Library Resources for the Bar
The following is a guide to the jurisdictions outside England and Wales and the subjects within English law that each Inn specialises in. Note that, particularly in the case of English materials, the topics will be covered to some extent at all the Libraries and that the list is not necessarily exhaustive.

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Library Resources for the Bar

A guide to the Libraries of the four Inns of Court

Issued by the Inns of Court Libraries Liaison Committee 2017

All four Inn Libraries are open to barrister members of the Inns of Court. Co-operation between the Libraries is overseen by the Inns of Court Libraries Liaison Committee, which aims to make the best use of the Libraries’ extensive resources for the benefit of the Bar as a whole, and to ensure that the services that are offered meet the needs of practitioners.

All the Libraries have a full collection of English legal materials. In addition each Library has responsibility for the specialist collections listed in this guide. Online catalogues of each Library are available on their respective websites.

A union list showing the holdings of current law reports, journals, and electronic resources has also been prepared for quick reference. It is available in printed form at each Library and on all four library websites. Library staff are always willing to give guidance on alternative sources when material needed is not held by the Inn Libraries.

All the Libraries offer distance services to barristers who are unable to visit the Libraries in person. Subject to copyright restrictions, photocopies can be sent by email, fax, or post (contact individual libraries for charges and further details). The Inns also have an arrangement whereby copies can be obtained from the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, where the material is not held at the Inns, or if copyright-cleared copies are needed – barristers should apply for this service to their Inn Library, not direct to the Institute.

A further co-operative arrangement is Saturday opening. During legal term one Inn Library is open from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on Saturdays on a weekly rota. The rota (which as far as possible is organised in alphabetical order) appears on the library websites, as well as on printed calendars available in the Libraries.
GRAY’S INN LIBRARY

Address: 5 South Square
Gray’s Inn
London
WCIR 5ET

Telephone: 020 7458 7822

Email: library.information@graysinn.org.uk

Website: www.graysinn.org.uk

Catalogue: www.graysinnlibrary.org.uk

Librarian: Guy Mitchell

Hours: Legal Terms: Mon - Fri 9:00am - 8.00pm

Saturdays / Vacations: Contact Library or see website

Admissions Policy

Open to all members of the four Inns of Court.

Specialisations

International Law, Human Rights, Northern Ireland.

The Times Newspaper is available from 1785 in hard copy, digital or microfilm, depending on the date of publication. A selection of original bound copies of The Times, from 1880 to 1990, is available to view on request.

Loans

The Inn’s Masters of the Bench (Benchers) may borrow material other than rare books and manuscripts either in person or through an intermediary on production of a note bearing the Bencher’s signature.

Barrister members and barrister tenants of the Inn may borrow selected items for overnight loan 30 minutes before the Library closes. These must be returned by 9.30 am the next day that the Library is open.

Barrister tenants of the Inn may also borrow bound copies of journals and law reports for up to an hour during the day to photocopy in chambers.

For further details of what may be borrowed please apply to staff.
Distance Services

We are happy to offer remote assistance with identifying and sourcing legal information. The Library can supply copies of legal materials by email or post to all members of the Inns of Court, provided that copyright is not infringed. Charges and further details are available on the website.

Online Services

Library Catalogue and access to the other Inns’ catalogues at www.graysinnlibrary.org.uk

Access to the following databases within the Library:


The All Law of Northern Ireland and the Education Law Service are available on CD-Rom.

