

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 17 No. 3
August 2006

*This newsletter is published
four times a year*

OSALL

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*"OSALL aims to link and support everyone interested in Law
Librarianship in South Africa"*

EDITORIAL

This is my first issue as the new editor of the OSALL Committee.

The August issue is a 'bumper' OSALL one, in that it consists of the AGM reports of the previous OSALL Committee, the new committee members, some pictures of the wonderful 30th birthday celebrations and a fascinating article by one of the founder members of OSALL, Mrs Lynette Davis.

I hope that you enjoy this issue.

FROM THE CHAIR

Firstly, I would like to welcome to the new committee members and thank them for being willing to stand for the committee and for offering their time to OSALL. I would also like to thank the committee for their vote of confidence in me as Chair.

The new members are Lynette Miller from the Constitutional Court who is our new secretary, Keke Maide from Biccari Bollo Mariano Inc. who will do our PR work (marketing and liaison), Gill Rademeyer from Cliffe Dekker is the new treasurer and Sharon Pather-Nagy from Bowman Gilfillan the new newsletter editor. The vice-chair, listserv - and website administrator portfolios have not been filled as yet and I will introduce these members at a later stage.

I would also like to make use of this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee for leaving a well oiled organisation for us to carry forward.

Everybody who attended the OSALL AGM and birthday bash had a wonderful time. We include a few photos of the venue and festivities. Thank you to Neill and Kim from Gallery 181 and Legal Library Services for the wonderful venue, the food, wine and making this day very special.



Main gallery and AGM venue

And what is a birthday party without gifts? Thank you to the following institutions who all donated a gift which, by way of a lucky draw went to the following attendees:

Magda van der Walt was the lucky recipient of a bottle of wine donated by Brink Cohen Le Roux
 Elizabeth Bourne a picnic carry bag with 2 bottles of wine from Webber Wentzel Bowens
 Ruth Ward another bottle of wine from Brink Cohen Le Roux
 Rosemary Hope a coffee table book from Bowman Gilfillan
 Tineke van Staden a cooler bag filled with soft drinks, beers and wine from Deneys Reitz
 Charlotte Pitts a roller ball and fountain pen set from Werksmans
 Antoinette de Beer a book from Lexinfo
 Pasela Masilo a pen and pencil set from Hofmeyr
 Mari Brightmore an ice bucket from Edward Nathan
 A Breed the 2nd coffee table book donated by Bowman Gilfillan

Each member who attended the AGM received a gift bag filled with wonderful goodies donated by the following publishers and service providers:

Academic Marketing Services donated travel wallets
 Juta, leather like folders, note pads and pens
 Legal Library Services, book ornaments
 Lexis Nexis Butterworths, pen and pencil sets
 Red Pepper Books, note pads
 Sabinet Online, calendar calculators, pen lighters, calculator rulers
 Thank you guys for spoiling all of us so much.

Last but not least

Thank you to all the OSALL members for the past 30 years and for making the organisation one that we can all be very proud of.



Birthday Cake!

NEWS

Address on the establishment of OSALL, delivered at the OSALL AGM and 30th anniversary celebrations, on 17th August 2006

Lynette Davis

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On 14 July 1976, the inaugural meeting of the proposed Organisation of South African Law Libraries took place. How did the meeting come about and what transpired thereafter?

Let us go back some months to late 1975. At that time, I was the librarian of Hayman, Godfrey and Sanderson (now Bowman, Gilfillan Inc.) and Hildred Hadassin was the librarian of Werkmans, both located in the Johannesburg city centre, One lunch—time I walked from one library to the other, stopping en route to buy sandwiches. Whilst Hildred and I ate our lunch, we discussed the need for improved co-operation between local law librarians and the enhancement of law librarianship. Hildred had attended the annual British and Irish Association of the Law Librarians conference recently, and I had just encountered an instance of the lack of coordination between colleagues. We decided that the solution lay in the establishment of a law library association locally. We immediately phoned Cillah Jaspán, the University of the Witwatersrand law librarian, who agreed to participate in the project with us.

In January 1976, we distributed over one hundred and twenty questionnaires to ascertain the possible support for a law library association for South Africa. The response was most encouraging. As a result a steering committee was formed. It consisted of Hildred, Cillah and myself together with Professor Reuben Musiker (the librarian of the University of the Witwatersrand) and Daphne Saul (chairman of the Special Libraries and Information Services Group, in the Southern Transvaal), Later three other committee members were co-opted.

