

VALL Review

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VALL 1989/90 Executive

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From the Editors of VALL

This newsletter issue marks the end of the second year of VALL's existence as an association. The membership continues to grow and to enjoy the benefits of professional exchange. We wish to thank those members who have submitted information for publication. In particular, this month, we wish to thank April Haddad, whose article on the successes of the online catalogue at the Justice Institute highlights this issue. While we all appreciate the time it takes to compose and submit information to the newsletter, we should remember that it is a vehicle VALL members have chosen to share information reflecting our common interests. That information has to come from you individually and as a group. Please feel free to submit articles to the new editors, so that VALL Review can serve the association effectively.

A Message from the Executive

Astrid V. Kenning, President

The slate of candidates for the 1990 - 91 VALL Executive has been prepared. We'd like to laud the Nominating Committee for their heroic efforts and never-ending patience and persistence in gathering the names. In spite of a certain amount of resistance encountered when making their telephone pleas, they never gave up. A million thanks to **Peter Bark**, chair, Gwendoline Hoar and Susan Daly. Thanks a lot also to those who agreed to let their names stand for election or who were elected by acclamation.

Remember, it's not too late to call any of the committee members if you'd like to assist with counting and tabulating ballots, etc. So, if you were unable to run for office, you can volunteer in other ways. This is YOUR Association and its continuing success depends on member involvement.

This is also an appropriate time to thank all those who contributed to the Association during the 1989/90 season. We hope, though, that your enthusiasm does not die with the season's end, and that it will continue under the regime of the new Executive.

And, to the incoming Executive ... we wish you the best of luck and we pledge our support to you during the coming term.

An Eloquent Story

April Haddad

Life Before Eloquent ... "You'd like a list of all of our books on police stress to hand out to your students? Sure, I'll try and have it ready in a couple of days." And then, when time permitted, someone would spend at least an hour noting down all the relevant titles from our microfiche catalogue and its paper supplements.

Why an Online Catalogue? ... The annually produced Utlas microfiche catalogue and its acquisition list supplements cost about \$3,000 per year, while an Eloquent catalogue, would cost only \$700 a year for updating and software

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maintenance. This large cost saving, plus a convincing demo from Merv Richter of Eloquent Systems, made it easy to persuade the administration to purchase the Eloquent software.

An Online Catalogue in 3 Days! ... We installed the Eloquent catalogue in our library in August of 1988. We chose Eloquent because it was an integrated library system with several modules including Cataloguing, Searching, Circulation, Acquisitions, and Serials Management. Initially we purchased only the first two modules, plus a MARC conversion module, and in three days had an online catalogue of about 10,000 records!

We were able to produce a catalogue so quickly because our catalogue records were already in MARC format at Utlas. All we had to do was order a set of disks containing our Utlas records, which were then converted to the Eloquent system by the MARC Conversion Module. When I said it took three days to produce an online catalogue, this was the time it took our computer to convert our records.

Instant Bibliographies ... All of the staff and faculty are thrilled with the new Eloquent catalogue. Not only does it provide much more access to our collection (due to keyword searching), but it also enables us to produce bibliographies in minutes! A dot matrix printer produces these bibliographies, plus shorter lists of titles and call numbers, and is in constant use. Clients no longer have to sit at the catalogue for ten minutes writing down titles and call numbers, the computer is freed up for other users, and clients are happily rushing to the shelves with their lists of books and videos.

Cataloguing ... We continue to have our cataloguing done by Mac Elrod's company, Special Libraries, not only because of their cataloguing expertise, but also because our records will be available in MARC format if we ever decide to change systems, or if we want to use our records for projects like a union catalogue. We give the title pages to Special Libraries and a week later have complete MARC records which are then entered into the Eloquent catalogue briefly (title, call number, and subjects).

Updating ... Our catalogue is now updated weekly (a great improvement over our microfiche as it was produced annually). Every three months we receive a disk from Utlas which contains all items catalogued during that period. The Eloquent MARC Conversion Module then converts these records into Eloquent language and fills in the brief records.

Products ... There are endless possibilities for products from the Eloquent system. In October we created an audio-visual catalogue (1,000 titles), and printed it on a laser printer. We then had it commercially printed and are selling it for \$7.00. Once the products report format is defined, it can take only half a day to produce a catalogue of 1,000

items including a subject and series index). We have the flexibility to print an updated version of this catalogue at any time (we plan to keep our staff copies updated every three months).

Circulation ... In June of 1989 we purchased Eloquent's Circulation Module and a wand barcode reader. Before we barcoded our collection we spent about 3 months weeding it, and with the help of faculty members, discarded 1,500 titles. We then hired a summer student for 2 months who took inventory and barcoded all of our books. The barcodes were produced locally on our dot matrix printer, and they are currently produced when the brief catalogue records are entered into the catalogue.

