

Law Library Newsletter

Welcome ...

To Fall Term 2016.
And welcome to all our new & returning students, faculty and staff.

Law Library Corner

The Faculty of Law scrapbooks take us back to stories and faces from the past - featuring the Law Library, of course!

Collections Corner

Last year the Law Library subscribed to the online database *Recherche Juridique* developed by the Société québécoise d'information juridique (SOQUIJ). Take a look at what this database has to offer along with a bit of information about translations!

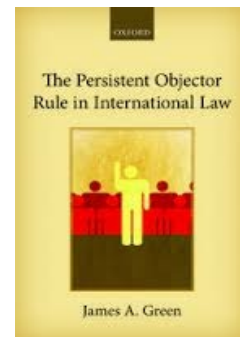
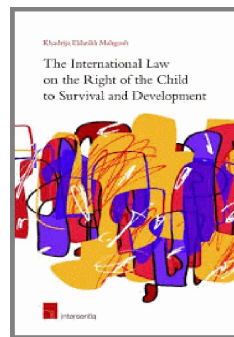
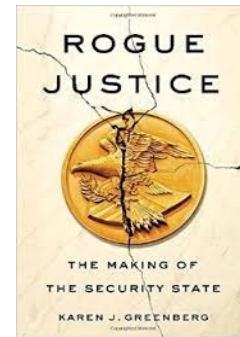
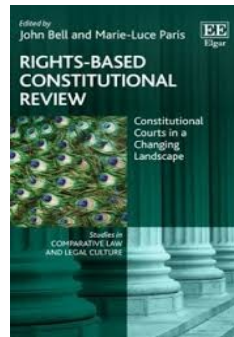
Reference Corner

What do law librarians bring back to the library from conferences? Here are some highlights from the Canadian Association of Law Libraries' annual meeting.



[Click here to see earlier issues of the Law Library Newsletter](#)

New Books



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Law Library Corner: From The Scrapbooks

The Law Library's *Banks Room* holds a collection of law school scrap books going back to when the faculty of law opened for business in 1959. To celebrate the beginning of a new school year, we've chosen a couple of stories highlighting our hard working law students in their second home - the Law Library! These were found in the scrapbook covering the period **July 1964-December 1968**.

THE GAZETTE

Friday, November 26/65

Standards up at law school

Admission standards are going up and the failure rate is going down as the UWO Law School is screening the applicants more carefully.

Dean A. W. R. Carrothers explained "the low 6% failure rate of last year's first year class" was due in part to the "increased admission standard of a 63.5 percent standing in the last year of undergraduate work."

He added that this was a "rule of thumb only" and that if a student has a lower average in graduating year and "the cause is not evidence of inability, we will give him a chance".

In the first year class there are "fewer than a dozen who had an average below 65%, and these were the exceptions who had proven themselves earlier", Carrothers explained.

He emphasized "the importance of undergraduate work in admission to Law School" adding there were too many who come with "weak-willed excuses for poor grades and who go and badger their professors for a letter of recommendation."

"There is pressure applied by the applications of qualified students." Carrothers added that this year 277 students applied, 143

were accepted, 84 registered and there is really room for 75.

Carrothers stressed the fact "we are not restrained in enrolment by the profession and there is no pressure to keep numbers down".

"If the failure rate is comparable to last year, no more than 5 will fail this year, which will mean we are pinched for space," commented Carrothers.

Specific recommendations regarding expansion will be presented to the President of the Board of Governors

in January, he said.

Participation in Moot Court is compulsory in first year and voluntary throughout law. It is one of the oldest traditions of legal education, giving the student experience in the preparation and presentation of legal argument, Carrothers explained.

"It is really appellate argument, which is simpler than trial work but experience in trial work is included in the procedure course," he continued.

There are ten full time

and six part time members of the faculty and there are fourteen universities represented by the full time faculty, he explained.

