

VALL REVIEW

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VALL 1992/93 Executive

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From the Executive of **VALL**

Carol Williams

Welcome to the 1992/93 **VALL** season from your new executive: Johanne Blenkin, Program Coordinator; Teresa Gleave and Joan Honeywell, Newsletter Editors; Gwendoline Hoar, Treasurer; Shirley Hyndman, Secretary; Catherine Ryan, Membership Secretary; and Carol Williams, President.

Attendance at last year's luncheon meetings and feedback from June's Round Table Discussion supports continuation of the existing format for **VALL** meetings. A survey of other locations proved once again, that the Hotel Georgia has by far the best price for such meetings, and if past experience is an indication, we are assured of good service. A \$.55 (3.24%) increase by the Hotel Georgia brings this year's luncheon cost to \$17.55. **VALL** is in a "break-even" position on the luncheons - we do not make money from them.

The 1992/93 program includes a variety of topics such as Infolex and Statistics Canada Information Services. Gail Nash, B.C. Registrar of Regulations and Peg James, Director of the Plain Language Institute are among the speakers arranged. The Round Table format used for discussion in June met with strong support and will be repeated at least once during this season. There will be such an information exchange at October's meeting with the central theme being Information Technologies and Library Systems. Once again, the November lunch will be held in memory of Peter Bark.

We are hoping to follow through with some of the suggestions that emerged from the June meeting (summarized in this newsletter). The feasibility of compiling a Union List of Subscription Services and Law Reports is being investigated. There will be suggestion sheets on the tables at each luncheon to facilitate the on-going communication with the Executive and comments are welcome.

Deadline for the December **VALL REVIEW** issue is November 19, 1992.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF JUNE 1992 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

VALL's first round table discussion at the June 11, 1992 meeting was so successful that one member suggested that we have one at every lunch!

VALL CONCERNS:

- The luncheon meeting format is still the most popular way for us to get together; it allows **VALL** to remain relatively informal but still enjoy speakers. To encourage information exchange for meetings and the **VALL REVIEW**, suggestion sheets will be available at each meeting.
- To encourage continuity, suggest two-year Executive term.
- Members may attend Executive meetings if they wish.
- Many suggestions for topics have been adopted for this year's program.
- Members agreed that the Peter Bark Memorial Fund is best used to send a **VALL** member to the **CALL** conference.
- **VALL's** profile could be raised by more interaction with the Library and Library Technician schools.
- Resource sharing could be increased by more participation in the **CVLG** list or by the creation of a union list. Members could share information on in-house databases and guides. **VALL** directory could be expanded to include information on in-house library systems and more detailed collection strengths.

Members wishing to see the complete results of the round table can contact Carol Williams at the B.C. Securities Commission.

PASS THE WORD: **AALL** CONFERENCE

I attended my first American Association of Law Libraries conference this year in San Francisco. The most obvious difference between this and a **CALL** conference is the size and scale - an estimated 2,500 attendees, ten to twelve programs offered per time slot, and activities scheduled from 7 a.m. to late evening. It was understandably difficult to choose which program to attend in any time period given the wealth of choice. I attended several sessions on marketing and presentations, plus programs on reference service, interviewing and some technical and computer refreshers. In general, the sessions were relevant, with expert instruction and documentation. The exhibits occupied two enormous halls, and as usual, there was never quite enough time to see (and sample) everything.

The keynote address was given by Robert Wedgeworth, President of IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. He spoke of political and social changes in the world and the effect this is having on librarianship.

At the private law libraries SIS luncheon, Holley M. Moyer spoke on trends in law practice in private firms and how this impacts on libraries and librarians. A lot of this is not news to us in Vancouver: declining profitability as a consequence of the increased cost of doing business, and centralized management resulting in fewer committees. Buzzwords: "outsourcing" or obtaining services outside the firm and not maintaining in-house staff (this does include library services), and "Total Quality Management" or TQM programs. Worth noting is the emphasis on the increase in middle management in firms with the addition of personnel such as marketing managers, MIS directors, and accounting specialists - the librarian should (but is most often not) be considered part of this group and participate in all related decision-making. This is crucial if the firm is implementing a marketing or TQM program.

Like any conference, **AALL** had its share of social events, which were nothing short of astonishing in their scale and generosity. The WEST evening, which is famous for its excess, was no disappointment. My favourite was the mock Golden Gate Bridge and Ghirardelli Chocolate factory - other highlights included two live bands and a dragon dance.

