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Temporary Library FAQs

Here is a selection of the questions we have been asked about the temporary Library at 10 Fetter Lane.

NB: The answer to all these questions is YES.

• Are the same current textbooks, law reports and journals available as before?
• Is the enquiry service still available?
• Is the current Commonwealth collection available?
• Is there the same access to subscription databases such as Lexis and Westlaw as before?
• Can I print from the databases?
• Will my existing photocopying/scanning account still work?
• Do you have Wi-Fi?
• Are you continuing to provide a document supply service?
• Can I borrow books overnight, as a barrister?
• Is the Library open in the evenings? (Monday to Thursday open until 8pm, and 7pm on Friday.)
• Are you still participating in the Saturday opening rota with the other Inns?
• Can non-current material be retrieved from the Littleton Basement? (NB the old editions that were formerly housed in the Gallery are on open access at 10 Fetter Lane.)
• Does the temporary library provide a quiet working space?
• Does the library have reader places? (There are 24 reader places at single, two-seater and four-seater tables, as you prefer.)
• Are your legal research training sessions continuing?

Saturday Opening

One of the four Inn Libraries is open from 10am to 5pm on each Saturday during the legal terms.

November

9 November    Gray’s Inn
16 November    Inner Temple
23 November    Lincoln’s Inn
30 November    Middle Temple

December

7 December    Gray’s Inn
14 December    Inner Temple
21 December    CLOSED
28 December    CLOSED

This timetable gives details of the Saturday opening hours of all four Inn Libraries up to the end of January.
“The temporary library is a wonderful place to work. There is tons of room, so you can spread your papers far and wide; the library is flooded with natural light; and most importantly it is beautifully quiet. Also, if you find yourself lost in the maze of books, or stuck with a difficult legal problem, the library staff are always on hand to save the day.” Student

“Excellent space, light, bright and quiet. All the books I need also.” Out of London Student

“The temporary library is a superb place to work: absolutely quiet, airy, temperature controlled, plenty of table space; and well stocked with text-books, law reports, photocopying and digital facilities. I know: I have worked there three times already.” Inner Temple Bencher

“Very grateful to you for maintaining access to Singapore case law.” Barrister

“Looking for a text I found my quarry with no trouble at all and of course with the assistance of kindly staff that I am glad to see remain despite the recent seismic changes. The library is fine; cleverly laid out and comfortable (in terms of ambient temperature and light quality). ... I shall certainly avail of its amenities from hereon in ...” Barrister

“...Thank you for having the old textbooks available in the temporary library...” Barrister

“...You’ve decamped in style I must say! It is a privilege to use the Library once again. It is funny how many things you have kept the same: e.g. current awareness, odd table here and there. What an institution you are!” Barrister

“Excellent librarians, extremely grateful for the assistance.” Student

“An invaluable facility.” QC

“Wonderful to be able to use my Library albeit pared down – well done to library staff for putting this together so beautifully!” IT Bencher

“This is a very comfortable and well-run space.” QC

“Not expecting it to be this comprehensive resource-wise.” Barrister
Temporary Library - Staff Views

Tracey Dennis, Deputy Librarian, writes

It has now been 5 months since we moved to the temporary location at 10 Fetter Lane. It seems to me that the space is functioning well and that users appreciate the work staff have done to make the Library comfortable and straightforward to use.

Most users seem surprised about how much we managed to move to Fetter Lane and no-one has commented on the short delay if we have to go to the basement store in the Littleton Building to retrieve some items.

The layout of shelving works well and the light and airy atmosphere is often remarked upon.

From a personal point of view, having worked in law firms and experienced moving a library to a different (and less satisfactory) location, I have found that the present relocation has been much less stressful and the new space on the whole a pleasant surprise.

I do, of course, look forward to moving back to the Temple, but for the duration of the building works, our temporary home functions more than adequately with very little impact on services.

Here is what some other Library staff say about the temporary accommodation:

“At 10 Fetter Lane there is if anything less noise than there was (and certainly is currently) on the Inn’s estate.”

“It’s clean-lined and modern with good lighting and additional security.”

