

VALL REVIEW

Vol. 6, No. 2

December, 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

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Legal Services Society

Tracey Carmichael
B.C. Courthouse Library

Desktop Production:
Nancy Cotter, Western Legal

From the Executive of VALL

Shirley Hyndman

Membership currently stands at 117. Apologies to Marjorie Keddy, our honoured life-member. Marjorie's listing was an unfortunate casualty in the latest directory printing. Marjorie is still alive and well and in town!

Letters were sent, on behalf of the **VALL** membership to the following:

- Chief Legislative Editor, Department of Justice
regarding the proposal to stop printing Canada Gazette Part III and the Table of Public Statutes, leaving subscribers only the expensive Assented to Bills or slow Statutes of Canada.
- President of Dalhousie University
with our concerns about the potential closure of the Dalhousie Library School.

Copies of these letters are reprinted in this issue of the **VALL REVIEW**. You are urged to send letters individually if any of these actions create concerns.

Congratulations to Cynthia Bartholomew for recognition by the National Film Board for her work with the audio visual collection at the Legal Services Society. Cynthia was flown East to receive her award at the awards banquet.

The Peter Bark Memorial Fund Committee has been established. Volunteers (with only a little arm twisting) who knew Peter; Joan Honeywell, Gordon Douglas, Anne Ikeda, Catherine Kerr and Pam Clancy, as chair, are assisting the Executive with policy and procedure recommendations. Application guidelines for the Peter Bark Memorial Fund Bursary have been completed and are printed elsewhere in this issue. A report will be presented to the membership in due course.

A schedule of upcoming meetings can be found in the INFOBITS section of this Newsletter. Mark January 26 on your calendars now as the tentative date of our annual workshop.

This year's workshop on CD-Roms will be held in conjunction with SLA. Although still shaping up we are looking at panel discussions on the benefits and hazards of implementing a system, what to look for, etc., and a demonstration area for vendors so products can be 'test driven'.

From the Editors

Tracey Carmichael & Jane Wells

The response from the Attorney General's office to our letter concerning the amendment to the Index of the RSBC has not provided encouragement that an updated Index will be published. We ask for suggestions and written contributions from the membership which would support a reconsideration of their decision. Please contact Jane Wells (660-4608) or Tracey Carmichael (660-2841) with your ideas.

Thank you to our contributors for information submitted to date, to Western Legal Publications for the publishing of the **VALL REVIEW**, and to Carswell for arranging the wine for the December luncheon meeting.

VALL REVIEW

AUDIO-VISUAL LIBRARY SERVICES AT THE LEGAL RESOURCE CENTRE — 1993 NATIONAL FILM BOARD / CANADIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING FILM OR VIDEO LIBRARIAN

In June, I received the National Film Board / Canadian Library Association Award for Outstanding Film or Video Librarian in Canada. The presentation was made at the CLA Convention in Hamilton and from there I went to the National Film Board headquarters in Montreal for a tour of their production and distribution facilities. It was a wonderful honour for me and the Legal Resource Centre to receive this award, which I regard as much programmatic as personal.

Like many occupational groups which are predominantly female, librarians work long hours for modest pay and often for little recognition. When an organization like the National Film Board recognizes us through an award like this, it validates our work and our profession. For this reason, I am particularly pleased to tell **VALL** members a little about the Audio-Visual library services we offer at the Legal Resource Centre and my work with the collection. The audio-visual collection is a specialized and highly utilized one that meets a diverse range of needs in the area of legal information and education for the public. The collection is one of the ways that legal aid fulfils its mandate of providing information and education about the law to the people of British Columbia.

We have about 250 law or law-related titles. We make these materials available for free two-week loan to schools, community groups and organizations and to Legal Services Society staff throughout the province. During 1992, 1700 items circulated to 370 different users. Our borrowers include women's centres, rape relief offices, ESL classes, multicultural agencies, probation workers, the RCMP, libraries, and native bands.

