

EDITORIAL COMMENT

This final issue of year 2001 marks the beginning of a new term for officers on the IALL Board elected to serve from 2001 - 2004, and welcomes the first report by President **Holger Knudsen**. Holger, the Director of the Library of the *Max Planck Institute of Foreign and International Private Law* in Hamburg, Germany, and a longtime and active member of the Board, hardly needs an introduction to those who have attended the *Association's* Annual Courses. His distinguished career reflects his passion for travel and true *Wandervogel* nature: before assuming his present position, he served first as the Law Librarian at the *European University Institute* in Florence, Italy, and afterwards for many years as Director of the Library at the *Swiss Institute of Comparative Law* in Lausanne, Switzerland. In today's borderless and global climate, Holger is frequently called upon to give lectures on various aspects of law librarianship to audiences in many places, such as the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Open Forum this time contains a "hot topic," a description of the background to the recently adopted *European Copyright Directive*, and the controversy it created among librarians because of its impact on EU libraries. The column is written by **Coes van Laer**, Law Librarian of the *Maastricht University* in the Netherlands and Chair of the *Dutch Association of Law Libraries*, and his colleague **Wilma Mossink**, Head of the Legal Department of the *Open University of the Netherlands*.

There was widespread disappointment in the legal research community when the 1997 edition of Peter Rohn's *World Treaty Index* turned out to be a reprint of the 2nd edition published in the early 1980's. At the same time, it was a clear testimony to the tremendous value this multi-volume set continues to have worldwide to scholars in institutions focusing on international relations. The *WTI*, which lives on in electronic form, remains the largest collection of treaty citations in the world, with well over 60,000 entries. Here **Glenda Pearson**, *Administrator of the WTI* at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington, offers the unique history of the *Index*, delineates its new uses, and describes the challenges confronted in maintaining and revising it.

William Robinson's article on Legislative Research is based on a keynote address he delivered at a Meeting of the *European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation* in Kyiv in May 2000. Although Bill, as *Senior Specialist in Public Policy* of the U.S. *Congressional Research Service* in Washington, D.C., focuses his study particularly on ways to support the legislature, his advice on how to develop a good research product and the elements necessary to get the readers' attention is of interest to all of us.

A research guide for the U.S. practitioner represents "foreign" law for many of our non-U.S. readers. **Katherine Guerin**, now a practicing attorney in Tucson, Arizona, originally submitted this annotated bibliography as an independent research project before graduating from the *University of Wyoming School of Law*. It was developed as a step-by-step guide for the U.S. lawyer unfamiliar with researching international law, especially international contract law, and should become a useful tool for a foreign researcher needing to approach the topic from a U.S. perspective.

Nicholas Pengelley closes volume 29 by boldly gazing into the future and giving his prediction of the state of law school libraries twenty years from now. Boldness is not alien to Nick, whom we remember from Down-under as one of the coordinators of the 1999 Melbourne Conference. Immediately thereafter, he took a giant leap to the Northern Hemisphere, first to the *University of Toronto*, where this paper originally was presented, and recently landed in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, as Law Librarian and Professor of Law. All's well that ends well.

Marie-Louise H. Bernal