Networking ... The barcoding project was completed in September, but before we mounted the circulation system we had to put in a local area network. We could have run the system by purchasing more computers but this would have meant that the circulation data would only be on the computer that performed that function; in other words, the circulation status of a book would not show up on the public access online catalogue terminal. At the moment we are awaiting a decision from our administration as to the status of an organization-wide network. This decision will be made in May and we will then mount our circulation system, whether it be on a library network, or an organization network. The latter would give all Justice Institute employees access to the library catalogue from the computers at their desks.

Help! ... Eloquent is easy to install and maintain, but when you do need help it's great to have the Eloquent Hotline available. We have subscribed for one and a half years, and have found this service to be invaluable (and very patient).

Life with Eloquent ... "You'd like a list of all of our books on police stress? It'll be ready in a few minutes!" Clients can now get custom bibliographies in minutes from a more current and much less costly catalogue. We now offer a much higher level of service to our clients, through improved access by keyword, better products such as title lists, bibliographies, and special catalogues, and a very current catalogue. We are also saving money, as well as staff and client time.

The Future ... While waiting for our network, we are starting to work on orientation. We need to customize our on-screen help menus, and teach our clients how to use the catalogue. We are constantly developing new products, and may begin to add books on order and uncatalogued books into the database. After mounting the circulation system, we hope to purchase the Acquisitions and Serials Management Modules. We have recently been asked to catalogue the Justice Institute's photography collection for which we hope to use Eloquent. The possibilities are endless!



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A Law Librarian's Best Friend

The following, from a frustrated tax lawyer, appeared in a local law firm's daily memo news and announcements. The "cut & paste" response appeared the next day.

Memo

To: All lawyers and students

From: Tax library

The utility of the tax library is seriously impaired because several days ago an unascertained person removed and has not since troubled to return volume 1 of *Prentice Hall* (containing the index) and volume 9 of *CCH* (containing the up-to-date consolidated text of the *Act*).

This type of material is best used only in the library. Any removal should be only for a very brief period.

Failure to complete and file the removal card could be interpreted as reflecting an assessment by the person responsible that the 5 seconds of his/her time thereby saved are of more valuable than the 15 minutes it might take someone else to track down the missing material. Few of those thus inconvenienced will accept this assessment.

Response

We have the **books**
you make offer for **HOT PROPERTY**
offer hefty reward
MONEY
or WE cut BOOKS' ear OF F
THE STEALS PEOPLE

Infobits

Coming Events

CALL/ACBD ... Annual Conference — *Bridges to the 90's*: May 13 – 16, 1990, Coast Plaza Hotel at Stanley Park, 1733 Comox Street, Vancouver, B.C. If you haven't already **registered**, it's not too late; call Maureen McCormick, Chair, Conference Planning Committee, C/O B.C. Courthouse Library Society for more details. Also, see the Review's *Bridges to the 90's* column for program details.

VALL ... June 14th meeting will be an "end-of-the-year" social and windup business meeting.

Patents Information

For the first time in Vancouver, a representative from Derwent, a premier producer of worldwide patents database (WPI) and related services, will be discussing patents: introduction to patents; details of the database and printed products; competitive intelligence; and various Derwent support services.

- May 24, 1990, beginning at 4:30 p.m.
- University Golf Club (UBC Campus), 5185 University Blvd.
4:30 — Presentation
6:00 - Questions 6:30 — Reception
7:00 - Dinner Cost — Complimentary
RSVP — no later than May 15; limited space available.
Contact — Judy O'Mara at 439-8601 OR ENVOY — MBRL; or Ron Simmer at 228-5404 or ENVOY — PATSCAN.

VALL Survey on Salaries and Working Condition

A number of our members have been busy meeting to organize an "all-out", comprehensive survey that should serve to be an invaluable resource to law librarians in the Vancouver area. **Annabel Knispel** initiated the project, and has been joined by **Gillian Crabtree**, **Peter Bark**, **Pam Clancy** and **Lisa Riesen-Tella**. They are now in the process of drafting the actual questions and designing the format. Questions will cover all aspects of salary distribution as well as working conditions, including staffing (e.g., library staff/lawyer ratio). The group has requested input from interested members, so please contact any of the above people if you'd like to contribute your ideas or if you have any questions.

Well, well, what can we say

After many years of heading the law firm library at Russell and DuMoulin, **Diana Inselberg (Hunt)** has decided to take a break from librarianship for awhile. After a good long rest, she'll likely try her hand at freelancing/consulting until she settles on an alternate career path. Good luck, Diana.

