



## News from GLIN.Central

By Janice Hyde



Representatives from the 24 GLIN-member jurisdictions participated in the 18th Annual GLIN Directors' Meeting that was held at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC from September 7-8, 2011. Law Librarian of Congress Roberta Shaffer welcomed the participants and expressed her belief that by remaining "committed to the principles that inspired its genesis" the network could devise a re-envisioned GLIN that would endure into the future. David Mao, Deputy Law Librarian of Congress and Chair of the GLIN Executive Council remarked that throughout the year there had been a continuation of many conversations that began at the 2010 Directors' Meeting in Seoul regarding the future of GLIN and he hoped that the members would continue to share their views during the meeting "as we work together

to move GLIN forward as an important resource to the world for access to global legal information."

A new format for the annual station status reports debuted at this year's meeting. Drawing from the reports prepared by Directors, representatives from GLIN Central synthesized information about the accomplishments and challenges encountered by GLIN stations throughout the year and offered summaries that highlighted the enormous amount of work undertaken by GLIN members. The reports detailed many promotional efforts as well as work to improve the quality of the database and diversify its contents.

Two representatives from the legal publishing company William S. Hein & Co., Inc., which is celebrating its 50th year, presented an overview of some of the products offered by their firm. The company's HeinOnline service has subscribers in more than 150 countries, covers more than nine centuries of legal history, and offers more than 71 million pages of research material that in many instances is not available elsewhere. The presentation focused on the ser-

vice's law journal library which encompasses more than 500 foreign and international periodicals as well as the foreign and international law resource databases available through HeinOnline.

"Harmonizing National Legislation with European Union Law: The Experience of Romania" was the subject of the presentation by Dan Chiriță, Director of GLIN-Romania. He explained that all EU member countries are bound to comply with the "acquis communautaire," the cumulative body of European Community laws, including treaties, primary and secondary legislation and case law as well as a variety of instruments such as rules, guidelines, and policies that may or may not be binding. Since the formal recognition of Romania's membership in 2007, the country has been working to revise or adapt national legislation to comply with the *acquis communautaire*. He described some tools offered by the European Union to assist with this process.

A session of the GLIN Thesaurus Council was held in conjunction with the Directors' Meeting and meeting attendees were asked to participate

### Inside this issue:

#### NETWORK NEWS

GLIN.Central News 1, 4, 5

#### How to...

A Different Strategy for the Preparation of GLIN Summaries 6, 7, 8

#### FROM THE FIELD

GLIN.CANADA: "2011 Roundup" 2

Costa Rica Stations Win Awards 3, 5, 6

PHOTO JOURNAL 9

From the Editor's Desk 10



## From the Field...



# GLIN

### GLIN.Canada: “2011 Roundup”

By Andre Barnes

The Canadian GLIN station could be heading into a busy period in the New Year. During Canada’s most recent federal election, held this past May, a majority government was elected for the first time since June 2004, marking an end to a string of three consecutive minority governments. In the months which have followed this most recent election, the government has set itself to speedily moving a number of bills through the legislative process, with a view of having them passed into law before Parliament recesses for the holidays in mid- to late December. The Canadian GLIN station looks forward to meeting the challenge that this increased legislative flow might create.

Also of note, this past November, Kristen Douglas, senior director, and Andre Barnes, analyst, gave a presentation to their colleagues at the Canadian Library of Parliament, explaining the many uses of GLIN. Their colleagues, research analysts and librarians alike, were keen to find out more about GLIN as a multi-jurisdictional legal database with

multilingual search capabilities. Kristen also provided those in attendance with highlights and anecdotes from the fall 2011 GLIN Director’s meeting. These included distillations of the fascinating presentations that she had heard, interesting acquaintances that she had met, as well as a plug for GLIN’s facebook page. It was also proudly noted that the Canadian GLIN station was the grateful recipient of the Model Station Award for 2011.

As we have throughout our collaboration with GLIN, the Canadian GLIN team remains dedicated to maintaining the same high standards set by all other stations, as we endeavour to ensure that our current federal statutes are submitted to GLIN in an accurate, dependable and timely fashion. The Canadian GLIN station looks forward to its continued its involvement in GLIN.

Should you require further information on this or any other subject, please do not hesitate to contact the Parliamentary Information and Research Service. ■

www.glin.gov

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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).

