Hello from our New Librarian

Rob Hodgson, Librarian, writes

As I write this on the eve of taking up the post of Librarian, I am looking forward with anticipation and excitement to starting at the Inner Temple. Although new to Inner, I am not entirely new to the Inns of Court. Over a span of years (best left uncounted) I worked at Gray's Inn Library in two different posts, which bookended a period in the Information and Archives division of the BBC. I come to Inner now from the post of Law Librarian at City, University of London where I spent 6 years supporting and teaching law students from LLB to PhD, as well as on the professional programmes of LPC and BPTC/BVS.

I'm confident that this will be a productive and energising time for the Inn and the Library, as we have recently welcomed the launch of the ICCA Bar course and look forward to the imminent return of the Library to the heart of the Inn, where it belongs. Both developments will surely provide many challenges, but with them I hope lots of opportunities to reinstall the Library and the team to their integral place in the Inn's life, culture and future.

I look forward to meeting you all on your next visit to the Library!
New Students

If you are a new student member of the Inner Temple, you may be wondering why you need to know about the Library. It is important that you use the Library at this early stage and understand how it can help you throughout your career.

Here are some of the reasons to use the Library now:

**Library Staff** - the staff are all very knowledgeable and experienced and can find materials quickly;

**Collections** - we have huge collections of textbooks, law reports, journals and official publications. All you need for your research should be available in the Library;

**Archives of Old Editions** - we keep superseded works so you can find the law at the point in time relevant to your legal research;

**Legal Research Training** - we run qualifying sessions on legal research, and we can advise on how to use both hard copy and online resources;

**Assistance with Research** - we can advise on the resources and databases best suited to answering your problem;

**Legal Subscription Databases** - we provide access to a full range of subscription databases and we can organise training on them;

**Current Awareness Blog** - [www.innertemplelibrary.com](http://www.innertemplelibrary.com) - this will help you keep up to date with new developments without having to seek them out;

**AccessToLaw Gateway Site** - [www.accesstolaw.com](http://www.accesstolaw.com) - this provides access to hundreds of free-to-access websites that have authoritative content;

**Document Supply Service** - when you need a law report, article or chapter from a book, we can email it to you;

Finally, our Library offers peaceful surroundings with plenty of space and modern facilities.

The Library is here for all members to make use of and if you start to use the Library now, life will be much easier once you are a pupil.

Legal Research Training

Library staff have continued to run legal research training sessions via Zoom. Qualifying sessions for students took place on 29 September and 21 October, and a session for pupils on 28 October.

It is not quite the same as being able to present the session in person, but some aspects have been positive. Use of the chat function for the question and answer session was particularly successful in the students' session, as people seem more comfortable using this than asking a question out loud. It has also been good in terms of accessibility, with fewer pupils having to drop out because of work commitments, and at least one person following a session from a train, which is a first for us.

The pupils' session was described by an attendee as “a really good refresher”.

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Does legal research make you feel like this?

Starting research

- Distinguish the facts, legal issues and points of law
- Start with a textbook
- Think about the search – key terms, boolean operators
- Select appropriate resources

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Researching Acts

Citation of Acts

- Data Protection Act 1998 = short title and calendar year
- 1998 ch.29 = calendar year and Chapter number (c, ch, chap or cap)

**BUT**

- [9 Geo. 2] C A P V.
- Before 1963 Acts were cited using the regnal year
- Ask Library staff for help with pre-1963 citations
Library Induction for New Student Members

James Rowles, Senior Library Assistant, writes

In September we presented our first ever inductions for new student members to be conducted via Zoom. We themed this “Mission [not so] Impossible” as both Tracey and I are fans of the series: scenes from Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation were in fact filmed in the Inner Temple. We thought it would be an informative and fun method for students to learn about the Library, and to become aware of the role it can play in their development throughout their legal careers.

Content was focused on several “missions” in the course of which the students learnt about what services the Library offers to students, and the considerable and varied legal materials that are available within the Library.

We ran a small quiz at the end to test the students’ knowledge of the Inn and the Library, and we gained some good feedback, notably “The quiz at the end was fun and probably better than all the other Zoom quizzes that I have done previously!”.

