



**GRAY'S
INN**
—

Library Guide



Gray's Inn Library
5 South Square
London WC1R 5ET

020 7458 7822
library@graysinn.org.uk
graysinn.org.uk/library

Take your place

Gray's Inn Library is open to all student and barrister members of the four Inns of Court

Opening Hours

During Legal Terms:

Monday to Friday: 9:00am - 8:00pm

Outside legal terms (August to mid-September):

Monday to Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

During legal terms, one of the four Inn libraries opens every Saturday on a rota basis. Members of any Inn may use whichever Library is scheduled to be open.

Saturday Opening: 10:00am - 5:00pm

Visit the [website](#) to view the Saturday opening rota.

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A bronze statue of a man in 17th-century attire, standing in front of a brick building with a window. The man has a beard and is wearing a ruffled collar and a long coat. He is holding a staff in his right hand. The background shows a brick wall with a white window frame and some greenery.

Welcome to Gray's Inn Library

It is generally agreed that Gray's Inn was established as a place to provide training and accommodation for lawyers sometime in the 14th century. The first evidence of a dedicated "library room" dates from 1488, when six books were bequeathed to be chained there. By 1725, there were regular opening hours and a Library keeper, a role carried out by the Inn's Butler.

Today, Gray's Inn exists to educate and develop its members and to promote the rule of law and access to justice more widely. The Library supports these aims by providing full access to the primary sources of law and commentary, and maintaining a specialist international law collection on behalf of the four Inns of Court. The Library is also part of the Inn's educational programme, contributing its highly-rated legal research training and taking part in the inter-Inn teaching of legal research on the ICCA Bar Course.

Use of the Library is a lifelong benefit of membership, and its staff and resources are available to assist you throughout your career.

We look forward to seeing you.

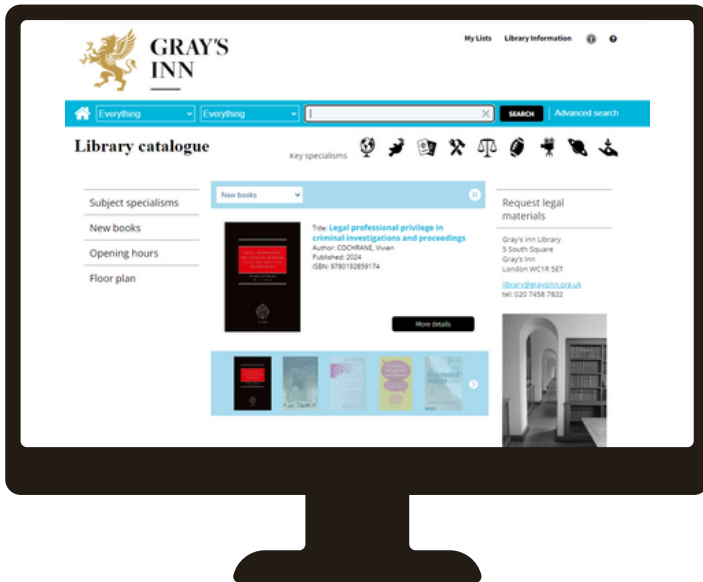


Here to Help

The Library team is on hand to assist you with all your research needs, whether you visit the Library in person or are working remotely.



The Library Catalogue



The key to all our resources, the Catalogue is available from the Library PCs or via the web at: www.graysinnlibrary.org.uk

The **Catalogue** also gathers search results from the other Inn Libraries.

It is also optimised for mobile browsing; scan the QR code below to search.



Hardcopy

We maintain a broad range of primary law and commentary, from statutes and law reports dating back to the 13th century to the latest practitioner texts, as a permanent resource for all members. We also retain a substantial collection of old editions, including historic runs of Halsbury's Laws, Archbold, the White Book and the Common Law Library.

Loan Service

We are primarily a reference library, but we offer limited borrowing mainly to allow members to copy items in their chambers or to use items overnight after the Library closes. We limit borrowing of legal textbooks and periodicals in order to maximise their availability to barristers.

Practitioner texts

Members of any Inn may borrow items for:

- One hour during the day
- Overnight from one hour before closing time
 - Books borrowed overnight must be returned by 10:00 on the next working day.

Please note the following items are reference only:

- Frequently Used items (Archbold, White Book etc.)
- Atkin's, EF&P, Halsbury's, Dictionaries
- Looseleaves
- Newspapers and unbound parts of journals or law reports
- Items held in Basement, Loft, or Librarian's Office

Benchers of Gray's Inn are entitled to borrow any items for two weeks.



The Griffin Collection, a selection of general reading titles including legal histories and biographies, are available in the Library Gallery. These titles are available for a two week loan. Please ask at the Enquiry Desk for more information.





