

Subject Level Collection Statement: Law

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Academic Liaison: Law Library Liaison Committee

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1. Purpose of the Statement

The purpose of this statement is to provide a framework to guide the collection development and management activities for Law. The statement supports the teaching, learning and research activities of Law within the Faculty of Law.

This statement is developed in accordance with the principles outlined in the University's [Collection Development and Management Policy \(CDMP\)](#) and [Collections Donations Policy](#).

2. Description of the Academic Subject

Law has been taught and researched at Victoria for more than 100 years. More information on the Faculty and its programs can be found on the Victoria Faculty of Law [website](#).

Law is offered through a number of undergraduate and postgraduate streams.

- Bachelor of Laws (LLB) - a four-year programme for those wishing to pursue a career as a law professional.
- Bachelor of Laws with Honours (LLB(Hons)) - an alternative program for high achieving students, by invitation only.
- The Graduate Certificate in Law (GCert Law) is a flexible programme that offers students an opportunity to study Law at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.
- Master of Laws (LLM) is undertaken by coursework, dissertation and coursework, or by thesis.
- PhD - The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Law is the highest level of qualification offered by the Law School.

In the 2013 PBRF evaluation, the Victoria University Faculty of Law was the [number one](#) ranked law school in New Zealand for research quality.

3. Focus of the Subject

The study of law demands an excellent command of English, in-depth discussion and critical analysis. Law as it is taught at Victoria is a highly diverse subject; a list of the courses offered by the Law School can be found [here](#), areas of faculty research may be viewed [here](#).

Research opportunities at the Faculty are enhanced by the following established instruments:

- [New Zealand Centre for Public Law](#)
- [New Zealand Centre for International Economic Law](#)
- [VUW Law Review](#)
- [New Zealand Journal of Public and International Law](#)
- [VUW legal research papers](#)

4. Overview of the Current Collection

Collection development is driven by the teaching and research needs of the Law Faculty. The majority of the Law Collection is held at the Law Library at the Pipitea Campus. There are some law resources at the K classification at the Kelburn Library. There is also interdisciplinary material in areas such as Criminology, Politics and International Relations held at the Kelburn Library.

The Law Collection consists mainly of statutes, treaties, case law, textbooks, research papers, loose-leaves and serials from the New Zealand and international perspectives. These are provided through both print and digital means. Databases form an integral part of the Law collection with many key commentaries, thousands of journals and case law reports available via online platforms.

The Law Collection has a number of unique points of difference in terms of its collections of Pacific resources, French and German resources, its Mauritius and Seychelles' collections, its United Nations depository status and a number of historically significant and donated collections.

Series

A core strength of the collection lies in its series collections.

Statutes and case law are available in print and through our online databases. New Zealand is the primary jurisdiction of interest but the Library also has a long established collection of series for the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada.

Journal and law review commentary is an important aspect of legal research. The library maintains a strong collection of journal titles through print subscriptions and particularly online databases. The mechanisms of publishing in digital format allow for greater commentary and debate on quickly changing areas of law, statutes and case law.

Databases

Databases are an integral part of the collection. Online platforms are often the preferred method and format of legal publishing and contain the most current and up to date resources. A full list of over 60 databases relevant to legal research is maintained on [Victoria's database resource](#). Databases key to the Law Collection are LexisNexis NZ, Westlaw NZ, HeinOnline, Westlaw International, LexisNexis Academic and JustCite.

Books

Books make up a significant part of the law collection. As secondary sources, they play a leading role in legal research as they enable better understanding of the law and serve as entry points to primary legal resources. The University uses the Library of Congress classification system in which resources are shelved by political jurisdiction; therefore resources related by subject are shelved across all three book floors. The range and number of eBooks is increasing.

Loose-leaf

Loose-leaf titles make up a small but significant resource within the law collection. The current collection of print titles presents some challenges in terms of management of updates and access. Publishing in this format is trending towards online access and this is the preferred format for the loose-leaf collection.

Reference

The reference collection contains both print and digital works such as legal dictionaries, encyclopaedias and style and citation guides.