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#### 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. ■





## From the Field...

### GLIN Costa Rican Stations Wins Awards

By Mariana Cordero Fournier, mcordero@asamblea.go.cr

The work of collaborators from the Legislative Assembly, the General Attorney's Office of the Republic, the Supreme Court of Justice, and the University of Costa Rica was again recognized by the Law Library Congress, and its Global Legal Information Network program, when it awarded recog-

retary of the Legislative Board; and Hernán Monterrosa Rojas, GLIN Director, Department of Technical Services at the Legislative Assembly. A ceremony was held on November 21, 2011 in the Hall of Heroes and Benefactors in recognition of the award from GLIN Central for the addition of new

for stations that have already been distinguished with the award for the hierarchical institutions model station, and the Special Performance Award, granted to GLIN members distinguished by activities such as providing support to new members. The activity included the participation of the Second Secretary of the Legislative Board, Lic. Martín Monestel Contreras, who expressed the relevance for the Legislative Assembly of the international recognition achieved by GLIN Costa Rica, as a repository of legal information for public institutions. The Legislative Assembly as well as the National GLIN Costa Rica Station received the Exemplary Performance Award for the 2010 – 2011 period. The Director of the Library Services, Documentation, and Information Department, Licda. Edith Paniagua Hidalgo, mentioned that the road travelled by GLIN in Costa Rica since its inception has not been easy. However, GLIN Costa Rica has generated satisfaction and good pride, as it counts with a legal database which is internationally recognized. The award was also received by the Director of GLIN Costa Rica, MSc. Isabel Zúñiga Quirós.



Award ceremony GLIN 2010-2011, from left to right. Edith Paniagua Hidalgo, Director, Legislative Assembly Library; Ana Lorena Brenes Esquivel, General Attorney of the Republic; Daniel Gadea Nieto, Dean, Law School of the University of Costa Rica; Ana Virginia Calzada Miranda, President, Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice; Martín Monestel Contreras, Congressman and Second Secretary of the Legislative Board; and Hernán Monterrosa Rojas, GLIN Director, Department of Technical Services at the Legislative Assembly.

nitions in two categories of work. Award ceremony GLIN 2010-2011, from Left to right. Edith Paniagua Hidalgo, Director, Legislative Assembly Library; Ana Lorena Brenes Esquivel, General Attorney of the Republic; Daniel Gadea Nieto, Dean, Law School of the University of Costa Rica; Ana Virginia Calzada Miranda, President, Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice; Martín Monestel Contreras, Congressman and Second Sec-

Costa Rican laws to GLIN database, during the period of 2010 to 2011. Prior to this event, the awards were received by the GLIN Director for Costa Rica Director, MSc. Isabel Zúñiga Quirós. during 18th Annual GLIN Directors' Meeting, held in Washington D.C., United States.

The awards included the Model Station Award granted to the GLIN Station complying with the highest quality standards, and the Exemplary Performance Award

During the award ceremony, the University of Costa Rica obtained the recognition as the 2011 Model Station, and the award was received by the Dean of the Law School, Dr. Daniel Gadea Nieto, who expressed: "The University of Costa Rica, as an institution worthy of the motherland and as mother of public higher education in Costa Rica, has the obligation to promote the critical formation of students and

**News from GLIN Central: Continued from Page 1**

in the deliberations of the Council as they considered two candidate subject terms, “Ecotourism,” and “Personality disorders.” Luis Acosta, GLIN Thesaurus Administrator, moderated the session and first described the process for proposing new terms for the GLIN Thesaurus. After a robust discussion of the terms that followed the deliberative style of the Thesaurus Council, both terms were approved.

As a starting point to a discussion on the “Future of GLIN” David Mao reminded members that many of these same issues had been deliberated at last year’s meeting in Seoul when members were asked to consider GLIN’s future in light of changing technology, user expectations and needs, and economic sustainability. The members had expressed their view that GLIN is a government-to-government cooperative and any change requires “consultation with all of the jurisdictions present in GLIN.” He stated that the GLIN Charter calls for the migration of GLIN Central functions to other institutions. In light of this as well as the severe fiscal constraints facing the Law Library of Congress, he said that at the end of September 2012, coinciding with the completion of the current maintenance contract, the Law Library will no longer manage GLIN Central. It will continue to serve as a “GLIN station” and will contribute legal information for the United States to the database. The GLIN Technical Committee’s suggestion to consider cloud hosting has been passed along to the current contractor responsible for the maintenance and development of GLIN for consideration. He concluded by urging the members to devise a business plan to define GLIN’s future which should include how to sustain the effort, along with a transition plan.