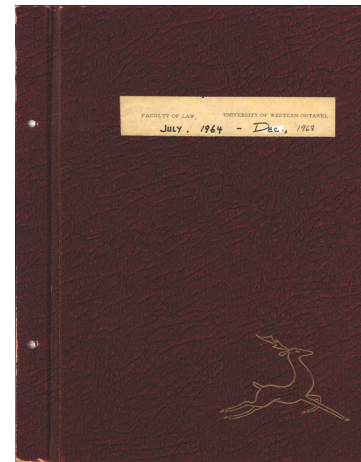
"Most of the faculty come from graduate work and are all very able" Carrothers said but they do not have "a widely recognized expertise".

Dean Carrothers assured "the faculty who are under thirty are much brighter than those who are over forty".

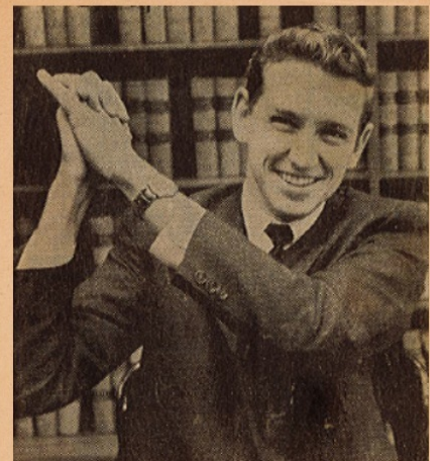
The Dean is the only member of the faculty who is over forty.



The case of Bloggs vs. the Carbolic Smoke Co., hmm...



DEC. 6 / 66



Law student Gordon Walker, 25, one of the youngest aldermen in London's municipal history, gives a victory salute today after winning one of the two seats in Ward 3. This morning he headed to the UWO law library to continue his studies. Walker polled 2,600 votes, running second to incumbent D.J. Porter.

Law Library Staff 1964-1968

Librarians

Margaret Banks (1961-1989)
Diane Teeple (1965-1970)

Support Staff

Nandor Pillich (1961-1974)
Winnifred Campbell (1961-1969)
Yutta Neilson (1964-1965)
Ruth Travis (1965-1971)
Eleanor McMahon (1965-1967)
Eleanor (Tapley) Quarry (1966-1969)
Gill Crowther (1967-1968)
Marianne Welch (1967-1974) (returned to professional position Oct 1976)
Donna Powell (1967-1968)
Ruth Corbett (1968-1969)

List compiled by retired law library assistant Linda Aitkins

Collections Corner: Recherche Juridique

Last year the law library subscribed to the online database *Recherche Juridique* developed by the Société québécoise d'information juridique (SOQUIJ).

SOQUIJ

Founded in 1976 by an act of the Quebec National Assembly¹, SOQUIJ operates under the authority of the Quebec Minister of Justice and is self-funded by the sale of its products and services. SOQUIJ provides both free access to judgments through its "Service aux Citoyens" site:

<http://soquij.qc.ca/fr/services-aus-citoyens>

as well as its value-added site for professionals....

Recherche Juridique

SOQUIJ refers to not only the database provider but also to the "portal" - what used to be known as *Azimut*. Within the portal are a number of services:

Recherche Juridique: primary law + commentary

Plumitifs: judicial records

Collections: annotated statutes, legislation guides

Les Express: daily e-newsletters

The *Recherche Juridique* service contains more than 1 million summaries and full text documents. It also contains over 25,000 commentary records, and is supplemented with references to nearly 900 statutes and 3,000 regulations. Decisions included are analyzed and classified by editors. Access to *Recherche Juridique* is through the library catalogue under the service's former name of Juris.Doc.

And a note on translations...

SOQUIJ also provides unofficial translations of Quebec decisions from French to English. An article posted on SLAW in July 2012, raises the issue as to whether legal researchers are missing "a large body of Canadian case law if they do not have at least reading ability in both French and English or access to

translation services."².

The story, and the following comments give some explanation as to how translated decisions come to be available to the researcher. Daniel Champagne, director of products and services at SOQUIJ wrote that since 2004, SOQUIJ has been translating judgments from the Quebec Court of Appeal, the Superior Court and the Court of Quebec, at a rate of about 1,250 pages per year. Grants from the federal government fund this work and allow it to expand coverage to include judgments of professional tribunals and the Human Rights tribunal.

