WHO AM I?

I am a 1992 graduate of Indiana University School of Law and a 1993 graduate of Indiana University School of Library and Information Science. While in law school, I was active in SLA and Delta Theta Phi. I worked as a circulation desk attendant and a library "bouncer". I spent a grueling summer between law school and library school studying for the Indiana Bar Exam, which, thank heavens I passed.

In August of 1993, I moved to Chicago and began working at the Northwestern University School of Law Library as the Evening and Weekend Reference Librarian. Northwestern's football team was terrible then. The library was often very quiet during my work hours (we didn't get too many pro se patrons or local attorneys), so to amuse myself I began writing a weekly column for the law school newspaper. I tried to highlight materials that were available in the library or online (there was not a library newsletter). I must admit, though, my articles looked out of place next to the seemingly endless discussions of the law students' mediocre love lives.

In addition to the newspaper articles, I began writing for the Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology. I have a regular column that highlights new books in the area of criminal law and criminology. My articles are even indexed on Legal-Trac and available on LEXIS and WESTLAW.

Criminal law is not my only area of interest. I am an Internet junkie. I subscribe to a number of listservs and have a long list of bookmarked sites on the web. In my office, which (hint-hint) is the first one on the right in the Reference Room, I keep a Rolodex of web addresses and a book called Sports on the Net. I am most interested in how the Internet affects first amendment and copyright law doctrine.

I am Juliet Casper, the new Electronic Services Librarian.

THE LAW OF NIGERIA

One legacy of the Library's earlier history is a large collection of African law, collected mostly during the 1950s and 60s. Much of this collection was acquired by W. Burnett Harvey, an expert in African law, who served as dean from 1966-1971. For the most part, the Library has not continued to collect African jurisdictions, due principally to the difficulty of maintaining up-to-date legal sources for such a large number of jurisdictions. However, one exception to this is Nigeria, for which the Library has continued to maintain a comprehensive collection of legal materials.

The Library has continued to collect Nigerian law for a variety of reasons. First, this collection represents part of our effort to include at least some jurisdictions from all parts of the world. Nigeria, in particular, was selected because it is a large jurisdiction (in fact, with approximately one hundred million inhabitants, the largest in Africa), with English serving as the

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official language. This follows, of course, from Nigeria’s history. Although Hausa, Yoruba, and Ibo are the most commonly spoken languages in everyday discourse, public discourse has long been carried on in English as the result of English colonization in the late nineteenth century.

English law also serves as the basis for most contemporary Nigerian law, and was formally received on numerous occasions, most recently in 1914. However, customary law continues to play an important role, particularly in matters of family law, and Malekite Islamic law is important in the northern part of the country, where the population is largely Muslim. Both bodies of law are administered through their own courts. The main body of statute and common law is administered through a system of courts that resembles the English court system. At the federal level there is a Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, and High Courts, with general original jurisdiction. In theory, the Supreme Court has the power of judicial review, but this is now moot, since the Constitution has been suspended for some time. Each state has a High Court, with unlimited civil and criminal jurisdiction, lower Magistrates Courts, with limited, but original jurisdiction, and customary courts. As already mentioned, northern states also have Sharia’s courts, whose decisions are final, unless they involve constitutional questions. Appeals may also be brought from the High Courts.

Despite its large size, Nigeria does not support a well-developed legal publishing industry, a problem that is worsened by the difficult political circumstances that have existed there for a generation. The two most important sources for legal research are the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990, the first collection of federal statutes to be published since 1958, and the Annual Volume of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, which updates the material in the revised statutes. For case law, the researcher can turn to the All Nigeria Law Reports, which have been published sporadically since independence in 1960. This collection was recently completely revised and republished, together with a subject index. However, no new volumes have appeared since 1990, indicating that publication will continue to be at irregular intervals.

State law is even more difficult to locate, as state publications have been even more intermittent. The states themselves have been reorganized on many occasions, with the total number today at 30. None of them has a revised collection of statutes. The researcher must use various regional compilations, together with state session laws, when available. Although the capital was moved in 1991, Lagos State continues to be the most important state jurisdiction.

There are several good introductions to Nigerian law. The Nigerian Legal System, by T.O. Elias (1963) is an old, but very good survey. Further information can be obtained in Reynold’s Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Legislation in the Jurisdictions of the World, the International Encyclopedia of Comparative Law, and the Europa World Year Book 1995, where the researcher will find a good summary of Nigeria’s confused political development since 1960.

Ralph Gaebler, Foreign & International Librarian

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Three Sovereigns for Sarah

This month, rather than reviewing a book, I have chosen to review a video in connection with the current display case presentation. Three Sovereigns for Sarah is a 3-part video presentation concerning the Salem witchcraft hysteria of 1692-1693. This video was produced by PBS to provide a factual presentation of what happened, as told through one of the accused—Sarah Cloyce. The dialog is based on actual trial transcripts and is an attempt to dispel the myths and legends of what transpired.

The series opens with Sarah Cloyce, played by Vanessa Redgrave, travelling to Boston to appear before a Royal Court of Inquiry some 11 years after the hysteria and trials. She begins her testimony by going back to the seeds of the hysteria in 1689 with the division in the village concerning the calling of a new minister, Samuel Parris. The trouble begins when Parris’ household slave Tituba, a native of the West Indies, begins telling several young girls in the community mystical tales of voodoo. The girls begin to have visions and fits, and eventually begin to accuse various people in the community of afflicting them. The arrests begin, based solely on spectral evidence.