As Collections Development librarian for the Legal Resource Centre, I am responsible for establishing and maintaining both print and audio-visual collections (as well as participating in Law Line, a telephone service available to the general public where librarians provide legal information and referral). I preview, select, acquire, and process the AV materials. On average, we acquire between 60 and 90 new programs annually. With a highly specialized collection, the challenge is often to locate the materials. Over the years, I have developed a network of selection resources to find relevant materials. These range from the CBC, CTV, NFB, and commercial distributors, to small independent filmmakers. I work closely with producers and distributors to ensure that appropriate videos are included in the LRC collection.

In the collection, we have the standard materials on things such as impaired driving, murder trials, drug trafficking, and capital punishment. But we also have materials describing how laws are created and experienced. We try to assist people who need to understand the economic, political or social context of law. For example, the collection includes the "Poverty Game", which is a monopoly-like board game developed by a welfare rights group in Dawson Creek. By playing the "Poverty Game", social workers, teachers, politicians, and others get a glimpse of how it feels to be poor in Canada. Using our videos, you can learn how to run a meeting or write in plain language; you come to understand the conditions faced by women in the workforce, or by kids struggling to resist the lure of youth gangs; you witness the treatment of Japanese-Canadians during World War II, or the process of aging, with the "dumping" of an elderly woman at a hospital by relatives who can no longer cope; you face the consequences of an unexpected teenage pregnancy and the difficulties of Vietnamese boat people settling in North America.

To promote the collection, we produce an annual catalogue that is distributed to schools, community groups and organizations, community colleges, native bands and tribal councils, and government departments. This year, 3500 copies of the Catalogue were distributed in British Columbia.

I also work closely with other departments in the Society to ensure that their collection needs are met. Our audio-visual materials are used by the Training Department which trains over 150 employees -- lawyers, paralegals, secretarial staff, and legal information counsellors. Our films and videos are used in training workshops on diverse topics ranging from conducting effective meetings to understanding our attitudes about poverty and racism. The Schools Program at LSS conducts workshops for teachers, publishes curriculum material, and publishes a newsletter, "Legal Perspectives", that is distributed to 4500 readers. I develop bibliographies of audio-visual materials for the curriculum materials and the newsletter.

The Legal Services Society mandate recognizes that public legal education and information is a critical component in providing access to justice for the people of British Columbia. At the Legal Resource Centre, we have always recognized that not only print materials but also films and videos can be used effectively in the community to learn more about the law in an interesting and entertaining way.

by Cynthia F. Bartholomew

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PETER BARK MEMORIAL LUNCH

Held November 18, 1993

On behalf of the members of the Peter Bark Memorial Fund Committee, I have been asked to say a few words about Peter on this third anniversary of his death -- November 17, 1990.

For new members of VALL, Peter may be simply a name that appears on various notices and notes in the VALL REVIEW. For others perhaps he was just someone whom they saw occasionally at a VALL lunch meeting. For us older...well, senior members of VALL and for those of us who worked with him over the years, he was a warm and witty man, always with time to help or advise on a professional or personal matter. We continue to miss his boyishness, his enthusiasm, his encouragement, his perennial optimism that just never seemed to flag.

November traditionally is a time of reflection and preparation for winter and the coming year ahead. Accordingly, the Committee would like to remind VALL members of Peter's many contributions to our individual and collective benefit.

Briefly, Peter obtained both a law degree and then his M.L.S. He worked as a legal research librarian at several firms including Lang Michener for five years and edited for CLESBC and BCCLS. Many of us consulted him for creative ideas in our professional duties. His foresight, drive and cooperation with other librarians led to the founding of VALL. He was our first Program Coordinator. For ongoing recognition, the Committee wishes to recommend we retain the Bursary and fund a speaker for the annual workshop or a lunch program.

Peter was a truly memorable personality, a person one meets in a lifetime and remembers forever.

Joan Honeywell

Peter Bark Memorial Fund Bursary

We have recently received a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Bark with a contribution of \$100.00 for the memorial fund. The contents of their thoughtful letter has been reproduced below.

If anyone in the membership is interested in making a donation to the memorial fund, please forward your contribution to:

Peter Bark Memorial Fund
c/o V.A.L.L.
P.O. Box 48663
Bentall Centre
Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1A1

The memorial fund committee consists of Pam Clancy (Chair), Gord Douglas, Joan Honeywell, Anne Ikeda, and Cay Kerr. Details concerning the bursary are outlined immediately following the letter from Mr. and Mrs. Bark.

