



**BRITISH AND IRISH
ASSOCIATION OF
LAW LIBRARIANS**

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2010

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Editorial

Hello and welcome to the November edition of the BIALL Newsletter. As the nights start to lengthen, and the shopping days left to Christmas shorten, we hope that our host of regular features can provide some light relief! This month, Anneli Sarkenen - Information Officer at Field Fisher Waterhouse takes us through "A Day In The Life", while Sandra Wolstenholme of Bedell Cristin answers our questions for "On The Spot". And for all those of you interested in the science behind the database, Justis show us how they bring relevance to their results; plenty to help while away the long Winter nights. On behalf of the Publications Committee, may I wish you all an early Happy New Year, and we shall see you all in 2011!

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David Wills

By the time this newsletter reaches you we'll be nearing the end of another calendar year with Christmas and 2011 fast approaching! The final two months of 2010 will be as busy as ever for BIALl with several committee meetings taking place. There is also the Online Information Conference 2010 at Olympia (from 30 November to 2 December) at which BIALl will, as usual, have a presence and, with luck, we'll have a brand new exhibition display stand in evidence which will give the Association a refreshed look.

Recent meetings, during early October, of Council and SCOSAF (Strategy and Finance) highlighted the extensive range of good work being achieved throughout the Association. Revised terms of reference for all the committees have been adopted and the re-development of the Membership Database for the Association is being considered by our Treasurer. All the standing committees are busy at the present time with an array of activities and the content of this newsletter will demonstrate the continual dedication and commitment of the committee Chairs, vice-chairs and committee members. I remain grateful to them all and to the Officers and Council members for their support during the first half of my year as President.

Among just a few highlights at the time of writing, it is gratifying to report that: ABC are working towards accepting bursary applications for attendance at smaller event and trainings days; the Conference Committee are surging ahead with an exciting programme for Gateshead in June; Membership Services are preparing to offer a new members' survey, Professional Development are, as always, running various programmes – e.g. the Legal Foundations Course; PR and Promotions are preparing for Online Information 2010; the Publications Committee is working on new editions of the BIALl Handbook, Moys and an online Directory of British & Irish Law Libraries; and the Web Committee has recently welcomed a new Chair, Marianne Barber, with James Mullan stepping down having gallantly held the fort for an interim period. Following the results of the BIALl Supplier Survey 2010, the Legal Information Group has been engaged with specific legal publishers in order to improve customer relations. Finally, in this section concerning our committee work, I wish to report that, after many years of loyal service to the Association, Christine Miskin has decided to retire as editor of Legal Information Management following the publication of the Spring issue. Christine has been a splendid editor and we will miss her contribution to our professional literature immensely.

It was a great pleasure to attend the BIALl Irish Group meeting in Dublin on 29th October. The meeting, chaired by Sinead Curtin and hosted at Arthur Cox by Thérèse Broy, addressed a range of issues including matters concerning delays with publication of primary legislation in Eire, a copyright seminar, concerns about legal publishers and the digital repository movement. At the beginning of October Elizabeth Gleeson retired as Law Librarian from Trinity College Dublin following a long and distinguished career. On behalf of BIALl we wish her well for the future and thank her for all her contributions to law librarianship and legal education over many years. It is sincerely hoped that such a senior academic-related post within our profession will be advertised and an appointment made by the University in due course, despite the challenging financial climate within higher education.

Finally, as we approach the final days of 2010, may I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

David Wills
BIALl President

Council Officers and Members



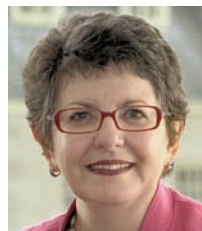
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Awards and Bursary Committee



Angela Donaldson

The Awards & Bursaries Committee met on the 30th September. Council have asked us to offer bursaries for more general training events, as well as the legal events and conferences that we currently support, so we are currently setting up the relevant processes to allow us to do this. Watch this space for more information – or very possibly, we'll have got the system sorted by the time you read this, and an email promoting the new bursaries may already have gone out.

We are also looking at the workflows involved in the existing bursaries and awards that we administer, partly for my benefit (as a new Chair with no previous experience of this committee) but also as a sensible business practice. In the previous newsletter, I mentioned the possibility of a new award. After discussion at the meeting, and consideration by Council, it's been decided not to go ahead with an additional award, but instead we will refine and make clearer the criteria for nominations for the Wildy Law Librarian of the Year.

