



International Association of Law Libraries

President's Report

September 2014 to September 2015

This is my second report as President of the IALL. It covers the period between the Buenos Aires Conference of 2014 and the final days preceding the Berlin Conference of 2015. There is one report to follow because my Presidency is foreseen till 2016.

The Board

The Board consists of President: Jeroen Vervliet, Peace Palace Library; 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, University of Michigan Law Library; Treasurer: Xinh Luu, University of Virginia Law Library; Kristina Alayan, Georgetown Law Library; 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; Ivo Vogel, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin; Mark D. Engsborg (ex-officio), MacMillan Law Library, Emory School of Law, Atlanta; Marci Hoffman (ex-officio), University of California, School of Law Library, Berkeley;; Immediate Past President: Petal Kinder, High Court of Australia.

Pedro Padilla Rosa of the University of Puerto Rico, who had withdrawn already from the Board of IALL in 2014, and had retired from his job in San Juan, suffering from health problems, sadly passed away in the weeks preceding the Annual Course in Buenos Aires. The IALL Board has expressed its grief on several occasions and mourns his untimely death; IALL owes him a lot and thanks 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 27 September 2014 in Buenos Aires and on Friday 3 October 2014; 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).

The two chief subjects originating from the Pre- and Post-Conference-Board-Meetings in Buenos Aires that have asked for full attention over the year are necessary amendments to the Constitution, mainly because of the introduction of new categories of membership and the pending disentanglement of membership and subscription to

the “International Journal of Legal Information”, and the future of the “International Journal of Legal Information”, at a new publisher and in another form, e.g. as an electronic journal and/or in OpenAccess.

For the reason of my personal health situation I convened a special session in Oxford in which I met with the First Vice President and Second Vice President. No other (quasi-)informal Board meetings occurred although business contact through email happens very frequently.

Representation

I accepted an invitation to attend the American Association of Law Libraries annual conference in Philadelphia, that took place in July 2015, where I spoke (briefly) at the General Business Meeting and at the “International Attendees Joint Reception” (of AALL, IALL and FCIL-SIS). I have as well spent time in publishers’ booths and on future arrangements for the “International Journal of Legal Information”, currently taken care of by the William S. Hein & Co., Inc, but needing a new publisher, serving IALL.

On invitation I attended the German Association of Law Libraries event in May in Nuremberg; the meeting thereof was taking place in the framework of the national libraries days. I have addressed the 75-100 members of the German Association of Law Libraries gathered in Nuremberg, and tried to canvass in the most enchanting way for IALL and its Annual Course in Berlin in September 2015; I also benefitted from the many booths of publishers at the fair to raise interest for the aforementioned venue and for IALL.

Because of my personal health situation and recovery after surgery I passed on the invitation to attend the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries to the First Vice President. I have not attended the Australian Law Librarians' Association. Nor have I been at the IFLA-conference in South Africa; Bård Tusetth was IALL’s representative.

33rd Annual Course of IALL in Buenos Aires

Prepared by the Local Planning Committee consisting of Gloria Orrego Hoyos and Andrea Saladino (Max Buch Library, University of San Andrés), Mariana del Carril (Supreme Court Library) and Analía Trouvé (Cancilleria). Unfortunately, Analía Trouvé passed away recently; she was already ill as the Annual Course had started, and could no longer be present. Analía Trouvé has contributed enormously to the coming into being of the Annual Course in Buenos Aires, we mourn her death, and miss her unique sense of humour.

IALL has enjoyed a highly interesting Annual Course, called “Libraries and the Rule of Law”. A full variety Argentine law topics was taught. A clear emphasis was on Human Rights, Women’s Rights and the Right of Access to Libraries and Information (and its

breach by the Dictatorship between 1976 and 1983). Around 100 delegates participated.

For the Opening Ceremony of the 2014 Annual Course IALL enjoyed the hospitality of the Biblioteca Nacional de la República Argentina, where Rare Books and Manuscripts were shown. The Biblioteca de la Corte Suprema de Justicia de la Nación (Library of the Supreme Court of the Nation) arranged for a visit. Annual Course delegates went on a tour to the Escuela de Mecanica de la Armada (ESMA), the Archivo nacional de la Memoria (National Archive of Memory). The Optional Day took place in the countryside during which the International Law issues of Argentina were addressed. Before the actual start of the conference the yearly pre-meeting on Information Literacy was held, for the second time, organized by the Education Committee within the IALL Board.

Regular bursary recipients in 2014 were Michel Fraysse, Elisabeth Schrecklinger and Erika Pino Tirado. Special bursary recipients were Alicia Altamirano, Elena Altomonte, Maria Andrade, Marcela Dottori, Maria Ines Olmedo, and Maria de las Mercedes Sal de Sciaini.

Many exhibitors and sponsors were present and assisted: Wolters Kluwer-KLI, William S. Hein & Co., Inc., Thomson Reuters (from Buenos Aires), Brill-Martinus Nijhoff, InvestorStateLawGuide, Law Business Research, TradeLawGuide, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, EIDial (from Buenos Aires).

AGM

The AGM was held on 1 October 2014. Bursary recipients were announced. Regular reporting took place. The most important question and main critical remark from the membership concerned the “International Journal of Legal Information” and the extent to which the journal had been freely available to any readership and the strategic view of the Board on future publishing of it (general OpenAccess or dedicated free access for IALL-Members or through a publisher, in print or electronic).

Current and future locations for IALL’s annual course

Berlin was selected in 2013 and the Berlin State Library (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin) is hosting IALL in 2015. The Local Planning Committee consists of Ivo Vogel, Christian Mathieu, Angela Pohl and Katrin Spitzer. David Gee, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, has acted as Liaison Officer. David Gee and Jeroen Vervliet have gone through a pre-conference-visit in February 2015.

The 2016 IALL-conference “Common Law Perspectives in an International Context” is planned to happen in Keble College, Oxford (31 July – 3 August). The Philippines are willing to host IALL in 2017.

Jeroen Vervliet, President of IALL, The Hague, 27 August 2015