In June 1976, I produced our first newsletter entitled Newsletter for South African law libraries. It consisted of five typed pages and stated "Good news! Our own law library newsletter at last"

The newsletter was the forerunner of the inaugural meeting of the proposed organisation on 14 July 1976. It was held at the University of the Witwatersrand and twenty-seven people attended (including five from Pretoria). Discussions were extremely lively and the steering committee was accepted as an Ad hoc committee. Those people present volunteered to pay R1.00 each towards the administration of the organisation. Professor John Dugard gave a lecture on the "The law library scene in the USA – with some comparative comments". I chaired the meeting because Hildred had become ill.

After the inaugural meeting, things really got moving. By the first birthday, four most successful general meetings had been held: four issues of the newsletter had appeared; and the committee had met four times. The office-bearers were Hildred as chairman; Cillah as secretary; Margaret Banahan (from Edward Nathan & Friedland) as treasurer and I was newsletter editor. The committee had also applied to the South African Library Association (SALA) to become a new branch of that body. Formal acceptance could not be granted until a set of regulations was approved, and twenty existing members of SALA had requested the formation of a new branch. Involvement with SALA would provide strength and identification with the mainstream of librarianship in the country.

In retrospect one can highlight two definite OSALL themes and concerns during the early days: the need for law library training and the enhancement of status. To overcome these drawbacks, we organised numerous seminars, conferences, practical workshops and quizzes. They were mounted at different venues around the country. We learned as we taught. We appreciated the support and input of colleagues like Pat Farr. Informally more stature in our particular environments came with increased knowledge and skill and we began to feel empowered.

Together with convening functions and training, the committee worked towards a more formal

constitutional position for the organisation. At a general meeting on 21 February 1979, a set of regulations was adopted. Twenty-three existing members of SALA acted as signatories, thus becoming the founding *members of OSALL* (which became a new branch of SALA). In fact this was the first subject branch of SALA because all previous branches had been geographical branches. Soon after the February 1979 meeting, it was possible to hold elections to acquire an elected committee.

Madam chair: I have had the great privilege and pleasure of both chairing the inaugural meeting of OSALL and also participating in this 30th anniversary celebration of the existence of OSALL. I thank you for this honour and wish OSALL continued success and good fortune in the years to come.

SIGNATORIES TO THE OSALL REGULATIONS,
21 FEBRUARY 1979 (as noted by Cillah Jaspan)

*Mrs H.C. Hadassin, Mrs L. Davis, Mrs C. Jaspan
Miss J Ogilvie, Miss L. Kennedy, Mr J. Winter,
Mrs P.J. Fair, Mrs P.P Simpson, Mr S.P. Korkie,
Prof A .Louw, Miss L.C. Coetzee, Miss M.P.H.
Laver, Mrs E.J. Maynard, Mrs L. Silver, Mrs S.
Sapire, A Hayward, Mrs M. Lewis, Miss C.D. Saul,
Prof R. Musiker, Miss M.J. Joubert, Mrs A. Burdzik,
Miss C. Clerk, Werkmans (with Miss C. Clerk as
signatory)*

REPORTS OF THE OSALL COMMITTEE

OSALL ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2005 – JUNE 2006

Danielle Botha



COMMITTEE

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Chair: | Danielle Botha |
| Vice-Chair: | Mzo Gulwa |
| Treasurer: | Selma Savitz |
| Newsletter Editor: | Fiona Rennie |
| Secretary: | Rika van der Walt |

PR and Liaison: Salome Vranas
 Fundraising and Workshops: Bheki Kubheka
 Website administrator: Ruth Ward
 Listserv Administrator: Lydia Craemer (co-opted)

FINANCE/MEMBERSHIP

| | | | |
|---------------|----|----------|-----------------------------------|
| Institutional | 55 | Personal | 54 |
| Newsletter | 7 | Honorary | 24 (includes overseas members) |

Members are thanked for their regular payment of subscriptions, which enables OSALL to run smoothly.

