



INNER TEMPLE  
LIBRARY

# Annual Review 2016



Image © Abhimanyu Bose



**AccessToLaw** - the content of our [gateway site](#), which provides annotated links to over 1300 free legal websites, was checked and updated on a quarterly basis. There were 148,324 individual visitors to the site from 197 countries, the majority coming from the UK, USA, Malaysia, India, Canada, Australia and Singapore. The sections of the site accessed most frequently were Case Law, Court Information, Legal Journals, Northern Ireland, Caribbean, Courts and Tribunals, Republic of Ireland and Regulatory Law.

**Binding** - a total of 538 volumes of UK law and 131 volumes of Commonwealth law were bound or rebound during the year. Bookends Bindery, which specialises in dealing with manuscripts and early printed books, carried out conservation and repair work on a number of items including two manuscript works by Francis Maseres and a volume of the Marshall Hall press cuttings.

**Branding** - a new library branded mug was given to students at the fresher events we attended at the London Bar schools and to participants in our open afternoon for students and induction sessions for pupils. The Library tote bag was also given away at a number of events.

**Cataloguing** - around 170 new law titles and editions were added to the [catalogue](#) during the year. This total includes only practitioners' texts, and excludes continuation volumes of periodicals (which are of course heavily represented in a library such as ours), reissue volumes of encyclopaedic works, non-law books, or general reference books or other non-law titles, so the actual number of volumes acquired (and in most cases, individually catalogued) would be many times that total.

**Circuits** - in February the Librarian and Deputy Librarian took part in a Circuits Conference convened by the Treasurer. For the Library this was an opportunity to explain about the services available to members who are not based in London. Our presentation to representatives from the Circuits covered areas such as the document supply service, enquiry service, the Current Awareness blog and the Library's gateway site, AccessToLaw. An information sheet [Ten Reasons to use the Inner Temple Library](#) was circulated to participants.

**Committees** - the Librarian acted as secretary to the Library Committee and as coordinator of the Bar Librarians Group, and attended meetings of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Library Committee. The Deputy Librarian continued as a member of the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians Conference Committee and helped to organise a very successful conference in Dublin.

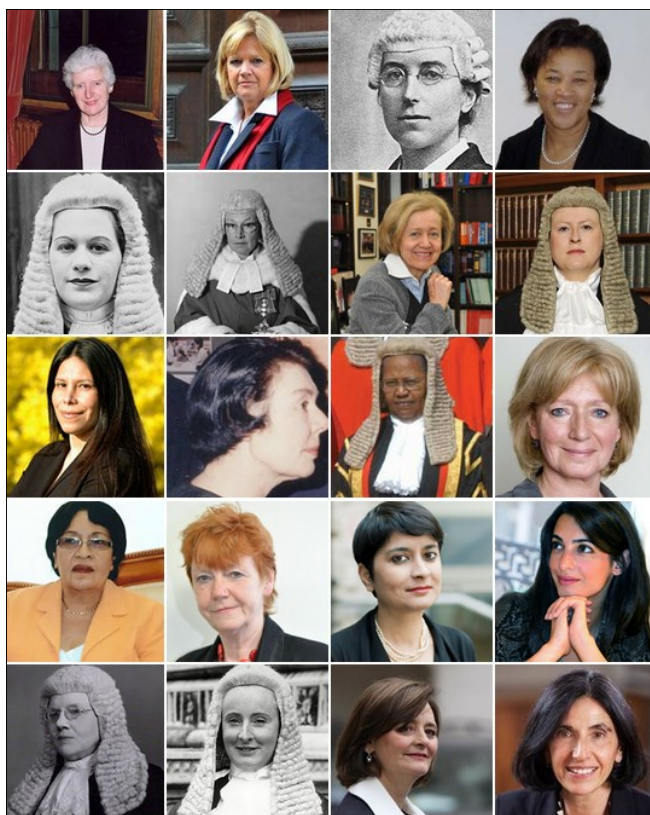
**Current Awareness Blog** - the coverage of the [blog](#) includes the latest legal news, new case law and changes in legislation, commentary from chambers' blogs, announcements of forthcoming lectures and seminars, and advertisements for chambers vacancies. A total of 4,250 posts were added in 2016. The blog now has 46,581 posts, 1,108 subject categories, 2,562 subscribers via email or RSS feed and 8,200 Twitter followers. The number of individual visitors to the site was 200,087.

