

# VALL REVIEW

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE OF VALL

*Teresa Gleave*

By the time this issue of the *VALL Review* is produced we will be all swept up in the whirlwind that is the Christmas season. The first part of this VALL season seems to have passed very quickly, with successful and enjoyable lunch meetings and speakers. In October, Sherry Brown, Ken O'Connor and Amar Dosanjh gave an overview of the new Queen's Printer product, LegalEze. In November, we remembered Peter Bark, as is our tradition. We also enjoyed Sasha Angus of the B.C. Securities Commission who gave a lively and informative talk about enforcement at the Commission. For our December meeting, we are delighted to welcome some of our honorary members and look forward to hearing what is happening with them (remember, there is life after librarianship). We are going to try a different venue for our December luncheon, the Law Courts Inn, as we explore some alternatives to the Hotel Georgia.

Most of us try to gaze into the future when we prepare our annual budgets, prepare a strategic plan, or plan for technology or a new space. It can be the most difficult part of our jobs but can also be the most enjoyable because it allows us to take time to imagine the way we would like things to be, even if the outcome does not quite turn out that way. In this issue, our VALL Review editors have expanded this exercise and have solicited some ideas about the law library of 2010. I strongly believe law librarians will be even more important to our organizations in 2010 than we are now as we educate our users to new technologies and realities. Those of us who work in law libraries will continue to depend on VALL to provide a network and a forum as we learn and move into the future together.

On behalf of the VALL Executive, I wish each of you the best possible holiday season and may the new year bring peace and happiness to all.

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## From the Editors

*Susan Daly &  
Anne Beresford*

In this issue we are looking at the future of legal information. Access to legal information has changed drastically over the last 10 years...will we see the same kinds of change in the next 10 years? What are your predictions and thoughts? Specific questions were put to some of our members who agreed to write a brief article in response. The questions which were used arose out of a project worked on by Catherine Best, research lawyer at Campney & Murphy. I thank her for relieving us of the task of having to be original and devise these ourselves.

Teresa Gleave directed my attention to an article in *American Lawyer* of December 1989, (Pullout Management Report) titled *Law Library of the Year 2000* where librarians make predictions about the law firm library in 2000, and interestingly enough they do not mention the internet. Another article was written locally at the request of VALA for the VALL Review in September 1994 (v.7, #1) called *Law Libraries in the Year 2000*. With these as a backdrop I think you will enjoy looking to the future once again. What could possibly be out there now that we haven't thought of yet?

## Future of Legal Information

### 1) What will the Internet look like in the future?

*Submitted by Amber Lannon,  
Bull Housser & Tupper*

The future of the Internet will be driven by two technologies: improved bandwidth (**Bandwidth:** The amount of data an electronic line can transmit) and connectivity (**Connectivity:** a devices' ability to link with other programs and devices). Higher bandwidth access will drive such applications as net meetings, high quality audio and video, and intelligent handheld devices operated by touch, telephony, and handwriting recognition.

In fact, by 2010 nearly everyone will own a Personal Digital Appliance (PDA). This device will combine the cell phone, pager, palm pilot and the Internet in one wireless appliance. These PDAs will link into larger flat-screened monitors at your home and the office. In fact, in the not too distant future, *all* devices will have wireless capabilities. Tiny microprocessors will be embedded into everything from your refrigerator to your gas pump - linking them to the Internet. You will be able to use the same device to send e-mail and turn on your oven - all from your seat on the bus!

The Internet of 2010 will support more users. The number of people online will continue to grow and more countries will come online. According to the Gartner Group, the Asia-Pacific region - will have 183.3 million net subscribers in 2003, compared to 162.8 million in the U.S. and 162.2 million in Europe. Gartner predicts that by 2005, China will be the largest Internet market, followed by Japan, South Korea and India (<http://www.gartner.com>).

In the next couple of years, websites will become increasingly personalized. You've seen this already with personal portals such as My Yahoo! Today, users customize the information by telling the site which categories they want news on, which companies they want to track, which city they need the weather for, etc. In the future, sites will track what you tend to look at and offer it to you without your intervention. Overall, future forecasters predict that websites will simplify and searching will improve as users abandon "glamorous" websites for sites they can actually use. Improved surfing will also come from more powerful user interfaces, the increased use of XML (**XML:** Extensible Markup Language designed to improve the functionality of the Web by providing information identification), and improved browser support. It is expected that more materials and services will be available online in 2010; however, most will not be free to use.