October 18, 1993

Dear Members of VALL,

Once again it is our privilege to enclose a cheque towards Peter Bark's memorial fund. As we do this each year we continue to be grateful that you make this gesture, which reinforces our pride in having had such a respected son. At the moment we are hosting friends from Wales for two weeks, with whom Peter stayed when he visited Europe with a choir. They too, have happy memories.

Our best wishes to you all and to the Association for its contribution to the law library community.

*Sincerely,
Annabelle & Bob Bark*

Peter Bark Memorial Fund Bursary Guidelines

The Peter Bark Memorial Fund was established by VALL to commemorate Peter Bark and his contribution to VALL and law librarianship. The Bursary assists VALL members demonstrating financial need in attending meetings of CALL or other law library associations, continuing education workshops or other professional development. The Fund is sustained by donations from individuals, law book publishers, and grants from VALL.

Guidelines for Applicants

VALUE: Up to \$500.

NUMBER: At the discretion of the Fund Committee.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants will have been members of VALL for one year.

Applicants will demonstrate financial need. Preference will be given to applicants attending a professional conference for the first time or who have conference responsibilities or who are active in VALL or in the law library community.

CONDITIONS: Recipients may be expected to attend particular sessions at the conference as VALL representatives. Recipients will report back to the VALL membership at the June meeting with an oral report on conference activities and a written submission for the next issue of the VALL REVIEW.

Apply by letter and include reasons why you wish to attend the meeting and your conference responsibilities, if any. Attach a letter from your employer indicating extent of financial support from your firm/institution.

Please send applications by February 1, 1994 to:

Peter Bark Memorial Fund
c/o V.A.L.L.
P.O. Box 48663, Bentall Centre
Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1A1

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LETTERS

Canada Gazette Part III

The Table of Public Statutes and Table of Acts and Responsible Ministers are no longer included in Canada Gazette Part III. With the creation of the ASSENTED TO Acts service and Acts now being published after each calendar year, the need for Part III is seen as being greatly reduced. It is now being proposed that publication of Part III be terminated in 1994. Any comments regarding this decision should be directed to:

Chief Legislative Editor
Department of Justice
Room 719, 222 Queen Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8

(Letters of concern are included below)

October 29, 1993

Robert DuPerron
Chief Legislative Editor
Department of Justice
Room 719, 222 Queen Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8

Dear Sir:

Re: Canada Gazette Part III

The Vancouver Association of Law Libraries consists of government, law society, courthouse, academic and private law libraries. Our group represents 116 librarians, library staff and publishers associated with the legal profession. Our libraries serve a variety of patrons including judges, lawyers, corporations and the public. VALL strongly feels that your proposal to cancel the Canada Gazette Part III and alter the publication of the Table of Public Statutes would seriously affect the accessibility to the federal statutes by the people of Canada.

Very few libraries are in a financial position to purchase copies of the Assented to Bills instead of Canada Gazette Part III. First, it is difficult to budget for an unknown yearly expense. Second, in 1993, the Assented to Bills cost over four times the price of Canada Gazette Part III. Many libraries will be simply unable to carry the extra cost and, as a result, will purchase only the Statutes of Canada.

Unfortunately, purchasing the Statutes instead of the Assented to Bills is a poor option. The publication of the Statutes of Canada is too slow to acceptably serve the needs of library users, other than those doing retrospective research. For example, the 1992 volumes arrived in Vancouver libraries just last week, nearly ten months after the end of 1992. In addition, if current publication schedules are followed the Table of Public Statutes would only be available

annually, substantially after the effective dates of the majority of the recent amendments.

Although the association believes both government and private publishers should periodically assess the types of publications offered and eliminate duplication, we feel the solutions proposed at this stage do not adequately address the needs of most library users for current legislative information. We agree, however, that there is room for improvement in the publication of Canadian legislation, and that the similarities between the Third Reading Bills, the Assented to Bills, the Canada Gazette Part III, and the Statutes of Canada illustrate the problems facing decision makers. We would suggest consultation with national library organizations such as the Canadian Library Association and the Canadian Association of Law Libraries before making any final decisions about the publication of current federal legislation.

