

Indexing of Periodical Literature Committee

Annual Report 2013-2014

The members of the Indexing of Periodical Literature Committee during 2013-2014 were Paul Howard, Chair; Edward Hart, Vice Chair; Kincaid Brown; Joseph Gerken; Kelly Reynolds; Akram Sadeghi Pari; John Schroeder; and Christopher Thomas. Gail Warren served as Board Liaison and Ashley St. John as Staff Liaison.

The main activity of the committee involved identifying publications for possible inclusion in LegalTrac/LRI/Current Law Index and voting on whether they should be added. The committee continued its review of online companions to U.S. law school journals that was begun in 2012-2013. It also examined the websites of privately published journals (e.g., Taylor & Francis, Brill, etc.) and ABA-approved law schools to identify new publications. Sixty ABA-approved law school websites were reviewed this year, and the committee will examine additional law school websites during 2014-2015. The committee approved seventy-two publications and twenty-two were rejected. Another twenty-three publications were under active consideration by the committee at the end of the year. The committee either did not have a consensus as to these titles or additional information was needed to make a decision. These publications will be reconsidered by the committee during 2014-2015.

This year the committee considered whether it would be appropriate to expand the coverage of the index to include legal blogs. This issue had been discussed during the 2011-2012 committee year, and at that time the committee decided to postpone consideration of legal blogs until after it had gained experience reviewing online companions during 2012-2013. After consulting with Gale's representative and the committee's Executive Board liaison, this year's committee concluded that blogs that are ancillary or companion to an already indexed periodical could be indexed under the current committee charge and guidelines. These standards would require that the blogs be mainly substantive in nature and not news oriented. The committee decided to proceed with including this narrow category of legal blogs among the publications to be reviewed and to postpone consideration of a broader range of blogs until after it had more experience evaluating this type of publication. Six of the publications approved this year were blogs.

Submitted by,

Paul Howard, Chair, 2013-2014