

REFERENCE

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Guide to Overseas Statutes in the National Library of Australia.

2nd edn, Canberra, National Library of Australia, 2000

<http://www.nla.gov.au/guides/law/>

The new edition of this work, originally published in 1992, is available on the National Library's website to enable future regular updating. The Guide contains statutes and subsidiary legislation for over 150 countries and lists materials in hardcopy or microform, all of which are held as serials or monographs in the National Library's collection. Often it is hard to find statutes in the Library's catalogue as not all are fully catalogued. The Guide is therefore an essential tool when trying to locate Australian holdings for overseas statutes. More Asian countries have been added to this edition of the Guide which currently lists Asian jurisdictions up to the letter 'S', with plans to add more Asian countries in the near future.

The Guide is arranged alphabetically by jurisdiction and includes historical outlines for countries which have undergone major political changes. There are 'see references' from earlier or alternative country names. Acts are listed first followed by subsidiary legislation.

More than just a book

The Guide is more than just a book with its website offering legal reference assistance. Users may send to listed email addresses for advice on whether or not particular laws are held in the National Library. There is also information on obtaining photocopies of these laws through document delivery. Instructions are given on how to find other Australian libraries' holdings of statutes through the Australian Libraries Gateway or by searching *Serials in Australian Libraries* (SIAL).

Internet access to statutes

The trend to make primary legal materials available through the web is acknowledged by listing the major Australian sites *AustLII* and *SCALEplus*, as well as a number of chief international sites – *Findlaw* and Cornell's *Legal Information Institute*.

The first edition of this work has been an invaluable little tool in the repertoire of Australian legal reference works. In the search

to identify an elusive overseas statute it is always reassuring to reach for 'that thing put out by the National Library' and to frequently find mention of the statute. An online version of the Guide will be more easily integrated into the electronic interface to statute law and as such is most welcome. Currency and the email address for further information should also prove a bonus.

The 1992 Guide was prepared by **Biruta Udris** and we are indebted to **Roy Jordan** and **Rod Stroud** for the new 1999/2000 edition. The website is maintained by **Anna Skurowski**, Senior Librarian (Law), National Library of Australia. Her email address is askurows@nla.gov.au

Current Index to Legal Periodicals (CILP) & SmartCILP

<http://lib.law.washington.edu/cilp/scilp.html>

Index to Legal Periodicals & Books is a longtime mainstay of most English-speaking law libraries in both its hardcopy and, since the late eighties, the electronic versions. Librarians may be less familiar with *Current Index to Periodicals (CILP)* which provides topical access to approximately 475 (chiefly US) law school reviews and other selected legal journals under 100 subject headings. *CILP* also provides full tables of contents of all journals indexed. This not-for-profit publication has been prepared on a weekly basis by law

librarians and staff of the Marian Gould Gallagher Law Library at the University of Washington since 1948

CILP is available four to six weeks before *Index to Legal Periodicals* and aims to provide researchers with a fast, up-to-date and cost-effective current awareness tool. *CILP* is available in hardcopy, it can be delivered via email or subscribers may choose to have *CILP* entries placed on their institution's website.

SmartCILP is a fee-based service that provides automated personalised email delivery of *CILP*. Subscribers set up a *SmartCILP* profile which includes a selection of topics plus journal titles for table-of-contents (TOC). Subscribers receive an email message each week that focuses only on the subject headings and journals they selected in their profile. The email message is clearly marked as '*SmartCILP*' to allow easy identification and review of results. *SmartCILP* profiles can be changed each week, allowing subscribers to tailor the delivery to their changing research needs.

Researchers can opt to purchase articles for around US\$15 and details of this service are provided at the end of each weekly mailout. Pricing details for *CILP* and *SmartCILP* (including site licenses) are available on the University of Washington Law School's website

<http://lib.law.washington.edu/cilp/pricing.html>

Contact **Muriel Quick**, email for more details: cilp@u.washington.edu. Muriel is very helpful!

SmartCILP at Murdoch University

Research funds from the Law School were used to purchase a non-commercial site license to *SmartCILP*. This followed cancellations of most hardcopy titles that are now available electronically. There was concern amongst some Law School staff that without access to latest issues of journals they would no longer keep abreast of the developments in both their specialised research areas and in more general areas of the law. These are valid concerns and a number of table-of-contents services were investigated including the Tarlton Library at the University of Texas

http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/tallons/content_search.html

and *FindLaw's* University Law Review Projects

<http://www.lawreview.org/>.

Both these services, which are free, are extremely useful. However *SmartCILP* was chosen because of its capacity for personal customisation and automatic delivery

Feedback from staff who have submitted profiles to *SmartCILP* is positive. They report relevant retrievals followed by mostly successful searching for the full text of the articles on one of the electronic databases to which the Library subscribes (e.g.: *lexis.com*). The only negative comment has been about the

US bias of the journal coverage (cf titles on *Index to Legal Periodicals*). *SmartCILP* has proven a worthwhile investment and helps researchers keep up-to-date in an increasingly electronic environment.

LawNow <http://www.cmck.com/index.html/>

LawNow is an alerting service produced by the UK law firm CMS Cameron McKenna, which on its website describes itself as an 'international law firm' with 'global' interests. *LawNow* is a free service and emails subscribers up-to-date information and analysis on a wide range of legal topics. To subscribe to *LawNow* visit the CMS McKenna website and fill out a subscription form and a subject profile (hint: select topics carefully, otherwise you will receive copious emails). The list of subjects is detailed: Acquisitions finance, ADR/mediation, Advertising & marketing, Africa, Arbitration, Asia, Asset finance & leasing, Aviation & aerospace . . . to . . . Telecoms, Transport, United States, Water, Western Europe.

Emails arrive almost daily and contain up-to-the-minute news on these specialist areas. They are not usually more than one or two screens so are reasonably easily reviewed. They frequently contain reference to government reports and statutes. The header on each email clearly identifies it as *LawNow* and it should be possible to arrange a filter to collect them into a batch for

reviewing at a later time (so as not to disrupt the workflow)

Some examples of topics received during April 2000 are

- Woolf - a year on: case management,
- VAI: Transfer of property as a going concern,
- Bellmex International v British American Tobacco,
- Website dangers: ignore complaints at your peril,
- Property things you once knew but may have forgotten, and
- Unfair dismissal of striking workers

Archives

The website has access to a comprehensive archive of news analysis and a retrieval facility,

plus electronic publication of summaries and newsletters and notification of seminars and training programmes. CMS McKenna is a UK law firm so much of the material retrieved has a very UK bias: even the more global and international topics are understandably from a British viewpoint. From the perspective of an Australian academic law library much of this information is not particularly pertinent. However law librarians and practitioners associated with law firms with an interest in the UK and European legal and business events may well want to consider subscribing to *LawNow*

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National conference

Time flies and it is time to think about the next conference as it is only a year away. Tasmania is a great venue, so why not start saving now to make sure the conference is a sell out! The details are as follows :

11th National Library Technicians Conference
28-31 August 2001

Theme: *An information odyssey*

Venue: The Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart

The conference organiser is Mures Convention Management

Ph: (03) 6234 1424 Fax: (03) 6234 4464

Email: conventions@mures.com.au



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