At this time, with these options, VALL strongly opposes the cancellation of the Canada Gazette Part III. We look forward to continuing developments in response to our letter.

Yours truly,
Shirley Hyndman
President, V.A.L.L.

October 25, 1993

Robert DuPerron
Chief Legislative Editor
Department of Justice
Room 719, 222 Queen Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8

Dear Mr. DuPerron:

We would like to express our concern with your proposal to discontinue the *Canada Gazette*, Part III. The decision by your department to cease publication of the *Table of Public Statutes* in Part III is especially disturbing.

As you point in your Notice to Subscribers, the creation of the "Assented to" Acts service has indeed reduced the need for Part III. In our experience, the "Assented to" service has been very useful, providing timely access to all Acts given Royal Assent. A subscription to this service is very costly, however. To date, in 1993, our library has spent \$410.03 for one subscription. In this era of budgetary restraint, few libraries will be able to afford this service.

The B.C. Courthouse Library Society is an independent non-profit society funded largely by the Law Foundation of B.C. and the Law Society of B.C. Through a system of branch libraries located in courthouses throughout the province, the Society provides a legal information service to the legal community and to the

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LETTERS, cont'd.

general public. While we were able to make room in our budget for one subscription to the "Assented to" Acts for our central resource library in Vancouver, funding 27 additional subscriptions, at an estimated cost of over \$11,000 per year, is out of the question. Our branch libraries also depend on the *Canada Gazette*, Part III to provide current and accurate information to their users. While we understand that the government too must work within budget restrictions, we feel that the public has a right to expect equal access to justice. This can only be accomplished by making government publications readily available at a fair price. To that end, an increase in the price of the perhaps unrealistically low-priced *Gazette* seems a much more reasonable alternative than restricting access to only those who can afford the "Assented to" service.

As for the *Table of Public Statutes*, it is imperative that we have access to an up-to-date version in order to continue providing accurate legal information to our users. Even though the table will continue to be published in the bound annual Statutes of Canada, for anyone wishing to update a statute, the lag time between the end of a calendar year and the actual publication date leaves a tremendous gap. We have only this week received our 1992 annual statute volumes. Our looseleaf statutes are current only to October 31, 1991, with no sign of revision. In light of our government's professed commitment to openness and accessibility, it seems ludicrous to eliminate the one publication that ensures that the public has access to accurate, current information.

We consider the availability of a current *Table of Public Statutes* to be an absolute necessity. Inclusion in an outdated annual statute volume is simply not good enough. To maintain this service an increase in the subscription price of the *Canada Gazette*, Part III may be warranted. Alternatively, perhaps a separate subscription to the *Table of Public Statutes* could be made available.

We suggest you carefully explore these alternatives and strongly urge you to reconsider your decision to cancel.

Yours sincerely,
Maureen B. McCormick
Chief Librarian and Executive Officer
B.C. Courthouse Library Society

cc: The Honourable A. McEachern, Chief Justice of B.C.
The Honourable W.A. Esson, Chief Justice of the S.C.B.C.
Brian Wallace, Q.C., Treasurer, Law Society of B.C.
Cecilia Johnston, President, Canadian Bar Association
J. Parker MacCarthy, President, C.B.A. B.C. Branch
Neil Campbell, President, C.A.L.L.
Francoise Hebert, President, Canadian Library Ass'n.

October 29, 1993

Dr. Howard Clark
President and Vice-Chancellor
Dalhousie University
Halifax, N.S. B3H 4H6

Dear Dr. Clark:

Re: School of Library and Information Studies

It has come to the attention of the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries that Dalhousie University is contemplating closing the School of Library and Information Studies. Our group, which represents librarians, library staff and publishers associated with the legal profession, strongly feels this closure would be shortsighted and counterproductive.

Dalhousie's Library School is the only one in Atlantic Canada and for that reason alone should not be closed. The School is essential for the education of new librarians for the area plus the continuing education of working professionals in the Halifax Metro area.

VALL supports the trend towards integrating management and information management courses into the library school curriculum. However, it is erroneous to suggest there is no longer a need for traditional librarianship. Qualified librarians with these skills are required and sought after in the workplace. There is increasing demand for computer literate librarians with technical and management skills. Library schools must be in the forefront of developing programs and courses that will anticipate and accommodate the realities of the changing information environment.