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Internet2, a super-fast network being used by a consortium of American universities, shows us where the public Internet might be in the future. Launched in 1996 it was developed to support bandwidth intensive applications. It's used by universities to offer distance education and by scientists to collaborate on research. With a fibre optic backbone this network allows for sophisticated applications such as the use of surgical instruments remotely or virtual learning spaces where individuals can collaborate as if they were in the same laboratory. To learn more about Internet2 go to the official Web site: <http://www.internet2.edu/html>.

Perhaps the most significant change of the next ten years will be how we view the Internet. It will no longer be a tool that we use just through our PC's. Eventually it will be accepted as familiar. Of course this more pervasive Internet will provide both opportunities and problems; nevertheless, we will need to make plans for these technologies in our future libraries.

## Link List:

- Netsizer (<http://www.netsizer.com>) Internet growth chart plus a real time counter of Internet size.
- Voice on the Net (<http://www.von.com>) Online reference for Internet-based telephony.

## 2) What percentage of your users are competent at electronic research (using Folioviews, the Internet, Quicklaw)? What percentage of them rely on you to do most of their electronic research? How do you expect this to change over the next 10 years?

*Submitted by Liisa Tella,  
Harper Grey Easton*

Note: I have very little data on how "competent" our users are on the various electronic products, in particular the internet.

For the purposes of this article I have assumed that those who use the products regularly are "competent". I also assume that those who have been trained on the usage of in-house electronic products are competent to some extent.

### **Electronic usage now**

#### ◆Quicklaw

At Harper Grey Easton about 50% of the lawyers currently use Quicklaw on a regular basis. The other 50% , who tend to be the more senior members of the firm, rely on library staff, younger associates, or students to do their Quicklaw searches. 100% of our students are competent Quicklaw users. Occasionally they ask for my advice on search strategies or on material availability on Quicklaw. About 50% of legal assistants and 6% of secretaries use Quicklaw fairly regularly. Their use is mainly restricted to retrieving case law.

All users are obliged to take Quicklaw training before receiving a password. In addition to training in Quicklaw offices, we hold ad hoc seminars in-house to highlight new features and new databases.

#### ◆Lexis -Nexis

About 25% of our lawyers and 100% of our students have recently received Lexis training and individual passwords. Until now I have done 100% of all the searches.

#### ◆Folioviews

100% of our students, 50 % of our legal assistants and about 40% of our lawyers have received training on the individual Folioviews products. However, I would estimate that only about 25% of the lawyers use them competently. 80% of the students are fairly competent users.

#### ◆Internet

It seems to me that 100% of the members of the firm use the Internet. I have no way of estimating what percentage of their reference/research questions they answer themselves and what percentage of those

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questions are directed to me. I know that they regularly use the government websites to retrieve legislation (they seem to prefer that to the in-house folio products, although the internet version is often less up-to-date). The courts' websites for case law and various tribunal websites are popular as well.

I get users in the library who preface their question to me by saying that "I tried to find this on the web but couldn't." Interestingly, even the most senior lawyers are not intimidated by the internet, although they would never touch Quicklaw or any Folioviews product.

### **Electronic usage in 10 years**

If 80 to 100% of our current students and young associates are competent Quicklaw, Lexis, Folioviews and Internet users and we build up the firm largely from our student base or by hiring young associates from elsewhere, in 10 years we will have a large percentage of users who use electronic products competently. However, several factors may affect this prediction. The articling students do most of the legal research in the firm and by doing it develop a certain level of competence. As soon as they become associates they do less research and their skill level goes down. In my experience they rarely learn new ways of researching or are terribly interested in new products. At the most they are interested in a product specializing in their practice area. Their competence in the use of electronic products will reflect their legal expertise. A tax lawyer might not know how to use the Western Decisions (or the equivalent in 10 years) but be an expert on a tax product.

