

VALL REVIEW

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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE OF VALL

Dorothy Cameron

The VALL Executive has awarded the Peter Bark Professional Development Bursary to Cynthia Bartholomew of Legal Services Society and Amber Lannon of Bull Housser & Tupper. The bursary is awarded to assist members to attend CALL meetings, to attend continuing education workshops or for professional development. This year's recipients will be attending the May CALL Conference in London, Ontario. For those of us not attending, we anticipate an informative report in our next VALL Review.

It is a shock to realize that the mandate for the 2000-01 term is almost over. Again the cry, "Does anybody know where the time has gone?" This is the best time for me to thank members of the Executive for the wonderful job they have done this year. Joan kept VALL in the black with calls to the Crown Plaza and meticulous accounting. Thea produced Executive Meeting minutes, Luncheon Meeting minutes and Program Notes in record time. Joanna updated the VALL Directory and produced mailing labels whenever asked. Thanks to Pam and Laura, we have had a very full program year. Lynda and Anne have managed to produce hefty and informative VALL Reviews for our information. Jane responded to questions with speed, patience and diplomacy. It is easy to look good as President when you have such a willing and professional Executive. Thank You for your assistance in making this an effortless year as President.

The thank you segues nicely into a call for volunteers for the new Executive for 2001-02. There never is a "good time" to volunteer. If one waits for the stars to properly align, for the "right mood" to hit or for the work to slow down, the odds are better to win the Lottery. How many of us have won the Lottery? How many of us are still waiting? To be honest (and I always try) the most time I spend on the duties of being President is the time before a publishing deadline. If writing comes more easily to you than it does to me, you would spend virtually no time on your duties. Consider a year on the Executive and help to run our volunteer organization.



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FROM THE EDITORS

Anne Beresford & Lynda Roberts

With the February program being a viewing of Professor Berring's 5th video of the series Legal Research in the 21st century, the editors thought legal research would be a fitting theme for this issue. A review of the other four videos in the series follows by yours truly. Elsewhere in the issue two librarians have written their comments and impressions on making a career move from the traditional law library position into a non-traditional or special library situation. Sonia Poulin moved from being Librarian at Douglas Symes to Millar Thomson as an Information Analyst and Tracey Carmichael left her position at the Courthouse Library to go the B.C. Securities Commission library. They both comment on the different research resources they call upon in their new positions.

Internet corner highlights some of the more useful legal research sites, thanks to Lynda Roberts p.i. and c.i. skills.

There is also a farewell piece on Maureen McCormick, who retired March 2 after 22 years as Executive Director of the B.C. Courthouse Library Society. The article was written by Linda Morrison and Shirley Hyndman.

This is the 3rd and final issue for this year. I am sorry Lynda is handing over the reins, as her emphasis on the intranet provided a refreshing outlook for Vancouver firm libraries.

Stay tuned to learn who will be taking over as joint editor, and indeed for the whole new executive to be selected over the next few months.

Submissions for the next issue of the VALL Review should be sent, by e-mail preferably, to: *Lynda Roberts*—ljr@bht.com or 646-2535 (fax) or *Anne Beresford*—aberesford@blgcanada.com or 687-1415 (fax). The Deadline for submissions is September 4, 2001.

PETER BARK PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BURSARY

Submitted by Jane Wells

This year we were fortunate to have two recipients for the Peter Bark Professional

Development Bursary. Cynthia Bartholomew, reference librarian for the Legal Resource Centre, Legal Services Society of B.C. and Amber Lannon, Assistant Librarian, of Bull, Housser & Tupper will each receive \$500.00 from the bursary. As outlined in the guidelines, the funds are to be used to attend a professional conference and in this case both recipients will be attending CALL 2001 in London, Ontario. I would like to thank both Cynthia and Amber for applying and to thank the present VALL executive for their participation and support of the Peter Bark Professional Development Bursary.

Advance Notice - VALL April Program

Submitted by Pam Clancy

Speaker: Daphne Dumont, Q.C., President, Canadian Bar Association

Topic: "Closer Cooperation between the CBA and Law Librarians"

Date: Friday, April 20 (please note changed day)

Time: 11:45 a.m. – approximately 2:00 p.m.

We are pleased to announce that Ms Dumont will speak to us at our regular luncheon meeting. VALL members are urged to attend and to invite their firm's administrator or library partner as well. The room will hold 72 people.