I'm also pleased to announce that Sian Downes has been awarded this year's Alex McVitty Memorial Award. The Alex McVitty Memorial Award is presented to an Information Science student at City University, in memory of Alex McVitty, a former City University student and BIALL member who was tragically killed in road accident. We wish Sian all the best on her course and in her subsequent career.

Angela Donaldson
Chair, ABC

Professional Development Committee



Mark Haines

By the time you read this, the online Legal Foundations Course will be underway. The culmination of many years of good intentions followed by a lot of hard work over the last twelve months or so, we are pleased to see this online course finally come to fruition. Particular thanks and recognition are owed to the former committee chair Hannah Milford for the hard work which she put into this, as well as the efforts of current committee member Lisa Anderson, and Avis White at the University of Westminster. Forty students are enrolled on the course; which in fact is exactly the same number that sat when I studied myself on the old Law For Law Librarians Course ten years ago, so it's nice to see that the course is still just as healthy in its new format a decade on.

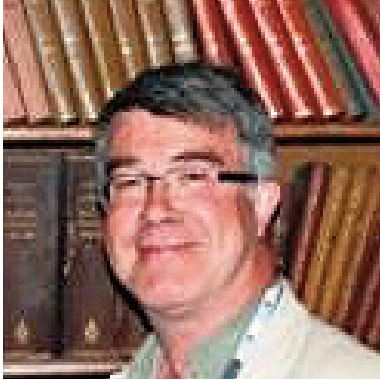
Since our last newsletter update, I am pleased to have welcomed two new members to our committee; Natasha Choolhun has joined us from the College of Law, and Anne Thomas from Lewis Silkin. At the time of writing, our next committee meeting will be taking place at Geldards LLP in Derby on Monday 15 November, starting at 3pm.

Our most recent seminar took place on 17 September, featuring Natalie Wieland from Melbourne University Law School who spoke about the Australian legal system and legal research in Australia. This was followed up by a chance to taste some authentic Australian wines, which many of the attendees were persuaded to stay behind and sample; I am reliably informed that as the evening progressed spillages were fairly limited, and only a few glasses were broken...

Our next seminar offered will be the Legal Reference Materials course which will run in both London and Leeds in mid December. I am just at the very last stage of confirming venues and dates at present, so expect further details to be announced any day now. Looking forwards, we hope to begin 2011 with a seminar on recruitment and selection, and of course the long awaited quiz night.

Mark Haines
Chair, Professional Development Committee

Conference Committee



John Furlong

The Conference Committee met in London on 15 October. We were very pleased to welcome prospective new members Tayo Ajibade and Vanessa Hayward.

The main focus of the meeting was on the proposed programme for Newcastle 2011. Niamh Burns and Beverly Oliver have been working hard on drawing together an excellent mix of practical parallel sessions and plenary sessions which address issues and concerns to all members of the profession.

In the parallel sessions for Newcastle, some thought is being given to a repeat of certain sessions as frequently delegates have commented that they may wish to attend two sessions which run at the same time. In addition some thought has been given to running one or two sessions from the past number of years which have proved to be particularly popular. The overall title and theme for Newcastle 2011 has been agreed as "Sharing Experience – Building Value in Legal Information".

The meeting discussed various arrangements for the evening events on the Thursday and Friday. It is now highly likely that we will run an informal "bowl networking" event at the Sage Centre on the Thursday evening. We believe this will provide a great ice-breaker for delegates and will take place in an informal setting at the Conference venue itself and with entertainment or music provided. It will also allow delegates some freedom in the later part of the evening to explore the delights of Newcastle. Again, in recent years many delegates have commented that they would like an opportunity to see a little bit more of the Conference location and we hope this, if agreed, will provide them with that opportunity.

Plans for the Exhibition are also proceeding and it is envisaged that by the time you read this the relevant material will have issued to our prospective Exhibitors. The Sage Centre will provide an excellent venue for the Exhibition with spectacular views over the city of Newcastle.

We will be combining a site visit to Belfast to look at prospective venues for 2012 with our Finance meeting towards the end of November. We are hoping to finalise plans for 2012 at an early stage given that the celebration of the Olympic Games in London that year will put additional pressure on accommodation throughout Britain and Ireland in the months leading up to the opening of the Games in July.

