
Editorial Note:

Starting the third decade of the International Association of Law Libraries, we commence a new stage in our publication policy. Unlike the changes which took place in 1973 when the *IALL Bulletin* became the *International Journal of Law Libraries*, beginning with this issue there is neither a change in its title nor the re-numbering of the periodical to indicate the passage of the publication into a new stage. Certainly, for the reader familiar with the *IJLL*, there are certain "cosmetic" changes which initially catch the eye, such as a new cover design, trim-size, paper, page-layout and type style. However, these changes, in themselves, are not sufficient to warrant this introductory note. Rather, this development of the *IJLL* is marked by more substantial considerations and changes, many of which will not become fully apparent to the reader until subsequent issues of the 1980 volume are published.

First among these changes is the decision reached by the Board of Directors at its meeting in Copenhagen in August 1979 that the *IJLL* and the *Newsletter* should be merged and that the frequency in appearance of our official publication should be increased in order to establish an efficient information service. The popularity of the *Newsletter*, issued in the intervals between each *IJLL* issue, the limited editorial staff consisting entirely of volunteers, and the increasing costs of publication became dominant factors in this decision. Thus, the reader should note that the 1980 issues of the Journal will appear bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December.

Further, in terms of format, the changes in this issue which were alluded to earlier, reflect a more significant shift and an attempt to prevent the structure or format of the *IJLL* from becoming so restrictive as to possibly preclude the publication of information due to its length, manner of presentation, or timeliness. Thus, an attempt will be made to utilize some issues of the *IJLL* to present a significant-size written contribution to our field. In effect, these issues are intended to be mini-monographs published in a regular series form. The other issues are intended to continue the tradition firmly established by the *IJLL* during the previous seven years. As such, each of these issues will contain intermediate-length articles and bibliographies. Several new sections under the supervision of an editor will be added. The "News Notes and Comments" section will incorporate those types of informational items which would have been placed in the *Newsletter*. The *Newsletter*, at least in its present form will no longer be published. Two other new sections have been added to the Journal. The first "Article Abstracts", will provide short summaries or abstracts of major periodical articles which are deemed to be of interest to our readers. The second new section, entitled "Legislative Perspec-

tives,” will attempt to alert our readers either to comparative legislative developments in a particular subject area or to highlight a single major piece of legislation which is likely to have an impact or influence on other than a national forum. “*The International Bookshelf*” section will present materials of multi-national interest evaluating them in terms of their contributions to and roles within a particular subject area or field, both on a national as well as on an international scale. Where possible, publications selected for critical appraisal will be placed into a bibliographical context of other works treating the same or similar subject matter and an assessment will be provided. An attempt will also be made to list selected works from all parts of the world on legal and related subjects as they are issued. In large part the success of the journal and its utility to our readers in this regard depends on the contributions of our widely scattered members *via* notices of such publications to our editors.

The fundamental premise underlying the current changes in the *IJLL* is to provide a flexible vehicle with a structural format and frequency of publication which will accommodate a spectrum of contributions from our membership ranging from a single paragraph in a letter to a modest-size scholarly monograph. While our current team of editors have volunteered to assume the large obligations of preparing materials for their respective sections, contributions for all sections are actively solicited from our readers. Our organizational goal of information dissemination and the exchange of data through the *IJLL* depends on the contributions and communications from our members and readers. We look forward to your active participation through a sharing of news and information from your part of the world.