LAW
REPORTS

FAMILY
PERSON

1998

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LAW

LAW
REPORTS

FAMILY
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1997

LAW
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LAW
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1957

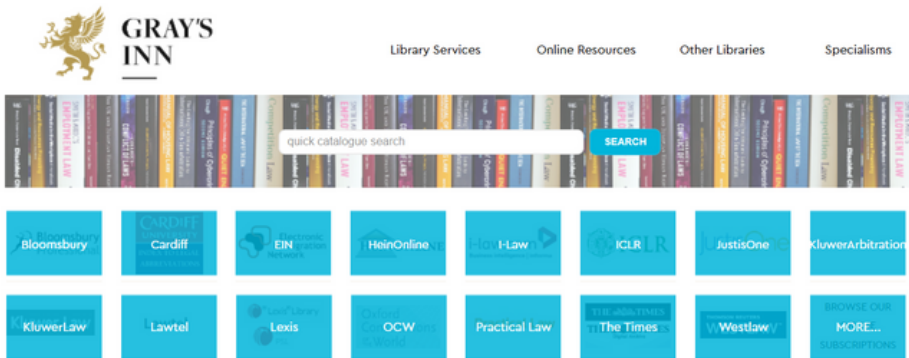
LAW
REPORTS

FAMILY
PERSON

1929

Getting Online

Wi-Fi is available throughout the Library. MS Office and printing services can be accessed via the Library PCs, together with the Library Intranet. The Intranet is the gateway to online services such as Westlaw and Lexis+ together with curated legal resources on the web and the Library Catalogue.



Accessibility

To assist the visually impaired, a dedicated workstation in Bay VII provides all IT and online services in an accessible format. Magnification of hardcopy text and conversion of text to speech are also available.

Two height-adjustable desks are available in Bays X and XIII to assist wheelchair users or those with mobility issues. Both floors of the Library are accessible by lift, though please note the Gallery is too narrow to admit most wheelchairs.

If you have any special requirements, please contact us in advance to discuss how we may best assist you.



Online Research

Lexis+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All current statutes and SIs as amended • Over 622,000 case law documents • Appeal tracker service • Commentary including Macdonald's Immigration Law, Atkin's Court Forms and Valentine: All Laws of Northern Ireland
Westlaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case law from 1220, including Criminal Appeal Reports, European Human Rights Reports • Current Statutes and SIs as amended • Index of legal terms • Legal Journals Index plus over 100 full-text journals • From Westlaw, members can also access Lawtel content such as legal updates and personal injury materials including the Judicial College Guidelines, PI calculators and Ogden tables.

Along with Lexis+ and Westlaw we provide access to a number of specialist resources including:

Electronic Immigration Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key immigration-related legislation, Immigration Tribunal determinations, key judgments from UK and European courts • 175,000 country reports
i-law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Law Reports • International Construction Law Review • Lloyd's Law Reports • Merkin on Arbitration Law



<p>Kluwer Arbitration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born on International Commercial Arbitration, Redfern & Hunter, international awards, judgments and other arbitration materials
<p>Practical Law</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concise, practical guidance across UK civil law • Multi-jurisdictional guides to law and regulation
<p>The Times and the Times Digital Archive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Times website includes exclusive online content such as The Brief as well as the most recent issues of the newspaper in web or e-reader format. • Members of Gray's Inn can also search the Times Digital Archive back to 1785 via the Library PCs. Ask at the Enquiry Desk for details.
<p>vLex Justis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case and legislation citator, gathering results from Justis, Westlaw, Lexis+and i-law • Statutes from 1235, Local Acts from 1797, SIs from 1671, all in PDF facsimile • Significant archive of unreported appeal judgments, many unavailable elsewhere



Remote Access

Members of the Inn, who are practising barristers in England and Wales, can apply for remote access to the following services:

Lexis Practical Guidance

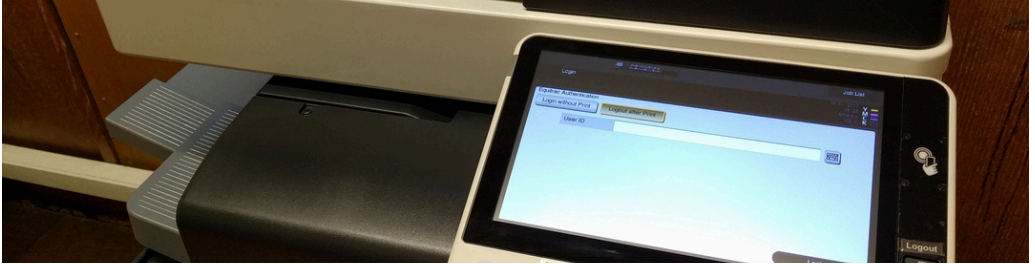
- Practice notes, precedents, forms and current awareness alerts and clear, up-to-date explanations of the law and how to apply it
- Full-text access to materials in 22 practice areas including: arbitration, construction, dispute resolution, energy, environment, immigration, local government and technology, media and telecoms

To apply, [email the Library](#). Your information will be used in accordance with the Inn's Data Protection and Privacy Policy. If you are not a member of Gray's Inn, please contact your Inn Library to inquire about remote access to Lexis Practical Guidance.

