

EDITORIAL COMMENT

By now, you should have received your copy of the *Journal's* much-awaited *Cumulative Index 1960-2002*. I urge you to rescue this *Special Issue* from the shelf, study it carefully, and assign it to the reference collection for all the useful *IALL* and *IJLI* history and facts that compiler **Richard A. Danner**, *IALL Director of Communications*, has incorporated to enhance the lasting value of the *Index*. Not only has he analyzed the content of the first 30 volumes of the *Journal* and its predecessor, the *International Journal of Law Libraries*, but he has also included selected material from the *IALL Bulletin*, thus featuring the creativity of the *Association's* members and the main topics of international law librarianship from 1960 to 2002.

IJLI 2003 witnessed the passing of three monumental figures within our profession, **Jan Stepan**, **Adolf Sprudz**, and now **Willi Steiner**. They all represented a generation of lawyers from Continental Europe who never set out to become librarians, but who were to transform legal research and scholarship in the common law environment in which they, for political reasons, came to settle. **Willi Steiner's** successor as *Librarian* of the *Institute for Advanced Legal Studies (IALS)* in London, *IALL First Vice President* **Jules Winterton**, provides us in his extensive tribute with a thorough account of Willi's life and career, in addition to a bibliography.

This issue features Scandinavian law, thanks partly to the 6th *Nordic Law Librarians' Meeting* held in Reykjavik, Iceland, June 12-13, 2003 (www.bok.hi.is/nordisk2003/juridisk). The five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, frequently cooperate, officially and unofficially, on many levels and in different areas, considering their geographic proximity, similarity of languages and closely interwoven history. The Nordic Parliamentary Libraries have, for instance, celebrated over 80 years of collaboration. The law librarians, however, did not convene in an organized fashion until 1989 in Oslo, at the initiative of the Norwegian colleagues. Since then, members meet approximately every third year, taking turns hosting these conferences which so far have been held in Copenhagen (1992), Helsinki (1994), Stockholm, (1997) and Oslo (2000). The Meeting in Reykjavik attracted over 70 participants and focused on copyright and protection of personal privacy in

the digital age with National Reports about the status of digital and printed legal information in each country. **Auður Gestsdóttir** of the *National and University Library of Iceland* was Chair of the *Icelandic Organizing Committee*, and the program for the two-day conference was coordinated by **Aslaug Ágnarsdóttir**, also of the *National and University Library of Iceland*, and **Kristín Geirsdóttir**, *Althingi Information Services*. The three Reykjavik papers included in this issue are on topics of great relevance to law librarians everywhere: **Annette Dilley** and **Thomas Dyekjær** give a brief introduction on the Danish copyright system with particular focus on copying within libraries. Ms. Dilley, *Legal Counsel at Copy-Dan*, the largest collective management organization in Denmark, and Mr. Dyekjær, *Special Advisor to the Danish Broadcasting Corporation*, are the founders of *Dilley & Dyekjær Copyright Communications*, a company specializing in communicating copyright-related issues to laymen. **Peter Blume**, a pioneer and authority within the field of informatics in Scandinavia, is *Professor of Legal Informatics* at the *University of Copenhagen* and a prolific author. Here he addresses the issue of privacy and data protection in Danish libraries. With respect to E-Government, **Kristian Andri Stefánsson** of the Prime Minister's Office of Iceland and **Gunnar Thór Thórarinsson**, an attorney in private practice in Reykjavik, describe the ambition of their Government that Iceland, a nation of less than 300,000 inhabitants, "become the world's leading country in the utilization of information technology for a better way of life and increased prosperity."

The *University of Minnesota School of Law* has a long-standing international exchange program for both students and faculty with the *University of Uppsala* in Sweden. **Suzanne Thorpe**, *Associate Director for Faculty, Research, and Instructional Services*, has again (Cf. 29 *IJLI* 25) used a sabbatical to delve further into the intricacies of Scandinavian law. Her research guide on Swedish intellectual property law is intended for those who seek information in English language sources on copyright, patent, trademark and design protection law in Sweden.

Volume 31 closes with valuable observations from another international exchange. **David Gee**, *Reader Services Manager* of the *Institute of Advanced Legal Studies* in London, shares his impressions from a two-week placement at some of America's great law school libraries. Concentrating on his particular field of expertise, reader services, he evaluates the impact of buildings, staffing and budgets.

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