

VALL REVIEW

Vol. 6, No. 1

September, 1993

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VALL 1993/94 Executive

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

President: Shirley Hyndman
Richards Buell Sutton

Treasurer: Gillian Crabtree
Ferguson Gifford

Secretary: Karen Imeson
Continuing Legal Education

Membership Secretary:
Gabriella Barsoum
Russell & DuMoulin

Program Co-ordinator:
Elizabeth Kinersly
Swinton & Company

Past President: Carol Williams
B.C. Securities Commission

VALL REVIEW Editors:
Jane Wells
Legal Services Society

Tracey Carmichael
B.C. Courthouse Library

Desktop Production:
Nancy Cotter, Western Legal

From the Executive of VALL

Shirley Hyndman

The "early" fall weather reminds us that a new **VALL** season is about to begin. The new executive has been putting together the topics, speakers and the workshop for the upcoming season. We hope every member will find something of interest to attend. Your executive this year is Shirley Hyndman, Gillian Crabtree, Elizabeth Kinersly, Karen Imeson, Gabriella Barsoum, Tracey Carmichael and Jane Wells. From all of us a warm welcome to new members and old friends. If you have particular suggestions, please feel free to contact any member of the executive. Executive meetings are open to all members and we welcome anyone who wishes to attend. Simply contact us to find out the time and location of the next meeting.

This summer a review of alternative meeting locations was undertaken. The majority of downtown hotels and conference facilities were surveyed. The closest competitive rates were \$5 - \$7 higher than last year and most had additional fees for meeting rooms, bar service, etc. We are pleased to report that the Hotel Georgia will continue to provide for our meeting requirements. The price has increased by \$0.50 which, with taxes and gratuity, brings this year's cost to \$18.15.

The executive has been in contact with CLA and AALL about the 1994 conference in Vancouver and Seattle respectively.

We have written to the Attorney General of B.C. regarding the out-of-date printed index to the *Revised Statutes of B.C.* Volume 8 was last updated in 1987. Plans to update the volume have been shelved due to the "availability" of the electronic versions (CD-ROM and Online) of the statutes. We urge every member who uses the print version to send a letter as well. This important resource should not be discontinued.

A committee will be established this fall to set guidelines for the Peter Bark Memorial Fund Bursary and related uses of the fund. If you would like to be a part of this committee please contact Shirley Hyndman or any member of the executive. This committee should be able to complete its work in a few meetings. We especially would like some of you who knew Peter to participate.

From the Editors

Tracey Carmichael & Jane Wells

We hope you enjoy our first issue as editors of the **VALL REVIEW**. We are looking for willing volunteers to contribute articles, letters, comments, etc. We would also like to hear your news and your views about what you would like to see in the newsletter for the coming year. We hope to meet the high standards of editorial excellence you enjoyed from our predecessors Teresa Gleave and Joan Honeywell.

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is November 25, 1993.

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VANCOUVER ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

TREASURER'S REPORT - 1993

Statement of Income and Expenses, August 1, 1992 to July 31, 1993

INCOME

Membership Dues	\$1,732.85
Luncheon Meetings (Net)	283.57
Bank Charges (Net)	<u>52.52</u>
	<u>\$2,068.94</u>

EXPENSES

Workshop (Net)	\$ 336.92
Program	157.85
VALL REVIEW	197.03
Printing, Postage & Stationery	117.86
Post Office Box	84.53
Name Tags	24.95
Peter Bark Memorial Fund	500.00
Miscellaneous (Net)	<u>12.18</u>
	<u>\$1,431.32</u>
Net Income	<u>\$ 637.62</u>

NOTE

1. Please refer to the September, 1992 issue (Vol. 5, No. 1) of the **VALL REVIEW** for statements of income and expenses for August 1, 1991 to July 31, 1992.

CHEQUING ACCOUNT BALANCE

As of July 31, 1993	<u>\$4,638.30</u>
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PETER BARK MEMORIAL FUND

Fund Term Investment Certificate	\$1,000.00
Savings Account	<u>877.15</u>
	<u>\$1,877.15</u>

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DIAL-IN TO THE UBC CATALOGUE

Recently UBC has changed its policies and procedures for dialing-in to the library catalogue. Perhaps the most important change is that a library card is no longer needed to access the basic catalogue. However, your library card number will allow you to access some additional services available on UBCLIB. These include the UNCOVER database and document delivery service and various locally mounted databases such as the Canadian News Index, PsychInfo, Microlog, and the Directory of Statistics in Canada.

