

Assistance: Foreign and International Law Librarians Willing To Help Non-Experts”
(<http://www.oceanalaw.com/default.asp>)
list posted directly on FCIL site, rather than the Oceana site; adding a separate mini guide of experts specifically available to mentor and assist librarians starting in the field of FCIL. The group thought the website was a great resource for those who are new to FCIL librarianship, especially those who are the only specialist at their institution.

PR for FCIL website: The group talked about publicizing the website, and its content via listservs, chapter and SIS newsletters, Spectrum articles, etc.

Actions Items:

- Recruit volunteers to create and update content on FCIL site
- Recruit volunteers to assist with transition of files form UGA site to AALLnet
- Recruit volunteers to add to list of mentors or willing to offer assistance for new FCIL librarians
- Form subgroup to work on PR for website
- Solicit suggestions from FCIL membership re: content they would like to see on website



Memories of the 96th Annual AALL Meeting in Seattle

By Emmanuel Mensah Darkey,
2003 Ellen Schaffer Grant Recipient

It was Friday, July 11, 2003 as I was getting myself ready for the 96th Annual AALL Convention in the cozy apartment of Chris Simoni. I wondered what it industry

was a long time ago, in the mid 1970's. Things must have changed now, I thought to myself; because things can change very fast in this part of the world!

Three years ago I was in Chicago, but what I saw now were dramatic changes – whole buildings have been pulled down and bigger and more magnificent ones built in their stead, new roads were being

The flight from Chicago to Seattle was good and enjoyable. I sat by one of the windows of the airplane. As I looked

I have also given copies of the complimentary business cards I received from members at the AALL meeting to Mr. Bentsi-Enchill so that he can introduce his products to you.

My country Ghana is in West Africa. Comparatively, it is slightly smaller than the state of Oregon. It has a population of about 20,000,000. Ghana has a tropical climate; warm and comparatively dry along the southeast coast; hot and humid in the southwest and hot and dry in the north.

Temperature ranges between 20⁰C – 30⁰C throughout the year. The summer temperatures in Seattle were just like colder times in Ghana. – this partly explains why while I was in Seattle I was always tightly dressed in shirt and coat etc (as one of the participants jokingly asked me “why are you always in three layers?”)

Ghana is one of the few peaceful and dynamic countries in Africa. It is also the first country south of the Sahara to successfully and peacefully transfer power from an incumbent government to a new government in a multiparty free and fair election.

Ghana like other African countries is not free from the HIV/AIDS epidemic. As at the end of June 2002, a total of about 500,000 cases had been reported. Now people are educated on the causes, methods of transmission and prevention and control of the epidemic.

Nongovernmental organizations, educational institutions, religious organizations, and of course the government, are doing their best to send the AIDS message to the people especially in the rural areas, where because of ignorance and poverty, some

people still do not believe that AIDS can be transmitted through sex.

The faculty of Law of the University of Ghana was established in 1960 to train lawyers to service the public and private sectors of the country. In the 2001/2002 academic year, the law course in the faculty was changed from an undergraduate degree course running for three years to a graduate course running for 2 years. Currently the faculty has about 200 students.

In the last decade there has been a growing but limited stream of foreign students from other Commonwealth African countries who have trained in the law faculty and then returned to their home countries to be called to the bar.

Until the 2003-2004 academic year, when the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology established a law faculty, the Faculty of Law of the University of Ghana was the only law faculty in the country. This coupled with the fact that the law faculty library has the most comprehensive law collection in the country, has placed it and the staff who manage it in a crucial and important position in the legal information delivery system.

Generally, libraries in Ghana have faced many years of neglect because of the fact that the priorities of government and policy makers have always been placed elsewhere. Libraries take a lower priority in funding to health care, food, education and other basic needs. Most libraries in Ghana depend on foreign donations to supplement what comes from government. My library, for instance, has continued to enjoy the goodwill and support of the Public Affairs Section of

**Worth Noting: AALL Executive
Committee Presentation o**