VALL REVIEW

Vol. 8, No. 4   *June, 1996*

From the Executive of VALL   *Anne Beresford*

This marks the close of another year of networking and exchanging ideas at our luncheon meetings and workshops. It has been fun and a learning experience for all of us on the Executive. We are sorry to be losing Gillian Crabtree this year. She has served on the Executive for the last three years, as Treasurer, President, and Past President. Thank you Gillian for your dedication, time, enthusiasm and experience. Thanks also to all the Executive members for your support and hard work - it makes the President's job an easy one. Congratulations to our incoming Executive who will be headed by Susan Crysler of McCarthy Tetrault as President. The full Executive is listed in the News section of this issue.

We enjoyed the lunch presentation in May by Drew Jackson, legal writer, editor and researcher who gave us a "show and tell" about the Internet resources. Drew has written a book called "The Internet Handbook for Canadian Lawyers" most of which I read on the plane coming home from the CALL conference in Kingston. He highlighted some of the more useful sources in his talk and we picked up some new tips and ideas. Our June meeting will as usual be a social event with informal roundtable discussions.

I chaired the Local Associations meeting at CALL which had been organized by the Regional Reporter for "Canadian Law Libraries", Yoko Beriault. This group has been meeting informally for a few years and now has a time slot in the CALL program. Some of the topics of common interest discussed were how the local groups could influence continuing education in their areas and there was also an exchange of ideas on which programs and formats would most attract attendance to the local meetings. Ann Rae and Lillian MacPherson attended and briefly described the plans for the Legal Information Institute in 1997 which will involve by invitation a mix of lawyers, librarians and the judiciary - those interested in the delivery of legal information. The local groups will be asked for support in the preparation and planning of this meeting.

Plans for the WESTPAC/VALL joint meeting October 17th - 19th have been keeping the email lines buzzing between WESTPAC and VALL program committees. WESTPAC is looking for a catchy name for this joint meeting which will be held at the Coast Plaza on Denman. "Border Crossings" comes to mind. Can anyone think of a more original name for this get together? Your WESTPAC/VALL program members, Joan Bilsland, Eve Porter, Sam Manchur and myself, are assisting them with speakers, entertainment, tours and tourism information. The October *VALL* lunch will be a part of this meeting so we will all have an opportunity to mingle with our neighbours to the south. Topics to be covered at the meetings include native law, Canadian legal systems, and technology issues.

Have a great summer!

From the Editors   *Maureen Fauman and Ana Rosa Blue*

Summer is nearly here! We'd like to thank everyone whose commitment and support in the form of ideas, articles and information have made *VALL Review* possible. The continuing support of Western Legal Publications is also gratefully acknowledged. See you in September under the new editorial team of Maureen Fauman and Anna Holeton! Please see the "News" section for the names of the 1996-1997 VALL Executive.

VALL REVIEW is published four times a year in March, June, September and December. Deadline for the September VALL Review is August 22, 1996.

I CAN'T PEDDLE THAT FAST

by: Terry Rogers, former Director of Administration, Ferguson Gifford and Currently the Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of Ezenet Inc.

VALL has in the past contributed to the Vancouver Association of Legal Administrators (VALA) newsletter TOPICS, and now a member of VALA has generously agreed to write an article for the 'VALL Review'! In this article, written while still at Ferguson Gifford, Terry Rogers looks at the evolving role of librarians in relationship to the information highway.

At the risk of incurring the wrath of all sides in this very real and critical debate within the legal profession I would like to suggest that there is a workable solution. While it will not satisfy all sides, it will have the advantage of ensuring that firms will stay both competitive and solvent as the cost of upgrading continues to outstrip the available increases in budgets for "libraries" or "information" in the law firm.

The first issue is to define the role of librarians and their stock-in-trade, "information and research", in the future. I have read considerably on the subject and to summarize, the definition of "information" is being re-written every day and the skills of the researcher are no longer defined by the "Dewey Decimal" system. What might not have been available yesterday in any form, was, is or will be available on the "information highway" tomorrow. Using search engines that even two years ago were non-existent, an amateur can find just about any piece of information imaginable via the Internet either directly or through help groups of every possible discipline. I believe that librarians will be as critical in these roles in the future as in the past but only to the extent that they become the gurus of the "information highway".