Over the next few weeks we will be starting to upload additional information with regard to Newcastle 2011 onto the BIALL website. We will also be issuing our calendar/flier so that you can mark the dates in your diary – 16-18 June 2011! As always, if you have any questions or comments with regard to the BIALL Conference please do not hesitate to contact me.

John Furlong
Chair, Conference Committee

PR and Promotion Committee



Catherine McArdle

Graduate Open Day

An Open Day was jointly run by BIALL and CLSIG on 28 October 2010. The event was very successful with 30 delegates from all over the country gathering at the Friends Meeting House. A report will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Online Information 2010 – Olympia – 30 November -2 December 2010

BIALL members have a discount to attend as a conference delegate – <http://www.online-information.co.uk/index.html> and free entry to the Exhibition. In addition to the main Conference and Exhibition the free seminar stream Global Business Information Forum will also take place. The programme focuses on topical aspects of business, financial and legal information and features expert speakers - one such expert speaker is BIALL's own Chair of the Web Committee – James Mullan – who will be giving the third slot on Tuesday 30 November on the topic “Using social media to drive innovation”.

To attend the Global Business Information Forum you need to pre-register with Online.

Volunteers needed

BIALL will be occupying Stand 712 in the Exhibition. If you are planning to attend Online and have a few hours to spare please let me know.

The next meeting of the Committee will be in November. We are always eager to hear from anyone who would like to come and join the committee. If you are interested please contact me or any member of the Committee.

Catherine McArdle
Chair, PR and Promotions Committee

Legal Information Group (LIG)



David Percik

LIG has commissioned James Mullan, KM Systems Manager at Field Fisher Waterhouse, to fill the traditional BIALL speaking slot at the Online Exhibition in December. James has performed the role before with distinction, and LIG is sure that he will provide an interesting and informative presentation.

Estates Gazette Group significantly increased their prices, and changed the methods of subscribing, for their online legal product for the subscription period 2009-2010. While differences remain between Estates Gazette Group and LIG following our lengthy discussions, especially in the appropriate use of their product, we are happy to report that they have been consulting on changes to improve the product's content and functionality. The changes should be introduced in the first half of 2011, and LIG will continue to make representations to the company about the terms and conditions of use.

There is less happy news regarding Informa. For much of 2010, LIG has been collecting complaints about the company, and our representations on behalf of BIALL members have seemed to have little effect. LIG raised the issue at the BIALL Council meeting of 8th October, to seek formal authorisation for further action. It was decided at the meeting that BIALL would write a formal letter of complaint to Informa. There should be more news on this in the next newsletter.

David Percik
Chair, BIALL Legal Information Group

In the last newsletter we reproduced an interview with Justis Publishing’s long-serving Managing Director, Masoud Gerami. Speaking about the company’s development over the past quarter of a century, and the changing demands and expectations of the market it serves, he rounded off the discussion with a few teasers relating to the redevelopment of the provider-neutral citator and search engine, JustCite ↗.

The most important product we’ve launched for years – certainly in the three that I’ve been writing these submissions – the new JustCite is worthy, so I persuaded your kindly newsletter editor, of a longer entry than usual.

I’ve therefore submitted a slightly reworked article that first appeared in another publication about a month ago, in which I chat to my developer colleagues about the two most significant and exciting improvements and additions to the citator: true “relevance” and so-called precedent mapping.

Though the buzz of conference season is over and the new JustCite is casting a big shadow on other projects, movements Justis-side ↗ can’t be sniffed at. The Justis Jamaican Cases ↗ are now live, and the Local and Private Acts are tantalizingly close to completion, for example.

But for now, let’s revel in the technological splendor of the new JustCite.

Playing the weighting game: “duty of care”, “clinical negligence” and other revitalised queries

When courts consider the weight of evidence and the weight of an argument, discretion and subjective judgment are matters of course. When selecting precedential authority, ascribing weight to all the possible citations at one’s disposal is similarly painstaking and time-consuming, as well as frustratingly iterative. But does it have to be? From speaking to two of the technical brains behind the re-engineered JustCite citator, we can shed some light under the bonnet and discover how the recent refinements will help practitioners and librarians assimilate at a glance how strong – and relevant – their authorities are.

