

VALL REVIEW

Vol. 5, No. 2

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In this Issue

From the Executive	1
Highlights of October 1992	
Round Table on Technology	2
CLE's Moved	2
B.C. Information Policy	
Conference	3
Missa Brevis	4
Peter Bark Memorial	
Fund Bursary	5
Committee Notes	6
Letters	6
Infobits	6
Biblio Notes	6
Bookstore	7
Positions Wanted	8
Membership Matters	8
Sources for Unreported	
Decisions	Appendix I

VALL 1992/93 Executive

Vancouver Association of Law
Libraries
P.O. Box 48663, Bentall Centre
Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1A1

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From the Executive of VALL

Carol Williams

It has been a busy season to date, with a record attendance at our first luncheon. There is obviously a great deal of interest in the B.C. Statutes in the new disk and CD-ROM format and **VALL** was pleased that Gail Nash, B.C. Registrar of Regulations was able to make the trip from Victoria to describe these products. In keeping with the theme of new technologies, the October Round Table discussions provided an opportunity for those present to exchange information on library software systems, online databases and the software to access them, as well as various other topics. Certainly from a personal perspective, the exchange was a very educational one. Highlights of the minutes taken at each table are provided further on in this newsletter. One of the recommendations resulting from the discussions is already being implemented and, if survey results are returned promptly, the next edition of the Membership List will include an indication of which library software (e.g. Inmagic, Eloquent, etc.) each organization uses.

It was certainly a packed agenda for the November meeting. We all were interested to learn the status of Infolex from Liisa Riessen-Tella, a member of **CALL**'s Task Force on Infolex. CCH was definitely a presence at the luncheon, with all the Vancouver representatives in attendance, as well as John Pineo, President and Peter Slight, Vice-President of Customer Satisfaction direct from Toronto. Hopefully, CCH now has a better sense of **VALL** concerns about the restructuring, and will at least maintain the level of service to which we have become accustomed.

The Peter Bark Memorial Fund continues to receive contributions, with \$150 being donated by Canada Law Book. Once again, a \$500 bursary will be offered to a **VALL** member to offset costs of attending the **CALL** conference. The deadline for applications is March 1, 1993. Details are provided in this issue of the newsletter.

The joint **VALL, VOLUG, SLA** function last spring realized a profit. Each organization received a cheque for \$65.02. **VALL** will be using this money to offset the costs of the January workshop.

Now that the program is arranged for the entire season, the Executive (and especially Johanne) can relax and enjoy the rest of the activities. We are certainly excited about the continued support and participation by all the members. Best wishes from your Executive for a happy holiday season.

Deadline for the March **VALL REVIEW** issue is February 18, 1993.

VALL REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS OF OCTOBER 1992 ROUND TABLE ON TECHNOLOGY

Systems used (other than manual)

- Inmagic, Eloquent, Sydney, Summation, D Base III, Word Perfect
- Used for cataloguing primarily, serials, and subject indexes such as wrongful dismissal, memos of law, etc.
- Some technical assistance from in-house systems staff; heavy reliance on vendor support. Some link with other in-house systems, i.e. litigation support, but the exception rather than the norm. Library software still quite discrete.
- Overwhelming support for adding the software information to the **VALL** directory. At the last Executive meeting it was decided to amend the membership renewal forms to include questions re software.

Online current awareness

- Thread running through all the comments was the difficulty of keeping up with all the changes. Usual method is via word of mouth, vendors' announcements, and **VALL** meetings.

Suggestions for improvement

- Draft list of people with particular system knowledge
- Add notes to **VALL** newsletter about system changes in same format as Database Canada.
- Need a database of databases that is keyword searchable
- **VALL** to strike a committee to keep everyone current, i.e. one person per system. Courthouse staff meet monthly on this issue, so perhaps we could pool resources?