Lawyers of the future will continue to need someone to find information for them but it will no longer be the exclusive domain of the librarian. The role of the librarian will, I believe, shift to one of ensuring that they know what is out there. They will be expected to keep the lawyers apprised of new databases of information in their respective specialties. They will have to become the "experts" and have a more complete understanding and familiarity with the "information highway" than anyone else. An example of this function will be to search the "information highway" for new material and add it to the "hot" topics of their firm's database of available information. I believe to not do so will be a "career limiting" move on the part of a librarian.

The second issue to be addressed is whether to upgrade now or wait. In his recent book, *The Road Ahead*, Bill Gates provides some insight to where and how fast information is going to become available as the "information highway" is created. He makes the point that we are no farther along this path than a "sticks and stones level of tools". This should give us all reason to slow down and watch for a while. That is not to say that some applications shouldn't be acquired now as essential. For example, as services are withdrawn in loose-leaf or hard copy form and replaced by CD-ROM, we must take the plunge and get whatever we need as basic requirements. It is not necessary to acquire everything that comes along in this form yet.

There is clear evidence that as the Internet evolves into the "information highway", many of the forms of data and information we will be tempted to buy will become available for significantly less cost through the on-line services of the Internet. The question to ask is, "If I do not get this now, will I be at a significant competitive disadvantage?" This may be fuzzy at times and you must exercise professional judgment in making this assessment.

The third issue will be the allocation of resources to the "information acquisition" in the future. There is no doubt that all firms are weighing each and every expenditure carefully. It will soon be possible for very small firms to have all of the research capacity of the big firms. An article in the American Bar Association's journal of the Economics of Law Practice section, not long ago, featured sole practitioners or very small firms that had as clients some of the "Fortune 500". Their ability to compete effectively on large matters should give pause to all practitioners. These small firms and individuals were able to deliver the same high quality product in the same time as the big firms and at a considerable saving. This is not to say that big firms will not be able to compete in the future but they will have to become as flexible and innovative. This is where I believe the librarian will be invaluable. These small practitioners do not have the time to stay abreast of what's out there and to that extent, the firm with a librarian will have the upper hand.

All of this is to say that while you must be prepared to buy when necessary, the more important trait will be to judge when it is best to buy. It is expensive to buy this year and train on the new system and then to have to do it again in two or three years. As a guideline, I would suggest that a five-year horizon be used as the benchmark for acquisitions. If you think it will last less than five years, wait. More than likely you will be able to get a better bang for your buck a year away.

VALL REVIEW

For many years now I have been ridiculed for continuing to use our Wang VS 100 computer for both WP and Accounting. I felt that the economics of maintaining the Wang outweighed the costs of upgrading at the time. I could compare our WP product against the PC equivalents and not be embarrassed. The clients wanted the content, not the frills. However we did not stand still. Over the same period that I saw competitors have to upgrade and retrain twice, we have continued to be able to stay competitive with the selective addition of necessary PC tools. Our library is considered "progressive" by peer review thanks to our librarian and the selective acquisition of necessary applications. Our word processing department switched to PCs and built all of the necessary "macros" for the firm and through experimentation found the most economical and practical solution for our future WP needs. We are now ready to acquire a network and I believe that the current level of technology will have a longer shelf-life compared with the last five years.

It is evident that we are going to have to take a breather from the frantic pace of change where computers are concerned. It is estimated that the software developers are at least three years behind hardware and even more significant, the users are still trying to cope with the 386, let alone the 486, Pentium 75, 90, 100, 133, 150.... Earlier this year an article appeared in The Vancouver Sun about someone who bought a computer without a clue as to what it could do or what was required to operate it properly. You all have your own "horror" stories of snafus caused by a lack of understanding of computer capabilities. In a recent application of import to librarians, we installed software that would enable us to scan in and subsequently retrieve information in a large litigation matter. However, it quickly became evident that even this state of the art application had serious shortcomings. BUT, it was infinitely better than the alternative and was necessary to the proper prosecution of the case.