The meeting also included a panel presentation on “Arab Spring:

Legal Ramifications.” Judge Adnène Lassoued, Researcher Judge and President of the Research team at Tunisia’s Center of Legal and Judicial Studies in the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, stated that since January 2011 there has been a revolution against the legal system in Tunisia. Under the pressure of Tunisian citizens, the constitution was abolished and a Constituent Assembly was created. At the time of the meeting, Tunisians were looking forward to parliamentary elections and the drafting of a new constitution. George Sadek, Senior Legal Information Analyst at the Law Library of Congress, outlined some of the precursors leading to the upheaval in Egypt. Following the well documented protests that led to the departure of President Mubarak Hosni, the Supreme Military Council drafted some constitutional amendments in an effort to support democratic principles. The parliament, elected in the questionable elections of November 2010, was dissolved and, like Tunisia, Egyptian citizens were looking forward to new parliamentary elections. Amira Maaty, Program Officer on the Middle East and North Africa team of the National Endowment for Democracy spoke about the role of civil society in supporting the changes wrought by the revolutions in the Arab Spring countries. She said that there is likely to be more space for civil society engagement in the reformed states. The challenges faced by the Arab Spring nations include a backlash against foreign assistance; limited capacity for civil society engagement including the potential for oversaturation; and a wide range of priorities that may fragment action.

Carol Tullo, who, in addition to representing GLIN-United Kingdom, serves as Director of Information Policy at the National gave a fascinating talk on the U.K.’s “Expert Participation

Project,” concerning a new technique that relies on third parties to keep the United Kingdom’s legislation updated. Two major principles govern this process: participation will be open and transparent; and participants will not be paid by the National Archives nor receive any form of preferential treatment. However, attribution will be given to those who contribute to the process.

David Mao, presented awards to a number of GLIN members to recognize ongoing excellence and special achievements. Exemplary Performance Awards were presented to Argentina, Democratic Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Korea, Kuwait, Mexico, Paraguay, Romania, Taiwan and Uruguay. The GLIN station at the Supreme Court of Nicaragua was honored with a Special Achievement Award for making the decisions of several of its chambers available through GLIN including, for the first time in 2011, the decisions of the Administrative Litigation Chamber. This year, GLIN Model Affiliate Station awards were presented for the first time. 2011 awards in this category were conveyed to the Attorney General’s Office of Costa Rica; the Technical Services Department, Legislative Assembly, Costa Rica; the University of Costa Rica Law School; the Department of Montevideo, Uruguay; and the Department of Soriano, Uruguay. Finally, fifteen years after the first GLIN Model Station Award was presented, David announced the winners of two GLIN Model Station Awards for 2011: GLIN-Canada and GLIN-Gabon.

In his concluding remarks, David Mao expressed confidence that the “collective talent embodied in the network” could overcome existing challenges and represented the network’s “best hope for the future.” He stated his certainty that the members could successfully assume responsibility to



**GLIN Costa Rica Continued from Page 3**

professors, and of society in general through the development of activities, such as the award, through GLIN, which is such an important legal and global tool”, said Gadea.

Upon receiving the Model Station Award, the representative of the Technical Services Department of the Legislative Assembly, Dr. Hernán Monterrosa Rojas, expressed: “I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the Technical Services Department, which opened the doors to my work not only concerning national but also international legislation.” Monterrosa also referred to the daily work performed by professionals who, through professionalism and discipline, do a high-quality legal work.” Máster Ana Lorena Brenes Esquivel spoke on behalf of the General Attorney’s Office, who also received the Model Station Award.

“This is an effort consisting in believing in the new information systems available in the world, and that it is necessary to achieve integration through the Internet. This creates an important issue, which is transparency, where our information may be accessed at the national and international levels.” In her speech, the Attorney General mentioned the work done by SINALEVI at the General Attorney’s Office as a meaningful and current legal information system, which has been of great importance for the implementation of the tasks at her office.

The Supreme Court, in turn, received the 2010 and 2011 Exemplary Performance Award, and was



Deputy Martín Monestel (center) receives the Award, the President of the Constitutional Chamber, Ana Virginia Calzada Miranda (right) and the General Attorney of the Republic, Ana Lorena Brenes Esquivel (left).

represented by the President of the Constitutional Chamber, Máster Ana Virginia Calzada Miranda, who highlighted that article 30 of the Political Constitution establishes and recognizes the free access to the information generated by administrative agencies.” The Constitutional Chamber, through its Jurisprudence Center, undertakes the commitment to assist in all what is necessary for Costa Rican constitutional jurisprudence to become available at the international level in the database that is deemed appropriate, since, as I stated, this is important not only for the Chamber, but also for the country and, essentially, for all those who study the law,” stated Calzada.

