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Letter to SEAALL Members regarding "Current Publications in Legal and Related Fields", March 8, 1967

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Enclosed is copy of letter regarding the discontinuance of the Supplements & Continuations section of CURRENT PUBLICATIONS IN LEGAL AND RELATED FIELDS. At Vanderbilt we had depended on it as a vital bibliographical tool and its loss was a real blow to us. Perhaps other libraries have efficient systems for keeping track of continuations and do not need or use this section of CURRENT PUBLICATIONS; if so, perhaps they will be altruistic enough to undertake the job of notifying a central compilation agency of continuations received, as suggested in the last full paragraph of Mrs. Andersen's letter.

I have written to Mrs. Andersen that I am submitting her letter to members of the Southeastern Chapter for comment and suggestions. If you have comments and suggestions, if you agree or disagree with the effort to reinstate the section of CURRENT PUBLICATIONS as originally compiled by Dorothy Scarborough, or if you have any other reaction to the effort toward reinstatement, please let me know. As Mrs. Andersen suggests, I will add it to the agenda for discussion at the Southeastern meeting in August, and/or the Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs.

Mary Folk Greer
Vanderbilt Law Library
Nashville, Tenn. 37203
February 15, 1967

Mr. U. V. Jones
Southeastern Chapter A.A.L.L.
Emory University Law Library
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Dear Mr. Jones:

As you know, Section 2, Supplements and Continuations, of CURRENT PUBLICATIONS IN LEGAL AND RELATED FIELDS, has recently become narrowed to "...continuations which are issued irregularly or are not widely available through commercial standing orders." The practical effect of this change is that the law librarian knows an "ordinary" continuation exists only when he receives it. If he does not receive it (despite a subscription or standing order for it, or one that he thinks has been entered) he must, after a certain lapse of time has aroused his suspicions, call another library. He may have to borrow the supplement until he can get his own, which also, of course, entails entering a claim with the publisher or dealer. In some areas, there is no nearby library to call (regarding that item, at least). In some areas, such as the one I am in, there is furthermore no dealer or publisher to call; business must be done by correspondence.

The following excerpt from a letter written by Mrs. Betty Wilkins (Assistant Law Librarian, University of Washington Law Library) to the undersigned explains the reason for the change and suggests an alternative:

"Frankly we find ourselves in a position of not having the manpower to continue this section as previously compiled... However, if there are a sufficient number of libraries, such as yours, who have relied upon the Supplements and Continuations section, as that published by NYU, we are hopeful that some large library will come forward with the copy for that section so that we could merely include it without further additions or editing."

In reply, I suggested that the matter be taken up by the various chapters of AALL, first of all to see if enough libraries want the old listing resumed and secondly - if so - for suggestions as to method of handling in the future. Mrs. Wilkins now asks me:

"Since libraries such as yours would be the primary users of this section, could you undertake the solicitation of statements of interest from the various chapters of the AALL, perhaps with the help of Mrs. Anna Pollock (Librarian, Washoe County Law Library, Reno, and Mr. John Moller (Librarian, National College of State Trial Judges, Reno)?"
This would be a matter of persuading the various chapter presidents to place this question on their agenda, tabulating the results, and, if sufficient interest were shown, persuading some library or libraries to supply us with the copy. Again, the time involved for us to make this survey is just not available."

Time is no surplus commodity with me either, but at least I have managed to set the problem before you. I hope you will put this matter on your agenda and will send your reply to Mrs. Wilkins.

As for the method of handling, should we arrive at that point, it is my suggestion - for whatever it's worth - that each year Section 2 be farmed out to the largest library in each chapter, on a rotating basis. That library would simply note continuations on items it takes. This should make administration much easier, and though the list would not be as complete as before, it would be a good deal better than what we have now.

In this letter I am joined by Mrs. Pollock and Mr. Moller.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Barbara Andersen, Dir.
Law and Documents Division