A native of P.E.I., Daphne Dumont received her BA, MA, and law degrees at Queen's and Oxford. She was called to the bar in 1978 and has practiced as a partner at Macnutt & Dumont since 1983. In 1985 she and a dozen other lawyers became the founding members of the Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF). Examining her resume, one discovers that she has worked on almost every committee and held most positions at the CBA, both in her home province and at the national level. She is very involved with promoting civil legal aid and public legal education, serving on PEI Law Society committees, and teaching bar admission courses. In addition, she has a wide-ranging private life in which she finds time for numerous volunteer committees and her various passions including music, snorkeling and serving as a national-level rowing coach. Some VALL members will remember from last year's CALL conference what

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a lively speaker Daphne is. We are honoured that she has fit us into her busy schedule.

VALL Executive 2001-2002

The executive positions which need to be filled for the VALL executive year of 2001-2002 are President, Secretary and Program Coordinators (we need 2 of you).

If you are willing to participate in any of these capacities, please call Jane Wells, 822-4696 or email j_wells11@hotmail.com; or wells@law.ubc.ca

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Debbie Benson is moving from her position as Assistant Librarian with McCarthy Tetrault to Clark Wilson to be the Librarian, working with Steve Matthews who is the Internet Administrator. Debbie replaces **Peggy Neal**, who returned to Winnipeg to be married.

New Members:

Sader, Tim

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February Lunch Meeting a Fiasco

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

1. Lunch was served late.
2. Vegetarian lunches were served even later, cold and unappetizing.

FACTS

1. Joan Mulholland placed a request for 18 vegetarian lunches to be served on February 18, 2001 at the Crown Plaza
2. Crown Plaza prepared 24 vegetarian lunches.
3. Crown Plaza served 36 vegetarian lunches on February 18, 2001.

ISSUES

1. Why did lunch get served late?

Crown Plaza had a very full house on February 19, 2001. All conference rooms were booked. There were new staff working.

2. Why did vegetarian lunches get served cold and late?

The new staff asked at each table, "Who wants vegetarian?". They did not know about the card protocol with dietary restrictions. Members, who had not registered or who had not originally asked for vegetarian, requested vegetarian. Instead of serving 18 vegetarian lunches (or at the maximum 24), Crown Plaza scrambled to serve 18 additional requests for vegetarian lunches.

3. Who is liable?

You be the judge.

4. Recommendations for change.

I Pre-register with the registration form in the time frame requested.

II Please indicate your name on the cheque because the Treasurer does not know the name of your firm's holding company.

III Indicate whether you prefer a vegetarian or carnivore lunch.

IV Do not assume you will automatically get a meal if you arrive without pre-registering.

CONCLUSIONS

In an ideal world, VALL members would pre-register for luncheons. They would also indicate their name and dietary preference on the registration form. Unfortunately a number of the VALL members were inconvenienced by the lunch service fiasco but fortunately our videotape speaker, Bob Berring had no complaints.



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FEATURE ARTICLES

A Review of Professor Robert Berring's Legal Research for the 21st Century, Videos 1-5, West Group \$499

Submitted by Anne Beresford

There is no doubt that Professor Bob Berring is "passionate about spreading the gospel of developing and applying appropriate skills to conduct effective legal research...and complements his passions with considerable talent as a teacher."¹ As a particular fan of his original set of tapes on U.S. legal research, the 1988 "Commando Legal Research" I was anxious to view these and show them to our budding lawyers. I also thought it was my duty as a researcher to know what is on them. As a Canadian librarian advising students on researching U.S. law I was looking for the detail and clarity which would be difficult for me to deliver personally as a trainer.

I pre-screened Video 1, "The Basics" in which he reviews the differences between the casebooks, hornbooks, nutshells, outlines and prompts, and stresses the importance of dictionaries and "hot house" tools (compilations of statutes, codes). He talks about the complicating factors of research, the Federal system, jargon, common law, legislation and finishes with a "Nature of Authority" diagram, stressing the importance of knowing where you are on the spectrum of authority. While I thoroughly enjoyed Video 1 for Professor Berring's enthusiasm and presentation of the subject matter, I felt that the video was too basic for presentation to our articling students.

Video 2 covers "Case Finding and the Future of Cases." Professor Berring gives an excellent overview and description of the National Reporter (or West's) Digest System, and its topic key number access from its inception, and touches briefly on Westlaw. He promotes the "Bob" method of starting research by using context to finding that one "good" case, and using that to follow through. He reviews the basics of boolean searching, and stresses the importance of using

the natural language searching using WIN (Westlaw is Natural) and Freestyle (Lexis-Nexis). (I always feel I am copping out of a sophisticated research method when using freestyle, but he validates this approach.) I felt this video had enough useful information to view with students. Response was good from them, but again there were a few comments about the basic information offered.