Forty students attended over the two sessions that we ran, and we are looking forward to running these inductions for new student members in coming years (but, we hope, in person). We may do a Batman theme next year, as the new Batman was filmed just outside the Inn earlier this year.

Social Media Activities

In August we produced two threads on Twitter explaining neutral citations: Everything you ever wanted to know about neutral citations but were afraid to ask and The Hierarchy of Citations.

And in September we published the thread Starting Legal Research: a guide for students.

Black History Month 2020

Statistics show that a disproportionate number of black people die in custody. For Black History Month 2020 we highlighted some of the deaths in custody cases that have occurred in the UK over the past 50 years. It makes for some sobering reading.
**Access to Databases**

**ICLR Online**

The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting is offering free access to ICLR Online for a limited period up to 31 January 2021 to members of the four Inns who are practising barristers based in the UK. If you are a practising barrister and would like to take advantage of the ICLR offer, click on this link, which will take you to an online landing page with explanatory material and a form to complete to request remote access.

**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 the Bar Account Manager at Lexis: farina.shariff@lexisnexis.co.uk.

**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. A list of available books can be viewed.
- Sweet & Maxwell books – access to key practitioners texts available via Westlaw. A list of available books can be viewed.
- 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 the Account Manager at Thomson Reuters: Saghi.Shahmirzadi@thomsonreuters.com.

**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. More information, including a list of full coverage details, is available.

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**Library Activities in Lockdown**

We produced an infographic to show what the Library had been doing since lockdown in March.

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**DOCUMENT SUPPLY**

700+ documents supplied since lockdown.

“Thank you and such great service... amazing!”

“This service really is a God send.”

**VIRTUAL TRAINING SESSIONS**

Virtual legal research sessions (including Qualifying Sessions) held for over 60 students.

“Your session has been really helpful”

**OUTREACH**

Virtual tours for prospective members.

“a really helpful session”

**E-RESOURCES TRAINING**

We have produced a series of daily “How-To’s” on various aspects of legal research. These answer questions we as Library staff are frequently asked and include free web-based sources, hard copy materials and subscription-based databases.

**RESEARCH TIPS**

We have produced a series of daily “How-To’s” on various areas of legal research. These answer questions we as Library staff are frequently asked and include free web-based sources, hard copy materials and subscription-based databases.

**RE-OPENING THE LIBRARY SAFELY**

Our priority is to maintain a Library space in which users can feel comfortable and confident that all precautions have been taken on their behalf.

In order to ensure a safe environment for our users when the Inner Temple Library is open, we have brought in certain measures which will impact upon the way the Library operates.

The Library will be open from September Monday to Friday from 11am to 4pm. We will still be operating an email enquiry service and a document supply service from 9am to 5pm.
Looking back, I can't quite believe that it is nearly thirty years since I joined the Inn as Librarian and Keeper of Manuscripts. I still clearly recall my two interviews for the post, which took place on a Saturday morning and a Friday evening in 1990. The Master of the Library, Master Morland, chaired the first interview panel, which consisted of three members of the Library Committee. I remember being asked whether, if I were to be appointed, I would stay until I retired. I thought this was highly unlikely, but time has shown how wrong I could be. At my second interview members of the panel (chaired by the Treasurer, Sir Ian Percival) were seated round a table in the Committee Room enjoying tea and sandwiches. The only other woman present was the Deputy Sub-Treasurer, Jean Morris, who was sitting at a separate table taking notes. At the time I didn’t know very much about the Inn and its ways of working and was somewhat surprised when confronted with this scene. I recall that one of the Benchers present fell asleep and had to be prodded awake when it was his turn to ask questions.

