

Editorial

There are three main themes in this, the first issue of LIM for 2005. We begin with a series of short articles on the perils, pitfalls and challenges of multi-site working within the legal information environment. I am very grateful to the large number of people who have contributed to this theme by answering a short questionnaire that we put together in an attempt to ascertain what the key issues are. Some of our contributors have elected to answer the questions given as a template and others have adopted a more narrative style. Unfortunately we did not manage to get a contribution from an academic library. We do have articles from a number of our well-known large regional/City law firms, plus contributions from two smaller Scottish firms and the experiences of the College of Law. As a precursor to this theme our topical issues section features an article by Elisabeth Tooms, until recently Global Head of Library Services at Allen & Overy, on the challenges involved in running what must be the ultimate multi-site library with a staff of over 70 information professionals scattered around the world. Elisabeth also traces the history of her involvement in the development of the service from its beginnings in the early 1980's. At the other end of the spectrum Isabel Hood has written a wonderfully down-to-earth account of the stresses and strains of being a one-person library and information service in a multi-site law firm.

Our second theme is devoted to management issues and we are fortunate to have two papers written as a result of the Winter Study Conferences in 2003 and 2004. Candy Jannetta gave a very useful workshop on coaching skills to the Newcastle Conference and this year Lesley Robinson conducted a workshop on writing business cases at the Bristol Conference. Alison Johnson from Eversheds continues our theme of training, begun in the Winter issue, as she describes the new uniform legal research training programme instituted by the Information Services team for trainee solicitors. This section is completed by publication of Jennifer Barrow's Edinburgh Conference paper on managing the working relationship with professional support lawyers in large law firms.

Our third theme is about new/redeveloped library buildings and I am very pleased that we have managed to get the law librarians of two London flagship academic libraries to write for us. Maria Bell tells us about the redeveloped

London School of Economics Library and what it is like working in the Norman Foster designed building. Ann Lees writes about the Maughan Library and Information Services Centre of Kings College, London, which contains the law collection and is housed in the very impressive former Public Records Office building in Chancery Lane.

On the law firm front we have two contributions. Rochelle Rawlinson at Lovells tells us about their magnificent new building, which houses a beautifully colour co-ordinated and very impressive library. Rochelle also describes how the firm took the opportunity not just of physically merging two library services but also of reorganising the library staff and her article is a useful case study in change management.

Clare Monk and the team at Sidley Austin also merged two libraries into one when they moved recently to Woolgate Exchange in Basinghall Street. These articles should be read in conjunction with Sara Berry's article on planning a move in the Autumn 2004 issue of LIM.

This issue notches up another first in the shape of our new *From Our Own Correspondent* column. We are trying to widen the geographical scope of the journal and are delighted that John Eaton, very well known to Conference attendees as a talented musician, and former President of CALL, has agreed to contribute our first column. John has chosen to write about the seminal recent copyright case involving the Law Society of Upper Canada and CCH Canadian, Canada Law Book Co and Thomson Canada Ltd, which reasserts user's fair dealing rights in Canada.

We also have contributions from Ann Hemming on the LORD database and Peter Clinch on the FLAG database.

On the domestic front, I am very grateful to Gillian Sands for helping to produce the excellent *Current Awareness* column for several years now. Gillian has recently moved from the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies to the Bodleian Law Library as Foreign and Comparative Law Librarian and is giving up her responsibilities for the column. However, she is not leaving the Editorial Board and will be assisting us in finding foreign correspondents. Her place in the current awareness team has been taken by Katherine Read, also of IALS, and we welcome her on board.

Our plans for offering a refereed section are continuing and we hope to start this facility during 2005.

Christine Miskin