

VALL REVIEW

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VALL 1991/92 Executive

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From the Executive of VALL

Judy Atkins

Welcome to the 1991-1992 season of *VALL* and welcome to all new members. Your executive this year is Judy Atkins, President, Eve Porter, Treasurer, Barbara Weisbeck, Secretary, Carol Williams, Program Coordinator, and Teresa Gleave and Joan Honeywell, Newsletter Editors.

We have what we hope is an interesting series of programs planned for this season including a workshop on space planning and moving a library, a timely topic for many of us. Other scheduled programs include Betsy Nuse and Daphne Dukelow, editors of the new *Dictionary of Canadian Law* in October, Susan Lyons and possibly Bob Franson discussing electronic distribution of judgments in February, Sheila Thompson of Vancouver Public Library giving a presentation on business information sources in March, Suzanne Dodson on preservation in libraries in April, and Wade Nesmith, Superintendent of Brokers, in May. Tom Shorthouse will address us at our November meeting which will be held in memory of Peter Bark.

Other than planning this season's programs and getting to know each other, the Executive had a quiet summer. We responded briefly to recommendations of the *CALL* Special Committee on Constitutional Review. We received a report from Jennifer Martison on the decision of Thomson Professional Publishing to delete "referred to" entries from *Cases Judicially Considered*. Thomson reports that "the decision was made as of January, 1991 to discontinue publishing entries for cases, statutes and rules where there is no real treatment but merely a mention or listing in the judgment at hand." Thomson's reason for its decision is that customers have said "they would be better served by a publication which was a more manageable size, was less expensive and contained only useful information." Anyone wanting a copy of the report or the *CALL* recommendations should contact Judy Atkins at McCarthy Tétrault.

From the Editors

Teresa Gleave
Joan Honeywell

For the first of four issues in the 1991-1992 year we have assembled a number of news items, housekeeping issues and committee reports. We are focussing on keeping the membership apprised of upcoming events plus regular reports from *VALL* members on major committees.

We are extremely pleased that Nancy Cotter volunteered to continue to produce the *VALL REVIEW* for us and wish to thank Western Legal Publications for providing printing services. Please send your contributions to either Teresa or Joan. Deadlines for submissions are: November 21, 1991, February 20, 1992 and May 21, 1992.

VALL REVIEW

Eds. Note: Our lead article, reprinted with permission from Database Canada (Vol. 3, Issue 5, August 1991), emphasizes the urgency and priority the Canadian Legal Information Centre (CLIC) has placed on electronic access to government legal information. Following the article we have included an excerpt from CLIC's letter advertising the regional meeting held at the Vancouver Courthouse on September 26, 1991. In future issues we will monitor new developments.

ELECTRONIC LEGAL INFORMATION: CLIC Explores the Options

by Jane Rodger

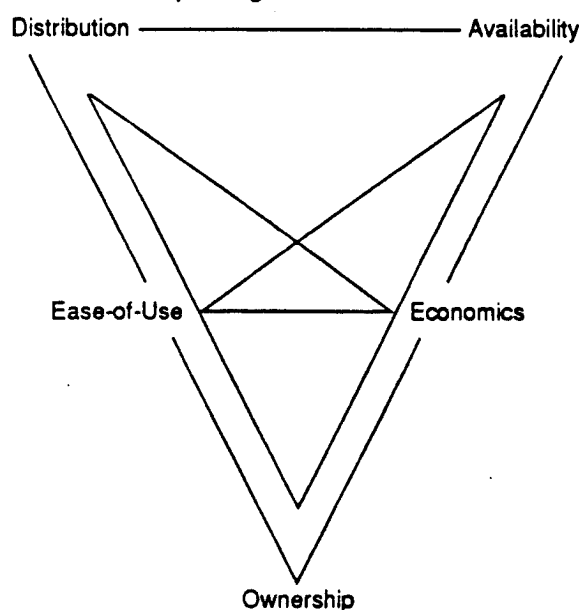
Federal and provincial governments are all converting their statutes, regulations, and judgment information into electronic databases. One example is the OARS project (Online Access to Regulations and Statutes), part of the strategic plan for information management in the Department of Justice. As the pilot project moves into testing phases, database vendors and users are becoming interested.

Who will have access to this electronic information? Database producers and distributors like QL and STM hungrily follow every move the governments make, seeing banquets in the lucrative legal files. Library groups such as CLA and CALL are anxious for guarantees of complete and accurate data, not to mention the cherished rights of free access. For how can a democracy function and flourish if its citizens are unable to access, and thus discuss and question, the laws of the land? How can citizens be assured of a fair trial if their lawyers do not have ready access to current statutes and case law?