The President of the Constitutional Chamber also mentioned that she was convinced that the So-

cial State of Law forces the State to adopt a proactive attitude with respect to access to information, which is a task that includes and is mandatory for, the Judicial Branch. The institutions involved agree to maintain their commitment toward the GLIN Network, and toward the information uploaded into the network. The representatives of those institutions stated that the system provides an easy access to information, and that the work performed is important for the development of the country in the legal field.

The activity was organized by the Legislative Board, and the Library Services, Documentation, and Information Department which, through the Legislative Research Center, leads the Network in Costa Rica.■

**News from GLIN Central: Continued from Page 4**

define the goals and shape of the future of GLIN. Finally, he proclaimed the Law Library’s commitment to par-

ticipating in GLIN as a contributing member and offered its ongoing guidance to the members as they work to

“develop a strategy to transition GLIN to a successful globally owned and cooperatively managed enterprise.”■

# How to...

## A Different Strategy for the Preparation of GLIN Summaries








By Dante Figueroa

As a GLIN Legal Analyst, there are multiple ways to get organized and to prepare a well-written and well-presented summary of a given legal instrument. Since each Legal Analyst opts for the organizational approach best suited to his or her work, there is simply not “just one way” of doing your summary preparation for GLIN. In this context, I wanted to share with my fellow legal analysts one approach that I use concerning summary preparation, and in particular, of a way to avoid working with or uploading the “wrong” full text.

Allow me to explain further. The GLIN “New Contribution” page has been handsomely designed to allow you to scroll down and manage the windows by opening or closing them as you fill out the boxes with the required information. This is the way the “New Contribution” page looks:

### New Contribution (Colombia)

Note: \* Indicates a required field.

<b>About the Law</b> 	
Title	
* Instrument Class Select..	* Instrument Number If none, enter "N/A".
* Issuance Date 01 / Jan / <input type="text"/> Enter the complete year (e.g. 1984 instead of 84)	Publication Specifics Example: Supplement, Third Section
* Publication Select..	Publication Issue Number
* Publication Date 01 / Jan / <input type="text"/> Enter the complete year (e.g. 1984 instead of 84)	
Relationships 	
Subject Terms 	
Summaries 	
Full Texts 	
External References 	
Notes 	

I usually use a Word template to prepare a summary with all the metadata before transferring the information into the “New Contribution” page. This is the rather simple Word template that I use:

Title	
Instrument Number	
Title	
Issuance Date	
Publication Date	
Publication Specifics	
Publication Issue Number	
Relationships	
Subject Terms	
Summaries	
Notes	



**A Different Strategy: Continued from Page 6**

In this context, over the years I came to realize that one of the most common mishaps that we as legal analysts may incur is that of working with or uploading the wrong text of the legal instrument we are dealing with. This may happen for a number of reasons. First, it could be that after, literally, hundreds of laws, regulations, judicial decisions, etc., that we have been working on over the years, our minds just become blurry at some point, and we lose focus and concentration. It could also be that we inadvertently click on the wrong file after working with the correct full text. This is a very easy error to make since in the process of extracting the instrument from the full text we need to rename it and save it in a dedicated folder, or otherwise clearly identify it before making it available to the general public through GLIN. Finally, it could also occur that we may save a new extracted instrument over an existing and different file carrying the same name or identification. All of these hypotheses might sound confusing and somehow repetitive to non-legal analysts, but I trust that I might have even been too restrained in presenting all the possible reasons for getting the wrong full text into our GLIN contribution.

Therefore, in order to avoid this mistake altogether, a while ago I started using a different approach to preparing my GLIN contributions, which I want to present to you here. It is very simple, and I could almost say: infallible. Allow me to explain further: my approach consists in saving my contributions as a “Draft,” with a half written summary, in the “Incomplete Contributions” folder (within “Outstanding Items”), but with the full text uploaded. See the example below.

