Supporting the Court in Promoting and Protecting the Rule of Law

Court Library Services
The Library continues to provide the Court and its users with access to comprehensive and current legal materials and resources in an efficient and timely manner. By providing ready access to legal information, the library fulfills a fundamental role in preserving access to justice.

**COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT**

The focus during the past year has been the continued enhancement of the range of information resources and services available to our patrons. The demand for up to date legal material in all formats as well as for old and in some cases out of print material has defined the Library’s collection emphasis.

The Library continued to develop its archival collection, which consists of out of print material, rare books and older material still relevant for the interpretation of law. During the past year, a number of older monographs on Roman-Dutch law as well as the Civil Code of St Lucia have been added to this collection. Arrangements have been made with second-hand book dealers to supply these materials when they become available.

The collection was also bolstered by the addition of several Caribbean titles. Among these were back issues of the West Indian Law Journal, new legal monographs and some biographical titles on prominent Caribbean jurists.

There has also been a demand for non-legal Caribbean material and a special collection has been developed to meet this need. This collection includes among other material, titles on prominent leaders, CARICOM, integration, and sustainable development. During the period, about twenty titles have been added to this collection.

Achieving a balance between print and electronic resources is critical to developing a dynamic library collection. Access to journals is provided mainly through the Law Library Journal service on Hein Online. Access to law reports and other titles is provided through Westlaw, LexisNexis and LexisNexis Butterworths and other databases. These are supplemented by a number of print resources. During the past year, the library has had to rationalize its collection because of the escalating cost of legal material and in some instances, has relied on online copies in preference to print subscriptions. Also, it increased its repertoire of electronic resources by providing access to additional titles on Hein Online, Justis and other databases.

**Gifts**

During the year, the Library received a number of donations, which enhanced the quality of the collection. The most significant was received from Thomson Legal & Regulatory Ltd and the High Court of Australia, which donated a set of Commonwealth Law Reports in recognition of the establishment of the Court.
LIBRARY SERVICES

Easy access to information is one of the primary goals of any library. To this end, the Library continued to develop its online catalogue system, Inmagic, to allow users to mine the resources of its collection. In addition to the bibliographical information that has been added, access to full texts of articles is also being added to the library’s catalogue. Thus clients will not only know what is available and where it can be found, but they will also have access to the item from their desktops. A total of 258 bibliographical records were added to the Genie Inmagic database. These records include text, articles and electronic resources.

The Library continued to support the research needs of the Court by sourcing and supplying material. Approximately 291 reference and information queries were received and 98% were answered. Over 170 items were loaned and 41 interlibrary loans were processed.

The library completed its Serials Holding List, which is a complete listing of all law journals and other periodicals subscribed to by the library both in print and electronically. It includes titles on Hein Online, Westlaw and LexisNexis, other databases as well as print holdings in the Library. This list will be placed on the Library’s Intranet.

The Library continues to add helpful links to aid the users in accessing legal resources. A useful feature added to the Intranet has been central access to the library’s entire web based subscription databases which include Lexis-Nexis, Westlaw, LexisNexis Butterworths, Hein Online, and Justis. The Library continues to enhance its “interactive” Current Awareness Bulletin which has proven to be very useful in searching through the new acquisitions list as well as legislation received from throughout the region.

CONTINUING STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

The value of a library is often expressed by the quality of its collection, but equally valuable is the staff’s ability to use the resources of the collection to locate pertinent information. Our staff is relatively small and all members must be ready to handle all facets of library work. To this end, staff training, professional development activities and continuing education are major priorities of the Library.

Library staff attended the annual meeting and seminar of the Caribbean Association of Law Libraries (CARALL) which was held in Jamaica. The seminar dealt with Branding, Intellectual Property, Succession Planning and Web 2.0. The Court Library Assistant, Mrs Sheryl Washington-Vialva was elected to the post of Secretary/Treasurer of the Association.

Computer training was another emphasis in 2007. Staff attended training in Microsoft Office 2007. The Court Library Assistant attended a workshop on Web 2.0. This was a hands-on session covering topics such as blogs, wikis, RSS feeds and social bookmarking. Web 2.0 is essentially a user-centered approach in the use of technology and the World Wide Web to create, package and provide information. The Library is exploring some of these tools in particular RSS feeds to improve and enhance its services.

Library staff was also exposed to other aspects of training. In March 2008, Mrs. Washington Vialva attended a Records & Information Management course presented by Lorson Resources Limited. This two-day course covered Files and Correspondence Management, Records Classification Systems, and Records Retention & Disposition.

2009 AND BEYOND

In the year ahead, we will work to ensure that the Library continues to be useful to all users searching for legal information resources, both traditional and digital. While there has been a proliferation of electronic resources, there has not been any significant reduction in availability or demand for print resources.

The Library will aim to:

- Continue to develop the collection by providing an appropriate range of print and electronic resources to meet the research needs of the Court and its users;
- Develop new services and programmes to enhance the Library’s ability to serve the needs of its users;
- Continue to add Library generated publications and research tools to the Library’s Intranet;
- Improve access to the collection by cataloguing electronic titles available in online databases and indexing articles; and
- Develop in-house databases of legislation on CCJ and other materials.