MEETINGS

AGM, Wednesday 27 July 2005

The 29th OSALL AGM was held at Bowman Gilfillan in Sandton and the lunch was sponsored by LexisNexis. The guest speaker was Diana Riley of Bowman Gilfillan (Cape Town), who spoke on The Provision of Information Services to Attorneys.

Sweet and Maxwell Breakfast, 4 Nov 2005

Academic Marketing Services together with Sweet and Maxwell sponsored a lovely breakfast held at Deneys Reitz Attorneys on 4 Nov. We had the privilege of listening to Sarah Carter, Law Librarian at the University of Kent.

End of Year Function, 16 November 2005

The End of Year Function was held together with the SLIS AGM at the Lipizzaner Centre in Kyalami. This year two OSALL members – Charmaine Betram and Simon Zwane of Deneys Reitz - respectively won the Senior and Junior Information Specialist of the Year awards.

OSALL/Sabinet Meeting, 6 April 2006

OSALL's first meeting of 2006 was held at the Sabinet offices in Centurion. Doreen Rabe spoke on "Cataloguing and the benefits of SACat" and Pierre Malan's topic was "Looking into the Future".

Workshop on USA legislation, 12 May 2006

Anita Green from the USA addressed OSALL members on US laws and legislation.

LexisNexis Free Workshop for Librarians, 2 June 2006

LexisNexis sponsored a free workshop for OSALL members, which was held at Bytes Technology in Midrand.

CONFERENCES

BIALL, Brighton, UK, 15 - 17 June 2006

A landmark event in OSALL's history as for the first time two OSALL members attended the BIALl conference. The two members are: Charmaine Bertram, who was

sponsored as part of her prize which she won as Information Specialist of the Year; and Diana Riley of Bowman Gilfillan (Cape Town), who was this year's recipient of the Academic Marketing Services sponsorship for an OSALL delegate to attend BIALl.

NEWSLETTER

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Vol. 16, no. 3: August 2005 | Vol. 16, no. 4: November 2005 |
| Vol. 17, no. 1: February 2006 | Vol. 17, no. 2: May 2006 |

Fiona Rennie has been a wonderful editor, and managed to get heaps of interesting articles from different authors for the newsletter.

WEBSITE AND LISTERV

The listserv has been running well until June this year, when the Wits server crashed. Fortunately our web site was not affected. The committee is therefore in the process of finding another host for the listserv, and may follow in SLIS's footsteps by having the listserv hosted by Sabinet.

Ruth Ward and Lydia Craemer are both stepping down after managing our website and listserv for a number of years.

LIAISON AND PR

Salome Vranas has continued to actively promote OSALL.

The OSALL Chair received invitations to attend the CALL conference in May in Edmonton, Alberta as well as the AALL conference held in July in St Louis, Missouri, but was unable to attend.

Lastly, the chair would like to thank the present committee members for their generous hard work throughout their term, and wishes the new committee all the best. She also thanks all members for their ongoing support.

Danielle Botha
 June 2006

OSALL FINANCIAL REPORT JULY 2005 – JUNE 2006

Selma Savitz

Our new auditors, Vincent Laubscher and Associates prepared the financial report for the year ending 30 June 2006 for OSALL. As you will see from the auditors' report, it is not an actual audit, but follows section 11 of our Constitution which says that our accounts must be

verified by an independent body. In addition, our auditors have given us some very useful advice on how to run in a more professional manner, so that there are proper checks and balances on the members of the committee.

Now to the financial statements.

INCOME:

Total income for the year was **R21, 985**

This was made up of **R3,600** in advertising revenue, **R1,105** in interest.

R10,000 was sponsorship from Michael Brightmore of AMS Marketing, of which **R8,000.00** merely passed through our account towards the sponsorship for OSALL member, Diana Riley, to attend the BIALL Conference.

The other **R2,000.00** is intended to sponsor an OSALL member to the SLIS/OSALL conference, which is being held on the 10th October this year.

For this sponsorship, we are very grateful, and thank Michael Brightmore.

The final amount of **R9,100** is of concern. This is what we collected in membership fees this past year, and is well below that of the previous year. A large number of members did not pay their fees. I hope that will not happen again, as our organisation depends on its members. Fortunately the difference was made up in good advertising revenue.

