

## **Looking back to face the future: historical background of the national conferences on legal information and documentation in Brazil**

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**Abstract:** Librarians' national conferences and meetings are privileged local and time for knowledge dissemination and for organization of professionals. The work represents an effort to compile information about the national events on legal information and documentation in Brazil. The first event on legal information emerged within the National Congress of Librarianship in Brazil, with the meeting of law librarians present, resulting in the formation of a specialized committee, the CBDJ (Brazilian Commission on Legal Documentation). Three moments represented by three different series of events were identified. A final analysis highlights the roles and challenges of the events and the organization of Law librarians in Brazil.

**Keywords:** National Conferences of Librarians. Legal Information and Documentation. Brazil. History. Law librarians' organization.

### **1. Introduction**

The work represents an effort to compile informations about national events on legal documentation and information in Brazil, in order to highlight the collaborative work of the library community linked to legal area that reflects the development and the consolidation of this activity by the legal community: judges, jurists, lawyers, and Information Technology (IT) professionals.

The legal documentation and information events in Brazil have been held for just over four decades: the very first event was held during the Brazilian Congress of Librarianship, Documentation and Information Science (CBBD) in 1971, with the involvement of the Law librarians and, the last one was held simultaneously to CBBD conference, in 2013.

As a working methodology, it is a descriptive text, which aim was bringing together, organize and systematize information about the national events on legal information and documentation in Brazil.

Received: 11.3.2016 Accepted: 22.7.2016

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ISSN 2241-1925



The research focused on FEBAB (Federação Brasileira de Associações de Bibliotecários, Cientistas da Informação e Instituições) archives, personnel archives of librarians, supplemented by questionnaire completed by former CBDJ (Brazilian Commission on Legal Documentation) Presidents and by National conferences Coordinators, the own experience of the authors plus some articles.

## **2. The FEBAB (Brazilian Federation of Library Associations) and the establishment of Librarians Working Committees in Brazil**

About the librarian activity in the legal field, is important to note the role of the FEBAB, established on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1959. It is a civil society; non-profit with headquarters in São Paulo, Brazil, and one of its goal is to contribute to the creation and development work of the committees and groups expertise areas of Librarianship and Information Science.

The regimental and operating structure of FEBAB brings together the Brazilian Documentation Committees, which nationwide gathers the Librarians' Groups of Information and Documentation linked to Librarians' Associations. The Federation keeps in its structure the working groups organization established by the library community to support and regulate their own activity within diversified professional segments, in which collaborative and cooperative actions contribute to better delivery library services to all Brazilian society strata.

Supported in this organizational structure, the establishment of librarians' groups in Law area was shaping up and setting out. Making an institutionalized movement in professional representative body is a factor that contributes towards professional activity strengthening in face of the economic and social structures of society.

Another motivating point for the establishment of these Groups was the importance to the Brazilian librarian associative movement in order to consolidate and to project socially the library work. At that time, it was debating the difficulties the librarians' groups had to communicate and sustain themselves due to lack of financial resources and lack of social support. Such experienced problems have encouraged the promotion of meetings to seek solutions.

## **3. Law Librarians National Meetings and Librarians Groups on Legal Information and Documentation**

In this scenario, the CBDJ (Comissão Brasileira de Documentação Jurídica) was established on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1971, during the VI CBBDD, held in the city of Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, during the Law librarians meeting.

On that occasion, the Law librarians considered being a historical moment, and named the meeting as I Law Librarians National Meeting – I ENBJ (I Encontro Nacional de Bibliotecários Jurídicos), when was elected the librarian Marieta Pestana Novack, from São Paulo, as president. The choice of a São Paulo' representative was due to the existence of two working groups, the biomedical and the technology, which would take use more easily to experience the two groups already formed, so they would communicate the ideas and the work to be developed to other states.

During the Biannual Book II, held in São Paulo, the ENBJ II was carried out, and in the opportunity was elected the second CBDJ Board of Directors, having as president the librarian Magaly França Villaça. At that time, there were structured groups on Legal Documentation in the states of Bahia, Minas Gerais, Pará, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro (at that time Guanabara), Rio Grande do Sul, São Paulo and the Federal District.

