

VALL Review

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From the Editors of VALL

Karen Imeson
Johanna Sigurdson

In putting together this first issue of the second volume of the *VALL Review*, we have had the opportunity to reflect upon the coming year and the state of our profession. It is an exciting year, in that we are hosting the CALL Conference, which means for many of us the practising and learning of skills which we do not ordinarily use in our daily lives as librarians. It is also an exciting time for our profession. The maturation of computerization in the workplace and the growing recognition of information management as a necessity to efficient decision-making is ensuring that our role can only grow in value.

As editors of this newsletter, we are hoping that these few pages every two months or so can serve as a forum to discuss some of the issues which are of relevance to us all. As practitioners we never tire of reading good articles which can provide assistance with our day to day problems, such as circulation control, serials and records management, information dissemination and so on. As well, we think that there are more "abstract" issues which were not addressed in library schooling, but which are of great concern to us all, no matter what level we occupy in our working lives. We would like to see submissions to this newsletter of articles on such topics as the liabilities we may incur as information brokers, the various communications and management issues, and changing academic and career development needs and opportunities.

In addition we think the VALL membership would derive benefit from members' comments on special topics or projects which have involved or interested them.

Please think of the *VALL Review* as your forum to ask questions and voice your opinions. We as editors are waiting to hear from you. ✻

From the Executive of VALL

Astrid V. Kenning
President

Welcome to the 1989-90 season of VALL, and welcome to all the new members. We are very pleased to see our numbers increased by publishers' representatives and library staff from a wide variety of libraries; your input to the organization is encouraged. You can help widen our focus from the narrow field of law, so do speak up and let us know what you think.

Your executive is working hard to make this season a lively and enjoyable one. Annabel Knipsel (Treasurer and host extraordinaire) has arranged some scrumptious lunches; Valerie Johnson (Secretary) will keep you informed of times and events; Mary Mitchell (Membership) will be producing the very useful

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Infolex Working Group Calgary, September 25 & 26

Pam Clancy
October 4th, 1989
Campney & Murphy

The Canadian Legal Information Council (CLIC) is mounting a national task force called Infolex: The Funding of Canadian Law Libraries.

I was asked by CLIC to represent private law libraries on the Working Group. They wanted our point of view on cost of legal information, access to printed and electronic materials, relationships with other libraries and with publishers. Other members of the group were our host, Peter Freeman, Secretary of the Law Society of Alberta, Shih-Sheng Hu, Attorney General Libraries (Alberta), Michel Ricard, Ministère de Justice Bibliothèque (Quebec), Bob Franson, Computers & Law Project, U.B.C., Ann Rae, Faculty of Law Library, University of Toronto and Gail Dykstra, Infolex Project Manager, CLIC. John Benesh, CLIC's Executive Director, chaired the meeting.

The Working Group's job at this one-time meeting was to plan the structure of the Task Force and set its objectives. The actual study will be undertaken by specialist groups and an international consulting firm. The consultants will design data gathering and analysis techniques under the guidance of specialists. It is expected that the study will take about three years to complete. The final report will include cost projections and management alternatives. Behind the study is the underlying idea of providing financial and other planning information to both law librarians and their funders. The latter range from managing partners in firms to law societies, universities, attorneys-general, etc. — in other words, non-library people.

The study will outline the environment in which law libraries find themselves today and the likely picture in the future. It will discuss the way legal information is requested, published, delivered and priced. The interrelationship of law libraries as sources and alternatives for each other's requests will be looked at. The usual library statistics, as collected annually by CALL, will be analyzed and perhaps projected. The idea is to develop different scenarios for the various alternative approaches to the future of our law libraries. Along with this, the study hopes to inculcate a clear idea of the value of legal information to the individual lawyer, the firm, the justice system and the legal community as a whole. CLIC will be pleased if the study provides the decision

makers with useable data and sound alternatives for planning the cost-efficient provision of legal information.

Anyone interested in more details of the Working Group may contact me at Campney & Murphy, 688-8022. The continuing saga of Infolex will be told, I'm sure, in the *CALL Newsletter*. However, details can be obtained from:

Gail Dykstra
CLIC
5th Floor, 161 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 5J2

Gail Dykstra and John Benesh may be contacting some of you to help out in the specialist groups as the need arises. I know we can count on VALL members to be generous with their time for this project. ✚

From the Executive of VALL *continued from page 1*

directory of members; Carol Saxon (Programs) is lining up some interesting speakers for the coming year — a session on the *Personal Property Security Act* for January and (we hope) a workshop on *Marketing the Library* for February or March.



Johanna Sigurdson and Karen Imeson (Newsletter Editors) are hoping there are some keen writers out there who would be willing to contribute their ideas and thoughts on any (almost) subject you might care to see in print. We do not require long dissertations;

how about sharing your tips and techniques, useful forms you may have developed? Or, how about contributions from budding cartoonists? Computer-generated, assisted-art graphics would be OK; it's the ideas that count. Don't be shy.

Above all: relax, mingle, enjoy. ✚

"One is born into a herd of buffaloes and must be glad if one is not trampled underfoot before one's time."