Lawyer online training

- Most of the training is geared to students and library staff. It is almost universally vendor-sponsored.
- With a couple of exceptions, 50 - 75% of the searching is conducted by librarians and the balance by students and research lawyers. Some in-house training on CT Online and CAN/LAW.

Johanne Blenkin

CLE'S MOVED

On November 1, 1992 The Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia made the big move. We are now located at 300-845 Cambie Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5T2. The following numbers remain the same:

General Office: (604) 669-3544

Fax: (604) 669-9260

Toll Free (in B.C.): 1-800-663-0437

A New Service

You can now contact our CLE customer service staff by dialing direct:

Karen Imeson (general publication inquiries): 893-2110

Shelley Ion (customer service - publications, audios, disk products): 893-2130

Ellen Talney (customer service - registrations/backup for Shelley): 893-2129

You are invited to visit our new premises, browse through our library and talk with our customer service staff.

Continued on page 3

VALL REVIEW

CLE'S MOVED, continued...

Mailing List

You are important to us. We plan to keep you informed of all products and services available from CLE. Staff are now in the process of revising our mailing list to ensure that all **VALL/CALL** members are on record to receive CLE notices. Within the next month we hope to have the system running smoothly again; however, if you do not begin to receive mailings within that time, please give us a call. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused by the disruption in service.

1992 Fall Catalogue

Our new Catalogue, current to August 30, 1992, has gone to press and will be available by the end of November. Expect a New Books flyer announcing this Fall's new products by year's end.

Karen Imeson

B.C. INFORMATION POLICY CONFERENCE

November 5 & 6, 1992
Vancouver, B.C.

This conference, organized by the British Columbia Library Association, provided an opportunity to listen to well-known speakers, activists, and panellists on the subject of public access to information. I found the conference speakers to be stimulating, thought-provoking, and alarming in their outlook with respect to the future of public access to information. There is much concern that current government policies and practices will reduce access not only to the amount and/or types of information available but also reduce the quality of the publications. Publishing in an electronic format introduces a whole new range of concerns including cost, copyright, and loss of traditional means of access. The trend of viewing information as a commodity in the marketplace will further divide the haves and have-nots.

Vincent Mosco and Herbert Schiller, keynote speakers, spoke on different topics but a common thread from each was the tremendous shift of power in the 1940s to 1960s to huge aggregate corporations. Although more services are available now, there is a diminished public standard. Informational activities have to be elevated into the political arena; librarians must be prepared to take up this challenge.

A speaker who has truly taken up this challenge as the **ALA's** watchdog on the implications of diminished access to government information is Nancy Kranich, Chair of the Coalition on Government Information. In the electronic age who will disseminate government information—the private or public sector? Why must we depend on the private sector for value-added material to government publications? Access now is fragile, with limited bibliographic control, lack of standards, soaring prices, no archival copies, and no policies for electronic materials to depository libraries. Working with **ALA** and the Coalition, Ms. Kranich has established partners from other organizations to work in the Coalition to uphold principles of intellectual freedom and to attempt to reverse the trend of the last ten years. Her advice is to keep being proactive, state principles, be consistent and persistent, sponsor your own policy, write your own bills, show that you (librarians) are the information experts, seek media attention, tell your successes in your local community, and know your enemy.

The session on Information Access-B.C. was of prime interest to this group with panellists discussing Bill 50 and its projected impact on government itself as well as the general public. Nancy Hannum followed through on several practical issues that had been discussed earlier from a purely academic point of view. For example, as material from government departments (Workmen's Compensation Board, B.C. Assessment Authority) becomes available only electronically, how will the general public access it? Smaller public libraries do not have computers for the public. Who will provide the hardware? With the Statutes on disk, and with the demise of CLIC, who will provide an index to them? Can all members of the general public afford to access B.C. Online? There is definitely a trend to view citizens versus consumers. An information policy is needed to: 1) put the government's house in order; 2) use government librarians to a greater degree—they already are policy makers; and 3) amend legislation to ensure access to government publications and to carry forward the depository library proposal.