The Canadian Legal Information Centre is attempting to help solve these problems. CLIC is a non-profit centre aiming to promote a better understanding of the law by improving access to legal information. CLIC's past projects have included indexing statutes, plain language writing guides, and the creation of a public legal education clearing house.

CLIC's latest efforts are in the area of access to government electronic legal information, and they have recently released a report entitled *Electronic Legal Information: Exploring Access Issues*. Prepared by Kathy Kelso of Alamar

Electronic Legal Information: Exploring Access Issues



Education Inc., the report establishes a framework for information technology development and analyses trends in the information industry in order to make sense of where Canadian government policy is, and where it may be headed.

Three aspects of the access issue are explored: ownership and copyright; distribution and licensing; and economics, including pricing and cost recovery. Intertwined with these issues are the problems of availability and ease of use. CLIC's graphic neatly conceptualizes the issues.

In addition to commissioning this report, CLIC has created a National Task Force to examine the options for electronic distribution of legal information. Task Force membership includes representatives from government, user groups, the publishing industry, and experts on information

economics and technology.

A national forum on access to government databases on law was held in May, as part of CLIC's annual meeting. A sense of frustration with crown copyright emerged from the forum. According to CADAPSO, the current policy is impeding access to federal government information and inhibiting the growth of a vital Canadian electronic publishing industry. The legal profession's reluctance to embrace technology was discussed at the forum. It was felt that barriers to acceptance of technology by lawyers are administrative, organizational and behavioural issues rather than any lack of suitable hardware or software. Finally, the forum looked at the U.S. government's role as a wholesaler of legal information, with the database industry first adding value, then retailing a finished product.

The Task Force's mandate is to gather information from the forum and from regional meetings and to prepare a report to recommend government, industry, and CLIC actions. It is hoped that some original and exciting ideas will be generated. Canada may yet be able to live up to the early promise and vision of a vital legal electronic publishing industry pioneered by companies like QL.

For more information, contact CLIC at 161 Laurier Avenue East, 5th Floor, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5J2, Tel. 613/236-9766, or in Toronto: 600 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 205, Toronto, Ontario M4P 2J3, Tel. 416/483-3802.

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ELECTRONIC LEGAL INFORMATION, *continued...*

Jane Rodger is a contributing editor with Database Canada, and librarian with Justice Canada in Toronto. She can be reached at the Department of Justice, 2 First Canadian Place, Suite 3700, Toronto, Ontario M5X 1K6, Tel. 416/973-2334.

Excerpt from CLIC's letter:

- Will lawyers and the public have the access they need to government databases on law?
- How can Canada ensure equality of access to this information?

The Canadian Legal Information Centre's mandate is to ensure Canadians have equality of access to the information they need on the law. This includes the databases of statutes, regulations and judgments that will soon be available from governments.

National Task Force

CLIC created a national Task Force to examine the options for making government databases on law available to the legal profession and the public. To assist the Task Force CLIC has already commissioned a background report outlining the issues, along with sponsoring a national policy forum on the topic.

The Task Force will hold regional consultations in September and October. The consultations will make certain that the concerns and ideas of users will be reflected in the Task Force's recommendations for action.

Regional Consultations

CLIC and the Task Force invite you to participate in the Vancouver regional consultation. It will be in the Conference Room of the Vancouver Courthouse Library (level three), on Thursday, the 26th of September. It will start at 9:00 am, and end at 1:00 pm.

The consultation will take the form of a roundtable discussion. Each organization or individual will be given an opportunity to present a short statement, followed by questions from the Task Force members and general discussion.

Issues

Key access issues to be discussed will be:

- Crown copyright and control of statute, regulation and judgment databases,
- User fees and the use of legal databases as "profit centres" by governments,
- Access to Information and Privacy issues,
- Roles for the governments and publishers in producing and disseminating legal databases.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS LAW LIBRARY

*Rebecca Raworth,
B.C. Courthouse Library*

After reading an article on the Library of Congress Law Library, I spoke on the telephone with Ms. Keith Stiverson, the Special Assistant to the Law Librarian.

The LC Law Library will deal with Canadian librarians, lawyers and the general public and will *not* charge for their services. But she did say that Congress is their first priority and therefore responses to questions from people like us take awhile.

The LC Law Library prefers dealing with librarians rather than lawyers or other members of the public, so it would be best if we dealt with them directly. It is best if we write (not phone) to:

Law Library of Congress
LM240
Washington, D.C.
20540 U.S.A.

