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President's Report

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is my third report to the membership as President of the International Association of Law Libraries, covering the period September 2006 to November 2007. The report covers a slightly longer period than usual because our conference in Mumbai takes place at the start of December rather than in the usual month of September.

The process of constituting a new Board for 2007-10, which takes up its duties at the end of this meeting, was conducted during this year. Towards the end of 2006, I appointed a Nominations Committee to draw up a list of candidates to stand for election for the new Board. The Committee did its job so well that no one else was nominated when the list was publicised and further nominations invited. I would like to thank the Nominations Committee for their vital work. It is a demanding task to be tactful, encouraging and persuasive while working under a tight deadline, and also to provide recommendations for a balanced team drawn from many countries. We owe our gratitude to Lisbeth Rasmussen, Chair of the Committee, Blair Kauffman, and Holger Knudsen for their work for the future of the Association.

Officers of the new Board are as follows:

1. President: **Jules Winterton** of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, England;
2. Secretary: **Jennefer Aston** of the Bar Council of Ireland;
3. Treasurer: **Ann Morrison** of Dalhousie Law School, Canada;
4. First Vice President: **Dick Danner** of Duke Law School, USA;
5. Second Vice-President: **Halvor Kongshavn** of Bergen University, Norway.

Board members:

- **Amanda Barratt** of the University of Cape Town, South Africa;
- **Ruth Bird** of the Bodleian Law Library, England;
- **Barbara Garavaglia** of the University of Michigan Law School, USA;
- **Ligita Gjortlere** of Riga Graduate School of Law, Latvia;
- **Petal Kinder** of the High Court of Australia;
- **Xinh Luu** of the University of Virginia Law School, USA;
- **Uma Narayan** of Nishith Desai Associates, India;
- **Anita Soboleva** of JURIX (Jurists for Constitutional Rights and Freedoms), Russia;
- **Mark Engsborg** of Yale Law School, USA (*ex officio*).

Among these Board members there are six joining the Board for the first time: Ruth Bird, Barbara Garavaglia, Ligita Gjortlere, Xinh Luu, Uma Narayan and Anita Soboleva.)

Regretfully, there are several people leaving the Board. Holger Knudsen steps down from the post of Immediate Past President after an exceptional period of service to the Association and I will personally continue to call upon his advice. I would also like to thank him for kindly taking charge of the Scholarships Committee at short notice this year. Gloria Chao has looked after our finances as Treasurer over a long period of financial stability and extended the transparency of the accounts. Jarka Looks, Second Vice-President and Chair of the Scholarships Committee, resigned from the Board because of a career change. I would also like to thank James Butler, Chair of the Website Awards Committee, Giina Kaskla, Bettina Picone-Maxion and Silke Sahl for their service on the Board and their support.

The Board of Directors met on 9th September 2006 before the annual conference in St Petersburg and again on 16th September 2006 during the optional program in Moscow. Individual members of the Board met on a number of occasions during the year and kept in contact throughout the year to discuss issues concerning the Association.

The Association's 25th Annual Course on International Law Librarianship on 'The New Russia: Law and Legal Information' was held at the Faculty of Law of St Petersburg State University in September 2006 and an optional additional program took place in Moscow, including particularly at the M I Rudomino All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature. The quality of the program for our course was outstanding in both its educational and social aspects and gave us access to unique expertise and to outstanding examples of Russia's cultural heritage. The Annual Course attracted almost 100 people from over 25 countries and the Association received very complimentary comments from many delegates about the program, the locations, and the superb organization. The main venue at the Faculty of Laws was a hall combining old world magnificence with the most modern technology. The potential obstacles of language were minimized by excellent simultaneous translation facilities and by the impressive linguistic abilities of some of the speakers.

Among the participants at the 25th Annual Course, we were glad to welcome the recipients of Association Scholarships. There were again three

recipients: Sami Cukadar of the Istanbul Bilgi University Law Library, Lilia Echiverri of the University of the Philippines Law Library, and Mirela Rozajac of the Law Faculty Library of the University of Sarajevo.

The Course was a complex logistical exercise over a considerable period with potential difficulties of language and travel in and between two cities. It was handled with great attention to detail and personal charm by all those involved. The Association would like to repeat its thanks to the institutions, to the Russian Association of Law Libraries, and to the Local Organizing Committee: Valery Grigoriev, Mikhail Krotov, Tatiana Yakovleva, Anita Soboleva, Alexander Lapidus, and the Board Liaison Halvor Kongshavn for their time and dedication in this achievement. The meeting of the International Association of Law Libraries in Russia proved both an enjoyable and important experience.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Tuesday 12th September 2006 and included reports on the work of the Association, its Officers and Committees. The accounts of the Association for 2005 were approved and the independent auditor reappointed. The meeting also adopted the final version of the paper on strategic priorities and associated action plan, revised after extensive consultation.