I was fortunate enough to go on a series of library tours - this part of the program is always immediately booked up. We visited three firms of different sizes, and were very generously allowed to see and try their computer systems and ask any questions regarding their budgets, staffing and holdings, and obtaining samples of their in-house publications. This was a perfect way to finish the conference - experiencing American hospitality and generosity on a more personal level.

Teresa Gleave

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CORPORATE LIBRARIANS FINALLY GAINING RESPECT

The above caption is from the *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 9, 1992 entitling an article on **SLA's** 83rd annual conference. The article focuses on the massive amounts of information accessible by computer and that the nation's corporate libraries are fast becoming the most powerful and technologically advanced research centres in the world. It goes on to outline academic standards for corporate librarians and compares the library world of today with those of the 60's. In today's market, high tech is king and computers and databases (now over 4,500) are the research tools of choice.

Certainly much of this seems true after examining the exhibits where not only online databases were being shown but also CD-ROM products were available at more than half of the booths. In addition to publishers' exhibits, there were several online consultants and a national consulting firm just for CD-ROM hardware and software. I believe that the exhibit space was about the size of the floor space at B.C. Place---rather large and overwhelming!

Nancy Austin, co-author of *A Passion for Excellence* was the first featured speaker. (The room was set up for 4,800 attendees!) She entertained her audience with several off the wall, but successful, examples from our gadget oriented society, including a dog collar that monitors dog barking and sorts out the good barking from the bad barking; eventually the dog is trained to bark only when necessary. Another gadget is a toothbrush that costs twice as much as a regular brush but it is programmed to tell you to discard it after three months of use when all toothbrushes should be thrown away, don't you know. (Remember, this conference was in California.) Her message was a reminder that industry and society are dependant on research and information professionals. Centered in our various corporate entities we must be flexible and responsive to swift innovation and continue to provide creative and excellent service to our clientele.

The other keynote speaker, Peter Gourevitch, a California academic, spoke on the differences between North American business approaches and those in the Pacific Rim. This was a thoughtful discussion covering micro and macro economic principles and ranged from the importance of the transportation industry to the differences in our educational systems. This lecture also marked global information professional day for international librarians around the Pacific Rim and beyond.

The overall impression of the scheduled sessions was the emphasis placed on technology in all types of libraries, whether they are engineering, insurance, forestry, military, or environmental. There are even more innovations coming and we had better hit the ground running to keep up with our colleagues.

Joan Honeywell

NEWS ITEM

When Victor Pasta attended our **VALL** October meeting last year, many of us learned that the B.C. Government had begun formal court proceedings against him for allegedly violating Crown copyright. The *Vancouver Sun* on August 4, 1992 reported that the Government had dropped the case saying new facts had come to light. Victor Pasta owns Quickscribe Services Ltd., the Victoria company that releases consolidations and amendments of B.C. statutes and regulations.

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VANCOUVER ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

TREASURER'S REPORT - 1992

Statement of Income and Expenses, August 1, 1991 to July 31, 1992

INCOME

Membership Dues	\$1,956.50
Workshop (Net)	370.19
Luncheon Meetings (Net)	<478.97>
Bank Charges (Net)	<u>109.64</u>
	<u>\$1,957.36</u>

EXPENSES

Program	\$ 314.50
VALL REVIEW	140.82
Printing, Postage & Stationery	247.63
Post Office Box	80.25
Name Tags	30.39
Peter Bark Memorial Fund	500.00
Miscellaneous (Net)	<u>20.00</u>
	<u>\$1,333.59</u>

Net Income \$ 623.77

NOTES

1. Please refer to the December, 1991 issue of the **VALL REVIEW** for statements of income and expenses for April, 1990 to March, 1991 and April, 1991 to July, 1991.
2. Deficit in luncheon meetings income is owing to making payment to Hotel Georgia for June, 1991 lunch until August, 1991.

CHEQUING ACCOUNT BALANCE

As of July 31, 1992 \$4,000.68

PETER BARK MEMORIAL FUND

Fund Term Investment Certificate	\$1,000.00
Savings Account	<u>248.57</u>
	<u>\$1,248.57</u>

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COMMITTEE NOTES

Report on Canadian Abridgement Editorial Advisory Board

Submission to Canadian Law Libraries

by Cyndi Murphy, Halifax

When the Canadian Abridgement Editorial Advisory Board first met with Carswell in January 1990, there were several goals that had been identified by the membership at the 1989 annual conference in Quebec City.