As we are frequently reminded, information will be the valuable commodity of the next century, and the key to reorganizing and accessing precious information is in the hands of a properly trained librarian. Closure of the School of Library and Information Studies is not an appropriate response. Consultation with the library and business communities, combined with thoughtful change supported by the Dalhousie administration to ensure a progressive and relevant Library School, is VALL's recommended course of action.

Yours truly,
Shirley Hyndman
President
V.A.L.L.

cc: Dr. James McNiven; Dr. Judith Fingard; Dr. Deborah Hobson; Mr. Allan C. Shaw; Dr. Ken Dunn; The Honourable Dr. John Savage; The Honourable John MacEachern; Dr. Janet Halliwell; Mr. Tim Andrew; Dr. Gilbert Winham; Dr. Mary Dykstra

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LETTERS, cont'd.

November 9, 1993

Ms. Shirley Hyndman
President, V.A.L.L.
P.O. Box 48663, Bentall Centre
Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1A1

Dear Ms. Hyndman:

Dr. Clark has asked me to respond to your letter of concern about the possible closure of programmes at Dalhousie.

We regret very deeply the necessity to consider measures such as these. If the quality of the education Dalhousie provides in a wide range of disciplines and professions were not threatened by funding constraints, we would not be doing so.

As I hope you know, no decisions about the future of individual programmes have yet been made. The process of consideration is currently underway and Faculties, the Senate and the Board of Governors are giving most serious and careful consideration to the issues involved. Alternatives to closing programmes which are consistent with Dalhousie's commitment to overall academic quality and to financial responsibility may yet emerge from their deliberations. We will all be delighted if that is the case.

Thank you again for your expression of concern.

Sincerely yours,
Deborah Hobson
Vice-President (Academic & Research)
Dalhousie University

November 10, 1993

Ms. Shirley Hyndman
President, V.A.L.L.
P.O. Box 48663, Bentall Centre
Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1A1

Dear Ms. Hyndman:

I would like to thank you for your letter of October 29, 1993 concerning the announcement of the possible termination of the Library and Information Studies programme at Dalhousie University.

We understand that it will still be a few months before any specific proposals for programme terminations are submitted for approval to the Senate and the Board of Governors of Dalhousie University. Any terminations that do receive internal approval by the University would then be submitted for approval to the Commission. While it would thus be premature for me to attempt at this time to respond in detail to the particular issues you raise, expressions of concern such as yours will certainly be taken into account in considering any

firm proposals for termination that are eventually submitted to the Commission.

Yours sincerely,
Tim Andrew
Chairman, Maritime Provinces
Higher Education Commission

November 17, 1993

Shirley Hyndman
President, V.A.L.L.
P.O. Box 48663, Bentall Centre
Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1A1

Dear Ms. Hyndman:

On behalf of the Faculty of Management and the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), I write to thank you for your letter to Dr. Howard Clark in regard to the proposed closure of SLIS. The Faculty (faculty, staff, and students) is presently preparing an initiative that we hope will ensure the integrity of the Faculty, while maintaining the diverse and inter-related programming for which it is recognized. I hope that all will be resolved in a positive manner in the not too distant future.

Once again, many thanks.

Sincerely,
James D. McNiven
Dean, Faculty of Management
Dalhousie University

November 24, 1993

Shirley Hyndman
President, V.A.L.L.
P.O. Box 48663, Bentall Centre
Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1A1

Dear Ms. Hyndman:

Thank you so much for the letter of the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries in support of the School. Our situation is complex, and I realize how much effort it takes to compose a letter that expresses your thoughts in such a way that the best possible outcome can be achieved. As I read your letter and the many others that have come in, I am profoundly moved by the outpouring of commitment to the profession and appreciation of the School. You care, and have taken the time and trouble to say so. I know from the comments of other recipients of the letters that this has made a strong impression on them also.

