



News from GLIN.Central

By Charles Dove



Welcome to the spring edition of the GLIN Global Journal. Despite problems with the national budget GLIN-Central has been able to continue with a full program and even launched a new service of which we are particularly proud.

In March, students from the Dominican Republic, Gabon, and Guatemala attended a week of GLIN training in Washington, D.C. Photos from that training session are on p. 5 of this Journal. Please take a look at the newest members of the GLIN family. Planning for this session was complicated by the possibility of a U.S. Government shutdown that was not resolved until just before the first day of class. Fortunately, a shutdown was avoided and the class went on as scheduled. The next Washington, D.C. training is scheduled for December.

The continuing problem with funding was addressed during the February meeting of the Executive Council. One of the decisions to come from this meeting was to task the GLIN Technical Committee, chaired by Dan Chirița, with reviewing the documentation of the GLIN data system to determine if a more cost-effective solution for hosting the system is feasible. The required documentation has been forwarded to the Committee members. We have great confidence that the Committee will present the Council with a variety of innovative suggestions.

The high point of this quarter has been GLIN-Central's venture into social media

with the creation of a Facebook page. The hope is to reach people that might otherwise be missed. We want to tell users of social media of the treasure house of legal resources that can be found in GLIN. We also want to receive feedback from the readers that will help improve the system. Francisco Macías, who many of you know, is responsible for posting new messages, responding to user questions, and for the overall administration of the page. If you have not yet opened a Facebook account please consider doing so. It is the only way that you can join us in the new venture. If you have an account please be sure to "like" us and add your comments to the wall. For more information on the GLIN-Central plunge into the waters of social media turn to Francisco's report on p. 4 of this issue.

Recent promotional activities include a visit to Georgia where a meeting with the Secretary General led to subsequent discussions with other relevant departments and individuals in the Parliament. A visit to the Ministry of Justice was also part of the agenda. A trip to Ukraine is planned for the end of April in the hope that a GLIN station may be re-established at the Rada (legislature). Finally, we are happy to report that a formal letter of intent to participate in GLIN was received from Burkina Faso, and training for a newly designated team in the Central African Republic is being conducted by GLIN consultant Lakhsara Mint Dié.

And please see the report from GLIN-Argentina on the history of the Library of Congress of the Argentine Nation in the "From the Field" section. ■

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September 6-9, 2011

GLIN Training
Washington, D.C.
December 5-9, 2011

How to...

Contribute “Used for” Terms to the GLIN Thesaurus

By Janice Hyde

In addition to a description of procedures for contributing “Used For” terms to the GLIN thesaurus, this column is a plea for your help. The purpose of “Used For” terms in the GLIN thesaurus is to serve as a search aid for those who are unfamiliar with the GLIN system and its unique set of subject terms. Ideally, the “Used For” terms will guide a user to the correct “Main Term” so that his/her search will be more direct or targeted and return the most relevant results.

As you know, “Main Terms” in the GLIN Thesaurus are translated into the 14 different languages of the GLIN system; however, “Used For” terms are not translated. Why? “Used For” terms are generally culture-bound and/or language specific. That is, users who speak a particular language, in a particular country, or even in a particular region of a country, may refer to the same thing in different ways. When individuals try to search for a topic in a system, they are likely to use a term or phrase that is based on their specific language or culture. Consequently, a direct translation from an English “Used For” term may not be appropriate at all. Here is a specific example:

GLIN uses the term “Petroleum” to refer “to a raw material formed by a mixture of hydrocarbons and found underground or in sea beds; commonly obtained by drilling and refined for use as fuel or other products.” In the United States, we often use the word “gasoline” or even more colloquially, “gas,” instead of petroleum. So “gasoline” and “gas” are suitable “Used For” terms for U.S. English. In Britain, however, the term “petrol” is generally used. So, a U.S. researcher might enter “gasoline” while a British researcher would enter “petrol” al-

though both are searching for the items indexed using the term “Petroleum.” The set of “Used For” terms in GLIN should lead researchers using any of the 14 system languages to find the legal resources they need.