There are four methods of accessing UBCLIB:

1. High Speed Dial-in Service Tel: 822-9600

This service allows you to dial-in at speeds up to 9600 baud. Access to UBCLIB is provided free of charge, however, you may subscribe to this service if you want access to additional services. For a fee of four cents per minute (\$15 minimum per month) you can have access to all of UBC's computers as well as TELNET access to the Internet. TELNET allows you to login to remote computers around the world and search their library catalogues and specialized indexes and databases.

The signing off procedure is the same as always (type STOP). If you don't have a High Speed Dial-in Service account, you are then presented with a prompt that says, 'ANNEX USERNAME:'. At this point hangup by disconnecting your modem.

2. Low Speed Dial-in Service Tel: 822-5566

This service allows access at speeds up to 2400 baud and is free of charge. The greatest disadvantage is that the line is usually busy during the day which makes this service unsuitable for most libraries.

3. Datapac Datapac Address: 67200900,NIM

The library catalogue can still be accessed through datapac but UBC is no longer paying for this service. All datapac charges will be billed to the caller.

4. Internet Internet Address: LIBRARY.UBC.CA

Your computer must be connected to the Internet. TELNET to the above address.

For help making a connection, call the UBC Computing Centre Help Desk at 822-2008.

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LETTERS

September 1, 1993

The Honourable Colin Gabelmann, Attorney General
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4

Dear Sir:

Re: Revised Statutes of British Columbia - Index

The Vancouver Association of Law Libraries represents government, law society, courthouse, academic and private law libraries, these libraries serve a variety of patrons including the public. We are writing on behalf of our 113 members to request an update of the subject index to the Revised Statutes of British Columbia. The printed version of volume 8 - INDEX, R.S.B.C. 1979 was last updated in 1987.

It is our understanding that the index has not been updated due to the availability of the revised statutes in electronic versions. Very few libraries are in the position to use electronic media as their primary source of statutes: the cost of the products or online charges are relatively high and the user must have expensive hardware on which to view the electronic versions of the statutes and be familiar with the required commands. In addition accessing the statutes with key word searches eliminates the alternate terms referenced in printed index materials.

All legal research handbooks and guides list the Index as one of the steps in researching and updating statute sources. Manual legal research is still the most favoured method in our libraries. We feel the subject index to the Revised Statutes of British Columbia is an essential item in every law library in the province and strongly urge your department to publish an updated version.

We look forward to your comments in response to our request.

Yours very truly,
Shirley Hyndman
VALL President

July 16, 1993

Carol Williams
B.C. Securities Commission
11th Floor, 865 Hornby Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2H4

Dear VALL Members:

At Matthew Bender, we're working to get the cost of legal

publications under control. Our first effort toward that end was to freeze prices on the updates to all Matthew Bender publications for the remainder of this year.

That's just the first step.

We're creating new, attractively priced libraries that deliver greater value without compromising in any way the quality of our product.

- One invoice per year per publication
- Know what upkeep will cost in advance for the year
- Option to save 10% off of 1992 upkeep cost
- Free CD-ROM (where applicable)
- Update certain lapsed publications at no charge

We are making many positive changes in our pricing policies. Changes that will allow me to provide you with more of the high quality information you expect for less money than in the past.

For further information on how our new pricing policies will affect you, contact me, toll free from Canada at: 1-800-833-9844, Ext. #1.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,
Anne Squire-Denney
Account Manager
Matthew Bender

July 27, 1993

Linda Morrison
Reference Librarian
Vancouver Courthouse Library
800 Smithe Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2E1

Dear Linda,

Seeing you last week at the library's anniversary reception reminded me that I had not yet followed up on your request for a list of the C.E.D. Western and C.E.D. Ontario titles that are the same in both publications. I have now done so, and here it is. Please let me know if you would like the list in a different format. We could print it as a C.E.D. page on heavy weight stock for inclusion at the front of the Key if you would prefer. What do you think?

Yours truly,
Laura Wright
Publisher

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LETTERS, cont'd.