**Confirm Contribution (Colombia)**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	Colombia		
<b>Title</b>	Ley 1312 de 2009 por medio de la cual se reforma la Ley 906 de 2004 en lo relacionado con el Principio de Oportunidad. [Law 1312 of 2009 amends Law 906 of 2004, concerning the Principle of Opportunity]		
<b>Instrument Number</b>	1312		
<b>Instrument Class</b>	Law (Ley)	<b>Issuance Date</b>	09/07/2009
<b>Publication</b>	Diario Oficial		
<b>Publication Issue Number</b>	Año CXLIV No.47.405	<b>Publication Date</b>	09/07/2009
<b>Publication Specifics</b>			
<b>Related Legal Resources</b>	No related legal resources available		
<b>Summary (English)</b>	Law 1312 of 2009 amends Law 906 of 2004, concerning the Principle of Opportunity...		
<b>Full Texts</b>	Spanish	<b>Full Text 1</b>	(686.95kb)
<b>External References</b>	No external references available		
<b>Subject Terms</b>			

As you may see from the example above, there are two items missing from this draft contribution-- the completion of the summary, and the subject terms.

The next step for me is to actually save the draft. After I do it, I write down the GLIN ID for this incomplete contribution and move onto my next (incomplete) contribution. After I have produced a certain number of incomplete contributions (and this depends more on mood than anything), I go back to my incomplete contributions to actually finish the job.

*Continued on Page 8*

**A Different Strategy: Continued from Page 7**

The way I do this is by just opening the first one in the “Incomplete Contributions” folder and immediately opening the full text. So in front of me I have now an incomplete contribution and a full text, and am ready to finish the job. This is the way it looks:

**View Contribution (Colombia)**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	Colombia		
<b>Title</b>	Ley 1312 de 2009 por medio de la cual se reforma la Ley 906 de 2004 en lo relacionado con el Principio de Oportunidad. [Law 1312 of 2009 amends Law 906 of 2004, concerning the Principle of Opportunity]		
<b>Instrument Number</b>	1312	<b>GLIN ID</b>	254633
<b>Instrument Class</b>	Law (Ley)	<b>Issuance Date</b>	09/07/2009
<b>Publication</b>	Diario Oficial		
<b>Publication Issue Number</b>	Año CXLIV No.47.405	<b>Publication Date</b>	09/07/2009
<b>Publication Specifics</b>			
<b>Related Legal Resources</b>	No related legal resources available		
<b>Summary (English)</b>	Law 1312 of 2009 amends Law 906 of 2004, concerning the Principle of Opportunity...		
<b>Full Texts</b>	Spanish	<a href="#">Full Text 1</a> (686.95kb)	
<b>External References</b>	No external references available		
<b>Subject Terms</b>			

With this approach, there is no way for me to get the wrong text: I need the correct text to finish the summary, and once this task is done, I may select the appropriate subject terms. Of course, without a complete summary it is not possible to pick the subject terms.

In sum, this is a simple but effective strategy for me to get the correct full text all of the time. Obviously, it is not the only way to do it, but I invite you to explore it and see whether you feel comfortable with this approach. This is another great thing about GLIN: we do the same old good things, but every time and again we may explore different ways to do them! ■



Photo by Charles Dove



# Photo Journal

## Winter 2011 GLIN Training Class



GLIN Central hosted representatives for Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Kuwait, and Qatar.





## From the Editor's Desk

The end of the year is always a time of reflection for me. So I'd like to pause and review the accomplishments of the Network over the last twelve months. To begin, this has not been an easy year as we have had to learn to work within tight budgetary constraints. Nevertheless, we added nearly 13,000 legal resources to the database bringing our total content of laws, judicial decisions, and related legal material to over 200,000 items. We welcomed both Lebanon and Yemen to the GLIN family this year. GLIN Central hosted the 18th Annual Directors' Meeting in September (see the opening article by Janice Hyde). In addition, GLIN Central provided two training sessions in Washington this year. We took a leap into the social media world in February with the launch of a GLIN Facebook page under the editorship of Francisco Macías. Despite the financial austerity, two significant enhancements to the database were added—subscription news feeds (<https://www.glin.gov/helpTopic.action?topic=11020>) and RDF/XML links (<https://www.glin.gov/helpTopic.action?topic=11030>).

As we wrap up the year, I would like to thank you for your continued support in the form of the great articles that you sent in for publication; however, it is not too early to consider contributing an article to the spring issue of the GLIN Global Journal that captures something about the work of your GLIN station. Please send your contributions to me ([cdove@loc.gov](mailto:cdove@loc.gov)) no later than March 1, 2012. All photographs must be in JPEG format. So if you have photographs inserted in a Word document you must also send them separately in the JPEG format.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season.

## Parting Shot

