The Caribbean Court of Justice Library Unit provides access to information consistent with the present and anticipated research needs of the Court and its users through its various collections; the General Library, the Court Administrative Unit Library, the Judges’ Library and the President’s Library.

As part of its mission, the Court has dedicated itself to fostering “the development of an indigenous Caribbean jurisprudence”. Germane to this goal is the credibility of the judgments produced by the Court Bench and other officers. This credibility is itself predicated not only on the clarity and precision with which such judgments are composed by the judicial officers composing them. It is also premised upon the authorities, precedents and learned discussions which must inform these compositions. Thus, one of the main objectives of the Court Library Unit is to provide a collection of both archival and current legal materials.

Commonwealth Caribbean law has not usually kept pace with English law. As a result, in some subject areas such as property, bankruptcy, evidence, family, landlord and tenant, the legislation in some Caribbean countries is outdated and linked to early English statutory concepts of the first half of the twentieth century. Therefore, the superseded editions of textbooks are invaluable for a comprehensive coverage of these subject areas. There is a great demand for these materials and as a result the Library has endeavoured to acquire such whenever they become available. In this vein, the Library acquired some titles which were once part of the Privy Council Library’s Collection. These included non-current editions of Caribbean legislation and superseded editions of treatises on various legal subjects. With this acquisition, the Library was able to fill some gaps in the collection especially those in the Caribbean and archival sections.
In 2008-2009, the Library Unit continued to develop its current collection. Both print and electronic resources have been added to the collection. Access to a number of electronic sources has been facilitated via subscriptions to several online commercial databases which include Carilaw, Westlaw, LexisNexis, Justis and Hein-On-Line. Mindful of the need to facilitate comprehensive research access for the Court, the Library continued to support the needs of the Court by also providing access to inter-library loans. Approximately 144 reference and information queries were received and 98% were answered. Both collections continued to be utilized by the judges and personnel. Over 185 items were loaned and 26 inter-library loans (ILL) were processed.

Continued development of the online catalogue was also undertaken. One hundred and seventy eight (178) bibliographical records were added to the Genie Inmagic database. These records included text, articles, reports and electronic resources. These additions bring the holdings of the Main Library to over 740 titles while the Judges’ Library boasts over 450 titles. Apart from their obvious use as reference material and sources of precedents, these titles also aid the Judges’ in the production of judgments.

The CCJ Library Unit is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the records created by the Court are properly maintained, appropriately stored and easily retrieved. To ensure that the records are managed effectively to meet the Court’s business needs, staff members from the various units were trained in several areas of records management.