EXPENDITURE:

As you will see, our bank charges are rather high, at **R1,363** this year. The reason for this is that we are running 2 sets of bank accounts. The committee has been unhappy with Nedbank for some years, for various reasons. A decision was taken to change over to Standard Bank, Sandton City. However, we have kept the Nedbank account open in case members mistakenly pay their subs there through habit. Please take note that the Nedbank account will only remain open for another 3 months. Thereafter, all subs and payments for adverts on the listserv must be made into the Standard Bank account.

R1, 500 was made up of sponsorship of R1, 000 for Carol Clark to attend the IALL Conference, and R500.00 for Mary Bruce to travel to Pretoria to speak during OSALL's slot at the SAOUG conference.

R14,071 is the R8,000 I mentioned which went to Diana Riley for BIALL. It also covers our contribution to the joint SLIS/OSALL year-end function last year, and the drinks at last year's AGM.

A number of gifts, mostly book vouchers were bought for speakers and for Vanessa du Plessis who left Sabinet. Postage refers to the cost of renting our post box at Sandton City.

One of our highest expenses should be our excellent newsletter. However, it has been completely sponsored by **Deneys Reitz**, for which we owe them a very big

thank you. The cost of each issue of the newsletter is around **R3,400.00**

Therefore our net income for the year stands at **R1820.00**

ASSET & LIABILITIES:

R45,465 is what we have in all 4 bank accounts: namely 2 investments accounts and 2 current accounts, which as I have explained, will within 3 months be only 1 x 32 day notice deposit account and 1 x current account.

R1,710 is our payment to our auditors.

The committee has decided once again, not to increase the fees. There is really no excuse for members not to pay their fees. **R175.00** for Institutional Membership and **R75.00** for personal membership is most affordable. There is a problem for mostly government departments who require vat invoices and other supportive documents. We are unable to provide these. My suggestion to librarians who have these difficulties is to pay the fees out of their own pockets. The amounts are certainly low enough to do so.

This is my last treasurer's report, as I have now been on the committee for 6 years and I think it is time for new blood and fresh ideas. Things have changed quite dramatically since I first took over this portfolio: From hand written accounts, to excel spreadsheets, to internet banking. Librarians are always very good at moving with the times.

I thank you all for your support over the past 6 years, and I thank my fellow committee members past and present, for making it such fun to serve on the OSALL committee.

Selma Savitz
Treasurer

OSALL WEBSITE AND LISTSERV REPORT JULY 2005 – JUNE 2006

Website - Ruth Ward

Listserv – Lydia Craemer

The listserv continued to function well for 90% of the year, and attracted more members. As of 15 August 2006, membership of the listserv stands at approx. 240 members; approximate, because there are many defunct addresses on the listserv from members who didn't unsubscribe when moving jobs or when their e-mail addresses changed.

I repeat my plea to you all to PLEASE keep a close eye on your listserv subscription and make changes to it as when needed, due to job changes and the wiles of your IT dept. Put "post-its" on your PC to remind you to unsubscribe as soon as your address changes or if you

move jobs. Remember to re-subscribe on your new address if your e-mail address changes. Check with your IT dept that your old and new addresses are not linked in any way – this may result in either duplication of messages to you, or messages you send to the listserv not reaching the listserv.

The 10% glitch in the listserv this past year was the instability of the Sunsite platform over the past 3 months. Sunsite is the server on which our listserv runs and is 10 years old. It is groaning under the weight of listservs and websites that it hosts, and it experienced a hard-drive crash in late June. All listservs ground to a halt, including ours. Websites crashed – **luckily** not ours! Wits is not sure, if and when, the server will be upgraded and that has made the Committee have a very serious re-think about the viability of hosting the listserv and website on Sunsite. Wits understands that OSALL requires an active and stable listserv, so no feelings will be hurt if we migrate to another service provider for the listserv. We would hate to lose our website; it would require much time and effort to rebuild it so the Committee has been discussing the possibility of moving the website as well.

In the past two years a move of the listserv and website to Sabinet has been mooted. During the 2004/2005 period we decided not to move the listserv due to a possible merger with SLIS and SAOUG. However, OSALL decided that irrespective of whether a merger happened or not, our listserv would preserve its identity. When the listserv stopped functioning in May, Sabinet approached the Committee and expressed its willingness to still host the listserv. We will be entering into negotiations with Sabinet Online as of September to get the listserv up and running with Sabinet being the host site. This will entail moving all e-mail addresses to a Sabinet Online server and we will do our best to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

During the transition of e-mail addresses from Wits to Sabinet online, e-mail addresses may be lost. When the listserv is up and running and you experience problems with receipt of OSALL e-mail, please let me know as I will be involved in the listserv move.