Librarians must be the voices of reason and moderation while managing the avalanche of new information that will be available. They must slow the pace to make it digestible yet ensure that starvation or even malnutrition do not set it. Have you tried to find a specific site on the Internet? If you think librarians are an endangered species..., NOT. The more there is, the greater the need to catalogue and sift. What librarians must do is continue doing what every other occupation in the world is doing as well, LEARN. It is estimated that in the westernized countries, employees will have to change their horizons every five to a maximum of ten years. Upgrading and change will be the norm.

While I would not recommend that librarians become the MIS managers in firms, they should be a critical element of the committee. They should be ready to educate users in the use of technology. I believe librarians will not be required to spend as much time cataloguing and filing as others who supply the information will do that for them on the "information highway". They will teach others to find what is out there. In fact, I believe yours is one of the occupations where the drudgery of filing will be taken away and replaced by more intellectually stimulating work thereby fulfilling what was originally supposed to be the real purpose of computers.

Fun eh!

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NEWS

Welcome to the incoming 1996-1997 VALL Executive:

President	Susan Crysler, McCarthy Tetrault
Secretary	Diane Snyder, Clark Wilson
Membership	Nancy Connor, Owen Bird
Treasurer	Wendy Holmes, Davis & Co.
Newsletter	Maureen Fauman, Consultant
	Anna Holeton, Campney & Murphy
Programme	Laura Cooney, Consultant
	Joan Bilsland, Russell & DuMoulin
Past President	Anne Beresford, Ladner Downs

1996 CALL Conference   *Tracey Carmichael*

The Changing Face of the Legal Profession
and
the Future of Law Libraries

My first CALL conference can be summed up in one word - exhaustion! The sessions began each day at 8:00 a.m. followed by a banquet each night. An opening reception sponsored by CCH was held in the Fireplace Reading Room at the new Stauffer Library at Queen's University. The second night saw us cruising the Thousand Islands from Kingston to Gananoque where they stocked the boat with food. Each person received a picnic basket loaded up with great food and wine, all compliments of QL. The closing banquet, sponsored by Carswell, was held at Fort Henry where we toured the fort and dined in a large tent in the courtyard. Unfortunately the weather was a little cold but it gave us the excuse to don the red coats used in the historical re-creations which added some extra authenticity to the event.

On Sunday I attended the preconference which began with a panel discussion on "The Future of Legal Research Technologies". Hugh Lawford from QL pointed out that, despite the move to CD-ROM, on-line is not dead. QL is still faster, more up-to-date, more comprehensive, and cheaper than any CD-ROM product. He is concerned that legal publishers including governments could choose to pull their information from QL to make it available on a proprietary system in their bid to regain control of legal information. Claire Germain from Cornell gave a demonstration which illustrated that there is already a critical mass of quality legal information available on the Internet. Stephen Abrams from Micromedia stated that CD-ROMs are a transitional technology and he sees the Internet and networking in general, to be a more important development which will impact the future of legal research. Micromedia has just introduced "Voyageur" which provides access to 250 databases including Index to Canadian Legal Literature, Index to Legal Periodicals, Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals, and Legal Resource Index. It is available for free until September and can be accessed via their web site or through free software you can get from Micromedia. Paul Murphy from the University of Windsor pointed out that CD-ROMs are not yet "user friendly" and people still experience many problems constructing searches, printing, and downloading documents. Lawyers still use intermediaries although this may change as law students are becoming more computer literate (although not necessarily information literate).

At the first plenary session, Gordon Proudfoot , President of the Canadian Bar Association, and Martin Felsky of inTeger Information Technology spoke on "Changes Facing the Legal Profession". Many changes are being experienced by the legal profession which is impacting their need for library services. Foremost amongst these changes are the time pressures experienced by lawyers due in part to the implementation of court case management systems by the courts and the drive for maximum billable hours. Most lawyers now work in small firms of less than three practitioners where they no longer have the time to visit the library or do intensive legal research. Lawyers are willing to pay big bucks for someone to take on the responsibility of providing quality legal research.