I predict that secretaries' use of electronic products will increase with products such as Quickfind and case law on courts' websites. The distinction between reported and unreported cases will disappear and we will not carry large report series any more. The users will draw information from various sources on their personal computers but they will not necessarily be aware of whether it is an in-

house product, a product housed on the network, or from a website.

In 10 years all users will know how to do simple searches: find a case, a piece of legislation, or a page in an e-book. The computer screens will be user friendlier and we will have learned to read off the screen. However, I doubt that most users will be able to handle complicated searches and searches for information that are outside their speciality. Those requests will still come to the librarian.

**3) What is your prediction for eCarswell vs Quicklaw? Is eCarswell used much at your firm? Do you have a flat-rate subscription to it? If eCarswell successfully marries its content with Westlaw search capabilities, would it become a major research tool? Assuming equivalent pricing, would you use it in preference to Quicklaw?**

*Submitted by Anne Beresford,  
Borden Ladner Gervais LLP*

I have always thought that eCarswell's LawPro product has great potential. I gave it a good try several years ago when it was known as Canadian Law Online, and was disappointed when that product failed, unfunctional as it was, and was even more disappointed when the Canadian Abridgment was removed from quick and easy access on Quicklaw.

I do not understand how the Canadian legal market can support two major electronic suppliers of case law and soon we will have a third in CANLII. Not to mention the other significant players in the arena, such as CCH, Canada Law Book and Butterworths, who also provide law reporting series necessary to a lawyer's practice. CANLII, firmly established, will move from being a free for all product, to equal the price of its competitors.

We have recently purchased LawPro through the use of the monthly passwords, and transactional searching for the library and research group. This has satisfied our current

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needs. We were not willing to undertake more expense, given the initial poor functionality of LawPro. Couple that with the unfortunate subscription pricing offered to us and we have the reason this has not caught on among librarians and lawyers here. This could change drastically in the near future, and certainly by 2010. I do see Carswell finally taking its place in the electronic market share using West's platform to spring from. A major pressure for all librarians and libraries is space – law reports are taking up the most space in our libraries, and we can no longer afford to physically house them in every law firm. The printed law report will therefore be extinct in 10 years. We will have succumbed to Carswell's electronic library (and any others out there). We will continue to support Quicklaw as well, and I think their importance will continue to build and increase in the administrative areas where they have always had a singular strength.

In my dream world of 2010, we will have one electronic supplier of case law for Canada, which will be all things to all lawyers and librarians, will be totally comprehensive, include full text case law since 1867, and have value added summaries for all. Neutral case citation will reign, eliminating all requirements for a specific citation or an alternate citation. I have always considered alternate cites nonsense and redundant. This major supplier might be an offspring of CANLII and its functionality will equal the best of Quicklaw, LawPro and Lexis combined. In this global world of major mergers, the three publishers (and possibly more) will all come under one umbrella having been bought by one major corporation. Who that will be and what their name will be remains to be seen. QuickLexPro? LexProQuick? LawLexLaw? LawLawLand?



#### 4) To what extent have you already replaced paper resources with electronic resources?

*Submitted by Susan Daly,  
Alexander Holbourn Beaudin and Lang*

The simple answer to the question, "to what extent has our firm already replaced paper resources with electronic resources?" is we haven't yet, but that day is coming very soon. It all has to do with the amount of space in the library, not necessarily with the lawyers' embrace (or not) of existing technology. Paper resources such as treatises, statutes and law reports are used heavily and most of the lawyers in the firm are reluctant to give up any of them. But, there are only so many ways one can configure the limited amount of space devoted to print materials.

When I joined the firm several years ago, an extension had just been built to the existing library and I was told that there would be no more space for the library. Space has since been confiscated from other areas of the firm, including lawyers' offices so I consider myself fortunate to still have all the space I started with. Given the proliferation of subject reports, and the fact that lawyers in the various practice groups could not live without their specialized reports, the new space filled up quickly. To continue to add print resources, we have just replaced the row of 4 carrels with floor to ceiling bookshelves and have added shelves to the tops of existing shelves around the perimeter of the library. In the very near future I anticipate that the first print materials that I will cancel will be some of the law reports, which will be replaced by electronic reports. I will continue to buy the Indexes in print form for those whose level of computer proficiency is not fully developed, but those people will still have to use electronic resources to view the actual cases. Although I am reluctant to give up ownership of the information in the physical volumes, I can see no other way of keeping these resources readily available.