Having survived both interviews, I was pleased to accept the post when it was offered to me and this is a decision I have never regretted. From the outset I felt the Inn would be a very interesting and unusual place to work - as it has turned out to be. My first work experience had been in a university library; I then worked with housebound library users in Tower Hamlets and with patients at St Thomas's Hospital. There followed a 10-year stint in the libraries of the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social Security. My experience of library automation in the Civil Service was probably one of the deciding factors in my appointment, as the Inn was very keen to introduce automation to the Library and to develop online services for members. At this time the Inter-Inn Libraries Liaison Committee had just been set up at the instigation of Master Morland, and the Inn Libraries were being encouraged to collaborate, especially on automation. From my time in government libraries I already knew the Librarian and Keeper of Records at the Middle Temple, who had worked at the Treasury and CCTA before being appointed. With the help of Middle Temple's Systems Librarian, we began to put together an operational requirement that would enable us to select an online library system for both Inns.

Three months after I was appointed, I found myself required to make a case to the Executive Committee (with costings) for library automation. This was a daunting experience, rather like being cross-examined in court. Unfortunately, the case I put forward was not convincing enough the first time around. So Middle Temple’s Librarian and I decided to enlist the help of a (male) consultant who specialised in library systems to review our recommendations and produce a report. He endorsed our proposals, which (gratifyingly) the Executive Committee then accepted. Eventually we selected SIRSI’s Unicorn system for both Inns, which is still in use today.

Just after I became Librarian the Inn decided that the space occupied by the Library in the basement of the Treasury Building should be converted into a bar and common room for students. This was the first Pegasus bar, later converted again to provide office accommodation for the Education and Training Department. The Library had 1.8 linear miles of compact mobile shelving in the basement, which held books from the legal and parliamentary collections. To avoid sending these collections into storage, the non-law collections (housed in the Library Gallery and available for Benchers to browse and borrow) all went into storage and were replaced by the parliamentary collections and some of the old editions of textbooks. We had only two months to organise the packing and removal of all the books. This seemed a major project at the time, though it was as nothing compared with the decant of the entire Library and the setting up of a temporary Library in Fetter Lane, which we carried out in 2019.
At the time of the Library basement move Captain Sheehan, who was then Sub-Treasurer, suggested that perhaps the whole of the non-law collection should be sold, and this led to lively discussions and strong opposition from many Benchers and other members of the Inn. Eventually a limited number of books, selected by Master Sumption with assistance from Sotheby’s, were sold. They were mainly works on natural sciences, foreign history, art and literature, most of which were in very poor condition. It was 1997 before the legal and non-law books in storage were returned to their new home in the basement of the refurbished Littleton Building (formerly Niblett Hall). When Project Pegasus is completed the Library will once again have some space in the basement of the Treasury Building, though not nearly as much as it had in 1991. This new basement space and part of the Littleton basement will be used to house the legal and parliamentary collections which have been displaced from the main Library. The future of the non-law collections, which can no longer be accommodated in the Littleton basement, has yet to be decided.

During the 1990s Inner and Middle Temple Library staff continued to collaborate closely on the automation project. A kilostream line was installed between the two Inns, formats for cataloguing were agreed and catalogue records for certain collections were exchanged in order to save time and avoid duplication of effort. In addition to creating online catalogue records for the collections at Inner and Middle, records from Gray’s and Lincoln’s were converted and loaded onto our server, as well as data from three Sweet and Maxwell services (Current Law Cases, Legal Journals Index and BADGER). So, in the days before the Internet was well established, our members with PCs and a modem were able to dial in to the Library server from chambers or home to access these catalogues and databases remotely. Over the next few years we endeavoured to keep pace with the rapid changes in technology, moving from legal databases on compact disc to web-based services. In 1996 we were the first Inn Library to provide general on-site Internet access for barristers; this was followed by access to web-based subscription services, such as Lawtel and All England Direct, in 1998/89. The range of online law reports, journals and commentary sources available for legal research within the Library still continues to grow and complements the impressive print collections. Unfortunately, with the exception of Bloomsbury Online and Lexis PSL, the online publishers will not allow us to provide these services to members remotely.

