

INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The 19th Conference of the International Bar Association will take place in Berlin (West), August 25-30, 1980. The two main items of the program will be:

Lawyer Advertising and Specialization, and  
Code of Conduct of the United Nations for  
Transnational Corporations.

Meetings will take place in the Congress Center near the Berlin Wall.  
For information write to—

International Bar Association  
Byron House  
7/9 St. James Street  
London SW1 A1EE  
ENGLAND

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR  
DOCUMENTATION (FID)

40th Congress  
Copenhagen  
August 18-21, 1980

Main Program Topic: *Organization and Economics of  
Information and Documentation*

Congress fee: Dkr. 1000

For information and registration write to:

Spadille Congress Service  
Sommervej 3  
DK-3100 Hornbaek  
DENMARK

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CURRENT LAW INDEX AND INDEX TO  
LEGAL PERIODICALS  
A COMPARISON

The *Index to Legal Periodicals* (ILP), the major finding aid for U.S. legal periodicals, has been a discredit to the American legal profession

for many years. In contrast to the superb quality of other research tools such as *Shepard's* and the *American Digest* system, the *ILP* began as a mediocre publication which became worse as the publisher (H.W. Willson Co) cut corners to save money. An example will establish the truth of this contention. To find an article by a particular author using the *ILP*, one must first look under his name. This search produces a cross reference to a subject heading and the first letter of the title of an article. Then one turns to the heading, "Securities," for instance, and looks for an article by the author beginning with the given letter, let us say, "S." One problem with this approach is that there may be dozens of articles under "Securities" which begin with "S" and it is not uncommon to have to go through the list of titles two or three times before discovering the desired article. Each article, moreover, may be listed under three or four headings. Thus one must look in several places before discovering that there is only one article by the particular author. These are only some characteristics of *ILP* that make it time-consuming and frustrating to use. So slow is it in being published that an entirely separate and independent advance supplement is put out by the University of Washington. And a great many useful legal serials have never been indexed in the *ILP*.

Legal researchers should therefore have been very pleased when the American Association of Law Libraries announced some time ago that it was severing its long association with *ILP* and would sponsor a new legal periodicals index. The first issue of that new index has just appeared. Although it is too soon to pronounce an authoritative judgment on the new publication, *Current Law Index*, produced by Information Access Corporation, one's initial assessment must be very positive. To begin with, the new index covers almost twice as many publications as *ILP*. New articles are indexed one to two months faster than in *ILP*. The first number of the *Current Law Index*, which was received by libraries in late February of 1980, for example, indexes articles published in January. The latest issue of *ILP* available in February indexed articles published in November and December of 1979. In the *Current Law Index* complete bibliographical information is given in the author index, so cross referencing and title-scanning are eliminated. Because of whiter paper and darker print, the new index is much easier on the eyes.

The *Current Law Index* is published monthly with quarterly and annual cumulations. Each issue has subject and author indexes and tables of cases and of statutes.

All in all *Current Law Index* seems to represent a great leap forward for readers of legal periodicals. (We have not yet had an opportunity to examine its more comprehensive sister publication, *Legal Resource Index*, which will appear on microfilm.)

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*Vanderbilt University Law Library*