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I am hoping that the day will soon be here, perhaps before 2010, that all of the publishers of these electronic resources will tell me that our firm does not need one copy of their online reports per potential user in the firm. By then I will have managed to teach all of the reluctant computer users how to find cases online, and it will only be a matter of time before this firm gives up more of its paper reports.

## **5) How do you intend to deal with the increasing cost of resources, and the increasing demand for resources, and shrinking library budgets?**

*Submitted by Frances Wong,  
Borden Ladner Gervais LLP*

There is no doubt that the cost of resources will increase over the next 10 years even though many things are available freely on the internet at the moment. I do not believe that those websites offering goodies for free will to so over the long term; if they do, there will be limitations (such as the ability of its search engine or the format or display of its documents) or they may take the approach of a database such as Infomart.ca or the New York Times, where only the current day's news is available for free. The archives may or may not be searchable for free, but older material would be chargeable. To rely on "free" websites would not be a recommended approach in attempting to balance a shrinking library budget!

It is important to note that it will not only be the library budget that is shrinking, but the actual amount of available space needed to acquire increasingly expensive materials! Already feeling the crunch, libraries must determine which print subscriptions should be continued, which to convert to an electronic subscription, and which should be sacrificed. With space as a limiting factor, it will force us to be more choosy.

One approach to dealing with increasing costs of resources is to selectively drop subscriptions to certain reporters and other series. The

decisions need to be made wisely and would need to balance the use of the items v. the cost of ordering something every time it is needed. Certain reporters will be indispensable, but others could potentially be dropped.

With the internet just a mouse-click away, it is much easier to obtain materials that may be posted online, which will cut down on borrowing fees. Additionally, there will be much more sharing and cooperation among other libraries. This is fairly evident in the growing listservs that one can join. My experience thus far has led me to believe that people are friendly and more often than not, willing to provide requesters with the information requested (e.g. copies of cases or articles) free of charge.

There may be more and more library consortia. Already seen in databases such as OCLC's WorldCat, there may be an interest among law firms to share a catalogue so that one could see what resources are available if local public or academic library copies are not an option. Finally, there may be an increase in personnel that will be able to help track down materials needed by users.

People in the library field are full of information, willing to share resources, and resourceful; where there's a will, there's a way and savvy, intelligent librarians WILL find a way around increasing cost of resources, and the increasing demand for resources, and shrinking library budgets!

## **6) Which electronic subscriptions do you charge out to clients as disbursements, and which are treated as overhead? Do you expect this to change in the future as electronic research becomes more and more important?**

*Submitted by Lynda Roberts  
Bull Houser & Tupper*

a) *As a general rule, if we are charged for accessing information through an online database on a pay-per-view basis, flat-fee or*

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*not, we will generally pass that cost onto the client.*

There are a couple of features that distinguish these services from other electronic resources and these distinctions form our very *informal* criteria for disbursing online search charges. Firstly, these services represent information that is not available to us otherwise, unlike some of our electronic resources which are reformatted print materials. We are loathe to charge clients for searching a text on CD ROM if we did not charge for using the same text in print. [photocopy and print charges aside] However, we charge for Quicklaw, for instance, as we have no choice but to access this database to locate unreported decisions from other provinces. Secondly, the "billable services" have administrative features built into them that report the actual cost of each search. These administrative features allow us to calculate search costs relatively accurately rather than leaving us to calculate costs based on some arbitrary and likely complicated scheme. [I realize that flat-fee pricing does blur the lines but the actual cost is readily available. For instance we use Quicklaw's QACP system rather than the ABCD system and are able to eliminate non-billable searches from our total prior to the averaging process]

*b) Here are two issues to consider when thinking about the future. Firstly will the courts continue to allow these disbursements as costs or is this a moot question? Secondly, if materials in print are replaced by electronic formats will we adhere to our current criteria for disbursing these costs to our clients?*

1. The issue of whether Quicklaw charges can be claimed as a disbursement in an assessment of costs has been considered several times in court. A quick study of some recent cases suggests that the courts appreciate that computer research is a necessary part of legal research but question whether it should be considered an extraordinary cost -- outside the

costs for research as set by the Rules of Court.

