VALL REVIEW

IN THIS ISSUE:

VALL EXECUTIVE:

President:

Susan Crysler, *McCarthy Tetrault LLP*

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Lynda Roberts, *Bull, Housser & Tupper LLP*

Membership Secretary:

Teresa Gleave, *Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP*

Programs:

Gwendoline Hoar, *Lawson Lundell LLP*

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Liisa Tella, *Harper Grey LLP*

Christina Tribe, *Harper Grey LLP*

Member At Large:

Johanne Blenkin, *BC Courthouse Library Society*

Webmaster:

Andy Froese, *Borden Ladner Gervais LLP*

THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Susan Crysler, McCarthy Tetrault LLP

The advent of the summer season elicits thoughts of holidays, relaxation and contemplation. We look forward to having time to reflect and regenerate before gearing up for the back-to-school, lets-get-down-to-business September mood. The VALL Executive seems to be in synch with that scenario. There is a new structure for the Executive in place and now we have a couple of months to become comfortable with our re-defined roles.

The VALL Executive has finished the strategic planning process and, using our newly defined directions and objectives, we have redesigned the VALL Executive structure.

There are now five Executive positions – Past President, President, Vice President, Treasurer and Membership. Each of those positions will have re-defined roles and responsibilities. One significant change is that the VP is committed to moving into the President position after a year. This change will ensure continuity and allows someone to grow and develop leadership skills.

We have established two committees: Communications and Programs. Each committee has 3 or 4 members, one member acting as Liaison with a member of the Executive. The VP will liaise with the Communications Committee and the President with the Programs Committee. These two committees were identified through the survey, done earlier this year, as the key areas of interest for the Members.

The Communications Committee will take care of the VALL website, the VALL newsletter, and it will examine other forms of communication for our members: listservs and blogs, for example.

The Programs Committee will work with the annual calendar of events to co-ordinate the events. The Executive has established a list of specific topics, or themes, for each meeting, such as technology, publishers issues and workshops. Socials and networking meetings are also included in the plan. Each topic will be specific to one monthly meeting. For example, technology will be

the February topic, March will be a workshop, December will be a social etc. The changeover meeting of the outgoing and incoming Executive that takes place in the summer will be a session at which all members will help brainstorm some specific ideas for the upcoming year, thus building a detailed framework for the Program Committee to use.

The Executive believes that this new structure will encourage participation, decrease time commitments and increase satisfaction for VALL members.

I was pleased by the number of members who volunteered for positions and by the quick acceptance of those I asked to join. Some members have indicated their interested for next year. I assure those who were interested but could not commit this year that next year I will be following up with you.

To the members of the 2005/06 Executive, I thank you all for your hard work and good fellowship over the past year.

scrysler@mccarthy.ca

EXECUTIVE

| *Past President:* Susan Crysler | *President:* Johanne Blenkin | *Vice President:* Steve Matthews |

COMMITTEES

| *Treasurer:* Katie Heung | *Membership:* Teresa Gleave |

Programs Committee:

Yoko Beriault

Gwendoline Hoar

Deborah MacLeod

Communications Committee:

Web/ Discussion List:
Kathy Barry & Andy Froese

VALL Review:
Susannah Tredwell & Christina Tribe

FROM THE EDITORS

Liisa Tella & Christina Tribe, Harper Grey LLP

If you are on the market for an electronic tax product, this is issue is for you! We are thankful for Yoko's and Anna's insights to the world of online tax. From tax we move to Edmonton and review the highlights of the CALL conference. Those of us who couldn't attend can gain useful information from a group of attendees who kindly shared their experiences. Thank you Anne, Teresa, Joanne, Steve, and Cynthia for taking the time to inform us all!

Please submit your contributions to the editors, Christina Tribe or Susannah Tredwell at the following emails: ctribe@harpergrey.com or stredwell@lawsonlundell.com ..

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Teresa Gleave, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP

If you have recently switched employers, received a promotion, or if any of your contact information has changed, please drop a line to VALL Review Editors & Membership Secretary. We also welcome short biographies of new members.

