

## ***Closure of Legal Retriever***

Notice has been given recently that the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General will close the Legal Retriever Business Unit. The databases held by Legal Retriever will be licensed and transferred to Info-One.

This means that, at last, all state law in Australia will be accessible on the same system

---

## ***Finding the Law - the Next Phase***

In the foreword to *Finding the Law*, 1990, the Chief Justice of New South Wales noted:

"An obvious challenge will be to keep the work up to date. It is hoped that the response to their efforts will make this possible."

After the marathon effort in putting together *Finding the Law*, the last thing I wanted to do was to think of a second edition. I was approached by Simon Lewis, (formerly of LMCS, now with Sinch Software) to update *Finding the Law* onto disk for use with text retrieval software. During 1992-93 much effort was expended in updating *Finding the Law* to the disk version which was known as Find Law.

In addition to the AUTHOR, TITLE, PUBLISHER, and DATE for monographs, Simon negotiated with the major Australian legal publishers to add in the contents of their works. This provided a value added component to the work and in an instant,

readers may ascertain if a title is relevant to their needs. This in effect would mean that the contents of Find Law is now three times the size of the original *Finding the Law*.

The disk and a copy of *Finding the Law* is available from Sinch Software (02) 238 2389.

***Colin Fong***

---

## ***Moys User Group***

I have recently received a complete list of Moys users as registered with the publishers, Bowker-Saur. There are 79 Australian libraries on the list. This means that about 30 libraries who notified me in 1991 that they were Moys users have not registered. If there are any further users who want to keep up with Moys changes in the future please copy the form printed in *Australian Law Librarian* p 274, (vol 1 no 6 Dec 1993) and send it without delay to Bowker-Saur at the given address.

Countries where the Moys law classification is being used are: United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, and Trinidad and Tobago.

***Jacqui Elliott***

Coordinator

Moys Users Group (Australia)

---

## ***New Zealand Companies Legislation***

On 1 July 1994 the New Zealand company law reform package will come into force. The changes will apply to all companies and their subsidiaries from 1 July 1994. These changes will require that all existing companies take action on 1 July or shortly after that date. They will also apply to companies incorporated after 1 July 1994, but with minor modifications. All existing companies will be required to re-register under the new *Companies Act 1993* before 30 June 1997. Once re-registered they will be affected by additional requirements.

***Sarah Andrew***

---

## ***Writing a Reference?***

In [1994] 3 WLR 354 there is an interesting case on negligence in writing a reference. The case is *Spring v Guardian Assurance PLC and others*, handed down on 7 July 1994, which deals with a matter in negligence where an employee lost the chance of being employed elsewhere because a reference from his previous employer was inaccurate. The House of Lords held that 'an employer who gave a reference in respect of a former employee owed that employee a duty to take reasonable care in its preparation and would be liable to him in negligence if he failed to do so and the employee thereby suffered damage'.

Be warned!

***Jacqui Elliott***

---

## ***The Late Charles Patrick Mills***

Butterworths were sad to announce the death of Pat Mills on 21 June 1994 after a short illness. Pat Mills had a long and extensive career in industrial law and has been one of the driving forces in the development of industrial and labour law in Australia. His writing in the area was prolific but he was especially well known for his works *NSW Industrial Law* (the fore-runner of *Industrial Laws NSW Service*) and *Federal Industrial Laws* (written with Mr G H Sorell) the forerunner to the *Industrial Law Federal Service*. Mr Mills also wrote the workers compensation title in *Halsbury's Laws of Australia*, published in December 1993.

---

## ***CCH Appoints Insurance Expert***

CCH has appointed Professor Kenneth Sutton to act as consultant editor on its *Australian and New Zealand Insurance Reporter*.

Professor Sutton will assist with new commentary writings as well as contributing topical articles from time to time.

---

### **On the Internet ...**

**'People say the Internet is like a huge library; I say that may be so, but all the books are on the floor!'**

**Virginia Wise**

Lecturer on Law

Harvard Law School

interviewed in LEXIS-NEXIS Professional  
Information Update issue 4 (94-46)

## ***Email Directory***

The following people have made their email numbers available:

**Allen Allen & Hemsley - Sydney**  
allens lib@slim slnsw gov au

**Australian Taxation Office - Sydney**  
nato@slim slnsw gov au

**Bahrij, John, University of the South Pacific**  
BAHRIJ\_Je@usp ac fj

**Butler, Julia, Lionel Murphy Library, A G's Department**  
Julia Butler@ag ausgovag telememo au

**Elliott, Jacqueline, High Court of Australia**  
jelliott@hcourt gov au

**Elson, Robert, Supreme Court Librarian, Adelaide**  
elson@cleese apana org au

**Family Court of Australia, Brisbane**  
qfca@slim slnsw gov au

**Pengelley, Nicholas, Monash University Law Library**  
NicP @lib monash edu au

**Pollack, Lynn, Law Courts Library**  
mln201000@slim slnsw gov au

**Sidorko, Peter, University of Newcastle Law Library**  
ulpes@dewey newcastle edu au

**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA**

**Reference inquiries**  
infoserv@nla gov au

**Document supply**  
docss@abn nla gov au

## **PERSONNEL**

**David Toll, Director, Reader Services**  
dtoll@nla gov au

**Averill Edwards, Senior Manager, Information Services**  
aedwards@nla gov au

**Roy Jordan, Senior Subject Specialist Librarian, (Law)**  
rjordan@nla gov au

**Rod Stroud, Subject Librarian, International law and statistics**  
rstroud@nla gov au

---

## ***AALL Convention Seattle, 9-14 July 1994***

Mount Rainier - Space Needle - Victoria Clipper - Pike Place Market - Seattle Trolley - *cafe latte* - the Northwest : impressions from the 87th annual meeting of the AALL in Seattle in July



View of Seattle from the Space Needle

Ruth Bird and I were privileged to attend the American law librarians' meeting. With John Bahrij from USP and Pat Northey from Auckland we made up the Pacific contingent. It was a stimulating and interesting week meeting old friends and making many new contacts. The sessions were excellent. I attended those focussed on the Internet, management, and the future structure of libraries.

There is some concern about the possible eclipse of technical services, in favour of the reference side of libraries. One stimulating session, featuring Kathie Price and two other speakers, tossed to and fro the question of whether librarians would exist at all in twenty years' time (the radical view) or whether everyone would instead become involved in the provision of information. Kathie Price thought the latter would occur because of the emphasis on "access" over "ownership". Staff would have to take on more responsibility with this change but they may not be prepared to move from the formal structure, which provides stability, to a new arrangement where the focus is on the "product" rather than the "structure".

Kathie Price also considered that cataloguing services will be contracted out and that libraries will look to commercial services to provide us with Tables of Contents which at the moment we are hand-keying.

The speaker taking the radical view on the abolition of librarians was more computer-oriented. He suggested that cataloguing would disappear in favour presumably of keyword access. None of the more experienced librarians with whom I discussed this agreed with that view.

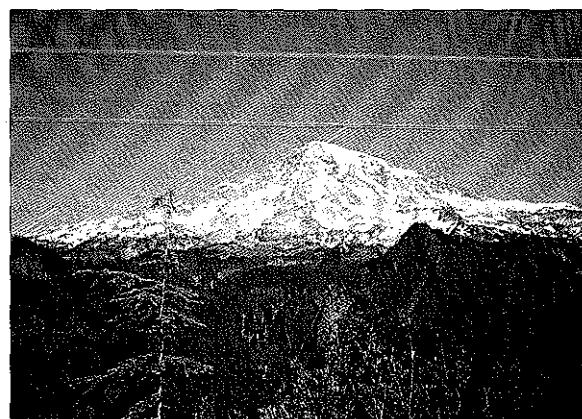
In other sessions on the Internet there was a general consensus that cataloguers will be required to index the mass of random material appearing on systems such as the Internet so that users can find what they want.

Sessions on performance analysis and "Alternatives to 9 to 5" gave good advice on conducting performance appraisals and providing more flexibility in the working day. One speaker mentioned a new concept of "face time": when they see your face they know you're there, but the one that appealed to me was "bottom time": how long you sit at your desk!

I attended the State Court and County Law Librarians' special interest group meeting.

They were celebrating 25 years of the Group this year - quite an achievement. An unusual exercise involving what to do when lost at sea was the feature of the morning. I enjoyed the lively group discussion while wondering what it had to do with court librarianship. After we had worked out the solution and discovered who would survive 'lost at sea', we were told that it was a simple exercise in teamwork.

Finally there was the wonderful West's party. This year it was a Northwest theme. Over 2000 librarians pushed their way into the hall to find four stalls of gifts from the States of Oregon, Alaska, and Washington, and another. On the first we collected a green bag with a white outline of mountains of the Northwest, then we got a little pine tree in a plastic tube to take home and plant as a memento. The Alaskan stand had the piece de resistance: a toy polar bear! Our last treat was to have a photo taken in front of a backdrop of the Northwest. It was a tremendous night and a memorable occasion - particularly for the lady who won an Alaskan cruise for two!



Snow-covered Mt Rainier, over 14,000 feet high

After four full days of work, talk, and fun we left Seattle behind with snow-covered Mount Rainier gleaming in the sun, and returned home with vivid memories of those Seattle days: Pike Place Market, the Space Needle, the trolley, wonderful restaurants and the pervasive *cafe latte*.

*Jacqui Elliott*

## ***New Zealand Law Librarians' Group Conference Report***

The New Zealand Law Librarians' Group recently held their annual conference at the Hyatt Hotel in Auckland. Attended by over 100 delegates, the conference was an enormous success from many facets and proved once again that issues which affect law librarians are not unique to a particular geographic region.