Bill Lindberg from West Publishing and Anne Foster from Thompson Professional Publishing spoke at the plenary session on "Changes in Legal Publishing". Both stated that they are responding to customer demand for integrated products which provide the answer to the legal research question. Lawyers have little time for research and they want systems that will quickly spit out the answer to the legal research questions at their desktop. One librarian pointed out that legal research is a complicated and involved process because the law is complicated and we should be wary of these quick fix solutions.

The changes in the legal profession and publishing business are affecting libraries. Linda Will , a librarian from a large Miami law firm and Cynthia Murphy from a law firm in Halifax spoke on "How Libraries Should React". Linda stated that we must understand the new research technologies including the hardware platforms and the software interfaces. We should not be a lab for legal publishers who release half-baked products which will be refined after we point out all of the flaws. There is a frustration with publishing reps who don't understand the technology or who understand the technology but don't understand the content of the products. Cynthia commented that we must understand how publishers are customising electronic information for lawyers so that we can analyse the content and compare it to other products. This is especially important as publishers are marketing directly to lawyers and bypassing the library. Linda mentioned West Legal News as an exciting new product that allows you to feed customised legal news on the topic of your choice to the desktop each day. Each article is hyperlinked to the full text original source document which may be a case, a new statute or regulation, a report, etc... "Intranet" was added to the vocabulary of many attendees. This is a local network created within one organisation using Internet technologies like web pages. This technology is being used by some law firms to share information between departments including library information.

There was little controversy at the conference. CALL's position papers on copyright and on CD-ROM pricing were presented to

the membership during programs for comment and amendments. A panel of CD-ROM vendors from Carswell, CCH, Canada Law Book, and SOQUIJ responded to prepared questions from CALL regarding pricing, the continuation of print products, retention of historical information, and licensing. Most of the responses were not surprising and reiterated the company line but some of the vendors had developed very palatable solutions which were well received by the audience.

Although not a theme of the conference, speaker after speaker commented on the blurring of roles of the Systems Department and the Library. Many libraries are experiencing growing frustration when trying to implement new technologies due to their lack of power within the organization and a lack of understanding by the systems department of the libraries' needs and a corresponding lack of understanding by the library of the concerns of the systems. This topic has been proposed for next years conference by the Electronic Information SIG.

Overall the conference was packed with thought provoking information. I found it very useful to hear what the issues are for the legal profession and publishers even if I don't necessarily agree with their conclusions or solutions. I would like to thank the executive and members of VALL for making my attendance possible through the Peter Bark Bursary.

REPORT ON THE MARCH FOLIO
AND
CD-ROM WORKSHOP

Folio Presentation   *Jennifer Galan*

Tanner Elton of Specialized Communications Inc. (SCI) opened the workshop with a presentation of FOLIO. He provided us with details of his varied and interesting background. When he decided to start his own company (SCI), he had an independent evaluation done, and FOLIO was the overwhelming choice of product. He went on to describe the relevance of FOLIO to the legal profession. The reasons he gave were:

- the huge volume of information involved
- the information itself is well organized (cases, statutes, etc)
- focused decision-making is involved

FOLIO has a number of applications in the legal environment. It can be used as an indexing tool, a litigation support system, an opinion file manager and a source of publishers' products. The key characteristics of FOLIO are:

- true Windows application
- information is divided into levels
- records are done in an arbitrary way (pages, paragraphs)
- objects (pictures and graphs).

SCI is a FOLIO publisher (as are Carswell, CCH, Canada Law Book, etc). Mr. Elton gave a demonstration of FOLIO using one of the products his firm has developed for the forestry industry. He made the point that each publisher can adapt FOLIO specifically to its product and can determine its ease of use. Each screen of the Forestry database has access to all the necessary information. A screen of the Forest Practices Code has access to any amendment, definition or explanatory notes. A shadow title can be created to contain personal notes. The Forestry database has support available within the system, by telephone and through a manual. Mr. Elton closed his presentation with the prediction that the future belongs to Windows.

