

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

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Globalism, the Global Library. To most Americans, the Global Library is synonymous with the universal collections of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., now accessible not only to every U.S. citizen, but to the entire world via the Internet. It, therefore, came as a shock when in July 2000 a report by the *U.S. National Academy of Science* found that this venerable institution was severely lagging in the collecting and archiving of digital material and on the verge of subsiding “into grey irrelevance.” The Librarian of Congress, **Dr. James H. Billington**, gets praise for his courage in having invited constructive criticism and commissioning the study, *LC 21: A Digital Strategy for the Library of Congress* (<http://www.nap.edu/books/0309071445/html>.) The report consists of an analysis of the current state of the Library and a series of recommendations which are of great general and professional interest. The Committee of Experts responsible for drafting the report points to the importance of capturing the growing numbers of born-digital books, journals and webpages that otherwise are bound to disappear, rather than devoting resources on converting older analog materials into digital format. The Library of Congress must also, the Experts recommend, lead other libraries in a collaborative, strategic effort to select information that is worth keeping, determine how to catalog it, and decide how and where to archive it, before the material is lost forever.

As far as issues, multiculturalism and geography go, this issue, in its own way, is an example of the globalization of our profession. **Richard Danner** belongs to those who early on embraced information technology’s potential for law libraries and legal information. As the *Director of the IALL Advisory Committee on Communications*, he has been instrumental in moving the *Association* into the digital age. As *Senior Associate Dean and Director of the Duke University Law Library*, he has assumed leadership within the legal community with respect to the advantages and challenges born-digital publishing poses for libraries, scholars and publishers. In an article discussing the importance of the role that law reviews play in U.S. legal scholarship, Dick analyses the effects of the transformation from print to an electronic environment noting that “there is much more involved in scholarly communication than the formal publications traditionally found in libraries.”

Former Deputy Law Librarian of Monash University Law Library, South African-born Australian **Rosemary Bunnage**, was invited in 1997 to assess the Harvard Law Library foreign and international law journal collection and to set up a system to index the journals in the collection that were not indexed elsewhere. Rosemary, now transplanted to Austin, Texas, (as **Mrs. Roy M. Mersky**) describes in her article her methodology and how she, with expertise from *ALLI (the Australasian Legal Literature Index)*, arrived at the Draft Proposal she presented for gaining access to the content of the vast foreign and international periodical holdings of the Harvard Law Library.

Whether the medium is the message or not, what is transmitted by the medium does have a global effect, although it often starts regionally. The two articles on substantive law, the one focusing on French legislation on human cloning, the other one describing anti-bribery legislation in Italy, are perfect examples on how supranational directives and recommendations from the *EU* and the *Council of Europe* will influence as well as be influenced by ideas and mores held by the group of neighbors.

Ever since the birth a few years ago of a sheep named Dolly, the first mammal ever cloned from an adult, the thought of human cloning, whether it can be achieved or not, has become as much of an ethical and legal issue as a matter of science and technology. **Nicole Atwill**, Senior Legal Specialist with the Law Library of Congress with law degrees both from France and the United States, examines the *French Ethics Committee's* arguments for a ban on cloning, and states the positions expressed by the *Council of Europe* and the *European Union* on this highly controversial issue of biomedicine and biotechnology.

In her article about measures to counteract bribery both on a national and supra-national level, **Laura Ferola** explores in depth the interrelationship between the Italian and the European rules in stemming corruption and describes the historic development and Italy's role in the successfully concluded *1997 Anti-Corruption Convention*. Laura is an Italian lawyer, currently working on her PhD in international law and human rights at La Sapienza University in Rome, her *alma mater*, from where she also received both her law degree in 1992 and a degree in political science in 1997. Fluent in Italian, Spanish, French and English, and having lived for longer periods of time on several continents, Laura was in 1998 awarded a scholarship from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to attend the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium, from where she in 1999 received a Masters in Advanced

European Studies. Laura is a frequent speaker at international conferences and has published widely in her areas of interest, criminal law and European law.

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