Māori and Pasifika Collections

Traditionally Māori and Pasifika resources have been shelved within the general Library collections. Recently some areas of the library have been developed, for example Te Kauwae Parāoa, the Māori and Pasifika study space and reference collection in the Law Library.

The Māori reference collection reference consists of some general texts on land law, Waitangi Tribunal Reports and Māori Land Court Minute Books. The need for a core collection of general Māori resources, particularly around the concepts of Tikanga and Whakapapa has been identified; in addition to the expected growth in Māori legal issues and research in post treaty settlement.

The Pasifika resources are a rare and extensive collection which has been developed by the Law Faculty. As Pacific resources are difficult to acquire, this unique collection marks a point of difference for the University. The Library will actively look for any additions or developments that can be made to this collection.

The Law Subject Librarians work with the Faculty, Kairauhi/ Māori Subject Librarian and the Pasifika Library Navigator/ Subject Librarian to investigate and develop these collections and areas further.

Historic and rare resources

The Law collection contains a number of historic and rare items, developed through active collection development, faculty research interests and donations. Some donations have come from notable figures such as Sir Robert Stout and Frederick Stroud. Examples include a 1st edition set of Halsburys Laws of England; Irish Reports; substantial case law and textbook collections in the French and German languages and Pacific Island statutes.

United Nations

Victoria University of Wellington is the only university to have been designated as UN depository library within New Zealand or Australia. As a UN depository, the Library holds a

significant collection of materials. Through donations the collection also includes General Assembly Official Records from the first session onwards, and Trusteeship Council documents from 1950. From 2005, the Library became a 'regular depository' as many UN documents can now be retrieved digitally. Pre-1993 documents are accessed via print indexes, and in the process of digitisation. Documents from 1993- are indexed and may be accessed via the United Nations library catalogue called [UNBIS net](#).

5. Collection Development Guidelines

Refer to [section 4.3](#) in the Collection Development and Management Policy (CDMP).

Collection levels are also described and defined in [section 4.5.2](#).

The table below provides an outline of the law collection. The Library uses the Library of Congress classification system which divides legal topics according to jurisdiction; therefore there will be some topic repetition. The current and future collection level refers to both print and digital resources covered in the topic areas.

LC range – Broad	Subject(s)	Current Collection Level	Future Collection level
A – DT; E - HX	These ranges encompass the subject areas of; General Works, Philosophy, Psychology, Religion, History, Economics and Finance and Social Sciences. Some interdisciplinary resources may be found here but are better represented in the Central Library collections. This does not exclude any items within these ranges from being collected by the Law Library.		
DU	New Zealand – General and History	Historically, some items in this range have been classified under KUQ for law. Other ranges in here to be developed with the Kairauhi/Maori Subject Librarian.	
JC362- JC599	World state, Human Rights, Internationalism, Cosmopolitanism	Basic	Study
JF11-2112	Political institutions and Public Administration (General)	Basic	Basic
JK1 – JK9993 (shelf only goes to JK5402)	Political Institutions and Public Administration - United States	Basic	Basic
JL1- JL3899	Political Institutions and Public Administration -	Basic	Basic