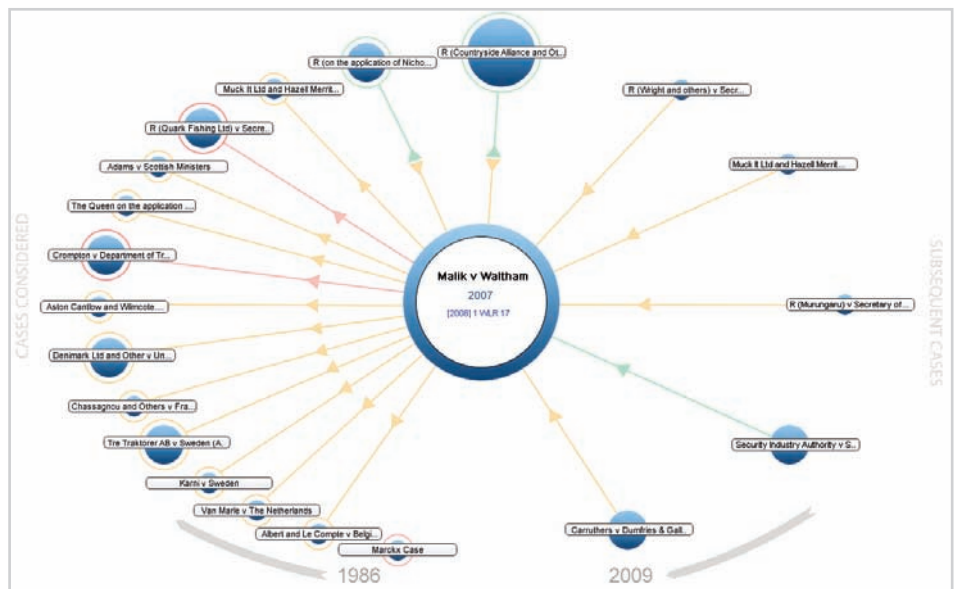
“Of course almost all cases never get cited,” says Robin Chesterman.

“So it’s a major challenge to deal effectively with the skewed distribution of the significant few that do,” his colleague Andrew Twidle adds.

Chesterman and Twidle are two of the in-house developers behind the large-scale redesign of JustCite, a year-long project that came about through a desire to improve the citator and search engine’s searching, results handling and information pages.

Though the scope of the now expanded project is enormous and multifaceted, their zeal seems at its most potent when discussing just two of the many areas of improvement: enhancing “relevance” in searches, particularly those that use subject terms; and the related concept of precedent mapping – or, to give it the name they’ve coined, JustCite mapping – which evolved from the original brief.

A sample JustCite Precedent Map, the exact design of which is subject to change



The first area can only really be appreciated when comparing the old JustCite with the new; while the second, though more visually demonstrable, is equally underpinned by what Chesterman describes as the “smarts” behind JustCite.

So how do these elements of the service work and why has such import been placed on them? Answers to these questions should demonstrate how practitioners’ and librarians’ research will be affected, particularly when considering the typical searches one might perform when starting out on a new case.

Let’s first consider “relevance”, the default criterion by which search results have been displayed on JustCite since its first incarnation a decade ago, and by which its sister service Justis sorts its records.

Name-checking Justis here serves as more than a cynical plug for the online legal library; it helps illustrate the limitations of the old JustCite because, unlike on the full-text Justis database, queries run across JustCite are confined to metadata.

Searching by citation, party name, series or year presents few problems. The same is true for the similarly unambiguous fields on JustCite’s legislation and article search screens. But the starting point for most speculative case searches is the specification of keywords.

A sample JustCite results page for a simple search of "duty of care"

The screenshot shows the JustCite search results page for the query "duty of care". The page displays a list of search results, each with a checkbox, a title, a year, and a citation number. The results are sorted by JustCite Ranking. The first result is "McAlister (or Donoghue) v Stevenson - 1932" with citation "[1932] AC 562". The second is "Caparo Industries Plc v Dickman - 1990" with citation "[1990] 2 AC 605". The third is "Hedley Byrne & Co. Ltd v Heller & Partners Ltd - 1963" with citation "[1964] AC 465". The fourth is "X (Minors) v Bedfordshire County Council - 1993" with citation "[1995] 2 AC 633". The fifth is "Anns v Merton London Borough Council - 1977" with citation "[1977] 2 WLR 1024". The sixth is "Dorset Yacht Co Ltd v Home Office - 1970" with citation "[1970] AC 1004". The seventh is "Murphy v Brentwood District Council - 1990" with citation "[1991] 1 AC 398". Each result includes a "Treatments" section with counts for positive, neutral, and negative treatments, and a "Recent" section with a brief description of the case.

