

***The Computerized Legal  
Research Conference - a  
Participant's Viewpoint***

*University of New South Wales Law School  
17 and 18 February 1994*

When the conference brochure arrived, I thought that it was rather expensive at a time of tight budgets, also I was already using most of the databases so would I learn anything? In the end I went because I hadn't yet experienced the Parliamentary, the Queensland and the Brooker (NZ) databases, all of which had potential for Law Courts Library. I also thought I could gain some assistance from the presentation style of the papers and the laboratory sessions in training our users through the labyrinth of computerized legal information. Maybe I could find the answer for wistful users to their question "Why can't I put in the one query and 'the system' goes off and searches on everything for me?"

I didn't get the answer to the information universe but I had the most stimulating time at a conference which seemed like three days compressed into two. Over one hundred participants were colour coded into computer laboratory groups of 25 with the proviso that one could use empty seats, vacating them if the correct colour arrived. At the same time, the full lecture programme was proceeding in the Moot Room, and sometimes an individual vendor session was being held nearby, as well as informal discussions in the two areas of staffed vendor displays.

There was a good attendance at a repeat 8am session by Irene Nemes on LawPac CD-ROM. It was exhausting choosing and keeping on schedule but there was a

stimulating buzz about the whole two days, fuelled by excellent lunches in the new pavilion which had appeared on the Library lawn, fresh baked cakes during the tea breaks served at the larger vendor display in the faculty lounge, and an optional seafood dinner at the Hotel Nikko at Potts Point.

I kept learning useful tricks about databases that were old friends. Maybe some were in the manuals but some manuals are not as user-friendly as others. On the subject of user-friendly, we were fortunate to have the top hierarchy of the vendors there. *ALMD* and *Current Law* heard of the difficulties of searching for related terms across a whole issue. They explained that changes are coming. Irritation was voiced by those who had been encouraged by the vendors to buy *ISYS* as the search software and were now told that they would have better results if they had purchased the more expensive *Inmagic*. There was considerable praise for *Pink Ribbon* for restructuring their *Citator* in the electronic *Case Base* version to take advantage of the searching capabilities of that medium.

Perhaps *Diskrom* also picked up that it is very easy for highly intelligent but irregular users of their product to page down themselves into an irrelevant case and then to become lost and irritated.

I found the *Brooker* demonstration interesting. It uses *Recall* and although in this presentation it didn't have any of the crisp laser style print of the Australian products, the operator seemed to be able to click onto a case in the text and pull it up without the visible selected highlighting of *Graham Greenleaf's* hypertext prototype. The latter was one of the variety of databases available on the menu in the computer laboratory.

Graham Greenleaf contributed a tremendous amount to the intellectual input of the conference and his book of Background Materials and his update were alone worth the attendance. Sydney University was well represented by the papers of Margaret McAleese and Sarah Bishop which demonstrated so much practical experience.

Congratulations to the organizer, Cheryl White, and the team of speakers who shared so much with us. I hope to see you at the next one!

**JOSIE TAYLOR**

Law Courts Library, Sydney

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### ***NSW Petty Sessions Review - NSW Courts Review***

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Butterworths have available a limited supply of back issues (unbound) of *NSW Petty Sessions Review* from v 1 (1967/70) for \$70 per volume. *Direct Link* is a newsletter published by Butterworths which incorporates *NSW Courts Review*, the successor to *NSW Petty Sessions Review*.

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### ***Law Firm Letterheads***

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The (1994) 32(2) *Law Society Journal* 68-69 contained an item about the NSW Law Society *Guidelines for Letterheads and Firms' Names*. In particular: "The most radical change, however, has probably been the decision to allow the names of unqualified people (non-practitioners) on the letterhead". This raises the possibility of librarians having their names on the firm's letterhead. I wonder who will be first?

**COLIN FONG**

Allen Allen & Hemsley

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## ***Parliamentary Library, Canberra - Use of External Databases***

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Replying to a question posed in Estimates Committee F (Senate Hansard 24 February 1994 p F13) concerning how the Library would improve its services with additional funding, the Convenor, Library Implementation Group, Mr Templeton, explained how the use of external databases is increasing:

"Increasingly, the Parliamentary Library uses information technology in a very wide range of ways. The area of great growth is in access to external databases. One that comes to mind which is used very heavily is the Australian Securities Commission's ASCOT database. We use international databases very heavily. We are now connected to Internet. We are connected to AARNet. What these connections give us is the capacity to very speedily get information for senators and members which, before extensive computerisation, might have taken us weeks to get and which in some cases we may not have been aware of. Where professional journals had not been received and catalogued, we may not even have been aware of issues or articles that were of interest. It will essentially add to the speed and range of information services which the Library can provide to support senators and members."