QL disbursements were disallowed in *Powar v. British Columbia* [1995] B.C.J. No. 706. Here Master Chamberlist relied on *Argentia Beach v. Warshawski and Conroy*, (1990) 106 A.R. 222, a decision of the Alberta Court of Appeal. In *Argentia* the court held that when awarding costs based on the amount set out in Schedule C [similar to tariff item 1 in BC Rules, I imagine - *Correspondence, conferences, instructions, investigations or negotiations by a party relating to a proceeding, whether before or after commencement, for which provision is not made elsewhere in this tariff*] it is assumed that in doing legal research lawyers will use electronic resources. The court said,

computer research is a mechanical substitute for a lawyer's time spent in preparing for trial to which Schedule C is deemed to apply. That is not to say that in appropriate circumstances it would not be an appropriate disbursement. However, something more must be demonstrated to justify its award.

In cases where Quicklaw charges were allowed the disbursement was considered on the basis of what QL is rather than how it has been used. In *Parsons v. Canada Safeway Ltd.* [1995] BCJ No. 1947, the judge recognized a unique quality to QL and stated, "that many unreported decisions are now only available through access to the Quicklaw data base." However the court did say that the party submitting the disbursement must "show that the disbursements were necessarily or properly incurred and that they were reasonable." The decision in *Parsons* was followed by the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench in *Atkinson v. McGregor* [1998] A.J. No. 838. Veit J. held that "charges of Quicklaw are a cost of doing business for lawyers ... it is a cost which should be encouraged because it improves the quality of research at a very minimal cost to the client." Veit J. went on to reiterate his comments from an earlier case:

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there is a strong public policy argument for supporting computer research and by making that support practical by awarding costs for access to computerized legal research. Done responsibly, computer access to data bases will give lawyers, and therefore litigants, much quicker access to applicable case law than can be achieved by the traditional, labour intensive, methods of legal research. The dramatic savings in time spent result in major savings to the clients. In addition, computerized legal research gives access to current case law, months before any of those cases would be published by traditional means. It may be too soon to declare that the normative standard for legal research is computer research, but the day on which courts will make that pronouncement is not too far off.

Despite this the plaintiff was denied her claim for computer charges because she did not describe the various QuickLaw charges and, in her account, simply listed "Quicklaw charges"! It appears that in all cases the onus is on the person presenting the cost to justify the use of Quicklaw and to be very specific about how and why it was used if they want to be successful.

2. Whether we continue to disburse online search costs may not be a legal issue at all but rather a service issue. Let's assume that in ten years the print vs. electronic debate is over (in speaking with Amber while she was preparing her discussion for her article above (what will the internet be like in the future?) I understand that monitors will be wireless and reader friendly and electronic documents filings will be mandatory) and electronic publications are the norm will we still be justified in billing clients for searching? The conversion of print to electronic formats is rapidly upon us. You may have noticed a growing trend for governments to contract out the management and dissemination of public policy information to third party publishers. We have seen this

with the contracting out of the publication of Contaminated Sites information by the Ministry of the Environment -- current and comprehensive information is only available electronically and for a price. We are also seeing this with forestry policy and procedure information. This situation is more than a repackaging of information it is also a matter of access. In addition, we just have to look the e-Carswell suite of electronic products and realize that all trends point to this service superseding the print collection. Without a print equivalent, these products begin to fit the criteria for disbursement. However, we cannot possibly disburse all costs. Even if the publishers include sophisticated administrative features, disbursing all of these costs becomes too onerous. Our client service code and our common sense will insist that we consider the use of all electronic products an overhead cost.

## **7) How do you expect knowledge management within your firm to change and develop over the next 10 years?**

*Submitted by Lynda Roberts,  
Bull, Housser & Tupper*

As far as I am concerned it is inevitable that some sort of KM strategy will develop in every organization. It is hard to avoid this kind of common sense. However, it does take someone or a group of people dedicated to the cause to assume the responsibility of monitoring the flow of information throughout their office and then isolating and managing the value contained in that information. There are a number of good articles out there on KM and I suggest picking up the November issue of the CBA magazine, the National, as an example.