Once the LC Law Library receives the query, it is "logged in and assigned to the country specialist." They have 30 foreign lawyers there who deal with the law in over 200 countries. Answers may take awhile because of higher priority questions or because the country specialist may be overseas for a month or longer. Ms. Stiverson did say that government agencies will receive answers quicker than private law firm libraries, because law firms are profit making institutions.

In regards to photocopying, the country specialists "use their own discretion" but generally will provide up to 10 free duplications. If a lot of copies are needed the request has to go to the "photoduplication service" which charges 50¢/page and which takes "a very, very long time." Ms. Stiverson pointed out that most of the foreign laws that they have are not available in English.

Keith Stiverson said that the LC Law Library is "like the United Nations": very busy and some of the country specialists are more helpful than others. She said to phone her (Keith Stiverson) to field any complaints or problems we may have and to follow up on questions that we've mailed in. Her phone number is: 8-202-707-9836.

In conclusion, the LC Law Library sounds *very* helpful but *very* slow.

For further reading, see *The Law Library: Window to the World's Laws*, by Natalie Gawdiak. In Library of Congress Information Bulletin, Vol. 50, No. 8, April 22, 1991, pp. 141-146.

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COMMITTEE NOTES

Report on Canadian Abridgment Advisory Board

Carol Saxon

The Board met with Thomson in Vancouver in May, 1990, in Toronto in the fall of 1990, and May 16, 1991, in Ottawa. The new chair of the Board is Jennifer Martison.

The Board has now taken on the responsibilities of the Editorial Board of the Index to Canadian Legal Literature. The CLL Board, unlike the Advisory Board, is a decision-making body and not just an advisory body.

New developments in print:

1. Consolidated table of cases

Supplements will now accumulate letter by letter, at the recommendation of the Board. Thomson has made a commitment to shorten the time delay between the currency date and actual publication.

2. Canadian Citations

"Referred to" entries have been dropped from the print versions.

3. Component parts

Representatives of Thomson have stated that the ultimate goal is to separate all components of the Abridgment into stand-alone products.

4. Revised Second

The schedule for the Revised Second has been expedited by moving major volumes up out of order, and by dropping the tax title completely. These steps were recommended by the Board at an earlier meeting. The Revised Second is expected to be complete by the end of 1993.

5. Plans for supplementation

A true "Third Edition" would be 100 volumes, and the expense is likely not warranted. Instead, Thomson is looking at new methods of supplementing and cumulating its supplements. Although the method has not been determined, the most likely method is based on the U.S. decennial digests, now cumulating every five years, with pocket parts between cumulations. The cost of this method is projected to be less than double the current method. It was the view of the Board that this cost was justified. Ten year cumulations would cost about three times the current system, a cost that did not seem to be justified. This means that every 5 years a searcher will have an additional volume to check. However, there will be finding tools to cut down the number of places a searcher must check. The cost of full looseleaf was shown to be astronomical, not including the filing costs, and this alternative was rejected by the Board.

New developments on the electronic side:

Thomson has met with focus groups and is now ready to beta test its electronic product. The product will initially be on STM, but the contract is non-exclusive. The full Revised Second edition of the Abridgment plus complete table of cases will be in the database by the time it goes to market.

CD-ROM remains a possibility for the future. Right now Thomson is focussing on the electronic product.

The features and functions of the new product are confidential information. The members of the Board will be among the beta testers of the new product. Beta testing is now completed and they are now on the next phase.

The Board is scheduled to meet again September 23.

Canadian Legal Information Centre - INFOLEX PROJECT Cost Projection Study of Law Libraries

Liisa Riesen-Tella

(Harper Grey Easton)

INFOLEX Advisory Group

Some of you might have heard of this extensive study that CLIC has embarked upon. For those who have not, let me explain what the goals of INFOLEX are:

- Project law library cost 5-7 years in the future
- Identify critical factors that influence these costs
- Identify ways law libraries and funders can influence these costs

The project was developed by CLIC through consultation with law librarians and funders representing different types of libraries (private, academic, courthouse, government) in different jurisdictions.

Price Waterhouse is doing most of the research: interviewing law librarians, developing a questionnaire and tabulating the results. Based on that writing, the final report will give us concrete figures on how much running a law library will cost in the future. The final report should be available by the end of the year. All respondents will receive a copy of the final report.

Very shortly you will receive a questionnaire asking for rather detailed financial data. Although many of us have come to dislike questionnaires, I hope that you will take the time to fill this one out, because the success of the study depends largely on the number of responses. And this study promises to provide projections that can be immensely helpful for future library planning.