This is where we need your help. We need to fill in the “Used For” terms for all subject terms in all 14 GLIN languages. We ask all GLIN members to consider what terms or phrases a user might enter when he/she is looking for something in the system. The best way to do this is to imagine that you are sitting in front of a computer and you want to look something up. If you do not know the specific subject term in GLIN, what would you enter? Think about the public without special legal training. What “common” words might they use? Those terms or phrases become the “Used For” terms in GLIN.

What is the procedure for adding new “Used For” terms? When a member proposes a new subject term, there is a place on online Candidate Subject Term form to supply appropriate “Used For” terms. We urge you to please enter at least one appropriate term at the time that you submit the form. It is the GLIN Thesaurus Administrator’s responsibility to edit or update existing terms, including the addition of new “Used For” terms. Suggestions for new or additional “Used For” terms for subject terms that are already in GLIN should be sent to GLIN Central (glicen@loc.gov) with “Suggested Used For Terms” in the subject line. We are always trying to improve the thesaurus and expanding “Used For” terms in other languages would be a step in that direction. We look forward to your suggestions. ■



GLIN

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Janice Hyde
Executive Editor

Charles Dove
Editor

Francisco Macías
Assistant Editor

An official publication of the Global Legal Information Network (GLIN). The *GLIN Global Journal* encourages Directors and Staff of the different GLIN stations to submit articles and photographs of particular interest to the GLIN community. Submissions will be edited to convey the most relevant information.

Please submit text (preferably MS Word) and images (preferably .jpg) in separate digital forms via e-mail (cdove@loc.gov).

GLIN

Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20540-3000
Phone: 202.707.5065
Fax: 202.707.1820
E-mail: glicen@loc.gov

GLIN Global Journal Welcomes Letters from GLIN Members and Associated Members

Members are invited to use the future Forum section for lively thought provoking topics that are relevant to GLIN’s operations. However, just as other newsletter editors exercise discretion over which letters to publish and how to edit them, we do too. In deciding whether or how much to publish, we consider content—including misstatements of fact, redundancy, and length (the limit for any article is 300 words--exceptions may apply).

Letters must be signed by the author, whose GLIN affiliation and e-mail address should be included so we can verify authorship. Letter writers should understand that when they sign their letters and release them to us for publication they are relinquishing privacy. —Ed.

Technical Notes on Treaties and Conventions in GLIN

By Francisco Macías

We'd like to take this opportunity to kindly remind the GLIN Analysts that multilateral Conventions and Treaties are an important category of instruments in GLIN. During our training sessions at GLIN.Central, we sometimes run into perfect examples to teach and explain particular scenarios; however, chance isn't always on our side. And we feel that we may have failed to explain how to proceed in the creation of a summary when one encounters a multilateral treaty. Here are a few guidelines to help you: First, do not translate the name of the treaty. We've found that most international organizations have websites with interfaces in every one of the languages of the signatory countries. We advise you to launch a Google search to locate the treaty. Then, visit the website for the corresponding treaty. Once there, you may see links that will allow you to change the interface to a different language (in this case we're looking for English). If you click on the English link, you may be able to see the official English name of the treaty in English.

I will give an example to illustrate this point:

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

If I were to translate this into Spanish, there is a chance that I might come up with something like this:

Convención sobre la comercialización internacional de especies en peligro de extinción de fauna y flora silvestres

Perhaps this is similar; however, the official name of this convention in Spanish is:

Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestres

Therein lies the problem: If I were looking in GLIN and only searched using the "official" name, there is a chance that I may find what I'm looking for; but it is more likely that I will not. Why? These sorts of searches are very specific; and often times what you want to find is only that which is precisely related to your search. So, if I were to select "exact phrase" when launching my search, the translated version would not come up. Also, because there are so many countries that speak the same language (particularly Hispanic countries), if each one were to translate the

names of treaties, we could easily end up with 22 different names for the same convention. (And that's not considering our whimsical ways where one day we may opt for one synonym and on another a different one.) Therefore, we ask that you please take the extra step of finding the "official name" of the convention, rather than translating it. You may even find that this is easier. ■

GLIN Is on Facebook

By Francisco Macías



We are pleased to announce that on February 2, 2011, GLIN has joined the world of social networking in full force with the launching of its official Facebook page. If you haven't already, please be sure to check it out at <http://www.facebook.com/glin.network>. This is a very

exciting time for us. Also, don't forget to "Like" us so you won't miss out on any of the excitement; and tell all your friends and family about it.