Video 3 is titled "Citators and Secondary Source Research." Berring explores Shepard's and KeyCite in depth, and then reviews secondary sources. He talks about Lexisizing a case which runs a case name through the full text, and admits Shepardizing is far superior as it provides complete "blowback." He explains how you may "focus" a search when Shepardizing, a feature I recently found extremely useful. He details KeyCite on Westlaw, with its context sources, hyperlinks, and key # facility. He then goes on to explain Restatements of the Law, Uniform and Model laws, annotated codes and other secondary sources. The comparisons are useful.

Video 4 is my favourite as it deals with legislation. Berring compares legislation with Rodney Dangerfield. It "just don't get no respect" at law school, in fact a student can complete law school without ever reading a statute. No comment. Berring seems to cover twice as much ground in this tape, offering much more detailed clarity to the alphanumeric confusion of U.S. legislation. He covers Sessions Laws, the codifying and how it varies from state to state, but stresses the pattern is the same. He compares the code, the annotated code, and the code service (Lexis). He reviews Statutes at Large, public laws numbering, compiling legislative histories, the Thomas website, the Federal Register, and several reference sources covering administrative law. There is so much detail packed into this video that it easily warrants a second viewing. This one is a must see for students and Librarians, and rather than borrow this from the Courthouse Library, I think it will be useful to buy for our collection. It is the only one, after the first, which I arranged for student viewing.

A comprehensive description of Video #5 was included in the VALL program notes for February at <http://www.vall.vancouver.bc.ca/notes2000.htm>.

¹ Sabrina I. Pacifici. A Review of Berring's Legal Research for the 21st century on LLRX.com <http://www.llrx.com/features/berring.htm>

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I have not yet seen the Internet search portion of this video, and it is still on my to do list.

There is no question that Bob Berring is the guru of legal research. As I do not have the print U.S. resources in my library I need all the help I can get when trying to explain and locate U.S. law for lawyers and students, and I found his approach thoroughly enjoyable and comprehensive. His intended audience is the first year U.S. law student, so there are many parts of the tapes which recap general sound research theories, some of which have already been engrained in our law students by the time they arrive in our firms. This is a minor and the only criticism I have of these videos, but encourage all of you to view them and see for yourself. I just noticed in West's recent newsletter for Law Librarians² there is a suggestion to check out "The Berring Beat" which is a monthly column for law students and contains research and study tips, useful online links, etc. It is available at <http://www.lawschool.westlaw.com> or <http://www.westgroup.com/librarians>.

Life After the Law Library

Submitted by Tracey Carmichael

I have often pondered the question, "How did I end up in a law library in the first place?" I was absolutely convinced in library school that I would work in a corporate setting. Many of our projects at McGill involved "real world" problems where we would create a collection development plan, database, marketing program, etc. for a real library we were familiar with. I always chose a small special library as my model. Imagine my surprise when I discovered after a ten-month contract as the computer services librarian at McGill law school that I was already branded a law librarian. I was fortunate to quickly land a job at the Courthouse Library after moving to Vancouver in 1992. I don't consider that my career went off track at all and I am always amazed that librarians really do the same thing regardless of the subject, clients and size of our libraries. However, the opportunity to really experience the smaller corporate library that I had studied was very attractive.

A lot of what I was seeking in a career as a special librarian I found at the Courthouse Library. I especially liked that I was able to gain a considerable amount of expertise in a narrow field of research. It was wonderful to feel that you were really a master of your subject area - which was really the accumulation of years of experience and the generous sharing of knowledge that is so prevalent at the Courthouse Library. I really benefited from working with so many knowledgeable and experienced people and feel that it certainly made me a better librarian. A colleague recently described the one-person library as "Jill of all trades and master of none". I think that this is probably an apt description so I feel fortunate that I was able to have this, perhaps fleeting, feeling of mastery before I joined the realm of the smaller corporate library.

I was attracted to my new position at the BC Securities Commission for several reasons. I preferred not to work alone and looked forward to working with Carol Williams, the former head librarian and new Manager of Knowledge Management Services. I also felt that the "securities" subject matter would be similar to the research I had been doing, which would provide an important comfort level in my new endeavours and in fact, this has proven to be true. I also felt that the "corporate" angle would provide me with some exciting new research challenges and this has also proven to be true.

