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credentials indeed. Even members of humanities faculties may now consider lawyers to be true academics.

The essays generally address issues of development, the likelihood of particular change, and the need for reform. They all give a review of development typically over the past twenty-five years or so. This form of scholarly speculation based on profound expertise provides a stimulating and illuminating approach. Many of the essays also take a stab at setting the agenda for future research, a practice not generally attempted in any structured and collaborative way.

The volume as a whole would be an interesting and informative read for all lawyers, academic and practicing, especially if they read outside their particular area of expertise; several chapters will be of interest to those studying government, human rights, education and the regulation of professions. The volume provides reviews of developments and signposts to future scholarly debate which will make it a useful addition to libraries, even those which do not have large UK collections. It will provide a convenient starting place for those exploring an area of UK law as well as those extending their research by canvassing informed opinion on future developments. The law librarian trying to second guess areas of increasing research interest would do well to read it.

The book is well produced, as usual with Hart Publishing. The chapters have detailed footnotes to lead to further reading. In common with many books of essays there is no index or tables; in fairness the chapter titles may prove enough. This is a worthy addition to Richard Hart's list, a list of scholarly works which is now extremely impressive and worthy of any academic law library's attention.

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Toward a Cyberlegal Culture. By Mirela ROZNOVSCHI. Ardsley, New York: Transnational Publishers, 2001. Pp. xvii, 230. ISBN 1-57105-168-6. US$95.00.

Thinking in three dimensions is not a skill that comes easily to all lawyers and librarians, and yet the nature of hyperlinked legal research is changing most aspects of how initial legal research is performed. In the

international context, this process produces not only spatial depth but also geographical and temporal breadth. Describing the consequences of this change is the exciting underlying theme of this post-codex analysis of international legal research and the librarian's role in it.

However, this book does a great deal more, and only a little less, than it claims. I am delighted to review it because the author (a friend and colleague I must disclose) has had the courage to pitch her claims high even if the more practical mission of the book prevented her from pursuing all of her more philosophical speculations. To these I shall return later on. And that practical mission is to present a description of the strategies for using electronic databases in international and foreign law and techniques for acquiring them and then teaching patrons how to use them. My only criticism at the outset would be to wish that her title had been *Toward a Global Cyberlegal Culture* so as to indicate more precisely, for us creators and users of information metadata, that her subject is almost exclusively international and foreign law *within* the cyberlegal world.

The first contribution of the book is to provide for researchers unfamiliar with databases in international and foreign law an encyclopedic wealth of URLs and descriptions for web sites and databases probably not well known to them, or at least not as to their content. Doing this challenges the author's own observation that all such guides and lists go out of date as URLs move around. But her antidote is a sound one: an online version soon to appear, and her well-known guides will live on, on the 'net, like the live organisms to which she aptly compares the new hypertexts.[12] And I know from working with this hard-working, conscientious author professionally that she will do her best to update, revise, and adjust all her information as it "evolves."

Another and more original contribution, in my opinion, consists of a collection of anecdotes from her own professional life and duties, a sort of "day in the life of an international and foreign law librarian," which I must say might not fascinate all non-librarians as much as those toiling in similar trenches. However, for newer librarians and older law school deans (and - dare I say it? -perhaps a few library directors as well), these descriptions of what it takes to locate this kind of legal information quickly and in context should be required reading. The necessary strengths of foreign language skills and either subject training or a scholarly approach to the acquisition of knowledge are essential. Unfortunately the web has given rise to overreaching or even arrogant confidence on the part of non-specialists that "it's all on the

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[12] *<http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/foreign_intl/index.html>*.

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web" so "anyone can find it." Even librarians on the Anglo-American side are not immune from this approach. I would only have added more about the dangers of that new urge to discard all contextual knowledge and just search Google. Interestingly, and I think she would agree, Google might just be better for locating a discrete document already identified than for engaging in those mad, broad searches we know our patrons undertake on their own.

Finally, her sections on evaluating databases and teaching sound Internet-based research skills are very valuable and acknowledge appropriately the need to select reliable and user-friendly databases that enable independent, or as she puts it, "disintermediated" searching by users, especially in the academic setting of law teaching. It has become something of a truism that librarians will find a new role as teachers and evaluators, but Ms. Roznovschi illustrates the difference a certain amount of erudition can make in this endeavor. She is clearly a learned as well as a practical expert guide.

My cavils are not many, but I do have a few. In the opening of her second chapter entitled "Legal Research on the Frontier of Innovation," the author suggests that legal researchers of the past were less imaginative and creative than the cyber-lawyers and librarians of today are required to be. I do not think this is necessarily true, and in all fairness, the legal research world was a full-text world for more than a decade before the Internet developed into the World Wide Web as we know it today, albeit in a more controlled and defined kind of database, namely Lexis or Westlaw. As has recently been pointed out in an intriguing but somewhat ponderous discussion of the very important changes wrought by hypertextuality, the creation of the digest system was innovative and creative for its time and aims.[13] Common law lawyers can be even too creative by half; the author's European bias may be a little bit evident here. Another observation that needs to be made is that there are some lapses in editing and spacing; her editors served her well as to the welter of URLs, but less well in smoothing out parts of the text. Her message is important and deserves better.