New Members include:

Rob Golbeck, Clark Wilson LLP

rtg@cwilson.com

Rob is the new Library Technician at Clark Wilson, where he works in both the library and records management. Previously, he spent two years at Placer Dome, a mining company, until he was laid off due to a recent takeover. Other than a practicum placement at the Courthouse Library in 2003, this is Rob's first time working in a law library. His "other job" is volunteering with BCLA's Library Technicians & Assistants Interest Group (LTAIG). He manages the group's website, and works on various other projects as well. Rob is a graduate of the Library & Information Technology Program at Langara College. He lives in Vancouver with his fiancée Jennifer, who is also a Library Technician.

Maureen Kane, BCCLS

mkane@bccls.bc.ca

Deborah Macleod, BCCLS

dmacleod@bccls.bc.ca

I am a library technician and work with a terrific group of people at the BC Courthouse Library Society. You can find me in technical services ordering materials for our libraries and the provincial court judges. Most weekends and some evenings are spent keeping in shape for backcountry hiking. Just recently I started volunteering at the Vancouver SPCA walking dogs. Never a dull moment!

Sylvia Nurse, B.C. Courthouse Library Society

snurse@bccls.bc.ca

Sylvia received her M.L.I.S. from McGill University in 1992 and worked for 11.5 years at SirsiDynix (library automation vendor) providing software support, North American emergency coverage, profiling new systems as well as creating training programs/documentation and doing on-site and web training sessions for customers. She has been the Manager, Library Systems at the British Columbia Courthouse Library Society since November 2004 and is responsible for troubleshooting the library automation system, staff training, dealing with circ issues plus she does several shifts at the reference desk each week.

Anne O'Shea, B.C. Securities Commission,

aoshea@bcsc.bc.ca

Anne is a 2004 MLIS grad from SLAIS, UBC and has been with the BC Securities Commission for one year. Prior to that she worked at UBC as a Virtual Reference Librarian and at SFU as a term librarian.

Lena Kuzmina, B.C. Securities Commission

lkuzmina@bcsc.bc.ca

### Bethany Webster, McCarthy Tetrault LLP

bwebster@mccarthy.ca

We work as a team and try to impress our users with a **magical** reference service.

Liisa Tella & Christina Tribe, Harper Grey LLP

Liisa and Christina made it onto the Canadian Library Association's "recruitment to the professions" website, called Info*Nation. The Canadian Library Association's website developers were impressed with their "team" submission and their job/ library profile was highlighted at the recent CLA conference in Ottawa. The website is meant to encourage people to enroll in library programs and to show the diversity of the profession (workplace settings, variety of work, diversity of people and roles, suffusion of information technology). CLA wanted to debunk the stereotypes and challenge people to reconsider their pre-conceptions about library work. The funky website targets youth and those who know nothing about the profession. We think it looks terrific, and would make us want to work in libraries -- if we didn't already! Check it out here (after July 14, 2006) www.infonation.ca
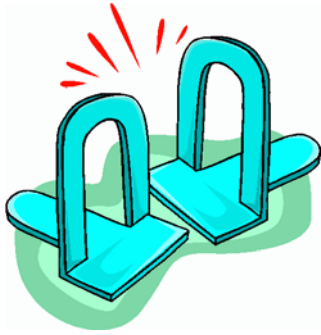
BOOK ENDS
Tips on Selecting a Tax Service*

Yoko Beriault, Thorsteinssons LLP

As Internet-based research services become mainstream, choices and decisions need to be made. An example of this scenario is the choices in the tax research products. Although, the CD-ROM format is still preferred by lap top users and for back-up purposes, the Internet-based tax services are getting better and easier to use. The Internet-based Canadian tax research products are:

- CCH Tax (www.cchonline.ca)
- CICA's FITAC (www.knotia.ca)
- Carswell's Taxnet.pro (www.taxnetpro.com)
- PricewaterhouseCoopers' Tax News Network (www.ca.taxnews.com)
- Ernst & Young Online (www.ey.com)

