

Law Online

Instant access to the latest legal information is vital to law professionals. Keeping up with developments in information management and new communication technologies is of increasing importance.

Information Online & On disc 97 is Australia's largest information management conference and exhibition. It will be held in Sydney from 21-23 January and is invaluable to anyone involved in online information access or electronic publishing.

Law librarians and lawyers alike will find much to interest them at this event. Of particular note are seminars on electronic libraries, law on the Net, legal implications of electronic information and providing information to Parliaments.

A national pilot project delivering digital legal information resources to the Judiciary in New Zealand will be discussed by Joanne Tuffield, National Information Services Manager, Department for Courts, New Zealand. The realities of such a project in an organisation that previously did not use digital information will be highlighted.

Graham Greenleaf, Associate Professor of Law at the University of New South Wales will be one of the Co-Directors of AUSTLII (Australasian Legal Information Network) to present a paper on law on the Net. AUSTLII is one of the world's largest sites of legal information on the World Wide Web and access continues to grow at a rate of 30% per month.

Recent developments in computing will bring new capabilities and increased power to online users. Rod Walkerden, Manager, Strategic

Development, Sun Microsystems Australia will give a keynote address on the impact of these changes on information delivery and processes.

A new role for the re-invented librarian will be discussed by Pat Matthews, Business Information Service, the Australian Graduate School of Management, University of New South Wales.

Barbara Quinet in her keynote address will talk about the role of information professionals in a world of online amateurs. Barbara is the editor of *Searcher Magazine*, a monthly journal for database professionals.

Exhibition

There will also be plenty of opportunities to discover the latest in online products and services from more than 50 leading companies. Product reviews will give visitors the opportunity to hear about new services and discuss the features and benefits with company representatives.

Exhibitors include ABIX - Australian Business Intelligence, Blackwell's, Computer Law Services, Enterprise Information Management, Swets Subscription Services, LBC Information Services, Ilanet, National Library of Australia, Dataware Technologies (Australia), Harker's Information Services and Knight-Ridder Information.

Information Online and On Disc is the largest event of its kind in Australia, offering information and new product releases to those involved in information management. In 1995 the conference attracted more than 1200 delegates from Australia and around the world, whilst the exhibition attracted in excess of 1500 visitors.

Information Online and On Disc will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour from 21 - 23 January 1997. For more information on Information Online and On Disc

Contact: Australian Convention Management Services

Ph: (02) 9332 4622

Email: whfoda_acms@interconnect.com.au

More information can also be found at the Information Online and On Disc Web Page at:

<http://www.csu.edu.au/special/online97/>

Law Librarian of the Year Award 1996

Congratulations to Lisa Smith and Nicholas Pengelley from Monash University Law Library for winning the inaugural Law Librarian of the Year award sponsored by Computer Law Services. Lisa and Nick have been innovatively contributing to the development of their library and played an active role in the development of their library's technology program. Presentation of the award was made at the inaugural Law Librarian's Symposium on 4 October 1996.

Butterworths' Book Award

Congratulations to Ross Ramsay and Gerard Rowe for their book *Environmental Law and Policy in Australia: text and materials*. They won the Butterworths Book Award for recognition of outstanding contributions to the body of legal knowledge in Australia and received the \$25,000 prize.

Law Reporting And Legal Publishing In Canada: A New Volume From The Canadian Association Of Law Libraries

KINGSTON ONTARIO, November 4, 1996 - The Canadian Association of Law Libraries/Association canadienne des bibliothèques de droit is publishing a new title in its Occasional Paper series *Law Reporting and Legal Publishing in Canada: A History* will contain 11 essays written by law librarians from academic, private, and courthouse law libraries. The essays cover all ten Canadian provinces and two territories as well as Canadian legal bibliography, the history of legal publishing in Canada and electronic legal information in Canada. This is the first book of its kind and will be of interest to anyone with an interest in legal bibliography and history.

Among the themes discussed in these essays are:

- the origins of law reporting in Canada and the roles played by the Law Societies, the Federal Government and individual reporters from the earliest times to the present;
- the development of legal publishing houses from the early days of small printers to the present situation of large multinational corporations;
- Quebec's unique position in Canada because of its civil law tradition and the effect which this had on the development and role of case law in the judicial system;
- the decisions of Federal Administrative Boards;
- bilingualism and Canadian law reporting;
- the maturing of legal bibliography in Canada from almost total reliance on English and American texts to an increasingly self-reliant Canadian legal scholarship

This volume had its genesis in a series of essays published between 1993 and 1996 in CALL's journal *Canadian Law Libraries*. The papers from this series have been revised, updated and re-edited, and new essays have been added to round out the series.