Also, keep in mind that this is "your" Facebook; so, don't be shy! Please feel free to post your comments and events on the wall in English or in whatever language you feel most comfortable posting. We have also found that our fans love to see pictures (and so do we); so, post them on the wall or send them to GLIN.Central so that we can create a photo album for your station. The only issue with photos of people is that we need consent in order to publish their photos. And for that reason, we have created a standard form. If you need a copy of the form, e-mail us and we'll get it to you promptly.

Facebook makes it possible for us to showcase the material that all of you have enthusiastically contributed to the GLIN database, making it increasingly appealing.

We are always looking for new ideas. If there's a particular subject you want us to cover, let us know; and we'll do it. Currently, we have nearly 400 but we'd like to get a lot more. Therefore, we ask that you help us get the word out. ■

From the Field

The Library of Congress of the Argentine Nation Celebrated Its First Sesquicentennial

By Atty. Graciela I. Davicce
Legal Analyst Legal, GLIN.Argentina, BCN
Translated by Francisco Macías

The present Library was created in the Congress of Paraná which operated between 1854 and 1861. By means of Act 212, in 1859, it acquired its founding collection, which consisted of 620 volumes from the library of Marshall Andrés de Santa Cruz, ex-president of the Peru-Bolivian Confederation.

The Library of Congress of the Nation (Biblioteca del Congreso de la Nación, BCN) is an institution that is responsive to the social needs and the requirements of the community. All this without neglecting its first priority, the legislator; and this characteristic is what sets the BCN apart from any other library, making it a Legislative Library. Its main objective is to meet the needs of the Argentine Parliament. It provides a permanent service to the legislator, his/her advisers, committees and other units of the National Congress throughout the law making and enacting process. The International Legal Parliamentary Network GLIN Directorate (Dirección Red Internacional Jurídica Parlamentaria GLIN), among others, compliments this task efficiently. It provides the same service to several agencies of the nation, province, and municipality. To this end, it responds to bibliographic inquiries; it provides both legal and parliamentary information at the national, regional and international levels by virtue of its highly trained staff.

Its contribution is very important to the society of the Library as a whole. Its commitment to the community stems from 1917 when the First Public Reading Room is established in the Palace of Congress.

This cultural center offers the public the opportunity to research, request documentation and advice based on its extensive and valuable bibliographic collection.

It is different from the Hall of Special Collections which consists of unique editions, first editions and important works of culture. Among them are the complete works of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, Domingo F. Sarmiento, Bartolomé Mitre, and Joaquín V. González, among others; the Library and Personal Archives of Dr. Juan María Gutiérrez; the Peronist Library (books, publications and speeches 1945-1955) and the Perón Archive; "El Mosquito" ["The Mosquito"] a graphic journal of politics and humor of the 19th century.

The Periodicals Division brings together national and

international periodic publications, as well as provincial, national, and foreign journals. The material is in the process of microfilming and digitization for the purpose of document preservation.

It holds the works, periodicals, and official documents of international organizations like the World Bank, the European Communities (EC), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), among others.

The "Juan Félix Caferata" Children and Youth Library satisfies the concerns of children at the various school levels with textbooks, manuals, maps, and videos.

The Library of Congress of the Nation, within the framework of reading promotion, travels throughout the country with the "Multimodal Bibliomobile" or "Multimod-



al Mobile Library." It aims to promote reading, to bring the most deprived areas of learning tools, and to make these available to the community.

Its Digital Library is established to serve the blind and visually impaired readers.

It is noteworthy that the BCN has made the commitment of achieving the highest quality in the products offered by implementing a Quality Management System with the aim of operating more efficiently, improving communications and relationships between the different social actors. After an intense task, in October of 2010, it received the certification of the IRAM-ISO 9001:2008 Standard.

