

## Message from the Chairs

**W**elcome to our new co-chair, Marylin Raisch, Associate Director for Research & Collection Development at Georgetown's Edward Bennett Williams Law Library. She joins continuing co-chair Heidi Kuehl and steps in as the previous co-chair, Peter Roudik, completed his term. ILRIG thanks Peter for his service in this role and anticipates his continuing participation given his unique position at the Law Library of Congress as Director of the Global Legal Research Directorate. As noted below, Jootaek "Juice" Lee has agreed to follow Paul Moorman as editor of this newsletter; congratulations to Juice!

### The 2019 Business Meeting:

ILRIG hosted its Business Meeting at the Annual ASIL Meeting in Washington D.C. on March 29, 2019. The meeting was called to order by co-chair Marylin Raisch. (Co-chair Heidi Kuehl was unable to attend the annual meeting owing to conflicting obligations).

Despite late announcement and scheduling of the Business Meeting, 10 members were in attendance.

The topics of discussion were as follows:

Transition in editorship of the ILRIG newsletter, *The Informer*. -

Sincere and abundant gratitude was expressed to Paul Moorman, our outgoing editor, who was in attendance. As the search for a new editor became the first task of the new ASIL year for the co-chairs, Jootaek "Juice" Lee was mentioned as an experienced editor who had assisted past editors Don Ford, Karina Condra, and Megan O'Brien. The position was offered to him and he accepted; we are honored to have his experience and dedication to ASIL ILRIG at our disposal.

EISIL database revival and content updating- A new collaboration and "rebirth" for this acclaimed research tool, the Electronic Information System for International Law, has been underway for some time, and work on EISIL 2.0 (so to speak; not an official title!) was summarized by member Barbara Bean. Building on work by Don Ford and many others, content such as new multilateral treaties and their accompanying metadata and updates to existing records is being added to the EISIL platform for a public re-launch. Deep gratitude is also due to the many colleagues who carried the burden for many years, its originator Marci Hoffman, and to ASIL for being open to its revival. More news about the database will be shared at the brief business meeting (after guaranteed program) of the Annual Meeting this

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## NEWS & EVENTS

ILRIG Program and Business Meeting:  
Contemporary Human Rights Research  
Friday April 3, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

## INTEREST GROUP OFFICERS CO-CHAIRS:

Heidi Kuehl  
Marylin Raisch

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Jootaek ("Juice") Lee

spring, 2020.

ERG (Electronic Research Guides)- Marylin Raisch suggested exploring a move of the guide content to a different length and format, perhaps appearing in ASIL Insights. With the arrival of a new Director of Publications and Research this spring, Dr. Justine Stefanelli, we hope to determine the future of this and the EISIL database going forward.

Jus Gentium website award- As of this writing we are assembling the committee for the award and already have at least two interested volunteers. This award will be announced at the brief business meeting as well.

**T**his year ILRIG has been preparing for its guaranteed program year, an exciting prospect under the practice of ASIL to allow a “no competition” program every three years. This year the approved program we have proposed and that has been accepted by ASIL is entitled *Contemporary Human Rights Research*.

Research in human rights requires resources and skills that enable access both to texts and to empirical data in all formats. What new issues and emerging technology tools enhance and enlarge international legal and human rights research so that they may fulfill the promise of international law? How are law firm and academic information managers using, and training users, in familiarity with these emerging areas and tools? For what new advances should lawyers be prepared? Predictive, analytic, and data mining tools may promote or disrupt research human rights, climate change, and access to justice. Avoiding

implicit bias in Artificial Intelligence and machine learning (a concern evidenced by The Toronto Declaration on Protecting the Right to Equality and Non-Discrimination in Machine Learning Systems) is a new issue that adds algorithms, used in search engines, to the contested spaces within which human rights must be asserted. This updated tour of potential platforms and applications for scholarship or practice will include presentation of current topics and technology-driven projects and, it is hoped, stimulate ideas for other use cases and research efficiencies that either facilitate or complicate the investigation of international norms.