Make no mistake, on the old version of JustCite, anecdotal evidence suggests that users did find what they were after by this method. But scrolling through results pages was often needed, relevance being determined somewhat arbitrarily by the number of times the keywords appeared in a particular document’s metadata.

Twidle explains that in contrast, much of the logic behind the new JustCite keyword search is analogous to the method Google once used to determine internet page ranking. Now too open to abuse on the internet’s high seas to remain viable for the search engine giant (and others like it), the position of a webpage was based in part on the number of links from other sites to the page.

But on the new JustCite, one of the crucial components of the new algorithm for relevance can relate to how many other cases a case cites and how many it is cited by, Twidle says, because the citator’s content is controlled in-house.

JustCite has always contained the necessary information for these computations to be made, so implementing the codes to do so was far less onerous a task than it could have been. But what impresses me is the leap of insight the team made in deciding to do this in the first place.

Comparing typical queries on the Quick Search screens of the old and new JustCite should provide a suitable acid test for the practitioner.

James Mulholland, an outgoing customer trainer at Justis Publishing, who took up a pupillage at a chambers in the Temple this year, suggests “duty of care” and “clinical negligence”.

Looking at his first example, the top five records in the results table of the old JustCite are: “[2006] PL 404, No duty of care in care proceedings” (0, 0); “159 NLJ 579, Do thy duty (2009)” (4, 0); “(2009) 54(4) J Law Soc Sc 64, Duty within bounds” (5, 0); “2000 c. 29 s. 2, Trustee Act 2000” (N/A); and “2000 c. 29 sch. 1, Trustee Act 2000” (N/A).

While these are perfectly valid examples of appropriate documents (the hyperlinks from some of them providing useful supplementary reading on the third-party sites users can click through to), none of them could be described as being among the most relevant examples of cases concerning duty of care; a point reinforced by the numbers I’ve added in brackets after each item, which indicate the number of cases each cited and the number of subsequent cases that have cited them.

However, an equivalent search on the new JustCite offers: “[1932] AC 562, McAlister (or Donoghue) v Stevenson” (34, 363); “[1990] 2 AC 605, Caparo Industries Plc v Dickman” (54, 237); “[1964] AC 465, Hedley Byrne & Co. Ltd v Heller & Partners Ltd” (47, 258); “[1995] 2 AC 633, X (Minors) v Bedfordshire County Council” (87, 124); and “[1977] 2 WLR 1024, Anns v Merton London Borough Council” (27, 190).

Even to a non-lawyer like me, Donoghue and Stevenson, and Hedley Byrne look reassuringly familiar, as do the cases from the second of Mulholland’s examples; and true enough, he confirms that the five highly-cited cases for “duty of care” would be likely contenders for inclusion in tort law textbook lists.

But, Mulholland reminds me, the added advantage of JustCite over textbook references is that the citator’s records are updated more frequently, and it also provides at-a-glance information on very recent cases that might have an effect on another case’s authority.

This information is displayed in what Chesterman and Twidle call JustCite’s “profile cards”. Acting as links to the full set of data for each record, profile cards appear on the new results page, and include in that view a snapshot of the citation-count numbers I’ve added to my two sets of results above.

These references are coded by the JustCite in-house editorial team, who assign a colour to indicate the tally of cited or subsequent cases that broadly support or broadly undermine the case in question. There’s also a colour for neutral. But some information can only be viewed after clicking through to a document – after all, Twidle is wont to point out, knowing what information to leave out is as important a task for a developer as deciding what to leave in.

This point should neatly segue into our discussion of precedent mapping. But before we look at that, I should acknowledge the observations of the arithmetically astute: the numbers in my top-five-cases list don’t quite add up. Why, for example, does Hedley Byrne follow Caparo, even though its combined count of associated cases is higher than the latter’s?

Chesterman explains that although there’s clearly a strong correlation between these numbers and relevance, there’s more to the algorithm than that. Citation stats carry most weight but other factors, some of them tweaked manually in the coding, play an important part in determining a case’s relevance or, for that matter, the relevance of an Act or article.