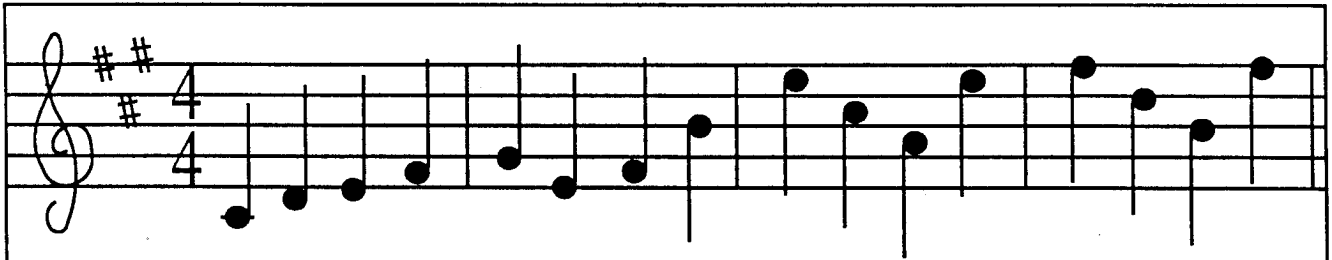
Continued on page 4

VALL REVIEW

B.C. INFORMATION POLICY CONFERENCE, continued...

Brian Campbell, one of the speakers for the Information Access-Canada panel and introduced as B.C.L.A.'s "voice of consciousness" for public access to information, stated that policy statements will determine who will benefit and who will suffer. Most government information is collected as an administrative or legislative requirement; it is not an added expense. Thus, with this mandate, the taxpayer owns this information. The collection of information AND dissemination of information should be one seamless process, not two. Part of disseminating government information should be ease of access like the elegantly arranged private sector publications; it is the public's information anyway and there is no question they should have access to it!

Joan Honeywell



Missa Brevis

Peter Bark

On Sunday, November 29, 1992 at St. Paul's Anglican Church, friends and relatives of Peter Bark were treated to a concert (the world premiere) of his Mass, Missa Brevis. Brian Jackson annotated and arranged Peter's notes and tapes and acted as musical director for this performance; Bruce Gelhorn, organist; Denys Mailhot, baritone; and Lilliane Page, soprano, performed various selections from the mass. Brian Jackson noted how he had collaborated with Peter and considered this work a labour of love. He then played wonderful, melodious organ variations from Missa Brevis. Peter's parents hosted a reception following the concert. A tape of the performance will be made available at a later time.

VALL REVIEW

VANCOUVER ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

PETER BARK MEMORIAL FUND BURSARY

The Vancouver Association of Law Libraries (**VALL**) is pleased to make available a bursary in the amount of \$500.00 to assist a member of **VALL** to attend the Canadian Association of Law Libraries Conference. The bursary is drawn from the Peter Bark Memorial Fund, a fund established by **VALL** to commemorate Peter Bark and his contribution to our organization.

The criteria for eligibility for the bursary are as follows:

- Applicants will have been a member of **VALL** for one year.
- Applicants will demonstrate financial need.
- Preference will be given to applicants attending the conference for the first time.

Please send applications in the form of a letter including the above information as well as a brief description of your involvement with law libraries or the management of legal information by March 1, 1993 to:

Carol Williams
Vancouver Association of Law Libraries
c/o B.C. Securities Commission
10th Floor, 865 Hornby Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2H4

Tel.: 660-9692 Fax: 660-5473

VALL REVIEW

COMMITTEE NOTES

CALL Vendors' Liaison Committee

The Committee's Terms of Reference are to provide a link between **CALL**'s members and the vendors of legal information. To that end the Committee endeavours to forward members' concerns and compliments to the vendors and to raise the members' awareness of trends in the publishing industry (online and print) by means of columns in the **CALL** newsletter and a proposed panel discussion at the next conference.

