Western Libraries
Collections Management Policy
For Law

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Subject Librarian: Elizabeth Bruton

Purpose of the Collection

The Law collection of Western Libraries is intended to support the research activities of faculty, students and staff and the instructional requirements of the JD and graduate programs (LLM, MSL, PhD) for the Faculty of Law. The Law Library supports the legal information needs of other Western faculties and departments by acquiring appropriate legal materials and by facilitating access to legal materials not held in the collection. The Law Library supports the information needs of the local legal community and participates in resource sharing with academic law libraries across Canada.

Program Information

The academic session at the Faculty of Law is divided into three terms, comprising a period of approximately thirty weeks.

The Law Library collection supports the following programs at Western’s Faculty of Law:

JD Programs

In first year, students take seven required courses: Constitutional Law; Contracts; Criminal Law; Legal Ethics and Professionalism; Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy; Property and Torts. These are full-year courses except for Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy (Fall and January Terms only).

Upper year students are required to take three courses: Administrative Law, Corporate Law, and Civil Procedure; plus two of the following: Evidence, Income Tax, Public International Law, Trusts, plus a minimum number of elective courses to round out their program.

In January Term students in second and third year select one course from a range of optional intensive courses, many of which are taught by distinguished Visiting Professors.

Western Law offers two Areas of Concentration; one in Intellectual Property, Information and Technology Law, the other in Business Law. These optional programs permit students to specialize in a subject area for which they receive formal recognition.

Undergraduate Combined Programs

Western Law has two joint programs with the Ivey Business School: JD/Masters of Business Administration (JD/MBA) and Honours Business Administration/JD (HBA/JD).
Other combined programs are Engineering/JD, Computer Science/JD, Kinesiology/JD, Media, Information and Technoculture/JD, and Political Science/JD.

**Graduate Programs**

Master of Laws (LLM) Degree  
Master of Studies in Law (MSL) Degree (Thesis or Project Based)  
PhD Program


Individual faculty members also have research interests in many other areas of law. Some popular research areas are:

- Business Law and Taxation  
- Intellectual Property, Information and Technology  
- International, Foreign and Comparative Law

**Format**

The Law Library collects materials in print, digital, and microform formats.

**Canadian Materials**

**Canadian Legislative Collection**

The Law Library manages a collection of Federal legislative materials (statutes, bills, regulations) as well as parliamentary materials which support legislative research (debates, committee reports, Canada Gazette). While most of these items are no longer published in print, the Law Library does continue to subscribe to bound copies of the Statutes of Canada.

The Law Library continues to collect provincial legislative materials while still available in print, particularly when print materials are designated as the “official version”.

**Law Reports**

The Law Library continues to maintain print subscriptions to official law reports of the Supreme Court and Federal Courts of Canada as well as to the unofficial Dominion Law Reports and the Ontario Reports. Canadian jurisdictional and topical law reports not available electronically, continue to be collected in hard copy.

**Reference Finding Aids**

Major Canadian and Ontario digests, encyclopedias, Words and Phrases, dictionaries.
**Canadian Scholarly Law Journals**

The Law Library continues to subscribe to the major Canadian titles subject to a review of titles available online through HeinOnline.

**Canadian Loose-Leaf Services**

The Law Library collects selectively Canadian loose-leaf services based primarily on requests from Faculty to support law courses. Some loose-leaf services may be purchased as monographs, without a subscription to the updating service. Some titles, where appropriate, have been switched from print to online. Not only cost but also ease of use are taken into consideration when deciding on the format for this type of material.

**Major Canadian Treatises**

E-books are collected where available and appropriate. The main Canadian publisher of academic e-books is Irwin Law. The Law Library subscribes to Irwin Law’s e-Library, a collection of texts and series such as the popular Essentials of Canadian Law, and the Law Society of Upper Canada Special Lectures. Other legal texts in e-book format are acquired through Coutts on platforms supported by Western Libraries. Not all Canadian legal publishers are currently producing e-books on a platform appropriate for an academic setting.

**Other**

- Continuing Education Materials from the Law Society of Upper Canada. These materials are acquired through a standing order with the LSUC. They are bound and shelved in the oversized stacks.
- Unpublished casebooks prepared by our own Faculty of Law Casebooks reside on 2HR Reserve for the term and are then stored in the library’s basement storage room.

**Digital Library Collection**

- Westlaw Next: Canadian law reports published by Carswell, legal citators, digests and encyclopedias
- Maritime Law Book Online: Canadian law reports published by MLB
- CCH Online: Canadian looseleaf services and law reports, newsletters, Canadian Tax Library.
- Canadian Legislative Pulse: Federal and provincial bills, regulations, current status of bills LexisNexis Academic: Canadian case law, legislation, legal citators, digests and encyclopedias, law journals

Law Faculty and students are given access, through educational agreements with the publishing companies, to Westlaw Next, LexisNexis Quicklaw, and CCH Online.

**Non-Canadian Materials**

**United Kingdom**

- Print: encyclopedias, digests, selected law journals and treatises.
- Digital: Justis, the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting Online Library, Lloyds Law Reports Online
**United States**

Print: encyclopedias, digests, selected law journals and reviews and treatises.

