

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

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The first issue of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEGAL INFORMATION (IJLI) with its new cover design, layout and other features has come out and the comments I have received have been overwhelmingly positive. Thanks to our new printer and distributor, William S. Hein & Co., Inc., for their efforts on behalf of the IJLI. And thanks to you, our subscribers and readers, for your patience and indulgence as we complete the transition from our former, long-time publisher, Thomson-Reuters, to Hein. The International Association of Law Libraries looks forward to a long and fruitful relationship with our new colleagues at Hein, and we hope that you will also benefit from this new relationship as well.

When I began collecting pieces for this issue of the IJLI, I went looking for particularly strong, meaty articles—something readers could sink their teeth into. I got my wish: within a short time I received submissions for a number of authors who presented me with manuscripts that fit this criteria: and so you will find six very substantive articles in this issue. I am especially pleased that four of the six articles are penned by law library colleagues.

The lead article was written by **DeCarlous Spearman**, a law library director colleague from Texas. It is a timely, useful and easy-to-read piece on the many-faceted issue of plagiarism in law school contexts. Ms. Spearman's pragmatic approach to her subject makes her article appeal to readers of all types: law students, law faculty members, and librarians alike.

**Catherine Lemmer**, a fellow editor, has provided IJLI readers with a kind of guide for librarians who wish to be library consultants. Ms. Lemmer draws upon her recent experience in a South African law library as a consultant brought in to assist in the re-organization and modernization of the library. Her article points out a number of issues that potential librarian-consultants should consider when taking on this kind of work.

Lemmer's piece is followed by a well-researched history of International Trade Law and Information Policy, written by **Genevieve Tung**. Ms. Tung treatment of the subject is thorough and scholarly, yet it is still a good read. She uses case studies to help make her point, and it makes for very interesting reading. This hits the sweet spot of good academic writing—something relatively rare in law-related scholarship.

The shortest—but certainly not the least—article in this issue of the IJLI focuses on information literacy. The article is co-authored by **Dennis Kim-Prieto** and **Kerem Kahvecioglu**. The authors take a comparative approach, using the United States, the United Kingdom, and Turkey, to illustrate their

theory about the development of information literacy standards and practices in law school contexts.

The next article looks at one possible application of social media in legal research or law office settings. The author, **Patrick Ellis**, uses a somewhat experimental method to reveal social media's potential as viable, reliable source of legal information. He advocates taking social media applications such as Twitter beyond the typical marketing functions it occupies in law firms and use it instead as a kind of discovery tool for legal information. His article is thought-provoking and a good read as well.

Finally, we include an exceptionally thorough research guide for European data protection law. The guide was co-authored by **Steven S. McCarty-Snead** and **Anne Titus Hilby**. The guide will be an excellent resource for anyone doing research in this dynamic area of the law. McCarty and Hilby have annotated every major source of information in this subject area and provide a useful tool for those who, like me, do not like to reinvent the wheel when it comes to legal research.

Of course, we have our usual sections of book reviews, edited by **Thomas Mills**, and the International Calendar, compiled and edited by **Aslihan Bulut**. No issue of the IJLI would be complete without them.

I sincerely hope you enjoy this issue of the IJLI. It is packed full of interesting and useful information. And I would like to take this opportunity to invite you, too, to submit a piece for possible publication in the IJLI that you have authored. One of my principle goals as editor is to make sure that your voices and the subjects that interest you are represented on the pages of the IJLI. So let me hear from you!

*Mark Engsberg, Editor  
Editor, International Journal of Legal Information  
Hugh F. MacMillan Law Library  
Emory University School of Law*