

Editorial

The BIALL Lexis Nexis Awards for Excellence

Our first article contains in depth interviews with the first winners of these awards. They are illuminating both for what they tell us about the achievements of the winners, but also, in the case of Kate Stanfield, for providing an extremely interesting account of the challenges and successes of introducing a portal in a law firm. On this theme, we also have an article by Jill Halford explaining how she implemented Microsoft SharePoint in Charles Taylor, a well-known P&I Club. We plan to continue with this topic in the Autumn issue of *Legal Information Management*.

Current Issues

Margie Jones from Lester Aldridge, a medium-sized south eastern firm has written about her experiences in introducing online services to a possibly sceptical audience and she recounts the trials and tribulations she encountered along the way. Her article contains much to think about in terms of the electronic v paper debate. We are planning to cover this issue in more depth in future issues of LIM and are also hoping to produce a short questionnaire, which we will circulate via LISLAW to try and obtain further data from you to form the basis of ongoing articles.

Jon Beaumont has written up the results of his dissertation on the effect of changes in copyright law in law firms. He provides us with a useful overview of the state of affairs in relation to non-digital copying and the position of legal information professionals, who emerge very creditably in terms of attempting to police compliance with copyright law in their firms.

Two shorter articles feature the 30th Anniversary of the City Legal Information Group and Catherine Pease has written about the recent exhibition of obscure and bizarre legislation which was held at the Law Society and attracted considerable media attention.

John Furlong and Susan Doe have supplied us with a comprehensive introduction to the basic tools required for researching European law. This article was taken from a workshop they delivered at CALL in 2005.

Code of Good Practice for Legal Publishers

Both Sweet & Maxwell and Lexis Nexis Butterworths have signed up to our Code of Good Practice and we are hoping that other publishers will shortly follow suit. James Mullan, the Chair of BIALL's Legal Information Group, has written

an article on the history of the Code and the full text is also printed here.

Eastern European Issues

We are very pleased to be able to include three articles in the Summer issue on Eastern Europe and the Editorial Board is most grateful to Craig Gerrard, our joint Newsletter Editor, for supplying us with all these contacts. We are including the second part of Tibor Kover and his colleagues' very comprehensive bibliography of sources of legal information in Hungary. Dr Julia Laffranque, has written about access to, and the sources of, legal information in Estonia as that nation makes the transition from communism to a democratic state with membership of the European Union.

Professor Victor Monakhov and Dr Anita Soboleva, who are both eminent lawyers in their native Russia, have written an extremely comprehensive article on the introduction of laws relating to freedom of information and data protection in Russia, a process which has been ongoing for some years and which has culminated in a bill entitled Access to Information about State Bodies, which for the first time secures access to information from administrative agencies at the state level in electronic form. Additionally a draft Bill on protection of personal data, which was expected to have been enacted in March 2006, in time for this article, has not yet been signed off by President Putin.

From our own correspondent

We are planning to cover in LIM the various overseas, and particularly European, law librarian associations, and Paul Bartelings from Het Overleg – Dutch Foundation of Law Firm Librarians has provided the first article.

And finally....

Many thanks again are due to Cathie Jackson who has obtained a record nine book and product reviews for this issue, and to Therese Broy who has unfortunately had to stand down from the Editorial Board due to work commitments.

Last, but very definitely not least, Caroline Mosley stands down as Chair of the Editorial Board this summer, after a three year stint in the job. I would like to extend my personal thanks to her. She has been extremely supportive and always offered help in a crisis. She has undertaken last minute proof-reading and Editorial checking and is obviously a future Editor in Disguise! We look forward to Janice Edwards of Maclay Murray Spens taking over as Chair and wish her a happy tenure.