

Editorial

Willi Steiner Memorial Lecture

This issue of LIM contains a mixture of material. We begin with the Willi Steiner Memorial Lecture given by Professor Hugh Beale in honour of Willi, who was one of the leading scholar librarians of his generation. Willi was multi-talented and multi-lingual. His achievements in both librarianship and legal scholarship are unlikely to be equalled by any other practising British law librarians now or in the future. The Editorial Board is confident that the high quality of Hugh Beale's lecture, on the European Civil Code movement and the European Union's Common Frame of Reference, is a fitting memorial to Willi, particularly as he was a true European himself.

Conference Papers

We continue with publication of further papers from the Harrogate Conference, including one of the more controversial lectures, delivered by Juliet Humphries on the image and perception of legal information professionals and how they might be improved. Juliet set out to stimulate debate and judging from the comments heard in the bar and tea rooms afterwards, she succeeded. People may not have universally agreed with her thesis, but they certainly discussed it. Janine Bryant gave a practical lecture on the projects she has implemented at a Bristol law firm which have improved the image and perception of the information service, including early involvement in various technology driven projects. We are very pleased to publish Susan Mansfield's excellent and very detailed paper which was given at the Edinburgh Conference and which covered the practical aspects of various management tools and techniques in use in other professions which we could employ to enhance our personal skills and thus the utility of our information services.

International Issues

We have a full international section including Paul Norman's useful conference paper on internet sources of information on France, Germany, Italy and Spain. We are planning to cover articles about the European Union and the Accession States over the next few issues of LIM and we are also extremely grateful to Tibor Kover and

his colleagues for getting us off to a flying start with their extremely thorough and comprehensive survey of sources of legal information in Hungary. This article will appear in two parts.

Slightly away from our normal practical articles, we are pleased to publish a more theoretical article by Harvinder Kaur from Malaysia. It is the results of research she undertook into Malaysia's leading legal journal – the *Malayan Law Journal* - as part of her course of study for a Master's Degree in Information Science. There is no similar journal for law librarians in Malaysia and this gives Harvinder the chance to be published.

From Our Own Correspondent

Dave Rogers has once again nobly provided us with an update on what is happening in the United States' legal information field. This time he covers the US PATRIOT Act which is currently undergoing some controversial amendments.

Checklist

We are pleased that Bristows have allowed us to reproduce Charlotte Hughes Scholes' article on what to be aware of when providing employee references, as recent cases have rendered this area somewhat of a minefield.

The Editorial Board would be pleased to hear from people who have ideas for topics or suggested authors for this column. The idea behind it is to provide short and very practical guides to management issues that we come across in our day-to-day work.

And Finally

Thanks to Katherine Read and John Greenhead at IALS for the Current Awareness column. Katherine has agreed to join the Board and we are delighted to welcome her. Thanks also to Cathie Jackson for all her hard work in identifying potential book reviewers. She has organised five excellent reviews for this issue.

Christine Miskin