Without going into a detailed analysis of the haves and have-nots of these services, in general, these services have the core information that tax lawyers and accountants are looking for: CRA documents; case law; forms and guides, commentary, and the Income Tax Act and Regulations. In addition, all of them have some sort of daily e-mail service. Most organizations will probably subscribe to one or two of these services and very few will subscribe to all of them for fiscal and practical reasons. So how do you select the tax research service that is best for your organization? Below are some tips:

Trial Subscriptions

The best way (and may be the only way) is to obtain trial subscriptions for the services that your practitioners are interested in. As in the case of trying on a pair of shoes before you buy also applies to research services. Vendors can be flexible (remember they would like your business!) with their trials and you may be able to get free access for a week or even a month. If you dedicate some time to review each of the products, you will be able to get an overview of the basic functionality and the content.

Do Comparisons

Perform similar searches on all products and compare your results.

Some of the things to look for are:
- Are the search templates intuitive or easy to use?
- Is the information presented in a format that you can easily use? (e.g. can you easily print or e-mail documents?)
- Are there direct links to frequently used information?
- Is there value added editorial information? (e.g. summaries or head notes to cases; links to related information; and reliable commentary)
- Can you easily identify when the information was last updated?
- Can you easily identify the new information that has been added?
- Do you have choices with e-mail content delivery? (e.g. can you select the information you would like to receive?)
- Are "special e-mails" sent out for important releases (e.g. budgets) or judgments?
- Is the cost justifiable to the use or need of the practitioners? The cost of tax research services varies greatly and some have different subscription plans depending on the number of products that you would like to access.
- Can you easily add new users?
- Ask colleagues about the services that they are using and why.

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*Originally published in *Wired West: Web Journal of the SLA Western Canada Chapter*, Volume 9, no. 1 (November 2005) Fall 2005.

Training and Technical Support Considerations

Training and technical support are important aspects that are not provided in a consistent manner by all of the tax research product vendors.

Some key questions in this area are:
- Is there a direct technical support telephone number?
- How well do the technical support members know their product?
- Are technical issues that cannot be resolved immediately dealt with in a satisfactory manner? (e.g. Does someone call you back with the solution or a suggestion?)
- If you leave a message, are your calls returned promptly?

Concluding Comments

After you have the tax subscription(s) in place, check with your users to ensure that they are using it and are happy with their investment. Also, encourage your users to tell you of any errors or problems that they encounter, so that you can contact the vendor. Sometimes contacting the vendor will give you surprising insights about the company, and ultimately help you in the decision-making process of selecting the tax research service for your organization.

WHAT'S NEW
News from the B.C. Courthouse Library Society

Susy Caird, Manager, Information & Research Services, BCCLS

In the last few months we've seen a variety of changes at the B.C. Courthouse Library, with more to come in the upcoming months. There have been a number of staff changes, including some retirements. Of particular note is the departure of **Dorothy Cameron**, librarian *sans pareil*, who opted in January to devote more time to friends, travel and even gardening (to the amazement of her friends!). We all miss her and are envious but look forward to hearing of her continuing adventures, travel and otherwise.

January also saw the addition of a new but familiar face to the Vancouver Courthouse Library. **Drew Jackson**, known to many from his days at CLE, has joined our reference staff and will be working for us on a part-time basis while he pursues his Master of Library and Information Studies at UBC.

In March, we welcomed **Lorna McAdam** to the reference staff in Vancouver. Lorna comes to us from the New Westminster Public Library. Then in April, **Katie Heung** left our library to take the position of Library Manager at Borden Ladner Gervais. We miss having Katie with us but happily we find that we talk to her regularly (are we on speed dial Katie?) despite the distance.

In May, **Phil Crosby** and **Shirley Hyndman** retired. Both were well-known fixtures (in the best possible way!) at the Courthouse Library. Phil's departure from supervising the Photocopy/Circulation Department leaves a big gap but we feel that **Yoshino Kerravala** will ably fill the position, if not the sneakers! Shirley's departure means big shoes to fill at our New Westminster library as well but we are pleased to welcome **Jennie Nicklason** to the post. Phil and Shirley have travel and garden plans but we're hopeful that we may be able to lure them back for a bit of part-time work, so don't be surprised if you phone and end up speaking with one of them in the months to come.

