

VALL REVIEW

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VALL 1994/95 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

Gillian Crabtree

The Year in Review - What did we do?

June 22, 1995 brings the eighth year of VALL to a close. It is encouraging to note that our meeting time has been well spent with an excellent combination of speakers, workshops and round-table discussions. Since September we have had two joint meetings with the Special Libraries Association including a networking session and a very well attended workshop on "Managing Technology in Your Library" presented by Jane Dysart and Stephen Abram. We tackled the topic of "Teaching Legal Research" in co-operation with the Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia Branch, Legal Research Section, thanks to a panel of speakers that included: Catherine Best, Joan Bilsland, Maureen Fitzgerald and Morag MacLean. We tapped into our own valuable resources with the help of several experienced VALL members who were kind enough to act as table facilitators answering questions about what it's really like to be a law librarian.

We are very grateful to the following guest speakers who took time out from their busy schedules to bring us up to date on a variety of topics: Dr. Richard Hopkins, Assistant Professor, U.B.C. School of Library Archival & Information Studies, provided a timely presentation on copyright and its relevance to the field of librarianship; Tom Anderson, Commissioner, Law Reform Commission of British Columbia told us how the Law Reform Commission works; Paul Whitney, Chief Librarian, Burnaby Public Library entertained us with his views on trends in popular fiction; Phil Bryden, Associate Dean, U.B.C. Faculty of Law spoke about "Information Technology & the Law School of the 21st Century"; The Honourable Mr. Justice T. Wallace Oppal, Commissioner of Policing in British Columbia Commission of Inquiry, advised us on the current issues involved in "Policing in British Columbia" and finally we learned a great deal from Barbara Hopkins, Managing Editor, Canadian Human Rights Reporter who spoke about the key issues involved in several recent cases on human rights.

As token of our appreciation to all those who have volunteered for the benefit of VALL during the 1994-95 year, the outgoing Executive has established what we hope will become a tradition. We will be presenting a VALL gift of thanks to each of the speakers, facilitators and behind-the-scenes contributors.

Finally I must say that it has been a wonderful experience working with a blend of old and new faces on the Executive this year and I would like to extend my personal thanks to all of them. As for the "old" faces, there are two who have done much more than their share of contributing to the success of VALL and deserve an extra measure of our appreciation. Shirley Hyndman has been on the Executive since 1992 and has just presented us with a first-class VALL Procedures Manual as her parting gesture. Karen Imeson (Continuing Legal Education), who has held almost every position on the Executive since VALL began is retiring, leaving some very big shoes to fill!

Congratulations to the incoming 1995-96 Executive. We wish you all the best.

From the Editors

Jane Wells and Ana Rosa Blue

This is the final issue of the *VALL Review* for 1994-95. I will be giving my responsibilities over to Maureen Fauman and I wish her every success with the co-editorship. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to the Review and to Ana Rosa Blue and Tracey Carmichael for sharing this position with me. Have a good summer.

VALL REVIEW

VALL Review is the official newsletter of the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries, composed of law library community members interested in discussing issues and sharing ideas that affect it. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent VALL policy/position. Unsolicited submissions are welcome. VALL reserves the right to edit submissions.

VALL Review is published four times a year in March, June, September and December. The deadline for submissions for the September issue is: August 24th for print, or August 31st for disk copy. Please submit disk in ASCII format.

MEET YOUR 1995-96 VALL EXECUTIVE!

President	Anne Beresford (Ladner Downs)
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Secretary	Lynda (Tolmie) Roberts (Koffman Birnie & Kalef)
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Programme Co-Ordinators	Sandra Manchur (Stikeman Elliott) & Greg Wurzer
Newsletter Editors	Maureen Fauman (Legal Services Society) & Ana Rosa Blue (B.C. Courthouse Library Society)

REPORT ON JOINT WORKSHOP

by Phillip Hall

MANAGING NEW TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR LIBRARY

Report from a Workshop given by Jane Dysart & Stephen Abram on March 30, 1995, sponsored by Special Libraries Association (SLA) Western Canada Chapter and the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries (VALL).

Running all day and covering everything from "the vision community", through "New Roles for Information Professionals" to "Styles of change agents", Jane Dysart and Stephen Abram tried to prepare participants for the role of implementing information technology in their libraries as well as their organizations.

