether we are meeting these expectations.

Benchmarking our performance against similar libraries, past performance and other competitors was also mentioned as a method of assessment.

By being aware of lawyers' research habits, librarians can often design new services or products to facilitate their research. For example, creating new databases to track information that is needed on an ongoing basis or preparing legislative summaries directed to a lawyer's practice area. In addition, we often add value to our research product by

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summarizing results and preparing reports. One librarian also mentioned providing consolidations of legislation as a value-added service.

1.6. uses appropriate information technology to acquire, organize and disseminate information.

Competence in this area has perhaps become one of the more visible areas of expertise the librarian is presently providing to the firm. While others may be swept up in the "way cool" aspects of the new technology, librarians are constantly evaluating when it is appropriate to introduce information in a new electronic format. The move to the virtual law firm library has been a vision embraced by many firms and office managers as way of saving space, raising the libraries profile, and ensuring themselves a place on the list of "progressive" law firms. It is often the unenviable job of the librarian to point out when new technologies are not appropriate: when the cost is too high, when the product has not yet sustained a desirable level of stability or maturity, when the user base is illiterate in the use of computers and when the technological and training support is lacking.

That said, many firm libraries are now using more types of technology to deliver products to their users. Most firms mentioned the use of push technology to deliver news directly to the desktop. Libraries also set up scheduled searches through Infomart, Dow Jones, Dialog, or Lexis-Nexis to deliver periodic updates on selected topics either directly to the user or to the library for use in the preparation of other products such as newsletters.

Most libraries are providing their users with access to lists of organized web links to facilitate internet searching. In many cases the links reside on the firm's intranet where they can be disseminated widely. The technology allows the list to be dynamic and some librarians updated the site daily

with new links to hot items like legislation, current cases and news.

We are also making choices about accessing old content in new ways. Many legal content providers have embraced the Internet as their delivery vehicle of choice but the library still has choices to make since many sources are available from many publishers, in many formats. Choosing the most appropriate one for our user has never been such a challenge.

1.7. uses appropriate business and management approaches to communicate the importance of information services to senior management.

After all of the exhausting work you do, you don't want to end up the best kept secret in your organization. It is important for all libraries, but especially special libraries, to effectively communicate with senior management to garner the recognition and support that is needed to further your role in the firm.

Some libraries prepare annual and quarterly reports for senior partners as a formal mechanism of reporting. Several libraries rely upon less formal mechanisms such as reporting directly to the Chief Operating Officer and meeting on a regular basis.

In addition to reporting your needs and accomplishments, it is important to be part of your organization's formal planning structure. Preparing a strategic plan for the library keeps you on track and focused on your long-term goals. It is equally important to communicate your plan to your own staff as it is to inform senior management.

A job well done is certainly one of your most effective communications tools. However, a lot of our research efforts are expended on the those who may need it most but who lack decision making power in the organization - the students and new

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associates. If we are to rely upon the satisfaction of our users for recognition and advancement, it is important that our clients include those who have the power to respond and support our needs.

Marketing activities designed to put you in the public eye can take many forms. Libraries prepare brochures, newsletters, and maintain a profile on the Intranet in an effort to make their users aware of their services. Informal marketing can also be an effective means of communication with upper management. While Internet and CD-ROM training sessions aim to educate users, they also put the library front and centre as an acknowledged expert regarding new technology.

Even preparing the dreaded library budget can be an effective means of communication. At least one firm is using financial data from information purchasing to break down the spending by specific practice groups which is then communicated to senior management to support current budgetary requests.

1.8. develops specialized information products for use inside or outside the organization or by individual clients.

Law firm librarians are often using their unique knowledge and expertise to manage the intellectual know-how of the firm. Some librarians are designing and maintaining full text information retrieval systems to manage legal memoranda or the volumes of documents collected and generated by complex litigation.

Collections of well organized and annotated web links made available to users is another example of a specialized product designed to reflect the information needs of the firm. Instead of relying upon a generic set of legal links prepared by others, it is apparent that users benefit from our customization efforts.

1.9. evaluates the outcomes of information use and conducts research related to the solution of information management problems.

Librarians often don't have an opportunity to evaluate how the information provided was used by their clients. Did it meet their needs, exceed them, or fail to deliver? How did the information contribute to the bottom line - the profitability of the firm, the successful outcome to litigation, the acquisition of a new client's business?