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INFOBITS

Fall 1991 Line-up

- VALL**
- The Hotel Georgia will continue to be the venue for the luncheon meetings for 1991-92. The Executive investigated several hotels in the downtown area, and were quoted prices ranging from \$19.70 to \$23.00 per person.
 - September 27 – Elizabeth Moys on the Moys Classification Scheme and Thesaurus.
 - October 17 – Daphne Dukelow and Betsy Nuse, editors of *Dictionary of Canadian Law*.

Please note the first two meetings are not on the usual "second Thursday." The remainder of the luncheons will be on the usual day.

- November 14 – IN MEMORY OF PETER BARK Tom Shorthouse on information sharing – new databases at UBC.
- December 12 – Christmas Social

For complete schedule of events, please see Appendix I

Other coming events

- October 23-25 – *The 2nd Annual Computers in Libraries*. Courses include: Super Searching, the Library Macintosh, CD-ROM Selection – Integration and Use, Electronic Publishing, Integrated Online Library Systems and Technology for Special Libraries.
Location: Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Cost: \$270.00. Contact CIL Canada '91, Meckler Conference Management, 11 Ferry Lane West, Westport, CT 06880. Telephone: 1-800-635-5537, FAX 1-203-454-5840.
- November 18-20 – *Canada Online 5*. This year's theme is New Horizons where you'll learn how to manage in a recession, discover the elements of an EIS, design a CD-ROM service for a small info centre, find electronic work place information, participate in hands-on user forums.
- November 18-19 – *Technologies for Libraries* (held in conjunction with Canada Online). The implications of technology on the library – staffing, training, planning and client service will be highlighted as well as issues having an impact on client services – how to make your collections

more accessible, workstations of the future, and how can clients benefit from new services with these technologies.

Location: Royal York Hotel, Toronto. Contact Kevin Bailey, Conference Coordinator, telephone (416) 467-0388, FAX (416) 423-1487.

- BCLA**
- October 3 - *Access For All: Libraries, Legal Information and the Community*, a one day conference for community groups, libraries and information and referral providers sponsored by the Legal Services Society of B.C. Speakers will look at current issues and challenges to the provision of legal information in B.C., including both policy issues and service delivery models. Speakers include Stephen Owen, Gail Dykstra, Jim Pozer, Linda Jaine, Shashi Assanand and Nancy Hannum.

Location: Robson Square Conference Centre, Vancouver. Time: 8:30 - 5:00 pm. Cost: FREE. For more information call Legal Resources Centre 660-4600 or FAX 660-9578.

- October 24 - *Desktop Publishing For Libraries*, a one day workshop to provide an overview of the equipment and software options available for in-house desktop publishing, the publication possibilities and the management implications. The session will look at whether libraries should get involved in desktop publishing and whether the results justify the costs. Speakers include graphic artists Doug Tait, Mary Meredith and Daniella Knight and Elaine Fong from Patscan. Panelists include Frieda Wiebe, Head Librarian at Capilano College, and Brenda Peterson, Information & Orientation Librarian, UBC.

Location: Coast Plaza at Stanley Park. Time: 9:30 - 5:00 pm. Cost: \$85.00 (includes GST) for BCLA members and employees of member institutions. Non-members add \$15.00. Includes lunch and refreshments. Registration deadline is October 21 with no refunds after that date. Mail registration to BCLA Office, 110-6545 Bonsor Ave., Burnaby, V5H 1H3. Make cheque payable to British Columbia Library Association. For more information call the BCLA office at 430-9633.

- October 25 - *Pacific Rim Business Information*, a one day workshop with Betty Tonglao of the Pacific Rim Business Information Service, a cooperative

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INFOBITS, *continued...*

venture of five academic and public libraries in Washington State and Oregon. The session will describe the founding, funding and operation of this valuable information service as well as some specific Pacific Rim information sources. There will also be a panel of local providers of Pacific Rim information.

Location: Coast Plaza at Stanley Park. Time: 9:30 - 3:30 pm. Cost: \$85.00 (includes GST) for BCLA members and employees of member institutions. Non-members add \$15.00. Includes lunch and refreshments. Registration deadline is October 21 with no refunds after that date. Mail registration to the BCLA Office, 110-6545 Bonsor Ave., Burnaby V5H 1H3. Make cheque payable to the British Columbia Library Association. For more information call the BCLA office at 430-9633.

- SLA** • October 11 - *Librarians and Corporate Power: Roundtable Discussion*. Moderated by Grace Makarewicz

Location: Price Waterhouse, 1700-601 West Hastings Street. Time: 2:30 - 4:00 pm. RSVP to Janet Parkinson, 682-4711 (ext. 450).