Our firm has already adopted the view that KM is a necessity as have other firms. However, it is one thing to develop a system that will monitor the flow of information and capture the "knowledge" in a accessible place but it is another to maintain the idealism behind KM. If you do manage to develop a resource of "first



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resort" you must work hard to stay on top of it.

As KM develops there will be plenty of problems. It is very difficult to manage the flow of information and the technology simultaneously unless everyone is contributing to the process. The buzz is that everyone must be able to claim some "ownership" in the system – they all must buy into it for it to work. Well, not surprisingly it is nigh on impossible to get a consensus on something like this. As a general rule people tend to subvert systems. It may be subconscious and I won't assume the worst. Those championing KM must be prepared to work with this inherent difficulty no matter how "top-down" the strategy. KM will always require workers to oversee the work product of others because the responsibility will not be universal.

Do not underestimate the problems involved in making the necessary changes to the firm culture in order for KM to work but also don't assume that all administration professionals will jump on the KM bandwagon. If the strategy is well thought out, well presented and succinct most members of the firm will appreciate the need to participate in KM. There may be some who won't and this should be written into any strategy. Despite the administrative aspect of KM some administrative staff may see the strategy as threatening to their role and their particular skill set. Oh contraire, KM requires the dedication of many people to ensure its success. For every task that is replaced by the efficiency of KM there is a new task as a result of implementing a KM strategy. Champions of KM may have to defend this position more than once!

Once the cultural and design issues are ironed out administrative personnel will "cross-team" so frequently that very little area will exist between departments. New positions/titles will be fashioned. There is no need to reject the KM strategy for fear of losing value as KM empowers administration personnel more than any other business system. As the business depends on the efficiency of KM and KM

depends on supervision by administrative personnel, ultimately the business depends on the efficiency of the administrative personnel. This direct link between business and administration will increase dramatically with the success of KM and the need for task based billing will become critical. Task based billing is an effective way to represent the value that the administration and KM bring to the business.

The champions of KM are likely librarians. Primarily because they best understand the philosophy behind KM and are best equipped to create the appropriate tools and implement the proper procedures. Having said this it is also likely that these librarians will be proficient in database and web design or at least have a dedicated person on staff to assist them. The design of the KM tools is as important as the content.

## 8) The Law Library in 2010

*Submitted by Wendy Ng,  
CDNX*

I believe that there will be changes. Information is not static and libraries, being the centres of information that they are, reflect changes in the way information is communicated, manipulated and stored. And though it could be argued at times, that private law libraries in particular, resist change because of various underlying factors such as: firm politics, cost and client expectations, even they must eventually concede due to the need for timely and accurate data.

From 1990 to 2000, I witnessed a number of significant changes in the overall function and collection of a law firm library. To illustrate, I will provide a few examples. The conversion from a traditional card catalogue to a database system with integrated acquisitions, serials and circulation modules was quite dramatic. The introduction of the federal and provincial statutes on CD-ROM via Folioviews was also substantial. And finally, the impact of the Internet on the retrieval of information has been momentous. It's simply amazing how

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quickly government information can be obtained from the Internet. This all happened within the span of ten short years.

I cannot predict with accuracy what the law library of 2010 will be like, but I believe that it will become even more "virtual" or electronic than it is now. Stacks filled with law reports will be a thing of the past. And general reference sources like directories and dictionaries will suffer the same fate. The need for space will eventually weed them out of the hard copy collection. Already many of them are available on CD-ROM and online services. There will also be less duplication of services (i.e. Martindale-Hubbell via the Internet, CD-ROM and print) and Internet usage will escalate as more and more information is made available there.

My vision of an effective law library for 2010, provided that budgets are unlimited and firm management is completely supportive, is a mixture of print, CD-ROM and online resources. I don't think that it could ever be completely virtual because some research projects, i.e. legislative tracing, are easier to accomplish in print. And on a more personal level, my ideal library will always contain books.



