

International Journal of Legal Information

the Official Journal of the International Association of Law Libraries

Volume 34
Issue 3 *Winter 2006*

Article 3

8-6-2009

Editorial Comment

Mark D. Engsberg

Lillian Goldman Law Library, Yale University School of Law

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Recommended Citation

Engsberg, Mark D. (2006) "Editorial Comment," *International Journal of Legal Information*: Vol. 34: Iss. 3, Article 3.
Available at: <http://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/ijli/vol34/iss3/3>

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

As I write this it is nearly spring 2007, although it is a cold and snowy day here in New Haven, Connecticut. Perhaps the weather makes the final preparations for the *Winter 2006* issue of the International Journal of Legal Information more appropriate than the actual date. Such are the vagaries of publication, where manuscripts are written in the spring or summer, edited in the autumn, and eventually published the following year in the late winter or early spring. Despite the time-saving that comes with computers, the process of producing an issue of the Journal from start to finish is still a lengthy one. Perhaps one day someone will figure out a way to compress the process!

The articles in this issue were not chosen according to any particular thematic plan, although the issue is certainly full of excellent articles. Having disavowed an *intentional* thematic arrangement in the articles in this issue of the IJLI, I did notice while editing the articles that a sort of mini theme emerged – at least among the first four pieces. They all deal with some aspect of the world of digital information.

The issue begins with a piece by **Heidi Frostestad Kuehl** on GlobaLex. Many of you are already familiar with this excellent resource. Did you know, though, that GlobaLex is now two years old? Kuehl's article is a well-timed anniversary tribute to this wonderful electronic resource. I also extend congratulations to the editor of GlobaLex – who is also a friend and colleague – **Mirela Roznovschi**, Foreign and International Law Reference Librarian at New York University School of Law. Thanks for GlobaLex, and keep up the good work, Mirela!

Following Kuehl's article is an important and fascinating piece by Professor **Peter B. Maggs** of the University of Illinois College of Law. Professor Maggs has written about free legal advice on the Internet. His research focuses on online discussion forums from around the globe. His work is a rare example of well-written research that emphasizes qualitative research on a subject that all too often tends to produce an overabundance of qualitative research. His article makes for an interesting and enlightening read.

The third article in this mini thematic cluster is by **Nicholas Pengelley**, Chief Law Librarian of Osgoode Hall Law School Library, York University, Ontario, Canada. Mr. Pengelley is a familiar name to many of us in the profession of law librarianship. He has produced a thought piece that

urges law librarians to step – indeed *leap* – boldly into the future of digitized legal materials. Read his article and you will see: Mr. Pengelley has written a truly thought-provoking article on the collections, purposes, staffing, and even the look of law libraries of the near future.

The fourth and final article in this grouping is by **Harvinder Kaur**. Ms. Kaur was a recipient of an IALL scholarship to attend the 2005 IALL Annual Course, which was held near Florence, Italy. You may recognize her name from her published report in the previous issue of the IJLI. In her article that appears in this issue, Ms. Kaur provides a useful guide to Malaysian legal information available on the World Wide Web.

The remaining three articles do not form any sort of thematic grouping, but they all offer interesting and informative reading. In fact, the next article presents an ironic counterpoint to the preceding four articles that focus on the world of electronic information. **John Trone**, a postdoctoral research fellow at the T.C. Beirne School of Law at the University of Queensland, Australia, has examined good, old-fashioned, tried-and-true *print* sources for constitutions. He analyzes every major (and several not-so-major) print resource for historical constitutions. This will be an excellent guide for those reviewing their library's collection of print resources of historical constitutions, regardless whether you are weeding or adding to your collection.

The next article in this issue of the IJLI was prepared by **Michael J. Greenlee**, Head of Public Services and Reference Librarian at the University of Idaho College of Law. It is an exhaustive bibliography of materials on a hot topic: the Falun Gong and the crackdown on its members by the government of the People's Republic of China. Mr. Greenlee's bibliography will be an invaluable resource for those doing research on this timely and important topic.

We conclude this issue of the IJLI with a brief piece by **Duncan Alford**. Mr. Alford has written a description of the Law Library at the Chinese University of Hong Kong where he spent several weeks in 2006 doing research. As editor of the IJLI, I particularly welcome these additions as a contrast to the more weighty articles and book reviews that appear in the IJLI. It is often difficult or impossible for many of us to visit law schools or law libraries in other places around the world. Hearing them described in the pages of the IJLI helps bring the world a little bit closer. Have you been abroad and visited another law school or law library? Write about your

experience and send it to me. I would love to have more of these brief descriptive pieces to share with the readers of the IJLI!

*Mark Engsberg, Editor
International Journal of Legal Information
Yale Law Library
Yale Law School*