The top ten most frequently accessed subject categories were sentencing, appeals, police, human rights, murder, internet, children, media, local government and sexual offences. Apart from the UK, visitors to the site came from a wide range of countries including the USA, Russia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Australia, India, Canada and the Republic of Ireland.

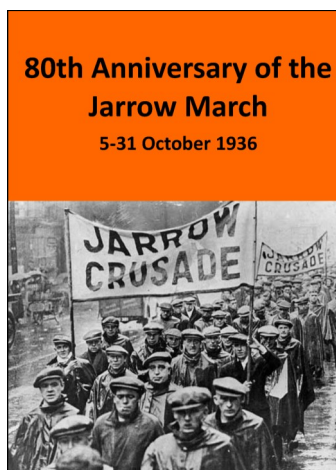
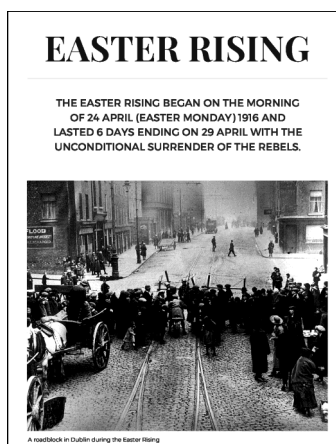
We will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the blog in April 2017.



**Displays and Publications** - during the year we mounted a number of displays to commemorate anniversaries and events and to highlight particular parts of our collection. They included LGBT History Month, International Women's Day (Women at the Inns of Court), the Easter Rising in Dublin, the Great Fire of London, Canada Day, and the World Cup 1966. To accompany the displays we produced information sheets and leaflets all of which can be found online via our [Publications](#) webpage.



*Women at the Inns of Court*



**Document Supply Service** - this [service](#) is available to barrister and judicial members of all four Inns wherever they are based, and to student members of the Inner Temple. Over the year 206 items have been scanned and emailed to barristers located in the UK, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Jersey, the Republic of Ireland and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

**Donations** - members of the Inn continue to present copies of their newly published works. Donations resulted in a saving of over £3000 on monographs and over £8,000 on loose-leaf releases and journals. We continue to receive [Wildy, Simmonds and Hill](#) publications free of charge.

In August, thanks to the generosity of Lady Le Quesne, the Library received some 40 volumes from the library of the late Master Le Quesne who was Treasurer of the Inn in 1989.



*Master Le Quesne*



**Enquiries** - staff at the Enquiry Point dealt with 3,654 personal and telephone enquiries from barristers, judges, pupils, students, and clerks. Enquiries were, as always, very varied and included establishing what discretion to admit fresh evidence was exercisable by judges under the R.S.C. as in operation in 1954; assembling legislation and case law concerning criminal appeals in various Caribbean jurisdictions; and finding historic statutory guidance relating to child protection.

Particularly intriguing was a request for an early 18th-century Act concerning insolvent debtors, to which an incorrect title (and date) had been applied by a later commentator; the matter was only resolved by reference to the Acts of the period as originally printed.

We have increased the range of stationery items available for purchase at the Enquiry Point in response to users' requests.

**Historical Enquiries** - enquiries dealt with during 2016 related to a wide range of topics, including: the law examinations taken by Gandhi; evidence of commercial production of legal material in the 17th century, especially Hobart's Reports; and the life of E.W. Barker, law minister in the government of the newly independent Singapore. As ever we received a great many enquiries concerning persons supposed to have been members of the Inn and these were dealt with in collaboration with the Archivist.

**IT** - public access PCs are in the process of being replaced with new models to improve the IT experience for all library users.

**Legal Research Training** - the Library ran its legal research training course for new pupils in the spring and autumn of 2016. The course covers UK case law and legislation.

