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IALS Library Newsletter January 2012

New Year greetings from everyone at IALS!

We look forward to being of service to researchers and their law schools and law libraries throughout 2012. This newsletter reports on a series of national training days for PhD researchers, on the international conference of law libraries held in Kuala Lumpur in December, and on a recent lecture at IALS by Professor Graham Greenleaf.

New books on Islamic banking and finance are featured in the books page. Do contact us at any time if we can help you with your research!

Best wishes,

Gerry Power, IALS Library Access Librarian



Professor Helen Xanthaki, key speaker with IALS
Deputy Librarian David Gee

Two further national training days for MPhil and PhD in law students are planned for 2012:

- On Saturday 17th March the programme will cover legal research skills, literature reviews, qualitative and quantitative research and comparative legal research.
- On Wednesday 23rd May the programme will concentrate on preparing yourself for the Vivas, publishing your work, presenting skills and networking.

Full information and a booking form is available on the IALS Events web pages on our website at <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/>

David Gee,
IALS Deputy Librarian and Programme Organiser

Popular national training days held again at IALS

Building on the success of last year, IALS is again offering a programme of national training days for MPhil and PhD in law students from universities across the UK.

The first training day in November was entitled, "Meeting the challenges of the first year" and included sessions on handling the supervision relationship, the challenges of being an overseas PhD student, a question and answer panel, as well as training on the extensive electronic legal resources available at the IALS Global Law Library. Feedback for this popular event was excellent or very good and the comments uniformly positive.



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Foreign and international law

Hester Swift reports on the international conference in Malaysia in December, and on a workshop held at IALS in November. Hester is the IALS Foreign and International Law Librarian.



IALS Conference 2011, Kuala Lumpur

In December I spent five days at the UM in the KL suburb of PJ. This had nothing to do with pyjamas: I was at the International Association of Law Libraries' conference, held at the University of Malaya in Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur. It was monsoon season and the place felt like the tropical greenhouse at Kew - with high-rise buildings and dual carriageways.



KL was full of palm trees

Foreign and international law librarians from all over the world had gathered to learn about Malaysian law in a globalised world. Lively expert speakers gave a series of lectures on topics such as the sources of Malaysian law, indigenous land rights and Islamic finance. I was there thanks to a generous bursary from the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians.

Malaysia is a common law jurisdiction, but Islamic and customary laws continue to apply to matters, for example marriage and divorce. Recent legislation has been influenced by Commonwealth countries such as Hong Kong and Australia. Although commercial law is still governed by the common law, Islamic principles are becoming more influential in this area, with the huge recent growth of Islamic finance. Representatives from Hein, Kluwer and Justis updated us on recent developments in international

legal information. Justis is developing a new platform and expanding its coverage of UK and Caribbean case law. JustCite now indexes South African, Hong Kong and New Zealand cases and has enhanced its Australian and Canadian data. New libraries on Hein Online include Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals, American Indian Law and History of International Law, while collections of international trade materials, US Congressional materials and tax conventions will soon be available. Hein has produced a beta version of a "One-Box" (Google-style) search facility. Kluwer's speaker highlighted the launch of Kluwer Patent Law and told us about blogs covering arbitration, patents and copyright (www.kluwermediationblog.com, www.kluwerpatentblog.com, www.kluwercopyrightblog.com). Kluwer Law Online has extended its journal archives and now makes available the entire International Encyclopedia of Laws.

Outside the lecture theatre, we went on several interesting library visits. Malaysian librarians, it seems, do not worry about being stereotyped, happily displaying "shush" signs in the reading rooms.



Elegant "shush" sign at the Ministry of Justice Library

A book display at the UM Faculty of Laws Library was seized on by delegates, who took pictures of the covers with their phones for reference; many of these titles are now being added to IALS Library's collection. KL's modernity was underlined by the provision of a multi-storey car park for readers at the National Library, while Malaysian history is preserved in the Library's beautiful manuscript collections. Wi-fi, online resources and automated check-in systems were widely available.

The IALL Conference gave me a valuable insight into the Malaysian legal system as well as useful practical knowledge about Malaysian legal publications. I was impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of local academics and law librarians and pleased to get to know my fellow delegates and hear about their work. I will look forward to learning more at my next Conference.



