

At this writing, the 18th *Annual Course on International Law Librarianship* in Melbourne has just taken place. Once again, participants left with a feeling of having been part of the “best ever” *IALL* meeting, and all of the organizers should be congratulated on the successful outcome of their efforts. Yet, there is a broader professional law library world beyond the *IALL*, from which we may both profit and contribute. This issue introduces a new regular column: the *International Calendar*. Located at the end of the issue, where it can easily be found, the *Calendar* will provide advance notice of upcoming conferences and meetings worldwide of interest to *IALL* members. The compiler, **Lyonette Louis-Jacques**, requires very little introduction: Lyo succeeded **Adolf Sprudz** as the *Foreign and International Law Librarian* at the University of Chicago School of Law, her own *alma mater*, and is known for her groundbreaking role in INT- LAW and her generosity in sharing the information she finds on the Internet. We are very fortunate to be able to draw on her expertise, energy and wide network of contacts.

Since the *Journal* is published only three times a year, the *International Calendar* will be kept up-to-date as a permanent feature on our web site at www.iall.org. Should you have suggestions for programs or organizations to be added to the listing, please contact Lyo directly, using the means described in the footnote on page 467. Your active involvement is needed in making the *Calendar*, as well as *IJLI*, a valuable and relevant tool of information and communication for the entire *IALL* membership.

The Fall issue reflects a variety of subjects related to our duties. **Claire Germain**, familiar to *IJLI* readers both as author and as the *IALL web manager*, has focused the concerns of the U.S. legal community on the lack of standards in the production of electronic legal documents and on the impact the volatility of the medium has on both its reliability and long-term preservation capability. Her article suggests solutions to prevent permanent loss of primary legal information and was originally presented as a paper at an international conference in Paris.

The two research guides included in this issue are interesting because of their dissimilarities. While both deal with Far Eastern jurisdictions, Vietnam and Tibet, difficult for Westerners to access, they differ widely in both in scope and method.

Vietnamese lawyer and legal specialist with the Law Library of Congress, **Phuong-Khanh Nguyen**, directs her guide, “How to conduct research in Vietnamese law,” to the experienced researcher with language skills and collection development responsibility for this part of the world. Half the overview is dedicated to the country’s history and indicates the importance of context in legal interpretation. The second half is a description and further explanation of the annotated list of primary sources in the vernacular.

American attorney **Kelly Stringham**, on the other hand, invites us to follow her step-by-step approach of trial and error, as she uses mostly English-language international documents to learn more about the sovereignty of Tibet. The guide was originally written in fulfillment of a class requirement for Advanced Legal Research taught by Professor **Virginia Wise** at the Harvard Law School. Although the focus is limited to this narrow topic, the guide is designed to be useful on several different levels. It is Kelly Stringham’s hope that “those doing research on any issue of international law will find enough information in this guide about the legal research process and international legal research materials that the guide should be useful to them also.”

In closing, I want to remind you that the *IJLI Annual Index* no longer is published separately. Since volume 24 (1996), it has been included in the last issue of each volume. Nonetheless, we often get requests for the Index - which could indicate that there still is room for improvement on our part, and we invite your suggestions.

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