Hardware Update   *Yoko Beriault*

Installing Folio: Different System Setup Options

The presenters for this session were Bruce Mowat, Technical Support Specialist of CCH Canadian, and Cheri Turner, Systems Manager at McCarthy Tetrault.

Bruce presented pros and cons of the five options for Folio CD-ROM setup:

1) Stand alone - where the CD-ROM is accessed from a PC that is not networked:

Pros	Cons
faster than network	need CD reader for each machine
have control over the updating	system must have adequate RAM and hard drive space
can customize product	only one person can access at a time
	may require leaving desk

2) peer to peer networks - i.e. Windows for Workgroups:

Pros	Cons
no dedicated file server	Folio must recognize the same drive letter for all systems, and therefore, this may require an additional computer
	only works well in a small group of people

3) attaching a single CD-ROM to the network - where all workstations must be mapped to the same drive:

Pros	Cons
easy installation	limited to single CD
doesn't use up disk space on the file server	slower access than a hard drive
do not need individual CD readers for workstations	may have to wait if more than one person is trying to do a search at the same time

4) load data from CD-ROM to file server:

Pros	Cons
fastest access time	need for space on the file server - are you always going to buy more disk space?
less expensive than tower	longer install
everyone has access	less control over updates

5) CD-ROM tower or disk changer:

Pros	Cons
less hard drive space required on the file server	towers are expensive
easier to manage network i.e. no data corruption	access time is slower
network is more organized as each CD product has a separate drive	less control of updates

Bruce also presented some further considerations when deciding the CD-ROM set up:

- will the CD-ROM setup work within your existing network or system?
- are your workstations adequate (e.g. enough RAM, hard drive space, etc.)
- who will be responsible for the updates?
- some considerations for when you have to upgrade are:

- can you use some of the resources you already have? i.e. can you use some of the memory chips, peripherals, etc.
- which processing environment are you going to use? (DOS/Mac/Windows)
- what are your goals for the network and your firm? i.e. how many users, remote access, LAN or WAN, laptops, etc.
- is the network flexible?
- is the hardware expandable?

In the second part of this presentation, Cheri described the "McCarthy Story" in CD-ROM set up and their objectives for networking CD-ROM's:

- optimum performance i.e. no delays
- reasonable cost
- multiple access
- utilize existing desktop PC's and peripherals
- minimal stress on the network
- allowance for future growth
- flexibility

Cheri also described the differences of CD tower packages and how the choice to go with CDVision, the system that McCarthy Tetrault chose to network their CD-ROM's, came about.

Bruce and Cheri presented a very useful and informative session on the hardware aspects of CD-ROM technology.

Publishers' Presentation   Evelyn Taylor

Canada Law Book, CCH Canadian, Western Legal Publications and Carswell each had 30 minutes in which to present one of their products on CD-ROM, using FOLIO Views Software. The following table summarizes the presentation.

Please see Publishers' Table on Page 7 of this edition.

CD-ROM products are an exciting innovation in the information world. They will increase the speed, and hopefully the accuracy with which legal research is accomplished. The transitional period between the use of paper and CD-ROM products will vary with each library largely driven by the needs, expectations and comfort levels of library clientele. The presentations by the four publishing houses provided *VALL* members with valuable information which will assist in collection development and maintenance to come.

