

LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Open Weekend

Nearly two thousand people visited the Library during the Temple Open Weekend event. Visitors were very complimentary about the Library building, its collections and the special displays, especially the manuscripts, which included the four illuminated manuscripts of the Courts at Westminster and the royal letters from the Tudor and Stuart periods. Other displays were on Library History Pre-War to 1958, War Damage in the Temple, Famous Members of the Inn and Murder in the Temple (featuring the case of Sarah Malcolm).

Four new slide shows were created for the Open Weekend. These are now on the Library's web site (www.innertemplelibrary.org.uk) where they continue to attract a substantial number of hits.



Library History
Pre-War to 1958



War Damage
in the Temple



Manuscripts



Printed Books

Library Anniversary

April 2008 marked the Library's fiftieth anniversary in its current building. During the week beginning April 21st a special anniversary issue of the electronic newsletter was circulated; displays were put out in the Library; open days with online suppliers were held; tours for law librarians took place; and a party was held to which current and former members of the Library Committee and Library staff were invited.



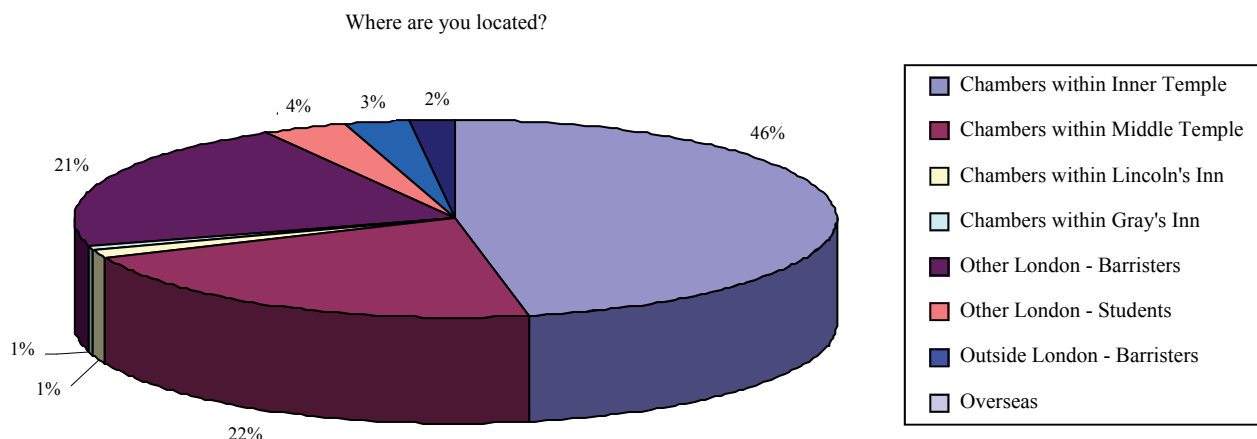
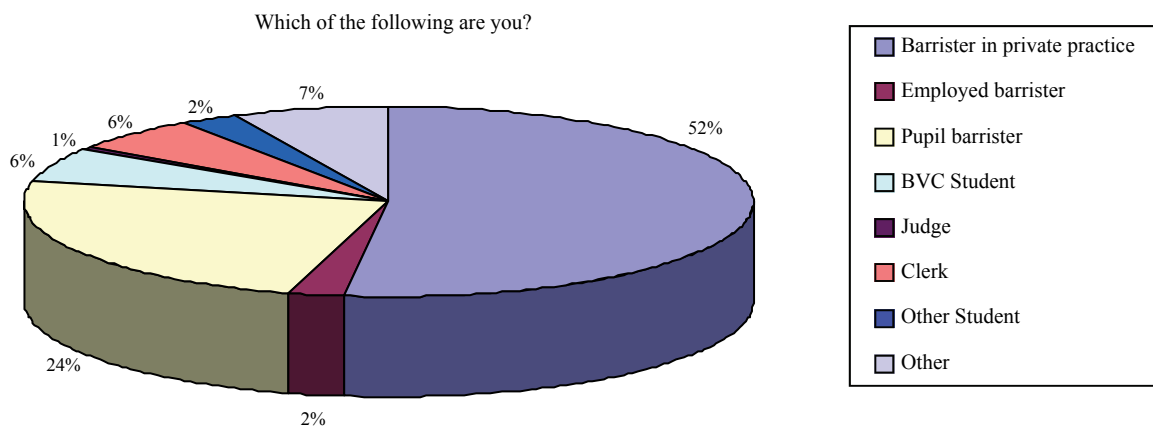
Surveys