Many useful points were made along the way. We were encouraged to make alliances with others, especially the computer managers in our organizations. We were given a crash course in envisioning the future to help us plan how to change our libraries. The day was a curious mix of interesting case studies, solid advice, new catch phrases, and rah-rah hype.

The solid advice centered around the twin themes of assessing your customers' needs and ensuring support within your organization to fulfil those needs. You need to assess the customers' needs so that you can choose the technological tools that will best do the job. Once this phase is completed, you must move on to ensuring that there is adequate support among the organization from top to bottom to get the job done. We were given various schemes for keeping our initiatives on track such as "Eight elements of a well-launched task". We were also taught to identify which of our customers would adopt our new services (and which might not) using the "classic corn research". This is based on old research which grouped farmers into six categories depending on how quickly they adopted new varieties of corn. It is claimed to be useful for all types of technological change. We spent some time learning the habits of the "innovators", "early adopters", "laggards", and so on.

We were also introduced to various strategies for planned change. We were shown the routes that change can follow easily, such as "homophilous individuals" (or people who share similar traits). Environments where change is slow and difficult were also discussed as were methods that do not work: "fighting resistance to change", "thinking loyalty to the old ways is wrong", and "attacking the resistance leaders" to name a few of these problem techniques. The catch phrases were too numerous to discuss except to tell you my favourite: "Get REAL; Get REFRESHED; Be RADIOACTIVE". Do not ask me what this means because I am still working on that. There is no line between catch phrases and hype and there was quite a bit of rah-rah hype.

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REPORT ON JOINT WORKSHOP continued...

especially about how powerful computers are becoming and how we have to get on-board or be left behind. It's not clear how much this helped and how much it got in the way of a reasoned discussion of how to identify appropriate new tools and when to utilize them. This is one of the main criticisms of the day. Surely the time will come, if it has not already arrived, when we will realize that computers and their associated technology are just tools to help us transfer and retrieve information. They are certainly very powerful tools that allow us to do things in many ways never before possible but they are tools nonetheless. History has shown us that new tools can and will spawn great cultural changes. However, the tools themselves are not the cultural change. They are just...um, well. They really are just tools, things we do our work with.

Managing New Technology in Your Library was a useful and stimulating seminar with handy tips for getting new ideas off the ground. It was also a kind of pep rally for new computer technology in special libraries and I am not sure if the people who need the new ideas to continue deploying technology in new ways are the same audience as the few of us who may still need a pep talk just to convince us that computers are a good idea and are not going to go away soon.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Ana Rosa Blue

Introduction to Foreign Legal Systems. Richard A. Danner and Marie-Louise H. Bernal, editors. New York: Oceana, 1994

This publication evolved from the February 1993 American Association of Law Libraries Winter Institute, "Introduction to Foreign Legal Systems", held at the Library of Congress. The book's goals are; "...to serve as an introduction to legal systems..." and "...to provide practical advice on the problems involved in researching the law of jurisdictions outside the United States." (p.xxiii) The monograph can be considered a "basic text for researchers of foreign law and a reference tool for law librarians". (ibid) The slight differences of researching foreign law are discussed and readers are provided with an assortment of ways that resources in today's law libraries can expedite the search for legal information from foreign jurisdictions. The contributors are subject area specialists. Although many of the speakers contributed chapters to the book, this is not a collection of the Institute's proceedings.

The first section entitled **COMPARING LEGAL SYSTEMS** begins by looking at the differences and similarities of the common law and civil law systems as seen by a civil-trained French lawyer. This is followed by a discussion of the major works in the field, in which the author provides a detailed, albeit non-annotated, bibliography on the topic. The next section, **CIVIL LAW SYSTEMS**, offers an in-depth analysis of legal systems by type and by representative jurisdictions, citing the major differences between civil and common law systems. The evolution of the laws of France and Mexico, considered to be the representative civil law jurisdictions, are profiled. Information on legal research techniques in each jurisdiction and an extensive bibliography for each country is provided.

ASIAN LEGAL SYSTEMS introduces the sources of law and the development of legal systems in Asian countries, (ie. Japan, China and Taiwan), including a section on the elements of Hindu and Islamic law. **AFRICAN LEGAL SYSTEMS** focuses on Ghana and Nigeria by describing and comparing the dynamics between customary and Western legal systems introduced into these countries. There is a diagram of the court structure (p.186) as well as a comprehensive (non-annotated) bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

FOREIGN LAW COLLECTION-BUILDING looks at issues faced by many law librarians in developing research collections of foreign law. Excerpts from the Draft Collection Development Policy at Yale Law School are provided. Other chapters discuss acquiring legal materials from Western European countries, the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. A chapter is devoted to the complexities of using translations, including an extensive and annotated bibliography of world-wide sources of translations of foreign laws.