LETTERS

On June 11, 1991 VALL President Annabel Knispel wrote to Mr. Ross Carter, Acting President, Vancouver Community College to express VALL's concern about the possible discontinuation of The Library Technician Program at Langara Campus. Mr. Carter responded to her letter and was optimistic that solutions would be found to maintain programs. On June 23, 1991 Mr. Carter responded again with a covering letter and bulletin stating that the current financial difficulties were resolved and that NO program cutbacks would have to be initiated.

Association des Bibliothèques de Droit de Montreal Association of Law Librarians sent the results of a salary survey their Association conducted in January 1991. This first survey included all active members except academic librarians (who stated it was not relevant to them), publishers and database vendors. A copy of the survey is available from Judy Atkins, McCarthy Tétrault.

BIBLIO NOTES

Recent articles of interest from library and legal literature.

Document enhancement: basic and customized. By Suzanne DeSouza. In *Database Canada*, August 1991, Vol. 5, iss. 5, pp. 6-7.

Describes and illustrates methods for manipulating downloaded online search results, ranging from simple word processing to the addition of interpretive graphics.

Martindale-Hubbell on CD-ROM and LEXIS. By Derryn Moten. In *PLL Perspectives*, June/July 1991, Vol. 2, iss. 5, pp. 16-17.

A discussion of the pitfalls of using M-H in print form and how these problems have been overcome in two new electronic products on LEXIS and CD-ROM. The article offers detailed advice on using the products, including specific search strategies and reference scenarios, and concludes the searching flexibility is about the same for both systems. The relative cost of the two products depends on use and whether the print product will be maintained in a library.

Public relations in special libraries. Special issue of *Special Libraries*, Summer 1991, Vol. 82, No. 3.

A series of articles which serve as a primer for basic marketing and public relations to assist librarians in promoting themselves, the profession and the library and its products.

Time management in special libraries. By Helen M. Gothberg. In *Special Libraries*, Spring 1991, Vol. 82, no. 2, pp. 119-130.

This is not another "how-to" article, but the results of a time management study of directors of large special libraries. Information was collected and analyzed in five areas: statistical information to form a library profile, percent of time spent on management, delegation of authority, ranking of 15 traditional time wasters, and management styles. Planning and reporting were found to be the most time consuming management activities; meetings were ranked as the number one time waster.

BOOKSTORE

The B.C. Courthouse Library maintains a file for law firms listing materials for sale or wanted. A list is kept in the Vancouver library as well as selected courthouse libraries around the province.

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BOOKSTORE, continued...

Through the summer three law firms have submitted for sale lists to the library:

Shaw, Sauder has *Criminal Reports* (1946-1984) and the *Canadian Abridgment*. Contact: Bruce G. Preston at 386-4121 (Victoria).

Sauer, Morgan, DeJager and Volkenant have *Western Weekly Reports* (1951-1990) for sale. Contact T. Charles DeJager at 876-1331.

MacQuarrie Hobkirk has several volumes available. Contact Murray Young at 684-6255.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

As of September 1, 1991, there are 112 members in VALL. The organizational distribution is as follows:

Private Firms	48
Government and other special libraries	21
Publishers	15
Individuals	14
Courthouse	10
Academic	4

New Faces

Isabel Schulthess

Suzan Hebditch - Department of Justice, Edmonton
Regional

Marilyn Shearman

Helen Alexander - Placer Dome Inc.

New Places

Carol Saxon - I.C.B.C.

APPENDIX I

VALL LUNCHEON PROGRAM

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
September 27, 1991	Elizabeth Moys	Moys Classification Scheme & Thesaurus
October 17, 1991	Daphne Dukelow, Betsy Nuse, Editors	Dictionary of Canadian Law
November 14, 1991 (In Memory of Peter Bark)	Tom Shorthouse, Chief Librarian, UBC Law Library	Information Sharing - New Databases at UBC
December 12, 1991		Christmas Social
January 9, 1992	Judy Atkins, McCarthy Tetrault Catherine Kerr, B.C. Courthouse Library Diana Inselberg (tentative)	Workshop, 9 am - 12 noon Renovating, Space Planning, and Moving a Library
February 13, 1992	Susan Lyons, CLES of B.C.	Electronic Distribution of Judgments
	Bob Franson, University of Alberta (tentative)	Crown Copyright
March 12, 1992	Sheila Thompson or Sheila Flaherty, VPL	Business Sources of Information for the Law Librarian
April 9, 1992	Suzanne Dodson, Facilities & Preservation Manager, UBC Main Library	Preservation of Materials
May 14, 1992	Wade Nesmith, Superintendent of Brokers, B.C. Securities Commission	Securities Regulation in Canada and B.C.