Speakers will include Jootaek Lee, Assistant Professor and Law Librarian, Rutgers Law School, on contemporary human rights issues, including human rights and artificial intelligence; and Dr. Jenny Gesley, Foreign Law Specialist, Law Library of Congress, who will speak on artificial intelligence, its regulations and research impacts worldwide. Marylin Raisch will moderate. The panel will take place on April 3, 2020, 3-4 pm; our brief business meeting will start at 4:00 pm with a talk by Mike McArthur, managing editor of the new EISIL, giving an overview of its revised content.

We look forward to an exciting new year in ASIL ILRIG and hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

Co-chairs:

Marylin Johnson Raisch

Heidi Frostestad Kuehl

**The Universal Right to Access Legal Information:  
Authorities and Progress in a Digital Age  
Heidi Frostestad Kuehl\***

*“The right to freedom of information and access to information is a fundamental right.”*

The right to freedom of information and access to information is a fundamental right according to foundational documents of the United Nations and other international organizations’ agreements such as the European Union and the Organization of American States.<sup>1</sup> According to early UN resolutions, such as UN General Assembly Resolution 59<sup>2</sup> and Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, safeguard the right to accessible information.<sup>3</sup> Later, international treaties also reference and emphasize the rights to freedom of information from international organizations and open access as corollary obligations to conventions.<sup>4</sup> In addition, international organizations have furthered the right to access to information through topical treaties and newly innovative technology initiatives with an international scope.<sup>5</sup> UNESCO and the World Summit of the Information Society further reference the freedom of information and knowledge as international norms and ideals.<sup>6</sup> Article 1 of the UNESCO Constitution notes that the organization must “promote the free flow of ideas by word and image” and their strategic program also reiterates the enhancement of universal access to information.<sup>7</sup>

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\*© Associate Professor of Law, NIU College of Law

<sup>1</sup> See U.N., *Freedom of Information*, <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/thematic-areas/governance/freedom-of-information/>; European Commission, *Article 15 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union*, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/service-standards-and-principles/transparency/freedom-information\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/service-standards-and-principles/transparency/freedom-information_en); Organization of American States, *The Inter-American Legal Framework Regarding the Right to Access to Legal Information* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2012), <http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/expression/docs/publications/2012%2009%2027%20ACCESS%20TO%20INFORMATION%202012%20edits.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> See UN General Assembly, Resolution 59, A/RES/59(1), adopted 1946, [https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/59\(I\)](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/59(I)).

<sup>3</sup> See Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>.

<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights art. 19, 999 U.N.T.S. 171 (1967), [https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg\\_no=IV-4&chapter=4&clang=\\_en](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-4&chapter=4&clang=_en); American Convention on Human Rights art. 13, 1144 U.N.T.S.123 (1970), [https://www.oas.org/dil/treaties\\_B-32\\_American\\_Convention\\_on\\_Human\\_Rights.pdf](https://www.oas.org/dil/treaties_B-32_American_Convention_on_Human_Rights.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> See, e.g., The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (1998), <https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/documents/cep43e.pdf>; The IFLA Statement on Government Provision of Public Legal Information in a Digital Age (2016), <https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11064>; and OECD, G20 Ministerial Statement on Trade and Digital Economy, [https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2019/june/tradoc\\_157920.pdf](https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2019/june/tradoc_157920.pdf) and Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, OECD/LEGAL/0449 (2019), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449>.

<sup>6</sup> See UNESCO Constitution, art. 1.2(a)-(c), [http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=15244&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=15244&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html); World Summit of the Information Society, <https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/>.

<sup>7</sup> See *id.* at UNESCO Constitution, art. 1. See also UNESCO, *Freedom of Information*, <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/freedom-of-expression/freedom-of-information/> and UNESCO/UBC Vancouver Declaration (2012), [http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/mow/unesco\\_abc\\_vancouver\\_declaration\\_en.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/mow/unesco_abc_vancouver_declaration_en.pdf).