Our president, **Astrid Kenning**, was one of 3 guest speakers at the upcoming Special Libraries Association/WCC spring program on April 25.

A bouncing baby boy, David, was born to Richard and **Barbara Hopkins** in early December, 1989. Barbara now juggles working with baby at home with resuming work as assistant editor of the Canadian Human Rights Reporter.

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For Sale

- **Criminal Reports** ... C.R. Volumes 48 – 50 (1966 – 67). C.R.N.S. Volumes 1–40 (1967 – 78); Index to Volumes 1 – 40. C.R. Volumes 1 – 52 (1978 – 86) ; Consolidated Index: 2 vols. for C.R. 1 – 50; C.R.N.S. 1 – 40; C.R. (3d) 1 – 18. Index: Vols. 19 – 50. Price is negotiable. Call Antoinette at **Guillou, Richards Buell Sutton**, 682-3664.
- **Davidson & Company** ... in Vernon, B.C. would like to sell volumes of various report series as well as miscellaneous law books. Among those titles available for purchase are: *Canada Law Reports, Charter of Rights Decisions, Criminal Reports, Dominion Law Reports, B.C. Decisions, Canadian Abridgment, Halsbury's Laws of England, Traumatic Medicine and Surgery, Chitty's Abridgment of Canadian Criminal Cases, Estates and Trusts Reports, Estates and Trusts Quarterly, and Municipal and Planning Law Reports*. Contact Jennifer Finlay, librarian, at 545-5344, 545-3290 for more details.
- **The Justice Institute Library** ... Has the following items available for free: *Statutes of British Columbia 1961-1982* (bound volumes); *RSBC 1960* Vols. 1-5; *RSBC 1979* Vols. 1-6 (plus Vol. 8 Index updated to Apr.1/86); *Revised Statutes of Canada 1970 - 1st Supplement, 2nd Supplement, Appendices*. Call April Haddad at the Justice Institute, 228-9771 if you're interested.
- **Bradbrooke, Crawford & Green** ... in North Vancouver have the following law books for sale. They are open to offers. *Criminal Reports* Vol. 1, 1968; Vol. 40, 1978. N.S. plus index. Vol. 1, 1978; Vol. 48, 1986 (3d series). Consolidated index Vol. 1, 2. Cumulative index, 3d series, vols. 19-45; *Western Weekly Reports* 1971 - 1985; *Weekly Criminal Bulletin* Vol. 1 (1976 - 1977), Vol. 17 (1986); Vol. 1 (1987), Vol. 7 (1989); Current Bulletin binder. For further information, please call Jane Wells, 980-8571, Mon., Tues. or Wed.
- **Alan Davies** ... of Davies Health Care Systems Inc. has sent along sample photocopies of the standard library cards which he offers for sale right here in Vancouver. Those copies are included with this newsletter.

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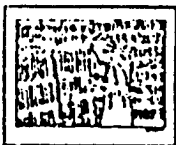
The Government Libraries Association of BC 1989–90 Directory is now available including listings for all provincial ministry, crown corporations & related libraries, such as Commissions and legal aid.

To order please forward a cheque or money order for \$10.00, payable to: Government Libraries Ass. of B.C.

GLABC

Directory

1989-90



Membership Matters

New Members ... VALL welcomes the following new members for 1989/90.

Diane Lee ... Diane graduated from UBC in 1988 with her sights set on public library work. She left Vancouver for Toronto where she worked in the library of a natural gas company for a year. From then on, special libraries seemed to "call" Diane and since October, 1989, she has been working part-time in the corporate library of Fletcher Challenge. She now combines that job with working Mondays and Wednesdays at of Robertson, Ward, which she joined in January of this year.

Lois Burkell ... After graduating from the University of Saskatchewan with a B.Comm. degree in 1980, Lois travelled to Trois Rivieres, Quebec where she studied in a French language immersion program. She returned to the West to become the librarian at the Centre for Second Language Instruction at the Uof S where she worked for 5 years. The East beckoned again, and Lois entered The School of Library & Information Science at the University of Western Ontario; graduating in April 1989. While at library school Lois participated in a work/study program in Ottawa at the Canadian Institute for International Peace & Security. Lois currently is assistant librarian at Bull, Housser & Tupper.

Marilyn Shearman ... Marilyn's education combines a Bachelor of Library science from the University of Toronto with a B.A. (in French and Russian) from U.B.C. Her library career began with 7 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 12-person team indexing materials for the Department of Indian Affairs in Vancouver. The year prior to joining the Judges Library (she started this summer) Marilyn spent working as an office assistant with the Court Registry.