And speaking of Acts and articles, Chesterman points out that the new JustCite has been programmed to deduce the likely document type that someone entering a vague query might be after. This is achieved, he says, by the search engine cross-referencing the terms of the query against a number of terms that have been manually added by the development team. Alongside the more obvious words “act” and “case”, these include “v” and “vs”, hundreds of recognised citations and several other hand-selected indicators.

But back to precedent mapping

Due for a slightly later release than the core components of the citator's redesign, the new JustCite mapping function is arguably its most innovative element.

Outside the initial scope of the project, the idea sprung up from an observation the team made during their development work: when hopping for long enough between cases that have cited each other, a pattern of repeatedly cited cases will emerge in one's mind.

From such a pursuit, one eventually gets a feel of the strongest, most relevant cases to investigate further. But it's time-consuming.

So, asked the team, could we programme JustCite to generate that pattern of relationships automatically and dynamically?

The team started by researching the concept of citation mapping. The idea isn't new – numerous academic papers discuss methodologies and approaches for the visualisation of citation networks – but, according to Chesterman, there appear to be “few if any tools brought to market,” a state of affairs that exists in part due to the great difficulty in determining how these networks are displayed so that they convey enough but not too much information.

So they set to work themselves on bringing such a device to market as a component of JustCite.

Chesterman began by mocking up a few schematics based on manually plotting the relationships between sample cases; while Twidle looked into the maths and graph theory behind generating the chosen schematic automatically.

At the time of writing, the plan is to provide an additional link on all case records to an auto-generated diagram, which in turn becomes a navigable map between documents.

These maps will provide the sort of information that could only otherwise be gleaned iteratively and imprecisely from one's own observations of cited cases (using JustCite or by any other process). Chesterman describes their basic design.

The case name in focus appears in the centre of the screen as a circle containing information similar to the case's profile card.

This case is orbited by information on all the cases that it cited and that cited it; the former appearing as satellites on the left, ordered by case age; the latter, satellites on the right, also ordered by case age.

The relative size of these orbiting circles will be determined automatically by the number of case citations shared with the central case. And the lines linking the orbiting case to the central case will be directionally and colour coded to indicate the positive or negative effect of one case on the other.

Another dynamic component to the design will be the auto-generation of new line links between the cases in view if the user's mouse hovers over one of the outer cases. And, as with information links in the profile cards, if one clicks on one of the outer case circles, the user is taken not only to the record for that case but to the equivalent diagram, with that case in focus.

Clearly it would take a very long time to do this by hand. So on one level the team has succeeded by programming JustCite to do it automatically – or they will have by the time the project is finished.

But will they succeed in providing something that's actually useful for busy practitioners and librarians?

“As one of the developers behind it, it's impossible to assess how effective the visualisation is if you know what you're looking at,” says Twidle. “So we constantly get people to look afresh at each prototype diagram we produce to see whether they can see what we're trying to display, without our explaining beforehand what it represents.”

It's a sensible approach. From my exposure to one such prototype, I can see the immense time-saving benefits. And I'm bowled over by some of the other areas of JustCite's development that my interviewees mentioned in passing but which I haven't had the space to cover in depth, such as its increased jurisdictional control.

But I'm never faced with the daunting task of finding reliable, up-to-date precedents for court at the eleventh hour. If you are, why not follow Mulholland's lead by testing the new JustCite with a line of enquiry typical to your practice?

Day in the Life

BACK
NOVEMBER 2010



**Anneli Sarkanen,
Information Officer,
Field Fisher
Waterhouse**

I was very pleased to be asked to write for the Day In The Life feature of the BIALL newsletter. However, immediately after saying yes, I was struck with a sudden, “what do I write about to make it interesting? How honest should I be?”. A quick Tweet revealed I should be honest up to a point, and maybe add in some embellishments about what goes on in the stationary cupboard...(!) Hmmm. So I decided to just pick one day to record as an example of what I get up to, and if there was any activity in the stationary cupboard, so be it...

My typical day usually starts around 9:30am, but the day I chose for Day In The Life is not a typical day. Today started extra early with an 8:45am briefing meeting with the fraud team. We have fortnightly meetings where I update the team and we discuss items in the press on issues of fraud, bribery and corruption. It's an early start, but made all the better with tea (I don't drink coffee!) and croissants, and this week some home-made raspberry jam!