***Picture 1 –CBDJ Presidents' Chronology***

Date	Presidents	Cities, States
1971	Marieta Pestana Novack	São Paulo, SP
1972-1975	Magaly França Villaça	São Paulo, SP
1975-1980	Nylma Thereza S. Velloso Amarante	Rio de Janeiro, RJ
1981-1983	Maria Angélica Carneiro Martorano	São Paulo, SP
1984-1985	Sueli Ferreira Niehues	Curitiba, PR
1986-1989	Simone Bastos Vieira	Brasília, DF
1990-1992	Maria José Calmon M. de Oliveira	Rio de Janeiro, RJ
1993-1995	Regina Céli de Sousa	São Paulo, SP
1996-	Eliana Mobus	Porto Alegre, RS

From 1971 to 1982, the Committee was named Brazilian Commission on Legal Documentation (CBDJ), changing from 1982 to Brazilian Commission on Legal Information and Documentation (CBIDJ).

Groups on Legal Information and Documentation (GIDJ, or just Legal Groups) held monthly meetings in different institutions, elaborated publications, refresher courses and professional training. CBDJ published the "Register of Law libraries in Brazil." Since then, the events run continuously, as well as the documents' production designed to spread access to information and support documentation to the law librarian activity and to strengthen the principles of library work.

To show the Commission persistence and the resulting efforts promoted by library community, the Picture 2 covers the sequence of Law Librarians National Meetings, city and date of the meeting and the Librarianship main event in which there was the realization.

Regarding this historical approach, the Martorano considerations deserve distinction. In interview, the librarian and CBDJ President from 1981-1983 recovers important comments on the reflexive evolutionary action. According to Martorano, the events realization encountered difficulties.

**Picture 2- Law Librarians National Meetings**

<b>ENBJ</b>	<b>City, State</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Main event</b>
<b>1° ENBJ</b>	Belo Horizonte, MG	1971	VI CBBD
<b>2° ENBJ</b>	São Paulo, SP	1972	Book Biannual II
<b>3° ENBJ</b>	São Paulo, SP	1974	III Standing Committees Assembly of FEBAB
<b>4° ENBJ</b>	Brasília, DF	1975	VIII CBBD
<b>5° ENBJ</b>	Rio de Janeiro, RJ	1976	Brazilian Conference on Classification
<b>6° ENBJ</b>	Porto Alegre, RS	1977	IX CBBD
<b>7° ENBJ</b>	São Paulo, SP	1978	IV Standing Committees Assembly of FEBAB
<b>8° ENBJ</b>	Curitiba, PR	1979	X CBBD
<b>9° ENBJ</b>	Salvador, BA	1980	1° CLABD (Latin-American Congress of Librarianship and Documentation)
<b>10° ENBJ</b>	João Pessoa, PB	1982	XI CBBD
<b>11° ENBJ</b>	Camboriú, SC	1985	XII CBBD
<b>12° ENBJ</b>	Vitória, ES	1985	XIII CBBD
<b>13° ENBJ</b>	Recife, PE	1987	XIV CBBD
<b>14° ENBJ</b>	Rio de Janeiro, RJ	1989	XV CBBD
<b>15° ENBJ</b>	Salvador, BA	1991	XVI CBBD
<b>16° ENBJ</b>	Belo Horizonte, MG	1994	2° CLABD, 17° CBBD 1° Technical Information in Law Firms Seminar

(ENBJ - Encontro Nacional de Bibliotecários Jurídicos)

During Martorano management was developed a multidisciplinary collaborative involvement project, focusing on access to tenancy and property leasing subject legislation, by editing a kind of popular booklet. The project was thought to recover all legislation on the subject, lawyers and prosecutors would analyze or comment it, and the National Press would be in charge of the publication. The

initiative did not work for lack of funding reasons by the Federal Government (Government Figueiredo).

#### 4. National Meetings and National Seminars on Legal Information and Documentation

The next CBIDJ management was taken by Paraná Legal Group (GIDJ/PR), having the librarian Sueli Ferreira Niehues as coordinator. I South Brazilian Meeting on Legal Documentation and Information was held in Curitiba, with the library area professionals' participation, lawyers, judges and computing.