I have been doing a lot of research on companies and people for due diligence purposes and to support our enforcement initiatives. Instead of doing research with an impartial view as was most often the case at the Courthouse, I am often instructed to look for information from a certain angle - usually looking for the negative or for some incriminating evidence of wrongdoing. I find myself involved in searching public records in addition to the more familiar online sources. I frequently consult the Edgar records from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and often use Livedgar (<http://www.gsonline.com>), a commercial interface. Despite the modest cost, the formatting of documents is superior to the free product and more search features are available. The Litigation and Finder libraries on Lexis-Nexis are also new to me and I use them to find information about people. An inexpensive alternative is Autotrack

² Law Librarians in the New Millennium, Jan/Feb 2001, v.3 #1 p.3

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(<http://www.autotrackxp.com>), a commercial service that allows you to search for public information about U.S. residents and companies. It provides combined access to many different types of records: Social Security Numbers, motor vehicle licenses, professional licenses, telephone directories, company registries, property registries, tax records, etc.

We recently subscribed to a new service called Casestream (<http://www.courtlink.com>) that provides access to the court dockets for all U.S. District Courts and many state courts. Most judgements from these trial level courts are never reported and are often unavailable from online sources. The docket provides a listing of all the actions in the case as well as the case number. This information is required if you need to request the case from the court. Following through and ordering documents has been an eye-opening experience. They require a written request sent by snail mail with pre-payment for the documents. Sometimes they will give you a page count and price by phone before you send the request. Other times you must send the request, they'll call you with the price and then you must mail a cheque - no, credit cards are not accepted. To top it all off, many court clerks will only take phone calls during certain hours of the day and you can be sure that if they are on the east coast, those hours will coincide with your morning shower! Each time I go through this procedure I want to scream, "Are you sure this is the United States of America?" Of course if you have the bucks, you can send an agent and Casestream will send off your request electronically to a document retrieval company of your choice.

One of the biggest changes is being a small part of a bigger organization. At the Courthouse library I helped more or less anonymous users with a limited problem. I rarely knew the outcome of the research unless I happened to recognize the issue from a high profile case reported in the news. Now I am more informed about how my research fits into the bigger picture and I am enjoying being part of the larger Commission, knowing that the work I do is benefiting many of our strategic initiatives.

My new position offers me many opportunities to branch out into areas of knowledge management that up until now I only read about. The library

produces a daily newsletter using newsfeeds from Special Edition and Factiva that are both new services to me. As well, I am working on a project to re-focus our Intranet to provide real benefits to staff in saved time and increased efficiencies. Working with groups outside of the library in this Commission-wide initiative is a great opportunity. I have struggled a bit in deciding how to approach the project to ensure the cooperation, support and participation of others. While it is a library-led initiative, it will ultimately effect how others do their jobs and communicate on a day-to-day basis. We are taking a committee approach where all the major stakeholders are represented. I'm hoping to learn more at this year's VALL workshop.

I have taken over responsibility for overseeing the day-to-day financial business of the library - something that has been completely outside my scope of experience in my career to date. I am constantly bugging Christine Guerra, our library technician for clarification on how the procedures work. I want to make sure that I understand fully our ordering and payment procedures as well as where the information resides including the statistics and ongoing calculations. I am enjoying the attention to detail this work commands.

I am also enjoying having more hands-on experience with our web work. I have created some pages on our library web site, begun to learn about Inmagic WebPublisher from Zena Henriquez, our resident DBTextworks master, and am becoming more involved in the planning and development of our public website. Carol championed the website development early when others did not recognize its potential to become our primary vehicle for communications with our clientele. It is now an important part of the Commission's strategic plan, with Carol as the chair of the committee. I am excited that I can contribute my expertise as a librarian to its continuing development.

Outside of my real job, I have taken advantage of the many other opportunities that are provided to employees at the Commission. I am on our Lunch and Learn Committee which provides education opportunities to staff and I am the secretary and webmaster of the "Talking Watchdogs" our new Toastmasters club. Hopefully I will become an eloquent speaker - let

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me know if you see any good results. These are also great opportunities to meet the other people at work. It has been quite a change going from a staff of about 30 to 220!

You'll all be happy to have it confirmed: your law library skills really are transferable to other areas of the profession. I am quite surprised at how quickly I have adapted although I readily admit that I still have a lot to learn.

From Librarian to Information Professional!

Submitted by Sonia Poulin

Introduction...

For those who would not know me...

I obtained my graduate degree from McGill University in Library and Information Studies and an undergraduate degree in Linguistics from Concordia University. I have been working in the capacity of a Law Librarian since 1996 in various law firms in Canada and have taught French as a second language. I am also furthering my expertise in competitive intelligence by taking ongoing courses from the University of Toronto and from the Society of Competitive Intelligence while completing my law degree on part-time basis with the University of London. I will be coordinating the SCIP Chapter in Vancouver and I am dedicated to the field of research and competitive intelligence.

