of librarians who valued his expertise and willingness to share his knowledge. Even though he retired in 1992, he came into his office frequently and still cared about developments in civil and international law. I found him a valuable and supportive friend for over thirty years. From my first days as a new reference librarian through my years

as a library director, he was a mentor, a role model, and a wise and discreet advisor.

Mr. Sprudzs is survived by his wife Janina Sprudzs, two daughters, Ilze and Rita, two sons, Ugis and Peteris, and six grandchildren. He will be missed by his many friends and colleagues at the University of Chicago.

### References

1. Adolf Sprudzs & Igor I. Kavass, UST Cumulative Indexing Service 1976: Cumulative Index to United States Treaties and Other International Agreements 1976 (1978).
2. The Baltic Path to Independence: An International Reader of Selected Articles (Adolf Sprudzs ed., 1994).
3. Adolf Sprudzs, *Rebuilding Democracy in Latvia: Overcoming a Dual Legacy*, in 1 Democratic Consolidation in Eastern Europe 139 (Jan Zielonka & Alex Pravda eds., 2001).
4. Adolf Sprudzs, Ardievas Laikmetam: Rakstu un runu atlase, 1947–1989 (Latvia: Recollections of an Age), *at* http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/~was2/sprudzs/ (2001).
5. *See* Pam Deemer, *Gallagher Award Recipients Named*, AALL Spectrum, June 2000, at 30.

# IT in the Law

We are delighted to welcome back our IT Update after some months' absence. Jo Tomlinson from Irwin Mitchell in Sheffield and Lindsey Caffin from the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies have taken over responsibility for the column with effect from this issue

Jo Tomlinson was responsible for this column, with support from Lindsey. Jo & Lindsey's contact details are given at the end and they will be very pleased to hear from any readers who have material to contribute to the column.

## News from Legal Systems and Software Suppliers

**WinScribe Europe** has recently launched version 3.3 of its Digital Dictation System (DDS). The major enhancements are the ability to import and read voice files from third-party dictation systems into WinScribe for translation and the introduction of a browser based systems manager. www.winscribe.com

**MSS** have developed a new wireless laptop and PDA interface application for their AlphaLAW-*Vantage* practice management and case management modules. The increased technology now allows users to access and update

documents through a GPRS mobile telephone link connected to their laptops. www.mss-alphalaw.co.uk

**Videss** have just launched a new product for the legal market called Visual Office. It is a Microsoft.NET reporting tool that takes feeds from almost any web or PC-based source of information (such as contacts, web services, appointments, reports, graphs, etc.) and presents chosen key performance indicators and other real time information in a simple, personalised, one-page view. It aims to allow users to view KPI data only when they need it. www.videss.co.uk

The **iManage** document management software claims to reach another level with its WorkSite 8 Suite. It is the only system to support Matter Centric Collaboration (MCC), a new paradigm for the way information is organised, presented and acted upon. iManage believe that this version of the WorkSite software is a true electronic equivalent of a case file and provides an integrated view of documents, events, tasks and contacts for any matter. In addition, WorkSite 8 provides complete email management, data centralisation, intranet and extranet support and

advanced knowledge management capabilities. More information can be obtained from www.imanage.com. Also, a merger between **iManage** and **Interwoven** has recently been announced. The new merged company claims to provide the industry's only next-generation Enterprise Content Management (ECM) platform. This means that they can now offer all levels of content management functions; collaboration, document management, web content management, digital asset management and records management.

The **AIM Group** have recently made two acquisitions. The Teamflo case management software was acquired from Infographics at the beginning of October, with the acquisition of SharpOWL Software International and its SharpOWL Professional Services Automation (PSA) software three weeks later. AIM have not taken over Infographics, but the companies have formed a strategic alliance to allow Teamflo customers to benefit from additional products and resources. www.aim.co.uk

**Vrisko** the software company specialising in knowledge management of external content, has been acquired by Magus Research, who are an Internet Content and Information Management specialist company, offering internet and intranet solutions to corporate customers. The acquisition of Vrisko means that Magus can add skills and expertise in search technology to their existing content management solutions. www.magusresearch.com

**LogicaCMG** and **Meticulus Solutions** announced in November that they have joined forces to develop an Information Rights Management (IRM) solution for leading UK law firms, in an attempt to improve their transaction security. IRM will allow senders of electronic documents or emails to specify precisely what subsequent actions individual recipients are allowed to perform, such as viewing, annotating, editing, copying, forwarding and printing. The rights can also have a fixed timescale. The companies come from systems integration and IT security backgrounds respectively. See www.logicacmg.com or www.meticulus.com for more details.

## News from Legal Publishers

**Context** has claimed exclusivity for the complete archive of *Weekly Law Reports*. The WLR are available in either cd-rom or online format. For subscribers to Justis Daily Cases, summaries of reportable cases from the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting (ICLR) are available online within 24 hours of judgement. The WLR tables of contents are normally available before the printed version from the Context website. Context has also teamed up with The Scottish Council of Law Reporting to produce the *Session Cases* for the first time in an online format. The series contains all the key appellate decisions, civil and criminal, from the Court of Session and the High Court of Justiciary since coverage started in 1930. Visit www.justis.com for more information.