VALL REVIEW

PUBLISHER	Canada Law Book	CCH Canadian	Western Legal Publications	Carswell
PRESENTED by	Kelly Morefield	Bruce Mowat	Nancy Nesbitt	Shane Andrews
CD-ROM PRODUCT	Dominion Law Reports, 4th Series	Electronic Tax Library	British Columbia Decisions, Civil Cases	Bankruptcy Partner
SCOPE	Approximately eight months after original purchase, the information on disks will be inaccessible. This will ensure subscriptions are kept up-to-date. Full-text of Volumes 1-125, 1984 to the present available now. To follow: DLR (3rd) in 1997, DLR New Series in 1997 and DLR Old Series in 1998.	Approximately 60 days after installation, information on CDs will self-destruct, EXCEPT the disk issued in January of each year. All information from the previous year will be contained on this disk. Includes the Dominion Tax Cases, Canadian Master Tax Guide, Windows on Canadian Tax, GST Reporter and Provincial tax reporters.	CDs will have a timed self-destruct feature as information is considered only to be leased for a specific time. Comprehensive access to available decisions of the B.C. Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. Plus all Supreme Court of Canada decisions emanating from B.C. courts, and selected B.C. Provincial Court decisions. When launched, in June 1996, cases will date back to 1979, and will contain cases to December 1995.	Subscribers pay an annual access to information fee. CDs are date-stamped (aka time-stamped). Information on disk(s) remains good for approximately 120 days. Consists of Act, Regulations, case law, policy statements, forms, and full-text of all bankruptcy cases reported in all Canadian Bankruptcy Reports series, and commentary by Houlden & Morawetz.
SEARCHING	Possible to search either full-text or catchlines only. Search by subject keyword, citation, case name, judge, jurisdiction, court level or date.	Query templates allow access either by: case name, words or phrases, court, judge, council, date or specific section of the Income Tax Act. Hypertext links to: commentary, GST Memorandum, & Information Circulars. New icons added, such as Scales of Justice, a note-up feature.	Possible to search by: subject, case name, cite, judge, counsel, date, gender, age, quantum, subheadings and additional search terms.	Keyword searching & hypertext links between infobases possible. Search by name, court, judge, headnote and more.
UPDATED	Quarterly Print product is updated weekly.	Monthly	Quarterly	Quarterly
PRICING & LICENSING	DLR on CD-ROM is for licensed use only. CD-ROM + full service subscription: *$400/annum + paper *$100/quarter + paper *$36.50/volume + paper CD-ROM + weekly paper parts: *$1,250/annum *$312.50/quarter *$115/volume CD-ROM only: *$1,150/annum *$287.50/quarter Access nodes, up to 15= $18 each/year 16 or more access nodes= $5.00 each/year	Licensing and pricing based on user-professionals at a particular site. New subscriptions: Basic library = $2,465. Full library = $5,700. Renewal subscription: Basic library = $2,219. Full library = $5,378.	CDs may be loaded on a single workstation. LAN access nodes available. WAN and MAN connections may be arranged individually. Paper updates & quarterly CD on standalone station=$675.00 Paper only=$525.00 CD only=$475.00 First 1-15 access nodes=$18 each Over 15 access nodes =$5 each	$2,400. annually per site. This fee covers 1-3 lawyers. For more than 4 lawyers the fee increases to $150/lawyer, to a maximum of 50 lawyers.

Librarians and CDs   *Judy Deavy*

The final session of the day was a panel of librarians speaking on their experience with CDs. The panelists were Susan Crysler (McCarthy Tetrault), Anna Holeton (Campney & Murphy) and Joan Bilsland (Russell & Dumoulin).

Susan Crysler began by telling us that McCarthy Tetrault has had a network operating in DOS since 1993. All lawyers and students have access to QL, WESTLAW and their firm's opinion library at their desktop. The firm nationally uses a software program called Cardbox to provide access to their opinions which can be searched and retrieved regardless of the location of the writer. At the present time, they have a number of CDs, running in both DOS and Windows environments. Some are on the network and others are on a standalone computer in the library. Some of these will change when the firm converts fully to a Windows environment by the end of 1996. The lawyers have expectations of easy access to these research tools and that they be user-friendly.

As with any new tool, there is a learning period and frustration is experienced. The library staff have the following concerns regarding CDs:

- It is difficult to preview the contents of a CD.

- The need to train end-users and to make sure that they understand this research tool merely adds another dimension to their research resources.

