

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The close of the third issue of volume 30 of the *IJLI* has its special significance: it is also the cut-off date for the pending *Cumulative Index*, the first such in the *Journal's* history. *IALL Communications Director Richard Danner* is putting the finishing touches on the project, which, thanks to the generosity of **West Group**, will be distributed free of charge to members sometime in 2003. Over the years, the *Journal* has differed not only in format, but also in focus, reflecting different times and different interests of the editors. Dick has heroically accepted the challenge to create a uniform whole with multiple access to topics and persons who have formed the issues and leadership within the profession of foreign, comparative and international law librarianship. In addition, he is also including historical material relating to names of officers of the Board of Directors as well as the titles and places of the *IALL Annual Courses in International Law Librarianship*.

The present issue holds within its covers bibliographies and articles on topics which illustrate the richness and varied interests of all of us working in the field:

Palitha Kohona, *Chief of the U.N. Treaty Section*, brings us up-to-date on the status of the *United Nations* treaty collection on the Internet. You may recall the author's 1996 paper published in these pages, "Disseminating the United Nations Treaty Collection on the Internet" (v. 24, no. 2 *IJLI* p. 137). Since then, important developments have taken place, both with regard to eliminating the historical backlog in the publication of the *UNTS* and the other publications of the *Treaty Section* and in placing a range of additional treaty-related information on the Internet. His paper describes the material now available on the Net and the myriad problems encountered in the process of making them available online.

IALL member and lawyer/librarian **Bobbi Ann Weaver** introduces us to a topic which is gaining growing attention worldwide, that of animal rights. Her annotated bibliography is an expanded version of a pathfinder developed to guide her students at *California Western School of Law* in San Diego, California, which is one of the handful of academic institutions in the United States teaching this subject.

At this writing, a *European Association of Law Librarians* is being formed. Outside of the United States, the British Isles and a couple of other European countries, law librarianship has not yet quite been acknowledged as a separate profession. It is therefore of special interest to become aware of the situation of colleagues in other countries and on other continents, Africa being one of them. **Yemisi Dina**, currently the *Law Librarian* of the *College of the Bahamas Law Library* in Nassau, has actively sought opportunities to expand her professional horizons by attending as well as lecturing at international law library conferences. In 1999 she received the *Bart Nwafor Fellowship* from the *IFLA African Section*, which made it possible for her to visit law libraries in South Africa. In this article, she compares the law collections and the operation of academic law libraries in South Africa with those of her native Nigeria.

Last fall, the *Swiss Institute of Comparative Law* hosted not only the *IALL 20th Course*, but also a two-day *Colloquium on the Evolution of European Integration* in cooperation with the *Jean Monnet Foundation*. The high level conference concluded with a ceremony awarding the *Monnet Foundation's* Gold Medal to two eminent European statesmen, former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. **Inger Eriksson Haider**, *Head of EDC* at the *Swiss Institute* and initiator of the *Colloquium*, gives us a report with highlights of the proceedings.

Russian-born **Maria Kiriakova**, *Assistant Professor and Reference Librarian* at the *John Jay College of Law* in New York, has prepared a comprehensive bibliographic survey with extensive annotations on capital punishment in the Russian Federation from 1917 to 2000. The literature review focuses on developments during the 20th century, but the author has also included a useful chronology which goes as far back as the 10th century. Russia's membership in the *Council of Europe* played a crucial role for the abolishment of the death penalty. In 1992 President Yeltsin established a *Presidential Clemency Commission*, the purpose of which was to review appeals of prisoners and death row inmates seeking pardons. The *Commission* played such an important role in forming the political climate in Russia in the 1990s that when it was closed by President Putin in 2001, it caused a great outcry in the media and among concerned citizens.

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