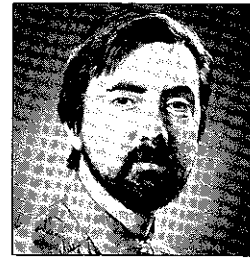


# *E Law - Murdoch University's Electronic Journal of Law: a Review*



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## *Access*

The Internet address or URL of *E Law*, Murdoch University's electronic law journal is <http://wwwlib.murdoch.edu.au:8088/ecolln/type/jnls/murdoch/elaw/elaw.html>. To subscribe to *E Law* send the message "subscribe elaw-j" (not including the quotation marks) to: [Majoromo@cleo.murdoch.edu.au](mailto:Majoromo@cleo.murdoch.edu.au). That done you will get a reply, as with subscribing to most Internet lists, which provides information about how to unsubscribe, how to send information and messages to other subscribers, and how to get hold of articles from the Journal - a fairly straightforward process. Subscribers automatically receive by email the table of contents of each issue of the Journal as it is published.

## *Availability*

Unlike other journals, Bond University's *High Court Review*, for instance, *E Law* is not published in print. It is only available electronically. According to the information provided at the Journal's "home page", it is published in ASCII text format and is available via email, gopher, ftp and web link. There are plans to publish the Journal in a variety of additional formats, including WordPerfect, Microsoft Word and Lotus AmiPro. There is apparently no charge involved in either accessing or retrieving articles.

## **Gopher Menu**

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-  [E Law - Volume 1 Number 1 \(1993\)](#)
  -  [E Law - Volume 1 Number 2 \(1994\)](#)
  -  [E Law - Volume 1 Number 3 \(1994\)](#)
  -  [E Law - Volume 1 Number 4 \(1994\)](#)
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Figure 1: Click on any of the issues listed to view the contents

I welcomed the opportunity to undertake a review of *E Law*, primarily because it had been on one of my many "to do" lists for a long time. As with so many wondrous Internet sites that one hears about or learns of through the many messages that arrive daily from lists like Int-Law, the problem is finding the time to "go in" and have a look. There is never enough time! And the problem with an electronic journal site is that, unlike for example a site with the text of judgments, treaties or press releases - specific information - there is no reason per se to enter it. This "problem" will be overcome when the articles located at electronic journal sites are indexed by the mainstream journal indexes. ALI (Monash Law Library's *Australian Legal Literature Index*) has just started to index *E Law*.

### Contents

So, what do you find when you access the *E Law* journal? Well, as of November 1995, there have been six issues published. The tables of contents of these may be viewed in a separate file and abstracts may also be viewed separately. The articles published in the Journal are wide-ranging and the usual sort of mix that one would expect to find in any issue of a typical university law school journal. Volume 2, Number 2 (July 1995) for instance, includes such offerings as "Should gambling gains be taxed as income?", "Refusal to consent to treatment on religious grounds" and "Land ownership in Nauru". All of these would be of interest to academics and students at Monash. The Journal also included computer-related articles like, "Practical strategies for using computers in legal education" and "Multimedia content and the super highway: rapid acceleration or foot on the brake?" Both of these would be of interest to academics and libraries.

Another earlier issue in 1995 focussed on Mabo (see Figure 2)

