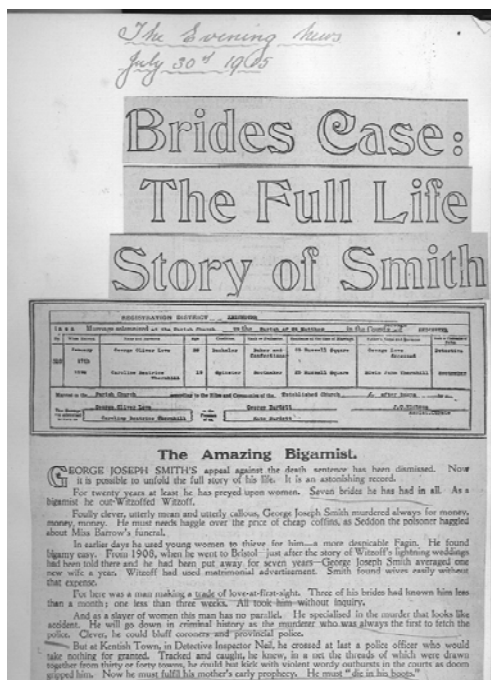


Review of Library Activities for 2009

- ❖ AccessToLaw – our gateway site continues to be developed and now has annotated entries for over 1400 free legal sites in the UK, Europe and worldwide. New sections added to Legal Subject Areas include Company Law and Costs, and to the Commonwealth, Sierra Leone.
- ❖ Bar Librarians Group – the Librarian organised and chaired meetings attended by representatives from the major publishers. Pricing of print and online subscriptions continues to be one of the most important topics for discussion.
- ❖ Binding – over 500 volumes of UK law and 150 volumes of Commonwealth law were bound or rebound during the year.
- ❖ Cataloguing – around 200 new law titles and editions were added to the catalogue. To these must be added the many hundreds of serial volumes, both legal and non-legal. A major project aside from “everyday” cataloguing has been the recataloguing of the Caribbean law material housed in the Littleton basement.
- ❖ Conservation – we aim to ensure that unique items held by the Library, such as the Marshall Hall press cuttings, are conserved for future generations of researchers. Several volumes of cuttings relating to the legal and political career of Sir Edward Marshall Hall have now been rebound and conservation work has been carried out on the paper.

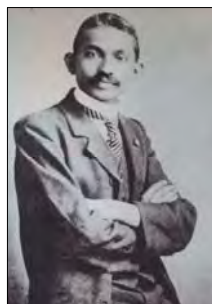


- ❖ Current Awareness Weblog – our selective current awareness service, covering new case law, changes in legislation and legal news, has been running for nearly two years. The number of subscribers has continued to increase and now stands at 790. They include barristers, judges, solicitors, government department employees and law librarians. An article on the blog appeared in the *Internet Newsletter for Lawyers* and it featured in the e-book *the Legal Web 2009/10*.

- ❖ Displays – staff created displays in the Library throughout the year, including one for Black History Month which featured the achievements of the first black and Asian members of the Bar. This attracted considerable interest from users.



George James Christian
(1869-1940)



Mohandas Karamchand
Gandhi (1869-1948)



Cornelia Sorabji
(1866-1954)



Thomas Morris Chester
(1834-1892)

- ❖ Distance Service – 265 items were supplied to members located in the UK and in the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Cyprus, France, Gibraltar, Guernsey, and Jersey.

- ❖ Education and Training Activities – the Library was involved in several of the events organised by the Education and Training Department as part of their diversity project with the National Education Trust and state schools. For example in April we devised a set of legal research questions for the students to solve using print and online resources in the Library.



- ❖ Enquiries – staff at the Enquiry point dealt with 4,700 personal and telephone enquiries from barristers, pupils, students, clerks and researchers.

- ❖ Facebook – the latest Library news, plus details of new acquisitions and links to the latest issue of the electronic newsletter continue to be posted to the Library's Facebook page, which now has 400 fans.

- ❖ FAQs – a series of FAQs on treaty research was added to the existing FAQs on UK and EU legal research which are available on the Library's web site.

- ❖ Feasibility Study – Library staff assisted the consultants throughout the study, e.g. by creating and emailing a survey to members and tenants and publicising the results; measuring offices and Library rooms; and producing and pricing lists of core publications and electronic services.



- ❖ Filming in the Library – the Library was used for various film and TV projects including the BBC documentary series on Gandhi.

- ❖ Guides – the content of the Readers’ Guide and Student Guide, plus guides to online services, was regularly updated throughout the year.
- ❖ Historical Enquiries – we received email enquiries from all parts of the UK as well as from Ireland, Germany, France, Australia and the United States. Around a half of these related to persons supposed to have been members of the Inn. The remainder of the enquiries covered the widest range of subjects and included: the Inner Temple War Memorial; the seal of William Marshal, who is buried in the Temple Church; the Mitre Tavern; the collational formula of Edmund Spenser’s *Works* of 1679; and the judgment of Bernard Levin on the (then) recently deceased Lord Goddard.
- ❖ IT Facilities – the PCs in the Gallery continue to be in demand, with over two thousand word processing sessions being booked throughout the year. The Wi-Fi access provided in rooms F and G continues to be popular.
- ❖ Manuscript Requests – there was a steady flow of requests from researchers to view items from the manuscript collections. Subjects under investigation included Salisbury episcopal charters, 1229 to 1297, the poetry of Thomas Nashe, letters from Sir Walter Raleigh, letters to Sir Philip Sidney, and handwriting and Latin usage in Ireland in the 15th and 16th centuries.



We also received more requests than ever for permission to reproduce manuscripts in publications, the most requested items being the 15th-century illuminations featuring the four courts at Westminster. Requests have come from institutions as diverse as the Society of Genealogists, the Supreme Court of Queensland and the National Gallery.

- ❖ PCs – two more PCs were installed in Room C, bringing the number of public access PCs to twenty-three. Our aim is to increase IT resources without losing the quiet studious atmosphere appreciated by users.
- ❖ Presentations – in September the Deputy Librarian gave two well attended presentations about the Inns of Court Libraries to BVC students at the City Law School. This presentation has been added to the web site.
- ❖ Student Events – the Library participated in the London and out of London students evenings, as well as organising tours for new students in September.



- ❖ Training – courses attended by Library staff included government information online, Northern Ireland law, abstracting, business writing, teaching legal research, and environmental monitoring, plus the annual Internet International conference and the BIALL conference.
- ❖ User Survey – this was carried out in June as part of the feasibility study and provided an interesting insight into how the Library is being used and the importance of having both hard copy and electronic resources.
- ❖ Visits by British Library and government librarians – in November the Library was visited by groups of librarians from the British Library and various government departments. The aim of such visits is to strengthen links with other appropriate libraries and to draw attention to our important collections.
- ❖ Visit by the Prime Minister of Mauritius – in July the Hon. Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam visited the Library and was instrumental in helping us to obtain the latest *Revised Laws of Mauritius*, thereby bringing our collection of Mauritius Laws up to date.
- ❖ Web Site – the content of the Library web site continues to be updated and expanded. We have recently added more slide shows and legal research FAQs, which are shown by the web statistics to be popular additions to the site.

