

REFERENCE

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The Rise and Rise of the Reference Library

The introduction of computerised library systems in the early 1970s caused some people to ponder the reproductive life, let alone shelf life, of the book. Twenty-five years later computer technology has burgeoned not only within the area of work processes but more significantly within the area of specialist legal and non-legal information resources. This has resulted in numerous people forecasting not only the end of books, but libraries and librarians and indeed western civilisation as we know it.

Julius J. Marke, Law Librarian at St John's University School of Law, posed the question "Is the future of the law book in peril?" in the *New York Law Journal* headline of September 28 1993, titled *Computer Technology Threat to the Law Book?*

On the basis of the *Interim Report of the University of Dayton School of Law and the Mead Data Central Joint Committee to Study Computer Technology in Legal Education* the question was answered in the affirmative:

'The Law Library of the future will operate as a "virtual" information center and provide electronic access to most, if not all of the materials which comprise the "educational" and the "Research" collection. Electronic imaging together with optical character recognition (OCR) will provide the technological solution to transform current bound information into an easily accessible and searchable electronic medium.'

Ethan Katsh has stated that:

'we are in an era of transition and that instead of the replacement of print materials the term displacement be used. The new media can be considered to be "displacing" because it not only makes available some new tools for working with information but, in a sense, creates a new environment. Displacement seems an appropriate term for what is occurring because these changes put us in a different space from where we were.'

A user of an electronic collection is really in two places at once - in the place where the computer is located and in cyberspace, where the electronic library is located. The reference librarian placed within a virtual library in seeking answers to questions from a remote user may be viewed as being doubly displaced from his or her previous spatial and media role.

Katsh disagrees with the notion that print collections will disappear, the emphasis in change will lie instead with the extent to which print versions of electronic material are maintained. Words on paper will remain commonplace, but the principal manner in which we think about, describe and use information will be based on electronic models of how information is organised, stored and processed.

He further states that at 'the end of the current transitional period, print will not vanish but it will play a substantially different role. At some point, it will cease to dominate the legal landscape as it has for the past several centuries.' Katsh uses Michael Benedikt's observation to illustrate his point:

'just as printing did not replace but displaced writing, and writing did not replace but displaced storytelling, and just as movies did not replace theater nor television movies

cyberspace will not replace either objective reality or dreaming or thinking in their historical modes.'

The significant question for the law library will not be whether the hard copy will continue to serve as a basic source for legal research, or as a fallback position in case the network goes down, but rather what role the law library will achieve as an information transfer medium. The importance of a law library will not be judged by the size of its book collection, but rather by the effectiveness or quality of access to information.

This electronic frontier will require the acquisition of new skills for usage of the new tools, an understanding of the new spatial environment and a reassessment of traditional work structures and patterns on the part of the reference librarian.

Martha Middleton reporting on the 1993 *Conference for Law School Computing Professionals* at Chicago-Kent College of Law at the Illinois Institute of Technology has stated in an article "The Virtual Library Looms" in *The National Law Journal* July 12, 1993, that problems are being encountered by librarians and lawyers in bringing their data resources together due to the different search logics required for various online systems.

One of the participants at the Conference stated that to solve that problem, at least some firms have begun establishing a 'one-search engine', enabling lawyers to access any online service or database using a uniform search strategy they can learn in just a few minutes and which could result in 'one-stop desktop shopping'.

According to other librarians, shopping is likely to include stops at many firms' own work-product retrieval databases, as well as at the more sophisticated artificial intelligence systems in which lawyers will walk through various legal theories in a given area and the system will decide on the best one.

The Conference participants believed that the new technology has had a major and positive effect on the work of librarians, 'people will rely on our expertise even more, and the law librarians will have the job of sifting and refining the massive quantities of information because lawyers need only pieces of it'. The librarian will become 'the guidepost to where the information is located'.

The demand for electronic research techniques and information in electronic form will continue to grow. Electronic data is readily usable. Unlike books it is permanently on reserve and can provide usage to multiple users simultaneously. It can be copied, communicated and more importantly massaged, thereby not only allowing value to be added to it, but at the same time adding value to the work of the reference librarian, while opening wide the gate to the new electronic frontier of the library.