Continuing our practice of biennial surveys, two further surveys - one electronic and one in-house - were carried out in February 2008. A total of 277 responses were received to our online questionnaire and 170 to the in-house survey. The results of the 2008 surveys were complementary, broadly consistent and broadly similar to earlier survey results and indicated that:-

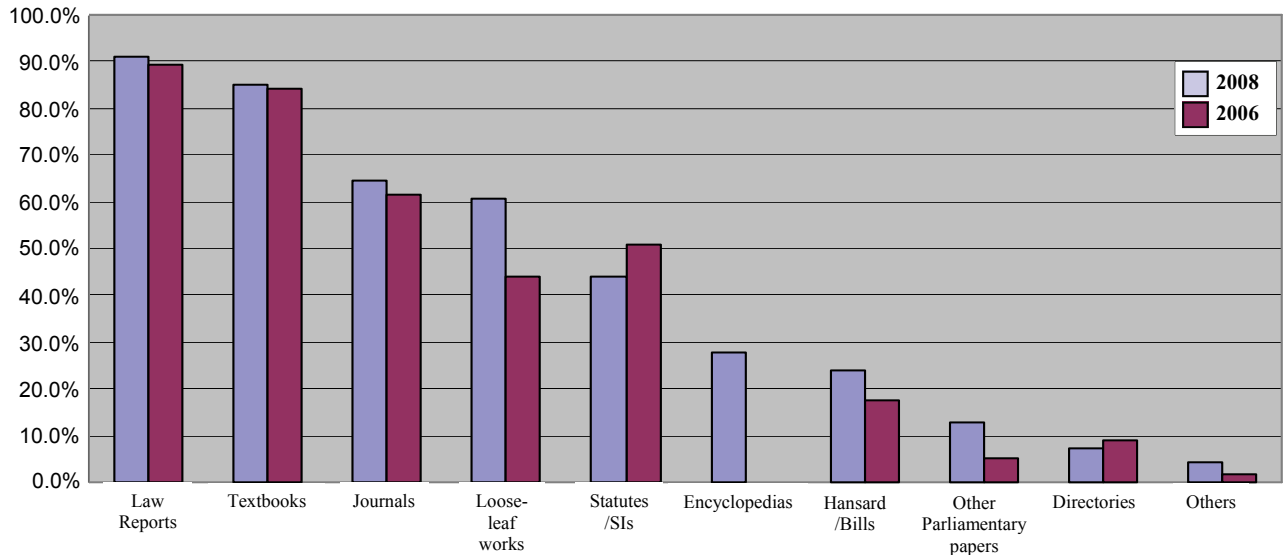
- More than half of those who use the Library are members of the Inner Temple or have chambers in the Inner or Middle Temple.
- While student use of the Library dropped markedly some years ago when BVC libraries were introduced, those students who do make use of the Library are enthusiastic about its atmosphere and facilities. One student mentions the Library as being the main reason for joining the Inner Temple.
- More than half of Library users make use of staff assistance during their visits, and the majority of the respondents to the in-house survey comment favourably on the knowledge and helpfulness of the staff.

- The main reasons for visiting the Library are to carry out research for a case or an opinion and to copy specific material.
- The Library is still greatly valued as a quiet or convenient place to work.
- There is heavy and increasing use of online services, but the full range of hard copy resources continue to be well used, including law reports, textbooks, journals, loose-leaf works, statutes and encyclopedias. The 2006 statistics showed a dramatic increase in the use of printed materials, as compared with 2004 and 2002, and the 2008 in-house results show a further increase. The availability of non-current material is also much valued, especially in English law.
- The 2006 surveys revealed that increasing use was being made of materials on human rights, on EU law, and in the Commonwealth collection and the latest surveys show this level of usage has been maintained.
- The level of general satisfaction continues to be high, almost all respondents reporting that they find what they want.
- Remote access to the Library's web catalogue and the AccessToLaw gateway site (which provides annotated links to over 1,300 legal and parliamentary web sites) has increased and the electronic survey shows an encouraging level of take-up for the new Current Awareness Weblog (which covers new case law, changes in legislation and legal news) and the virtual tour.