“Another advantage of this layout is that the enquiry desk is immediately inside the entrance so users do not have to look for someone who can help them.”

Legal Research Training

On 17 October members of the Library team ran a legal research training session for new pupils.

The session covered topics that we are often asked about by those starting pupillage. We looked at subjects such as the hierarchy of citations; tracking the judicial history of a case; and finding different versions of legislation (original, consolidated and historical). We also covered how to research the background, or pre-history, of a piece of legislation.

Feedback from attendees was very positive: comments included “I thought the training was fantastic.” The trainers were described as “very helpful, friendly, and extremely knowledgeable”.

History Society Lecture

London and the Reformation
Dr Susan Brigden

This illustrated lecture will study the religious and social world of a community transformed by the Reformation.

Time: Wednesday 22 January 2020, 6.30pm for 6.45pm at the Temple Church, followed by a drinks reception.

Tickets: Members and the Public: £10.55
IT Students: £5.45

Book online or call the Treasury Office on 020 7797 8250.
Activities for New Students

During September and October Library staff have been involved in many activities to welcome new BPTC students to the Inn.

The Deputy Librarian and colleagues from Lincoln’s Inn and the Middle Temple gave presentations to City Law School, the University of Law and BPP Law School on the services the Inn Libraries offer to new students. At the University of Law it was gratifying to note that Steve Illingworth (the University’s Programme & Student Lead) found the talk engaging and useful.

Library staff from the same three Inns also attended fresher events at City Law School and the University of Law, where they very much enjoyed meeting new students and explaining how the Inn Libraries can help them.

The Deputy Librarian attended the Inn’s two introductory evenings for new students. At both events many students approached her at the reception afterwards and showed an encouraging level of interest in the Library and the services it offers.

The Library held a reception for students in the temporary Library at 10 Fetter Lane on 26 September. This was a new initiative, offering students a chance to look around the premises in an informal way and to meet Library staff and members of the Library Committee.

Any student who missed the aforementioned activities can request a tour of the Library by contacting tdennis@innertemple.org.uk

Qualifying Sessions

In September and October Library staff ran qualifying sessions on legal research. These offered a basic introduction to research, and feedback received from participants indicated that they found the content very helpful. Topics covered included: finding consolidated and repealed legislation; deciphering legal abbreviations; understanding the hierarchy of citations; and the importance of using textbooks and journals.

Next year there will be a further more advanced session, building on the foundations laid in the earlier ones.
The Government section of AccessToLaw, like the Parliaments section, which we looked at in the previous issue, is UK-wide in scope. Its 37 current entries relate both to the United Kingdom Government and to the devolved executives of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The UK Government’s vast portal site GOV.UK will be familiar to most readers. Created by the Government Digital Service (part of the Cabinet Office), and launched in 2012, it provides a comprehensive single point of access to UK Government services and information.

Hundreds of individual government department and public body sites were decommissioned following the creation of GOV.UK, and their content incorporated into this site, but throughout AccessToLaw we continue to provide annotated links to specific sections of GOV.UK that are relevant to the topic in hand. In the context of Government we focus generally on the main departments, and more particularly on those that have significant legal content. These account for about half of the entries that make up the Government section.

The Attorney General’s Office section of GOV.UK for example has much information on the role and activities of the Law Officers, including the Attorney General’s guidance to the legal profession; the publications of the Cabinet Office include the Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers and the Cabinet Manual; and the Ministry of Defence makes available online the Manual of Service Law. Other departments include the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice and the Department for Work & Pensions.

Before the launch and development of GOV.UK much information on legal matters, aimed specifically at practitioners, was published on the Justice site. Most of the content there was subsequently transferred to GOV.UK, but some remains, notably court hearing lists, procedure rules, Prison Service Instructions and Probation Instructions.

The Scottish Government is in the process of replacing its existing website with a new one. Content on the new site is arranged primarily by topic, with links provided as necessary to the old site where information has not yet been transferred. Other main sections include News, Publications and Consultations. There are also several blogs providing information and updates on various matters, among them “Justice and Safety”.

