

Indexing of Periodical Literature Committee Annual Report 2011-2012

The members of the Indexing of Periodical Literature Committee during 2011-2012 were Morgan Stoddard, Chair; Paula Doty, Vice Chair; Paul Howard; Francis Norton; Ellen Quinn; and Jennifer Wertkin.

The committee reviewed 93 journals for indexing in LegalTrac/LRI/Current Law Index this year. Eighty-two journals were approved and 11 were rejected. There are 25 journals “on hold.” Most of the journals are on hold because they are newer, and the committee members felt they needed to see additional issues before making a decision. Future committees will need to revisit and vote on these journals as information becomes available.

The committee completed the work of the 2010-2011 committee to identify, review, and make recommendations regarding new law school journals from ABA-approved law schools. Using the alphabetical list of schools on the ABA website, the committee completed the review from the University of South Carolina School of Law through the Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University.

This year’s committee also undertook an initiative to identify new law school journals published in other countries covered by Legal Trac/LRI/Current Law Index. The committee identified, reviewed, and made recommendations regarding new law school journals from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and U.S. possessions.

The committee began work on an initiative to identify new journals published by private publishers (e.g., Oxford University Press). The committee completed an initial assessment of journals published by large private publishers, but it decided to table the project until the following year in order to allow more time to discuss how to best compile a list of these journals—many of which are quasi-legal in nature—for review. This initiative was discussed at the Annual Meeting, and the 2012-2013 committee will continue working on it.

The committee continued the work of previous committees in regard to updating the indexing guidelines to include legal blogs and online companions. After investigating the various issues involved and much consideration, the committee decided to proceed by approaching the indexing of legal blogs and online companions incrementally, by only proposing a revision that included online companions. The committee submitted a revised charge to the Executive Board, which gave the committee the ability to revise its guidelines and recommend online companions for indexing, and the new charge was approved at the March board meeting. The revised guidelines were then submitted to Gale, and they were approved. The 2012-2013 committee will identify, review, and recommend online companions for indexing. Once that review is complete the committee will revisit the indexing of legal blogs.

Finally, the Committee encouraged members of the AALL community to submit new journal titles for review by (1) adding content to the Committee’s website in AALL Communities, (2) sending out messages to law librarian listservs, and (3) sending a message to the Committee of Newsletter Editors asking that editors consider including information about recommending journals for indexing in their newsletters.

Submitted by Morgan Stoddard, IPLC Chair, 2011-2012