<p>VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1 APRIL 1995</p> <p>TABLE OF CONTENTS (filename of this document v2no1 contents)</p> <p>EDITORS' NOTE This number focuses on Indigenous Peoples' Legal Issues and is the first of what may become a series of theme issues of <i>E Law</i>. The contents have been coordinated by Catherine J Forns, Lecturer in the School of Law at Murdoch University. This document first lists the titles of all articles in this issue followed by additional information on each including an abstract and information on how to obtain the full text.</p> <p>(Hint: search for "" to move from item to item listed below.)</p> <p>NETWATCH</p> <p>Network News - Indigenous Resources Available on the Net</p> <p>CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS</p> <p>Milpurruru &amp; Ors v Indofurn Pty Ltd &amp; Ors - Protecting Expressions of Aboriginal Folklore Under Copyright Law</p> <p>Applying the Native Title Act 1993</p> <p>Current Developments - A Report on Aboriginal Women and Bias in the Western Australian Justice System</p> <p>Racial Vilification and ICERD in Australia</p> <p>Constitutional Validity of the Commonwealth's Native Title Regime Confirmed</p> <p>The State of Western Australia v The Commonwealth</p> <p>Providing a Sustainable Economic Land Base for Aboriginal Populations</p>	<p>MATERIALS FOR COMMENT/WORKS IN PROGRESS</p> <p>Justice at Last or Just More of the Past - An Evaluation of the British Columbia Treaty Commission</p> <p>Implementing Self-Government - An Examination of the Aboriginal Communities Act (Western Australia)</p> <p>Learning About Survival From Survivors: Monahk Environmental Communicative Action</p> <p>Resuming Self-Government in Indian Country: From Imposed Government to Self-Rule Inside and Outside the United States of America</p> <p>Legislative Responses to "Mabo" - Rendering the Law Unconscious</p> <p>REFEREED ARTICLES</p> <p>Indigenous Peoples and Language</p> <p>The Impact of the Doctrine of Cultural Relativism on the Australian Legal System</p> <p>A Poststructuralist Consideration of Property as Thin Air - Mabo: A Case Study</p> <p>An Opportunity Lost for Aboriginal self-determination: Australia's compliance with ILO 169</p> <p>The National Native Title Tribunal: Compensation Issues - A Discussion Paper</p> <p>Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in the Resolution of Comprehensive Aboriginal Claims: Power Imbalance Between Aboriginal Claimants and Governments - Negotiation</p> <p>(COPYRIGHT POLICY)</p> <p>ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS</p>
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Figure 2: Library contents for volume 2 number 1

One of the drawbacks of the first list of contents is that only the titles of the articles are listed and not the authors, so readers do not have all the essential information until they scroll through the following screens. The articles are then listed separately with abstracts

For the purposes of this review, I accessed the article in the July 1995 issue on using computers in legal education, referred to above, by Myles McGregor-Lowndes and Alan Davidson. It appeared instantly on my screen, providing first full abstract information and then a "Copyright Policy" statement which indicated that the article was protected under the *Copyright Act 1968* and that ownership vested in the authors and/or *E Law*. The statement further noted that *E Law* and the authors "grant a license to those accessing *E Law* to call up copyright materials onto their screens and to print out a single copy for their own personal non-commercial use subject to proper attribution of *E Law* and/or the authors"

As I had accessed *E Law* using Netscape, I simply clicked the "print" function and moments later the article, nicely formatted and easy to read, emerged from my printer. Further information is provided in the instructions given to subscribers and at the start of each article about retrieval using email and ftp.

In sum, the only difference between *E Law* and any other refereed university law journal is that *E Law* does not appear in print. It is purely electronic. Aside from that it contains important, useful and interesting articles. With the right, and now standard equipment, it is easy to access and easy to retrieve from. The only drawback has been the fact that up until recently *E-Law's* contents have not been indexed. That situation has now been remedied.

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## *E Law: Murdoch University Electronic Journal of Law*

A more detailed explanation of how *E Law: Murdoch University Electronic Journal of Law* is published, is provided in [Announcement](#).

Information about the [Contents](#) of this publication and [Instructions](#) for accessing it are also available.

At present the journal is only available in text format and this Server points at the Library's Gopher Server menus, not at hypertext documents. Some files available as WordPerfect documents, and not as text, are only accessible via anonymous FTP.

This content of *E Law* journal is categorised as follows:

- [Current Developments](#)
- [Material for Comment](#)
- [NetWatch](#)
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[Murdoch University Library Web Server administration inquiries to: \*web@portia.murdoch.edu.au\*](#)

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Figure 3: First screen of *E Law*