Although the area of foreign legal research remains mostly print oriented, it cannot escape the reality of the computer age. The **FOREIGN LEGAL RESEARCH** section looks at a variety of technology-based co-operative programmes being developed at the Library of Congress, such as the International Legal Information Network (ILIN) and the Legal Bibliographic Database on CD-ROM. The editors note that:

"As more and more foreign legal information becomes available in both print and electronic forms, researchers and generalist librarians ...will find themselves increasingly in need of expert assistance to locate and identify the correct information." (p.xxvi)

Thus, the last section **RESOURCES FOR FOREIGN LAW RESEARCHERS**, provides a list of librarians with jurisdictional,

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Literature Review continued...

database and language expertise, as well as those with a willingness to help, who do not claim expertise. Readers will also find a list of names and addresses of foreign and international law librarians, all based in the United States except for: Debra Forman, Bora Laskin Law Library in Toronto, and Denis Marshall, Queen's University in Kingston. The final chapter lists past programmes of the American Association of Law Libraries workshops and institutes on foreign, comparative and international law (between 1982 and 1992) and the availability of audiotapes and microform handouts from them.

The book accomplishes what it set out to do. The detailed contents guide the reader to the discussions within each chapter. Any particular section could stand on its own, as most chapters provide excellent bibliographies. This book is highly recommended to anyone wishing to know the history of foreign legal systems, how foreign laws have evolved and where those laws can be found.

PROFILES

This issue features the Judges' Library and the staff who run it.

The Judges' Library has been in existence since the mid-1940's. The library was located in what was once the lawyer's robing room at the old Courthouse. In 1979 the library moved to its present location at 800 Smithe Street.

The Judges' Library provides a variety of services for the 118 superior court justices, 14 masters, 26 law clerks and support staff throughout the province. Judges' libraries are also maintained in New Westminster and Victoria.

The library maintains collections that are unique to the Judges' Library. Our collection of Appeal Court judgments dating from the 1960s and Supreme Court judgments dating from the mid-1970s are invaluable. Judgments from 1990 to the present are available to the judiciary on computer. Biographical information on past and present Justices of the Courts are maintained by library staff with information gleaned from various sources. It is staffed by Anne Rector, Lisa Taylor and Leaellen Gurney.

Anne worked with Marjorie Keddy in what was the Law Society Library (now the British Columbia Courthouse Library Society) in the old Courthouse on Georgia Street. After Marjorie resigned,

Anne was in charge of the library until a director was appointed. At that time Anne joined the provincial government as assistant to Helen Perkins, LL.B., the head of the Judges' Library and upon her retirement took over the position as Judges' Librarian.

Lisa graduated from the Library and Information Technology programme at Grant McEwan Community College in Edmonton. Before joining the staff in August 1992, Lisa worked in the library at the Edmonton Regional office of the Department of Justice.

Leaellen joined the staff as a part-time library assistant in May 1993. Leaellen previously worked as a court clerk in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal.

Rosemary Murphy-Milne, LL.B., is the editor of the B.C. Recent Decisions (B.C.R.D.). Published weekly, B.C.R.D. summarizes all cases from the Supreme Court of Canada and notable Court of Appeal and Supreme Court decisions.

NEWS

The recipient of the Peter Bark Memorial Bursary for 1995 was Greg Wurzer. Congratulations!

This issue launches a new section called: "Internet Corner" to bring members news of what is happening on the infamous Internet.

INTERNET CORNER

The Queen's Printer Bulletin Board is available on the Internet at bbs.qp.gov.bc.ca. All of the files on the Bulletin Board are also available on the Internet via ftp to bbs.qp.gov.bc.ca.

Some of the information available is free of charge: via gopher to bbs.qp.gov.bc.ca via www to <http://bbs.qp.gov.bc.ca/>

Files available are: Bills, Order Papers, Votes & Proceedings and Hansard for 1992 to 1995 sittings of the British Columbia Legislature in textual (TXT) format only.

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Internet Corner continued...

Also available is information from the British Columbia Law Reform Commission.