I waited to reply to your letter, because I had hoped that I would be

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LETTERS, cont'd.

able to give you a clearer indication by now of how things are progressing. However, all I can say at this time is things remain "fluid." There has been a great deal of willingness on the part of the rest of the Faculty of Management, particularly the School of Business Administration which is the largest unit, to work toward an integrated structure which would preserve all of the degree programmes (MLIS included). This is extremely encouraging, and at the moment chances are reasonably good that the effort will be successful. The university's financial difficulties are very real, however, and defy ready solutions.

Please be assured that much effort is being made, and all avenues pursued, to maintain a library and information studies programme at Dalhousie. Efforts will also be made to communicate with you further as decisions are reached.

Once again, very many thanks for your eloquent and thoughtful expression of support.

Sincerely yours,
Mary Dykstra
Director, School of Library &
Information Studies
Dalhousie University

December, 1993

Saint Nicholas Esquire
Administrator of the Distribution of
Christmas Gifts and Other Gifts of the Winter Solstice
North Pole

Greetings,

Know Ye that reposing especial trust and confidence in the loyalty, ability, fidelity, and integrity of you the Said Santa Claus we are confident that you will adjudge our behaviour during the year 1993 to have been exceptional. Therefore, as honourable, sullied, moral, innocent, virtuous, untainted, obedient, dutiful, well-behaved, reliable, faithful, amenable, cooperative, and loyal persons we put forth a request for a gratuitous transfer of property on December 24th, 1993 at midnight.

The following are presents, gifts, dispensations and boons which would be acceptable, adequate, and proper:

- (1) A winning Lottery Ticket,
- (2) A three day work week,
- (3) A six month annual holiday,
- (4) A staff wardrobe/uniform designed by Liz Claiborne, Perry Ellis, and Alfred Sung which includes a drycleaning allowance,
- (5) A Library premises which is functional but contains

numerous large north, east, west, and south facing windows, to obtain maximum natural light between the hours 8:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.

- (6) A call forward phone line whereby annoying patrons can be transferred to an annoying and repetitive "hold" which consists of an endless recording of early and late Yoko Ono music.

Yours truly,
*A Custodian of a Great Mass of
Knowledge Pertaining to the Law*

NEWS

The following are summaries of new developments launched at the ONLINE CD-ROM '93 Conference held in Washington, D.C. in November. They were submitted by Jo Grady to the LAW-LIB Internet discussion list.

LEXIS: Lexis unveiled its new natural language technology which they are calling "Freestyle". An associative retrieval algorithm ranks documents in order of relevancy. After processing your natural language search, the system displays the results and a menu of choices which allows you to either review the results or further refine your search by selecting from a list of options such as identifying mandatory terms or entering date restrictors. One interesting feature called "superkwic" allows you to select the most statistically relevant documents. A feature called "where" allows you to review a graphical table showing which of your search terms appear in which of the 25 most relevant documents.

Thompson & Thompson: Announced the release over the next year of international trademark databases including trademark registries for 12 European countries and the "international Register" which includes registrations for the 30 WIPO countries worldwide.

Dialog: Showed off "Target" a new search command which performs relevancy ranking either as part of your initial search or as a way of filtering a previous search result. Target allows you to influence the weighting of search terms and to flag mandatory search terms.

NOTICES

Please note the Vancouver Courthouse Library is now placing all searches and photocopy orders in individual sealed envelopes. We hope that this will reduce the problem of couriers picking up the wrong orders and ensure the confidentiality of users' requests.

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NOTICES, cont'd.

Inmagic

If anyone would like to get a free copy of the latest INMAGIC Maintenance Release 3.0, please contact Denise Bonin at 737-4248 or send her an empty disk and she will send back the required files on that disk. Please indicate if you are using INMAGIC Image, as different files are required. Send disk to D.R. Bonin Consulting, 2871 W. 3rd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6K 1M8.

INMAGIC Inc. has just released its latest product: PowerPack. It is a set of utilities that allows you to perform various functions on your INMAGIC databases. They are as follows:

DBcheck - Checking and Fixing Databases: use regularly on large databases or as a regular database maintenance routine. Also use prior to backup, before importing records or merging databases.

DBpack - Packing Databases: use on a regular basis, especially on large databases to ensure optimal speed and efficiency during operations. Run DBcheck first for a healthy database.