A new initiative in 2016 was the introduction of legal research training in the context of the Inn's qualifying sessions. Over 110 students attended the sessions which were run twice on a Saturday and once on a weekday evening in the autumn. Feedback on the content and on the trainers was very positive. Dates have now been set for 2017.

In November two members of the library team, Tracey Dennis and Simon Hindley, travelled to Gibraltar to run a training session for members of the local Bar, which gave an overview of the key points to consider when carrying out legal research.



*The Deputy Librarian talking at one of the qualifying sessions*

We continue to provide one-to-one training on databases and printed material as required for students, pupils and barrister members of the Inn.

**Littleton Basement** - 250 items were requested from the Library's basement store in the Littleton Building. In the main material housed there is not available online. The most frequently requested works are old editions of textbooks, law reports and journals. More parliamentary material was requested in 2016 than in any previous year.

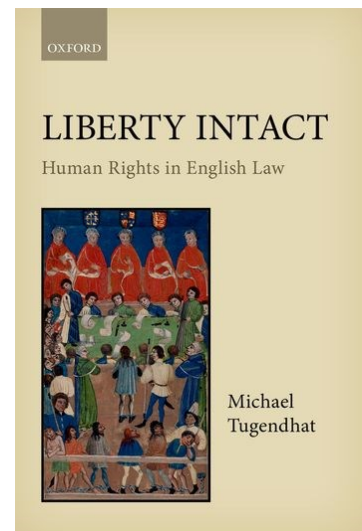
**Manuscript Enquiries** - the range of subjects being investigated by visiting scholars continues to bear witness to the variety and richness of the manuscript collection. They have included the life of Cecily Neville, Duchess of York; the Quebec Act 1774 as an example of British imperial policy; religious change in 16th-century Cambridge; and readers' responses to erotic poetry, specifically Thomas Nashe's "The Choise of Valentines". Our mid-15th century illumination showing the [Court of King's Bench](#) features on the cover of Master Tugendhat's new book *Liberty intact: human rights in English law*.

**Newsletter** - issues of the Library's electronic newsletter were sent out to all members and tenants in January, April, July and November. A [Newsletter Archive](#) is also available on the Library website.

**Presentations** - in June the Deputy Librarians from the Inner Temple and Lincoln's Inn gave a presentation at the annual conference of the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians on the role of the Inn Libraries and how their services have changed over the years. The session, which was well attended, highlighted the Inn Libraries as being libraries of national importance.

**Pupils** - in addition to the legal research sessions already mentioned, the Deputy Librarian and one of the Library Assistants gave introductory talks about the Library to new pupils at a number of lunchtime events. Tours were also given to new pupils from various sets of chambers.

**Social Media** - In 2016 we continued to expand the range of content created for our social media presence on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Taking anniversaries and key dates as an opportunity to highlight library research and resources, we marked [International Women's Day](#) with a series of profiles of women at the Inns of Court, [Halloween](#) with Witches, Mediums and Consumer Protection, [100 Years of Roald Dahl](#) with a quiz; and we put together a very popular series of [Legal Latin lessons](#).



# WITCHES, MEDIUMS

AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

“A medium is a vehicle via which the spirit of someone who has passed away can communicate with the living.”

Up until 1951 mediumship was regulated by the Witchcraft Act 1735 and section 4 of the Vagrancy Act 1824

THE WITCHCRAFT ACT 1735

\*The Witchcraft Act 1735 [...] repealed all the previous Acts and substituted the relatively mild offence aimed at people who 'undertake to tell fortunes or pretend from his or her skill or knowledge in any occult or crafty science to discover where or in what manner any goods or

## Roald Dahl in the Law Library

The librarian has been eaten by an enormous crocodile and it is up to you to help match up the legal resource with the relevant character.

**Inner Temple Library**  
 Published by Sally McLaren [?]  
 Page Liked · 9 February 2016 · Edited ·

**Legal Latin of the Day!**

Ubi jus ibi remedium

'where there is a right there is a remedy'. If the law provides a right it follows that it provides a remedy for violation of it. ... [See more](#)

**Staff Changes** - one of the Library Assistants, Mark Leonard, left the Inn to take up the post of Assistant Librarian at Lincoln's Inn. He was replaced by Lucia Asnaghi who had been working in the Library as an Evening Assistant for several years and who is a qualified librarian.