I moved to Vancouver in 1998 and worked at Farris Vaughan Wills & Murphy before joining Douglas Symes & Brissenden to be their Librarian. Douglas Symes & Brissenden ceased client services on October 31st, 2000. While winding up the library operations, I had to look for another position... and was getting ready to pack and move south when I received a phone call from Miller Thomson LLP, formerly known as Swinton and Company.

What I do...

I am now the Information Analyst, Leader of the Information Services Team, of the Securities Department and I provide complex information gathering from a variety of national and international sources and the analysis and dissemination of such information to our clients, based on the specified needs of the decision makers. My research focus varies from investigation of an individual to corporate

histories inclusive of key organizational members. Once the data is collected and filtered, I review, analyze and report the information to the clients in a brief summarized report tailored to specific clients needs.

Our aim is to provide a timely condensed preliminary report, primarily on individuals associated with a new issuer on the exchange. All source data is collected and filtered specifically with these goals in mind. Analysis is conducted which culminates in a summarized background search report. If supporting documentation is necessary, it is forwarded in a html or text file by email along with the report.

We also maintain individual tracking systems of any prospective director or officer as well as any specific corporate entity through the media.

We attempt to provide an average turnaround time of 48-72 hours. The turnaround time on any preliminary searches will be increased substantially if the name is a common one (for example: John Kennedy, Michael Smith, etc.). The more information that we can obtain in order to reduce commonality will promote a higher turnaround on the request.

We have developed a specific set of research parameters that are utilized consistently in order to standardize our results. This also ensures that replication of the search can be conducted for test purposes. Depending on the location of the individual or corporate entity, more databases (also French, German and Spanish language sources) are added to the preliminary protocol. Names are also carefully researched to clarify any permutations or combinations of the derivative in its origin language.

Do I miss books?

Of course I do! I now spend my days looking strictly at the computer screen...but I do visit the firm's library, as a user, but also to say hello to Elizabeth. My office is located only a few steps away from Chapters where I spend most of my lunch hours!! I started to do this work at Douglas Symes & Brissenden more than a year ago but only a few hours a week. I found this area very interesting. My studies at McGill University are also very useful as they were very much technology and information/intelligence oriented.

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Differences....well I think one needs to be VERY analytical in order to succeed in this environment as well as having the flair of a detective. Librarian or Information Professional? One thing will never change: we still have to market our skills and qualifications!

Sonia Poulin
Information Analyst
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Maureen McCormick

*Submitted by Linda Morrison
and Shirley Hyndman*

Maureen McCormick, Chief Librarian and Executive Officer, retired on March 2, 2001 after 22 years at the B.C. Courthouse Library Society. Maureen began her career as a librarian over 30 years ago as a cataloguer (a period she refers to with a grimace) and worked for Carleton University, the National Library and the Department of Fisheries. Maureen also spent two years in Zambia setting up a college library.

Maureen joined the B.C. Courthouse Library Society (then known as the B.C. Law Library Foundation) in 1978 as "Vancouver Librarian" and immediately donned a hard hat to work on the new home of the Vancouver library. She became its second Executive Director in 1979 when she took over from Tom Heitz.

Maureen led the Society through a period of tremendous change. The number of libraries in courthouses grew from 29 to 50. All the collections in these libraries were catalogued, a mammoth undertaking. A rudimentary card catalogue at the Vancouver Library together with paper "inventories" of branch collections were input into a computer database to provide the legal community with first a microfiche and later an online union catalogue. And, of course, the number of computers grew from a single dumb terminal dedicated to QL searching in Vancouver to public computers with Internet access in most branches.

Maureen had a strong focus on customer service and oversaw the development of a province wide legal reference service and photocopy service. Several editions of Solicitors' Liability Index were produced and B.C. Legislative Digest and the

Canada Legislative Index grew from in house card indexes to widely used reference tools.

Maureen had exacting standards and the Vancouver library has been a training ground for the many law librarians who worked there at some point in their careers.

Maureen was active in CALL, working on a variety of committees and serving on the executive from 1984 to 1990. She worked closely with colleagues across the country in the Courthouse and Law Society Library Management Group that she helped found. She was a strong advocate for accessible legal information and was recently active in lobbying for free Internet access to B.C. legislation.

We know Maureen will enjoy her new found leisure to travel and to pursue her interests in history and genealogy. A few of the staff have even hinted that she could research their families if she runs out of her own!

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News from CLE

www.cle.bc.ca

Submitted by Karen Imeson

Here's a little update on our new and expanded, award-winning website. Updated daily, the site's new features include an expanded links section, in-depth articles analyzing emerging issues written by leading practitioners, downloadable forms and precedents, the latest news on the legal community, updates on law society and CBA activities, and a new "contributors" section.

