

EDITORIAL COMMENT

While I cannot speak for anyone else, it sure seems to me that this has been a particularly long, cold winter, even for those of us residing here in the relatively mild climate of Atlanta, Georgia. Not only have we had our share of inconvenient and uncomfortable winter weather, but also the news has been full of snow and ice, massive winter storms, school closings, flight cancellations, vehicle pile-ups, and similar matters all over the United States. In other parts of the world, there have been enormously destructive floods and other evidence of Mother Nature's handiwork. Perhaps, while we hunker down in our offices, libraries, chambers or homes, this would be a good time to pick up the latest copy of the *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEGAL INFORMATION* (IJLI) and learn what our colleagues have been thinking about and writing about.

A good place to start is the opening article in this issue. It comes from one of our colleagues from New Zealand, **Donna Buckingham**. Her piece covers the history and status of the New Zealand Legal Information Institute, or NZLII, as it is more commonly known. Through the article, we can see how New Zealand's unique history and relationship with other Commonwealth countries, particularly Australia, and with the United Kingdom, helped shape its LII.

Another important article in this issue focuses on the critical relationship between information professionals and lawyers. Author **Renate Chancellor** proposes "a model that aids in understanding how practitioners obtain legal information in a law firm environment." This is good stuff, and opens the door for further inquiry into the way librarians work with their patrons and constituents.

There has been a long-standing debate among legal historians – and others – over the origins of Louisiana's civil law tradition. Is it the natural consequence of that state's French roots? Or are the state's legal traditions and sources of law more closely akin to Spanish influence? **Vicenz Filiu, Teresa Miguel, Dennis Kim-Prieto** enter this intellectual fray with convincing arguments and compelling evidence. I don't want to give away the answer. Read the article, consider the authors' evidence, and see what *you* think.

Another excellent article in this issue of the IJLI is by **S. Blair Kauffman**, director of Yale's Lillian Goldman Law Library. Professor Kauffman examines information literacy in U.S. law schools, with a focus on U.S. law students' experiences with various modes of legal research and writing instruction in law schools. His straight-forward article goes to the core of what we do (could do or should do) as professional engaged in academic law librarianship.

The final piece in this issue focuses on one of the fastest growing interdisciplinary areas of legal studies: neuroscience and law. Issue 38.3 of the IJLI brings you the first published bibliography in this important and rapidly developing field. Compiled and written by **Francis Shen**, the bibliography is sure to be a foundational resource for those pursuing work in this fascinating, evolving area of the law.

This issue, like all other issues, also contains the IJLI's two regular sections: the International Calendar, edited by **Aslihan Bulut**, and Book Reviews, Edited by **Thomas Mills**. As I hope this Comment has managed to convey, this is an excellent, meaty issue, full of thoughtful, substantive research. I hope you will take a few moments to peruse the excellent contents of this issue of the IJLI, kick back and read an article (or five!), review the International Calendar and dip into the Book Reviews. Enjoy!

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