We will also soon be experiencing changes of a different sort: the Vancouver library is about to undergo some renovations. We will be creating a new boardroom, altering current workspace and moving some staff, as well as improving the entranceway to the library. The renovations will begin shortly and the first phase will be completed by the end of the year. We hope that the disruption will be minimal and that service to our patrons will not be impacted.

One further change is the imminent arrival of a new phone system. This is felt to be long overdue and will hopefully provide a positive change for all concerned, staff and patrons alike. We will be posting information on both the renovations and the new phones on "What's New" so make sure to check there daily – or better yet, subscribe to our RSS feed and you'll always be up-to-date on developments at the Courthouse Library and in the legal world!

BOOK ENDS

A Brief Comparison of CCH Tax and Taxnet.pro

Anna Holeton, UBC Law Library*

This article, derived from a presentation made to UBC law students studying tax, is intended to provide a quick comparison of *CCH Tax* (www.cchonline.ca) & **Thomson Carswell's** *Taxnet.pro* (www.taxnetpro.com). The scope of this article is the Federal income tax materials and does not cover either Provincial tax or Goods and Services tax materials provided by these services.

CCH Tax and *taxnet.pro* are designed to serve the specific research needs of tax practitioners. Each provides access to tax information that is hyperlinked and updated on a daily basis. These electronic services have their respective comparable print products: CCH's *Canadian Tax Reporter* and Thomson Carswell's *Canada Tax Service*.

Platform / User Interface:

Both products use proprietary interfaces and provide slightly different templates to accommodate the various searching and researching styles of the user. It is highly recommended you spend some time becoming familiar with the templates. Doing so will not only result in more efficient searching but will also allow you to locate the relevant documents quickly.

CCH Tax:.
- a **three-pane display** consisting of Menus & Toolbar, Table of Contents**,** Viewing Area
- **Navigate** between different views using Menus & Toolbar buttons.
- **Table of Contents** default view at the left of the screen.
- **Viewing Area** contents change according to your activity, showing Search Forms, Search Results, Documents, and selector screens
- **What's New** folders for each product and indicates the date of the last update. Currency information is also available in *Byteline*
- **News Tracker** folder contains daily information, ten day summary as well as news for the past 90-days.

Taxpro.net:
- **Multiple windows** open as you work
- Complex search templates using multiple checkboxes are emphasized.
- *Taxnet.pro* has two ways to access its functions:
  1) **Navigation Bar:** context specific and always available at the left of the screen.
  2) **Main Menu:** homepage organized by functional tabs; return to it by clicking "Home"
- **Table of Contents** is always accessible from Navigation Bar, but opens in a different window
- **Infobases** open separately as selected, not all at once.
- Case law is organized according to *Canadian Abridgment* classification scheme
- Currency information accessible from Navigation Bar under "Site Map -Currency" Notes link
- **Tax News Summary** provides an overview of the recent documents that have been added.

Searching/Functionality:

CCH Tax:
- Simple **search templates** exist for finding specific documents, case law, and tax topic searches.
- **Go to specific tax document** icon allows document retrieval by ITA section, DTC cite or government document number.
- Both Boolean and Assisted Boolean searching are available.
- Option to search specific folders or all folders at the same time.
- **Generate Reports** under the Tools tab gives several options to review the documents that have been retrieved and searches conducted up to 90 days.

Taxnet.pro (Thomson Carswell)
- Complex **search templates** exist for each research database: Legislation, Government documents, Commentary and Case law.
- **Advanced Search** searches all research databases, allows narrower searches in specific areas within research databases, and allows multiple phrase searches.
- **Search Wizard** searches across TaxNews and all research databases.
- Boolean searching is available.
- **Activity log** provides a record of the searches conducted and documents retrieved during the current year.

Hyperlinks:

CCH Tax:
- Hyperlinks to definitions and between sections of the Income Tax Act and Regulations.
- "Related Matter" hyper link to related sections, CRA documents and rulings, DTC cases, and other product folders of CCH Tax.
- Special icons hyperlink to: case cited in judgments, appeals, and case comments.