As web-based legal subscription services proliferated, I was also aware of the growing Free the Law movement and the Legal Information Institute databases, such as BAILII, that were starting to appear. Library staff thought it would be a good idea to create a Library website to publicise our in-house services and to develop our own online services to raise awareness of the free legal resources available on the web.
Over the years, as we have been developing our own online services, we have of course been active (indeed pro-active) in other areas; to give some examples, we also:

- set up an enquiry and document supply service,
- extended opening hours and introduced Saturday opening (on a rota basis with the other Inns),
- installed a PC network and Wi-Fi,
- introduced overnight loans,
- carried out tours and legal research training for pupils and bar students and outreach activities for school students and prospective new members,
- produced a range of guides to library and online services, including one to sources of transcripts,
- conserved the print collections,
- began collaborating with LLMC on a manuscript digitisation project,
- responded to historical enquiries,
- carried out regular user surveys,
- created a succession of memorable library displays and timelines.
- organised displays of manuscripts and rare books for Grand Days and the Inn’s Open Weekends.

Since 2008 the Library has faced a number of challenging reviews and proposals. These have included a feasibility study to consider the merger of Inner and Middle Temple Libraries; the Inn’s proposal to partition off a number of Library rooms; the Library Committee’s review of Library services; the Inn’s strategic review; and the Project Pegasus proposals. The current Coronavirus pandemic can also be added to the list of challenges. Members of my team have shown themselves to be very resilient and have always been prepared to rise to a challenge. We have been prepared to argue the case for the Library’s space, collections, services and funding. Our focus has been on providing the best service possible for our users, whether this is in the permanent Library, the temporary Library setting at Fetter Lane, or via a home-based enquiry and document supply service during lockdown.

In my years at the Inn I have had the freedom (and the budget) to develop services and maintain one of the best legal libraries in the country. I have always tried to do this in consultation with my team and with our library users. It has been a privilege to have the responsibility for looking after the manuscript as well as the print collections. These collections should be treasured. They will be needed for future legal and historical research. I have been lucky in having an extremely supportive Library Committee, exceptional Masters of the Library (Masters Morland, Sumption, Sedley, Beatson, Sharp and Sally Smith) and fantastic Library users, but most of all I have benefited from always having a wonderful, talented Library and IT team.

Our surveys have consistently indicated a high level of user satisfaction with the services, collections and “environment conducive to research” provided. Although the majority of our users have always been barristers, in my early years at the Inn we had a much larger student contingent, since the sole Bar course provider, the Inns of Court School of Law, did not have a library. This occasionally led to problems over reader places and access to practitioner texts. It will be interesting to see what use students on the new course run by the Inns of Court College of Advocacy make of the Library’s space and collections.

My views about the current building project are well known and, although I appreciate that the Inn has to adapt for the future, the changes that are now being made to the Library will always sadden me. That said, when the move back to the permanent Library takes place next year, I am confident that, under the guidance of my successor, Robert Hodgson, my team (as I still think of them) will be ready to respond to new challenges and will continue to provide a really first-rate legal information service.
New Acquisitions

Adoption Law: a Practical Guide by Nasreen Pearce and Richard Budworth (Wildy, Simmonds & Hill) seeks to provide a comprehensive guide to the law, practice and procedure for professionals as well as others concerned or involved in the adoption process. It covers each stage of the adoption process, including the difficult issue of contact between children and their birth parents and the alternatives available, by reference to the relevant case law and regulations relating to domestic adoptions and to those with a foreign element. Registration of adoption and the issue of disclosure of information are also considered. The authors deal with the statutory obligations and responsibilities imposed on adoption agencies, support services and other professional bodies concerned with adoption. They also outline the rights of those parties to challenge decisions made by the professional bodies involved in the process. This book was kindly presented by Wildy’ Simmonds & Hill, as are all their new titles.

Whilst not an entirely new title, Merkin and Flannery on the Arbitration Act 1996, 6th edition (Routledge) is a welcome addition to the text books collection, given that arbitration is such a “growth industry”; indeed it has already proved useful to us during the period when we have been operating our enquiry and document supply service during the COVID-19 emergency.

Land Law in Hong Kong by S.H. Goo and Alice Lee, 4th edition (LexisNexis, 2nd impression, 2019) has become the leading work in this field. With six years having passed since the previous edition, the authors have taken the opportunity to reorganise the book to bring out the connection between Proprietary Estoppel and Trusts. The latest recommendations of the Hong Kong Law Reform Commission on Adverse Possession have also been included.