Earlier we outlined some methods used by librarians to assess information needs. Many of these processes such as the information audit, questionnaires and benchmarking also allow us to evaluate outcomes if used in a broader sense.

By working closely with specialized groups within the firm such as participating in practice group meetings on a regular basis, we are more likely to get feedback from individuals regarding our successes and failures.

Librarians must come up with new solutions to information management problems. This includes deciding when and how to create a memo database, selecting new library software, comparing new services. Instead of re-inventing the wheel, librarians must conduct their own research to support their decision making responsibilities. Consulting with our colleagues continues to be our research method of choice. While it allows us to quickly gather information from people we know and trust, it is important to conduct our own needs assessment since each library is unique. There are more and more low or no cost sources available on the Internet such as BUBL [<http://bubl.ac.uk/>], Law Library Resource Xchange [<http://www.llrx.com>] and the Librarians' Resource Centre [www.sla.org/chapter/ctor/toolbox/resource/index.html] which provide access to library research.

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1.10. continually improves information services in response to changing needs.

Stagnant service is the kiss of death of the firm library. If we assume that no complaints equals customer satisfaction, we are likely missing part of the picture. Librarians are often heard to lament that the MIS department has "taken" some role for themselves that really belongs to the library. It is often the case that our competitors, both within the firm and outside, are responding to needs that we have not yet identified or addressed.

We have already discussed how librarians keep abreast of changing needs - through one-on-one and group contact with our users, by monitoring changes in the law and legal profession, and through formal reporting and feedback structures. What we do with this information is vital to the libraries key position as a relevant part of the firm.

All of the librarians who participated in this survey mentioned new products and services or improvements to existing ones based on their ongoing assessments of their users needs. Intranet development, catalogue enhancements, library newsletters, Internet and CD-ROM training and the creation of specialized research databases were mentioned as recent improvements to the libraries repertoire.

1.11. is an effective member of the senior management team and a consultant to the organization on information issues.

Positioning yourself as the information expert or "the source" is an effective way to ensure that you become a consultant to your firm on information issues. Being visible through marketing efforts and timely and targeted services can achieve this. If this alone is not enough, cultivating relationships with decision makers through personal contact and

targeted services was mentioned as a way to achieve the profile you need with senior management.

Conclusion

In addition to these professional competencies, the SLA report also outlines the personal competencies required of a 21st century librarian. These, however, are beyond the scope of this article.

We hope that this article has provided you with some insights into the world of the law firm librarian, perhaps helping you to benchmark your own performance against that of your colleagues. It is doubtful that any one firm library is meeting all of these core competencies one hundred percent of the time. However, by summarizing what several librarians are doing, we hope to provide you with ideas that will generate some thought and reflection on your own role in your organization.

PETER BARK PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BURSARY

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The **Peter Bark Professional Development Bursary** was established by the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries (VALL) in February 1991 to commemorate Peter Bark and his contribution to VALL and law librarianship. The purpose of the Bursary is to assist members demonstrating financial need to attend:

- ☞ meetings of the **Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL)**
- ☞ meetings of other library associations
- ☞ continuing education workshops
- ☞ other professional development activities

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AMOUNT

Up to a maximum of \$1,000 per year may be awarded that may be divided amongst eligible applicants.

ELIGIBILITY

☞ Applicants will have been members of VALL for one year.

☞ Financial circumstances of applicant(s) will be considered.

Preference will be given to applicant(s) who:

☞ are attending a professional conference for the first time, or

☞ have conference responsibilities, or

☞ are active in CALL and/or VALL or in the law library community.

CONDITIONS

Recipients may be requested to attend particular sessions at the meeting / seminar as VALL representatives. Recipients will prepare a written report for publication in the September issue of VALL Review and may also present an oral report at the June VALL meeting.

APPLICATION

Apply by letter stating:

☞ how you meet the eligibility criteria,

☞ how you intend to use the funds and

☞ the reasons you wish to attend.