Albert Einstein

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Infobits

Did You Know ...

The 4th Supplement to the Revised Statutes of Canada has been proclaimed in force as of November 1, 1989.

Coming Events ...

- VALL
- December 14th meeting will be a Christmas social. No formal program is planned.
 - January 11th, 1990 meeting — Special program speaker will be David Zacks of Campney & Murphy. He'll discuss the new *Personal Property Security Act*.
 - February, 1990 — plans for an all-morning workshop are well underway. Stay tuned for details.

VOLUG/SLA

- Dinner and Special Program, Thursday November 23rd, 1989, Stanley Park Driving Pavilion, 2099 Beach Avenue, Stanley Park
5:45 — Cash Bar
6:30 — Dinner
7:45 — Program: *Sue Ruge on Marketing* — the Information Provider's Key to Growth in the 1990's
Cost — \$28.00
Contact — Susanne Lloyd, MacDonald Dettwiler, 13800 Commerce Parkway, Richmond. ☎ 278-3411 for more info.

For Sale ...

- The David Lamb Library at UBC has available a set of *BCLRB Decisions* 1974 – 1987, mainly unbound — may consider selling at a low price or even giving away. If interested, ☎ Diana Chan at 224-8471.
- Serials Records Cards of various descriptions are available from Alan Davies at Davies Health Care Systems Inc., ☎ 873-3555; FAX 873-3894.
- Kardex cards are also available from Anne Beresford at Ladner Downs; price is \$20.00 for 100 cards. ☎ Anne at 687-5744.

Courthouse Correspondence ...

Valerie Johnson advises that checklists on noting up and updating federal and BC statutes and regulations have been revised.

If you want to be placed on a mailing list to receive new materials, contact the Courthouse Library.

UBC Law Library Prevailing Charges and Policies

Mary Mitchell brings us news on some changes in the library's charges for services. Effective September 1, 1989, cost recovery fees have been instituted for the following services: book retrievals and other related services (borrowing privileges now require the purchase of either institutional or individual library cards); and photocopying (fees vary for "same day" or FAX service). ☎ Mary at 228-4969 for more details or if you'd like to receive a copy of the new fee schedule.

SFU and UBC Libraries Online ...

Remote access to both library files is now available from any terminal or personal computer, on campus or at home. Access SFU Library's book, government document and periodical holdings in the *Online Public Access Catalogue* (OPAC) through SFULIB. If you're connected to UBCNET, UBC Library cardholders can access the following files: books and other items catalogued since January 1978; books on order, or received and being processed; journals, periodicals, newspapers, annuals and other serials; books on loan, on reserve, at the binder, missing; and other miscellaneous materials. There is no charge to search UBCLIB. For further information:

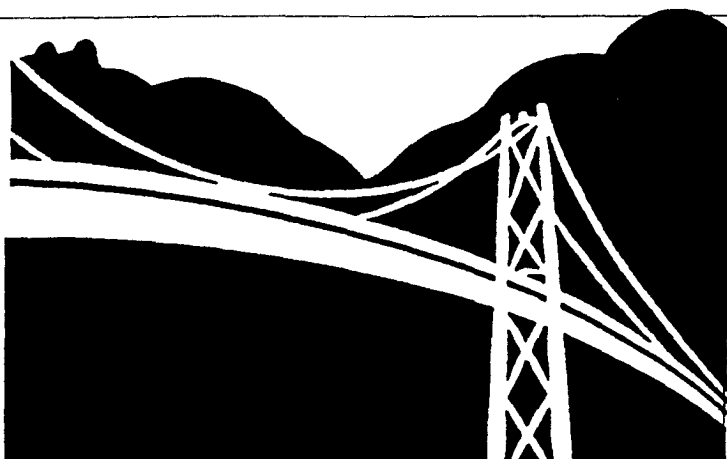
SFU • Library Reference Desk ☎ 291-3283;
UBC • Computing Assistance Centre ☎ 228-2008.

CLE Publications ...

Karen Imeson informs us that Continuing Legal Education is preparing a *List of Publications* which consists of the name, price, publication date, stock number, and number of pages of all current titles and lists them in subject category. CLE is prepared to supply such a list to customers if there is a demand. Would such a list be useful? Would you be willing to pay a fee for the list which would be updated perhaps on a quarterly basis, or should this be a service to purchasers of CLE materials? Would you like to see the list include not only titles "in print" but also titles "out of print" (which still exist in libraries and personal collections)? Or, would you prefer an "A – Z" list?

CLE welcomes questions, comments, and suggestions from VALL members. Call Karen at the Continuing Legal Education Society at 669-3544 or FAX 669-9260. ✽

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BRIDGES to the 90's

Call 1990 — Bridges to the 90's

Linda Morrison
May 13 - 16, 1990

Tom Shorthouse and the Program Subcommittee plan an exciting program for attendees.

Featured at the preconference workshop on *Using U.S. Materials* is James Carlson, noted author on legal research, from the University of Idaho Law Library. He'll discuss research sources such as annotated codes, Shepard's, legal encyclopedias, ALR's and West's digest system as well as more specialized sources including the *Federal Register*, *Code of Federal Regulations*, state statutes and constitutions, with particular emphasis on Charter related issues. He'll also demonstrate online and CD ROM capabilities in U.S. legal research.

