

EDITORIAL COMMENT

It is with enormous pride that I present this issue of volume 31, a Special Issue containing the 30-year Cumulative Index of the *International Journal of Legal Information* and its predecessor, the *International Journal of Law Libraries*, the official publication of the *International Association of Law Libraries (IALL)*.

A cumulative index had long been on the *IALL* Board's agenda as one of our most important projects, since the *Journal*, in President **Holger Knudsen's** words, is one of the "pillars" on which the *Association* rests. The original goal was to highlight and celebrate the *Journal's* 25th anniversary. Although annual indices were available, Board Members were keenly aware that the creation of a homogenous product of a highly diverse set of material would require unusual sensitivity and analytical skill, as well as patience. Over the years, the focus of the *Journal* kept changing, reflecting the interests and priorities of the editor-in-chief at the time. During one period, for example, it consisted only of book reviews.

Thus, we were looking for someone to undertake the task of compiling the Cumulative Index who had a sincere interest, sophistication and willingness to dig deep to create a uniform whole out of a highly diverse pool of material. Our search proved frustrating and unsuccessful - until one in our midst, Board Member and Director of Communications **Richard A. Danner**, offered to take on the gigantic task. Dick Danner, *Senior Associate Dean for Information Services and Archibald C. And Frances Fulk Rusty Research Professor of Law at Duke University School of Law* in Durham, North Carolina, needs no introduction, well-known to members of the *Association* as he is, both as author and speaker. Dick combines extensive professional knowledge as a lawyer and librarian with his experience as Editor of the *Law Library Journal*, the organ of the *American Association of Law Libraries*, from 1984 through 1994. We could not have found anyone better suited for the job, and the outcome is, again to quote Holger Knudsen in his enthusiastic Foreword below, "a masterpiece."

Dick had no instructions or guidelines, and went about developing the Index according to his own design. Characteristically, he did not stop at simply compiling an index to the *Journal*, which covers 30 of the Association's 40 years of existence: he has also included selected substantive articles from the *IALL Bulletin*, the newsletter/journal which preceded *IJLI* and its predecessor, the *International Journal of Law Libraries*. In addition, Dick collected and compiled the first complete record of editors and contributors to the *Journal*, and created a comprehensive list of all the Officers and Members of the Board from the early days of the *Association*.

It continues to be my good fortune to serve as editor of this publication with the friendship and support of someone of Dick's caliber and expertise. This *Special Issue* is published thanks to the generous support of **Thomson West**, and it is much through Dick's efforts that the *Journal* is being printed and distributed as a public service by *West*. Dick is also instrumental in having maintained and expanded our cooperation with the **W.S. Hein Company** for back issues in print, as well as for the *Journal's* electronic presence via *Hein Online*. Tirelessly, he has succeeded in bringing the *Association* into the 21st century by initiating our useful membership listserv, as well as by forging the connection with the creative team at **Cornell University Law School Library** who designed the cutting-edge *IALL* website and maintains it at www.iall.org.

Please enjoy this *Special Issue*, study it carefully for its many features and keep it close at hand. I hope it will become a treasured reference tool for many years to come.

Marie-Louise H. Bernal