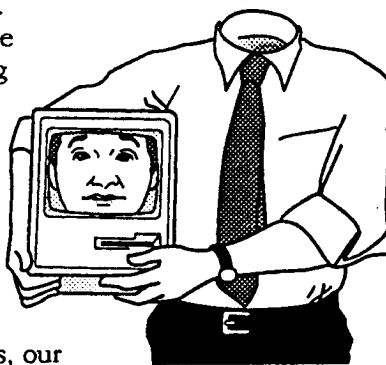
Julie Spence ... Julie graduated from Langara College as a library technician in 1977. Immediately after graduation she worked with the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture as their research project librarian. In 1980 Julie joined the library at Shrum Liddle where she gained the bulk of her law librarian's practical experience under the able tutelage of Marjorie Keddy. For the next 5 years Julie was in charge of the library at Bourne Lyall. She began her freelance career in 1987 and continues to maintain a library at Pryke Lambert in Richmond while working part-time on contract (until January 1990) at I.C.B.C.

O O P S ! ... The devil was at work. In the last issue of the *VALL Review*, the profiles of **Marilyn Shearman** and **Julie Spence** appeared in a somewhat scrambled fashion. Apologies to them and to **Anne Rector** (No, Anne, Marilyn did not start the Judges Library!). The correct profiles appear above. ✻ ✻

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Online Database Management — Some Questions

It is interesting, if not downright frustrating, to notice that the way of online access to legal materials in Canada appears to be moving at a rapid pace along a similarly redundant and expensive road as our published law reports. For example, it was once a fairly simple task to know that by signing on to QL one could search all that was available through the electronic medium. The charges were easy to determine according to an hourly rate which varied only by the baud access used. Now, a few short career years later we are choosing from a number of vendors who offer many of the same databases, but with different pricing structures, or else we are switching from one vendor to another during the same search to be sure we have searched all the headnotes or digests in digit form. It has more and more of late seemed to me that just as our library space and budgets are pregnant with the same cases published simultaneously in a multitude of law report titles, our sub-career as online specialists has become overly complex at the mercy of database vendors carrying the same databases in their repertoire. Just as we have envied the American librarians for the uniformity of the West legal reporting services, we are now beginning to envy them for having to choose between only WESTLAW Or LEXIS, knowing that either way, they are still going to obtain a fairly full coverage of the law.



It seems to me that this segment of our professional lives is evolving (if it has not already evolved) into a pseudo-profession in its own right. It is not enough now to be literate in the search strategies for all of these various systems, but if we are to manage them economically, we must also be observant of their comparative and changing pricing structures. In their desire to serve and to capture their market share all of these systems are adding databases day by day. I may be deficient in my research, but I know of no one comprehensive source which lists and compares the contents of the various systems as to holdings, pricing or feasibility (i.e., strategies, helplines, etc.). Where one is called upon, for example, to search a case, newstex, or a periodical index, one must quickly assess whether to use CBA Net, CAN/LAW, QL, Infoglobe, and so on, as to which will be most efficient in time and money. This is done purely based upon past experience or what amounts basically to "educated guess-work".

I, for one, would be relieved to have in my hands the results of a careful study of these various systems to refer to constantly and with confidence. I have wondered to some extent whether collectively VALL members could not compile this kind of directory under the guidance of a keen ONLINE Committee, for example, or, given the vastness of such a project, perhaps suggest it (with an offer of some funding if we can afford it) as a desirable project for CLIC?

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Courthouse Capers ...

Joan Honeywell: the Courthouse Library's loss — CCH's gain. We all wish Joan well at pounding the pavement as a new sales representative for CCH; and, it's great to see that she's running for office in the current VALL elections. Since Joan's departure, some Courthouse people have shifted positions: responsibility for technical services at the various Courthouse branch libraries has now been assumed by **Eve Porter**; and, Reference Services will now be supervised by **Linda Morrison**. **Dorothy Cameron** decided that she needed a break from 4 months of holidaying in New Zealand and Australia so has returned to the Courthouse workforce!

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Canadian Patent Index on Optical Disk

In early May, 1990, the UBC Library will release a CD-ROM demonstration disk containing the *Canadian Patent Index*, a database of the last 13 years of Canadian patent records up to February, 1990. The Index was compiled by the UBC Library systems group and has been available online through UBCLIB on the /UBC campus.

Also on the demonstration disk are eight other bibliographic files representing projects by UBC and other local librarians: Consumer Health Bibliography; Union List of B.C. Newspapers; Canadian Politics Bibliography; Vancouver Centennial Bibliography; Poison Information Reference; Index to the Vancouver City Council Meetings; UBC Archives and Manuscripts Database; and UBC Data Library Catalog.