Overall, universal norms of freedom of information and preservation of open access to legal information exist at the international, regional, and national levels.<sup>8</sup>

However, researchers today still see instances of impediments to accessing national legislation and other legal information such as fees for access to information, encryption barriers, and other technology-based impediments or privacy restrictions which restrict access to essential resources.<sup>9</sup>

Another issue that often works in tandem with open access and freedom of information is the advancement of digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, authentication of legal information, and encryption.<sup>10</sup> An increasingly common issue is the development of artificial intelligence (“AI”) in the private international law sphere and use of AI by corporations in international business because of the need to protect privacy and have human intervention.<sup>11</sup> International organizations, such as the OECD and World Bank, are working to ensure cooperation by the G20 countries to promote and secure open access to information while developing AI technologies in the commercial context with best practices and guidance principles to ensure privacy in certain situations.<sup>12</sup> Corporate actors in G20 nations will need to continue to provide access to data in a cross-border context with accountability, transparency, and inclusion in accordance with other OECD conventions

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<sup>8</sup> See, e.g., Michael W. Carroll, *The Movement for Open Access on Law*, 10 Lewis & Clark L. Rev. 741 (2006); Ruth Bird, *A Moveable Feast - Law Librarianship in the Noughties*, 14 AUSTL. L. LIBR. 7 (2006); Leesi Ebenezer Mitee, *The Right of Public Access to Legal Information: A Proposal for its Universal Recognition as a Human Right*, 18(6) GERMAN L.J. 1429 (2017).

<sup>9</sup> See Claire M. Germain, *Worldwide Access to Foreign Law: International and National Developments Toward Digital Authentication* (2012), [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2676279](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2676279); Henry H. Perritt and Christopher J. Lhulier, *Information Access Rights Based on International Human Rights Law*, 45 BUFF. L. REV. 899 (1997); Maeve McDonagh, *The Right to Information in International Human Rights Law*, 18(1) HUMAN RIGHTS LAW REVIEW 25 (2013), <http://www.corteidh.or.cr/tablas/r30698.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> See, e.g., U.N. Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Report of the Special Rapporteur to the General Assembly on AI and Its Impact on Freedom of Opinion and Expression* (2018), <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomOpinion/Pages/ReportGA73.aspx>. See also Kevin Homrighausen et al., *Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression* (Research Paper 1/2018, June 2018), <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Opinion/EncryptionAnonymityFollowUpReport.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> See *Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression*, OHCHR FACT SHEET, *Artificial Intelligence Technologies and Freedom of Expression: A Human Rights Approach to AI*, [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Expression/Factsheet\\_3.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Expression/Factsheet_3.pdf). See also U.N. Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Freedom of Opinion and Expression—Country Visits*, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomOpinion/Pages/Visits.aspx>.

<sup>12</sup> OECD, *Principles on Artificial Intelligence and G20 Adopted AI principles* (2019), <https://www.oecd.org/going-digital/ai/principles/>. See also OECD/LEGAL/0449, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence* (2019), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449>; World Bank, *Policy on Access to Information* (2013), <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/67391433516238452/World-Bank-Policy-on-Access-to-Information.pdf>.



for multinational corporations.<sup>13</sup> Since these standards were recently adopted in 2019, it will be interesting to see how AI developments and transparency of legal information in this new context of AI in addition to digital technologies evolve in the international business transactions and corporate entrepreneurship settings. Ideally, best practices will emerge from the OECD guidelines and World Bank AI procedures.<sup>14</sup>

Other regional and international organizations are likely to continue efforts to provide open access to legal information, but the most effective implementations of standards and best practices are likely to continue at the national levels.<sup>15</sup> Nations will also continue to grapple with encryption devices and uniformity in creating free access until uniform standards emerge for regions and nations.<sup>16</sup> As technologies continue to advance with high velocity, we must continue to educate and inform businesses, national governments, and regional and international organizations to advance the rule of law while uniformly applying the human rights norms of universal open access and freedom of legal information.

