

## NEWS NOTES AND COMMENTS

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*Section Editor:* IGOR I. KAVASS

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### DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SWISS INSTITUTE OF COMPARATIVE LAW

The Swiss government is seeking a Director of Library for the recently established Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, located in Lausanne-Dorigny (Vaud). The responsibilities of the Director will include the organization and administration of the library as well as the development of its collection of international and comparative law materials.

Applicants are required to have legal and library education, as well as extensive experience in the administration of law libraries with substantial holdings of comparative and international law materials. They should also be familiar with the structure of the major legal systems and the library application of electronic and other technical equipment. Knowledge of French, German and English languages is essential; knowledge of other languages is desirable. Remuneration will be commensurate to experience (it should be pointed out that it will be internationally competitive).

Applications, including full résumés, lists of publications, references, and other materials, should be sent to Professor Alfred von Overbeck, 14, Fort-St-Jacques, 1700 Fribourg, SWITZERLAND (telephone: 037/24 39 93), the Director of the Institute, from whom further information may be obtained.

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### LIBRARY COOPERATIVE CUTS COSTS FOR LAW BOOKS

Over the past few years a promising new option for obtaining American law books at low cost has been developed for the profession. Started in 1978, the Law Library Microform Consortium now offers over 15,000 volumes to its participating libraries at a standard price of \$3.75 per volume. Over one hundred libraries in the United States and abroad now take advantage of this option for obtaining law books in low-cost, economical-to-store microfiche.

The Consortium is a non-profit operation headquartered in Hawaii. Its board of directors includes librarians from around the United States, and it is further assisted by a National Advisory Board elected by the participating libraries. The National Advisory Board is primarily responsible for the selection of the 5,000 additional volumes of law books which are added to the publications list each year.

To date the Consortium has concentrated its efforts on public domain American law materials. It offers a wide range of titles in the following areas: Virtually all of the reports and decisions of the various U.S. Federal Administrative Agencies, most of the official reports of the various U.S. federal courts, U.S. Congressional materials, including the Statutes at Large and the various editions of the U.S. Code, a wide range of international law materials, including the major treaty series published by the U.S. Department of State, as well as the U.N. and League of Nations treaty series, the official reports of the courts of some eighteen U.S. states, the full list of all discontinued court reports for New York, all primary legal materials for the states of Michigan and Hawaii, many early American annotated court reports series, and a basic Native American legal materials collection numbering some 1,000 volumes.

Materials are uniformly provided in the same format selected by the U.S. Government Printing Office, namely 24X Diazo film, with a negative image, a maximum of 98 pages per fiche and with eye-visible headers. All titles are sold complete. Libraries may become participants by ordering one or more titles. Inquiries for more information should be addressed to: LLMC, P.O. Box 11033, Honolulu, Hawaii 96828.

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#### LIBRARIES OF LAW FIRMS AND CORPORATE LEGAL DEPARTMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES

The findings of recent survey, conducted by the *Legal Times of Washington* (one of the United States legal newspapers with a national circulation), indicates that a large proportion of the major law firms in this country spend between US \$100,000 and US \$200,000 annually on their libraries. A majority of large corporations spend between US \$50,000 and US \$100,000 on the libraries of their law department. Nevertheless, the *Legal Times of Washington* concludes (in its issue of June 23, 1980) that "the nation's premier law firms and corporate law departments still allocate an extremely small portion of their resources to the law library and legal research".

The survey was conducted among the countries 50 largest law firms and 25 largest corporate law departments (as well as 10 biggest law firms in Washington, D.C.).

The same issue of the newspaper contains an article on the role of librarians and information specialists in law firms, and another article, authored by George S. Grossman of Northwestern University Law Library in Chicago, on cataloging of law books by computer.