Other Services and Facilities

- Free Wi-Fi access
- Networked PCs: Providing word processing and internet access.
- Photocopying: Self-service copying machines with scan/email facility.
- Microform reader-printer
- Accessibility: A lift for wheelchair users, free parking (arranged as necessary), two height-adjustable desks, dolphin assistive technology for blind and partially-sighted users, plus a low resolution screen and a large print keyboard.
- Free water cooler
- Social media: follow us on Facebook and Twitter.
INNER TEMPLE LIBRARY
(temporary location until 2021)

Address: Inner Temple Library
10 Fetter Lane
5th Floor
London
EC4A 1BR

Telephone: 020 7797 8217

Email: Enquiries: library@innertemple.org.uk
Distance Service: distanceservice@innertemple.org.uk

Websites: Library: www.innertemplelibrary.org.uk
Catalogue: www.innertemplelibrary.org/external.html

Librarian: Robert Hodgson

Hours: Legal Terms: Mon - Thu 9:00am - 8.00pm, Friday 9.00am - 7.00pm
Vacation: Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.30pm
Saturdays: Contact Library or see website

Admissions Policy

Open to all members of the four Inns of Court.

Specialisations

Commonwealth legislation and law reports, especially Canada, Caribbean, Hong Kong and Indian subcontinent.
Scottish law reports, textbooks and journals.

Loans

Law books: Barrister members or tenants of the Inner Temple and barristers from chambers within (or in the vicinity of) any of the four Inns may borrow up to two titles from the legal collections 30 minutes before the Library closes. Loose-leaf publications, old editions and reference books are not available for loan. Books must be returned by 9.30am on the next day that the Library is open.

Distance Services

Documents (subject to copyright) can be sent by scan/email or post to barrister members of all four Inns and to student members of the Inner Temple. Charges on application or via the website. Photocopies can also be obtained on behalf of Inner Temple barristers from the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. Further details and charges available on application to the Library Enquiry Point.
Online Services

The following services are available within the Library.

Online access to the four Inn Libraries’ catalogues.

Internet subscription services include: Bloomsbury Professional Online, Criminal Law Week, Electronic Immigration Network, i-law (selected content), ICLR Online, JustisOne (selected UK and Caribbean databases), Kemp on Lawtel, Lawtel, Lexis Library (UK and Commonwealth content), Practical Law, The Times Digital Archive 1785-2013, The Times & Sunday Times (1992 onwards), The Times Law Reports, Westlaw Canada and Westlaw UK.

Also available are the White Book (on CD-Rom) and CourtServe (Court listings database).

Remote Access

Web-based access to the catalogues of all four Inn Libraries (www.innertemplelibrary.org/external.html).

AccessToLaw, a gateway site, providing annotated links to over 1300 free websites of legal interest (www.accesstolaw.com).

Current Awareness blog providing up-to-date information on new case law, changes in legislation and legal news (www.innertemplelibrary.com).

Legal Research

Training sessions on print and online resources are run for pupils and barristers. The Research & Training section on the website features legal research guides, database guides and FAQs on UK and EU law, treaties and Parliamentary publications.

Other Services and Facilities

- Free Wi-Fi access
- Public access PCs with web, email and office software. USB sticks available for purchase.
- Photocopying: Self-service copying machines with scan/email facility.
- Newspapers: Daily Telegraph and Guardian (current day’s issue only) and the Financial Times and The Times (3 months only).
- Publications: Electronic Newsletter, Quick Reference Guide, range of guides to the Library and its online services, Accessibility Information Sheet.
- Social Media: Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.
- Accessibility: Lift for wheelchair users, a height-adjustable desk, two PCs with large-screen (21”) monitors and JAWS screen-reading software, a large-print keyboard, desktop video magnifier for use with printed material, and a hearing loop for the hard of hearing.
LINCOLN’S INN LIBRARY

Address: Lincoln’s Inn
London
WC2A 3TN

Telephone: 020 7242 4371
Fax: 020 7404 1864
Email: library@lincolnsinn.org.uk
Website: www.lincolnsinn.org.uk

Librarian: Dunstan Speight

Hours: Legal Terms and Vacation Mon-Fri 9.00am – 8.00pm, except
        August to mid-September Mon-Fri 9.30am – 6.00pm
        Saturdays Contact Library or see website
        Early or exceptional closing posted on website

Admissions Policy

Open to all members of Lincoln’s Inn and to barrister members of the other Inns of Court.

Specialisations

Commonwealth legislation and law reports, especially Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore
and Brunei, Africa, Sri Lanka and the Pacific.

Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

Parliamentary Papers 1801 to date. House of Commons Standing and Public Bill Committee debates
1983/84 to date.

House of Lords and Privy Council printed cases and appeal documents to 2008.

Chancery practice particularly catered for in acquisition of English materials.

Loans

To barrister members of the Inn and barristers with chambers in the Inn (and their pupils) only.
Most material overnight (after 6.00pm to be returned by 9.30am). Longer loans for limited
categories of non-current material.

Distance Services

Documents (subject to copyright) sent by email, fax or post to any barrister. Charges on application.

Photocopies can also be obtained on behalf of Lincoln’s Inn barristers from the Institute of Advanced
Legal Studies. Further details and charges on application.
Online Services

Web-based access to Lincoln’s and Gray’s Inn Library catalogues at www.lincolnsinnlibrary.org.uk

Internet subscription services include: Commercial Law Cases, Electronic Immigration Network, HeinOnline (journals and the English Reports), ICLR Online, IDS Brief, Jersey Legal Information Board (unreported cases), Justis (Parliament, UK Legislation), Lawtel, Lexis Library (All England Direct, Case Search, Halsbury’s Laws, Legislation Direct), Solicitors Journal and Westlaw UK.

A wide range of texts and materials are also available on CD-Rom.

Other Services and Facilities

- Free Wi-Fi access
- Word processing facilities
- Photocopying: Self-service copying machines (card or coin operated).
- Publications: Quick Reference Guide, range of guides to the Library and its online services, union list.
- Microfiche reader-printer
MIDDLE TEMPLE LIBRARY

Address: Middle Temple Lane  
Ashley Building  
London  
EC4Y 9BT

Telephone: 020 7427 4830  
Fax: 020 7427 4831  
Email: library@middletemple.org.uk  
Website: www.middletemplelibrary.org.uk

Librarian: Renae Satterley

Hours:  
Legal Terms: Mon - Thu 9.00am - 8.00pm, Friday 9.00am - 7.00pm  
Vacation: Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.30pm  
Saturdays: Contact Library or see website

Closed first two weeks of August  
Early or exceptional closings posted on website

Admissions Policy

Open to all members of the four Inns of Court. Open to non-members for research access to the rare books and manuscripts collection (upon application to the Librarian).

Specialisations

European Law - covering the law of the European Union and the relevant law of the member states.


Ecclesiastical Law - a collection of textbooks, the Ecclesiastical Law Journal, and reports of Consistory Court judgments dating back to 1891, including some unreported cases.

Loans

Members of any Inn may borrow textbooks overnight or for the weekend. Books may be borrowed an hour before we close and must be returned the next working day by 10am. Trials and biographies may be borrowed for longer loan periods.

Distance Services

Documents (subject to copyright) sent by email, fax or post to Middle Temple members and to members of other Inns when material is not held by their own Library. Charges on application or via the website.

Books from the London Library can be obtained on behalf of Middle Temple members to be read on site in the Library. Articles can be printed from their remote services by a member of the Library staff. Ask at the Enquiry Desk for more information.
Online Services

Online access to the four Inn Libraries’ catalogues (also available remotely):
www.middletemplelibrary.org.uk


A selection of e-books available on an iPad which can be borrowed for a week for a charge of £5 (or £1 per day). A second iPad with the White Book can also be borrowed.

A selection of e-books available to consult on a dedicated CD-Rom computer.

Other Services and Facilities

- Free Wi-Fi access
- Copying Facilities: Self-service printing, scanning and copying machines operated by an account (set up at the Enquiry Desk). Remote printing from laptops, tablets or smart phones.
- Newspapers: The Times.
- Publications: Newsletter issued three times a year. A union list which gives details on print and electronic access to titles. A range of guides to the Library and its services, including subject guides (available in print or PDF via the website).
- Accessibility: Lift to all floors, portable hearing loop for the hard of hearing, touchscreen 21” monitors.