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<sup>13</sup> See OECD, *G20 Ministerial Statement on Trade and Digital Economy*, <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000486596.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> See World Bank, *Role of the AI Committee*, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/access-to-information/ai-committee>; World Bank, *AI Directive/Procedure* (2019), <https://policies.worldbank.org/sites/ppf3/PPFDocuments/Forms/DispPage.aspx?docid=e5c12f4e-7f50-44f7-a0d8-78614350f97c>.

<sup>15</sup> See, e.g., Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), *Convention on International Access to Justice*, <https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/full-text/?cid=91>. See also Timothy Coggins & Sarah G. Holterhoff, *Authenticating Digital Government Information*, UR SCHOLARSHIP REPOSITORY (2011), <https://scholarship.richmond.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1954&context=law-faculty-publications>.

<sup>16</sup> See, e.g., Daniel Castro & Alan McQuinn, *Unlocking Encryption: Information Security and the Rule of Law* (March 2016), <http://www2.itif.org/2016-unlocking-encryption.pdf>. See also Amnesty International, *Encryption: A Matter of Human Rights* (2016), [https://www.amnestyusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/encryption\\_-\\_a\\_matter\\_of\\_human\\_rights\\_-\\_pol\\_40-3682-2016.pdf](https://www.amnestyusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/encryption_-_a_matter_of_human_rights_-_pol_40-3682-2016.pdf); Homrighausen, *supra* note 10.

## ***Hugo Grotius's Remonstrantie of 1615***

Grotius, Hugo, 1583-1645, author; Kromhout, David, 1976- writer of added commentary; Offenbergh, A. K., contributor; Blankman, Marijke, contributor; Heertum, Cis van, 1958- translator.

2019 Boston: Brill, 2019. 222 pages; color illustrations.

### **Book Review by Marylin Johnson Raisch\***

This minor work of regulatory drafting and commentary by the eminent Hugo de Groot—Hugo Grotius—forms a small part of his remarkable legacy as a humanist jurist and theorist of international law at its emergence in the early modern period; it may loom larger now that we seem to be returning to “the global and the local” in post-conflict transnational law.<sup>1</sup> While the Holland of the 17<sup>th</sup> century had a reputation for tolerance, even within the Dutch Republic, Grotius’s efforts on the small stage of doctrinal conflict among Calvinists in Rotterdam evince modest gains in peaceful politics. In navigating a middle course between liberal tolerance and conservative constraints on Jewish settlers in the cities of Holland, this *Remonstrantie* shows Grotius steering his well-known rational irenicism into a safe but small harbor. He avoids, for a time, some civil strife and his own political destruction, but he does so by also avoiding local models of toleration in favor of historic references and older principles. His commentary on his own set of rules for a Jewish community seems to be a study in cautious ambiguity.

This possible ambiguity may have been the result of the perils faced by those in authority at a time of theological and political turmoil. Newly sovereign areas had appeared alongside dynastic competition in an emerging world of trade and new economic structures in the growing cities. Against the background of a debate among Calvinists about predestination, Grotius was caught between two major factions: Followers of one cleric, Arminius, who believed that salvation for the elect of God could be acquired with effort and God’s grace, while orthodox believers (Counter-Remonstrants), such as Professor Gomarus, adhered to the harsh belief that the elect of God, the saved, are known to God before all time and, thus, their status in salvation cannot be changed. Followers of Arminius petitioned—presented a Remonstrance (the English term)—to the States General of Holland, its governing body over the federation of what were then seven states or provinces in 1610. They wanted to be accepted in public worship again, as they had been barred by the Counter-Remonstrants. Remonstrants, with whom Grotius sympathized, also wanted more state control over the church rather than church independence. This is because at this time in western religious history, Grotius and other secularists wanted a civil religion that was lenient and allowed a scope for different interpretations of the faith. Control by would-be theocrats in his day created conditions of intolerance to at least as great a degree as state power in jurisdictions with an official or established church. Grotius had become an Advocate

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\*©Associate Director for Research & Collection Development, Georgetown Law

<sup>1</sup> Dustin N. Sharp, *Addressing Dilemmas of the Global and the Local in Transitional Justice*, 29 EMORY INT’L L. REV. 71, 71 (2014).