Fvalid - Checking Validation of ASCII Files: detecting validation errors, lines too long, unrecognized field labels, duplicate field labels and inconsistent use of record IDs. Use before importing ASCII files into database (use on exported records of existing databases or on records created outside INMAGIC).

Fsplit - Splitting ASCII Files: use to break up large file into several pieces in order to: backup large ASCII files onto multiple floppy disks (without using DOS Backup); load the file into a database in several sessions, or load each file into separate empty databases to improve import speed (then use DBmerge to join the separate databases into one large database).

DBmerge - Merging Databases: use to merge two databases (repeat process for each source database) which have the same data structure, to create a single large (target) database; combining (not replacing) records and indexes.

DBauto - Automating the Split/Import/Merge Routines: use as convenient alternative to running Fsplit, IMPORT, and DBmerge for large databases. With this utility a batch file is created to your specifications.

These utilities seem to be best suited for large databases ("large" being loosely defined as taking more than two hours to import on your system). However, if you do not have large databases, but have many small or medium size databases, you might want to consider this package. The cost of PowerPack is \$360.00. Contact Denise Bonin 737-4248 for further information.

If you are an INMAGIC user, but are not aware of the existence of the Vancouver INMAGIC Users Group, please also contact

Denise Bonin and your name will be added to the directory listing. Our next meeting will be Jan. 12, 1994 with a demonstration by Janice Dudas from Paprican, of the newly upgraded SearchMAGIC. We'll also keep you posted about INMAGIC for Windows - no dates for release have been given yet! (Does anyone know why?)

The following was submitted by Claudia Goldman; Singleton, Urquhart, Macdonald

Capilano College in partnership with CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency, recently sent a number of instructors and administrative staff to Ho Chi Minh City Open University. The Open University was established three years ago primarily as a business and English school to help prepare for the country's conversion to an open market economy. I was pleased to be a member of the group that went to Vietnam and it was my task to help them with their curriculum development in Business Administration.

While at the Open University I was also asked to review the curriculum for the new Law Program which is scheduled to commence in September of this year. However, while they are prepared to commence law classes, their library has only three law textbooks and as you can imagine, the country is so poor no funds are available to purchase additional resource materials at this time.

I am collecting business administration textbooks and business magazines from instructors at Capilano College and the College will pay to have them shipped to the Open University. I would also like to ship some law texts and resource materials at the same time. I am hoping that in your firm's library you may have one or two books which are superfluous to your needs, or in your own collection, duplicate copies of something like the Advocate of the Canadian Bar Review which might be donated.

Not only will the new Open University Law Faculty acknowledge your donation but I would be pleased to have your firm's, or your personal contribution, acknowledged in our Faculty newsletter but also the International Crosscurrents newsletter from the International Department.

This is one of those infrequent opportunities where "a little bit goes a long way". Please look at the bookshelves for any books just gathering dust and give me a call at 987-4287 or fax me at 987-4274. I'll gladly pick them up. Thanks for your help.

Peter J. Holden
Business Administration Department
Capilano College

BIBLIO NOTES

Solomon, Howard, "Battle over who owns the law heats up between

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BIBLIO NOTES, cont'd.

Law Society and legal publishers." *Law Times*, August 30 - September 5, 1993, pp. 10-11.

In July the major Canadian law publishers launched a lawsuit against the Law Society of Upper Canada in Federal Court alleging copyright violation. The publishers feel that the Great Library is profiting from its photocopy and fax services which are in competition with the services offered by the legal publishers. A representative from Canada Law Book suggested that the publishers might allow the service to continue upon payment of a minimum 20% royalty fee. The Law Society's position in support of Crown copyright for legal judgments may also be a factor in the lawsuit.

Twonney, Anne, "A librarian's guide through the Mabo maze." *Australian Law Librarian*, Vol. 1, No. 4, August 1993, pp. 152-156.

The case of *Mabo v. Queensland* began in 1982 when three people brought an action against the Crown claiming native title to the Murray Islands in Australia. On June 3, 1992, the High Court ruled that native title had survived after sovereignty was acquired by Queensland and it continues to exist. The article discusses the sources of law relevant to the decision including cases, statutes, articles, and texts.