The Law Reform Commission of British Columbia (LRCBC) is also available through its own World Wide Web (WWW) site on the Internet, at:

<http://bbs.qp.gov.bc.ca/lrc/lrhome.htm>

On this home page, you'll find:

- Institutional information about the Commission and its work
- Full-text of nearly 70 past Commission Reports for browsing or downloading and current consultation documents
- Databases for downloading, including the Law Reform Database" which is a computerized index to more than 5,000 documents prepared by law reform bodies throughout the world.

The same LRCBC materials are accessible through the Queen's Printer BBS (QP BBS) as through the World Wide Web site, but there are significant differences in the ease of access, the quality of the downloadable products, etc.

From the QP BBS:

- You can dial into the BBS without necessarily connecting to the Internet.
- The BBS material is served by a Gopher that refers only to 25-character descriptors of the material, not complete files. You must have an idea of what you are looking for in order to find a particular document.
- You can download documents and the self-extracting compressed files containing the Law Reform Database from the BBS, but you may lose formatting in the documents.

From the WWW Site:

The WWW site is reached through the Internet.

- The organization of the data on the WWW site is superior. It has explanations accompanying the full titles of documents and the hypertext links to them.
- The documents are capable of being downloaded into WordPerfect 5.1.
- If you are using Mosaic or Netscape with the Slip connection as your Internet linking software, you can get the full benefit of the graphics. The visual impression is nothing short of stunning. It is meant to convey an image of British Columbia to the world.

For those too busy to stop 'surfing the net' to get something to eat, Information Highways, (October 1994, p.16) has provided readers with the following address:

<http://www.pizzahut.com/>

Here's more food for thought. The December 1994 issue of Canadian Law Libraries (p.212) announced that a recent study by NSTN (Canada's largest commercial Internet provider) looking into the cost of transmitting information using fax or e-mail on the Internet, found that an average cost (per user) for faxing was \$110 compared to \$20 by e-mail over the Internet.

Selected Internet Resources

For your convenience, the British Columbia Courthouse Library Society has compiled the following directory of popular Internet sources.

Canadian Information

- 1) B.C. Freedom of Information Records
 - a searchable database of the Directory of Records held by the B.C. government and other institutions under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
 - gopher:** <bcsc02.gov.bc.ca>
- 2) B.C. Law Reform Commission
 - documents issued by the Commission are available for downloading.
 - ftp:** bbs.qp.gov.bc.ca
(change directory) govinfo
(change directory) lawrefor
- 3) NAFTA
 - the full text of the American edition of the North American Free Trade Agreement.
 - gopher:** cyfer.esusda.gov
Americans Communicating Electronically
National policy issues
- 4) National Library of Canada
 - a gateway to Canadian provincial and federal government information available on the Internet.
 - gopher:** gopher.nlc-bnc.ca

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Selected Internet Resources continued...

- 5) Open Government Project
 - a federal government pilot project that provides a selection of Canadian information.
 - gopher:** debra.dgibt.doc.ca
 - www:** <http://debra.dgibt.doc.ca/opengov>
- 6) Queen's Printer of B.C.
 - all documents made available through the Queen's Printer Bulletin Board including first and third reading bills and Hansard. The documents cannot be searched by keyword.
 - ftp:** [bbs.qp.gov.bc.ca](ftp://bbs.qp.gov.bc.ca)
(change directory) legis
 - gopher:** bbs.qp.gov.bc.ca
 - www:** <http://BBS.qp.gov.bc.ca>
- 7) Universite de Montreal
 - includes the full text of Supreme Court of Canada decisions and the *Civil Code of Quebec*.
 - gopher:** gopher.droit.umontreal.ca
 - www:** <http://www.droit.umontreal.ca>
- 8) West Coast Environmental Law
 - the Environmental Legal Information Base (ELIB) contains information on environmental law in B.C. Many texts are reproduced including the text of over 200 B.C. statutes.
 - www:** <http://freenet.vancouver.bc.ca/local/wcel>