Please send your application by March 1st to:
VALL

P.O. Box 48663, Bentall Centre
Vancouver, BC V7X 1A1

Attention: Past President

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

New Members

Amber Butler

Bull, Housser & Tupper

Phone: 641-4965

Email: axb@bht.com

Lisa Coco

Bull, Housser & Tupper

Phone: 641-4861

Email: lec@bht.com

Margaret Hume

Forrest C. Hume Law Corporation

Phone: 488-1499

Email: mahume@ibm.net

Deborah Hall

Ogilvie Renault

Phone: 806-0922

Email: DHall@ogilvyrenault.com

Lynne Foster

British Columbia Securities Commission

Phone: 899-6681

Email: lfoster@bcsc.bc.ca

Shelley Chrest

Acquisition editor

Butterworths

Email: schrest@butterworths.ca

Joanna Thomson

Campney & Murphy

Phone: 688-8022 ex. 2206

Email: jmt@campney.com

Caron Rollins

Diana M. Priestly Law Library

University of Victoria

Phone: (250) 721-8566

Email: crollins@uvic.ca

Kim Sorensen

Carswell

Phone: 303-7990

Email: kim.sorensen@carswell.com

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Moves

Kelly Higgins

Hewitt Associates

Phone: 844-7987

Email: klhiggin@hewitt.com

Mercedes Bourgaize (nee Araujo)

Harris & Co.

Phone: 891-2207

Email: mbourgaize@harrisco.com

Graeme Dempsey

Lawson, Lundell, Lawson & MacIntosh

Phone: 631-9189

Email: gdempsey@lawsonlundell.com

Christine Edwards

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

Phone: 691-4782

Email: Christine.Edwards@ms.rc.gc.ca

VENDORS CORNER

Butterworths

submitted by Arthur Vaz, Sales Manager, Western Canada

1999 has been a very successful publishing year for Butterworths Canada Ltd.. We published several core texts such as *The Law of Evidence in Canada, 2nd Ed.* (Sopinka), *Sentencing, 5th Ed.*

(Ruby) and *Assessment of Personal Injury Damages 3rd Ed.* (Bruce). New subscriptions included *Class Actions Law & Practice, Supreme Court Reports on CD-ROM* and *Federal Court Library on CD-ROM*.

Publications scheduled for November and December include the following: Arboleda-Florez/ Deynaka: *Forensic Psychiatric Evidence*; Boghosian/Davison: *The Law of Municipal Liability in Canada*; *Butterworths Journal of Women's Health and Law* (3 issues/yr.); Gluckstein/Samis: *Personal Injury Practice Manual*; *Cross & Tapper on Evidence*; *Municipal Liability Risk Management*

Newsletter; McGuiness: The Law and Practice of Canadian Business Corporations

The year 2000 promises* to be exciting for Butterworths as we will be issuing several new editions of Canadian texts. Shelly Chrest, our new Product Development Editor will be working with our Western Canada authors to develop new works. Several lawyers have already contacted Shelly with ideas for new texts. If any of the lawyers in your firm are thinking of writing or have some suggestions of titles, please contact Shelly in the Vancouver office at 689-1866.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2000! As I head into my 16th year with Butterworths, I look forward to working with you in monitoring your Butterworths library holdings.

Carswell

Submitted by Kim Sorensen, Account Representative, Carswell

We are pleased to announce the following recent and forthcoming enhancements to the eCARSWELL services. These enhancements, which should all be incorporated before the end of this year, have been undertaken in response to your feedback and suggestions.

Products:

law.pro

Additional information is being added to the digest and statute citations templates to aid in using these search tools

A new program will bring greatly increased currency in our case citator by giving notice of the most recent judicial treatments as soon as new decisions are added and before the decisions have been analysed by our editorial staff.

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insolvency.pro

Alliances with the Insolvency Institute of Canada and the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy have meant the addition of valuable new materials, including court files, from these institutions. To aid in searching these new materials, a new template is being added.

securities.pro

The Alberta and B.C. Securities Commission Summaries are being added to the service. The latest issues will appear on the Bulletin Board before being archived. In addition, an enhanced template is being added to aid in searching securities commission bulletins.

family.pro

The new Ontario Family Law Rules have been added.

Features & Functions:

Scheduled Searching: An improved scheduled search function will ensure that users are able to obtain automatic email notification of updates to any search results they choose.

Enhanced Client Billing: a new site administration and client billing tool, designed to aid in allocating costs to clients, is currently being piloted.

Reverse chronological order: You will shortly have the option of getting search results for full text cases and digests in reverse chronological order as well as relevancy.

Law Report Pulldown: A new pulldown menu is being added to case law search templates, which will facilitate searching within a particular law report series.

All SCC: The ability to search all Supreme Court of Canada cases as a group, either alone or together with cases from your chosen jurisdiction, has already been added on our case law templates. This capability will soon be added to the boolean search screen as well.