NOTICE TO RESEARCHERS

C.E.D. (West 3rd) and C.E.D. (Ont. 3rd)

The following titles and their supplementation are the same in C.E.D. Western and C.E.D. Ontario:

Absentees	Family Law Divorce/Divorce & Nullity
Agency	Firearms & Explosives
Arbitration	Foreign Investment
Armed Forces	Fraud and Misrepresentation
Auctions	Income Tax
Aviation	International Law
Bailment	Malicious Prosecution
Banking	Mistake
Bankruptcy	Narcotic Control
Choses in Action	Nuisance
Conflict of Laws	Oil and Gas
Contempt of Court	Parliament
Contracts	Patents
Co-operatives	Prerogative Remedies
Copyright	Public Inquiries
Criminal (Defences)	Radio and Television
Criminal (Procedural)	Restitution
Criminal (Substantive/ Offences)	Sentencing
Crown	Shipping
Customs and Excise	Specific Performance
Defamation	Sports
Employment/Labour Law (Federal)	Statutes
Equity	Trade Marks
Estoppel	Trespass
Evidence	Unemployment Insurance
	Weights and Measures

(prepared July 31, 1993)

June 3rd, 1993
Gary P. Rodrigues
Vice-President, Publishing
Thomson Professional Publishing Canada
Corporate Plaza
2075 Kennedy Road
Scarborough, Ontario
M1T 3V4

Dear Gary:

Please find enclosed photocopies of digests from *Case Law Digest*

Binder No. 7 and Canadian Current Law - Case Law Digests 1992 monthly issues No. 7 to 12. These are digests which I could not find in either the Revised Volumes or the Revised Supplements. Some of these digests may have been included under different subject headings; however, without an updated *Consolidated Table of Cases* I was unable to find them. The majority of the digests are from the Native Law subject title.

Could you please look into this for us? Thank you.

Yours truly,
Thea Schmidt
Library Assistant
B.C. Courthouse Library Society

cc: Leanne Berry
Gord Douglas
Kathryn Potter

June 14, 1993

Ms. Thea Schmidt
Library Assistant
B.C. Courthouse Library Society
800 Smithe Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2E1

Dear Thea,

Thank you for your letter dated June 13, 1993, with its enclosures. I have forwarded the material to Catherine McKeown, the Publisher of the Canadian Abridgment.

As I understand it, an audit of the contents has been completed, and that all digests not found in the supplements will be incorporated into the Case Law Update section of the General Index Binder. As you know, that section connects the Canadian Abridgment Case Law Digests with the Canadian Current Law Case Law Digests, and is the next step a researchers takes in Case Law Digest research using the Canadian Abridgment.

We appreciate all the help you have given us with the Canadian Abridgment and Canadian Case Citations.

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,
Gary P. Rodrigues
Vice President Publishing
Carswell
Thomson Professional Publishing

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NEWS

The Vancouver Courthouse Library's 100th Birthday Party

The Vancouver Courthouse Library celebrated its centenary on July 20, 1993 by throwing a party. Over 150 people were treated to birthday cake and a display of historical photographs and memorabilia.

In 1869 the founders of the Law Society resolved that the first objective of the Society would be the formation of a law library. The first library was set up in Victoria in 1869 followed by a library in New Westminster in 1890.

The Vancouver library was established in 1893 by *An Act to Amend the Legal Professions Act*, S.B.C. 1893, c. 25, s. 12. Over the years the library system expanded throughout the province and in the early 1950s Vancouver became the main library.

The B.C. Law Library Foundation was formed in 1974 and in 1984 changed its name to the B.C. Courthouse Library Society. The Society now operates 48 courthouse libraries throughout the

province.

by *Thea Schmidt*
B.C. Courthouse Library Society

GEOLEX - Foreign Laws in English on Demand

GEOLEX, formerly LEXPRESS, publishes English translations of foreign legislation. Their catalogue, the Lawlist, lists the most requested laws they have available by country and by subject. The main focus is the production of translations of commercial laws; corporation, intellectual property, labour, tax, trade, and investment. Original language texts are also available.

Prices for individual laws are approximately \$55.00 - \$100.00 U.S. Prices for delivery are approximately \$15.00 for fax or overnight courier or \$8.00 for first class mail. The handling charge is \$5.00 per order.

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Central Vancouver Librarians' Group

The Central Vancouver Librarians' Group proudly presents the
8th edition of the **CVLG SERIALS LIST**.

This publication lists the holdings of 60 libraries in the Lower Mainland. These libraries have collections in many fields such as accounting, law, general business, engineering, mining, applied sciences, medicine, forestry, horticulture and the environment. Contact information and borrowing policies & procedures are included.

The cost is \$50.00 for contributors and \$65.00 for non-contributors.

Copies can be ordered from:

Jane Moxon
Coopers & Lybrand Library
1111 West Hastings st
Vancouver, B.C.
V6E 3R2

Cheques should accompany all orders, made out to:
CENTRAL VANCOUVER LIBRARIANS' GROUP

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NEWS, cont'd.

