

With its new look and timely appearance in 1999, volume 27:1 seems like a veritable milestone for the *International Journal of Legal Information*. For the first time in several years we are caught up! With the continued magnificent efforts of both Editorial Assistant **Deborah Bright** in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the creative and dedicated **West Group** publishing team in Eagan, Minnesota, we hope to remain so.

The year 1999 also marks the 40th Anniversary of the *International Association of Law Libraries*--something that President **Larry Wenger** reflects on in his message, "IALL at 40." Attached to his article is **Adolf Sprudz's** original announcement at the launching of the *Association*, in the form of an excerpt from the preeminent international library journal *Libri*.

Because of **Adolf Sprudz's** extraordinary contributions to the law library profession, it is fitting to include a bibliography of his entire scholarship, which spans a period of over 45 years, in this special issue. Produced at the *University of Chicago Law School*, from which Dolf retired several years ago, this listing updates the one published in these pages on the occasion of his 60th birthday in 1982.¹ The bibliography illustrates amply Dolf's close connection and importance to the *IALL* and the *Journal*, and is a reminder of the debt of gratitude we owe him also for having forged a path in the "world-wide treaty jungle": his writings have served as a *vade mecum* for an entire generation of law librarians and are of a lasting significance.

At the time of the *Association's* anniversary, it is useful to look back at the history also of the *IJLI*, which, through the energy and vision of **Gerhard Dahlmanns**, took the first leap from an internal news bulletin issued since 1960 into a "full-fledged periodical of international law librarianship" in 1973, as the *International Journal of Law Libraries*. In his article in the inaugural issue, Dahlmanns stressed the *Journal's* role as a "means of communication between members" and as "a channel for the exchange of data

¹ 10 *International Journal of Legal Information*, no. 6, 284 - 286.

and ideas, as a catalyst and as a reliable mirror of the significant professional events, developments and trends around the globe.” Excellent examples of the value of networking are the contributions by Jill Watson, Director of Library and Information Services of the *American Society of International Law* in Washington, D.C., and **Inger Eriksson Haider**, librarian at the *Swiss Institute of Comparative Law* in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The responsibility to keep the quality and interest level high, for a membership journal such as ours, very much rests on the shoulders of its members. In addition to personally contributing an article, a bibliography or a book review, it is equally important that we identify expertise and refer potential writers among friends and colleagues. By taking an active interest in broadening the field of contributors, you, Reader and Member, will help the *Journal* become a focal point for cutting-edge trends, a valuable source of information on upcoming professional conferences, as well as a forum for open debate of issues of significance to law librarians world-wide.

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