“Smart Highlighting”: Our programmers are refining the way in which our search engine

highlights search terms so that the highlighting will more fully reflect the parameters of the search.

Faster Citations Retrieval: In order to speed up the retrieval of judicial treatments of cases and statutes, we are streamlining the way in which this information is searched for. The expected result is that even long lists of treatments will be displayed quickly and will be easily printable as a whole.

Search Engine Enhancements: We have analysed all search capabilities in eCARSWELL with a view to ensuring complete consistency in search functionality across all types of search screen. We are also adding some refinements to our search engine, such as the capability of doing complex proximity searches.

Lexis

Submitted by Linda Yee, Lexis Nexis

Canadian Legal:

The full text judgments of all cases contained in Canada Law Book's All-Canada Weekly Summaries, Canadian Labour Arbitration Summaries and Weekly Criminal Bulletin are now online dating back to 1985. This completes the Canadian Labour Arbitration Summaries & Judgments file, as the digest was commenced in 1986. We also have the full text judgments of the Western Legal Publications digest series (including BC Civil Decisions and BC Criminal Decisions) online from 1998.

Check out our British Columbia Regulations database – it's complete, consolidated, and current to September 1999 (we update all our legislative databases on a regular basis).

US Legal:

Searchable Core Terms:

The Core-Terms segment, available for U.S. case law, is now a searchable segment. Your searches will be more relevant, and include reported and unreported cases.

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Search Advisor:

"...an excellent way to narrow a search for judicial opinions, particularly when you don't know a lot about the area of the law that you are searching. The balance of the lexis.com makeover is easy to use, doesn't have a lot of slowly loading graphics..."

from Barry Bayer in the September 22, 1999 edition of the Legal Intelligencer

Shepard's® - exclusively on LEXIS®-NEXIS®

One search covers reported and unreported cases
Federal and State Statutes
American Law Reports
Positive and Negative Treatment
Secondary sources
Current – added within 24 hours upon release
Parallel citations

UK and Commonwealth Legal:

For the United Kingdom, reported cases to 1936 and unreported to 1980 (tax cases to 1875). We also have the Halsbury Updates online.

CCH

Submitted by David Pleasance, CCH Business Development Manager

CCH has hired two new Account Managers. Karen Ross and Janis Pethybridge. Karen was with CCH for 9 years, and returns to serve the VALL membership, as Senior Account Manager. Karen can be contacted at 535-5101, and looks forward to working with you.

New products. CCH is launching new services for *Flexible Work Practices and Workplace Equity Guide*. The *Flexible Work Practices Guide* is in CD and Internet format. The *Workplace Equity Guide* is Loose-leaf, CD and Internet format, and is of great interest to those Companies, being audited by the Government Equity Compliance Auditors.

These products are available on a 30 day trial basis. All CCH products are Y2K compliant. Please visit our website at www.ca.cch.com, for verification. On behalf of CCH, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families, the best of the season, and to working with you in 2000.

Matthew Bender

Submitted by Darlene Bickford, Account Manager

Matthew Bender's Canadian representatives Christine Hyatt and Darlene Bickford are pleased to be new members of VALL. As you may know, last year Matthew Bender merged with Reed Elsevier. Although we are still known as Matthew Bender, we are now partnered with LEXIS-NEXIS, Michie (formerly LEXIS Law Publishing), Shepard's and Martindale Hubbell, which is known as LEXIS Publishing.

We would like to take this opportunity to advise you that, in addition to your Matthew Bender subscriptions, we will also service and fulfill your orders for Michie/LEXIS Law Publishing and Shepard's. Our International Sales staff in Albany, New York is dedicated to providing you with the service you have come to expect.

We are also pleased to have added several new titles recently, including: *Law of the Internet; Collier International Insolvency Guide; Intellectual Property Protection in Asia; Jewish Law; Benedict on Admiralty – Desk Reference; and Moore's Federal Practice – Admiralty – Desk Reference.*

News from CLE

Submitted by Karen Imeson

CLE Website

Earlier this fall, we significantly enhanced "CLE's Legal Links", one of the longstanding features of our website (www.cle.bc.ca). The Legal Links are now in a Yahoo-style directory format, and

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searching over the directory is vastly improved. We've added more links and more annotations, and new features such as a "what's new" listing and a listing of the most "popular" sites (those that are visited most often by users of the Legal Links). We'd love to hear your comments about how we can continue to improve this section of the website—to let us know how we're doing, simply click on the "Comment" form in the Legal Links section and send us your thoughts.