	Canada, Latin America		
JN1-9292.2	Political Institutions and Public Administration - Europe	Basic	Basic
JQ1-JQ6651	Political Institutions and Public Administration - Asia, Africa, Australia, Pacific	Basic	Basic
JS113-JS8392	Local government	Basic	Basic
JV6001-9480	Emigration & immigration, International migration	Study	Study
JX- JZ6530	International law and International relations	Study-Research	Research
K1-7720.22	Law in general, Comparative and Uniform law and Jurisprudence	Basic	Study
KD51-9500	England and Wales	Study	Study
KDC51-990	Law of Scotland	Minimal	Minimal
KDE21-580	Law of Northern Ireland	Minimal	Minimal
KDK21-1950	Law of Ireland	Minimal	Minimal
KE1-9450	Law Of Canada	Study	Study
KEA1-599	Law of Canada (Alberta)	Study	Study
KEB1-599	Law of Canada (British Columbia)	Study	Study
KEN1- 599	Law of Canada (New Brunswick)	Study	Study
KEO1-1199.5	Law of Canada (Ontario)	Study	Study
KEQ1-1199.5	Law of Canada (Québec)	Study	Study
KF1-9827	United States - General	Study	Study
KJ-KKZ	Europe, History of Law	Study	Study
KL2-KLW490	Eurasia	Basic	Basic
KM1-KMY1-490	Asia (Middle East, Southwest Asia)	Basic	Basic
KNCO-KPWI-490	Asia (South Asia, Southeast Asia)	Basic	Basic
KQ2-KTZ1-490	Africa	Basic	Basic
KU1-4999	Australia	Study	Study
KUA-KUH	Pacific Area (Australia, States and Territories)	Basic	Basic
KUN499.2-999	Pacific Area (Australia, External Territories)	Basic	Basic
KUQ1-	New Zealand	Research	Research

4990			
KVC1-999	Pacific Area (Pacific Area Jurisdictions: Regional comparative and uniform law and General information)	Study	Research
KVH	Pacific Area (Pacific Area Jurisdictions, American Samoa)	Basic	Study
KVL-489	Pacific Area (Pacific Area Jurisdictions: Cook Islands - General)	Study	Research
KVN1-490	Pacific Area (Pacific Area jurisdictions: Fiji)	Basic	Research
KVR- KVV	Pacific Area (Pacific Area jurisdictions: Gilbert Islands, Marquesa Islands, Marshall Islands and Micronesia)	Minimal	Study
KWA-KWE	Pacific Area (Pacific Area jurisdictions: Pacific Islands (Trust Territory) including Mariana, Marshall, and Caroline groups (except Guam))	Basic	Basic
KWH	Pacific Area (Pacific Area jurisdictions: Papua New Guinea)	Study-Research	Research
KWL 2001-2490	Solomon Islands	Minimal	Research
KWP 1-490	Tonga, Tuvalu	Minimal	Research
KWR1-490	Vanuatu	Minimal	Research
KWW	Samoa	Study-Research	Research
KWX1-950	Antarctica	Basic	Research
KZ2-7500	Law of Nations	Study	Research
KZA1430-1694	Law of the Sea	Study	Research
KZD1002-6715	Space Law	Minimal	Basic
L-Z	These ranges encompass the subject areas of: Education, Music, Fine Arts, Language and literature, Science, Medicine, Agriculture, Technology, Military science, Naval science and Bibliography, Library science, and Information resources. Some interdisciplinary resources may be found here. Such items are better represented in the Central and other Campus Library collections. This does not exclude any items within these ranges from being collected by the Law Library.		

5.1 Languages Collected

Materials are usually acquired in English. Primary law and some secondary sources may be collected in other languages, for example French, German, Pacific languages and Te Reo Māori.

5.2 Geographical Areas Collected

The primary focus of the collection is legal material from New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom. Other areas of interest include Europe, Canada, the United States, and Pacific nations. Other geographical areas may be collected if there is an identified need.

5.3 Chronological Periods Collected

The focus is on recent and current resources, with key older resources collected where there is an identified need.

5.4 Format Guidelines

These sections are informed by [Sections 4.1 \(e\)](#) and [4.3.2](#) in the CDMP.

The collection will move towards collecting a greater number of e-resources in the future. Traditionally the study of law has been strongly print based and to some extent that will continue to be a feature of the discipline. It is anticipated there will be an ongoing demand, or lack of a suitable alternative for print resources over digital in some areas of the collection, for example significant texts or loose-leaf formats.

6. *Life-Cycle Management Guidelines*

This section is informed by [Section 4.4.1](#) in the CDMP.

Wherever possible, the potential life-cycle of new materials will be considered at the point of acquisition and accessible notes made as to continuing historical or research value.

On-going assessment, evaluation and active management of all resources in the Law library is required in order to maintain the integrity of the collection and ensure its relevance to teaching, learning and research at Victoria University of Wellington. The following sections

outline the criteria around the preservation, retention, relegation and deselection of physical library items.