The situation is similar in Wales, where the Welsh Government is in the process of transferring content to its new site, GOV.Wales. The National Assembly for Wales was established, and the UK Government’s Welsh Office ceased to exist, in 1999, but it was only in 2006 that the Assembly’s executive and legislative functions were formally separated and the Welsh Assembly Government, now renamed the Welsh Government, was established. Consultations on the site go back to 2009. Publications go much further back even than 1999, to 1968, including as they do many planning circulars issued during the Welsh Office era. Primary access to site content is by broad topic, one of these being “Justice and Law”.

The first Northern Ireland Executive existed for a brief period, a few months only, in 1974. It was re-established in December 1999 following the Good Friday Agreement of April 1998, but there was a period of suspension from 2002 to 2007, and again from January 2017 to the present day. Publications on the site go back as far as 1974, and new publications have continued to appear during the current suspension.

The Gazette is the website of the three official journals of record of the UK Government, the London Gazette, the Edinburgh Gazette and the Belfast Gazette. These record and disseminate a wide range of official, regulatory and legal information, including insolvency notices and certain types of Order in Council. Its combined archive is free to search and use without registration.

The National Archives, an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice, is the official archive of the UK Government, responsible for looking after the records of central government and the courts of law. Its online catalogue contains more than 32 million descriptions of records.

The National Archives also collects and archives UK central government websites through its UK Government Web Archive. Most of the several thousand sites currently included are collected as weekly or monthly “snapshots”.

The last entry in the Government section is WiredGov. This is an alerting service for news articles from official UK Government departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies. Its searchable archive goes back to 1999, and a personalised e-mail alert service is available.
New Acquisitions

Asbestos: law & litigation, edited by Harry Steinberg QC, Michael Rawlinson QC and James Beeton (Sweet & Maxwell) presents a comprehensive survey of the history and use of asbestos, a critical evaluation of the development of knowledge regarding the dangers posed by asbestos to human health, and an analysis of the common law and statutory routes to liability. The contributors study the damages issues peculiar to asbestos cases and assess insurance and reinsurance matters relating to cover for asbestos-related illness. Technical guidance is offered on applications for payments under the DMPS (Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme) and other schemes. In addition to the legal topics covered, two eminent medical experts in the field (John Moore-Gillon and Robin Rudd) provide analysis of the medical aspects of asbestos-related conditions.

The main focus of Vulnerable witnesses within family and criminal proceedings by Frank Feehan QC and Caroline Harris is to give direct information regarding the legislation and authorities which govern the treatment of parties and witnesses who have difficulty understanding the cases in which they are involved. It provides practical guidance, helpful suggestions and a broad overview of likely improvements as practitioners become used to this new form of advocacy and representation. The authors concentrate on the newly-emerging approaches to witnesses and parties who are “vulnerable” whether by reason of age, difficulty (emotional, psychological or psychiatric) or circumstances (for instance victims or witnesses in cases of organised or terrorist crime, domestic abuse or sexual offences).

In practical terms, an individual's arrest pursuant to a criminal allegation will leave a potentially indelible digital stamp on at least three different databases, and the information contained on these databases can be retrieved whenever the state has cause to scrutinise that individual's background, either upon its own motion or at the request of a third party. Armed with the information in Criminal records, privacy and the criminal justice system: a practical handbook, by Edward Jones and Jessica Jones, practitioners will (it is hoped) be able to advise their clients on their prospects of limiting the publicity of their involvement in criminal proceedings, of altering the state's recollection of them to their advantage or, where warranted, of making it forget them altogether. Personal data and the uses to which it can be put is a hot topic at the moment and looks set to remain so for the foreseeable future.

Lesley Walcott's Commonwealth Caribbean insurance law promises to be a valuable addition to our Commonwealth text books collection. It covers all the Caribbean jurisdictions for which we are the nominated specialist Library among the four Inns, excepting the Cayman Islands but for convenience including Guyana. Topics covered include insurance regulation, life insurance, property insurance, contract formation, intermediaries, and claims procedure.

We would like to record our thanks to Greg Williams for presenting to the Library his Practical guide to TOLATA claims, and to Master Slade for presenting Tolley's employment handbook, 33rd edition.

A list of new law titles and editions received from July to September is available on our website.