## 9) The Law Library in 2010

*Submitted by Teresa Gleave,  
Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP*

The law library in our near future will still contain books, but will offer the majority of the resources in electronic format as well. The paperless library, much like the paperless office, will prove to be a myth as historical materials and texts are unlikely to be converted to digital formats and still must be maintained for complete collections. Libraries in smaller organizations may be able to provide a core of texts in print with a much larger collection in electronic format while larger libraries will continue to balance both. As libraries own fewer materials in print, Librarians will find themselves defending budgets with a high percentage of non-tangible resources with added implications for client billing. We will have to develop new models for evaluating resources and cost recovery. We will also face challenges in space planning as we may need to convince our organizations of the need for a physical library or more physical space.

We are already dealing with Associate Lawyers who prefer to conduct electronic research as opposed to print; we may find in ten years that we need to train these users how to use print materials! We will continue to have an important role in training our users to use electronic materials and change management in terms of dealing with new technologies. Also, as lawyers become self sufficient with electronic legal research, Librarians will do more non-legal research, especially in the areas of business, medicine and global issues.

We are already suffering from information overload. A major challenge in the next ten years will be filtering and streaming the right information to our users. Librarians will become more involved in intranets, extranets, and portals (and their next generation) with the intent of providing specialized information on the lawyers' desktops. We may find ourselves working closely with legal publishers to develop products tailored to our own organizations.

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I recently read an article from the December 1989 *American Lawyer*<sup>1</sup> in which six law librarians gave their predictions about the law library of 2000. Some of their ideas have proven to be quite accurate and others not; no one predicted the world wide web and the huge impact it has had on the manner in which information is disseminated and gathered. I wonder what is around the corner waiting for us that we have not foreseen.

## B.C. Courthouse Library

### After Hours Access

In the past, the B.C. Courthouse Library issued After Hours Access cards, as a courtesy, to VALL members. The After Hours Access card allows 24 hour access but no borrowing privileges. We will continue to issue cards with a few changes. There will be a \$25.00 fee for each card issued and an application form to complete, for statistical purposes. You can obtain an application form in person or by fax, by phoning 604-660-2841. You will be phoned, not necessarily the same day, when the card is issued. The cards are valid for the calendar year. Apply for your card at the beginning of the year, as we do not prorate the fee. We take cold cash, a valid VISA or Mastercard or we can bill the firm.

## Membership News

Christina Tribe has accepted the full-time position as Library Technician with Campney & Murphy. Christina began working in September on a maternity leave replacement contract.

Joanna Thompson and her husband have moved to Victoria where their baby's grandparents live.



<sup>1</sup> " Law Library of the Year 2000" (1989) 11 *American Lawyer* 3

## Peter Bark Professional Development Bursary

*Comments prepared by Dorothy Cameron for the November 29<sup>th</sup> luncheon, 2001.*

The November luncheon is when VALL traditionally mentions the Peter Bark Professional Development Bursary. The purpose of the Bursary is to commemorate Peter Bark, his contribution to VALL and law librarianship. The Bursary assists VALL members to attend library conferences, continuing education workshops or professional development seminars.

Peter Bark died 11 years ago at the age of 35. Most people knew Peter for his professional expertise in legal research and his willingness to share information. Some people knew Peter for his love of music, poetry and painting. Some people did not know Peter. I knew Peter for his professional support and his sense of humour.

Peter left the Courthouse library a month after I started in 1983. I do not believe there was any relationship between my arrival and his leaving. One of the projects Peter worked on while at Vancouver Courthouse Library was the Solicitor's Liability Index. The Solicitor's Liability Index has a subject index to cases involving solicitors' negligence, an annotated bibliography of articles on solicitors' negligence and a case table. It covered over 700 reported and unreported cases in Canada and the U.K. Anyone who has worked on a publication knows this was a very labour intensive project. After the long hours of reading, indexing and proofreading cases, articles and the final product, Peter suggested that the dedication should be... "To all the lawyers who made this book possible."

This is a reminder for VALL members to consider applying for the Peter Bark bursary. The deadline for applying is March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002. A copy of Peter's obituary is in the *Advocate* at 49 *Advocate* 115 and the Guidelines can also be viewed on the VALL website at <http://www.vall.vancouver.bc.ca/peterbark.htm>

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On this same topic, the following note and card was received, dated November 5th, 2001.

