



International Association of Law Libraries

President's Report

September 2013 to September 2014

This is my first report as President of the IALL. It covers the period between the Barcelona Conference of 2013 and the final days preceding the Buenos Aires Conference of 2014. There are two reports to follow because my Presidency is foreseen till 2016.

The Board

The Board consists of President: Jeroen Vervliet, Peace Palace Library Director; First Vice President: Ruth Bird, Bodleian Law Library, University of Oxford; Second Vice President: Bård Tuseth, Department of Public and International Law Library, Domus Bibliotheca, Oslo; Secretary: Barbara Garavaglia Director University of Michigan Law Library; Treasurer: Xinh Luu, University of Virginia Law Library; Kristina Alayan, Duke University School of Law; Daniel Boyer, Nahum Gelber Law Library, McGill University, Montreal. Kurt Carroll, Library of Congress, Washington; Lily Echiverri, University of the Philippines; David Gee, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London; Kerem Kahvecioglu, Istanbul Bilgi University; Pedro Padilla Rosa, University of Puerto Rico Law Library; Ivo Vogel, Head of Scientific Information Service for International and Interdisciplinary Legal Research, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin; Mark D. Engsborg (ex-officio), MacMillan Law Library, Emory School of Law, Atlanta; Marci Hoffman (ex-officio), Associate Director and International & Foreign Law Librarian, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law Library; Immediate Past President: Petal Kinder, High Court of Australia.

Pedro Padilla Rosa of the University of Puerto Rico, has withdrawn from the Board of IALL, as communicated in an email of August 2014. He has also retired from his job in San Juan; he has decided accordingly partly because of health problems. The IALL Board has thanked Pedro Padilla Rosa for his unrelenting enthusiasm for IALL, as a conference organizer in 2008, for his activities as a Board Member and as Board Liaison, e.g. in Barcelona and for Buenos Aires.

Board Meetings

The Board met on Saturday 14 September 2013 in Barcelona and on Friday 20 September 2013; annually returning items have been discussed as well as strategic issues (since till 2011 so-called tri-annual Strategy Meetings took place, but they have been abolished and connected to ordinary meetings). No informal Board meetings occurred although business contact through email is very frequent.

Representation

I accepted an invitation to attend the American Association of Law Libraries annual conference in San Antonio, that took place in July 2014, where I spoke (briefly) at the “International Attendees Joint Reception” (of AALL, IALL and FCIL-SIS); the preceding days I visited the University of Texas, in Austin. I unfortunately had to decline the request of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries, and at the Australian Law Librarians' Association the Immediate Past President kindly assumed the responsibilities. Although it had been on my mind to attend the IFLA-conference in Lyon, France, in August 2014, I had to relinquish my original plan for professional and personal reasons.

32nd Annual Course of IALL in Barcelona

Prepared by Montse Morante, Maria Elena, Lauroba Dolors Gutiérrez, Adelaida Ferrer and Monica Navarro-Michel (and by liaison officer Pedro Padilla Rosa) for the period 15-19 September 2013, IALL has enjoyed a highly interesting annual course, a full variety of colours of a unique character, with a remarkable amount of Private (International) Law-topics, next to the well-expected Legal and Constitutional History, Public (International) Law and Political themes relating to the ambition of Catalonia to secede (Catalonia between Madrid and Brussels). More than 100 delegates participated.

Rare Books and Manuscripts were shown, library visits organized, on the Optional Day i.a. a pilgrimage to a Benedictine Monastery. Before the actual start of the conference an Information Literacy-session was held, a successful meeting out of which grew the idea to have a yearly pre-meeting, and the establishment of an Education Committee within the Board.

Scholarship recipients in 2013 were Eugene Hsue, Abiola Oyewo and Akash Singh. Four special bursaries from within Spain were awarded: David Aznar, Marta Balbuena Alvarez, Maria García-Sánchez and Noémi Cué Pérez.

Many exhibitors and sponsors were present and assisted: Wolters Kluwer-Law & Business, William S. Hein & Co., Inc., Brill-Martinus Nijhoff, Justis, InvestorStateLawGuide, C.H. Beck, Nomos, Cengage, Eleven, Intersentia, Puvill and TradeLawGuide.

AGM

The AGM was held on 18 September 2013. Scholarship and bursary recipients were announced. Regular reporting took place.

The IALL 2013 Website Award Winner was Austrian Legal Information System Rechtsinformationssystem des Bundes (RIS). The Board has decided to no longer continue with the Website Award, as it used to be of a great uniqueness to have a smart website but that view has been overtaken by time. The Board currently

investigates to award the best article in the International Journal of Legal Information, as well to further the quality of IALL's own journal.

Current and future locations for IALL's annual course

Buenos Aires was selected in 2012. The Local Planning Committee consists of Gloria Orrego Hoyos and Andrea Saladino Max von Buch Library, University of San Andrés), Mariana del Carril (Supreme Court Library), Analía Trouvé (Cancillería). Petal Kinder, Pedro Padilla Rosa and Mark Engsborg have done an examination in 2013. Jeroen Vervliet and Mark Engsborg have gone through a pre-conference-visit in 2014. It seems to become a promising well-balanced and rich programme in which human rights, gender and women's rights, access to information, the library under dictatorship, and reconciliation are on the agenda. An Optional Day is foreseen in the countryside during which the International Law issues of Argentina will be addressed.

The 2015 conference "Within and in between. German legal tradition in times of internationalization and beyond" is planned to happen in Berlin (20 – 24 September). It will touch upon International Law items related to German legal history (Nuremberg Trials, Grundgesetz etc.), and also refers to the world at large in which Germany partakes, e.g. as hinge country, as country setting an example for other jurisdictions, and as country of importance to the world society.

Oxford has been selected for 2016 (July 31st – Augustus 4th) and the topic will be "Common law throughout the world". The decision about the 2017 venue will be made at a later date.

Jeroen Vervliet, President of IALL, The Hague, 1 September 2014