Although we're still in the process of adding our publications catalogue as well as the Fall 2000 and Winter 2001 titles to our new website, we hope that will be completed soon. In the meantime, you can browse through the publications catalogue (updated to August 2000) on our old website. Thanks for bearing with us in the interim; we hope you'll agree that the new catalogue will be worth the wait!

Come and visit us. We always welcome feedback on our website activities. Feel free to contact Drew Jackson, Director, New Media at djackson@cle.bc.ca or Mary Conibear, Production Manager at mconibear@cle.bc.ca

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New Publications

Expert Evidence in British Columbia Civil Proceedings

We are delighted to announce our newest publication, *Expert Evidence in British Columbia Civil Proceedings*, the most recent in CLE's series of guidebooks for the legal profession. Expert evidence plays a critical role in most civil cases—and every litigator should know how to use experts to their full advantage. *Expert Evidence* is a practical, essential resource to help you handle B.C.'s distinctive rules. The book provides commentary, strategies, and practice tools to allow you to make effective use of expert evidence. A 6" x 9" softbound guidebook, *Expert Evidence* has been designed for portability and is a handy, quick reference in court or at the office. This first edition is current to February 1, 2001 and will be released in late March.

10th Edition of Annual Review

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the perennial favourite, *Annual Review of Law & Practice*. The book provides an easy, affordable, and reliable way to keep its readers on top of the pivotal issues and trends. Each edition contains over 30 chapters, and reading each chapter is a snap – each averages 10 to 20 pages and is packed with readable and accessible commentary about the main legislation, case law, and practice changes in BC. This 2001 edition includes the addition of a chapter on Internet law. *Annual Review* is the essential updating tool for the busy practitioner and is now available.

Public Guardian and Trustee Handbook

(formerly *Public Trustee Handbook*) This new, 3rd edition incorporates the newest Adult Guardianship legislation which came into force February 28, 2000. Also new to this edition is the consolidation of most of the legislation that affects the *Public Guardian and Trustee*. Available now.

News from QuickLaw & Irwin Books

Irwin books recently added to Quicklaw –

1. *Alternative Dispute Resolution* by Andrew J. Pirie, Professor at University of Victoria

2. *Administrative Law* by David Mullan, the author of the *Admin Law* title in the CED
3. *The Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act: an Annotated Guide*

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Google Inc. has acquired Deja.com's Usenet Discussion Service. This acquisition

provides Google with Deja's entire Usenet archive (dating back to 1995) <http://groups.google.com/>

Search engine **Northern Light** (<http://www.northernlight.com/>) has added The New York Times and over 100 papers from the Knight Ridder/Tribune Business News service to its special collection. That brings their special collection count up to over 7,100 periodicals and research reports. Searching the special collections is free. Retrieving articles costs, with the cost varying depending on the article. To search the news only- <http://www.northernlight.com/news.html>

Links to **online newspapers** in Canada and around the world <http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/>

Odd dictionaries are available at <http://blueray.com/dictionary/>. Site includes: The White Queen's Dictionary of One-Letter Words (over 700 entries), the Dictionary of All-Consonant Words, and the Dictionary of All-Vowel Words.

Yukon Gazette On Line web site is free for the time-being <http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/dgs/gazette/index.html>

The **Newspaper Archive** (<http://www.newspaperarchive.com/>) provides access to historic newspapers – Manitoba newspapers from 1900 to 1921 and New York Times from mid 1800's. More than 100,000 pages of historic newspapers and documents are online now with 2,000 more pages being added every day. User must download a plug-in to view.

New **metasearch engine** <http://www.ixquick.com>. It conducts searches using 14 other search engines and has many

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features that are useful, such as removing duplicate results, indicating the quality of results by putting a star next to the result for each search engine that ranked the result in the top 10 and translating search modifiers for the various search engines that it uses.

Plane Crash Info <http://planecrashinfo.com> is a database of aviation "incidents". The site appears to be updated often and contains over 2100 reports. In addition to the crash information, this site also contains listings of "unusual accidents," safety ratings for several airlines, accident statistics, and a list of reference sources used in creating the site.

The Economic History Society <http://www.eh.net/ehresources> website includes a **series of calculators** (accessible at the left side of the screen) which give historical economic information. For instance, you could use a calculator to determine the exchange rate of the British pound and the American dollar between 1791 and 1999. Each of the calculators contains a source note so you know where this data is coming from.