- The cost concerns of CDs - licensing questions, print v. CD costs; capacity for charging back use of CD research time to clients.

Anna Holeton addressed the issue of training users on Windows-based CDs on a standalone PC in the library and raised the following questions:

- Who trains the users? In her case, the company representative trains the librarian who then trains the end-users.

- Where do you do the training? In-house or off-site? In the library or in a boardroom?

- What equipment will you need and do you have to rent and test the equipment?

- How many sessions will it take? What is the size of the group at each session?

- What method will you use to train users and will there be time for "hands-on" time for the user?

- How detailed will each training session be? Do you merely familiarize users with the general search theory or do you explain detailed search techniques such as Boolean operators?

- Will you explain to users how to work with the search software? i.e. customizing the toolbelts to help with the search & printing search results once they are found.

In conclusion, Anna stressed the importance of having detailed handouts/instructions that users could take away and consult later.

Joan Bilsland spoke about the problems associated with selecting and evaluating CD products. She suggested the following sources for discovering new CD products: information received directly from the publishers, the Internet, information from colleagues, reviews in subject-related journals - both print and on-line. Joan mentioned the problem of trying to obtain samples of these products. She suggested that it was a good idea to have some of the users as well as library staff and/or committee look at either the demo disk of the product, or if unavailable, the equivalent print product on approval before ordering the electronic version.

When evaluating any CD product, Joan recommended addressing the following concerns:

Ease of use.

- How is the screen help set up?

- Are the instructions clean and logical?

- How useful are the manuals accompanying the CD and what type of hot-line support is there?

- How easy is it to train people to use the product?

What are the contents of the CD?

- How current is the information and how frequently is it updated?

- Is all the information contained in one database of is it in separate databases? Is one able to open all the databases at once?

- How long does a publisher take to add on additional features promised with the initial CD product?

- Are the contents worth the initial purchase cost of the electronic format?

In considering the costs of CDs, Joan suggested evaluating:

- Paper v. electronic comparison

Librarians and CDs, continued...

- Installation time of the CDs taken by either by library staff or MIS staff.

In conclusion, Joan said that the proliferation of legal research tools available in CD format is the impetus many firms have used to upgrade their hardware. Such proliferation also provides a strong visual endorsement for computerized legal research.

INTERNET CORNER

At the May VALL luncheon, Drew Jackson, author of *The Internet Handbook for Canadian Lawyers*, presented us with a plethora of useful Internet sites. These sites include indexes to legal information, directory listings, government legislation and case law. They can be accessed conveniently through his homepage at:

http://mindlink.net/drew_jackson/mdj.html

The full-texts of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols can be found under the International Humanitarian Law section of the International Committee of the Red Cross's web site. Check it out at:

http://www.icrc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Conferences

AALL — Annual Meeting "Delivering the Message", Indianapolis, Indiana, July 20-25, 1996

NorthEastern Regional Conference - "Libraries Without Borders: Legal Information Partnerships in the 21st Century". Hosted by the Toronto Association of Law Libraries, Toronto, Ont., October 17-20, 1996

WESTPAC 1996
Joint meeting of the Western chapter of the AALL and Vancouver Association of Law Libraries (VALL), Vancouver, B.C., October 17-19, 1996

ALA — Annual Conference New York, New York, July 6-10, 1996

BIALL — Annual Study Conference Jordanstown, Northern Ireland, September 6-9, 1996

SLA — Annual Conference Boston, Massachussetts, June 8-13, 1996,

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

New Faces:

Tanner Elton, Specialized Communications Inc.
David Gill, Carswell
Edna Kalfon, Thorsteinssons
Marlon Morgan, Lawson Lundell
Stewart Reid, Carswell
John Whyte, Carswell

Correction: Wendy Ng joined Ladner Downs in mid-April, not Wendy Eng as reported in the last *VALL Review*.

CALL FOR VALL REVIEW SUBMISSIONS

Contributions to *VALL REVIEW* are encouraged and greatly appreciated. Please note the following copy submission deadline:

August 22, 1996 for the September issue