



NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of The Inner Temple Library

ISSUE 60
MAY 2020

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Library Services and COVID-19

The Library team is endeavouring to provide library services for members during the time that the Library at Fetter Lane is closed and staff are working from home.

Details of our services and resources are outlined over the following pages.

Enquiries

We are running our enquiry service remotely for members of the Inns of Court. You can get in touch with us via email at library@innertemple.org.uk and we will do our best to satisfy your requests. We regret that we are unable to respond to telephone enquiries.

During the Coronavirus crisis we are not able to access the full range of library resources but we are collaborating with the other Inn Libraries so that as many enquiries as possible can be satisfied from our combined database subscriptions.

Document Supply Service

We are offering a document delivery service between 9am and 5pm Monday-Friday for barrister members of all four Inns.

Material can be supplied for existing judicial or Parliamentary proceedings, research for non commercial purposes, and private study.

The Library will supply scans, subject to the provisions of the law of copyright (the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and the Copyright and Rights in Performances (Research, Education, Libraries and Archives) Regulations 2014).

Charges for the document supply service are being waived during the COVID-19 situation, but the relevant form (Judicial Proceedings or Private Research) must be completed. The **forms** are available on our website.

For enquiries email distanceservice@innertemple.org.uk.

We are able to provide copies of material from **these sources**.

Members' Access to Databases

We have a limited number of logins which will allow us to make Bloomsbury Professional and Lexis®PSL available by remote access to practising barristers who are members of the Inner Temple.

Bloomsbury Professional Online – a list of database content can be viewed [here](#).

Lexis®PSL – the service provides practice notes, forms, precedents, authoritative commentary and current awareness in **35 practice areas**.

Enquiries about remote access may be sent to bloomsbury@innertemple.org.uk or lexispsl@innertemple.org.uk.

Free Resources

To assist legal practitioners, Inner Temple Library staff have developed two complementary free online services.

AccessToLaw

A **gateway site**, providing annotated links to over 1,200 free UK, Commonwealth and worldwide legal resources including case law, legislation, commentary and organisations. Entries are arranged in five sections: United Kingdom, Commonwealth, Other Jurisdictions, Legal Subject Areas and General Resources.

Current Awareness Blog

A selective **Current Awareness blog**, updated daily, providing information on new case law, changes in legislation, and legal news, as well as articles, case comments and conference papers from chambers' websites. Coverage is restricted to England and Wales.

Trial Access to Databases

The online publishers are offering trial access to a number of databases to barrister members of the Inner Temple and the other Inns as described below.

Lexis Library

Lexis is offering barristers **seven-day trial access** to the most comprehensive of its Lexis Library offerings, comprising UK legislation, over 700,000 cases and key reference sources such as the Encyclopaedia of Forms and Precedents and Atkin's Court Forms. The database also includes Halsbury's Laws, the Butterworths and Tolley's handbooks and many key texts.

Members can also request trial access to Lexis®PSL for practice notes, precedents, forms and current awareness alerts across **35 practice areas**.

To request a trial, please contact farina.sharif@lexisnexis.co.uk, Bar Account Manager at Lexis.

Thomson Reuters legal databases

Barrister members of the Inns can sign up to a **one-week trial** for:

- Westlaw - access to case law, legislation, journals and EU legal materials.
- Sweet & Maxwell books - access to key practitioners' texts available via Westlaw. A list of available books can be [viewed here](#).
- Lawtel - access to UK and EU case law, legislation and articles.
- Practical Law - access to practice notes, standard documents, checklists, forms, legal updates and global guides.

To request a trial, please contact Saghi.Shahmirzadi@thomsonreuters.com, Account Manager at Thomson Reuters.

vLex Justis

UK barristers can now access a **free 14-day trial and a new 3-month access plan** for law reports and case law available on vLex Justis. For more information, including full coverage details, please [click here](#).

Daily Research Tips

Since the COVID-19 lockdown began, Library staff have been posting daily research tips on social media. The Library's [AccessToLaw](#) database and [Legal Research FAQs](#) are the main sources for these.

Our aim is to help lawyers and librarians who for the moment do not have access to their usual resources. Here are some examples:

The full text of the current version of the Family Procedure Rules, related Practice Directions and links to other information, including FPR forms, can all be found on the [Justice](#) website.



The [United Nations Treaty Series Online](#) contains treaties and international agreements since 1946.