**Picture 3 - National Meetings on Legal Information and Documentation**  
(ENIDJ - Encontro Nacional de Informação e Documentação Jurídica)

ENIDJ	City, State	Date	Event' President	Main event
<b>I South Brazilian Meeting on Legal Documentation and Information</b>	Curitiba, PR	1984	Sueli Ferreira Niehues	
<b>II ENIDJ</b>	Brasília, DF	1986	Simone Bastos Vieira	II National Meeting on Librarianship and Computer Science
<b>III ENIDJ</b>	São Paulo, SP	1988	Regina Céli de Sousa	I COBIBI (Congress on Librarianship, Documentation and Information Science)
<b>IV ENIDJ</b>	São Paulo, SP	1992	Regina Céli de Sousa	II COBIBI
<b>V ENIDJ</b>	Porto Alegre, RS	1996		13° Librarianship and Documentation Sul-Rio-Grandense Journey
<b>VI ENIDJ</b>	Florianópolis, SC	1998	Cynthia Orengo	I Ciberética
<b>VII ENIDJ</b>	Porto Alegre, RS	2000		3° CLABD and 19° CBBD
<b>VIII ENIDJ</b>	Florianópolis, SC	2003		II Ciberética

Simone Bastos, librarian and president of CBIDJ from 1987 to 1989, regarding the major accomplishments and the impact on her professional and associative life, she commented that have been CBIDJ president was an exciting and

refreshing experience. At that time, 30 years ago, she began her professional practice in the Senate and libraries network (that time SABI, nowadays RVBI). The FEBAB president then, Elizabeth Carvalho provided conditions for the realization of ENIDJ in Brasilia. So there was the opportunity to gather a librarians group and legal professionals to debate a number of issues related to legal information, indexing and retrieving language standardization, the databases structure and librarians performance public and private institutions.

There was motivation to join the Commission. After all, the country and librarians institutions were living a great development, and promoting automation networks and information services. The librarian class was stimulated and active. The role of Senate Library and RVBI was growing and it was a good time for Brasilia librarians to assume CBDJ.

The ENDIJs were a number of significant events for librarians, systems analysts, lawyers and all stakeholders in the legal information development. In addition to discussions commonly present issues in librarianship field there were works on automation and new technologies applied to the legal area. (Ohira et al, 1998).

**Picture 4 – Other National Events on Legal Information and Documentation**

Event	City	Date	Event	Event coordinators
<b>Legal Informatics Symposium</b>	São Paulo, SP	1991	National Congress of Informatic Sucesu	Regina Celi de Sousa, Berenice Neubhaer and Sandra Soller
<b>Legal Documentation and Information Professional Meeting</b>	São Paulo, SP	2006	I Integrar <a href="http://www.febab.org.br/integrar/">http://www.febab.org.br/integrar/</a>	Solange Simões and Cátia Martins Jorge

When the CBDJ was already inactive, the librarian Solange Simões worked as a volunteer in the restructuring of FEBAB, during managing Marcia Rossetto as FEBAB President. A survey of previous meetings, promoted by CBDJ, made her realized the importance of continuity of meetings, along the experience in the São Paulo Legal Group (GIDJ/SP). Together with Catia Martins Jorge, she promoted an event, in 2006, simultaneously to the I Integrar, supported by FEBAB (Picture 4).

On the occasion of the XXIV CBBD in Brasilia, 2007, Iza Antunes, at that time ABDF President (Librarians Association of the Federal District), made the call to the librarian Edilenice Passos organize a simultaneous event in the Law area. The invitation was accepted and the 1st SNDIJ (National Seminar on Legal Information and Documentation) was carried out, and it was thought differently

from the common events in the legal field, where there was always speaking lawyers for librarians, giving an aspect of short course or lecture. The seminar is a Law librarian event for Law librarian. The tribute to Law librarians is a mark of the event, a simple homage, no cash prizes: its importance rests in the symbolic value of appreciation of the professional. In 2007 were honored Cecilia Atienza, author of one of the pioneering works in the Brazilian legal documentation, and Doris de Queiroz Carvalho, organizer of Law Decimal Classification, already deceased at that time and represented by her daughter who received the award. Their work began to address local problems and the results has been expanded to the entire area.