**Staff Training** - courses attended by Library staff included the following topics: copyright; knowledge management; use of social media; Pepper v Hart research; and advanced Photoshop as well as legal research sessions run by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Library.

**Student Events** - the Library participated in the Inn's introductory evenings for London and out of London students and for the first time the Deputy Librarian joined the panel of speakers to explain to new students the benefits of using the Library and library services.

The Deputy Librarian and colleagues from the other Inns gave presentations at the City Law School, the University of Law and BPP Law School on the services that the Inn Libraries offer to Bar students. The presentation is also available as a [slideshow](#) on the Library website.

In addition, library staff from the Inner Temple, the Middle Temple and Lincoln's Inn represented their three Inns at fresher events at the London Bar schools. This was a new initiative and proved an excellent way to connect with new BPTC students.



*The Deputy Librarian awaiting students at the University of Law Freshers' Fair*

In September the Library held an open afternoon for students which was well attended. A number of attendees took part in an orientation quiz with one lucky student winning lunch for two in Hall.

**Timelines** - a member of the library team, Sally McLaren, created a number of interactive legal history timelines featuring landmark moments in legislative and judicial history, which received very positive feedback on social media. These included LGBT Legal History, Women's Legal History and Black British History and the Law. All the [timelines](#) can be viewed on the Library website.

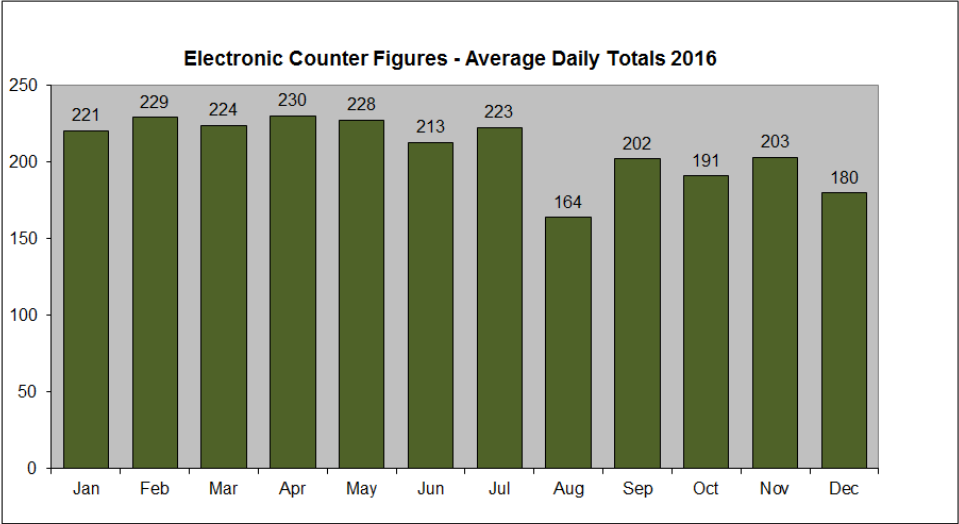


*Black British History and the Law*



**Tours** - over 90 tours of the Library were given to individuals and groups of prospective new members during the year. The [virtual tour](#) on our website was viewed 1,390 times.

**Usage Statistics** - an electronic monitor at the library entrance counts people entering and leaving the Library, including staff: totals for each day are halved to compensate (as far as possible) for the fact that most people would be counted twice. The average daily total in 2016, after this adjustment, was 209.



**User Group** - the Library Users’ Group, which consists of students, pupils and barristers, held a number of meetings during the year. The main topic for discussion was how the implementation of Project Pegasus would affect the Library space, collections, services and staff.