Until 1962 the regnal year in which a statute was passed formed an essential part of its citation. This detailed [Table of Regnal Years of English Sovereigns](#) gives precise dates of all regnal years from 1066 to 1962.

[Legislation.gov.uk](#) is the UK's official legislation database and includes Public General Acts (complete from 1988 onwards, partial 1801-1987), Local Acts (complete 1991 onwards, partial 1857-1990), and Statutory Instruments (complete 1987 onwards, partial 1948-1986).



Practice Directions issued by the courts and tribunals of England and Wales 2008 onwards are directly accessible here on the [Courts and Tribunals Judiciary](#) site.



We hope that these tips are useful and help remove some of the stress of trying to undertake research without physical access to a law library.

Subject Guides

We are publishing a series of subject guides to make users aware of the electronic resources to which the Library currently has access. The guides cover, as far as possible, key textbooks, law reports, journals, laws and free web sources; please note, however, that textbooks and laws are not available for all subject areas.

Subject guides to [Canadian Law](#), [Caribbean Law](#), [Criminal Law](#), [Family Law](#) and [Personal Injury Law](#) are now available on our website.

eResource Training

Working with the database providers, the Library is offering eResource training for Inner Temple members.

Please contact tdennis@innertemple.org.uk if you are interested in web-based training on Lexis Library & Lexis®PSL, Westlaw & Practical Law and JustisOne.

Remote Enquiries

Although the Library at 10 Fetter Lane has been closed since 24 March because of the Coronavirus lockdown, Library staff have still been able to reply to emailed enquiries while working from home. In addition to general requests for information, the **Document Supply Service** is still in operation. We have been using our online subscription services to satisfy requests, and we have negotiated additional access to some other databases. Charges for the service are being waived during the current crisis. The four Inn Libraries have been collaborating so that there is access to the widest possible range of sources.

Of the requests so far received during the lockdown, roughly 50% have been supplied from our own online resources, and another 30% from one of the other three Inn Libraries. The remaining 20% could not be supplied, whether because (a) the publication was not available in any form at any of the four Libraries, (b) hard copy materials were not accessible, or (c) a source for the information or document requested could not be identified.

The most commonly requested items have been case law and textbooks, at around 37% of requests each, but there have also been several requests for precedents from Atkin's Court Forms, as well as materials from Lexis PSL and Practical Law.

Legal Research Qualifying Session

On 11 June Library staff will be running a legal research session for BPTC students. In view of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis this will be hosted on Zoom.

This session builds on the basic legal research training that we delivered in the autumn of 2019. Topics to be covered include: finding historical versions of legislation; looking for commencement dates; tracking the judicial history of a case; finding precedent documents; and looking for Parliamentary debates. There will be a question and answer session at the end.

The Education & Training Department will be emailing all students shortly to let them know about forthcoming sessions and how to book online.

Feedback During Lockdown

On the remote enquiry and document supply service:

"Thank you for your amazingly efficient service as always."
(Barrister)

"I am extremely grateful for your swift assistance with sourcing the documents. They will greatly assist me in a hearing tomorrow." *(Barrister)*

"I just want to thank you so very very much for your kind assistance today. I received the documents I wanted. You are amazing." *(Bencher)*

"I am immensely grateful for your help."
(Bar student preparing for an interview)

"Thank you very much indeed for this extremely swift response." *(Legal researcher in chambers)*

"You've made my life much easier. Thanks for the quick turnaround as well." *(Barrister)*

On remote access to Bloomsbury and to Lexis PSL:

"And again thanks ! Very much appreciated." *(Barrister)*

"This is fantastic; thank you so much." *(Barrister)*

"That is brilliant thank you." *(Barrister)*

"Many thanks for this quick reply." *(Barrister)*

On the Current Awareness Blog:

"Thank you very much for maintaining the blog amidst pandemic; it's an invaluable resource!" *(Barrister)*

On an email update to members on library services:

"This is a fantastic service which I am sure will prove helpful." *(Barrister)*

"I'm sure I won't be the only one to say: thank you very much for your email... It's really very helpful." *(Barrister)*

"Thank you for continuing to run our valuable library services during the pandemic. It is deeply reassuring for members and practitioners to have services still available." *(Barrister)*

AccessToLaw: Food and Drugs

Most of the entries in the **Food and Drugs** section of **AccessToLaw** are concerned primarily with the United Kingdom. Two entries relate specifically to the EU dimension, and another two to the international, but we begin this survey with a website which aims to cover food law at all three levels.