As the series continues, the initial hearings are held concerning the evidence. Rebecca Nurse, who was Sarah Cloyce’s older sister (and played by Phyllis
Thaxter), appears before two magistrates in the village meetinghouse. She insists that she is innocent, but then the girls go into convulsions and accuse Rebecca of tormenting them. The magistrates determine that there is enough evidence to go to trial, and they order her to be jailed.

The accusations continue, with Sarah Cloyce being charged when she defies Reverend Parris. She also appears before the magistrates and proclaims her innocence, but once again the young girls begin to have fits and convulsions. The magistrates are convinced by this spectral evidence and order her to jail in preparation for her trial.

Eventually Rebecca Nurse and another sister of Sarah Cloyce are convicted and executed, along with 17 other people. One old man, Giles Cory, is pressed to death for refusing to enter a plea. But then government officials decree that spectral evidence will no longer be accepted as the sole factor in determining guilt of witchcraft. This decree virtually ends all further accusations and the hysteria comes to an end.

This video series is remarkable for the level of acting and the attention to historical detail. I highly recommend it as an introduction into the Salem witchcraft hysteria.

Michael Maben, Cataloging Librarian

MS. RESOURCE EXPLAINS IT ALL

I’m confused and may have made an incorrect assumption regarding the purpose of the Federal Register. I know that all government agency rules and regulations appear first in the Federal Register, then are compiled annually and arranged by subject in the Code of Federal Regulations. However, what is the value of keeping all the old issues of the FR after the regulations have been inserted in the CFR?

Gentle Student:

You have, indeed, made an incorrect assumption. The Federal Register serves as much more than simply an advance sheet for the CFR. The Federal Register is one of the primary sources of administrative research and retains its value long after the regulation has gone live in the Code of Federal Regulations. It is true that new regulations appear first in the Federal Register initially in draft form for public comment and eventually in final form. The FR can also be used to monitor proposed and final rules and to update the CFR. However, the FR may also be used to trace the

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The Suggestion Box

(Each month in this space Associate Director Linda Fariss replies to suggestions received by the Library)

Suggestion: Tobacco products: common decency. Absolutely no chewing of tobacco in law school library at carrels. Only a real pig would make carrel mates listen with disgust as you spit.

Response: I agree. As a matter of fact, if you read the library policy regarding tobacco in the Library Guide, you will note that the policy prohibits the use of any tobacco products in the Law Library. This includes chewing tobacco. If you note a violation of this policy, please report it to a staff member and we will speak with the person. Thank you.

Suggestion: The most recent hornbook for Corporations is 1983 with a 1986 pocket part (Henn). Professor Gellis says she is sure there is a more recent one. Could we see? A hornbook that is 12 years old isn’t very helpful! Look into purchasing a newer hornbook. Perhaps ask Professors Gellis or Hicks for suggestions.

Response: Dick Vaughan, our Acquisitions Librarian, did check on this and apparently the 1983 edition of Henn with a 1986 pocket part is, indeed, the most recent hornbook on the subject. We receive all West hornbooks on a standing order as soon as they are published and, if another corporations hornbook becomes available, we will receive it. In the meantime, we will continue to make sure there is not one available that we have missed.
history and background of a regulation. The Federal Register provides a wealth of information on government agency actions beyond actual regulations. Particularly useful is the sometimes lengthy background material on proposed and final regulations. Appearing before the actual text of the rule is a "Supplementary Information" section giving background and discussing comments and issues that arose during consideration of the previously printed regulation. Other types of material printed in the Federal Register include policy and interpretation statements and occasional administrative publications such as Circulars of the Office of Management. In addition, there are grant application instructions and deadlines; notices of hearings and meetings on regulatory issues; announcement of agency decisions, petitions received and official actions; and notices on agency reorganization, and the establishment and termination of commissions.

I hope that this explanation will allow you to use the Federal Register correctly in the future.

Feeling incorrect? Ask Ms. Resource to explain it all.

NEW DATABASES ON IO

Several new databases have been added recently to IO, the library's online catalog, that might help you in your research. Criminal Justice Abstracts provides comprehensive coverage of the major journals in criminology and related disciplines, extensive coverage of books, and substantial access to reports from government and nongovernmental agencies. For each document, an informative summary of the findings, methodology, and conclusions is provided. Topics include crime trends, prevention projects, corrections, juvenile delinquency, police, courts, offenders, victims, and sentencing. It covers the time period from 1968 to the present.

In addition, Ethnic NewsWatch has also been added to IO. ENW is a comprehensive collection of newspapers and other periodicals published by ethnic and minority presses from throughout the Americas. ENW gives you "the other sides of the stories" on issues of local, national and global importance. It consists of two databases: Full Text Articles and the Directory which provides information about each of the publications indexed. Ethnic NewsWatch may be searched in either English or Spanish.

Both of these databases may be accessed by selecting "Indexes to Journal, Magazine and Newspaper Articles" from the IO Main Menu. For more information on these and other online resources, please contact a Reference Librarian.

Nonie Watt,
Head of Technical Services

WORKING THE HALLS

Happy November Birthday to:

Professor Jost Delbrück, on November 5th;
Professor Dan Conkle on the 10th;
Professor Doug Boshkoff on the 11th;
Dick Vaughan in the Library on the 12th;
Professor Tom Schornhorst on the 18th;
Professor Cathy Crosson on the 21st;
Dodie Bowman on the 2nd floor on the 26th; and
Angela Lieurance in the Capital Campaign Office on the 28th.

Hope you all have a great day!!!

Happy Thanksgiving!