See Appendix 1 for a visual representation of the life-cycle management criteria of physical library items.

Note:

Significant: defined in this statement as an important, highly influential, leading or authoritative resource.

Perpetual Access: On-going access to the content a digital resource that the Library has paid for even if a subscription ceases.

Table 1: Summary of Life Cycle Management Guidelines:

Print Resources	Retention onsite	Relegation	Deselection
Journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current subscriptions – Previous 5-15 years of a title (rolling turnover) Agreed significant titles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current subscriptions – Prior back run of a title (rolling turnover) Ceased, cancelled subscriptions, short incomplete runs or exchanges in areas no longer taught or researched 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potentially where online perpetual access exists Duplicate sets
Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed significant works 1 Previous edition to current edition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not used in 10 years (subject to SL review) Superseded editions (bar agreed works) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Items not requested from the offsite collection in 10 years (following review and consultation) Duplicate copies Items in poor condition
Case Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All NZ & Pacific, International AUS,UK,CAN 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duplicate copies
Statutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All NZ & Pacific, International AUS,UK, CAN 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duplicate copies

6.1.Preservation Guidelines

This section is informed by [section 4.4.4](#) in the CDMP.

The Law Collection includes some rare and fragile special resources. Due to age, make up and format these resources need to be maintained and stored in an environment suitable to their preservation. Some resources may therefore be transferred to the [J.C. Beaglehole Room](#), which houses the Library's unique and heritage collections. Alternatively it may be possible to digitise some resources to provide greater accessibility to them.

Some resources in the Law Collection require binding to both preserve and make them usable to clients. Damaged resources are assessed for repair or replacement by the Law Subject Librarians on a case by case basis.

6.2.Retention Statement

There are certain items within the collection that are integral for the teaching, learning and research of law. These should remain onsite. Different retention criteria will apply to different item types, as listed below.

Journals:

- Between 5-15 years, determined by currency and full text digital access, of each title will be kept onsite.

Books:

- Significant works identified in conjunction with the Law Faculty, to be marked for retention through library catalogue notes.
- The library keeps one previous edition, to its most recent edition, for textbooks in the onsite collection, unless otherwise agreed with Faculty with regards to these texts.
- Other books that have not been used in 10 years may be transferred to the offsite collection.

Case Law:

- All New Zealand & Pacific case law are kept on site.
- All Australian, English, Canadian and International case law are kept onsite.

Statutes:

- All New Zealand & Pacific statutes are kept on site.
- All Australian, English, Canadian Statutes and International treaties are kept on site.

Databases:

- The key databases identified in the overview, form an integral part of the law collection and subscriptions are maintained as long as there is teaching and research interest.

6.3.Relegation Statement

This section is informed by [Section 4.1 \(b\)](#) in the CDMP.

Resources are assessed regularly for transfer from the Law Library collection to the offsite collection using circulation statistics and other appropriate metrics. Items in the offsite collection remain part of the overall collection and can be requested and retrieved for next day delivery. The processes of relegation will be incorporated into core business as part of good collection management practice.

At this stage only secondary materials will be subject to relegation; statutes and case law will not be relegated.

Journals:

- Back runs of journal series beyond the most current 5-15 years.
- Ceased and cancelled subscriptions.
- Short incomplete runs of titles or exchanges that are in areas no longer taught or researched.

Books:

- Items that have not been used in 10 years
- Superseded textbooks

6.4. Deselection Statement

This section is informed by [Section 4.4.3](#) in CDMP.

Items for potential deselection are primarily identified from the offsite collection. The exception to this is duplicate secondary resources or secondary items in an un-repairable condition.

Resources in the offsite collection are evaluated periodically for potential deselection and/or for Journals, lodgement in the [CONZUL shared store](#).

Links to other relevant Subject Level Collection Statements

- [Criminology](#)
- [Politics and International Relations](#)
- [J.C. Beaglehole Room \(Special Materials\) Collection](#)