“A take-away for information professionals might be the careful use of the commentaries and critical eye cast on this text and its origins. “

Fiscal for two provinces and a Pensionary, that is a legal adviser, of the city of Rotterdam. His Counter-Remonstrant enemies already suspected him of liberal religious views and perhaps even of Socinianism, yet another theological school deemed heretical by the religious establishment, in that they were questioning the divinity of Christ (among other doctrines).

Therefore, when a small number of Portuguese Jews wanted to settle in Rotterdam, Grotius was wary of being too sympathetic, given that he was already doctrinally suspect. This sets the stage for an understanding of the *Remonstratie*, a set of rules for any incoming Jewish community, that he was asked to draft. The Counter-Remonstrants were very much against Jewish settlement in general, and the perplexing problem of allowing Jews to establish synagogues triggered the need to decide who had authority over non-Christian religions as well. At this time, Roman Catholics in many Dutch cities had to worship privately in homes, so would Jewish believers have public worship when they would not? Fears also arose about intermarriage and conversions to Judaism of which there were some (and also many more rumors). Grotius proposes that public worship by Jews be allowed, but not by building a synagogue as such.

In this atmosphere of intolerance and fear of ‘the Other’ as we would say today, Grotius drafted a three-part document with a Prologue, a set of articles, and a commentary that he wrote on each article and appended to the text. This edition provides a good presentation of its textual history. The handwritten text appears in a fine hand that was most likely that of his secretary, on chancery paper in folio with 34 leaves or 68 pages and two blank leaves.<sup>2</sup> The legal references are in a different script, and range widely over Roman and canon law, citing Justinian’s code as well as the Italian Post-Glossator Baldus de Ubaldis, a 14<sup>th</sup> century commentator on Justinian and other sources of Roman law. In this book, the editors explain their method of dealing with Grotius’s references by moving modern translations of those references (such as Livy’s *History of Rome*) to footnotes, and then noting mistakes and references that could not be located. According to the editors, Grotius was not above using second-hand quotations.<sup>3</sup>

The result is at first shocking to modern values, and then Grotius’s argument moves into his more acceptable, but still condescending and basically anti-Semitic, urging of Jewish settlement as an example of love toward fellow humans, a love that Christians could thereby teach Jews. The Prologue, however, recites gross inaccuracies about Jewish practices and blood-libels about ancient massacres by Jews of non-Jews, for example, in Cyrene in ancient times and on up to tales of Jewish violence against Christians in Europe. He alludes to the old exaggerations of accounts from *The Wars of the Jews* (79 CE?) in that work by Flavius Josephus. He then moves into praising their faithfulness to God and thus their superiority to atheists. The articles appear to grant favors, but when compared with the Charter of Rotterdam of 1610, treat Jews with less leniency. Most interesting is Grotius’s justification for not allowing rabbinical courts or self-governance, citing the authority of Roman imperial laws (as cited in Livy and other sources) in his commentary. He is against their having common property other than taking up money for their own poor. All of this is

<sup>2</sup> Offenberg and Krumhau, *Notes on This Edition*, HUGO GROTIUS’S REMONSTRANTIE OF 1615, 1 (2019).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 5.

in the service of a kind of Erastian view of state superiority over church in the interest of civil unity and moderating zealous sects. Oddly, other Dutch cities did allow more freedoms, such as the building of a synagogue at the Houtgracht canal in Amsterdam.