Taxnet.pro:
- Cases have hyperlinks to Legislation, Policy documents, Commentary and History & Treatments, making it easy to "note up" or follow legislative changes due to case law.
- Government documents hyperlink to: Legislation and Policy Documents

Content:

Often tax research involves reviewing a large amount of documents such as government releases, tax cases and legislative sources. The table below is provided to serve as an aid to locate the commonly used tax research documents in *CCH Tax* and *Taxnet.pro*. The table references the Table of Contents (TOC) in *Taxnet.pro* and the *CCH Tax* Federal Income Tax Folder:

<u>Type of information</u>	*Location in <u>Carswell Taxnet.pro</u> TOC*	*Location in <u>CCH Tax </u>Federal Income Tax Folder*
Income Tax Act and Regulations	Legislation – Income Tax Act	Income Tax Act and Regulations
Tax Cases	Case Law	Dominion Tax Cases
Federal Budgets	Federal Budgets	Canadian Tax Reporter - Budgets
Draft Legislation	Locate the section affected as the draft legislation usually follows the text of the current section.	Locate the section affected. The Income Tax Act and Regulations folder has a sub-folder, Proposed Amendments
Interpretation Bulletins (IT's) and Information Circulars (IC's)	Government Publications	Bulletins, Circulars and Rulings
CRA Views/Rulings, Window Documents, Technical Interpretations	CRA Views CRA Views in Focus	Tax Window Files Window on Canadian Tax
Commentary / Analysis / Tax Texts	Analysis/Commentary: David Sherman's Notes Hogg, Magee and Li (*Principles of Canadian Income Tax Law)* Krishna (*Fundamentals of Canadian Income Tax)*	Canadian Tax Reporter – Commentary Canadian Master Tax Guide
Research Indices**	Yelle, *Income Tax References*	Canadian Income Tax Research Index
Tax Newsletters	*Tax Hyperion*	*Tax Topics Tax Profile*

User Support documentation:

The CCH Online home page provides the following:

- Download Quick Reference Card – 8 pages. Printed fold-out cards are available from CCH Canadian Customer Service.
- Tutorials [10]
- Download Getting Started Guide - 100+ pages PDF (best used online).

For a comprehensive overview of **CCH Tax**, there is **CCH Guide to Researching Canadian Income Tax** by Yoko Beriault and Carol Mohammed (CCH Canadian, 2005 – Item # 357B)

Carswell's **Taxnet.pro** provides a 23-page taxnet.pro Quick Reference Guide on the Carswell website under Customer Support – Training & Reference support – User Guides. Printed guides are available from Carswell Customer Service.

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* **Yoko Beriault**, *Thorsteinssons LLP,* provided invaluable editorial help and content suggestions. Yoko's generous assistance is greatly appreciated.

**TaxFind, is a Folio Views platform CD-ROM that contains the publications of the Canadian Tax Foundation (www.ctf.ca) and is a valuable resource for locating journal articles on tax issues. Updated twice a year, the current version is 12.2 and the content is as follows:

- 2005 Annual Conference DRAFT papers
- Canadian Tax Journal / Revue fiscale canadienne (80 issues: 1991-2005)
- Annual Conference Report (1991-2004)
- Corporate Management Conference Report (1991-1999)
- Regional Conferences (1991 - 2005)
- Canadian Tax Highlights (Jan. 1993 - Oct. 2005)
- Faits saillants en fiscalité canadienne (Jan. 1996 - Oct. 2005)
- Tax for the Owner-Manager (Jan. 2001 - October 2005)
- Selected Pre-1991 articles

TIPS 'N TRICKS
Bug Me Not - Bypass Compulsory Registration

Christina Tribe, Harper Grey LLP

Sometimes in the quest for free information, a searcher must register and log in to websites. Occasionally this doesn't work because of office firewalls, quarantine reports, pop-up blockers or even time restrictions. Compulsory registration can seriously slow down or halt a simple search. It can be frustrating because these sites collect personal and demographic information you may not wish to share. They may also leave cookies behind, send you unsolicited email or worse, sell your email address to unreputable sources.