Handy keyboard Shortcuts –

Window tips:

Toggle between the menu bar and the main window in a program: F10 or Alt

Switch to the next window of a multiple-document-interface program: Ctrl-Tab

Close a program: Alt-F4

Run *Find* again (in many but not all Windows utilities): F3

WORD tips:

Change font sizes quickly – increase size Ctrl-Shift -> (greater than sign) – decrease size Ctrl-Shift -< (less than sign) – increase size by one point: Ctrl-] (right square bracket) – decrease size by one point: Ctrl-[(left square bracket)

Finding **Mexican Law**: (compiled by Genie Tyburski)

> US State Department – www.state.gov

> US Department of State, Country Commercial Guides Index –

www.state.gov/www/about_state/business/com_guides/index.html

> US Department of State, FY 2001 Country Commercial Guide: Mexico – http://www.state.gov/www/about_state/business/com_guides/2001/wha/mexico_ccg2001.pdf

> Guide to Foreign and International Legal Databases – www.law.nyu.edu/library/foreign_intl

> Global Banking Law Database – www.gbld.org

> InfoJus – www.juridicas.unam.mx

> L&H (Lernout & Hauspie) Online Translations – <http://translate.lhsl.com>

> Global Legal Information Network (GLIN) – <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/law/GLINv1/GLIN.html>

> Camara de Diputados (Mexican Congress) – <http://www.cddhcu.gob.mx/>

Finding law firm newsletters:

Vancouver firms or offices:

[Barrigar](http://www.barrigar.com) - <http://www.barrigar.com>

[Blake Cassels & Graydon](http://www.blakes.ca/) - [tpt://www.blakes.ca/](http://www.blakes.ca/)

[Borden Ladner Gervais](http://www.blgcanada.com/english/index_set.htm) - http://www.blgcanada.com/english/index_set.htm

[Bull Housser & Tupper](#) - [News and Resources](#)

[Clark Wilson](http://www.cwilson.com/pubs/) - <http://www.cwilson.com/pubs/>

[Davis & Co.](http://www.davis.ca/idxnewsl.htm) - <http://www.davis.ca/idxnewsl.htm>

[Farris, Vaughan Wills & Murphy](http://www.farris.com/) - <http://www.farris.com/>

[Fasken Martineau Dumoulin](http://www.fasken.com/english/press.html) - <http://www.fasken.com/english/press.html>

[Fraser Milner Casgrain](http://www.frasermilner.com/new/index.html) - <http://www.frasermilner.com/new/index.html>

[Lang Michener](http://www.langmichener.ca/body.html) - <http://www.langmichener.ca/body.html>

[Macaulay McColl](http://www.macaulay.com/publications.html) - <http://www.macaulay.com/publications.html>

[McCarthy Tetrault](http://www.mccarthy.ca/en/publications/) - <http://www.mccarthy.ca/en/publications/>

[Oyen Wiggs Green & Mutala](http://www.patentable.com/newsletters/news.htm) - <http://www.patentable.com/newsletters/news.htm>

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[Richards Buell Sutton](#) -
<http://www.featureweb.com/rbs/publications-list.asp?cat=94>

[Singleton Urquhart](#) - <http://www.singleton.com/>

[Smart & Biggar](#) - <http://www.smart-biggar.ca/C/main.htm>

[Swinton & Co.](#) - <http://www.swinton.ca/news.htm>

Other Canadian firms:

[Bennett Jones](#) -
<http://www.bennettjones.ca/publications/publicationsframe.html?Page=index.html>

[Bereskin & Parr](#) -
<http://www.bereskinparr.com/publications.html>

[Cassels Brock & Blackwell](#) -
<http://www.casselsbrock.com/podium.asp>

[Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg](#) -
<http://www.dwpv.com/main.html?publications>

[Desjardins Ducharme](#) -
<http://www.ddsm.ca/en/new/index.html>

[Gowling, Strathy & Henderson](#) -
<http://www.gowlings.com/search/pub.htm>
[Heenan Blaikie](#) - [Our publications](#)

[Lavery, de Billy](#) -
<http://www.laverydebilly.com/htmlen/Publications.htm>

[Macleod Dixon](#) -
<http://www.macleoddixon.com/04public/04INDEX.HTML>

[McMillan Binch](#) - <http://mcbinch.com/Inprint/>

[Miller Thomson](#) -
<http://www.millerthomson.com/publications.asp>

[Ogilvy Renault](#) -
<http://www.ogilvyrenault.com/en/pu/index.htm>

[Osler, Hoskins & Harcourt](#) -
<http://www.osler.com/publications/index.html>

[Stewart McKelvey Stirling Scales](#) -
<http://www.smss.com/whatsnew/recentupdates.asp>

[Stikeman Elliott](#) -
<http://www.stikeman.com/frame.html>

[Torys](#) -

<http://www.torys.com/publications/index.html>

International firms:

[Baker & McKenzie](#) -
<http://www.bakerinfo.com/Publications/Display%20Pages/default.asp>

To be continued.....