And then starts my “typical” day, in my office with the Dispute Resolution team. Each of the departments at FFV has a dedicated information officer, and the IOs sit within one of those practice groups. I share a room with our Litigation Executive, who promises to take me on one of his daily trips to the RCJ sometime soon, and a member of the Chinese desk. I also support the Employment & Pensions department, so because I don't sit with them, I try to pop down to their floor as much as possible. Both are great teams, and I'm enjoying building up a small body of knowledge relating to those practice areas.

If there are no enquiries to immediately deal with from the day before, it's a case of checking my emails and the alerts for the current awareness bulletins I produce for my departments. Today I have some research to continue with for one of the employment lawyers in preparation for a seminar they are presenting at, and some items to follow up on from the fraud meeting, so the current awareness is put on hold – for now.

Once those items of research are tackled and completed, on with the current awareness. I produce general weekly bulletins for my two practice groups and then more specialised ones. The Employment Bulletin also goes to an external client, in combination with the alerter the Employment PSL composes. Some of the more specialised bulletins cover fraud, retail, and HSE fines.

I don't have a shift to monitor the enquiries inbox today but this doesn't mean there aren't any enquiries! I more often than not receive queries directly from my departments, rather than to the library enquiries inbox. It wasn't an overly busy day for new enquiries today; a search on a company, its structure and its assets, a trainee trying to locate an old EAT case, and a search for recent articles on dress codes and their related employment cases.

Today is also the day we have a weekly meeting for the Library and Information Services team. A chance to catch up with the rest of the team and see what they've been up to (interesting enquiries, workload etc) and any other information we need to know about. One of our library managers has just come back from holiday so treats in store – new Mint Crisp TimTams from Australia!

At various points in the day, I check my RSS feeds, which I use for adding to the bulletins and other topics I am tracking for people. Before starting at FFV, I hadn't used RSS at all, but now I can't live without Google Reader! I use Page2RSS to convert websites that don't have news feeds into RSS, and also ChangeDetection.com to alert me by email – I haven't decided which one to rely completely on yet! Also throughout the day, I amend and add pages to the wiki spaces I'm involved with, and update pages on the intranet.

The day ended with a surprise request from my office buddy (he doesn't usually need to ask me things!), a question of if a claim had been issued in the High Court. Not knowing which division it had been issued in, a quick check of Lawtel's Pending Actions gave us the Commercial Court, saving time and money in searching the registers for each court. A happy customer to end the day on and its homeward bound; without any after work drinks or other such social event, I'm looking forward to trying out a new recipe for dinner.

And the question of any activity in the stationary cupboard? Nope, nada. Nothing to report there!

**Sandra Wolstenholme,
Librarian at Bedell
Cristin, answers our
questions...**



Q If you weren't a librarian, what would you be?

I realise I've often asked myself this question recently especially when you hear of people losing their jobs. I don't know what I would do as I have no desire to retrain/take exams for a new career, but doing something outdoors like gardening or conservation work would be lovely as long as it paid the bills/mortgage; although when the weather is bad outside then I'm happy being inside!

Q What annoys you most in your career?

I try to be generally laid back about things but when something goes wrong on a Monday morning it seems worse somehow..as I'm reminded this week that I should "just say No!" when publishers phone up to offer discounts on books and then things go wrong even if you thought you'd covered every eventuality from previous experience and you realise you should have just stuck to using your usual agent...so next time!

Q How do you spend your time away from your organisation?

Living in Jersey we are spoilt for things to do as everything is on your doorstep, and working part time I can pop down to the beach after work when the weather is fine. No matter what the weather there is salsa, which I have been doing for the past four years. It's great exercise, very social, good music and all of that gives you the feel good factor and as my boyfriend Neil enjoys it too it's lovely to dance together as well with other people. It's also a great way to switch off after needing to make decisions at work and home as it's the man who makes the decisions about what moves to make so I can just relax and follow!

Q What is the one thing you couldn't live without at work?

Other people. Some people come into our Library on the ground floor saying how lovely and quiet and sunny it is but when my colleague Lucy went on maternity leave there was no way that I wanted to work there on my own every day. So it was arranged that I could sit with the Litigation Dept which was great just being around other people and being seen to be around. When she came back just two days a week I still work up there on the days she isn't in the office.

