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## Editorial Comment

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

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A casual glance tells one that this is a very full issue of the International Journal of Legal Information (IJLI). It is packed with helpful and interesting reading. The articles cover a wide range of subjects; so much so, that the entire issue cannot easily be described in thematic terms. Even so, I predict that the material in issue 35.3 will be of great interest to the IJLI's diverse readership,

We lead off this issue with **Dick Danner**'s important article about an crucial topic – open access to legal information. Danner has made open access the focus of his recent scholarship. He is a recognized authority on the topic and has spoken and written extensively on the subject. Danner's article in this issue of the IJLI is his most recent and perhaps most forceful and persuasive argument in favor of increasing open access to scholarly information.

Following the Danner article is a truly fascinating study of pedagogy related to non-native English speaking graduate students in US law schools: *Lost in Translation in the Law School Classroom: Assessing Required Coursework in LL.M. Programs for International Students*, by **Julie Spanbauer**. For those of us who have been such a student or have taught such students, this article is a real eye-opener. Her work aims to open a discussion about the impact of language and culture on legal writing while at the same time helping to create better legal writing pedagogy and better legal writing teachers.

Next, **Wei Luo** provides IJLI readers with a much-needed resource for an emerging area in legal studies. His *Research Guide to Export Control and WMD Non-proliferation Law* fills a notable gap in the literature and will provide a crucial overview and starting point for research by the increasing number of scholars working in this area.

Our FCIL colleague, **Teresa Miguel**, takes a look at the unexpected (and unexpectedly *long*) history of a basic library service many of us may believe is entirely modern: interlibrary loan. She places ILL in a historical context in her article, *Exchanging Books in Western Europe: A Brief*

*History of International Interlibrary Loan*, Miguel uncovers European antecedents of ILL services that reach back hundreds of years.

The issue concludes with two bibliographies: *A Bibliography of Islamic Family Law in Malaysia* by **Raihana Abdullah**, and *Mandarin Chinese: An Annotated Bibliography of Self-Study Materials* by **Duncan Alford**. Professor Abdullah's bibliography contains an introduction that provides an historical overview of Islamic family law in Malaysia, placing the subject in its socio-political and historical context. The bibliography will be particularly useful for researchers working in this specific area of Islamic law.

Alford's bibliography moves us north from the Malay archipelago to China. Many librarians – particularly those with expertise in or responsibilities for foreign, comparative and international law reference and/or collection development – are finding it more and more necessary to learn a new language or improve upon an existing language skill to supplement their array of other professional abilities. Alford provides a unique and helpful bibliography – a guide, really – for those attempting the formidable task of learning Mandarin Chinese on a do it yourself basis. His bibliography is notable for being the result not so much from bibliographic research, but from his own experience in using the materials to help teach himself Mandarin Chinese.

We round out the issue with our usual section of *Book Reviews*, edited by **Thomas Mills**, and the perennial favorite, the *International Calendar*, compiled and edited by **Lyonette Louis-Jacques**. Happy reading!

*Mark Engsberg, Editor*  
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