1. Change the method of supplementation of the base volumes of the Canadian Abridgment from multiple bound and loose-leaf supplements to cumulative "pocket-part" supplementation, thereby reducing the number of places to look for complete, up-to-date case law from eight (or more) to two.
2. Expedite the publication of the R-band revision volumes so that the new method of supplementation could begin as soon as possible.
3. Make the Canadian Abridgment available as an online database.

Two and a half years, eight meetings, and countless conference calls, telephone calls, and faxes later, the Board was pleased to announce to the membership attending the 1992 annual conference in Winnipeg that these goals had been accomplished.

1. As of Spring 1993, the Canadian Abridgment titles will be updated by softcover, "stand-beside", cumulative supplements. As the cumulative supplement becomes too large, the volume will be re-consolidated and re-issued. It is projected that this will occur at the rate of 2-3 volumes a year after the initial year.

As always, the cost of subscribing to the Abridgment was of concern in deciding on this method of supplementation. On several different occasions, the Board was given cost projections based on the number of pages of anticipated supplementation, and various ways of keeping the costs in line were discussed. Persistence, the advent of new publishing technology and the realization that volumes could be re-consolidated on an ongoing basis resulted in this goal being attained. It is anticipated that the cost of supplementing the Abridgment case law using this system will be noticeably less than using the present method of publishing revised volumes and loose-leaf supplementation.

2. In 1990, the Board agreed that Income Tax should be dropped as an Abridgment title and endorsed Carswell's decision to consolidate and re-issue the major titles first. This meant that the publishing schedule of the red-band, "R" revision could be expedited with the result that the last revisions can be shipped by April 1993. Although this means a major ongoing financial commitment by subscribers during the next year, the result will be a comprehensive, consolidated, easy-to-use set of digested case law.
3. At the very first meeting of the Board, representatives from STM Systems (now ISM) solicited input on the features that a user would require in an online version of the Abridgment. Based on the comments made, they demonstrated a prototype of a system to the Board in May 1990. In 1991, Thomson formed an electronic publishing division in Canada which developed the project now known as Canadian Law Online. Members of the Board were part of the group of beta testers that worked with the prototype in the summer of 1991. The division gathered data from various sources at Carswell and converted it into machine-readable format so that coverage would go back to 1803. The full release of Canadian Law Online was timed to coincide with the **CALL/ACBD** meeting in Winnipeg.

The Board assumed responsibility for the Index to Canadian Legal Literature in 1990. At the 1992 meeting, it was announced that the Index is now also available as a database on QL Systems, a development that members of **CALL/ACBD** have requested for a long time.

Although the first major goals of the Board have been accomplished, there remain many challenges ahead, as Carswell begins marketing Abridgment "stand-alone" products, such as the new Canadian Case Citations 1867-1990, as the Abridgment begins a new form of supplementation, and as Canadian Law Online develops its presence in the online market-place. The Board welcomes comments from the **CALL/ACBD** membership about the Abridgment, Index to Canadian Legal Literature, and Canadian Law Online.

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COMMITTEE NOTES, continued...

Report on Canadian Abridgement Editorial Advisory Board

Submission to Canadian Law Libraries, continued...

In July, Peta Bates, Law Society of Saskatchewan Library in Saskatoon joins the Board. She will be replacing Susanna Duke who has resigned because of a change in employment.

Carole Anne Saxon updates this report with the following information:

ICLL is now available on CT-Online and will soon be available through Canadian Law Online.

Work is underway on the Legislative and Statutes Judicially Considered component of the Abridgment and Canadian Law Online.

INFOBITS

- VALL** • The 1992/93 schedule of Luncheon dates and speakers is the last page of this issue.
- BCLA** • November 5-6. Pre-Summit Conference in B.C. for a wide group of those concerned with information policy in B.C. and Canada. The Association has submitted recommendations to the National Summit on Information Policy (Ottawa, December 6-8) focusing on issues of access to information for the citizen and library user. Location: Simon Fraser Harbour Centre. Telephone the **BCLA** office for more information, 430-9633.
- SLA/WCC**
- October 7. Infomart Searching Tips from the Experts. Staff from Pacific Press Library will describe input of data and provide tips on access and searching online. Location: B.C. Real Estate Association, 309-1155 West Pender Street. Time: 5:00 p.m. R.S.V.P. to Jan Wallace, Pacific Press Library, 732-2653.
- VOLUG** • September 24. Trends in End-User Searching - Online, Opac, and CD-ROM. The latest issues and trends will be discussed by Mary Sue Stephenson, Assistant Professor at UBC SLAIS. Location: Granville Island Hotel. Time: Cash bar 5:30 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Space is limited. R.S.V.P. September 21, Rita Penco at 822-8568.
- OTHER EVENTS**
- October 19-21. 3rd Annual Computers in Libraries, endorsed by CLA. Six pre-conference workshops and three post-conference workshops with several concurrent sessions on document delivery, the online information industry, the CD-ROM Librarians Report, etc. Location: Sheraton Centre Hotel & Towers,