Canadian Legal Research Sites:

Guide to Canadian Legal Research (Ted Tjaden) <http://www.llrx.com/features/ca.htm>

Best Guide to Canadian Legal Research (Catherine Best)

<http://legalresearch.org>


Canadian Legal Resources (Alan Gahtan)
<http://www.gahtan.com/cdnlaw>

Canadian Legal Resources (Peter Sims)
http://www.mbnet.mb.ca/~psim/can_law/html

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Using the VALL Membership Directory Online:

1. Enter member's first OR last names only. If you enter both names please insert an "&" between the names. This is not necessary when searching for the name of an organization: here you can enter the full name
2. Use an "*" to truncate or replace a letter if you are unsure of the spelling of a name
3. Please use Boolean logic (& = and, / = or, ! = not)
4. The *Word Wheel* is a list of all terms indexed in the database
5. Remember to enter the password when searching!
6. For more instructions click on the 

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FURTHER NEWS

Case comment on CCH Canadian Ltd. V. The Law Society of Upper Canada can be found at *Information & Technology Law: recent developments for professionals* Volume 4, Number 1, March, 2000. (Carswell)

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE NETWORK COMMITTEE

Old texts to toss? Down-sizing your printed resources? The IRNC wants you!

Established by a small group of B.C. lawyers in 1999, the International Resource Network Committee ("IRNC") is interested in assisting lawyers, legal professionals, and organizations in developing countries with their legal questions or problems and in creating mutual international information exchanges between members of the legal profession. The IRNC is a special committee of the Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia Branch and acts in conjunction with the International Development Committee of the national Canadian Bar Association.

IRNC members have diverse and eclectic backgrounds, from those who have done extensive work in developing countries (legal or otherwise) to those who merely have an interest in assisting foreign legal practitioners. Since its inception, membership has grown from half a dozen to approximately twenty-five individuals.

One of the first projects undertaken by the IRNC was to provide information on Canadian legal institutions, including organizational structure and the interplay of the courts, administrative bodies, governmental departments and legislature, to the newly formed Legal Secretariat of the Kingdom of Bhutan. In satisfying Bhutan's request, the IRNC was provided with invaluable assistance from the Law Courts Education Society.

Since that time, the IRNC has received requests for assistance from such countries as Cambodia, Zanzibar, Malaysia, Namibia, and South Africa. In response to the request from the Legal Assistance Centre of Namibia, IRNC members provided information and research on a specific family law issue and information on domestic violence and how it's dealt with in Canada.

A common request received from legal organizations has been for legal texts and printed legal materials. Most organizations are thrilled to receive texts that we would consider outdated, as most work with limited or no resources and have no access to any written legal materials. Many of the organizations' members may have had little formal legal education and may be situated in a country with a developing legal system. They crave texts that set out basic common law legal concepts as well as those dealing specifically with areas such as evidence, constitutional law, commercial law and civil and criminal procedure.

As a result of the such requests, the IRNC has an ongoing need for texts or loose-leaf materials in all areas, including the following:

- Evidence
- Criminal Law
- Contracts
- Commercial Law
- Family Law
- Constitutional Law
- Refugee Law
- Human Rights & Equality

PLTC practice materials are also extremely useful as they provide an overview of most of the foregoing areas.

If you, your firm, or organization has such texts or resource materials to donate, please contact the IRNC.

British Columbia is the only CBA branch that has a committee such as the IRNC, providing hands-on information and materials to those in other nations. But there is hope that the idea will spread to other provinces.

For inquiries, including text and resource donations, contact:

Elizabeth Campbell
Tel: (604) 660-4353, Fax: (604) 660-4347
email: elizabeth.campbell@ag.gov.bc.ca

The IRNC meets on the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the offices of Heenan Blaikie, #2200 - 1055 West Hastings Street, Vancouver. For meeting information call James Tate at (604) 891-1190 (email: JTate@Heenan.ca).

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The Continuing Education Program of the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto offers practical workshops for information professionals and others interested in information issues or in learning new information technologies. [Instructions on how to register](#) (Check for course schedules as they only run once per year)

Web Based Courses include:

[Internet Competitive Intelligence](#)

[Current Awareness Services on the Net](#)

[Mastering Web Searching](#)

[Computers and Networks](#)

[Legal Research on the Internet](#)