In the last SNDIJ, in 2013, the reactivation of CBDJ was discussed. Since then a librarians' group from several states have made efforts for its implementation. Two events were occasions to move in this direction: Technical Meeting: SNBU Groups and Networks Librarians, held in 2014 in Belo Horizonte, MG, during the XVIII SNBU, by Celia Maria Escobar Araújo's initiative; and CBDJ Technical Meeting, in 2015, in São Paulo, in parallel with the XXVI CBBD. Answering the invitation of Adriana Ferrari, FEBAB President, it took place the activity "Talking about: Librarians groups in the Legal area", with participation of Edilenice Passos, Célia Maria Escobar Araújo and members of GIDJ/SP, as part of Congress programme.

**Picture 5 - National Seminars on Legal Information and Documentation (SNDIJ - Seminário Nacional de Documentação e Informação Jurídica)**

SNIDJ	City	Date	Event' President	Event title, or themes
1° SNDIJ	Brasília, DF	2007	Edilenice Passos	Legal Information, working entitled <a href="http://www.febab.org.br/XXII_CBB_D/xxii_eventos_simult_sndij.html">http://www.febab.org.br/XXII_CBB_D/xxii_eventos_simult_sndij.html</a>
2° SNDIJ	Brasília, DF	2010	Edilenice Passos	Sources of Legal and Legislative Information. Legal software evaluation. New transmission and legal information communication. Solutions available to all. <a href="http://www.abdf.org.br/sndij/">http://www.abdf.org.br/sndij/</a>
3° SNDIJ	Brasília, DF	2012	Edilenice Passos	Legal information: producing, managing, disseminating. <a href="http://www.abdf.org.br/sndij2012/">http://www.abdf.org.br/sndij2012/</a>
4° SNDIJ	Florianópolis, SC	2013	Luciana Napoleone, Edilenice Passos	Law libraries: building a future vision. <a href="http://www.abdf.org.br/sndij2013/">http://www.abdf.org.br/sndij2013/</a>

## 5. Final considerations

According to Ohira et al (1998) and Passos (2004) studies, the events are a major channels to works presentation for law librarians, sometimes being the most used, alongside the specialized journals. They have been par excellence the

space for disclosure, dissemination and exchange of experience among Brazilian law librarians.

Three moments were identified in conducting national events on legal information and documentation, each one relating to different sequences of events: ENBJ (Law Librarians National Meetings - 16 events from 1971 to 1994), ENDIJ (National Meetings on Legal Information and Documentation - 8 editions from 1984 until 2003), and SNDIJ (National Seminars on Legal Information and Documentation - 4 seminars from 2007 to 2013).

The ENBJs are characterized by its proximity to FEBAB due to the performance of CBDJ and Legal Groups in its realization, and several of them occurred within larger events of librarianship area, the Federation initiative. Although ENDIJs didn't have the same close relationship to the Federation, many of them have been carried out in parallel with other events in the area. The SNDIJ are the latest events and have continued to date, with editions held simultaneously the biggest events of the area.

The institutional support was essential to the legal events occurred, which was evidenced by being simultaneous or parallel to general events in the area. Reactivation of the CBDJ, as specialized committee of FEBAB, shows as a strategic element to catalyze the efforts of law librarians in all Brazilian states, to provide infrastructure for carrying out activities and actions, events and dissemination of knowledge produced in the area. At the same time, it recalls the history of the Commission and it unites the history of efforts with the performance of today's professionals.

There is a continuing concern with the memory of these events (Mueller, Campello & Dias, 1996; Ohira et al, 1998; Passos, 2004), due to the difficulty to locate the reports and events' proceedings. The bibliography compilation of legal information in Brazil carried out by Edilenice Passos and available in Infolegis site is the main initiative of the area. The launch of the journal *Cadernos de Informação Jurídica* in October 2014 also deserves mention as a specialized title on legal information and documentation in Brazil.

Simone Bastos, Solange Simoes and Edilenice Passos are unanimous about the importance of the approximation and integration of librarians with the Law professionals (judiciary analysts, judges, lawyers), as well from other areas (Archivology, Linguistics, Information Technology - IT).

National events on legal information and documentation are consolidated as an undeniable form of strengthening the Law field. Although there are issues in institutional infrastructure, organization, preservation of memory and leadership training for national events, there is the continuous realization of meetings, being national, regional or specialized events. A considerable expansion of



active Law librarians in private area and in Law firms is observed. It is necessary to find solutions to meet the needs of legal documentation and information, a vibrant area and continues evolving, transforming. Looking back to the previous experiences may help us to face the future.

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