Second Foreign and International Law Workshop Held at IALS

A foreign and international law training day for law librarians was held at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies on 16th November 2011. It was the second time the workshop had been run. The event was put on by the foreign and international law librarians from Oxford, Cambridge and IALS and held under the auspices of the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL).

Delegates came from several different UK universities, from practitioners' libraries and even from the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands. Lesley Dingle of the Squire Law Library, Cambridge, gave a presentation on sources of public international law, while Hester Swift from IALS Library covered US legal information and Elizabeth Wells from the Bodleian Law Library, Oxford, spoke about foreign law generally. Delegates also spent time in IALS Library's Electronic Resources Unit doing practical exercises on finding foreign and international law online.

Free access to legal information

On the evening of Tuesday 17 January, Professor Graham Greenleaf delivered a lecture at IALS entitled "Free Access to Legal Information: roles in the expansion of liberty, democracy and the rule of law". The lecture was well attended and well received. Professor Greenleaf is very well known as one of the founders, and current co-director, of Austlii, and for his significant contribution to the development of the Commonlii and Worldlii services. In 2011-12, Professor Greenleaf is the Commonlii Visiting Fellow at IALS.

In his lecture, Professor Greenleaf outlined the many achievements of the free access movement in the last 20 years:

- Re-publication and free access to legislation and case law, and other primary and secondary materials, for many jurisdictions
- The development of a critical mass of data shared between various LIIs (legal information institutes) to enable the creation of a citator
- a significant contribution to comparative law, as multi-jurisdictional research is greatly facilitated by the LIIs
- the involvement and participation of jurisdictions from both the developed and developing world
- a proposed Eurlii, which may be developed in the future

He also considered the future of free access to legal information. He argued that free access is a matter of right and not one bestowed by largesse. The LIIs have a right to continue to re-publish legal information and to ensure free access. The development of online authorised and authenticated texts is very important, as is the role of the courts in publishing authorised versions and in recognising the re-published versions as admissible.

The [slides](#) from Professor Greenleaf's wide-ranging lecture are available on the IALS website.

Gerry Power, IALS Library Access Librarian



In this issue, we offer details of a selection of recent books on Islamic banking and finance, available at IALS Library.

Don't forget that you can see a list of new books in stock at any time on the [Library catalogue](#) by clicking on the recent [acquisitions list](#).

Abdul Karim Aldohni, *The legal and regulatory aspects of Islamic banking: a comparative look at the United Kingdom and Malaysia* (Routledge, 2011, ISBN 9780415555159) This book considers the development of Islamic banking in the UK, and examines both the Islamic legal system and the English legal system. It discusses company and contract law, and the current banking regulatory framework and its impact on Islamic banking. Chapter 8 offers a case study of Malaysia and the place of Islamic banking in the Malaysian banking regulatory framework.

M Fahim Khan and Mario Porzio (eds.), *Islamic banking and finance in the European Union: a challenge* (Edward Elgar, 2010, ISBN 9781849800174) Scholars and bankers consider Islamic banking and finance in the EU: the historical background, the Islamic banking business in Europe, the challenges posed by economic and regulatory factors, and some responses from the UK, France, Germany and Italy on developments in each jurisdiction.

Islamic finance: instruments and markets (Bloomsbury, in association with the Qatar Financial Centre Authority, 2010, ISBN 9781849300179) The contents of this book are divided into 6 sections: best practice – instruments; best practice – markets; checklists – instruments; checklists – markets; economic profiles of many Middle Eastern, North African and Asian countries; and lists of further information sources. Includes contributions from many academics and practitioners.

Natalie Schoon, *Islamic banking and finance* (Spiramus Press, 2009, ISBN 97811904905110) This book aims to offer a practical overview of the subject to students, academics and practitioners. It includes an historical and economic background, an explanation of Islamic financial products and services and their distribution and application, and chapters on asset management and tax. Many diagrams of

different types of transactions are included, as well as an appendix of definitions of Arabic words and terms to do with banking and finance.

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