Another comment from Vera Roy, translator for SOQUIJ explains that

The majority of the judgments translated from all of the courts concern areas of law that are of federal jurisdiction and are therefore relevant across Canada: ..., this includes constitutional and criminal law, as well as bankruptcy, extradition, Aboriginal, and a few other areas. Judgments in areas of law that are strictly provincial (such as property law) are not translated, while ones concerning areas where there is some overlap (such as family law) are, depending on the issue.

English versions of French decisions can also be found on CANLII within a week after their release by SOQUIJ.

¹. An Act Respecting the Société Québécoise d'Information Juridique, CQLR c S-20

². <http://www.slaw.ca/2012/07/18/jurisprudential-solitudes/>

Reference Corner: CALL Updates

Canadian Association of Law Librarians

Back in May John Sadler and Elizabeth Bruton attended the 54th annual CALL Conference held in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia. The following highlights the professional development sessions under the conference theme of *Competencies, Challenges, Connections*.



Publishers

Every year the legal publishers send their representatives to the CALL Conference to spark our interest in new products, demonstrate shiny new upgrades, or to just touch base with their favourite clients. The larger publishers are given stage time to demonstrate their products and these can sometimes be quite entertaining. The two UK publishers Justis and ICLR like to play off each other: ICLR Online is in the business of showcasing its specialized *Law Reports* and trumpets its coverage which includes all the arguments associated with each case. Justis offers more caselaw but emphasize that the "fast technology" of their service is tempered with human editing in order to explain those complex legal concepts.

HeinOnline reported some Big News. Coming soon, Canadian provincial annual statutes and revised statutes will be included in the library "Core Collection Canada". Coverage is comprehensive for Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Ontario. Coverage for Manitoba, PEI, Quebec, and Saskatchewan is historic... for now.

Sessions

The educational and plenary sessions hit on both substantive law and "library" topics. In *The Law of Evidence in the Digital Environment* Dr. Anthony Sheppard and Dr. Luciana Duranti reviewed the results of a research project looking at the admissibility of evidence in relation to cloud computing, employees' use of personal computers for work-related documents, collection of meta-data, retention and destruction schedules, and the reliability of record-keeping systems.

In a session entitled *The Connections of Constitutional Law* Sheila Tucker related her views on

how three cases *Carter, Insight, and Bedford* are not typical "liberal rights" cases but are constitutional cases looking at the harm of laws. Looking beyond facts, these cases were a study into the disproportionality of harm and the alternatives: drug addicts having the choice of not dying, those suffering pain having the choice of assisted suicide, sex workers not being physically abused. She made distinctions between the more American procedural approach to constitutional issues and perhaps a more mature Canadian substantive approach to equality.

A practical session was given by Professor Penny Hazelton on US legal research. This type of session is always useful in case something we have always relied on changes (The Thomas site is gone and has been replaced by <https://www.congress.gov/>). We also need reminding that U.S. public law numbers are the equivalent of Canadian statute "chapters", that an "unpublished" decision means that it has no precedential value because it has not established new law, and that docket laws refer to factums etc. (to be found in Bloomberg Law ... to which our Business Library has access).

Attendees were entertained by a session on the use of maps in legal research. Although we generally would refer such questions to map librarian Cheryl Woods in the Map & Data Library, it was interesting to hear about the "little white lies" that maps can bring into a legal argument. Beyond cases dealing with the failure to ascertain the correct dimensions of a property, maps come into many areas of environmental law where geographical details are vital, more than pretty marketing diagrams. The speaker used as an example a Northern Gateway pipeline project "map" used to show how *open* the Douglas Channel is. Clear sailing ahead?



Social

And there were social events - dinner and a show at the Vancouver Aquarium and a lovely cruise around the harbour. We also collected many pens and notepads and John won an iPad mini from ICLR!