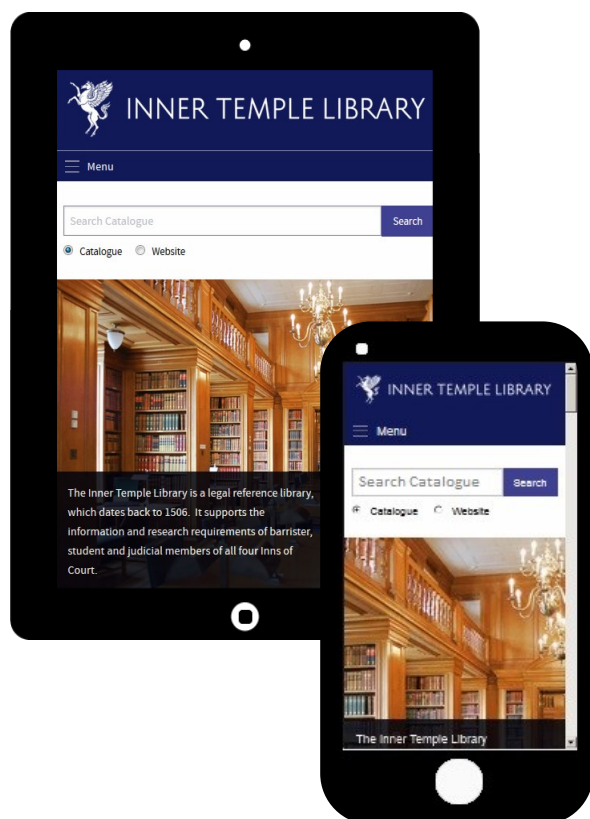
**Visits** - we received visits from new library staff at the other Inns, Lorena Dinca, the Magna Carta scholar from Romania, Claudia Cristina Saltao, Head Librarian of the Faculty of Law at the New University of Lisbon, Sean Barr, law librarian at Swansea University, members of the Chester Bedell American Inn of Court in Texas, Australian lawyers on a tour accompanied by Peter Butt (Emeritus Professor at Sydney University), the Indian High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner, and a group of law librarians attending the International Association of Law Libraries conference.

Library staff visited the House of Commons Library, the City Business Library and the National Archives at Kew.



*Group of American lawyers from the Chester Bedell American Inn of Court, with the Deputy Librarian on the left*

**Website** - the Library's website, which has been completely redesigned, went live at the end of the year. The new site showcases library services and facilities more effectively while the menu structure makes it easier to navigate and more user friendly. The [Library Catalogue](#) can now be searched from any part of the site. Wordpress technology has been used on the site to ensure it will work on any device from PC to tablet to smartphone.



**INNER TEMPLE LIBRARY**

Search Catalogue Search

Catalogue Website

About Us Using the Library Services & Facilities Collections Research & Training Inner Temple Links

The Inner Temple Library is a legal reference library, which dates back to 1506. It supports the information and research requirements of barrister, student and judicial members of all four Inns of Court.

**Legal Research**

We provide legal research training for pupils, students and barristers. Find out more about our training and free research guides.

**Current Awareness**

Keep up-to-date with legal news. Subscribe to our free Current Awareness service or follow us on Twitter.

**Document Supply**

Members of the Inns of Court can request materials to be scanned and emailed to them. Find out more about this service

**Manuscripts**

Our Manuscript Collection includes Edward VI's Devises for the Succession and four illuminated manuscripts which are the earliest known depictions of the English courts and court dress.

**Opening Hours**

During Legal Terms

Monday to Thursday  
09:00-20:00

Friday  
09:00-19:00

Saturday  
The Library is open this Saturday, 28th January, 10:00-17:00

View Saturday opening timetable

Sunday  
Closed

View all opening hours

**Visiting Us**

The Inner Temple Library  
The Inner Temple  
London  
EC4Y 7DA

Map and directions

**Contact Us**

020 7797 8217  
library@innertemple.org.uk

**Wellbeing** - one of the library team, Sally McLaren, has been a member of the Inn's Wellbeing Group since its inception. Amongst the events she is planning will be lunchtime talks with guest speakers. The Wellbeing Group has been set up to promote staff wellbeing and the creation of an open and supportive culture in the workplace.

## The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple

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