Digital: Westlaw Next, HeinOnline’s core library (for journals, state statutes), CCH Intelliconnect.

**Australia and New Zealand**

Print: principal federal and state law reports; selected journals and treatises. Digital: LexisNexis Academic, Westlaw Next.

**Accessibility**

Western Libraries is committed to providing an environment for all library users to engage in research and scholarship. Accordingly, preference will be given to e-resources with interfaces that are accessible via screen readers and those which offer accessible format download options (i.e., versions that are machine-readable). Further information about research support through Western Libraries’ Accessibility Services is available at: http://www.lib.uwo.ca/accessibility.

**Language**

English is the primary language of the collection, although Quebec primary legal materials are collected in both English and French. For other jurisdictions, primarily English language materials are collected, although some French language materials on international law and civil law are included. Only in exceptional circumstances does the library acquire materials in languages other than English or French.

**Source of Publication**

Sources of publication are primarily Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, and Western Europe. Material published in other regions may be considered on request and will be evaluated for quality and relevance.

**Date of Publication**

Materials with a recent imprint date are preferred. Older material, including older editions of treatises, will be considered upon request. Older material deemed to be missing may also be replaced at the discretion of the collections librarian.

**Geographic Scope**

The Law Library collects primary and secondary Canadian legal materials. More selectively, the library acquires legal materials from the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. Materials from other common law jurisdictions and materials from individual civil law jurisdictions (other than Quebec) are not systematically collected, but such materials may be acquired in response to specific needs or requests. The Law Library also has large international law and comparative law collections.

**Chronological Period**

Legal researchers require access to the very latest information as well as access to very old information. Courts routinely rely on precedents established in the 18th or 19th century and
legislation enacted a hundred years ago may still be in force today. In addition to materials which have force of law today, an academic law library must retain and acquire materials needed for historical research. **Exclusions**

As a general rule, the law library does not collect the following:

- Unpublished casebooks from other law schools
- Facta
- Court transcripts
- Patents
- Theses and dissertations from other institutions
- Self-Counsel texts

**Related Collections and Cooperation**

The Western Libraries collection for Law is supplemented by collections in related fields, such as Business, Political Science, Women’s Studies, Economics, and History.

**Gifts**

The Law Library accepts gratefully gifts of materials in good condition which are within the scope of coverage for its collection and which the library either does not already own or does not own in sufficient depth to support teaching and research needs.

Receipts for tax purposes are issued in accordance with the Western Libraries policy for gifts. Those wishing to make donations should contact the Law Collections Librarian.

**Managing the Collection**

In order to ensure that collections remain optimally useful for our patrons, it is necessary to analyze collection usage and available space regularly. Items will need to be selectively removed from the active collection from time to time.

Serial subscriptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis and the active collection is based on a number of criteria that include, but are not limited to, a review of usage and the level to which the title supports research and/or teaching.

Duplicate items that are no longer required to support the curriculum, and damaged items that can no longer be replaced may be removed from the active collection at the discretion of the Collections Librarian. Items that are unique to Western may be transferred to a storage facility and material housed in these storage facilities is available on request through the Library Catalogue. Criteria for transfer selection include, but are not limited to, the following:

1) Outdated or previous editions of titles
2) Medium- to low-use items
3) Material that is available in alternate formats, i.e., online
4) Materials that would benefit from storage in a more controlled environment.

Consult the Law Collections Librarian for further details about these criteria.
Resources to Aid in Acquisition of Material

The majority of monograph purchases for Law are acquired through the use of a monographs profile with the book vendor Coutts/Ingram. Patrons have two avenues for becoming involved with the acquisition of materials: They can make recommendations for the collection through the online form available at https://www.lib.uwo.ca/acquire.html or they can select books through the Demand Driven Acquisition process, by automatically triggering a purchase and immediate access to previously non-owned e-books listed in our catalogue.

For New Selectors

This section is intended to provide a guide for new selectors that describes how material is selected and acquired for the subject area. It may include additional information about existing approval profiles and other methods of selection.

Given the many legal subject areas covered, along with different jurisdictions and the differences in audience (academic and practitioner, for example), approval profiles for Law are very selective. The more open profile is that created for “slip” notifications. Titles are selected based on usage of subject area, authority of author, specific requests for courses or research, newer editions of authoritative texts, etc.

It is important to review publishers’ flyers for newer editions that may not appear in Oasis as quickly as they are needed. Faculty members will also routinely hear about forthcoming titles and orders need to be placed through the publisher.

The Margaret A. Banks Room

The Margaret A. Banks Room, in honour of Dr. Margaret A. Banks, Professor of Law and Head of the Law Library from 1961-1989, houses various collections such as Law Faculty publications, Law Theses, Law School calendars, scrapbooks, and yearbooks, and a Legal Humour collection. One copy (archival treatment) of each Law thesis is kept in the Banks Room as a non-circulating copy. Two copies of each Faculty publication are ordered, with one copy going into the library stacks and one copy going into the Banks room as noncirculating and with archival treatment. This copy is also used for display in the law school’s main entranceway display cabinet.