

October 2007

1 Update on Progress

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The International Law Book Facility has been in operation for two years now. In that time the volunteers who run the charity have worked assiduously to collect relevant texts, identify recipients and send off the first shipments.

The running of the charity to date has been managed at a very low cost because of the number and dedication of the volunteers. There is however a very real need to secure significant funding so that the charity can meet the high cost of shipment of the books to the recipients.

The purpose of this newsletter is to give a brief overview of our successes to date and to invite offers of funding for our future operation. Without funds to meet the high cost of shipment, the ILBF will not be able to meet its stated aim of sending law books to law societies, pro bono groups, universities etc involved in access to justice in the common law jurisdictions of Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

2 Books Donated

In total the ILBF volunteers have sorted through 7000 donated books. Large numbers of newly donated books arrive each week at our book repository and there are currently 5000 in stock. There are in addition a number of complete sets which means that there is a valuable collection of relevant texts ready to be shipped to recipients.

The Operating Committee of the ILBF has carefully selected the texts to be added to the list of preferred texts in the ILBF website so that the books donated are relevant and meet the needs of the recipients. In addition, the law publishers are using a generic insert card in new editions of relevant texts to encourage purchasers to donate the previous edition. The card was first used in July 2006 in Tolley's Employment Law Handbook and as a result a very useful number of previous editions were donated.

*Volunteers have
sorted through
thousands of
donated books*

3 Volunteers



Volunteers at our book repository sort and label books

Donated books are currently stored at Clifford Chance, which kindly donates storage facilities. 10 Clifford Chance employees also spend time sorting through donated books and carrying out administrative tasks.

Volunteers from the Bar, the Law Society, the Bar Council, the International Bar Association, LexisNexis Butterworths and Sweet and Maxwell work to identify recipients, arrange collection and shipment of books, manage the ILBF website and any marketing required. As a result of the work of the volunteers, the ILBF has been able to operate on a very low cost base. It is the future cost of making the shipments of books that the ILBF seeks to address through the donation of funds.

20 volunteers from publishers LexisNexis Butterworths, as well as 8 volunteers from Queen Mary and Westfield College, have spent the day at our book repository sorting and labelling books destined for recipients. The books have been received from a wide number of law firms, sets of chambers and government departments. It is very encouraging to see how support for the ILBF is growing in terms of donated books.

An ILBF volunteer, Angela Kiire, recently spent some time in Uganda, her country of origin, and visited the Ugandan Law Society, one of the ILBF's partners. Read about Angela's visit (['Reflections of an ILBF volunteer from the Ugandan diaspora'](#)) and discover how the ILBF's shipments of books are helping in the development of law in that country at the ILBF website: www.ilbf.org.uk.

4 ILBF Partners

The ILBF is currently partnering with institutions in the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Newly formed local law societies and pro bono groups have indicated the range of law books they are in need of to set up law libraries that will support practitioners who represent those seeking access to justice. These are the potential users that the ILBF hopes to reach.

It is the future cost of making the shipments of books that the ILBF seeks to address through the donation of funds.



Malawi Law Society: Mandala Mambulasa, Executive Director (right) with Gray Nyali, Director Malawi National Library Service

5 Shipments

"...We [were] very happy to [receive] the books in a short period...we shall put them to good use and they shall be widely accessible to the public...Please forward our deepest gratitude to ILBF and Book Aid. "

Extract from report received from the Tanzania's National Organisation for Legal Assistance Society where a set of books was delivered in November last year.

In 2006 shipments were, for the most part, jointly coordinated with Book Aid International (BAI). These went to the National Organisation for Legal Assistance, Tanzania, Malawi Law Society and the Law Association of Zambia. 2006 also saw the ILBF taking steps to achieve greater autonomy—the delivery of 1 tonne of books to the Law Society of Swaziland and 8 full sets of law reports and legal encyclopaedias to Caribbean jurisdictions being effected without BAI's involvement. This development was sustained in 2007 with a series of independently organised shipments to Malawi, Zambia and Ethiopia.

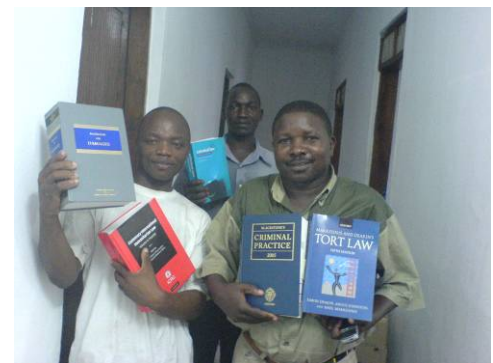
A shipment of books arrived at Malawi Law Society in January 2007 and, in June, 20 boxes of books were shipped to 2 partner institutions in Zambia: the National Legal Aid Clinic for Women and the University of Zambia, School of Law. These were received in Lusaka on 14 September.

The ILBF also shipped books to Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre in Lilongwe at the start of July and Tigray Regional Supreme Court, Mekelle University, Axum University College (Ethiopia) towards the end of August. In total, the ILBF coordinated the shipment of 3 tonnes of books over the summer of 2007. The Malawi shipment is due to arrive shortly while the books en route to Ethiopia are expected in mid-October.

The ILBF is planning further shipments in 2007 to partners in Uganda, Swaziland and Tanzania. Shipments to Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka are planned for 2008.



Student lawyers at Malawi Law Society



Tanzania: a shipment arrives at the National Organisation for Legal Assistance

For the ILBF to succeed, it needs your help

6 Future Funding

The ILBF has, over the past two years, been able to collect law books, identify partners and send shipments of relevant materials. As more books are donated and more partners are identified, its scope to assist in the development of legal systems has expanded and in 2008 the aim of the ILBF will be to make one shipment of books each month. However, for the ILBF to continue to succeed, it needs your help. Please donate funds to help us meet the cost of shipment of books to our recipients.

7 ILBF's Current Donors

The ILBF is delighted to be supported by the following major donors:

Allen & Overy

Alma and Leslie Wolfson Charitable Trust

Blackstone Chambers

Cadwalader Wickersham

International Bar Association

Linklaters

Lovells

Reed Elsevier

Slaughter and May

White & Case

8 Administration of the ILBF

The ILBF is run by an Operating Committee comprised of volunteers from the following organisations and firms, whose support and assistance is gratefully acknowledged:

1 Brick Court

3 Verulam Buildings

Clifford Chance

LexisNexis

Linklaters

Sweet and Maxwell

The Bar Council

The International Bar Association

The Law Society

9 Contacts

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The International Law Book Facility is administered on a voluntary basis: please be patient when waiting for a response.