New Reference Titles

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This list of recent reference items is a by-product of the compiler's scanning of the National Library's daily intake of incoming material. Titles of ready reference value in the subject areas of law and government documents have been included. General material has been listed when there is substantial law content. "Back of the book" bibliographies are included where these are substantial, i.e. more than 200 items or about ten pages.

To help the reader the list has been divided by country. The titles of publications included are usually self-explanatory. Annotations have been made in some cases where the subject or legal content is not clear.

Prices and ISBNs appear only if they were easily ascertained Full addresses have been provided for minor publishers

International

Bibliography of recent writings related to the work of UNCITRAL

In: (1995) 23 *International journal of legal information* (ISSN 0731-1265) 66-98

Also available as UN document A/CN.9/402, 11 April 1994

Documents on autonomy and minority rights.

Hurst Hannum Dordrecht : Nijhoff, 1993. 779p ISBN 079231977X

Contents: I General standards related to self-determination and indigenous and minority rights II Documents relating to specific countries or situations III Documents of historical significance.

Encyclopedia of public international law Vol 2 East African Community to Italy-United States Air Transport Arbitration (1965) Amsterdam : Elsevier, 1995. 1510p ISBN 0444862455

Vol 1 was published in 1992

Historical dictionary of international tribunals Boleslaw Adam Boczek Metuchen, N.J. : Scarecrow Press, 1994. 361p ISBN 0810829037 (International organizations series ; no 5)

International Court of Justice *Yearbook*, no 48, 1993-1994 The Hague : ICJ, 1994. 261 p ISBN 9211700701 ISSN 0074-445X

Contents: Organization of the Court; Biographies of judges; Jurisdiction of the Court; Texts governing the jurisdiction of the Court; Functioning and practice of the Court; Work of the Court 1993-1994 (including details of East Timor (Portugal v Australia)); Publications of the Court; Finances of the Court

Introduction to foreign legal systems Richard A. Danner, Marie-Louise H Bernal New York : Oceana, 1994. 423p ISBN 037921350

Contents: Introduction: researching foreign law 1 The common law from a civil lawyer's perspective 2 Comparative law: academic perspectives and practical legal realities 3 Introduction to civil law systems 4 The French legal system 5 The Mexican legal system 6 Introduction to Asian law systems 7 The Japanese legal system 8 The Chinese legal system 9 The Republic of China (Taiwan) legal system 10 Customary law and western legal influences

in modern day Africa (case studies from Ghana and Nigeria). 11 Building a medium to large foreign law collection 12 Acquiring foreign legal materials: focus on Europe 13 Acquiring material from difficult jurisdictions: Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union 14 Foreign law in translation: problem and sources. 15. Beyond books and libraries: providing foreign, comparative and international legal information in the 1990s and beyond 16 International Legal Information Network (ILIN) 17 Library of Congress Class K for law 18 Classification in the USMARC format 19. The Library of Congress legal bibliographic database on CD-ROM 20 Sources of assistance 21 AALL programs, workshops and institutes on foreign, comparative and international law 1982-1992.

Law books in print : law books in English published throughout the world and in print through 1993 Nicholas Triffin, Alice Pidgeon 7th ed [Dobbs Ferry, N Y] :Glanville, 1994 6v ISBN 087802039X.

Resolutions and statements of the United Nations Security Council (1946-1992) a thematic guide Karen C Wellens 2nd ed Dordrecht : Nijhoff, 1993 963p ISBN 0792323793

Australia

Australasian professional legal education directory, 1994 Sydney : Centre for Legal Education, 1994. 40p. ISSN 1320-7075. Available from the publisher c/o GPO Box 232, Sydney NSW 2001.

