



## LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE SECTION NEWS

Vol. 4, No. 1 Association of College and Research Libraries Nov. 1988

### Highlights from the Annual Conference

The program on Roadblocks to International Information drew an audience of 72 and was quite successful. At the business meetings of the section, chairs of the section committees brought the membership up to date on recent activities. The Publications Committee is working on both a section manual and a brochure to publicize LPSS and its projects. Stephen Atkins, chair of the Review and Planning Committee, reminded the section members that the section review is due September 15, 1989. This review will evaluate how well the section is meeting the goals of the ACRL strategic plan, "Drive Towards Excellence." The committee wants to place greater emphasis in its work on planning for the section. The newly formed Committee on Bibliographies, under the chairmanship of Judy Solberg, held its first meeting in New Orleans and set for itself the following tasks: to compile a list of the major publishers of indexes, to decide upon a set of criteria for evaluating the indexes and to begin reviewing indexes in the field of political science. This committee plans also to create handouts discussing online sources for graduate students in political science. Under the direction of Marta Lange, the program planning committee for the Dallas conference is working on a program about political polling.

Sandra Coleman, member-at-large,

reported on the developing relationship with the Academic Section of the American Association of Law Libraries. She compared the membership lists of the two, and found that about 100 members of LPSS are also members of AALL. Sandra has distributed the LPSS newsletter at AALL meetings and has urged law librarians to become more involved in ACRL activities. Joan Howland, the chair of the AALL education and planning committee discussed concerns that LPSS and AALL share. These are: the debate on national information policy, standards in library education for specialized branches of librarianship, and the work of the AALL's National Legal Resources Committee on the role of the Library of Congress in providing legal information to the nation. These are all topics that will be discussed further at the Midwinter meetings of LPSS. We look forward to greater cooperation with AALL. Members of LPSS who are interested in this should contact Sandra Coleman (Harvard Law Library) or Vivian Campbell, (Georgetown Law Center), members-at-large in LPSS and also active members of AALL.

Peter Allison brought to our attention a questionnaire on a core list of working papers that will be distributed to RLG Social Science bibliographers. He suggested that LPSS might want to provide some input for the list. He will bring the list to the mid-

winter meetings for members of LPSS to look at. Any members of LPSS who are interested in this project should contact either Peter Allison (New York University) or Natalie Schatz (Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy). In retrospect, it was a hectic five days in New Orleans, with a number of new projects and ideas being presented to the membership of LPSS. Just a reminder that there are always opportunities for active participation and the section officers hope to see a large turnout at the LPSS business meetings at Midwinter.

### ***Editorial Notes***

In addition to the new format of Law and Political Science Section News, there are a number of changes in the contents that will be taking place over the next year. As editor, I hope to diversify the contents and highlight activities of both LPSS and its members. Stephen Stillwell (Harvard University) has volunteered to keep track of the comings and goings of our membership. Barbara Burg is responsible for the new format, and she has taken over the Bookshelf from Judith Nixon, who did such a splendid job in establishing and organizing this important part of the newsletter. In future issues, we plan to highlight special collections in the field of political science seen very broadly. Caroline Tibbetts (University of Delaware) will be coordinating that column and any member of LPSS who wishes to write something about his/her special collection should contact Caroline. I am seeking a volunteer to write an article comparing political dictionaries for the spring newsletter. All suggestions for enriching the contents of the newsletter are heartily welcomed.

Natalie Schatz, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy

### **Midwinter Meeting Schedule January 1989**

#### **Executive Board**

Saturday, Jan. 7, 9-11 a.m.

#### **Committee on Bibliographies**

Saturday, Jan. 7, 2-4 p.m.

#### **Chicago Program Planning**

Sunday, Jan. 8, 9-11 a.m.

#### **Publications Committee**

Sunday, Jan. 8, 9-11 a.m.

#### **Review and Planning**

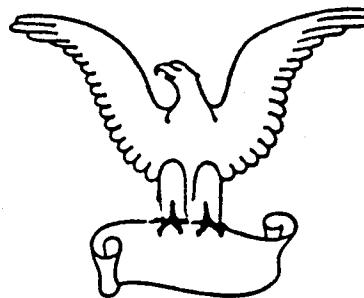
Monday, Jan. 9, 9-11 a.m.

#### **Dallas Program Planning**

Monday, Jan. 9, 9-11 a.m.

#### **LPSS Business Meeting**

Monday, Jan. 9, 2-4 p.m.