Contributors to this volume are:

- Canadian Legal Bibliography: Neil A. Campbell, University of Manitoba
- History of Canadian Legal Publishing: Vivienne Denton, Borden & Elliot
- Electronic Legal Publishing in Canada: John Davis, University of Victoria
- Law Reporting in British Columbia: Joan Fraser, University of Victoria
- Law Reporting in Alberta, Northwest Territories, Yukon: Olga Kislyk Scarpari, University of Calgary
- Law Reporting in Saskatchewan and Manitoba: Ken Whiteway, University of Saskatchewan
- Law Reporting in Ontario: Anne Matthewman, County of York Law Association
- Law Reporting in Québec: Guy Tanguay & Daniel Boyer, Université de Sherbrooke
- Law Reporting in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island: John Sadler, University of New Brunswick
- Law Reporting in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland: Jane MacDonald, Freelance Law Librarian
- Federal Law Reporting: Jules Larivière, University of Ottawa

The Canadian Association of Law Libraries/Association canadienne des bibliothèques de droit represents the wide variety of law library interests across Canada. It provides a forum for the exchange of information and ideas among members and fosters co-

operation among Canadian law libraries.

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pngInLaw: Publishing the Laws of Papua New Guinea.

Papua New Guinea is a land of diverse cultures and over 800 distinct languages. It is also a land with a rich and varied legal tradition. The National and Supreme Courts apply a law which not only acknowledges "custom", but includes a Constitution essentially modelled on the Westminster system of government, legislation inherited from the colonial period, and laws enacted by a National and 20 Provincial Parliaments.

Soon after independence most of the legislation was published as the *Revised Laws*, which was updated from the early 1980s until the end of 1985. These laws were produced using a loose leaf system to facilitate easy updating. However many sets were never updated or updated only spasmodically, and over time pages have disappeared from the existing sets.

From 1986, no new legislation was incorporated into the *Revised Laws*. Only sessional Acts were produced. The Government Printer stopped

printing official copies of the sessional Acts in the mid 1980's and left it to the Office of First Legislative Council to distribute photocopies of the legislation. Over time less and less copies have been distributed owing to budget cuts. A second-hand trade in legislation developed.

Soon after arriving in PNG in 1980 I realised the vital need for providing access to accurate and up to date copies of these laws, and started to collect a comprehensive set of legal data. The culmination of this exercise is pngInLaw. The electronic technology of the 90's became the perfect tool to bring order to the chaos of Papua New Guinea's laws. After careful evaluation of several electronic publishing applications, it soon became apparent that the multi-award winning Folio Views was the vehicle, par excellence, for publishing pngInLaw's databases.

Conversion of the paper copies of Acts and Regulations to electronic format began in earnest in 1994. After repeatedly encountering errors in existing legal materials (eg, some Acts having the word Draft on them and some Drafts being circulated as Acts, wrong commencement dates in Indexes, Gazette Notices with two different commencement dates for the same Act), we decided that although we could make use of existing materials, we could not totally rely on them. We therefore started *from scratch* by putting the original statutes into electronic format and going back to the official Gazettes for related legal information. An added bonus to this method of proceeding is that we are now in a position to produce an historic database, with detailed annotations, commencement dates and repealed provisions in hidden and strike-through text. For example our Constitutional Laws Library contains the original National Constitution (one of the longest in the World) in its original 1975 form, as well as the various amendments (17 to date) that have been made to it.

Obviously this whole exercise is a mammoth task, but we have completed the ground work, with all except 3 current Acts having been reduced to electronic format. We have started to publish several libraries on diskette (9 to date). (We plan to publish on CD-ROM early next

year.) The libraries are available on an annual subscription basis (from the date of opening) and are updated quarterly. These updates include a new consolidated version of all laws contained in the library that have been amended, the addition of new or newly prepared Acts and Regulations, as well as additional libraries.

It will take some time yet before all of our planned libraries are published in electronic (Folio Views) format. In the meantime we have decided to offer our clients a document delivery service.

For a publisher located some 2,500 miles from Papua New Guinea, the problems of access, delay and distance would seem to be an insuperable obstacle to publishing a comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date set of the laws of PNG.

However because of many contacts developed over a number of years, we are able to obtain legislation and judgments soon after they have been enacted or handed down, and often before lawyers located within a stone's-throw of the Office of Legislative Counsel and the Courts.

It is still too early to tell how user-friendly Papua New Guineans will find pngInLaw's infobases (Folio's name for a database); however we are convinced that they will utilise our product to its full potential. Several of our libraries have been trialed by Judges, lawyers, law librarians and public servants in PNG. They have all found the infobases easy to use and a great way of accessing legal information, demonstrating that Papua New Guineans have managed to make the jump from the stone age to the technological age without much difficulty.

Dr C.E.P. Val Haynes was a former Dean of the Law Faculty at the University of Papua New Guinea. He is currently a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Tasmania and is the Managing Director of NiuMedia Pacific Pty Ltd trading as pngInLaw.

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