

December 2006

## Book Reviews -- Monographic Musings

Debbie Vaughn

College of Charleston, [vaughnd@cofc.edu](mailto:vaughnd@cofc.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Vaughn, Debbie (2006) "Book Reviews -- Monographic Musings," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 18: Iss. 6, Article 27.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.4704>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact [epubs@purdue.edu](mailto:epubs@purdue.edu) for additional information.

# Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

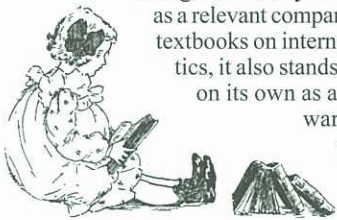
Column Editor: Debbie Vaughn (College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

**Column Editor's Note:** As author and *New York Times* columnist **Thomas Friedman** expounds, the world is flat. Technology and other influences have made countries that were once oceans away our next-door neighbors. Because rapid globalization has, in essence, shrunk the planet, it is more and more important for citizens of the world to stay abreast of international law and politics. Globalization is a result not only of the world economy, but also of legal matters, making **Lynne Rienner Publishers'** recent book, edited by **Shirley V. Scott**, incredibly timely. *ATG* reviewer **Stacy Etheredge** examines the benefits of perusing primary materials in her assessment of *International Law and Politics: Key Documents*. Happy New Year and happy reading! — DV

**Scott, Shirley V.**, editor. *International Law and Politics: Key Documents*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2006. 1588264424 (9781588264428). 841 pages. \$35.00.

Reviewed by **Stacy Etheredge, J.D., M.L.I.S.** (Coleman Karesh Law Library, University of South Carolina School of Law) <etheredg@law.sc.edu>

This publication's raison d'être is immediately apparent from its title. Edited by **Shirley V. Scott**, an associate professor of international relations at the **University of New South Wales**, *International Law and Politics: Key Documents* is designed to be a collection of the most important treaties and agreements operating today in international law. And though obviously it can be used as a relevant companion piece to textbooks on international politics, it also stands quite easily on its own as a straightforward reference work in the field.



To **Scott**, the perusal of original text is critical to a true understanding of the complexities of modern international law. She states in her preface that “as with poetry or painting, no secondary account of an international law document can replace the original.” Thus, *International Law and Politics* is not simply a presentation of paraphrased accounts and brief excerpts of the key documents in international law but instead is a compilation of the complete texts of those documents— i.e., the primary sources we researchers so dearly love.

One major asset of the work is its breadth of coverage. The documents are grouped in eight subject areas which manage to encompass most of the core issues facing the modern world:

foundations of international law, the use of force, arms control, international crime, human rights, humanitarian law, the environment, and the global commons. Within each subject heading the documents are arranged chronologically, and while this makes logical sense from an historical perspective it also helps one chart development and growth in different areas of international law. The book is geared towards contemporary world problems and as such it emphasizes documents, especially treaties, which are on a global rather than regional level and which are generally post-1945.

As the book is not meant to be a textbook, there are no expanded commentaries or discussions; however, each document is preceded by a short introduction that provides needed context to the reader. The introductions also list supplementary documents that may be useful to the researcher. There are other helpful features, including a complete index and a glossary of terms. But two standout reader aids are the list of acronyms, always helpful in the area of international law; and the chronology of treaties, which indicate the date the treaties were signed, the date they entered into force, the number of parties signed to the treaty, and the signing status of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

Whether used to accompany textbooks and treatises or as a stand-alone reference work, this book would be a valuable addition to any academic library, law or otherwise. 🌱

## Funds and Accounting Trees: Acq's Goblin Market

by **Cathy Moore-Jansen** (Coordinator of Collection Development, Wichita State University Libraries) <cathy.moorejansen@wichita.edu>

and **John H. Williams** (Acquisitions Manager, Wichita State University Libraries) <john.williams@wichita.edu>

and **Mary Walker** (Administrative Specialist, Wichita State University Libraries) <mary.walker@wichita.edu>

*Apples and quinces,  
Lemons and oranges,  
Plump unpecked cherries—  
Melons and raspberries,  
Bloom-down-cheeked peaches,  
Swart-headed mulberries,  
Wild free-born cranberries,  
Crab-apples, dewberries,  
Pine-apples, blackberries,  
Apricots, strawberries—  
All ripe together.*  
— **Christina Rossetti**

And, we might add, streaming video as well. Collection Development and Acquisitions units in academic libraries must account for the acquisition of materials out of such abundance

and, at the same time, detail specifically how that purchase supports individual academic programs. All of that, ideally, is encoded in individual fund names located hierarchically in a comprehensive and comprehensible fund arrangement called a “tree.” Unlike most trees, however, an accounting tree has multiple trunks and root systems (i.e., ledgers and funding sources) which make its design a challenge.

Fund accounting systems, automated or paper-based, answer an imperative for fiscal information. In the case of automated systems, they do that in what is termed “real time,” meaning that the most current finan-

cial transactions are apparent in the ledgers of the system. Further, encoding of information in the tree answers a need for many different types of information: what college/program/discipline is related to the purchase (e.g., Philosophy, Nursing, etc.), which subject librarian is responsible for the purchase, what type of purchase and what funding source is involved (e.g., subscription, continuation, firm order, approval, state or gift funds, etc.), and what bibliographic format is represented (e.g., print, electronic, audio, video, print + online, etc.).

Given the amount of information



*continued on page 66*