Revised volumes in the series Halsbury's Laws of Canada continue to appear frequently. Subjects covered by recent volumes are Aboriginal Law, Access to Information, Banking, Criminal Offences and Defences, Maritime Law, Municipal Law, Patents, Taxation, and Torts.

Our thanks are due to the following individuals who have presented new titles or editions to the Library recently: Louis Flannery QC for Merkin and Flannery on the Arbitration Act 1996 (mentioned above); Master Elizabeth Slade for Tolley's Employment Handbook, 34th edition; Master Grahame Aldous for Guide to Catastrophic Injury Claims, 3rd edition; and Master Thomas Legg for his Memoirs.

A list of new titles and editions received from July to September inclusive is available.

Review of Roadkill

Roadkill stars Hugh Laurie as a Conservative government minister. We are first introduced to him as he is celebrating outside of the Royal Courts of Justice, having been found not guilty of some corrupt practices. The first episode establishes the main characters, with just enough mystery to make one want to watch the rest of the show.

Westminster corruption and family intrigue permeate the remaining three episodes. The narrative flow between these two strands, though certainly present, never seemed to be conveyed seamlessly, with the result that one felt at times as if one were watching two separate shows.

Hugh Laurie does put in another fine performance and is able to portray a “man of the people” politician convincingly (especially in the scenes featuring LBC Radio-type interviews), that character coexisting with another, darker, private persona, as well as with the flawed family man.

Even with the misgivings mentioned above, I think Roadkill is worth watching on these dark winter evenings during lockdown. Political intrigue is always fascinating, and asks us, as outsiders, “Is this how politics works?”

As an added bonus some of the scenes were filmed in the Inner Temple, which is always a pleasure to see on television.

Available on BBC iPlayer (4 episodes).
Review of Honour

In January 2006 Benaz Mahmod, a 20-year-old Iraqi Kurdish woman from South London, was murdered by male relatives in a so-called “honour killing”, after ending a violent and abusive arranged marriage and starting a relationship with another man. This two-part dramatization follows the investigation from an initial missing person report to the trial and conviction of Benaz’s father and uncle. Benaz had had at least five contacts with the police, and had made complaints of threats, assault and rape, but these had not been followed up. A picture emerges of obstruction by the victim’s family and a reluctance to get involved on the part of the police.

The series is well written and acted. Several of the people involved in the case were used as sources by the writer, including Benaz’s sister Bekhal, who is in witness protection after giving evidence at the trial. Caroline Goode, the DCI in charge of the investigation, and Nazir Asfal, who was the crown prosecutor in overall charge of the case, acted as consultants.

After the events portrayed in the drama, two more men who had fled to Iraq were extradited and convicted. In all, five men were eventually convicted of murder, and a further two of offences committed in connection with the murder.

Unfortunately, this is particularly topical under the current circumstances: it has been reported that during lockdown calls to a helpline for victims of “honour”-based violence, and those working with them, have increased significantly. It is estimated that about a dozen “honour”-based murders are committed in the UK each year.

ITV Hub (2 episodes).

Before and After

The Library’s copy of John Vicars’s *Jehovah-Jireh: God in the mount, or, Englands parliamentarie-chronicle* (1644) is an example of the excellent preservation and rebinding work carried out for us over many years by The Bookends Bindery. The paper has been dry-cleaned, de-acidified, and repaired where necessary, and the binding (dark brown calf, complemented by green buckram), tooling and lettering are entirely sympathetic with the original. The gilt Pegasus roundel, common to many of the Library’s nineteenth-century bindings, has been preserved. The front free endpaper bears the signature of Francis Maseres, a major benefactor of the Library, dated March 27 1813.

The work was carried out by a recent recruit to the firm, in consultation with Ken Cook, a craftsman bookbinder with many years’ experience. It is heartening to note that there are young people with the skill and dedication necessary to produce work of this very high standard.

We recently learned that Ken is soon to retire from Bookends. We have enjoyed a long and very agreeable working relationship: our very best wishes go with him.