

Sue Poynton

Column Coordinator

Ministry of Justice, Perth

Ph: (08) 9264 1493 Fax: (08) 9264 1080

Email: poyntons@justice.moj.wa.gov.au

SOUTH AFRICA

Shirley Schröder, Law Leader at the Law Service Unit in the Library of the University of Pretoria has written to tell us of their interesting library (and extends an invitation):

Ours is a very busy law library serving a diverse, lively and colourful multicultural and multinational student group. Do come and visit us if you should be so fortunate as to find yourself in Pretoria. Or you can visit our website at:

<http://www.up.ac.za/asservices/ais/ais.htm>

Within the main library, known as the Academic Information Centre, is housed the Law section which serves the university staff and students in general, and the Law Faculty staff and students in particular. We have about fifty academic staff and 2200 law students. Tuition is given in two of the official languages, namely English and Afrikaans

The Law section has eight permanent staff and four part-time assistants. We have the usual

collection of statutes, Government and Provincial Gazettes, local and foreign law reports, local and foreign periodicals, monographs, etc. For local material we search online on a system called Sabinet, as well as the databases compiled by the publishers Jutas and Butterworths. For our final year, postgraduate students and researchers we have access to Legaltrac, Austrom, Index to Legal Periodicals, Australian, Canadian, and USA databases, Dominion Law Reports, LEXIS-NEXIS, OCLC, British Lending Library, etc. In the law section we have fourteen online public access computers for the law students.

The Law Faculty has several centres of which some background is given below - see also their web page

<http://www.up.ac.za/academic/law/Centres.htm>

The Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria

The Centre was established in 1986 and engages in the study, protection and promotion of human rights and the fostering of a human rights culture, mainly through research, technical assistance with legislative change, training on professional and grass-roots levels, conferences and seminars, the rendering of legal advice, internship programmes for law Students, a moot court competition and a student volunteer development project. Special

focal areas are women, human rights law in Africa and socio-economic rights.

The Centre for Child Law

The objective of the Centre is to establish, by means of inter-departmental, inter-university and international collaboration, a centre of expertise with the ability to contribute within its means to establish and promote the best interest of children in the South African community at large, and on each level thereof, particularly insofar as these interests pertain to the legal position of the children.

The Centre for Advanced Corporate and Insolvency Law

The main focus of this Centre is to do research on Insolvency and Corporate Law Reform. We have an established international network of specialists in the field. We participate in the training of insolvency practitioners. We also participate in advanced courses in Company Law and the Centre has recently introduced a short course in International Insolvency Law.

Shirley Schröder

Leader, Law Service Unit

Library, University of Pretoria,

South Africa

Email: schrodes@ais.up.ac.za

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Setting up the South Hedland Justice Complex Library

Despite the threat of Cyclone Ilsa, the Attorney General Peter Foss officially opened the South Hedland Justice Complex in December 1999. The complex consists of many state-of-the-art facilities such as separate magistrates and jury courts, a judicial library, registry and rooms for mediation and interviews. The library supports the role of both the resident Magistrate and visiting judges of the Supreme and District Courts of Western Australia.

From 11 to 12 October **Lynne Lyon**, Manager of the Ministry of Justice Library Network and Senior Librarian **Kerry Mills** visited the complex to unpack and re-shelve the court library collection. Packing and transportation of the collection from its previous site in Port Hedland had been carried out in the week before their visit. Their job also entailed training a member of the court staff to maintain the library when the librarians had returned to Perth.

On their arrival, Lynne and Kerry were faced with a mountain of very large and heavy boxes that had been stacked neatly to the height of the shelves. Before work could commence, the boxes had to be moved in order to gain access to the shelves. There were no trolleys available so all material had to be handled manually.

During the two-day visit the librarians unpacked, carried, re-organised and labelled the entire collection and completed a stocktake of the textbooks and updated legislation. This work was undertaken amidst the confusion of the first week of operation in the new complex, where even the location of power points was a mystery, and a District Court sitting was imminent.

Three years before the move a stocktake had been completed in the old location and a large quantity of superseded material had been discarded. The new premises are very different to the previous accommodation where library books were covered in red dust and insects abounded amongst the glass-covered bookcases.

From a library perspective the new accommodation is excellent and will support growth of the collection for at least five years. The adjacent reading and study area has been cabled so that computerised legal research facilities can be set up as and when funding permits.

COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS & CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Legislation of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island is now available on SCALEplus.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands

<http://scaleplus.law.gov.au/html/cocosord/browse/IOC.htm>

Christmas Island

<http://scaleplus.law.gov.au/html/chrisord/browse/IOC.htm>

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