Conducted over three days with the overall theme of "In the Midst of Change", the conference was divided into three separate themes: Changes to the Law, Law Library Management, and Technical Services. This separation of themes allowed delegates to focus their attention on the particular theme and to send members of staff to the sessions which were particularly relevant to their area of interest.

"Changes to the Law" saw some real heavyweights in the New Zealand legal profession. The Banking Ombudsman, Nadia Tollemache, chaired the day and made some extremely interesting comments in her opening address about the ownership of official information and barriers to accessing information. Mai Chen, a very dynamic lawyer with Russell McVeagh McKenzie Bartleet & Co spoke on the new public law and changes in human rights legislation, while a very impressive panel of lawyers debated the issue of "The NZ Company Law - what do we do with it?" The day concluded with very productive discussion with the Chief District Court Judge on the subject of access to District Court decisions.

The importance of the "Changes to the Law" day was that librarians as a group generally tend to avoid knowing too much about the law and concentrate on the sources for

finding it. All the presenters stressed repeatedly that it is not enough just to be able to locate material - the researcher must know sufficient about the law to be able to understand the request in the first place.

The "Law Library Management" day was a very practical and informative day. Holly Moyer, consultant with Hildebrants in the United States, gave the group some excellent information on law firms and the legal profession in the US, then looked at controlling spiralling costs, the impact of technology on space planning and total quality management. I had been kindly invited to speak to the Group and presented a paper on project management and the impact on librarians, with special reference to implementing a CD-ROM network.

Completely different again was the "Technical Services" day. All delegates should be commended for attending after the conference dinner, and whilst numbers were not staggering, those who were there were vocal. The day commenced with a lively discussion on the Law Commission subject headings project, an issue which was obviously close to the hearts of all participants, including the Hon Judge Fisher, a Judge of the High Court of New Zealand. The AGM was also very lively, with some considerable time being spent agonising over their draft Constitution, and Sharman Buckle was elected new Convenor of the Group.

Of particular note during the conference was the excellent trade exhibition. Sadly there was insufficient time for delegates to spend much time, but the quality and number of exhibitors is to be commended. It was quite clear that a law only trade exhibition is certainly viable.

"In the Midst of Change" demonstrated that the New Zealanders have a lot to offer the profession of law librarianship and that we

should actively foster a closer relationship with the Group. As a veteran of many conferences, I was thoroughly impressed with the programme, their hospitality and their professionalism and I would strongly recommend that the ALLG consider a joint Australian/New Zealand law librarians' conference at some time in the future.

*Yvonne Butler*

The Information Source

---

### ***AIJA Court Librarians' Conference, Perth***

The 3rd AIJA Court Librarians' Conference was held in Perth on 11-12 August 1994. Over thirty librarians discussed topics ranging from staff training, court library standards, and publishers liaison matters to unreported judgments and the Internet. Excellent papers were presented on the National Native Title Tribunal and the Refugee Review Tribunal.

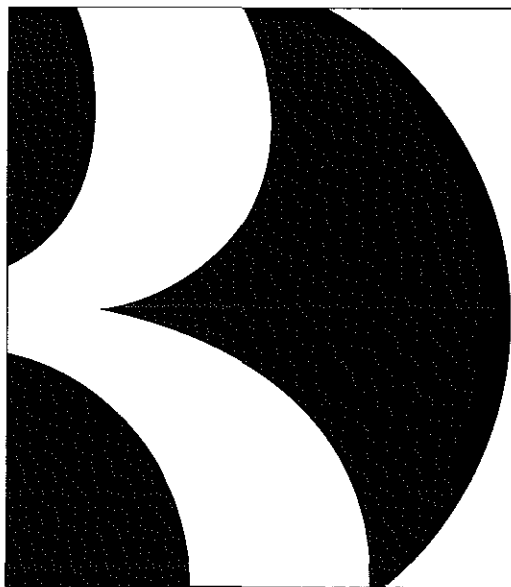
A number of the visiting librarians went on a tour of the Supreme Court, University of Western Australia, and Murdoch University law libraries.

The meetings were hosted by Wendy Ryan, Supreme Court Librarian, and Jenni Cornish, Federal Court Librarian. The Conference venue was the new Commonwealth Law Courts building where we were able to admire the beautiful jarrah bookshelves and fittings in the new Federal Court Library.

Social highlights of the visit to Perth were the Attorney-General's cocktail party at Parliament House and gatherings at several of the city's excellent restaurants.

The court librarians found the work sessions very relevant to their special concerns, and in particular, they resolved to start on the court library standards project as soon as possible. To this end the meeting elected a committee representing the different levels of courts to begin collecting data.

*Jacqui Elliott*



A new global  
identity in legal  
publishing...