Toronto. Registration packages from Meckler, 11 Ferry Lane West, Westport CT 06880. Telephone: (800) 635-5537; (203) 226-6967 / Fax: (800) 858-3144; (203) 454-5840.

- October 28-30. Canada Online covers the information industry, new technologies for the future and marketing and integration of electronic systems. Location: Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre. Registration: Telephone (416) 777-2020; Fax (416) 868-6174.

BIBLIO NOTES

Recent items of interest from library and legal literature.

The integration of online databases to electronic mail. By Jim Carroll. In Database Canada, August 1992, Vol. 4, Iss. 5, pp. 1, 4, 6-8.

Examines the potential of electronic mail systems as a tool for delivery of information, both in in-house systems and via commercial networks.

Library value. A series of articles in Special Libraries, Summer 1992, Vol. 83, No. 3, pp. 137-155.

Special Libraries asked various people from outside the library world to provide opinions on such topics as how they value libraries and how they viewed librarianship. The results are a mixture of the positive and negative, and may be controversial. Some examples: IBM's Manager of Management Communications notes that the librarian is not part of the decision-making structure and the library does not contribute to corporate profitability. A Professor of Business Administration at Harvard University believes

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BIBLIO NOTES, continued...

that librarians must transform themselves into corporate intelligence professionals and offers guidelines for doing so. Another writer grumbles (admittedly tongue-in-cheek) that libraries seem to have little to do with books these days. Finally, an executive with Apple Computer, Inc. speculates on the old idea of libraries without books and concludes that it will not happen; that paper will always remain important. However, he does observe that libraries need to rethink their connections with other groups such as computer centres and join forces to control and disseminate information. *Special Libraries'* editors conclude from these contributions that corporate librarians are not essential links in information delivery in an organization, and that information use and acquisition as a function is not under any one person or group's domain - yet. Traditional library skills are valued less than business and technical skills and librarians who lack these skills are losing power and credibility in their organizations.

Searching DIALOG on WESTLAW. By Rosalie M. Sanderson. In *Law Practice Management*, May/June 1992, pp. 46-49, 52, 54, 56.

Summarizes the services offered by DIALOG and outlines specific searches in legal context. Provides a complete list of databases and reminds us that this is searchable entirely through WESTLAW using their commands and syntax.

BOOKSTORE

W.W.R. (ns), (1951-1970) Vols. 1-75 (valued at \$1,495.00)

Consolidated Index (valued at \$35.00)

W.W.R. (1971-1992) (valued at \$2,875.00)

Consolidated Indexes (valued at \$125.00)

Asking \$2,500.00 for all the books. Contact: Valerie Ellis or William E. Ellis at 731-9276.

KARDEX System for sale. Two black *KARDEX* files: One 8-drawer and one 7-drawer. If interested, please call Johanne Blenkin at 631-4804. Price not yet fixed.

POSITIONS WANTED

Wendy Hankin is a Library Technician who is seeking a permanent full-time or temporary full-time position within a law library setting. She can be reached at home at 420-5605.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

There are as of August 25, 1992, 137 members of VALL. The organizational distribution is as follows:

Private Firms	52
Government	25
Publishers	20
Individuals	21
Courthouse	13
Academic	6

New Faces

Cecilia Hui, Bull, Housser & Tupper
Peter Curtis

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VALL LUNCHEON DATES 1992/93

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
September 17, 1992	Gail Nash Registrar of Regulations	B.C. Regulations
October 15, 1992	Round table discussion	Online information
November 12, 1992	Liisa Riesen-Tella Harper, Grey, Easton	Infolex project update
December 10, 1992	TBA	
January 14, 1993	Workshop	Management issues
February 11, 1993	Tom Shorthouse U.B.C. Law Librarian	Finding treaties
March 11, 1993	Peg James CLE Plain Language Project	Using plain language in library materials
April 8, 1993	TBA	Statistics Canada Information Services
May 13, 1992	Ken Haycock Director of U.B.C. Library School	TBA
June 10, 1993	Round table discussion	TBA