

Editorial

This issue of *Legal Information Management* is dedicated to the memory of the late Willi Steiner. He was an outstanding law librarian and legal scholar, as well as a warm and humorous person. He was a member of a generation of international law librarians in every sense of the word, as not only was he fluent in several languages, but he also worked in law libraries both in this country and in Europe. He belonged to several international law and law library associations and had a huge number of international colleagues and friends. He even managed the astonishing feat of being on a committee of AALL! Jules Winterton has written a wide-ranging and thoroughly well-researched article detailing all the many aspects of Willi's career. The article concludes with a lengthy bibliography. Both Muriel Anderson, who worked with Willi for many years at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, and Tom Reynolds, who laboured with Willi on the *Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals*, have written personal appreciations. Having had experience myself of setting up and running a similar publication, which was an all-consuming task, it makes me realise even more clearly just how amazingly full Willi's life and career were.

It is therefore pleasing to be able to publish a selection of the papers delivered at the Annual Conference in Cardiff in June, where our theme was "Knowledge without Frontiers", which have an international flavour. We include contributions on US federalism from Jim Heller, the nature of Canadian federalism from John Eaton and closer to home, the most interesting keynote address of Winston Roddick QC on law making and devolution in Wales. To complete the quartet, we have a contribution from John Morison on devolution in Northern Ireland. Also on the international front we publish an article by David Gee on international law library co-operation in which he describes the ground-breaking initiative led by Kathie Price of New York University Law School to foster closer relationships between the world's leading law libraries. Jerry Dupont from America's Law Library Microform Consortium tells us about the pain involved in moving from one technology to another. We also have reports from the AALL and CALL conferences by Karen Gordon and Marianne Barber respectively, the final part of Joan Brathwaite's *Bibliography of Commonwealth Caribbean Legal Materials* and a contribution from Wendy Lynwood of Middlesex University on a co-operation initiative with law librarians in Albania.

There will be further papers from the Conference appearing in our next issue as one of its themes will be e-learning and legal education and some of the most stimulating papers fit neatly into that category. This issue of LIM is also liberally scattered with photos of people enjoying themselves at Cardiff.

We have attempted to continue running our foci on library management systems but have encountered difficulties in obtaining contributions. Mandy Webster has provided her regular review of internet sources,

concentrating on library resources in this issue and Emma Duffield of Isis Oxford has edited an article containing two case studies of implementation of Heritage IV in legal libraries. In future issues we hope to cover other packages and if anyone would like to contribute to this series we would love to hear from you! We did discuss at a recent Editorial Board whether it would be a good members' service for BIALL to put together guidelines on selection processes for library management systems and possibly even to take this a step further by offering a "Which" type testing resulting in a list of best buys, as anyone who has been involved in acquiring a new system will no doubt testify to the fact that it is fraught with the hazards of the lack of availability of independent information and who is going to admit to having spent lots of their organisation's money on a system which may not quite do the job in hand?

There has recently been a spate of legislation coming into force which we need to be aware of and we are very grateful to Steve Wood of Liverpool John Moores University for writing a very practical guide to those provisions of the Freedom of Information Act which are likely to affect us in our day-to-day work and to Hilda O'Connor of Field Fisher Waterhouse for a clear exposition of the competition provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002.

This issue of LIM marks some changes in membership of the Editorial Board, as both Kate Hodgson and Jennie Yeomans have decided to resign after several years' service. We are very sorry to see them go and are grateful for the many hours of hard work both have put in on behalf of the journal. Kate was Chair of the Board for many years and has frequently managed to come up with good ideas for articles and authors and I have her to thank for suggesting that I might apply for the job of Editor! Jennie has been enormously supportive since I took over and I am most grateful to her for all the contributions she has extracted from sometimes not very willing authors. We welcome three new members of the Board, Claire Groom who is well-known to many of you as a freelance consultant based in Kent, Janice Edwards, Librarian at Maclay Murray & Spens in Edinburgh who will be adding a Scottish perspective to our contributions and Sarah Froggatt, Librarian of Reynolds Porter Chamberlain in London who has already had her arm twisted to write an article for us!

My normal thanks go to Gillian Sands and Sam Weston-Smith at IALS for the current awareness column and I am very pleased to announce that Jo Tomlinson of Irwin Mitchell in Sheffield and Lindsey Caffin of IALS have agreed to take over the IT column with effect from Volume 4 Issue 1.

Caroline Mosley is now firmly established in the Chair and has been working very hard to facilitate the change in publisher. We are delighted to announce that CUP will be our publishers with effect from Volume 4, Issue 1 in March 2004. That issue will be particularly special as it marks our

move into the electronic age, with the journal being simultaneously available in paper and electronic formats via Cambridge Journals Online. We have our own dedicated publisher at CUP, Ella Colvin, who is backed up by a team of enthusiastic people in the advertising, marketing and production departments and we are really looking forward

to establishing close and rewarding working relationships with the people at CUP. Further details about the new methods of access will be posted on the website and in the *Newsletter*.

Christine Miskin



BIALL Conference 2003 – held in the august setting of Cardiff City Hall



BIALL Conference 2003 – The Sweet and Maxwell sponsored Annual Dinner and Presentation of Awards on a theme of Moulin Rouge