The Committee is currently developing a series of questions to put to legal vendors at the next conference. If you have any comments or suggestions from the size of margins in law reports to duplication of information, pricing, etc., please contact me so that I can pass them on to the Committee.

Johanne Blenkin, Committee member

LETTERS

(Carol Williams received this letter from Pat McKittrick)

Dear Carol:

This letter will formally advise the members of VALL that I am no longer acting as representative for Butterworths. Arthur Vaz of the Vancouver office will handle customer service inquiries until a new sales representative is hired.

I would like to pay tribute to VALL as being an excellent organization. I have thoroughly enjoyed being a member for the past two years.

My new career will be with Investors Group Financial Services Inc. I can be contacted through the Burnaby office or at my residence (Phone 421-2436).

Once again, my thanks and best wishes to all the members of VALL.

INFOBITS

- VALL** • January 5, 1993. Please note this is a Tuesday. The January Workshop will be conducted by Gerry Waugh on Stress Management. Two sessions will be held, each limited to 20. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FROM THE ORIGINAL NOTICE.
- February 11, 1993. Finding treaties, Tom Shorthouse, U.B.C. Law Librarian.
- CALL** • May 17-19, 1993. "Making Waves," **CALL** '93! The Canadian Association of Law Libraries is holding its

Annual Conference at the Halifax Sheraton in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Program highlights include sessions on the Criminal Justice System, on Crown Copyright, and on Health Law. Social events include a harbour cruise and a lobster feast on the historic Halifax waterfront! For further information contact: Margaret Murphy, **CALL** 1993 CPC Chair, c/o Legislative Library of Nova Scotia, P.O. Box 396, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2P8. (902) 424-5932 or (902) 424-0574 (fax).

SLA/WCC

- January 28, 1993. Consulting Librarians: Valuable Local Resources. Jointly sponsored with **VOLUG**, this event will be helpful to those interested in knowing what resources are available to librarians and to local B.C. business for the management and retrieval of information. For more information call Megan Hughes at 664-4330 or Barbara Holden at 224-3221.
- February 10, 1993. Two knowledgeable and dynamic speakers will join us to discuss pay equity in Canada. Mary Jane Handy, Manager, Employment Equity for the Southam Newspaper Group/Toronto and Anne Marie Turnbull, Human Resources consultant with Towers Perrin/Vancouver will present an overview of current Canadian pay equity legislation and describe the potential impact of this legislation on British Columbian librarians. (Note: Mary Jane Handy is a former librarian with the *Windsor Star*.)

Contact Jan Wallace, 732-2653 by January 15, 1993.

BIBLIO NOTES

Recent items of interest from library and legal literature.

Electronic dissemination partnerships.

Despite the somewhat daunting title, this newsletter contains brief (readable) items regarding networks, legislation, and developments in information policy, and private and public sector news relating to the computer and information industries.

It is available free of charge from: Interdepartmental Working Group on Database Industry Support, c/o M.R. Laughton, Chair, Social and Informatics Applications, Communications Research Centre, P.O. Box 11490, Station H, Ottawa, K2H 8S2.

Continued on page 7

VALL REVIEW

BIBLIO NOTES, continued...

The new WESTLAW: English-language queries and automatic analysis of case relevancy. By Daniel E. Harmon. In The Lawyer's PC: a newsletter for Lawyers using personal computers, October 1, 1992, pp. 1-6.

WESTLAW's new and revolutionary natural language technology receives an enthusiastic endorsement from this author (who seems to dislike Boolean logic). WIN (WESTLAW in natural) allows a searcher to enter a query in the form of a plain English question or statement. WIN develops a search string by eliminating stopwords and weighing each concept statistically against each document and the entire database and presenting the most statistically relevant documents first. It is possible to enhance the plain English query with an online thesaurus. Plurals and alternate forms of a word are also automatically searched, but it is unclear whether a term can be truncated. There is no discussion of the twenty-document display limit. Sample searches in WIN and Boolean terms are compared and discussed. The author is very positive about the technology but admits that only time and use will determine if it will live up to such high expectations.