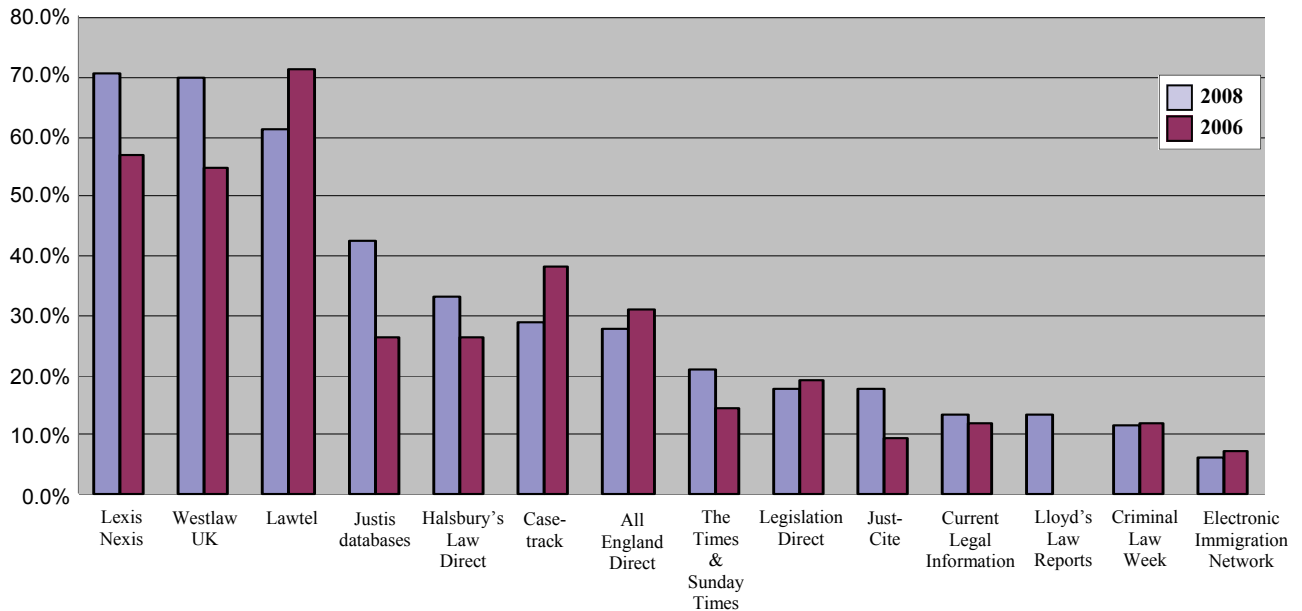
In-house Survey Results



Which hard copy resources did you use within the Library?



Which Internet subscription databases did you use?



The following comments were made by some of the respondents to the in-house survey:-

'The library is a crucial resource tool for the young bar - it also offers for all practitioners a quiet place to work away from telephone & human interruptions of chambers - Also chambers are increasingly under pressure of space and resources therefore the library is a valued and essential part of Bar life (and the continued success of it).' (Barrister, IT chambers)

'I have recently started using the Inner Temple Library in preference to Middle Temple. Whilst the resources are the same in the main I prefer the layout of Inner and the staff are much friendlier and much more helpful.' (Barrister, IT chambers)

'Inner Temple is a superb library ...' (Barrister, MT chambers)

'The Inner Temple Library is by far the best Inn Library. The staff are friendly and very helpful and the electronic resources are extensive.' (Pupil, MT chambers)

'Fully stocked and very well resourced Library. Staff always willing to help. Not sure what I would have done without the Inner Temple Library and the expert knowledge of its staff.' (Pupil, based in London)

'I personally think Inner Temple is the best library of [the] four. It is very pleasant to work in here - secure, quiet, reassuring, even romantic I would say. I chose this Inn because of its library.' (BVC student, based in London)

'The staff at Inner Temple are very helpful and always go out of their way to help me find what I am looking for without hesitation. In fact, even though Middle Temple is located closer to chambers, I always come to Inner Temple!' (Clerk, MT chambers)

Library Services

The Library dealt with over 5,300 enquiries from barristers, students, clerks and researchers in 2008 (an increase of 6% over 2007). Usage of the Library's document supply service also showed a slight increase. Users of the service tend to be based in the UK, but requests were also received from Guernsey, Gibraltar, Jersey, the Bahamas and the Isle of Man.

AccessToLaw, the Library's legal gateway site was relaunched in November using new content management software (Joomla). Upgrading of the site was carried out by Library staff in conjunction with the web hosts. The change in software has improved the search functionality for users and simplified editing procedures for Library staff. It also provided the opportunity to include the latest stories from the Current Awareness Weblog on the site, as well as a link to the entire current awareness database and archive, which goes back to April 2007. An additional project is now underway to add keywords to the AccessToLaw site to allow for subject searching, an option already available on the current awareness service.

