The Library is integral to the administration of justice as provider of legal resources. The growth and development of these resources is the single most important service, which the Library has to offer to its users. The Court and the public seeking legal information must have access to a comprehensive collection of materials that support legal research and the practice of law. To this end, the Library has continued to expand and improve its services, developed its various print and non-print collections, and introduced new electronic databases. The development of these information resources is necessary in order to build the foundations required to position the Library as one of the leading legal information institutions in the region.

Collection Development
The collection is the primary asset of any library. Patrons want a large collection of print materials, and electronic resources, which are easily accessible. They want it immediately and conveniently. During the past year, steps were taken to meet these needs with the implementation of the Library’s online catalogue and the addition of print and digital resources.

Two new electronic databases have been added to the library’s menu of online services. These include the Irish Reports published by Justis which contain the full text of published cases from 1919 and JustCite. JustCite is a legal reference search engine, which allows you to search for legal references and links to the full text in Westlaw, BAILII and Casetrack using a single interface. It covers case law, transcripts from the Courts of Appeal, Administrative Court and London’s High Court, UK Statutes and Statutory Instruments, and CELEX, the official legal database of the European Union.

Although most primary materials (statutes and case law) on other countries are freely available online, much of the Caribbean material remains unavailable. During the past year, the Library acquired the Laws of a number of Caribbean countries, both in print and digital format. Concerted efforts are being made to collect all Caribbean legal titles that are being published.
Gifts
During the year the library received several gifts which included several important additions to the Caribbean Collection. Gifts of books are gratefully received and are an important source of enrichment to the collections.

Collection Development Policy
A comprehensive draft collection development policy is being cultivated to define the Library’s collection emphasis. In light of the increasing availability of electronic resources, the Court’s dual jurisdiction, and the responsibility to provide a print collection of both archival and current primary Caribbean material. This will include selection criteria for print and electronic resources. Alternative sources of information, which need not be duplicated; such as free legal information resources available via the Internet, will be identified.

Library Services
The mission of the Library is to provide access to both legal and non-legal information to meet the needs of the Court and its customers. Access is provided through reference services using resources both in and outside of the library, and technical services.

The Library continued to assist patrons using traditional information resources such as books in combination with electronic resources. Over the counter and email reference requests have increased. Over 200 reference and information queries were received and approximately 95% were answered/filled. There has been an increase in requests for assistance from members of the public especially law students researching regional topics.

Over 250 items were loaned to judges, staff and other libraries. While over 50 items were borrowed from other libraries.

It is the responsibility of the Technical Services staff to catalogue, arrange and provide access to library materials and electronic resources. Legal materials are unique in that the effectiveness of legal research demands that legal reference materials are kept up to date. Much of the Library’s collection requires frequent and continuous updating in the form of supplements – bound and loose-leaf bound volume replacements, and more. Over 20 titles were updated.

Above:
Assistant Librarian, Sheryl Washington-Vialva assists a patron at the Library.
In November 2006, the online catalogue was fully implemented and over 450 bibliographical records were added. These records included texts, journal articles and electronic resources. After this initial upload, the library continued to develop the catalogue to allow users proper access to the collection. The catalogue will be further enhanced with the addition of the electronic titles that are available on Hein Online, LexisNexis and Westlaw.

The Library staff continued the transition to the Inmagic Genie library system software. Most day-to-day tasks in cataloging, acquisitions and serials control, are now performed via the Inmagic Genie modules. The staff also attended training sessions to hone their Inmagic Genie skills.

Publications

Current Awareness Bulletins
During the period, the Library expanded a number of its services to make its patrons fully aware of new acquisitions. The Library produces two current awareness bulletins. One deals with texts and new legislation received from the various Caribbean countries. The other contains contents pages in PDF format of journals and law reports received at the Library. These enhancements provide patrons with up-to-date information on resources received by the Library. The bulletins that are published bimonthly have been placed on the server and in-house patrons can access them via short cut icons on their desktops.

Guides
The Library commenced work on preparing library guides on legal subject areas, and for the use of digital resources and online web services. An introduction to these services is often necessary, or simple instruction on their use is required because each of the vendors uses slightly different software. The guides can be found in the Library and will also be available electronically on the library’s web page when it is launched.

Serials Holding List
The Library also commenced work on devising a number of tools to help patrons locate materials. The Serials Holding List will be a complete listing of all law journals and other periodicals subscribed to by the Library both in print and electronically. It will include such information as current holdings, missing volumes, call numbers and location, that is, whether in the Library or on a commercial database such as HeinOnline, Westlaw or LexisNexis. Once completed it will be placed on the integrated library system.

Facilities
Installation of library shelving in all three locations was completed in 2007. All books were removed from storage and are now shelved in the correct location.

The Library continued to face challenges in the care and preservation of its collection in the Main Library. Soon after its move, there was an outbreak of mold on certain sections of the collection. An air quality assessment was conducted and the recommended corrective measures were implemented. However, there are still some challenges.
Continuing Staff Development and Training

The Library continues to place a high priority on professional development and has devoted resources for staff to attend training and seminars. Staff members are also very active in professional associations on the local, regional and international level.

Library staff attended the annual meeting and seminar of the Caribbean Association of Law Libraries (CARALL), which was held in Saint Lucia over the period June 25 – 28, 2007. This was the second time that the Conference/AGM was held in St. Lucia as there was a previous meeting in 1999. The theme was “Raising the Bar: Caribbean Law Librarians on the Move” and like the previous year, there was a continued focus on change and the way libraries and librarians could improve and develop legal information services in the region.

Sheryl Washington-Vialva, the Court Library Assistant, attended the Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL) conference in Ottawa, Canada from May 6-9, 2007. The theme was “CAPITALising on change” and presentations focused on the technological changes in libraries and the new ways of doing business.

The Librarian attended a two-week training course on Judicial Records Management at RIPA International in London. The course covered the key principles of records management and how they apply in the 21st century.

The staff also received further training in Westlaw.