U.S. Legal Information

- 1) Library of Congress
 - includes various databases including the library catalogue, a database that tracks federal legislation as it makes its way through Congress and a separate database which digests laws of the world, especially those from Spanish speaking nations.
 - gopher:** marvel.loc.gov
 - telnet:** [locis.loc.gov](telnet://locis.loc.gov)
- 2) Supreme Court Decisions
 - full text of all decisions since 1989.
 - telnet:** [freenet-in-c.cwru.edu](telnet://freenet-in-c.cwru.edu)
 - ftp:** [ftp.cwru.edu](ftp://ftp.cwru.edu)
(change directory) hermes
- 3) Uniform Commercial Code
 - www:** <http://www.law.cornell.edu>
- 4) U.S. Code
 - www:** <http://www.house.gov>
 - www:** <http://www.law.cornell.edu>
 - gopher:** marvel.loc.gov
- 5) Washington & Lee University
 - a very comprehensive site of all Internet resources related to the law, both U.S. and foreign.
 - telnet:** [liberty.uc.wlu.edu](telnet://liberty.uc.wlu.edu)
 - login: lawlib
 - password: lawlib
- 6) West Publishing's Legal Directory
 - this searchable directory includes listings for U.S. and Canadian lawyers and law firms.
 - gopher:** wld.westlaw.com

Foreign and International Legal Information

- 1) Bernan/UNIPUB
 - the Government Publications Network is designed as a locator for government publications issued by foreign governments and international organizations.
 - gopher:** kraus.com
- 2) G.A.T.T.
 - the full text of the documents from the recent Uruguay Round of the G.A.T.T.
 - gopher:** cyfer.esusda.gov
 - Americans Communicating Electronically
 - National Policy Issues

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Selected Internet Resources continued...

- 3) Multilateral Treaties Project
- the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy makes available the full text of many important international conventions and agreements.
www: <http://www.tufts.edu/departments/fletcher/multilaterals.html>
ftp: <ftp://ftp.fletcher.tufts.edu>
(change directory) pub
(change directory) diplomacy
- 4) World Constitutions - the full text of the constitutions of selected foreign countries.
gopher: [wiretap.spies.com](gopher://wiretap.spies.com)
government docs
-

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

New Faces

Wendy Brennan, Librarian

Georgina Flynn, Special Projects Librarian, Law Reform Commission of British Columbia

Marci MacInnes, Assistant Librarian, Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia

Heather Moore, Librarian, Russell & DuMoulin

Familiar Faces

Maureen Fauman, Librarian, Legal Services Society

Susan Huber, Information Specialist, Insurance Corporation of British Columbia

UPCOMING EVENTS

Conferences

- ALA Annual Conference, Chicago, Ill., June 22-29, 1995
- AALL Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, Penn., July 15-20, 1995
- BIALL Annual Study Conference Manchester, England September 8-11, 1995
- CALL Annual Conference, Kingston, Ont., 1996
- PNLA Pacific Northwest Library Association 1995 Annual Conference August 9 -12 Whistler, B.C.

The TELL IT! approach to evaluating library programmes and services will be presented during a day-long conference. Workshops will cover: teaching the Internet, access to World Wide Web, sessions on intellectual freedom issues, collection assessment & management, faculty status, ethnic services, media literacy, and much more. Contact: Vicky Dolling B.C. Library Association tel. 430-9633

BOOKSTORE

Books For Sale:

Criminal Reports

Canada Series - Volumes 1 to 50, 1946 to 1967

New Series - Volumes 1 to 39, 1967 to 1977

Third Series - Volumes 1 to 80, 1978 to 1991

Fourth Series - Volumes 1 to 18, 1991 to 1993

Asking \$3,000 or best offer. Please contact: Ernie Gauvreau at Ratcliff & Co. 988-5201

Summaries of all *Labour Relations Board Arbitration Awards* issued in British Columbia between 1982 and 1993. (1994 and monthly updates also available.) Decisions indexed by parties, sections and issues. Published by Western Legal Publications. Will sell for \$1,050 or best offer. Please contact Debbie Evans at 660-1340.

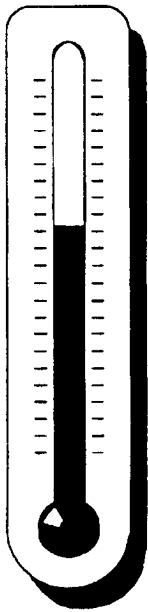
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PETER BARK MEMORIAL FUND

GOAL: \$10,000
To create a sustainable fund which would annually generate sufficient interest to finance the Peter Bark Memorial Fund Bursary.

STATUS: \$5,580.60
We're getting there!

TO DONATE: Send your cheque to:
VALL: Peter Bark Fund
P.O. Box 48663, Bentall Centre
Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1A1



10,000

\$5,580.60