The daily Current Awareness Weblog continues to grow in popularity, attracting about a thousand hits a day. The blog can be received as an RSS feed or by email, and a version for mobile phones is also available. There are 561 subscribers to the service. Recent comments from subscribers include *'I'd just like to say that as a law beginner your blog has been absolutely invaluable to me in terms of making real law accessible and is the prime reason why I have chosen to join Inner Temple'* (Student member). *'Thank you so much for Current Awareness. It has become an indispensable tool for keeping up to date'* (CPS barrister).

Work has continued on the legal research FAQs project. A new section on European case law and legislation has been added to the FAQs on UK case law and legislation, which are already on the Library's web site. The FAQs are aimed primarily at students and pupils and are based on questions frequently asked of staff at the Library's enquiry point. As the online publishers will not allow us to make their databases available to remote users, we hope that the free sources featured on our different web services are useful for members who are unable to use the Library in person.

The sections of the Library's web site which attracted most hits during the year were the catalogue, slide shows, newsletter, FAQs and AccessToLaw.

We have created a Facebook page to promote Library services and as an additional way of communicating with our users, especially current and potential student members. The page includes information on services, news, events, useful links and photographs.

A revised edition of *Library Resources for the Bar* was produced by the Librarian during the year. This is a guide to the collections and services offered by the Libraries of the four Inns of Court. Most of the Library's own guides to services and databases have also been updated and all are available in the Library or can be downloaded from the web site.

Westlaw, Lexis and Lawtel are still the most popular online subscription services with Library users. In April 2008 open days were held at which Sweet & Maxwell, LexisNexis Butterworths and Justis staff were available to discuss users' research needs and to carry out CPD accredited training sessions.

The PCs in the Gallery continue to be in demand for word processing, email and Internet access. Wi-Fi access was requested by some users and this has now been implemented and is available in Rooms E, F and G.

Students and Pupils

A revised version of the *Student Guide* was included in the Education and Training information pack which was given to all new BVC students in September. In addition the Library's *Facilities and Services* information sheet was included in the Inner Temple's *Guide to becoming a barrister*.

The Deputy Librarian attended the Inn's introductory evenings for new students and also gave a Powerpoint presentation on the services of the four Inn Libraries to students at two of the London BVC providers.

Take-up of Library tours by new BVC students continues to be poor but the virtual tour (which is available on the Library's web site) attracts a considerable number of hits.

Induction sessions for new pupils were advertised in the Library, via the web site and the newsletter and by emailing pupil masters.

Publications

Two articles written by Library staff were featured in *The Inner Temple Yearbook 2008-2009*. The articles were on fifty years in the new Library and on the Library's non-law collections.

The screenshot shows the Facebook profile for Inner Temple Library. The page includes a cover photo of the library interior, a profile picture, and navigation tabs for Wall, Info, Photos, and Boxes. The main content area displays a list of posts, including announcements about Easter opening hours, a new newsletter issue, the relaunch of AccessToLaw, Christmas vacation opening hours, the Inner Temple Book Prize 2008, a BBC2 documentary series 'The Barristers', a new issue of the newsletter, and a summer closed period. A sidebar on the left contains information about the library's location, contact details, and a list of fans.

Reorganisation of stock

Following the decision made in 2007 to cut back on some of the duplicate holdings of Commonwealth legislation at Inner Temple and Lincoln's Inn, good progress has been made on disposing of series and reorganising stock to make better use of space and to allow for future growth in the Library and the Littleton Basement. This work has been coordinated by the Deputy Librarian and all of the Library team have been involved in the book moves.

Cooperation

The four Inn Libraries continue to collaborate and to look at ways of reducing costs. Discussions during the year at Liaison Committee meetings were concentrated on Middle Temple's specialist collections. There was general agreement that the importance of EU law as part of UK law made it necessary for all four Inn Libraries to purchase core EU publications. Various options for the future funding of the EU collection were considered and the final decision taken was that, from 2009 onwards, only 65% of Middle Temple's expenditure on their EU collection would qualify for joint funding, which would allow specialist material not held by the other Inns to be purchased.

2009

The Library's main priorities are as always to provide an effective enquiry service; to acquire, catalogue, conserve and organise material for the print collections; and to maintain and develop the library network and its web services.

In addition during 2009 we will:-

- continue to work closely with the Education and Training Department, to include participating in their programme of activities with state schools
- offer induction sessions for students towards the end of the BVC course in preparation for pupillage
- continue to develop FAQs to cover such areas as finding treaties and researching Commonwealth law
- organise more CPD accredited training events with online suppliers
- complete the keyword indexing project for the 1,300 sites on AccessToLaw
- publish a revised, expanded guide to sources of transcripts
- continue to work on space planning and reorganisation of stock
- update the Library's disaster plan