A directory of individuals and organisations engaged in practical legal training and continuing legal education in the Australasian region

Australian and New Zealand citator to UK reports 1994 Meredith Healey Adelaide : Butterworths, 1994 1320p

The CCH key: a guide to the loose-leaf and other serial publications of CCH Australia Limited March 1995 Sydney : CCH Australia, 1995 104p Free

This regular publication from CCH has a useful index to legislation reproduced in full or in extract form in CCH looseleaf services

Computerised legal research conference, 17 & 18 February 1994 [Kensington, N S W] : University of New South Wales, Faculty of Law, Continuing Legal Education. [1994] 1v (various pagings)

ISBN 0733408982 (Seminar papers (University of New South Wales Faculty of Law))

Contents: Legal research using interdisciplinary databases, background materials; Effective legal research: computers and/or books; Computerised Australian law: the state of play; Legal bibliographic databases; CD-ROM legislation & subject databases: materials; Current law services: quick guides; LAWPAC CD-ROM case law exercises; Lexis/Nexis exercises; Legal research on AARNET & the Internet

The Law handbook the easy to use practical guide to the law 3rd ed Adelaide : Legal Services Commission of South Australia, 1995. 755p ISBN 0730806367

Originally published as *The Legal resources book (SA)* in 1981, this handbook provides a summary of South Australian law

Legal dictionary for Australians Peter Alderson Sydney : McGraw-Hill, 1995. 207p ISBN 0074702041 \$19.95

Legal research and interpretation techniques: papers presented for the Continuing Legal Education Department of the College of Law on Friday, 5th May 1995 Sydney : The Dept., [1995] 182p ISBN 0867508574 \$25 (95/32)
Available from the publisher at 2 Chandos Street, St Leonards NSW 2065

Contents: Legal skills; Summarising law; Interpretation; How to read a case; How to read a statute; How to apply law to facts; How to write an opinion; Legal research; Computerised legal research

Legal thesaurus 5th ed Willoughby, N.S.W. : Enterprise Information Management Pty Ltd, 1995 178p ISBN 1875325093

Available from the publisher c/o PO Box 215, Lindfield NSW 2070

Queensland law handbook Pamela Sweetapple 4th ed. New Farm, Qld : Caxton Legal Centre, 1994 1013p ISBN 0646199277

Migrants and the law an annotated bibliography Canberra : AGPS, 1995 49p ISBN 0644451815. Cat no 95 05660 (Library bibliography series (Australia Dept of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Central Library))

Public and private feminist legal debates. Margaret Thornton Melbourne : Oxford University Press, 1995. 318p ISBN 0195536622 \$29.95

Includes bibliography p.283-305

Status of ILO conventions in Australia, 1994 Dept of Industrial Relations Canberra : AGPS, 1994 427p ISBN 0642227187

For each convention this title lists: Ratification status; Substantive requirements; Entry into force; Related conventions and recommendations; Australian position

Great Britain

How the law thinks about children Michael King, Christine Piper 2nd ed Aldershot, England : Arena, 1995. 191p ISBN 1857422260

Includes bibliography p.169-185

India

Committees and commissions in India, 1979 Volumes 17-18 Virendra Kumar New Delhi, Concept Publishing, 1994 (Concepts in communication informatics & librarianship)

Contains abstracts of committee reports

Japan

Ei-Wa Wa-Ei horitsu yogo jiten = English-Japanese Japanese law dictionary Fujita Kinji cho Kyoto-shi : Koyo Shobo, 1992 303p ISBN 4771005729. 2718 YEN

Malaysia

Federal statute law reference & index to state laws (as at 30th June 1993) S Sivaswamy, S Ramaswamy Kuala Lumpur : International Law Book Services, 1993 205p ISBN 9678905590 RM 35 00

Sole distributor: Golden Books Centre, no. 14, 1st Floor, Lorong Bunus Enam, Off Jalan Masjid India, 50100 Kuala Lumpur. Fax 03-2928035

Mallal's digest of Malaysian and Singapore case law 1808 to 1988. 4th ed. Singapore : Malayan Law Journal, 1990- 12v.

United States

Law in a digital world M Ethan Katsh New York : Oxford University Press, 1995 294p. ISBN 0195080173.
Bibliography p. 271-289.

The Legal dictionary for bad spellers Joseph Krevisky, Jordan L Linfield. New York : Wiley, 1995 246p ISBN 0471310689 (An innovation press book) \$US12.95

Contents: Words arranged by their common misspellings; Words commonly confused because they look alike or sound alike; Quick list of correct spellings.

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