The launch of the IALL's newly re-designed website at <http://www.iall.org/> in Spring 2007 was greeted with acclaim by the Board and I expect members will echo those reactions. Petal Kinder, Board member and Chair of the Advisory Committee on Communications, and the members of her committee carried out a survey of member opinions on the former site and then successfully carried through this major improvement. The new website was designed by Sasha Skenderija, under the direction of Claire Germain, IALL Web Director. The new site provides a clearer structure, simplified navigation, and improved search functions and is generally much more attractive.

During the year, the Association negotiated a contract with Ashgate Publishing for the publication of an *IALL Handbook of International Legal Information Management* to be compiled over the next two years and edited by officers of the Association. This will be a substantial volume and will provide law librarians around the world with a comprehensive and authoritative state-of-the-art review of the current issues in legal information management with a global perspective. The published volume will be available at a discount to members of the Association.

The Association has established a new scholarship in addition to the three professional development bursaries designed to assist law librarians to attend the Annual Course. The new grant will provide financial assistance of up to US\$3,000 each year for a law librarian to undertake an internship or placement or extended visit to a law library outside their own country.

It is part of the role of the Association to collaborate with national and regional law library associations and, where possible, to assist in the formation of new associations. Among several potential developments noted last year and pursued this year, I can report and celebrate the formation of the Law Librarians Group of Malaysia. I represented the Association at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in July 2007 at the kind invitation of its President where I spoke briefly at the business meeting and hosted a reception sponsored by Thomson Legal and Regulatory and organized by Mark Engsborg on behalf of the Association. I also gave papers at meetings of the Organisation of South African Law Librarians in October 2006 and September 2007. Holger Knudsen, Immediate Past President, represented the Association and was Keynote Speaker at the meeting of the Philippine Group of Law Librarians (PGLL) in October 2007. Former IALL scholarship holders played leading roles in these collaborations, including Harvinder Kaur, Chairperson of the Law Librarians Group of Malaysia, and Lilia Echiverri, officer of the Philippine Group of Law Librarians.

The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) formed a Section of Law Libraries last year following representations by IALL and the American Association of Law Libraries. The first Chair of the Section is our Immediate Past President, Holger Knudsen. Following the tradition of many years, there was a law session at the IFLA World Congress in Durban in August 2007. Amanda Barratt, IALL Board member from the University of Cape Town, organized and chaired a panel session on "Open Access Law, Free Legal Information, Democracy, and Human Rights," to which Vice-President Dick Danner, among others, contributed. The Association looks forward to working closely with the new Section as it contributes to the programs of the World Congress (which next takes place in Quebec 10-15 August 2008) and contributes to the important policy-making and lobbying activities of IFLA on behalf of associations such as our own.

The archives of the Association have been supplemented in the past year by donations by the University of Chicago from the papers of the late Adolf Sprudz, former President of the Association, from Holger Knudsen,

and also from Harald Mueller of the Max Planck Institute in Heidelberg. As I mentioned last year, although the archives of the Association are now in an institutional home, there are many gaps in the papers. I would again urge anyone with records of the Association to contact me with a view to depositing them so that we can build a full record of the Association's history.

As I write, our 26th Annual Course on International Law Librarianship at the National Center for the Performing Arts in Mumbai from 1st to 5th December 2007 is imminent under the careful guidance of the Local Organizer, Uma Narayan. I visited the venue in February 2007 and I am confident this will prove to be another memorable event and provide a valuable experience for all participants, illuminating both the legal system and the culture of an emerging global power and its own experience of rapid transition from traditional to ultra-modern. I am looking forward to meeting many of you at our 26th Annual Course. I have no doubt it will be a highlight of the next report.

I finish this report by looking even further forward. I am delighted to announce that, following a visit by the Board Liaison Silke Sahl last month, the venue for the Association's 27th Annual Course in International Law Librarianship in 2008 has been chosen. Maria Otero de Leon, former IALL scholarship holder and Director of the University of Puerto Rico Law School Library, together with her colleagues on a Local Organizing Committee will host the 2008 conference in Puerto Rico. The preliminary dates are 30th November to 3rd December in San Juan with an optional additional day in Ponce on 4th December. This exciting opportunity will enable us to explore and learn about the multiple legal systems in Puerto Rico and the wider Caribbean. I look forward to seeing you there.

Jules Winterton