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[13] Carol M. BAST and Ransford C. PYLE, *Legal Research in the Computer Age: A Paradigm Shift?*, Law Lib. J. 93 (2001): 285. The authors fail adequately to discuss, in my opinion, the online version of the West digest available in Westlaw as a hyperlinked text for combining the best of "smart" or editorially-assisted indexing with straight Boolean logic aimed across primary sources. There is potential to combine the strengths of the old digest system and the new user-driven system while skirting most of the pitfalls of both. The new KeySearch approach could have been evaluated as well. Their use of the term "code" is also not made as clear as it might be in the legal context.

But the wonderful fact of this publication is that it was done at all. After a conference at my home institution of the University of Toronto Bora Laskin Law Library, "Not a Box but a Window: Law Libraries and Legal Education in a Virtual World"[14] I became fascinated with hypertext and its implications for research and learning. Much more work needs to be done in this area. Ms. Roznovschi's point overall is well taken that hypertext "dimensionalizes" (my word) research in a much larger and more graphical world. In fact, confirming the need for an exploration I would like to undertake, the author echoes, either deliberately or independently, an observation I read in my excursions into the works of Marshall McLuhan, a writer I must say I have neglected since required university reading. In her introduction she states

> ...the information age has transported us to another sphere. Trying to compare how we live today with whatever humanity has traversed in history, I consider that we experience or live in a kind of Homeric oral world, but at a different level. (p. xvii)

Whether by accident or design, I find the exact same observation by McLuhan about the (then) new electric communication, and this, of course, before the Internet had even come into being. With regard to radio and television, and perhaps nascent aspects of computer technology, McLuhan sees a departure from the alphabetic world of linear thought into an oral or "audile-tactile" and therefore more tribal world of the now-clichéd "global village."[15] Certainly ubiquity and the penetration of the Internet with simultaneity has opened up unique opportunities for training and legal/intellectual exchange as never before. However, the apparent visual nature of TV and the web are misleading; the alphabet demands more visual discrimination, in his view. One can debate, as the scholars of the University of Toronto's McLuhan Centre are wont to do, the promising or threatening nature of this turn in our popular culture. Its impact on legal texts and formats in the common and civil law traditions, as texts become electronic, is one I would like to research myself. But as Mirela Roznovschi so ably points out, in our global cyberlegal culture,

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[14] Held at the Bora Laskin Law Library February 22-24, 2001 and sponsored by Carswell. There is no web archive but a site containing the program and some of the papers resides at <*http://www.law-lib.utoronto.ca/conferences/future/index.htm*>.

[15] Marshall MCLUHAN, *The Gutenberg Galaxy: The Making of Typographic Man*, [Toronto]: University of Toronto Press, 2000, [c 1962], at 31, 43-44.

the fallen barriers between countries, legal systems, and intergovernmental information are positive, and a wonderful new frontier in which we librarians are challenged to be the guides.

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The UN Human Rights Treaty System: Universality at the Crossroads. By Anne F. BAYEFSKY. New York: Transnational Publishers, 2001. Pp. xvii, 839. ISBN 1-57105-230-5. US$95.00.
The UN Human Rights System in the 21st Century. Edited by Anne F. BAYEFSKY. The Hague: Kluwer, 2000. Pp. xx, 1116. ISBN 90-411-1415-7. US$287.00.

The protection of human rights is the concern of virtually all UN bodies and specialized agencies, but it is the human rights treaties that are, as declared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, at the core of the international system for the promotion and protection of human rights. The treaty system is, however, under immense pressure to reform. Problems exist in almost every area of the monitoring and implementation mechanism. There are over 1,200 overdue reports (only 1,613 reports have ever been considered in the thirty-year history of the treaty system); four of six treaty bodies have two-year backlogs of submitted reports awaiting consideration; in only 20% of individual cases disclosing a violation, have states parties been prepared to provide a remedy. These are just a few of the problem areas in the implementation of all six treaties which promised universality of human rights.

In *UN Human Rights Treaty System*, Professor Anne Bayefsky reports the many shortfalls in the implementation of the human rights treaties with an aim of reforming the human rights treaty system so as to narrow the gap between the theory of universal rights and the actual remedy. The study was conducted from 1999 to 2001 in collaboration with the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights with the support of the Ford Foundation.

Professor Bayefsky has extensive experience in the UN human rights system. She has participated in many Canadian delegations to the UN Human Rights Commission and General Assembly and in Human Rights World Conferences in Vienna and Beijing. She is the recipient of Canada's highest