CLE Publications

Desk Order Divorce — An Annotated Guide

This new book promises to help practitioners successfully cope with changes to the procedure to obtain a desk order divorce. *Desk Order Divorce — An Annotated Guide* features a disk that guides users step by step in putting together successful desk order divorce applications. An outstanding group of contributors, led by The Honourable Mr. Justice Bruce Preston, have developed annotations and sample provisions for each document that must be submitted with the application.

Recent CLE Publications

The authors of our two major publishing efforts from the early summer—*Discovery Practice in British Columbia* and the *British Columbia Builders Liens Practice Manual*—will be glad to hear how well their books have been received by the profession. Copies of the new discovery manual by Lyle G. Harris are being snapped up at a ferocious rate. Lawyers have been following the advice of the Honourable Mr. Justice G. Peter Fraser (in his review in the September 1999 issue of *The Advocate*) that "This is a book that should be to hand, not just in the courthouse library. Practitioners should buy it; it will pay for itself many times over."

British Columbia Builders Liens Practice Manual is just as popular. CLE believed that this complete guide to builders lien practice was long overdue, and the proof has been the persistent sales of the

book since it was introduced. The project was spearheaded by Robert Jenkins, Derek Brindle and J. Marc MacEwing, and the chapters were written by many accomplished practitioners; of course, the book's success is due to the contributors who created it.

Contributors have significantly revised four other CLE publications:

Canadian Criminal Jury Instructions (CRIMJI)—The 12th annual edition, written by The Honourable Mr. Justice John C. Bouck and Professor Gerry Ferguson for judges and lawyers across Canada, is a complete replacement of the contents.

Due Diligence Deskbook — The 40 authors and three editorial board members have updated the book to reflect changing practice, including new electronic searches, Internet addresses, and pending legislation.

Employment Standards in British Columbia: Annotated Commentary and Legislation — In response to reader demand, the authors, led by William Cascadden and Gwendoline Allison, have added annotations for over 200 new tribunal and court decisions, with new commentary.

Corporate Registry Policy and Procedure Manual - - This year's revision, updated under the direction of Corporate Registry staff, contains valuable information about the new Company Act filing requirements for limited liability companies, as well as consolidated information about Corporate Registry fees. These new provisions came into effect on October 18, 1999.

Quicklaw

Submitted by Jeff Purkiss

Product Announcements:

U.S. Supreme Court Opinions

Quicklaw is pleased to announce the new database SCT containing the full texts of decisions of the United States Supreme Court since 1900. The database is updated each day that the Court releases

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new decisions. At this time the database contains 213,547 documents.

British Columbia Regulations (BREG)

Database BREG now contains 1036 Regulations, current to July 9, 1999. The collection is now 97% complete. Quicklaw anticipates completion of the collection by February 2000.

Lancaster House Labour and Employment Law Netletter (LANN)

Lancaster House, one of Canada's leading publishers of information on labour relations and employment law, has launched the Lancaster House Labour & Employment Law Netletter (LANN) on Quicklaw. For more than 30 years Lancaster House has published 17 monthly newsletters on a variety of labour and employment law topics. Jeffrey Sack, Q.C., Barbara Duckitt, LL.B., Marcelle Crouse, LL.B. and Lee Mitchell, LL.B. together form the Editorial Board of the new Netletter. They will produce the Netletter for publication on Quicklaw on the 1st and 15th of each month. Summaries of court decisions and arbitration awards as well as commentary are included in the Netletter. The Lancaster House Labour & Employment Law Netletter (LANN) will be added to Quicklaw's Labour Law Topical (LABT), Employment Law Topical (EMPL) and Human Rights Law Topical (HUMT).

Office Announcements:

Joe Schmidt

As Joe sets off on an adventure to South East Asia, we wish him all the best and thank him for almost 7 years of dedicated service to Quicklaw.

Jeff Purkiss

Jeff is now the Manager of Quicklaw Vancouver and hopes to maintain the high level of service which the Librarian community has come to expect from Quicklaw.

Jane Evans

Jane has worked for three years as an Account Representative in Quicklaw's Winnipeg office. She will be moving to Vancouver in the new year to

begin her position as Vancouver Account Representative.

Mimikos Athanassiadis

Quicklaw is pleased to announce the addition of a fifth Customer Service Representative, Mimikos Athanassiadis, to the Vancouver Customer Service department. Mimikos has a law degree and several years of customer service experience.