Re website: as mentioned earlier, the Sunsite server is unstable. With the hard drive crash they had in late June, we could have lost our website. We have been planning for quite some time to register OSALL's own domain name but hosting and cost is an issue. Sabinet offered to host the website two years ago – the Committee will look into the possibility again. Danielle mentioned in her Chair's report that Ruth is stepping down from the post of website administrator. Ruth is asking that new blood comes on board to maintain the website. It is worthy of fresh input and the intention is to keep the website as simple to use and update as possible. On behalf of the OSALL community, I ask again that people who obtain

unreported judgments please send them to the website administrator for loading on to the OSALL website.

As Danielle has already informed you via her Chair's report, I am stepping down from the post of listserv administrator. However I will not be disappearing off the map; I will still remain a member of the listserv. I'd like to thank all listserv members for their support and encouragement during my tenure. I hope the listserv remains a proactive and valuable to the members of OSALL, and I wish the new listserv administrator success during his/her tenure.

OSALL NEWSLETTER JULY 2005 – JUNE 2006

Fiona Rennie

This has been my fourth and final year of editing the OSALL Newsletter. I have received help from many colleagues, and I would especially like to thank Charmaine Bertram, the Library Manager at Deneys Reitz, who has obtained permission for the newsletter to be printed, courtesy of our firm, and for the firm's resources to be used, for the editing and sending of the newsletter. Special thanks go too, to Salome Vranas, Danielle Heij and Lydia Craemer, for technical support and ideas for articles.

There have been four issues, since our last AGM, and I am going to mention the highlights of each issue. The August 2005 issue, contained Lydia Craemer's report of the BIALL Conference, which makes for very interesting and fun reading! Lydia was a very appreciative recipient of the award, and made full use of every opportunity! Diana Riley's article on her research done, into the provision of library services to attorneys, was very interesting, and useful for us, as law librarians.

The November issue was a memorable one for Deneys Reitz, as two of my colleagues scooped the SLIS / Sabinet Special Librarian of the Year awards – Charmaine Bertram and Simon Zwane. Well done, both of you! Amanda Franken of Price Waterhouse Coopers also won the Quantum 2 International InfoStar Award. This issue also carried a beautifully written report, by Carol Clark, on her attendance at the IALL Conference in Florence; and we introduced a new thing – a short piece on each committee member, accompanied by a photograph.

The February issue included beautiful photographs of our Chair, who became Mrs Michael Botha in January 2006! Academic Marketing Services celebrated ten years on – congratulations to Michael Brightmore on this achievement. Michael kindly hosted a breakfast, and the

attendees received special momentos, from AMS. This issue also contained an article on 7 deadly sins and good qualities for Library Managers, by Rachel Singer Gordon, which is interesting. The highlight of the May 2006 issue was a most useful budget, shared with us by Marina Rubidge.

I would also especially like to thank Nico Ferreira, for continuing to give us a very useful section, on recent articles, books and websites of interest. It has been encouraging, that the membership of the OSALL Newsletter has increased, as has membership of OSALL, Advertising in the newsletter has increased too. We have a standing arrangement with Siberlnk Publishers, for their advert to be placed in our newsletter.

Being on the committee has been very enriching, and I have learnt a great deal, in both the editing field, and just generally, as a librarian. I can recommend it. There is lots of fun and laughs, amidst the hard work!



Lynette Davis and Pat Farr cutting the birthday cake



Gallery 181



Bookbinding demonstration

THE NEW OSALL COMMITTEE

2006 – 2008



Front left to right: Sharon Pather-Nagy, Gill Rademeyer, Salome Vranas

Back left to right: Keke Maide, Danielle Botha, Lynette Miller

PUBLICATIONS NOTED

Contributed by Nico Ferreira, UNISA
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BOOKS NOTED

Clinch, P. Teaching legal research. UK Centre for Legal Education. 2nd ed., 2006. ISBN 1902730100. BPD8.00

Durrant, F. Negotiating licences for digital resources. Facet, 2006. ISBN 1856045862. BPD39.95