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***International (Commercial)  
Arbitration and Law Libraries :  
a View from The Hague***

**13TH IALL COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL  
LAW LIBRARIANSHIP, SEPTEMBER 26-29,  
1994, THE HAGUE**

The International Association of Law Libraries course will deal with the problems facing librarians, documentalists, legal information officers and others regularly dealing with sources of international arbitration and international commercial arbitration. It will be held in the building of the Hague Academy of International Law and is organized with the support of the Carnegie Foundation, the Peace Palace Library and the I M C Asser Institute.

The speakers invited will cover prominent arbitration institutions such as the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Iran-US Claims Tribunal, the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, the International Council for Commercial Arbitration and others.

Visits will be made to the main law libraries in The Hague, such as the Peace Palace Library, the International Court of Justice, the Parliament, The Royal Library, The Hague

Conference of International Private Law and the I M C Asser Institute.

The course is open for IALL members (US\$200) and non-members (US\$250) with cheques accompanied by a letter of registration to be sent before 1 July 1994 to:

Marie Louise Bernal, Treasurer IALL  
PO Box 5709  
Washington DC, 20016-1309  
United States  
Fax (202) 707 1820  
Tel (202) 707 9866

***MOYS Editorial Committee***

Sarah Carter, University of Kent at Canterbury, and member of the Moys Editorial Committee has advised that she has written to BIALL to try to establish the status of the Moys Editorial Committee as a standing committee. BIALL's acceptance of this suggestion will ensure that changes to the Moys schedules by the Editorial Committee are officially sanctioned.

I hope that BIALL will respond positively. I shall let you know when I receive further information.

**JACQUELINE ELLIOTT**  
Moys Coordinator - High Court of Australia

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## Law Day in NZLIA/ALIA Wellington Conference

### NZLIA/ALIA LAWSIG Day Programme

Monday 26 September 1994

#### Theme: Information Sources

- 8 45-9 45AM Economics and the law - Dr Alan Bollard, Chairman Commerce Commission & Bob Dugan, Law Faculty Victoria University of Wellington  
Chair: Margeret Malin, Librarian, NZIER
- 9 45-10 15AM Morning Tea
- 10 15-11 15AM New Companies Regime: a North American Perspective  
CHAIR: Mark Russell, Buddle Findlay (Christchurch)
- 11 15AM-1 00PM Treaty Claims Information Navigation - Tessa Castree, Waitangi Tribunal Division Dept of Justice, Wharehuia Hemara Consultant, Glen Taitoko, Senior Reference Librarian Maori Reference Services National Library of NZ Annsly Kerr, Crown Counsel Treaty Issues Team Crown Law, Margaret Retter, Assistant Director (Access & Client Services) National Archives  
CHAIR: to be announced
- 1 00-2 00PM Lunch - Sponsored by Butterworths
- 2 00-2 40PM The "New Public Law" - Mai Chen, Russell McVeagh McKenzie Bartleet
- 2 40-3 20PM Importance of International Law For New Zealand - Sir Kenneth Keith  
CHAIR: S Buckle Librarian Chapman Tripp Sheffield Young
- 3 20-3 50PM Afternoon Tea
- 3 50-5 45PM Forum for News Services (and Copyright/ Restraint of Trade/Closed Market/Intellectual Property issues) - Mediasearch, Newztel, NZPA, Newstrack, Infofind, Factfinders, Reuters, Capital Monitor (Canberra) questions and open forum  
CHAIR: Kathryn Smith, Manager Legal Services Commerce Commission
- 5 45-6 45PM Drinks - Sponsored by Brookers
- 7 00PM approx LAWSIG Dinner - CCH contributing to costs of dinner
- Law Book Company sponsored champagne breakfast on Wednesday 28 September

Please address any questions to:

<b>Robin Anderson</b> Librarian Wellington District Law Society Library Wellington NZ Fax: (64 4) 471 2568	<b>Sharman Buckle</b> Librarian Chapman Tripp Sheffield Young Library Wellington NZ Fax: (64 4) 472 7111
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## Australian Journal of Human Rights

The Human Rights Centre, based at the University of New South Wales, is establishing a new journal called the *Australian Journal of Human Rights*. The *AJHR* will be the first academic journal of its kind in Australia to be exclusively devoted to the publication of articles, book reviews and commentary about human rights developments and issues in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

The *Journal* will adopt a multidisciplinary approach to human rights. This means it will deal not only with the legal aspects of human rights but with philosophical, historical, sociological, economic and political issues as they relate to human rights in the Asia-Pacific region.

For further information concerning subscriptions and contributions please contact:

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