On the occasion of the celebration an emotional ceremony was held, which was attended by officials of the in

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March Graduates of GLIN Training



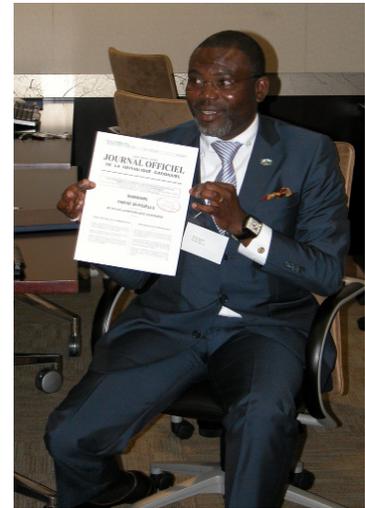
Dinos Olouna, Legal Analyst/
Technical Specialist, GLIN.Gabon



On right, Luis Hidalgo,
Legal Analyst, GLIN.Guatemala



On left, Sucre Zacarias, Coordinator,
GLIN.Dominican Republic



David Ickombolo, Director, GLIN.Gabon

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stitution along with national and provincial officials and members of the Supreme Court's Office. A limited-edition postage stamp commemorating the BCN was presented.

For information online, visit www.bcnbib.gov.ar. If you have any questions, contact us at informes@bcnbib.gov.ar. ■



Departures

Happy Retirement Lic. Medardo Reymundo Aragón Director, GLIN.El Salvador

The GLIN family would like to take this opportunity to wish our friend Medardo Aragón a wonderful and well-deserved retirement. He has been a member of the GLIN family nearly nine years and has served with great dedication. In September 2010, at the 17th Annual GLIN Directors' Meeting held in Seoul, Korea, Medardo's hard work was recognized with GLIN's highest honor: The GLIN Model Station Award.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with such a fine gentleman. His dedication to the GLIN family resulted in a great feat

and a great gift to the world: free and timely access to the official text of the laws of El Salvador.

Although we would love to keep him with us many more years, we wouldn't want to be selfish. So we'd like to wish him exciting adventures and even greater moments in his retired life. ■



Feliz jubilación Lic. D. Medardo Aragón, Director de la Estación GLIN.El Salvador

La familia GLIN desea hacer propicia esta oportunidad para desearle a nuestro amigo el Lic. D. Medardo Aragón una maravillosa y muy merecida jubilación. Él ha sido miembro de la familia GLIN por cerca de nueve años y ha servido con gran dedicación. En septiembre del 2010, en la 17ª Reunión Anual de Directores GLIN que se celebró en Seúl, Corea, la ardua labor de don Medardo fue reconocida con el honor más alto de GLIN: El Premio a la Estación GLIN Modelo.

Ha sido un honor y un placer trabajar con tan fino caballero. Su dedicación a la familia GLIN resultó en una

gran hazaña y un gran regalo para el mundo: el acceso libre y oportuno a los textos oficiales de las normas de El Salvador.

Aunque nos encantaría tenerlo con nosotros muchos años más, no quisiéramos ser egoístas. Por lo que nos gustaría desearle emocionantes aventuras y momentos aún más grandiosos en su vida retirada. ■



In Memorium

GLIN Central mourns the loss of Senior Legal Information Analyst, Dario Ferreira, who died unexpectedly on April 13, 2011. Darío served as the Canon Law and Roman Law specialist at the Law Library of Congress for 36 years. When he joined the Law Library in 1975, Darío also worked on the Index to Latin American Legislation, the forerunner of what would become GLIN. Darío created and input summaries of laws for several Spanish-, Portuguese-, and French-speaking countries and

provided quality control for the legal materials contributed by many GLIN member jurisdictions. Early members of GLIN will remember that Darío provided training, and his expertise was critical to imparting the standards and procedures to GLIN teams from around the world. Darío was a polyglot who had a working knowledge of at least six languages. We commend his lengthy service to GLIN and will sorely miss his many talents. ■



Dario receives a plaque from Deputy Law Librarian, David Mao, recognizing 35 years of service.