Foodlaw-Reading focuses on current food law and its development in the UK and the EU, but also provides some coverage of international developments. Much of the content is arranged by topic (additives, labelling, etc.), and there are extensive links to UK and EU legislation and other sources of official information and guidance. The site was created, and continues to be maintained, by Dr David Jukes of the Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences at the University of Reading.

The government department whose many responsibilities include food protection in England is Defra - the **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**. Its website has information on the whole range its policies, activities and publications.

Past developments in food protection policy and law have often occurred in response to specific public health crises. Perhaps the most significant of these in recent years was the outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or “mad cow disease”) in the 1990s. We include an entry for the official **BSE Inquiry**, whose report, with documentary evidence and transcripts of hearings, remains accessible on The National Archives site.

It was the BSE crisis which led to the establishment in 2000 of the **Food Standards Agency**, a non-ministerial government department charged with protecting public health and consumer interests in relation to food. The FSA's website has much information and guidance on food law and regulation in the UK, with links to legislation.

In April 2015 responsibility for food safety and standards in Scotland was taken over from the FSA by a newly created body, **Food Standards Scotland**. Its website, like the FSA's, provides information on its remit, guidance, and links to legislation.

The regulator of medicines and medical devices in the UK is an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, the **Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency**.

Its site provides comprehensive guidance on all aspects of its work, including details of the “flexible and pragmatic” approach to regulation it is taking during the present COVID-19 outbreak.

Regulation of pharmacists and pharmacies falls in Great Britain to the **General Pharmaceutical Council** and in Northern Ireland to the **Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland**. Both sites provide searchable online registers of practitioners, guidance, links to legislation, and details of the respective bodies' fitness to practise processes and hearing outcomes.

The UK ceased to be a member of the European Union on 31 January 2020, but food safety and other laws derived from the EU continue in force unchanged in the UK, at least until the end of the present transition period. We therefore retain two European entries of continuing relevance.

European Commission: Food Safety is a section of the European Commission's site devoted to information on such matters as food safety, labelling and nutrition. Information there includes links to the General Food Law Regulation 2002 and other legislation.

The **European Food Safety Agency** is an agency of the European Union which provides independent scientific advice on all matters concerning food and animal feed, including legislation. Notable site content includes scientific opinions and guidance provided by the Agency's various panels and committees.

International guidance on food standards is provided by the **Codex Alimentarius**. A joint project since 1963 of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the World Health Organization (WHO), the Codex (also known as the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme) is a collection of food standards, guidelines and codes of practice which aim to harmonise national and regional food law at the global level. Texts are available to download.

The FAO's website has information on the full range of its work. We provide a link specifically to the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: Legal Office** for access to various legal databases, notably FAOLEX, which is described as “a comprehensive and up-to-date legislative and policy database ... of national laws, regulations and policies on food, agriculture and natural resources management”, and the FAO Treaties Database, a database of treaties which have been deposited with the Director-General of the FAO.

Fetter Lane Display

With our move to the temporary Library on Fetter Lane in mind, we created a display featuring some of the interesting sites that one can find in its environs. We will put this up once we can return to the Library, but here is a sneak peak at some of the sights and sounds around Fetter Lane.

Tucked away in Gough Square is Dr Johnson's talking cat, Hodge. Follow [this link](#) on your mobile phone to hear what Hodge has to say for himself. He apparently had a liking for oysters



One can observe, at St Dunstan's in the West on Fleet Street, two giants striking the bells by the clock every 15 minutes and one can marvel at the grand Maughan Library of King's College, the former home of the Public Record Office (now The National Archives) before its relocation to Kew.



A [leaflet](#) to accompany the display has been produced.

Law Pods



During the lockdown period, we are curating relevant online content for those with an interest in law, including TV programmes, films and law-related podcasts.

[Here](#) is a URL for viewing the TV thread more easily and [a link](#) to Law Pods.

Film Review



The Rainmaker. Classy Grisham thriller. Matt Damon and Danny DeVito, ambulance chasing lawyers, in a legal battle against a team of corporate lawyers for an insurance firm who wouldn't pay out health insurance to a dying man. Great performance by DeVito, and Danny Glover brings a sly gravitas as the

Judge. Matt Damon is suitably endearing, yet unwavering as the novice lawyer learning his trade. Well worth the watch.