The modern scholars' articles in this edition add much of interest but go far afield of the topic, using a wide lens to present a narrow slice of history and of Grotius's writings; Krumhaut covers myths and legends about how Sephardic Jewry came to Holland, and this might have been presented as an afterward, though of course it introduces the discourse of possible fear Grotius used in his anti-Semitic prologue; his enemies might see him as too sympathetic to the Jewish settlers. The upshot of the *Remonstratie* is disappointing and ironic; it was never implemented as a set of regulations. In the end, in 1619 and after long debate and disagreements on Jewish regulations that could not be resolved, the States left residency of Jews to the local municipal authorities.

Finally, what value does this text have for researchers of international law and its information sources? The take-away for international law might be the peace process and very relative tolerance the proposals show at a time when wars of religion were having great impact. This topic reflected directly on the nature of sovereignty at the Peace of Westphalia. Migration and refugee issues were indeed illustrated by the plight of the Jewish diaspora and the cynical needs of Christian states for financial services that the Jewish community could provide.

A take-away for information professionals might be the careful use of the commentaries and critical eye cast on this text and its origins. Grotius seems to have had a nominal co-author of the *Remonstratie* in Adriaan Pauw, but this commentary reveals the puzzle of there being no evidence showing the nature or extent of his contribution.

Finally, for special collections and rare book curators, the Note on the Edition and the indications of which annotations or authorities may be on point also mentions the way his use of some sources seems to detract from and obfuscate his arguments more than support them (pp. 3-5). This opens up the avenue of the discourse theory that one of the editors mentions as we confront a cautious and careful Grotius.<sup>4</sup> Grotius may have been attempting the liberal and peace-promoting discourse of the humanist but hiding it in a proposal that could cost him his freedom and life itself. Fortunately for us, he lived to explore principles of a more enduring peace.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> D. Kromhaut, *Clashes of Discourses: Humanists and Calvinists in Seventeenth Century Academic Leiden* 51-52 (Apr. 13, 2016) (Ph.D. thesis, University of Amsterdam), <https://dare.uva.nl/search?identifier=6d2dob67-d3e7-417a-910e-623e0d4045f3>.

<sup>5</sup> His ally, the Land's Advocate Johan Van Oldenbarnevelt, was not only arrested for treason with Grotius but executed in 1619 for causing treasonous unrest in the eventual conflict over the doctrinal conflict. Grotius was imprisoned but escaped, hidden in a book crate. See Henk Nellen, *HUGO GROTIUS: A LIFELONG STRUGGLE FOR PEACE IN CHURCH AND STATE, 1583-1645* (Leiden; Boston: Brill, 2015) (English language edition; published in Dutch, Amsterdam: Balans, 2007, 302-305).



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## International Legal Research Group

The International Legal Research Interest Group (ILRIG) is dedicated primarily to its members' professional development in the areas of foreign, comparative, and international law (FCIL). ILRIG provides a forum for discussion among legal information professionals, legal scholars, and attorneys. ILRIG enhances its members' opportunities to share their knowledge about available FCIL resources, research methods, research techniques, and best practices. ILRIG organizes presentations, publishes a newsletter, and maintains a website that reflects the most recent developments in the legal research profession.

ILRIG members are particularly mindful of the interdisciplinary and multicultural aspects of contemporary foreign, comparative, and international law. Global legal policies and norms cannot exist without strong foundations built on exhaustive research. ILRIG is committed to being a forum for discussing ASIL's unique analytical needs.

ILRIG membership is open to all ASIL members. ILRIG should be of particular interest to:

- Law librarians
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- Scholars working in political science, international relations, economics, and history
- Research professionals from government agencies, policy institutes, inter-governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations

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## The Informer

The *Informer* is the bi-annual newsletter of the International Legal Research Interest Group (ILRIG). Any views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors in their private capacities and do not purport to represent the official view of the ASIL or ILRIG.

Submissions are welcomed and will be published at the discretion of the editors. Essays or articles should relate to foreign, comparative, and international law (FCIL) resources, research methods, research techniques, and best practices.

To contribute to future issues of *the Informer*, contact:

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