We regret that due to licensing restrictions, remote access to Lexis+ and Westlaw is not available from any Inn Library.



Printing, Copying and Scanning



Everybody using the library has access to printing, copying and scanning facilities. We have three self-service photocopier/printers, located on the main floor opposite the Enquiry Desk.

You can pay-as-you-go by collecting a card from the Enquiry Desk or for regular use you may set up an account and top up as necessary.

Printing is available from all Library PCs. You can also photocopy, and scan documents to be sent to your email.

Charges apply. We only take card payments for both pay-as-you-go and account payments.

With an account, you also can also print from your own device. to download the software to print from your own device, scan the QR code below or head to shorturl.at/sVZ78 on a laptop.



Legal Research Training

We offer **training** to support our members in developing legal research skills and using legal resources in print and online. This includes training from legal database providers.

For students on the Bar course, we provide a Qualifying Session on Practical Legal Research which runs each term. In practice-based scenarios, learners undertake research activities within the Library and receive feedback and research advice from an experienced law librarian. These sessions are intended to support their research needs as they transition from study to practice.

For GDL students new to legal research and legal materials, we offer a Qualifying Session, repeated each term, introducing the principles of practical legal research and materials which will equip them to use practitioner resources in print and online to effectively and quickly research legal problems.



We also offer bespoke 1:1 training sessions for student, pupil or barrister members. Whatever your needs – getting to grips with a database or resource, finding information on a particular topic, or simply refreshing your research skills – we will provide you with the support you need to enable you to find the answers you need quickly and effectively.



International Law

Gray's Inn Library maintains the premier collection of materials in international law available to members of the Bar.

Comprehensive coverage of public international law is provided, together with significant coverage of private international law and international arbitration.

Key resources in international law:

- The British Yearbook of International Law
- [HeinOnline](#) - Foreign & International Law Resources Database; World Treaty Library; World Constitutions Illustrated; UN Law Collection.
- The International Law Reports - hardcopy and via [vLex Justis](#)
- International Legal Materials – hardcopy and online
- The Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law

The Library also covers some foreign and comparative law, the main sources being:

- The International Encyclopaedia of Laws, via [Kluwer Law Online](#)
- [Oxford Constitutions of the World](#)



The Lauterpacht Collection of International Law

Elihu Lauterpacht was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1950. A renowned scholar and international lawyer, Master Lauterpacht died in February 2017 and bequeathed his personal international law library to [Gray's Inn](#).



This formed a major acquisition and an important supplement to our flagship international law collection.

Comprised of books, journals, law reports, pamphlets, off-prints, government publications and conference proceedings, sorting and cataloguing of the Collection is ongoing. Further information and reports on work-in-progress can be found on the website and social media channels. You can search the [Library Catalogue for Lauterpacht Collection](#) to see what has been added so far.



Document Supply Service



Wherever you are working, we can supply the primary law and commentary you need. This popular service has proved invaluable to barristers unable to visit the Library in person or who require material urgently for court.

Copies of materials for use in judicial proceedings or private research may be ordered using our [online request form](#).

We aim for same-day supply if ordering before 13:00. Documents requested after 13:00 will be supplied no later than 12:00 the next working day. Please check our [opening hours](#).

Charges for Barristers

Charges for Students

	Price per item (incl. first 20 pages)	Price per item (21 pages+)		Price per item (incl. first 20 pages)	Price per item (21 pages+)
1st item	£5	5p	1st item	£3	5p
2nd item	£2.50	5p	2nd item	£1.50	5p



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Rare Books and Manuscripts

The Library holds [24 medieval manuscripts](#). When and how the manuscripts were first acquired is uncertain; however they have been in the possession of the Inn since at least 1697 as they are listed in the [Catalogi librorum manuscriptorum Angliae et Hiberniae](#), published in that year. All the works are in Latin with the exception of manuscripts 8, 10 and part of 12.

We also have a small collection of post-medieval manuscripts, almost all on legal subjects and a collection of pre-1800 books which includes a 1477 edition of [Statham's Abridgement](#).

Accredited researchers should [make a request](#) through the Library website if they wish to consult any of the Inn's manuscripts or rare books.