Enter Bug Me Not, a website that helps you skirt the registration process. http://www.bugmenot.com/

I recommend reading the frequently asked questions before deciding: http://www.bugmenot.com/faq.php

Firefox 1.5

The newest version of Firefox, the award-winning free web browser claims to be better than ever. It's easy to install - just import your favourites and settings, and away you go. Some of the neat features are: custom design your own toolbar; tabbed browsing; and an intuitive interface that blocks viruses, spyware, and popups. Those who rely on page minders and RSS feeds for web alerts may be interested in the live bookmarks feature. For more information, click here: http://www.mozilla.com/firefox/

FEATURE ARTICLES:

CALL Report:

Anne Ikeda, Lang Michener LLP

A good number of VALL members were able to attend the CALL conference in Edmonton this year and, once again, it proved to be a positive and enjoyable experience. The sessions were varied and well presented and the hospitality warm and generous.

From the pre-conference workshop to the vendors' displays, Knowledge Management was front and centre. It's something we in law libraries have always practiced but it now has a trendy name and is getting a lot of attention.

Time flew by at the Saturday pre-conference **Knowledge Management** workshop as we were led through the stages of a successful KM project and heard from our colleagues about their real life experiences. Important considerations to bear in mind when planning for KM include:

A project champion who understands the business of law as well as the practice of law. KM is the whole firm. Support staff must be involved and ongoing training provided. Bridges between departments mean data is entered once but can be accessed across the system. A well thought out taxonomy is important and context or relevance of documents needs to be considered. Someone must take ownership of KM so that it is kept current and future changes in technology or firm's requirements are kept track of. The 4 D's of Knowledge Management– Define goals, Design solution, Development, Deployment (where well intentioned projects often go to die!)

We discovered how to get the publishers' attention at the **Vendors ' Liaison Committee** meeting. In the past these meetings have been quite volatile as complaints were aired and vendors responded but issues are dealt with as they come up during the year now and these meetings are almost dull – until our own Lynda Mitchell voiced those concerns about loose-leaf mailings that we all have but are afraid to mention. Why does it all come at once and who collects it all up and puts elastic bands around it? These weekly or bi-weekly bundles sometimes include 2 or 3 issues of a weekly service which doesn't say much for currency. A sub-committee was formed to deal with these concerns. After the meeting, Lynda was immediately approached by Canada Law Book's David Overall and no less than the president of Carswell, Don Van Meer looking for more details so they could investigate from their end. Since her return to Vancouver, Lynda has been contacted by shipping department staff who will, hopefully, ensure these deliveries are more regular and more timely in future. Thank you, Lynda!

It is always interesting to see the **Cool Things** that are happening in CALL members' libraries. Topics ranged from *Using a Reference Database for Statistics and Library KM* to *Setting up a 'Writing for Publication' Group.* The CALL 2006 website includes links to these and other presentations at http://www.callacbd.ca/conferences/2006/ProgramDetails.htm

There is always one session that stands out when you attend a CALL conference and some of our Vancouver attendees would like to tell you about their event of choice.
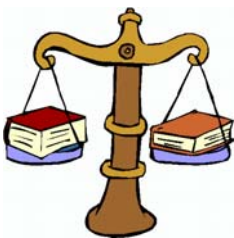
Legislation Repeal: Cleaning out the Attic - Senator Tommy Banks

Teresa Gleave, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP

The first plenary session was an enjoyable and entertaining talk on a serious subject, the number of Acts of Parliament that have been enacted, but not proclaimed. As librarians, we know these present something of a nuisance when we are updating statutes, but the matter has far reaching implications.

As Senator Banks described it, his involvement in the matter began with a seemingly simple question (something that resonates with those of us working in libraries). A constituent queried why there had been no action on an Act that had been passed in 1991. The Senator then discovered that there are a substantial number of Acts of Parliament that have been enacted but not brought into force. The Senator sees this as a

distortion of process. When Parliament enacts a bill, it is expressing its will that the Government bring the Act into force when circumstances allow. The Government does not have unlimited discretion for bringing enacted legislation into force, or not. The Senator is proposing a 10 year window for the Government to act, after which time any legislation not brought into force would be repealed. The Bill is S-202, the Statutes Repeal Bill.