To reserve your copy of the disk, contact Ron Simmer at the PATSCAN office, 228-5404. A short guide to searching is also available through PATSCAN.

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CALL/ACBD Conference 1990 ... May 13 – 16, 1990; Coast Plaza Hotel at Stanley Park, 1733 Comox St.

Following is a brief synopsis of some of the Conference highlights. Remember that you can register for just the preconference workshop, for a single day, or for the entire 3 days of the conference. Contact **Eve Porter** at the Courthouse Library for registration information.

Preconference Workshop ... 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Sunday, May 13th at the Conference Hotel. Speaking on Using U.S. Legal Materials Effectively will be James R. Carlson, Assoc. Law Librarian for Public Services, University of Idaho Law Library, and noted author on legal research. Demonstration of online and CD ROM capabilities included.

Opening Night Reception ... 7:00 p.m., Sunday, May 13th at the Law Courts Inn, The Law Courts, 800 Smithe St.. The Honourable David C. Lam, B.C.'s Lieutenant Governor will deliver the theme address. An astute businessman and a prominent philanthropist, His Honour envisions a Canada where immigrants will find refuge and opportunity; where all of Canada will benefit from the cultures and unique backgrounds of its Citizens. **Note:** As this is a formal occasion, late arrivals may not be admitted. Please be at the Law Courts (Smithe Street door), level 4, and in your place by **7:00 p.m.** CALL is honoured to receive this distinguished guest, and we wish to extend him the courtesy of our prompt arrival.

Monday, May 14th — Day 1

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast in Exhibit Area
8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Business Meeting
10:00 – 12 noon Panel discussion: *The Environment: A Legal Challenge for the 1990's*
12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch. Speaker on Pacific Rim issues.
2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Special Interest Group and Committee Meetings, including: Courthouse Libraries: *In-house Publications*; Academic Law Libraries: round table discussion on issues in the 90's; Special Committee on Constitutional Review: open discussion on the future of CALL.

Tuesday, May 15th — Day 2

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast in Exhibit Area
8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Business Meeting
10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Panel discussion: *Cost Recovery of Library and Information Services*
12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch. Speaker: Jay Clark, lawyer and author
2:00 – 5:30 p.m. Special Interest Group and Committee Meetings, including: Gov't. Libraries & Official Publications: *Foreign Statutes: Where are they in Canada?* and *Looseleaf Publications: Problems for Historical Collections* Private Law Libraries; Technical Services; KF Users' Group; NOTIS Users' Group; UTLAS Users' Group.
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Bus tour of Vancouver, ending at the Aquarium 7:30 p.m. Banquet at Vancouver Aquarium, whale show, "no fish" BBQ, murder mystery

Tuesday, May 16th — Day 3

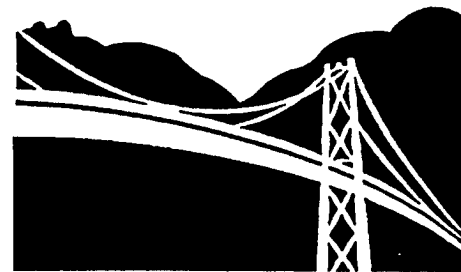
8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast in Exhibit Area
9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Special Interest Group and Committee Meetings, including: Computer Assisted Legal Research: *Using Artificial Intelligence* 1991 Conference Planning Committee Meeting
11:00 – 12:00 noon Business Meeting
12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. Lunch
1:30 – 5:00 p.m. Special Interest Group & Committee Meetings, including: Private Law Libraries: *The Librarian's Role in the Law Firm*
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Law firm tours

Exhibits ... Representatives from a number of publishers, database vendors and library suppliers will all be on hand throughout the Conference. Visit them at their booths in the exhibit area in the hotel conference level lobby.

The Conference Planning Committee can always use additional volunteers, so if you're interested in helping contact **Maureen McCormick**, Chair CALL 1990, C/O B.C. Courthouse Library Society, 800 Smithe St., Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E1, phone 660-2910, Fax 660-2821.

VALL ... Your VALL Executive will be on hand throughout the Conference, so look for us hovering periodically around the Registration area (Eve Porter has graciously agreed to share her registration table space with us). We'll be distributing 'Reviews, generally "talking it up" about our organization and sharing information with other provincial and local groups.

Attn: all VALL members ... Be sure to wear your VALL name badges. We want to give a message to delegates that we're willing — resources and welcoming hosts. **See you there!**



BRIDGES to the 90's