Foreign and domestic periodicals price index for Canada 1992: the second survey. By Sam Morgulis and Jocelyn Phillips. In Canadian Library Journal, June 1992, Vol. 49, No. 3, pp. 203-208.

This is the second annual survey of periodicals in Canadian libraries. 4,840 titles were considered in total, including 147 Law titles. The 1992 average for all periodical titles is \$281.82 per title compared to the 1991 average price of \$255.36, a 10.5 percent increase. The average subscription price for Law titles is \$143.30, an increase of seven percent over 1991. The authors point out that these increases are significantly higher than the rate of inflation [and most library budget increases] for 1992!

Managing with a personal computer. By Helen Butcher. In The Law Librarian, March 1992, Vol. 23, No. 1, pp. 6-10.

This is the text of a paper presented at the 1991 BIAL conference. The author describes various library management functions and the corresponding software products which help with these tasks. A lot of this is familiar ground, but there are some very good suggestions for additional uses of software. The use of spreadsheets for budgeting is obvious, but using the same software for sophisticated presentations of library statistics may not be. Word processing and desktop publishing can be very

useful in a marketing effort to produce standard logos on all library products and signage, or for the creation of forms. Organizer or calendar software can be used for time management and scheduling; and project management can be enhanced by software designed to monitor manpower, budgets, and new developments. Although new software packages take time to learn, the investment is well worth it for the eventual payoff in time saved and the presentation of a more professional outlook in the library.

BOOKSTORE

Law Quarterly Review, v. (77-106)

LSUC Special Lectures (1950-1980, 1982)

ALLER Law Reports (1936-)

WWR's (1911-)

Middle Temple materials:

Minutes of Parliament, 2d ed., 1 v.

Bench Book (1937)

Records, Calendar, 1 v.

Minutes of Parliament, Index, 4 v.

Please contact Johanne Blenkin, 631-4804

Canadian Cases on the Law of Torts, 1st & 2nd series, \$350

Canadian Insurance Law Reporter, CCH, 1951-1990, \$300

B.C. Civil Decisions, Western Legal, 1979-1992, \$400

Canadian Abridgment, cancelled in summer 1992 \$\$\$ - very negotiable

B.C. Statute Citator, Canada Law Book, \$30

Joffe. Federal Limitation Periods, \$30

Consolidated Regulations of B.C., \$100

Weir. The Annotated Insurance Act of Ontario, 3 v. \$75

Canadian Journal of Insurance Law, Butterworths, v. 1-8, \$50

Apportionment of Liability in B.C., Butterworths, 1 v. \$30

Goldsmith. Damages for Personal Injury & Death, complete, \$200

Personal Injury Damage Assessment: B.C., Butterworths, 2 v. \$75

Bruce. Assessment of Personal Injury Damages. \$10

Castel. Canadian Conflict of Laws, 1st ed., \$10

McLaughlin & Wallace. Canadian Law of Architecture & Engineering, 1987, \$10

Clerk & Lindsell on Torts, 15th ed., \$30

Feldthusen. The Recovery of Economic Negligence, 1984, \$10

Schiff. Evidence in the Litigation Process, 2nd ed., \$20

Yates. Exclusion Clauses in Contracts, 1982, \$5

Sanderson. Comprehensive General Liability Policy, 1991, \$10

Gailey on Libel & Slander, 8th ed., \$30

Ivamy. General Principles of Insurance Law, \$10

Continued on page 8

VALL REVIEW

BOOKSTORE

Laskin. *Canadian Constitutional Law*, 2nd ed., \$10
Raoul & Colinvaux. *Law of Insurance*, 5th ed., \$20
Salhany. *Cross-examination*, 1992, \$20
Solicitors Liability Index, \$10
Cudmore. *Civil Evidence Handbook*, 1 v. \$30