Law and Political Science Section News (ISSN 0885-7342) is published twice a year by the Law and Political Science Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association at 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Tel. 1-800-545-2433. Editor: Natalie Schatz, Edwin Ginn Library, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford MA 02155 Subscription price: \$3.00 per year. Available from ACRL. Copyright: c American Library Association, 1988

## New Orleans Program: "Information Policies of International Organizations: Roadblocks to Access?"

There were four speakers representing varying aspects of access to information of international organizations: Robert W. Schaff, Senior Specialist, U.N. and International Documents, Library of Congress; Nellie Moffitt, Managing Editor, Documents/Collections, Readex; Adeno Addis, Professor of Law, Loyola University; Michael Moynihan, Director of Information at OECD.

Mr. Moynihan opened the program with an overview and history of the OECD and its information gathering policy. He pointed out that one of the disadvantages to obtaining access to information from the OECD is the confidentiality issue of the country involved and the bibliographic control of the materials published.

Ms. Moffitt of Readex dealt with the issue of access from the publisher's viewpoint, where the publisher is concerned with the creation and selling of the product and the subsequent satisfaction of the customer. Often a product will not be produced if it is not expected to sell, even if it might be of use. The publisher examines the market, designs a product, determines the supply of the information, negotiates copyright royalties, determines bibliographic detail, etc. These and other editorial factors determine whether or not a source will be made available.

Mr. Addis spoke on the problem of access to international legal material. As a professor of law, Mr. Addis has encountered problems doing research in international law. These difficulties result from the lack of interest in international law by curriculum committees in law schools and subsequent insufficient allocation of resources to provide adequate international law collections.

There are other aspects of problems of access, such as the proliferation of inter-

national organizations in the world. Mr. Addis pointed out that there are approximately 10,000 non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations. All of these generate documents. However, without proper bibliographic control of tools, locating these materials can be a problem. The researcher has to know what is going on in a particular agency before he/she can know what to research; the researcher has to understand the structure of the organization. He stated that the best way to begin researching an international organization is to first consult a yearbook or annual report of the organization if there is one.

Mr. Schaff spoke on information policies of international organizations and how access to information brings up many issues and policy problems between nations and international organizations. Mr. Schaff pointed out that "it should be made clear that international organizations are not sovereign powers that created laws for all nations to obey. International organizations are creatures of nation states, are made up of member states and can do only what the member governments allow them to do."

Mr. Schaff noted that the amount of documentation by intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) is tremendous. The publications are often difficult to track down because of the complexity of the documentation. In addition, bibliographic control is practically unheard of, classification is illustrated by confusing symbols and there are few or no indexes available to access the documentation.

In order to overcome some of these hurdles, librarians need to know the structure of each IGO, because the documentation flows from the activities of the organization. Librarians should learn the difference between publications and documents.

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Publications have a wider distribution because they are produced as part of an organization's goal of informing an audience about its activities. Publications are normally issued in printed form. Documents, however, are produced to support the work of individual components of the organization, and therefore have more limited distribution.

Caroline Tibbets, Univ. of Delaware

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## ARTICLE 19

On the 40th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a new London-based human rights organization, ARTICLE 19, (taking its name from the nineteenth article of that document) has released a major study on the status of freedom of expression around the world.

Kevin Boyle, Irish human rights lawyer and founding director of ARTICLE 19, the International Centre on Censorship, was introduced to some 25 members of the ACRL Law and Political Science Section and the ALA's Intellectual Freedom and International Relations Committees at a breakfast meeting during the ALA convention in New Orleans this July. He stressed the importance of librarians as sources of information on censorship issues, explaining ARTICLE 19's network of volunteer correspondents around the world who report on local topics for a growing database of censorship incidents and practices. He underscored his group's mandate, spelled out in the article 19 text: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas regardless of frontiers."

In response to Professor Boyle's appeal, the IFC passed, and together with the IRC presented to ALA Council, a resolu-

tion affirming the ALA's full cooperation with ARTICLE 19, to share public information with it, receive information from it, and to encourage support in the United States for the organization and its program.

**ARTICLE 19 WORLD REPORT 1988: Information, Freedom and Censorship**, edited by Kevin Boyle, is published in the U.S. by Times Books, a Random House, Inc. Company, New York. Clothbound, ISBN 0-8129-1801-0, \$22.50; and in the U.K. by Longman, London. Paperback, £14.95. The book may be ordered directly from ARTICLE 19 International Centre on Censorship, 90 Borough High Street, London SE1 1LL, tel. 01-403-4822. (U.S. funds accepted; please add \$4.00 for surface shipping.) To become a supporter of ARTICLE 19 or to inquire about becoming an ARTICLE 19 correspondent, please write to the same address.