   The substance of Senator Banks' talk is in the Senate debate at second reading: http://www.callacbd.ca/conferences/2006/PresentersMaterials/Stats_repeal_Bill_S202_2nd_rdg.pdf . It is worth reading if you are interested in this matter.
   The list of Statutes enacted before January 1, 1995 and not in force as of December 31 is available at: http://www.callacbd.ca/conferences/2006/PresentersMaterials/Statutes_not_in_force_2005.pdf

Games Students Play (Private Law Libraries SIG)

Joanne Lecky, Bull Housser Tupper LLP

   I attended one of the last sessions held at CALL this year entitled *Games Students Play*, hosted by the Private Law Libraries SIG. Laurel Murdoch of Heenan Blaikie LLP (Toronto), Marla Sterritt of Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP in Calgary and Phyllis Thornton from McCarthy Tétrault LLP, also from Calgary, shared their student training experiences with the audience.

   Laurel Murdoch gave an excellent overview addressing the generation gap - as the law librarians get older (and wiser), the articling students get younger and come to the table with a completely different skill and mind set. She addressed the continuous need to evaluate training programs to ensure that the methods we are using to teach legal research skills are meeting the learning styles of the Google-generation. Phyllis Thornton engaged the audience by sharing the game that she has developed to liven up the legal research training done with students at her firm. The game is modeled after the popular TV quiz show, *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*. The game, while both fun and engaging for the students, also allows Phyllis to assess what they have absorbed in their legal research training. Marla Sterritt discussed her firm's legal research boot camp program that puts students through their paces. Incentives and prizes are awarded to those who moved through the boot camp successfully.

Thesaurus of Canadian Civil Justice System Terminology Sources, Data Collection, and Technology (Committee to Promote Research)

Steve Matthews, Clark Wilson LLP

   Michael Lines, recipient of the 2005 CALL/ACBD Research Grant, reported on his work developing a draft Thesaurus and providing subject access to Canadian civil justice materials. Michael outlined the 'Foundations' portion of his research, establishing what he called the 'incomplete, inconsistent, and unsystematic' treatment of civil justice terminology within current subject access tools -- specifically, LC Classifications and subject headings. He also highlighted the problem of differences in civil justice terminology between different Canadian jurisdictions.

   Secondly, Michael discussed the question of 'why is a thesaurus needed'. Due to the size of this area of literature, with larger collections often exceeding several thousand titles, Michael noted that while the creation of an additional LC subject heading would be valuable, he felt that the better access tool would be a thesaurus. Through the use of preferred terms, this thesaurus would also help negotiate the differences in terminology between jurisdictions.

   Finally, Michael reviewed his development process, and presented his initial draft thesaurus for the audience to review. He asked for input on how the thesaurus could be put into practical application, and requested that interested audience members email him with suggestions. If you would like to add your comments, Michael Lines' email address is: mlines@law.ualberta.ca and the draft thesaurus for Canadian civil justice system terminology is available online at:
http://www.cfcj-fcjc.org/research-thesaurus-draftThesaurus.htm

Librarians' Emerging Technology Survival Guide

Cynthia Bartholomew, Legal Services Society of B.C.

The University of Alberta's Kenton Good (Web Development Librarian) and Geoff Harder (Reference Services Coordinator, Science & Technology Library), presented a fast-paced tour (200 power point slides) of some of the new Web 2.0 tools and technologies. Web 2.0 is typified by a focus on the user experience rather than on content. The technologies they reviewed allow the user to add value to a site by contributing their personal experience in the form of text, images, video, audio, reviews and ratings. Good and Harder demonstrated some of these new tools and technologies that facilitate online collaboration, shared content and interaction. The challenge is to integrate these online interactive tools into our library environments in ways that improve information delivery and library services.

Key Topics

1. **Blogs** = Web + Log: originally a form of online diary, now are personal, informal accounts of often formal topics in law, business and politics. Bloglines now involve specific subject areas of study and research. Their attraction is that they offer a first-person voice of personal experiences. 40 million blogs are on the Web; they are free and can be created in a few minutes at sites like www.blogger.com. Search blogs at www.technorati.com/blogs/.