The Environment: A Legal Challenge for the 1990's is the timely topic of the first main conference session. You'll hear a three member panel discuss the courts' and legislatures' treatment of acid rain, toxic waste, oil spills and resource destruction from the points of view of government, business and the public.

Cost Recovery in the Provision of Information Services is the theme of the conference session. Many law libraries trying to cope with both costly new information technologies and budget cuts face increasing pressure to charge for their services. A panel featuring speakers from various types of law libraries will look at the implementation

Membership Matters

New Members ...

VALL welcomes the following new members for 198/90.

Elizabeth Kinersly

Elizabeth attended law school in the States and, after articling at Campney & Murphy, was called to the BC Bar in 1987. Her husband's work took them to Taiwan soon afterward, and, after spending a year there, the couple returned to Vancouver. Elizabeth has decided not to pursue the practice of law, but rather to apply to library school for the coming year. She currently works part-time at the Legal Services Society's Legal Resource Centre on Law Line, a telephone information service for members of the public who are handling their own legal affairs and who require referral to various legal resources.

John Davis

Chief Librarian at the University of Victoria Law School since 1987, John received his LLB at the University of Western Ontario in 1977, and his MLS from the University of Toronto in 1981. Called to the Ontario Bar in 1977, he practised law in Kyuga, Ontario before coming to Victoria.

Lucky Campbell

A certified Library Technician, Lucky is currently employed part-time with Campney & Murphy. As well, he is involved in implementing a full automation project, including recon, inventory, circulation and acquisitions at the Port Moody Public Library.

Bronwen Jamison

Bronwen comes to law librarianship after a 6-year career in the medical library field where she worked with the Cancer Control Agency in Vancouver. Bronwen graduated from UBC's library school in April, and, until next March, she will be working on contract with the BC Law Reform Commission on the database project.

Marilyn Shearman

Marilyn's educational background combines a Bachelor of Library Science from the University of Toronto with a BA (in French and Russian) from UBC. Her library career began with seven years service with the University of Alberta in Edmonton cataloguing Slavic books. The next year she spent dabbling in "all sorts of things", the most interesting of which was being part of a twelve-person team indexing materials for the department of Indian Affairs in Vancouver.

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Call 1990 — Bridges to the 90's Continued from page 4

of cost recovery and profit making strategies and users' response to these measures.

To round out the program the **special interest groups** have a variety of informative sessions planned. The production of in-house publications, the librarian's position in the law firm, the development of legal expert systems, and sources for foreign statutory material are all being considered.

Exhibits are being coordinated by **Barbara Hopkins**. Interested exhibitors should contact:

Barbara c/o Canadian Human Rights Reporter
Box 213 — 810 West Broadway,
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C9
☎ 736-0235; FAX 733-5031

Joan Honeywell and her committee have organized a lively round of **social activities** including: formal opening reception and cocktail party at the Law Courts Inn; banquet at Vancouver Public Aquarium supplemented by whale show, "no fish" BBQ and murder mystery; free evening for shopping, sight-seeing and nightlife.

The Conference Planning Committee chaired by **Maureen McCormick** can always use more help. If you'd like to be involved, ☎ 687-9444 **Joan Mulholland** (Davis & Co.) who is co-ordinating volunteers for all the above committees as well as for the areas of promotion, transportation and registration. ✻

Membership Matters Continued from page 4

summer) Marilyn spent working as an office assistant with the Court Registry.

Julie Spence

Julie graduated from Langara College as a library technician in 1977. Immediately after graduation, she worked with the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture as their research project librarian. In 1980 Julie joined the library at Shrum Liddle where she gained the bulk of her practical experience as a law librarian under the able tutelage of Marjorie Keddy. For the next five years Julie was in charge of the library at Bourne Lyall. She began her

freelance career in 1987 The year prior to joining the Judges Library (she started this and continues to maintain a small library at Pryke Lambert in Richmond while working part-time on contract (until January 1990) at ICBC.

Courthouse Capers ...

The BC Courthouse Library brings us news of several members. **Dorothy Cameron** is on leave in Australia and New Zealand until January, 1990. **Chris Taylor** is a welcome addition to the Reference section as of July. Chris comes to the Courthouse from the Legal Services Society and the law firm of Baigent Jackson. **Linda Morrison** returns to work on November 9th, following a maternity leave during which she and husband Brian travelled to Peru to bring home their newly adopted baby, Andrew. **Peter Bark**, librarian at Lang Michener Lawrence & Shaw, has taken a leave from work to spend time recovering from a recent illness and hopefully to pursue some of his many interests outside of work. Keep in touch, Peter. **Shukrieh Merlet** has been profiled in the May-June 1989 issue of *Cultures West*, a newsletter committed to imparting multicultural-related news. Also featured in the publication was the research project *Equivalency Assessment of Immigrant*

Women's Education which Shukrieh undertook in co-operation with the Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society. ✻