Randall Warner, Random House

## **LOOSELEAF SERVICES**

Looseleaf services, which are really self-contained legal sources on a subject or area of law, are excellent auxiliary or alternative sources of legal information in an academic library. Information contained in most looseleaf services includes relevant statutory law, federal regulations, judicial and administrative decisions, and state law and regulations. In some cases, publication of decisions is included only in a looseleaf service. An example of this is the CCH BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS DECISIONS, which contains the full texts of Armed Services and other Boards of Contract Appeals decisions.

### **Criteria for Selection**

The following are some of the factors to be taken into consideration when selecting from the many, often competing, services available:

#### **Inclusion of material not otherwise present in the collection.**

For instance, if a library does not contain codes and administrative regulations for the individual states, the inclusion of this material in a looseleaf service is very valuable. The "All States" volume of CCH FOOD, DRUG, COSMETIC LAW REPORTER is an example of this. Other supplementary material not covered elsewhere might be coverage of proposed legislation and news coverage of the field.

#### **Editorial notes and commentary.**

Looseleaf services pride themselves on the quality of their staffs, usually including highly qualified lawyers, who prepare the editorial commentary.

#### **Rapid delivery of new material.**

Because of the frequency of their updating, looseleaf services are often the earliest source, short of online computer

information, to locate statutes, case law, and other decisions. The BNA UNITED STATES LAW WEEK is heavily used in libraries for current Supreme Court decisions and interpretation. The entire 1986 revision of the tax code was available from the major tax services within days of the final passage.

#### **Relevance of the topic to the academic curriculum of the Institution.**

Faculty may expect students to learn the use of particular systems for their coursework and future employment needs. For example, in large business colleges, familiarity with both Commerce Clearing House and Prentice Hall tax services might be expected.

#### **Availability of auxiliary services.**

The availability of telephone service, replacement pages or volumes, and the ability and willingness to supply full text of documents not included in the published version, are services worth inquiring about.

#### **Reference value.**

Transfer binders or permanent bound volumes are a feature of many services. These should be retained as a source for tracing the evolution of the law and its ongoing changes.

Some titles are especially useful for reference because they pull together material that is widely scattered or hard to access. One example of this is Matthew Bender's IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY LAW (Desk edition) which pulls together visa requirements, forms, and other material frequently requested by foreign students. Another example is CCH CONGRESSIONAL INDEX, which gives in one location an index to current bills, their status and legislative history within the current Congress, and voting records on

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each bill, as well as bill sponsors. The older volumes of this index should be retained to trace the outcome of older bills.

A list of looseleaf services from 20 major publishers appears both in Appendix D of Cohen, Morris L., *LEGAL RESEARCH IN A NUTSHELL*, Fourth edition, West, 1985, and Cohen, *HOW TO FIND THE LAW*, Eighth edition, West, 1983, pp. 420-430. Additional bibliographic aids are also given in these references.

#### **Indexing and use for Research**

Most looseleaf services use paragraph numbers rather than page numbers in their indexing. This facilitates the insertion or deletion of material without interfering with the page sequence. Other typical features are Rapid Finder Indexes, Basic or Topical Indexes, Current and Supplementary Indexes and Tables of Cases. One should not attempt to use a looseleaf service without taking a few moments to study the "How to Use" section, usually included in the first volume of the service.

The Eighth Edition of Cohen, *HOW TO FIND THE LAW* (cited above) contains an excellent chapter on looseleaf services (Chapter 13) and follows through a research problem. Cohen illustrates the various indexes, including updating. I highly recommend study of the examples provided for anyone who wants to understand the organization and use of these services.

#### **Maintenance**

In addition to the considerable resources necessary to purchase looseleaf services, libraries must provide manpower to keep them promptly filed. In our library we have one full-time staff position and 20 hours of student assistants, plus some supervisory personnel, to file 150-200 services, including reference materials.

Janet Spahr-Government Documents Librarian, Virginia Tech.

## ***The Bookshelf***

*Judith Nixon, Purdue Univ., Editor*



Chandler, Ralph C.; Enslen, Richard A.; and Renstrom, Peter G. **The Constitutional Law Dictionary, Volume One: Individual Rights.** (Clio Dictionaries in Political Science, #8.) Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 1985. 507 p. \$47.50. ISBN 0-87436-031-5.