Wise, Virginia, "Mabo abroad - native American land claims in the United States: a research guide and selective bibliography." *Australian Law Librarian*, Vol. 1, No. 4, August 1993, pp. 157-172.

The author provides a step-by-step guide to researching U.S. native law. She unravels the complexities of Library of Congress subject headings in the area and lists: periodical indexes, recent articles, bibliographies, texts, the ALRs, West key numbers, recent cases, statutes, and examples of government publications. Although selective, this guide is an excellent starting point for U.S. native law research.

O'Brien's Electronic Forms

Canada Law Book is offering an electronic version of O'Brien's Encyclopedia of Forms as a freebie to those who subscribe to the service in hardcopy. Currently, Division I - Commercial and General and Division IV - Leases are available.

The disks come in a very professional package; maroon binders which look very similar to the loose-leaf binders. The diskettes (either 3.5" or 5.25" for DOS) are housed in plastic folders and a users guide (with a prominent licensing agreement) is positioned in front. New releases will be made available to subscribers on a supplemental disk.

The directions to decompress and copy the files onto your hard disk

are easy to follow but different for each division. The Leases files are copied using an install program which prompts you for information. The files are copied to a directory, c:\obleases, and sub-directories are created for each chapter. The Commercial and General files are copied to a directory called c:\obcomm using DOS commands. In both cases you are provided with options to copy a form, a chapter, or all of the files. It is strange that the directions are not uniform for both divisions, however, the instructions are easy to follow in both cases.

All of the forms are in Wordperfect format so you must have Wordperfect version 4.2 or higher to use them effectively. The files are not in a database format so you can not search the text of the forms to find words or phrases. The most effective method of use is to identify the relevant form in the loose-leaf O'Brien's and find the form using its number.

Eg: In chapter 1 of Division I: Commercial and General, form 1:6 is entitled Acknowledgment of Account by Creditor.

Open WordPerfect and retrieve the file: c:\obcomm\ch1\1-6.wp.

The file looks like this:

I, <<blank>> , acknowledge and state: That the annexed account is a true and lawful claim against <<blank>> of <<blank>> . That there is now due as from <<blank>> the sum of \$ <<blank>> , together with interest from that date at the rate of <<blank>> % per annum for <<blank>> . That there are no credits, set-offs, or counterclaims against the annexed account.

<<blank>>

WITNESS my hand and seal this <<blank>> day of <<blank>> , 19 <<blank>> . SIGNED [SEALED] in the presence of:

<<blank>> <<blank>>

Now fill in the blanks!

If this were being marketed as a stand alone product I would have a complaint that the files are not searchable. However, as a companion product to the loose-leaf O'Brien's subscription, I think that it is a great product, easy to use, and eliminates a lot of keying for those who use forms frequently.

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.

INFOBITS

VALL • January 26, 1994. CD-ROM Workshop and Vendor Exhibition. Co-sponsored by SLA. Robson Square Conference Centre.

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VALL REVIEW

INFOBITS, cont'd.

- February 17, 1994. U.S. Legal Research. Carol Warner, a librarian from Perkins Coie in Seattle will present. A joint meeting with the Legal Research subsection of the C.B.A.
- March 17, 1994. Freedom of Information and Privacy. David Loukidelis; Lidstone, Young, Anderson.
- CLA • June 14-18, 1994. Vancouver. "Delivering Quality in Tough Times." BCLA will organize preconference sessions and co-sponsor sessions with CLA groups.
- CALL • May 15-18, 1994. Montreal.
- SLA • Next meeting: February 10, 1994. Linda Everett at Paprican. Creating value added information Services.
- 85th Annual Conference. June 11-16, 1994. Atlanta, Georgia.
- AALL • July 16-17, 1994. Seattle.
- VIMUG • January 12, 1994. Vancouver. Demonstration by Janice Dudas from Paprican of the newly upgraded SearchMAGIC. Contact Denise Bonin 737-4248. Vancouver INMAGIC Users Group.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Full-time LIBRARY CLERK required from January 15, 1994 to June 15, 1994. Duties: Mail check-in, looseleaf filing, circulation and shelving, book processing. INMAGIC experience an asset. Please send resumes to:

Johanne Blenkin, Chief Librarian
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