To order a catalogue or place an order:

GEOLEX
P.O. Box 1879
Shorewood, WI
53211-0879
United States

Tel: (414) 963-4830
Fax: (414) 963-4831

by Tracey Carmichael
B.C. Courthouse Library Society

NOTICES

Ana Rosa Blue of the B.C. Courthouse Library Society came across the following decision and thought it may be of interest to the law library community. The summary was prepared by Tracey Carmichael.

Westbank Property Management Ltd. v. Westband Indian Band Council (July 13 1992), T-173-92, (F.C.T.D.).

The case involves the taxation of party-and-party costs. The bill of costs included \$344.41 for QL Systems to investigate "complex and novel areas of law". The plaintiff argued that charges for Quick Law were not a disbursement based on a previous decision, *Noble v. Wong, et al.* 148 D.L.R. (3d) 740, which decided that an investigator's fee was not allowed as a disbursement when the investigator undertook work normally done by a solicitor. The defendant submitted that *Westco Storage Limited v. Inter-City Gas Utilities Limited* [1988] 4 W.W.R. 396, saw computer research as a taxable disbursement if reasonable and essential.

The taxation officer decided that case law found but not ultimately used could still be taxable. Computer assisted legal research has the capacity to reduce the overall costs of litigation by increasing efficiency and solicitors should not be discouraged from undertaking exhaustive research on their clients behalf. The officer decided that some of the cost (\$200) for QL searching was warranted and taxable. The amount does not include those fees associated with firm staff such as librarians.

INFOBITS

VALL • October 21, 1993. Watch your mail for program details!

BIBLIO NOTES

Summaries of recent articles on WIN - Westlaw is Natural

"Creating Effective WIN Descriptions." *Password*, January 1993,

p. 4.

Provides guidelines for constructing a query using natural language and using the online thesaurus. Examples are provided.

Prichard-Schoch, Teresa. "Legal Briefing: WIN-WESTLAW Goes Natural." *Online*, January 1993, pp. 101-103.

WIN was developed over three years to accept queries in plain English, without complicated commands. The attractive features include the "best" command which pulls up that part of the document which best corresponds to the query, the system defaults to providing only the twenty most relevant documents, and WIN's online thesaurus provides alternate terms for words in your query. The system recognizes that words appearing in the headnote or synopsis are more important than those words in the body of the text. A test concluded that WIN performed as well as or better than the boolean search query of an experienced WESTLAW searcher.

Prichard-Schoch, Teresa. "Natural Language Comes of Age." *Online*, May 1993, at p. 33.

WIN is a complex information retrieval process but is not true artificial intelligence nor the first commercial application of natural language searching. Congressional Quarterly's Washington Alert and DowQuest both have elements of natural language searching. The advantages over boolean searching are apparent in full text databases and with the novice searcher. Some opponents to WIN have questioned whether inexperienced lawyers will assume that the computer is undertaking some sort of intellectual analysis rather than statistical calculations. Many think that WIN will not totally replace boolean searching because experts have better control over results with a well constructed boolean query. An additional worry is that searchers may not spend enough time analyzing their thoughts and will enter free flowing ideas as a search. Until second generation natural language search engines are developed, both methods of searching will be necessary.

"Search Services and Gateways: Natural Language Searching Introduced on Westlaw." *Database Searcher*, Vol. 8, No. 8, October 1992, pp. 31-32.

Westlaw's new WIN software uses advanced linguistic techniques, probability theory, statistical relevance ranking, thesauri, and special purpose grammars to support its natural language query processing. The ranking of

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BIBLIO NOTES, cont'd.

documents is a complex procedure which involves the comparison of the concepts against all documents in the database. If the terms appear frequently in a document but infrequently in the database, it is a highly relevant document. Paragraphs are also ranked for importance. In the future WIN will be able to monitor relevance feedback and aid the searcher in finding more "winners" in subsequent searches. The thesauri must be dynamic and West is looking for feedback from searchers. Dialog has expressed interest in the WIN software, however, Mead Data Central has indicated that they have not experienced any demand from their clients.

BOOKSTORE

If you have any notices regarding books for sale or books to buy, please send them to the attention of the **VALL REVIEW** editors.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Full-time LIBRARY CLERK required from October 1, 1993 to May 15, 1993. Duties: Mail check-in, Looseleaf filing, Circulation and Shelving, Book Processing. Please send resumes to:

Johanne Blenkin, Chief Librarian
Russell & DuMoulin
1500-1075 W. Georgia Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6E 3G2

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

New Faces

Shelley Richer, Koffman Birnie Kalef

Directory

A new **VALL** membership directory is currently in the planning stages. Please review your entry in the previous directory and send any changes to:

Gabriella Barsoum
Russell & DuMoulin
Tel: 631-4877
Fax: 631-3232