Q Which famous person would you most like to present you with the BIALL Law Librarian of the Year Award?

I don't expect to ever win that so just as unlikely would be Midge Ure as he looked in the 80's as he was a heart throb of mine back then!

Q What's your favourite legal drama series or movie?

I don't have a favourite but when I mentioned what I did as a living to someone they said I should watch a recent series/film as it showed how important a Law Librarian was - it may have been Damages with Glen Close but I can't remember..

Q What are your favourite three songs?

There are so many songs, old and new, but I love Moon River sung by Audrey Hepburn, it's a heart wrenching but beautiful song and it's also the 50th anniversary of the film Breakfast at Tiffany's next year. Dancing in the Moonlight by Toploader is a wonderful song and makes you just want to dance. Vienna or any song by Midge Ure and Ultravox is great, he was in Jersey this year for a solo acoustic gig at Thelma's Lounge and I was standing only a couple of metres away from him, brilliant!

Q Do you have any phobias?

I'm afraid it's the usual spider phobia; despite thinking I should be able to cope with them by now there was the biggest one I've ever seen in my flat this summer. After getting my 13 year old daughter Sophie to throw her school folder on top of it several times, to no avail, I needed to get a neighbour out of bed to deal with it and it took 3 flushes to get rid of all of it down the loo! But a worse thought was for how long and where had it been living in my flat!! So I went and bought some mesh to put over any open window to stop anymore coming in.

Q If you were a cake what would you be?

This would have to be a chocolate fudge cake which is lovely cold but gorgeous warmed up with cream..

Q Have you ever been attacked by an animal?

I was almost attacked years ago when walking with a friend I was travelling with in Singapore when a bulldog came running along the road towards us barking and growling and I had visions of being in hospital having a massive injection against rabies, but fortunately when we moved out of the way it just went running past; I've no idea why.

Master Ruth Bird

Ruth Bird (Bodleian Law Librarian) was made an Honorary Bencher at Middle Temple on October 12. She was one of seven new Benchers; the other Honorary Bencher was **Clive Stafford Smith**, founder of Reform. She gave a brief speech at the Call ceremony, where her husband and mother were among the guests. She is thrilled at this unexpected turn of events, and a little bemused to be addressed as Master Ruth Bird when at Middle Temple.

Ruth & her mum in the Queen's Room.



A glimpse of the High Table in the Middle Temple Hall.



- **Catherine Parkin** and Liz Lanfear, "Information literacy clinics: creativity on prescription", *Assessment, Learning and Teaching Journal* (9) pp.27-29
- **Laura Woods**, "Networking Groups for New Professionals", *Information Outlook (Special Libraries Association Journal)*, August 2010
- **Mandy Webster**, "Legal issues in developing and running information systems – book review", *CILIP Update*, November 2010 p.26

If you have an article or mention you would like included, please send the citation to: anne.coles@lg-legal.com.

Forthcoming Events

November	22	Work Hard Play Harder: Social Networking and the Employment Relationship. SCL, London.
	23	Advanced Information Architecture: A Strategic approach. TFPL, London.
	23	eSurvey methods. CILIP, London.
	24	Abstracting with confidence. CILIP, London.
	30 - 1 Dec.	Online Information 2010. London.
December	2	Essential skills for LIS staff. CILIP, London.
	2	Working together in difficult times: strategies for e-resource budgeting, negotiation and collection review. JIBS, York.
	3	Knowing your own worth - evaluation and marketing. CILIP, London.
	6	Supporting the research student. CILIP, London.
	6	Moving on in MARC 21: potential impact of RDA. CILIP, London.
	7	Cataloguing and classification. CILIP, London.
	9	Equity Offerings. CLIG, London.
	9	Teaching information literacy in HE: what, where and how?
	13	Expert Conference on Open Access and Open Data. Goportis, Cologne, Germany.
January	18	Copyright infringement & Digital Economy Act 2010. CILIP, London.
	19	Building websites for mobile phones. CILIP, London.
	21	How to design training sessions. ASLIB, London.
	24	Abstracting and Summarizing. ASLIB, London.
	26	Dewey: a beginners' guide. CILIP, London.
	27	Branding the library and information service. CILIP, London.
	27	Creating a taxonomy: how to get started. CILIP, London.
	28	Business Plans: how to produce a workable and convincing business plan. ASLIB, London.

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