The Francis Bacon Collection



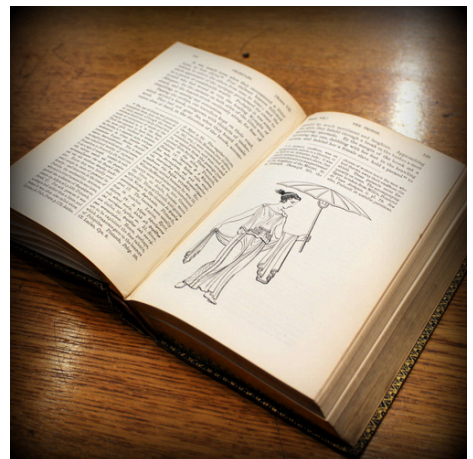
The Library also holds a substantial collection of the works of [Sir Francis Bacon \(1561-1626\)](#) with many items in the first edition. In addition to [Bacon's](#) own works there are a number of historical and critical studies addressing Bacon's cipher and the Baconian theory of Shakespearian authorship.

The collection is now fully catalogued and a complete list is available to consult on the [website](#) with items available to view upon request.

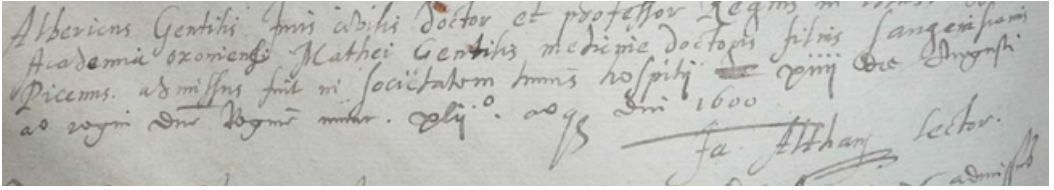
The Lee Collection

The Library holds a collection of old and rare books bequeathed by [Master Robert Warden Lee \(1868-1958\)](#), an eminent scholar of Roman-Dutch Law.

A [complete list of the Lee Collection](#) can be found on the website. Items may be consulted on request.



The Archive



The Archive of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn is a continuous record of its core activities from 1569 to the present day spanning:

- the admission, training and Call to the Bar of its members;
- the management of the Inn by its Treasurer, and board of senior members, known as 'Pension'
- the day-to-day operation of the Inn by its staff.

The Archive also holds the private papers of some of the Inn's notable past members, and of the Gainsford Trust.

Enquiries and Access

We are happy to provide information in response to historical and genealogical enquiries about the Inn and its members. Access to the Archive is by appointment only and at the discretion of the Archivist.

Images and copyright

The Inn has an extensive collection of historic photographs, portraits and other paintings. Contact the Archivist if you have any questions regarding these collections, their reproduction and copyright status.



archivist@graysinn.org.uk 02074587828





Subject Specialisms of the Inn Libraries

Non-English law and certain specialist areas of English law are divided between the four libraries.

Gray's Inn



Air & Space	Consumer Law	Entertainment & Media	Human Rights	Local Government	Social Security & Welfare
Conflict of Laws	Data Protection	Environmental Law	Immigration & Nationality	Northern Ireland	Sports Law
Constitutional & Administrative	Education	Highways	Information Technology	Planning Law	Rates & Council Tax
Construction Law	Energy Law	Housing Law	International Law	Telecommunications	

Lincoln's Inn



Agriculture	Animal Law	Channel Islands	Charities	Commonwealth	
Company Law	Conveyancing	Equity & Trusts	Insolvency	Isle of Man	
Landlord & Tenant	Parliamentary Materials	Partnership Law	Pensions	Real Property	
Succession	Taxation	Wills & probate			



All four Inn Libraries aim to provide sufficient English legal texts to meet the general needs of practising barristers and Bar students. All barristers and students are welcome to use the [specialist collections](#) at any of the Inn libraries.

Inner Temple



Armed Forces	Commonwealth	Coroners	Criminal Law	Criminology	Customs & Excise
Defamation	Family Law	Food & Drugs	Forensic Science & Medicine	Intellectual Property	Licensing
Medical Law	Mental Health	Personal Injury	Police	Prison Law	Product Liability
Professional Negligence	Road Traffic	Scotland	Sentencing		

Middle Temple



Accountancy	Agency	Arbitration	Banking	Carriage of Goods
Commercial Law	Competition Law	Ecclesiastical Law	Employment	Equal Opportunities
EU & Member States	Finance and Financial	Friendly Societies	Health and Safety	Insurance Law
International Trade	Irish Republic	Maritime & Shipping	Transport	United States





LIBRARY

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Contact us

New Books

Suggestions for new books are welcome; please email us or complete our [online form](#).


Donations

If you wish to donate books to the Library, please contact us. Donations are acknowledged with a special bookplate and announced on our [website](#).

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  @HonSocGraysInn

  (search for Gray's Inn)





**GRAY'S
INN**

We stand for you