— **The Constitutional Law Dictionary. Volume One: Individual Rights. Supplement 1.** (Clio Dictionaries in Political Science, #8.) Santa Barbara, CA : ABC-Clio, 1987. 138 pp. \$26.00. ISBN 0-87436-484-1.

— **The Constitutional Law Dictionary. Volume Two: Governmental Powers.** (Clio Dictionaries in Political Science, #8.) Santa Barbara, CA : ABC-Clio, 1987. 719 pp. \$48.50 ISBN 0-87436-440-X.

These companion dictionaries present a thorough examination of the complexities of constitutional law. The books stray from the traditional format of dictionaries by arranging entries by subject matter. They include definitions for each term as well as discussions of the historical and contemporary significance of each entry.

Volume One was selected as Outstanding Academic Book 1985-86 in **Choice**. This dictionary summarizes 300 landmark Supreme Court cases and defines over 200 terms dealing with constitutional law and individual rights. The volume treats constitutionalism and American constitutionalism in general. It goes on to cover the first, fourth, fifth, sixth and eighth amendments. In an attempt to keep pace with recent legal

decisions, the publishers released a supplement, Constitutional Law Dictionary. Volume 1: Supplement which covers the 1983-84, 1984-85, and 1985-86 terms of the Supreme Court.

Volume Two analyzes over 200 leading Supreme Court cases and 200 terms dealing with the elements of governmental powers. Its chapters cover such topics as judicial power, legislative power, executive power, and federalism. Another chapter provides short biographies of the leading justices of the Supreme Court.

These volumes provide an in-depth introduction for those unfamiliar with legal research and serve as a quick reference guide for the law student and lawyer. Recommended for academic and law libraries. — Laura M. Bartolo, Kent State University.

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Wasserman, Paul, ed. ; McCann, Gary, ed. ; and Tobin, Patricia, ed. Encyclopedia of Legal Information Sources. Detroit, MI : Gale Research Company, 1988. 634 pp. \$140.00. ISBN 0-8130-0245-4.

Bibliographic encyclopedias are a reference tool of growing popularity; the Encyclopedia of Legal Information Sources is a testament to the utility of such sources of information. Drawing on bibliographies, online databases, indexes of legal literature and publishers' promotional brochures, this encyclopedia provides approximately 19,000 citations on 460 law-related subjects. Its simple organization makes this publication appropriate for all levels of research. Cross references and format breakdowns make the extensive entries readily accessible. Because of the Encyclopedia's breadth, some subjects are cluttered with too many citations. For example, under the heading "President United States", the section on "Textbooks and General Works" lists some 70 sources—

many of which are more current than seminal. On the other hand, under "Law Societies" the editors have helpfully included complete listings of organizational committees and sections. Overall, researchers will be pleased with the Encyclopedia of Legal Information Sources—an easy-to-use reference tool in an often hard-to-understand subject area. — Ellen McDonald, Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy.

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Pope, Barbara H., ed. World Defense Forces: A Compendium of current military information for All Countries of the World. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 1987. 137 pp. \$23.50. ISBN 0-87436-486-8. ISSN 0891-4850.

World Defense Forces endeavors to provide current detailed inventories of armed forces and military equipment for 140 countries. It is designed for students of international politics, defense policy, arms control and peace studies. The arrangement of data by country allows for the comparison of arsenals between countries.

Its major flaw is the datedness of many of the statistics. Dates are often provided to designate the year from which specific statistical information stems, but no indication is made in the introduction as to the year from which the remaining data originates. Many of the undated figures listed for Nicaragua appeared in The Military Balance 1984/85 (International Institute for Strategic Studies); these figures have changed considerably in the interim. Although the book was copyrighted in 1987, annual military expenditures for the Soviet Union are cited from 1980. This variability in statistical data renders comparisons in a realm given to constant change difficult and reduces the work's effectiveness as an instructional tool.

World Defense Forces is essentially a large format (29 cm), hardbound,

stripped-down version of The Military Balance, considered a standard work in the area of military statistics. The latter's annual compilations are more current, and it offers a wealth of comparative information including country surveys, tables, analyses and valuable economic, population, paramilitary and political opposition data which the former lacks. For instructional and reference purposes, World Defense Forces is redundant. — Alan J. Silverman, The University of Rhode Island.

**Personal and Professional News for the LPSS Newsletter**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal News (new position, change of address, honors, awards, travel, etc.)**

**Research in Progress**

**Recent Publications**

Law and Political Science Section News  
ACRL/ALA  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-2795

**Bookdealer/Publisher News**

**Significant institutional acquisitions**

**Institutional news**

**Other professional notes, queries, and items of interest**

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