Elliott, C. French legal system. Longman, 2nd ed., 2006. ISBN 1405811617. BPD28.99

Gordon, D.R. Transformation and trouble: crime, justice, and participation in democratic South Africa. University of Michigan Press, 2006. ISBN 9780472069149. USD27.95

Neacsu, D. Introduction to US law and research. Transitional Publishers, 2005. ISBN 1571053549. USD75.00

Pedley, P. ed. Managing digital rights: a practitioner's guide. Facet, 2005. ISBN 1856045477. BPD39.95

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JOURNAL ARTICLES NOTED

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Moran, R.F. Meetings: the home of the workplace – it doesn't have to be so, in LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT, Vol. 20, No. 3, 2006, p. 135 – 139.

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Ramsey, M et al. Paper versus electronic sources for law review cite checking: should paper be the gold standard? in LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL, Vol. 97, No. 1, 2005, p. 31 – 48.

Sears, D.S. Vision: the essence of professionalism and key to the future of law librarianship as a profession, in LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL, Vol. 98, No. 1, 2006, p. 81 – 97.

Stander, A.L. The effect of sequestration on the solvent spouse of an insolvent debtor under South African insolvency law, in INSOLVENCY LAW JOURNAL, Vol. 14, No. 1, 2006, p. 37 – 49.

Travis, H. Building universal digital libraries: an agenda for copyright reform, in PEPPERDINE LAW REVIEW, vol. 33, no.4, 2006, p. 761 – 833.

Young, PW. Judicial appointment in South Africa, in AUSTRALIAN LAW JOURNAL, vol.80, no.4, 2006, p. 213.



Neill von Kraayenburg addressing the meeting

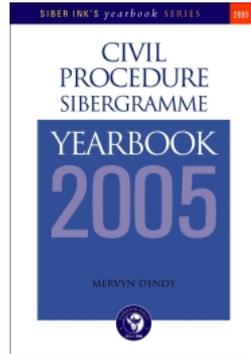
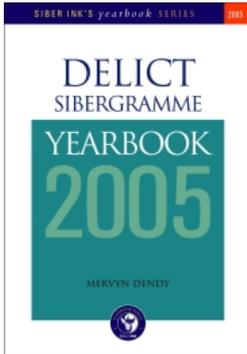


New from Siber Ink

Civil Procedure Sibergramme Yearbook 2005

Delict Sibergramme Yearbook 2005

By **Mervyn Dendy**



All reported **cases** relevant to the laws of civil procedure & delict are reviewed (**with law report page references**, citing all series of reports publishing the judgment) and where comment is considered necessary the cases are **thoroughly evaluated**. All **legislation** (original and subordinate) of interest to lawyers in these fields is canvassed. In the **literature** section, all contributions to the leading South African law journals, as well as new textbooks, are surveyed. The **Yearbooks** include **Tables of**

Cases, and Legislation and a Subject Index.

The author, **Mervyn Dendy**, is a practising attorney and notary. His comments and analysis (mostly about new judgments) are practical and given with law practitioners' and librarians' needs uppermost in mind. In his teaching and writing over the past 20 years he has become a leading expert in Delict and Civil Procedure. A former Associate Professor at Wits Law School (1985 to 2002), he taught Delict and Civil Procedure mainly, and he was named Best Law Teacher from 1996 to 2001. He has published extensively.

The Sibergramme Yearbooks 2005 are a compilation of the author's **Sibergramme** Issues in 2005. The period surveyed is December 2004 to November 2005. (**Siber Ink's Sibergrammes** are electronic publications on various law topics. Sibergramme Issues are sent to subscribers regularly **by e-mail**, keeping them up to date with new legislation, case law and legal literature.)

Click on the links below to order

Civil Procedure Yearbook 2005: 247mm x 171mm / SC / 252pp / ISBN 1-920025-09-X / R495.

Delict Yearbook 2005: 247mm x 171mm / SC / 208 pp / ISBN 1-920025-08-1 / R 495.

Other recent titles: click on the titles below to see additional info, and to order:

- *3 Human Rights Acts* (intro by Prof Iain Currie) — R90
- *The Judicial Institution in southern Africa* (ed. Linda v d Vijver) — R230
- *Unfair Dismissal (3ed)* (Van Niekerk & Linström) — R195

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