
 **A moveable feast: law librarianship in the noughties**

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Outline


1. What links law librarians?
2. Impact of globalisation
3. Issues without borders
4. Future challenges

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The quote...

"If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life it stays with you, for Paris is a **moveable feast**."

Ernest Hemingway

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1. What links us

- service ethos
- collaborative approach
- common user base
- workplaces
- networking
- innovations



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2. Globalisation

- Impact on the profession
- Impact on our work
- Role of individuals



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Impact on the profession

- Legal systems
 - › Beyond national law
 - › Convergence of legal systems
 - › International legal regimes
- Expectations of the Google generation
 - › Instant delivery
 - › Everything 'should be online'
 - › Multiple delivery formats
 - › Shorter time frames
- Mega legal publisher dominance
- Googleisation of 'everything'
- KM – fad or function?



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Impact on our daily work

- Continuing technological change
- Diverse reader backgrounds
- Over-abundance of legal resources
- Email/RSS/alerts overload
- Instant global access
- Virtual learning, access management
- Changing work flows



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Impact of individuals

Colleagues create internet based services we all can share, eg:

- Legal Information Institutes, GLIN, FLAG, SOSIG – too many people to mention.
- Int law – Lyolette Louis Jacques; LLRX, Globalex, BeSpacific, Virtual Chase – Cindy Chick, Sabrina Pacifici, Genie Tyburski
- Law blogs, eg SLAW, Connie Crosby
- Washington Lee & Tarlton journal contents/alerts
- Cardiff abbreviations – Peter Clinch
- Podcasts - Jim Milles



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3. Issues without borders

- a. Publishing & e-resources
- b. Digitisation of collections
- c. Teaching
- d. Role of professional organisations
- e. Sponsorship



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a) Publishing & e-resources

- Publisher domination by 'big 3'
 - › Contracts/costing/licensing
 - › Sales methods
 - › 'Packaging' jurisdictions
 - › Usage monitoring
 - › Ownership v access
- Free online publishers
 - › Institutional repositories
 - › Governments
 - › LII's
 - › Metadata projects – EISIL, Intute, Weblaw



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b) Digitisation

- Major commercial and free collections
 - › Hein Online
 - › Law Library Microform Consortium
 - › Gale -Thomson MOME, MOML
 - › Google project
 - › Microsoft & Yahoo
- Oxford Digitisation Project
- Implications for paper collections



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Google Book search

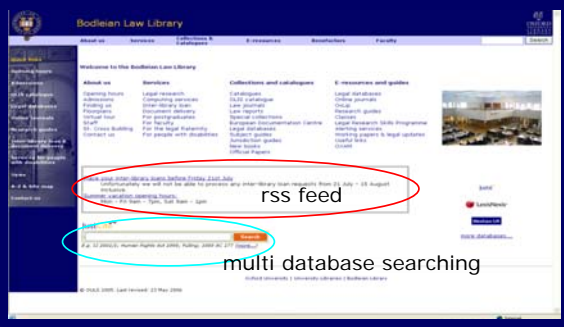


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c) Teaching/training

- Is legal research teaching still relevant?
- Methods - online, interactive, in person, 'just in time'?
- Who should teach database use - publishers or librarians?
- Recent developments –blogs, wikis and skype as teaching tools?
- Links on reading lists – implications?

Our web sites - one stop shops?



Links in reading lists.....

1. The Human Rights Act 1998 (how it works, and survey of its impact on administrative law)

Important note: The Human Rights Act affects several areas of the law, and needs to be addressed in each of those areas. This topic offers an introduction to the Act and an overview of its impact on administrative law.

Development of the protection of fundamental rights before the Human Rights Act 1998

Laws *1993 PL 59, **1995 PL 72, 1996 PL 622
Woolf 1994 PL 37
*Sedley 1995 PL 386

*Brind [1991] 1 AC 696
*Dorsetshire County Council v. Times [1993] AC 534
*R. v. MCD, ex parte Smith [1996] QB 517, 554
*R. v. Lord Chancellor, ex parte Witham [1998] QB 575, 585-586
* R. v. Home Sec., ex parte Simms [1999] 3 All ER 400

The Human Rights Act 1998

Craig, Administrative Law (5th ed., 2003) pp. 568-603
*Hoffmann [1999] 62 MLR 159
Fredman 2000 Current Legal Problems 99
Innes, "The Law and the Judiciary: South's Law Development, Courtship"

d) Role of Law Lib. associations

- Arrange conferences, professional education, bursaries
- Publish scholarly journals
- Establish/manage closed lists for members
- Network locally & internationally
- Lobby – publishers, governments
- Liaise with national Library Associations
- Issues – income, sponsors, name

e) Sponsorship & funding

- Ethical issues
- Benefits
 - › Running affordable conferences
 - › Reducing central funds for materials
 - › Special programmes/projects
- Acknowledging support
- Can this apply in a firm?

Acknowledging benefactors...



4. Our future

- Continuously evolving role
 - › Manager, accountant, marketer, business specialist, teacher, km, web publisher, lobbyist, 'empowered employees'
- Increased networking via lists, conferences, staff exchanges
- Expansion of consortia such as JISC, NELCO



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..and some challenges

- Who will keep the last paper copy?
- An ageing profession?
- Role in open access initiatives
- Funding models
- Think the unthinkable and be prepared for anything



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An aside - Oxford

- 'Compare and contrast'
- › Similar divide between firm and academic - salaries, expectations, mega firms, marketing, business needs, km
 - › Cultural differences - work practices
 - › Teaching/learning/structure of profession, LPC, etc
 - › Great influence of EU, no real role for the Commonwealth
 - › Understanding historical context of development of the local profession
 - › Status of profession
 - › 120 libraries in one smallish town, and strong view of 'book as object' - changes the perspective
 - › Change is slower, but also more considered before implementation



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Bodleian Library



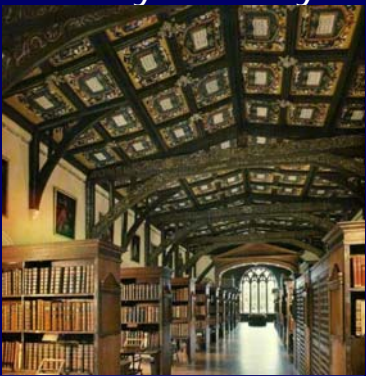
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Bodleian at dusk



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Duke Humfrey's library



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Sheldonian Theatre



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Bodleian Law Library



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Another quote...

When the High Lama asked him whether Shangri-La was not unique in his experience, and if the Western World could offer anything in the least like it, he answered with a smile: "Well, yes -- to be quite frank, it reminds me very slightly of Oxford".

James Hilton, *Lost Horizon*



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Conclusion

- With law librarianship, issues are common wherever we are based
- We are a profession with adaptable and transferable skills
- Our profession is exciting, varied and challenging
- Law librarianship is thus a moveable feast – it is with you always, and wherever you may find yourself



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