For inquiries please call: Liisa Riesen-Tella at Harper Grey Easton,
687-0411 or fax 669-9385

POSITIONS WANTED

Experienced Library Technician available for employment from
January 4, 1993. Part-time preferred, but would consider full time
or contract basis. Three years legal library and five years library/
records management experience. CRM qualified. Please contact
Dawn Haloun at 980-3199.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

New Faces

Morag Maclean, Butterworths
Yasmin Chandra, student
Tannis Boxer, student

CCH Canadian Limited

The local office is at One Bentall Centre, Suite 1760, 505 Burrard
Street, Vancouver, B.C., V7X 1M6. Please note the telephone
number has changed to (604) 688-7522. The fax number is
(604) 688-0451. To leave a message for an account manager on the
voice mail system, telephone 1-800-461-5308. You may either use
your account manager's surname or note the following mail box
extensions: Vancouver Area: Penny Bax - 8828, Joan Honeywell
- 8622, Roy Joyce - 8818, David Pleasance - 8830,
Barbara Thompson - 8825; Fraser Valley: Karen Ross - 8821; and
Vancouver Island: Dorothy Forster - 8817. For missing reports,
accounting queries or other enquiries telephone 1-800-268-4522.

APPENDIX I
SOURCES FOR UNREPORTED DECISIONS
COMPILED BY B.C. COURTHOUSE LIBRARY SOCIETY
Photocopy Information

TITLE	PUBLISHER	ADDRESS	FAX NO. *	PHONE NO.	CASE NAME	JUDGMENT DATE	NO. OF PAGES	VOL. OF REFERENCE	DIGEST/ PARA/ CASE NO.	PAGE NO. OF REFERENCE
ACWS	CANADA LAW BOOK	240 EDWARD STREET AURORA, ONT. L4G 3S9	*	1-800-263-2037 (416) 841-6472 (416) 841-5085	*		*		*	
BCWLD	CARSWELL	710 - 815 W. HASTINGS ST. VANCOUVER, B.C. V6C 1B4	*	685-8171 1-800-663-1946 (B.C.) 1-800-387-5164 (Can.) 685-5343	*	*		*	*	
CLAS	SAME AS ACWS									
DRS	QL SYSTEMS LTD. (CCH CANADIAN LTD.)	920 - 355 BURRARD ST. VANCOUVER, B.C. V6C 2G8	*	684-1462 684-5581	*	*			*	MUST BE UNREPORTED
GOLDSMITH	CARSWELL	2075 KENNEDY ROAD 1 CORPORATE PLAZA SCARBOROUGH, ONT. MIT 3V4	*	1-800-387-5164 (416) 609-3800 (416) 298-5094	*	*	*		*	*
LAW TIMES	SAME AS ACWS									
LAWYERS WEEKLY	BUTTERWORTHS/ LAWYERS WEEKLY	FULL TEXT SERVICE 300 - 204 RICHMOND ST. W. TORONTO, ONT. M5V 1V6 OR 1455 - 409 GRANVILLE ST. VANCOUVER, B.C. V6C 1T2	*	(416) 598-5211 1-800-668-8155 (416) 598-5659 684-4116 682-5779	*		*		*	
PERSONAL INJURY	BUTTERWORTHS	1455 - 409 GRANVILLE ST. VANCOUVER, B.C. V6C 1T2	*	684-4116 682-5779					*	
WCB	SAME AS ACWS									
WLP	WESTERN LEGAL PUBLICATIONS	301 - ONE ALEXANDER ST VANCOUVER, B.C. V6A 1B2	*	687-5671 687-2796	*	*				
YOUNG OFFENDERS SERVICE	SAME AS LAWYERS WEEKLY									

*information required to place order