Dear Friends,

Once again we are happy to make our donation to the Peter Bark Memorial Fund. You are the one continuing tie to Peter's association with Vancouver and we are grateful for the opportunity to support the Fund.

We would no doubt have lost touch with the many friends he had if it were not for the memorial which you so generously created.

We trust that the Association continues to thrive and grow, we send along our warmest regards. Congratulations to this year's winner.

Sincerely, Bob and  
Annabelle Bark.

PHS. Christmas greetings to you all.

Note to members: Donations to the Peter Bark Memorial Fund may be directed to the Treasurer, payable to the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries at any time. Donations may also be made when renewing memberships. The renewal form will be revised to reflect this.



## VENDORS CORNER

### QP Legaleze Update

QP Legaleze now includes the Consolidated Provisions in Force since the 1996

Revision.

The following products will be available on QP LegalEze in January 2002:

- \* Gazette Part 2 (fully searchable)
- \* Full text OICs (scanned documents, linked to the OIC resume)
- \* Annual Consolidations (annual consolidations since Consolidation 4)

With the addition of these new products there will be a rate increase of \$100 per license. The good news is that if you are currently a subscriber of QP LegalEze or if you sign up prior to January 1, 2002, you will be able to purchase licenses at the current rate and receive these new products at no additional cost. Thank you for your feedback and suggestions. We will continue to strive to make QP LegalEze a product that meets your needs.

Sherry Brown  
Director, Business Development and  
Publications  
Product Sales and Services  
Phone: 356-6876 Fax: 387-0388  
<http://www.qplegaleze.ca>

### British Columbia Real Estate

**Association** offers the first comprehensive book that explains how the *Strata Property Act*, regulations and Standard Bylaws work.

*Submitted by Norma Miller*

*The Condominium Manual: A Comprehensive Guide to the Strata Property Act* uses examples and pin-point references to answer hundreds of questions, including:

- When is the strata corporation responsible for repairs?
- Can I rent my condo?

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- How do age restrictions work?
- Does every owner have to contribute to an expense?
- Who can vote at a general meeting?
- When is a bylaw enforceable?
- When can the strata corporation file a lien against my strata lot?

This book is essential for owners and managers of strata properties, and real estate and legal professionals.

Author Mike Mangan is a Vancouver lawyer who advises strata corporations and condominium owners in his law practice, and teaches real estate law as an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of British Columbia. In the spring of 2000, at the request of the Superintendent of Real Estate, Mr. Mangan explained the *Strata Property Act* to the public in a series of presentations around the province.

Price: \$29.95 plus GST and shipping. For more information, visit [themanual.bcrea.bc.ca](http://themanual.bcrea.bc.ca), or contact Erin Hynd by phone at 604-683-7702 or e-mail at [condo@bcrea.bc.ca](mailto:condo@bcrea.bc.ca).

## INTERNET CORNER

Portals of the world – A new Library of Congress website which provides detailed, up-to-date information on 49 countries to date. It expects to have a web page for every country on earth by 2003. Use this site for in-depth research

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/portals.html>  
CIA World Fact Book – Still the best place to look for quick facts about countries.

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/>  
Directory of international, national and regional intellectual property contacts From the WIPO site

<http://www.wipo.int/news/en/links/addresses/ip/>  
Web Directory of Canadian and International Think Tanks

<http://www.hillwatch.com/thinktank/ThinkTankHome.htm>

Infotrieve Article Finder – A database of 20 million article citations in science, technology, medicine, law and other disciplines. Searching is free and full text articles are available for a fee. Coverage dates back to 1966.  
<http://www4.infotrieve.com/search/databases/newsearch.asp>

FAST (Fast search and Transfer International AS) – A new search engine that is good for searching the latest news stories  
<http://www.alltheweb.com/>

## GOOGLE TOOLBAR TIP

If you download and install the Google toolbar from Google's website, you can use it to search the website that you have on display in your browser. This is especially useful if the website you are viewing does not have a site-specific search engine.

## OPERA 6.0

New Web Browser which is supposedly "the fastest web browser on earth." Download it and give it a try. <http://www.opera.com/>

# Season's Greetings

