

Editorial

This issue of LIM is particularly special as it marks our move to Cambridge University Press, after many years with Sweet & Maxwell. The Editorial Board is delighted with the change and we are looking forward to a long and happy working relationship with the team at CUP. Your Editor's life should be made much simpler, as all the production processes will be managed at CUP, so there will be no more chasing up of recalcitrant printers and typesetters, nor of trying to (largely unsuccessfully) solicit advertising, as we will have our very own advertising and marketing person at CUP and all production processes are carried on within the company.

The journal will also be published simultaneously in print and online and will continue to be available free to members of BIALL in both formats.

The Editorial Board has been busy preparing for the changeover and our last Board meeting was devoted to strategic planning for the future. We hope to introduce some changes and new features to the journal. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that our mission statement was "to be the journal of choice to all British and Irish legal information workers". We will therefore try to continue to cover topical areas but will endeavour to ensure that we include material of interest to all categories of readers, whether you work in law firms, academia, professional organisations, government or the courts. We also hope to include more articles of an international flavour, and we are planning to set up a network of international correspondents.

On that point, this issue starts with an article guaranteed to turn lots of us green with envy. Peter Murgatroyd, whom many of you may have met at the Cardiff Conference, has been persuaded to write about his idyllic lifestyle in the South Pacific which, as I sit here in the freezing Northern winter morning typing with very cold fingers, sounds absolutely wonderful to me!

Karen Skiffington lives in another lovely place – Bermuda – but doesn't let it divert her as she manages to combine four children with a busy job AND the *Bermuda Law Reports*!

Our themes for this issue include competitive intelligence, which is quite high profile within the information profession at present. Arthur Weiss, who is a leading member of the CI set, tells us how the techniques of CI could be applied to the law firm field and Jonathan Gordon-Till has written an article on the ethics of CI – including a case-study which provides an interesting moral dilemma!

Jonathan has been very busy on our behalf, as he has also contributed to our theme on pensions, with a comprehensive review of sources of pensions information. Angela Cleaver has revealed to us what it is like to work within the "human capital" industry and after a bit of arm-

twisting, Simon Freeman very generously agreed to share with us the trials, tribulations and satisfactions of setting up his own pensions publishing business.

Our topical issues section includes a thought-provoking article by Ruth Brown which describes the results of her research into why so few information studies students decide to move into legal information work, and no doubt Council will be looking at it closely in an attempt to remedy some of the perceived misconceptions about the challenges and enjoyment of our specialist sector.

Chris Holland writes about the transition from working for lawyers to actually having some of them working for him at the Law Society!

One of the most popular sessions of the Cardiff Conference was the presentation given by Prue Presser and Nicki McLaurin Smith on teaching legal research skills at Melbourne University and the resultant article appears here, together with two other contributions on how the PLR module of the LPC is being received in this country. For those of you not working in law firms, PLR is Practical Legal Research and is part of the Legal Practice Course, both of which are designed to turn law students into practical and highly-skilled lawyers. Sarah Saunders has undertaken some research into the usefulness of the course as perceived by a group of trainees and their law firms in Cardiff and Caroline Mosley has edited the results of a round-table discussion amongst members of the ALLICE on their experiences of "post-PLR" trainee solicitors.

Our legislative review looks at two pieces of anti-discrimination legislation and how they will affect us in the workplace. Barbara Tearle and colleagues at the Bodleian Law Library review the effects of the Special Needs and Disability Act 2001 in their library and Katherine Read from the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies reports on the results of a small survey she undertook of London academic libraries and their provision for people with disabilities. Jennie Yeomans has managed to persuade two lawyers from Goodman Derrick to explain the new sexual orientation laws for us.

Last, but not least, we are delighted to welcome back the IT Column, which has been missing for several issues. The Board is very grateful to Jo Tomlinson of Irwin Mitchell in Sheffield and Lindsey Caffin of IALS for agreeing to cooperate on producing the column.

The Board is also pleased to welcome a representative from Ireland – Therese Broy from Arthur Cox has very kindly agreed to join us, so we now have representatives from Scotland, Wales and Ireland, and we even manage to hold the odd Board Meeting outside London. John Prescott would be proud of us!

Christine Miskin

Legal Information Management

Published on behalf of the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians www.biall.org.uk

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Subscriptions

Legal Information Management (ISSN 1472-6696) is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Four parts form a volume. The subscription price which includes delivery by air where appropriate (but excluding VAT) of volume 4, 2004, which includes print and electronic access, is £73.00 (US \$110.00 in USA, Canada and Mexico) for institutions. The electronic-only price available to institutions is £64.00 (US \$96.00). Single parts are £18.00 (US \$27.00 in USA, Canada and Mexico) plus postage. EU subscribers (outside the UK) who are not registered for VAT should add VAT at their country's rate. VAT registered members should provide their VAT registration number. Japanese prices for institutions (including ASP delivery) are available from Kinokuniya Company Ltd, P.O. Box 55, Chitose, Tokyo 156, Japan.

Orders, which must be accompanied by payment, may be sent to a bookseller, subscription agent or direct to the publisher: Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2RU; or in the USA, Canada and Mexico: Cambridge University Press, 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices.

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Legal Information Management is indexed in Current Law Index, Legal Information Management Index, Legal Journals Index, Legal Resource Index, Library and Information Science Abstracts and Library Literature.

© British and Irish Association of Law Librarians 2004 ISSN 1472-6696

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014, Madrid, Spain
Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

Printed in the United Kingdom by the University Press,
Cambridge