BC Courthouse Library Society

Y2K Charging Changes in the Courthouse Library

Assuming we all make it unscathed past January 1, 2000, there will be some changes in the new year at the B.C. Courthouse Library Society.

As you may be aware, the Society has encountered budget freezes over the last few years, and an out and out budget cut for 2000. As well, we are under increasing pressure from our funders (the Law Society and the Law Foundation) to generate more revenue. Consequently, we will be increasing some of our charges and levying new ones.

- There will be a \$10.00 handling charge (up from \$5.00) for third party document delivery services.
- An after hours access card for approved users who are not members of the Law Society of B.C. will cost \$25.00, although this charge will not apply to law librarians who need an access card.
- There will be a \$25.00 research service charge. This charge will be levied at the discretion of the reference staff. For example, questions concerning the legislative history of statutes can often require extensive research to follow the path of the contributing statutes.
- There is a new charge of \$5.00 per volume for books that we sign out or put on reserve for users.

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- We will also charge \$5.00 per case to retrieve judgments from the registry when other copies are readily available in a print series or on QL.

The good news is that the majority of the charges remain the same. Photocopying and faxing costs will not be increasing. Photocopying remains at .55/page and faxing remains at \$1.50 per page. Self-serve copying and printing remain at .25 per page.

INTERNET CORNER

BUBL Journals

<http://bubl.ac.uk/journals>

A free service that provides abstracts and tables of contents for over 200 mainly library science journals. Many of the titles go as far back as 1992 and citations can be found using the keyword search engine. Links are provided to sources that are available full text on the Internet. You can also choose to have new abstracts e-mailed to you on a regular basis.

Workers' Compensation Board Appeal Division

<http://www.worksafebc.com/appeal/appealdiv/default.asp>

Provides access to the full text of the decisions from the Appeal Division from Volume 7 of the *Workers' Compensation Reporter* onwards. There is also a consolidated keyword and subject index that can provide well needed access to decisions of this board.

Law Library Resource Xchange:

Guide on the Side

<http://www.llrx.com/>

Benefit from Marie Wallace's communication tips! An award winning, retired law librarian, Marie authors a regular column which provides valuable

information on written communications, oral presentations, and training. Some of her topics have included:

Tips on Delivering Plain Vanilla Presentations; Tips on Finding a Speaker; Stage Fright: Performer's Friend or Foe?; Presentation Software: Tips and Caveats; Why and How to Avoid Trashy Handouts A Communication Skill Suite: Speaking, Writing and Graphics; Getting Proposals Accepted within Your Organization

To find a full list of past articles, type "guide on the side" in the LLRX search engine.

Mind-it!

www.mindit.netmind.com

Mind-it will monitor a page on the Internet and email you when relevant changes occur. It is free (for now) and it works! Imagine that you must distribute every news release issued from the Ministry of Forests to your Forestry group. You just add the URL for the News Release page to your list of sites being monitored by *Mind-it* and an email message will be sent to you when a new release has been posted.

Many people are using this service to track their competitors websites.

In addition, *Mind-it* can be set up to watch for keywords and subjects appearing on specific internet sites. For instance you could be notified every time an article about "cybersquatting" appears in "Technology Watch" (News.com (CNET), Upside, and Red Herring). This aspect of the service is not as precise and is limited but it could be useful. The product is in Beta version 4.0.



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Treasurers Report

VANCOUVER ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES August 1, 1998 - July 31, 1999

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------|
| INCOME | | |
| | Membership fees | 2070.17 |
| | Bank charges / interest (Net) | 17.40 |
| | Lunch meetings (Net) | (1034.27) |
| | | |
| EXPENSES | | |
| | Postage, printing, and stationary | 239.00 |
| | Post Office box | 101.65 |
| | Peter Bark Memorial Fund | 500.00 |
| | Miscellaneous | 574.84 |
| | | |
| NET LOSS | | (362.19) |
| | | |
| Chequing Account Balance | as of July 31, 1999 | *4420.19 |
| Shares | | 58.70 |
| | | |
| Peter Bark Memorial Fund | | |
| | Term deposit (matures April 18, 2000) | 10500.00 |
| | T-Bill Savings Account | 1592.81 |
| | Shares | 68.22 |
| | | |
| | *\$500 cheque to CALL '99 not yet cashed. | |