## Government and Quasi-Legal news

### Copyright Changes

On 31st October the law on copyright changed, when the UK implemented the European Copyright Directive. The major change concerns the issue of "fair dealing", where previously the copying of material for research or private study was excepted from the copyright restrictions. Under the new law, copying made as part of research or for private study, but which is carried out for a commercial purpose, now requires permission from the copyright owner or a CLA licence, which permits certain copying. The CLA have made available Business Licences, which allow, for a fee, companies to copy from over three million UK titles and 16 million non-UK titles. The licence fee is based on the business type and number of employees. Contact the CLA for more information. www.cla.co.uk.

### Legal Deposit Libraries Act

On October 30 the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 received Royal Assent. Since the Copyright Act 1911, UK law has stipulated that one copy of all publications printed in the UK must be sent to one of the legal deposit libraries for archiving. This Act extends the law so that non-print materials are also archived to preserve a lot of information which will otherwise be lost to future generations. Other countries, such as New Zealand and France, have already implemented legislation to cover this data preservation issue, and many other countries are currently drafting proposals.

### UK Central Government Web Archive

The UK Central Government Web Archive is a selective collection of 50 UK Government websites, which are being archived as part of the *Modernising Government White Paper* proposals. The web is becoming the principal means of interaction between the government, citizens and business, and the National Archives have a responsibility to collect and preserve websites as evidence of the changing face of this interaction. The Internet Archive is a service which has been contracted for one year to set up this Web Archive for the National Archives, as part of the National Archives evaluation of digital preservation.

The websites will be collected using specially-designed crawler software, which will retrieve and store each page of the site. The harvesting of each site will be at varying intervals, with nine of the selected sites being harvested every week and the remaining 41 sites at six monthly intervals. All sites will be captured as originally appearing on the date they are archived, which can mean that as technology develops, some sites' features or functionality will be limited. All sites will be retrievable by the user entering the appropriate URL and then selecting the date of the archive they wish to view. To access the archives visit

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www.pro.gov.uk/webarchive or via the Internet Archive site at www.archive.org.

### Data Protection

The British Institute of International and Comparative Law have just launched a group looking specifically at the issues of data protection. The Data Protection Research and Policy Group's main objective will be to enable the production of research on data protection law policy at all levels of governance and over a wide range of jurisdictions. The Group will also provide a forum for policy consideration by lawyers, business managers, regulators and academics. More information is available from www.biicl.org.

### Internet News and Web Developments

**Linex** is a newly evolved online service, based on the old Legalwebwatch service. It is a peer-to-peer information exchange, developed from a new concept for the exchange of information within the legal and corporate community. The Linex service aims to challenge the way lawyers and information officers have previously sourced information. It is a subscription based service, delivered weekly, monitoring Government organisations and UK and international law firms' websites, and information from legal news agencies. The main areas of coverage include developments from each legal practice area, deals which were advised on by leading UK and international law firms, and some legal opinions from leading practitioners. More details can be obtained from www.l-inex.com

JustAsk is the **Legal Services Commission's** advice website aimed at those who find the traditional access methods to legal services difficult or complicated. It has been re-launched to include a legal aid eligibility calculator, and easier searching and navigation. It can be viewed at www.justask.org.uk.

The **Council for Licensed Conveyancers** (CLC) has relaunched its website. Under current legislation, it is now possible for people other than solicitors to become conveyancers, and to be known as licensed conveyancers. The site contains a fully searchable directory of licensed conveyancers, and will tell you whether the conveyancer is a full licence holder or employed licence holder. View their site at www.theclc.gov.uk.

## Legal Groups and Pilots

### e-conveyancing

The group behind PISCES – the Property Information Systems Common Exchange Standard – is stepping nearer to its goal, with the publication of an extended working draft of its set of XML-based definitions for the automatic exchange of information between software applications used in a property lease transaction. The aim to reduce re-keying of text, thus minimising the room for error, should speed up all transactions, starting with property leases and investments, and planning to expand to residential transactions in the near future. More details are available from the PISCES website at www.pisces.co.uk.

### On-line Interactive Auditing

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) has joined up with law firm Scott-Moncrieff Harbour and Sinclair to investigate the piloting of an on-line auditing system. Taking a firm's case management system as a basis, the project will allow auditors access to files under secure conditions. The interactive auditing means that questions are asked via email to the solicitors by the auditors during the audit and not all at the end, thus saving time and being less intrusive.

### Libra

Accenture have been awarded the contract to provide the delivery stage of the Libra project, which aims to standardise technology in all magistrates courts in England and Wales. The project is intended to speed up all case-related communication between courts and other criminal justice agencies, and to deal with all offenders much more quickly. Accenture are expected, over the next five years, to deliver a service which will manage and track all cases and the payment of fines, and manage court administration. This will involve training all court staff and the integration of all software. The software will be developed and maintained by STL Technologies. For more information visit the Court Service website at www.courtservice.gov.uk/about_us/our_performance/libra.

### LITIG

In October, a sub-group of LITIG (Legal IT Innovators Group) started a seven month consultation period to agree an e-billing standard. They issued the paper to try and establish a standard to decrease some of the unnecessary inefficiencies, which occur between law firms and clients. Comments are required by 15 December. See the LITIG website www.litig.org for more details.

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