2. **RSS** [Rich Site Summary] Feeds: are XML markers/pointers to files of all formats stored on the Web. Anyone can subscribe to files that are RSS-compatible and have the content from websites automatically delivered to their desktop through feed reader software (news aggregators) for free. They described the U of A's RSS New Books feeds (created by call numbers) and mentioned some free news aggregators that can be downloaded: www.newzcrawler.com and www.feedreader.com.

3. **Wikis**: are online documents or collections of documents that can be edited by any site visitor. A well known example of a Wiki is the free multilingual encyclopedia, Wikipedia www.wikipedia.com, put together by collaborative content creation from multiple site visitors.

Examples of Web 2.0 sites

1. http://del.icio.us/
The presenters explained that visitors can create their own links, tag them [i.e., subject indexing – assign labels and categories] with searchable metadata, write descriptions and commentary, and publish them for other site visitors to search, use or copy. Harder and Good used this site as an example of how average (non-expert) people classify the world around them, not using a controlled vocabulary. You can subscribe to this site by tag. Collections of tags are called folksonomies, which are taxonomies created by the general public.

2. www.Flickr.com
Site visitors can upload, store, search, sort and share their photos. Photo owners can allow others to add comments on the photos they've uploaded and tag them with metadata they consider applicable.

Harder and Good closed their session with the quotation "perfection is the enemy of progress" and advocating a "perpetual Beta" or "good enough" approach. The challenge they set to the audience was to learn more about Web 2.0 interactive technologies and to find useful ways to incorporate them into our libraries to engage our users as participants.

Additional Sites to Visit

WordPress: www.wordpress.org
Google Scholar: http://scholar.google.com
Google Book Search: http://books.google.com
OpenWorldCat: www.oclc.org/worldcat/open
Open Content Alliance: www.opencontentalliance.org/
Kenton Good: www.kentongood.com

Geoff Harder: www.blogdriverswaltz.com

   The Conference Planning Committee made sure we were wined and dined as well as instructed and informed. The opening reception, hosted by CCH Canadian Limited, was held at the Francis Winspear Centre for Music where we celebrated CCH's 60th birthday and were treated to a performance on the Davis Concert Organ. On Monday, it was off to West Edmonton Mall where Thomson Carswell put on a mini-Olympics at Red's with an opportunity to meet Olympic athlete Amy Nixon. The Closing Banquet was a Western Night at the Blatchford Air Hangar at Fort Edmonton Park. LexisNexis Canada treated us to dining and (line)dancing in this replica 1929 air hangar.

   The annual conference is always a valuable experience – a chance to share ideas with colleagues from across Canada as well as other parts of the world. If you have never been, it's not too early to start thinking about May 2007 in Ottawa and perhaps applying for the Peter Bark Bursary.

VALL REVIEW NEWSLETTER ARTICLE CONTENT -- SUBMISSION   **GUIDELINES**

To provide short news and articles on library information and knowledge management developments of interest to VALL members with a priority focus on legal information and related issues concerning legal sector.

To highlight resources of interest to VALL which would be useful to the legal community and for professional library staff development.

Authors are advised to submit their draft articles that meet the minimal criteria:

For articles:
1) In Microsoft Word, Plain text or Rich-text.
2) Maximum of up to 800 words for full articles.
3) Single spaced with paragraphs.
4) Functional URLs and corresponding footnote bibliographic information for further reading.
5) Identification of author, their official position title and parent organization.

Publishers and vendors should only highlight for submission:

6) No more than 3-4 resources of key value per issue. Title, edition, author and projected price is
   helpful.
7) Of value, would be very recent new product developments that the vendor has not yet publicly
   released or the vendor would like feedback from its customers.

Note: If a vendor has already released public marketing information to all customers on its corporate web site, VALL Review editors will exercise rights to determine if there is sufficient space to include the submitted information, in light of other VALL content publishing priorities.

These guidelines are also at the VALL website: http://vall.vancouver.bc.ca/vallreviewguide.htm