

**Department of Attorney-General & Justice
Court Support Services and Independent Offices**

COURTS LIBRARY

**A guide to library and information
services**

May 2020

Website	(08) 8999 6583
Email	sclibrary@nt.gov.au
LIBRARY MANAGER	(08) 8999 6585
ACQUISITIONS TECHNICIAN	(08) 8999 6580
LEGISLATION CLERK	(08) 8999 6276
& E μ u	(08) 8999 6181

OPENING HOURS

The Courts Library is open from 8.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

POSTAL ADDRESS AND LOCATION

GPO Box 3946
DARWIN NT 0801

Level 6, Supreme Court Building
Mitchell Street
DARWIN NT 0800

MATERIALS HELD BY THE LIBRARY

LIBRARY CATALOGUE

The library catalogue is online, using DB/TEXTWORKS software. Access to information is available by author, title, subject and ISBN. Printouts can be made of single or multiple items.

The Dewey Decimal number for books appears in the CALL NUMBER field.

The LOCATION field shows which library holds each item: Darwin Supreme Court (D) or Darwin Local Court (M).

The catalogue is updated regularly, as new items are received.

The URL for the catalogue is - <https://ntsentencing.nt.gov.au/OPAC/>

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are arranged on the shelves by subject, the subjects being indicated by a numerical code. The particular arrangement used in the Courts Library is the Dewey Decimal Classification (21st edition).

To determine whether the library holds a particular book or what the library holds on a particular subject, reference should be made to the library catalogue.

LAW JOURNALS

The journals held by the library are filed alphabetically by title; all journals are listed in the library catalogue by title and subject.

Loose copies of law journals are kept in the Darwin library workroom until they have been bound and placed in the main journal collection. Please ask the staff for assistance with this material.

LAW REPORTS AND BOUND LEGISLATION

All law reports and legislation are filed by jurisdiction and listed in the catalogue.

NT and Commonwealth are the only jurisdictions for which the Library receives current legislation; the library relies on internet websites for current legislation from elsewhere.

Some legislation from all Australian states and overseas is held. The library holds statutes from Great Britain from 1866 to 1978.

NORTHERN TERRITORY LEGISLATION

Copies of selected individual Northern Territory Acts and Regulations currently in force are filed by title. The Legislation Clerk regularly updates and amends these acts and regulations. They also issue a legislation information sheet with details of changes in Territory legislation. The library holds a bound set of annual legislation since 1911. Some repealed legislation is also available in individual folders.

The Office of the Parliamentary Counsel produces an *Index to Northern Territory Legislation* twice a year; back copies of this Index are available in the Darwin library for reference.

Online versions of current Northern Territory Legislation and the Index can be found at -

<https://legislation.nt.gov.au/>

[Austlii](#)

COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATION

Selected Acts and Regulations have been made up into loan copies. The Darwin library also holds a complete set of bound legislation in date order from 1901 onwards.

There is an index to current commonwealth legislation which can be used to check the details of the latest reprint and amending legislation. It includes both acts and regulations. It is available on the Internet at the above address

Online versions of current Commonwealth Legislation can be found on the following webpages -

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/>

[Austlii](#)

STATE AND OVERSEAS LEGISLATION

The library holds some Annual volumes of legislation for each State and New Zealand; none of these are current. The library also holds some Reprinted Acts for New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia and New Zealand; none of these are current. Indexes for some jurisdictions are also available.

The library subscribes to the TimeBase Online service which has Commonwealth, state and territory legislation. Other online versions can be found at the various interstate Parliamentary Counsels' webpages. Most Australian jurisdictions may also be found on the Austlii webpage.

SERVICES

INTER-LIBRARY LOANS

The library has access to the holdings of other libraries in Australia via the LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA and LINNET networks and can arrange to borrow books or obtain photocopies of journal articles or court judgments from other libraries, including those interstate. If photocopies are required urgently, the material can be sent up by email.

Any charges incurred by the library when doing this for private practitioners will be passed on to the legal firm involved. Quotes for the costs involved for this can be obtained prior to the request being made.

NEW MATERIAL

The library produces a monthly "*Current Awareness Bulletin*" at the beginning of each month; the hardcopy is displayed at the front of the library near the phone books. This incorporates the content pages of all journals received by the library for the preceding month.

The "*Legislation Bulletin*" has details of the assent and commencement of NT acts as well as details of new NT regulations. It is issued on a weekly basis, provided there have been gazette notices to include.

In the past the library sent out the "*Courts Library Email Bulletin*" in the middle of each month. This bulletin included information about library news, new books, articles published in journals recently received by the library as well as changes to NT legislation and recent High Court/NT judgments. This bulletin is suspended until the library staff situation improves.

Copies of these products are available on the [Library webpage](#)

Requests to be placed on the mailing list for these publications should be sent to the library to the generic email address.

JUDGMENTS INDEX

The library issues indexes to the current decisions of the NT Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and Court of Criminal Appeal. The decisions are indexed by party, subject, cases judicially considered and statutes judicially considered.

The [indexes](#) by Parties and Statutes Judicially Considered are available online on the Supreme Court website. (Follow hyperlink by clicking on 'indexes' above)

MISCELLANEOUS

The Darwin library can prepare bibliographies of material held by the library or of material published on a particular topic, whether the material is held by this library or not. Bibliographies can include books and/or journal articles. They are indexed for articles of legal interest.

ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS

The library subscribes to several Online services or CDROM products.

Please note that not all titles are available through the courts network/Public PC in the libraries.

Where indicated, please contact the staff member at the Front Desk in the Darwin library for the CD Rom titles below on 8999 6583 or sclibrary@nt.gov.au

ONLINE ACCESS SERVICES

ALL ENGLAND LAW REPORTS (LexisNexis) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
AUSTRALIAN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW (LexisNexis) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
AUSTRALIAN BAR REVIEW (LexisNexis) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LAW REPORTS (Westlaw) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY REPORTS (LexisNexis) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
AUSTRALIAN CRIMINAL REPORTS (Westlaw) The library subscribes to this Law Report series online and they mirror the bound volumes received by the library.	Updated Frequently
AUSTRALIAN CRIMINAL TRIAL DIRECTIONS (LexisNexis) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
AUSTRALIAN ENCYCLOPAEDIC LEGAL DICTIONARY (LexisNexis) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
AUSTRALIAN LAW JOURNAL (Westlaw) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
AUSTRALIAN LAW JOURNAL REPORTS (Westlaw) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
AUSTRALIAN LAW REPORTS (LexisNexis) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
AUSTRALIAN LEGAL WORDS & PHRASES (LexisNexis) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
AUSTRALIAN PROPERTY LAW JOURNAL (LexisNexis) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
AUSTRALIAN SENTENCING (Westlaw) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically

BUILDING CONTRACTS AUSTRALIA (LexisNexis) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
BUTTERWORTHS PROPERTY REPORTS (LexisNexis) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
CARTER ON CONTRACT ONLINE (LexisNexis) This mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated Regularly
CASEBASE (LexisNexis) This is an electronic case citator with case references from major Australian law reports and legal journals. There are also some references to unreported judgments from state Supreme Courts (including NT) as well as several federal courts. A specific list of courts included and date coverage is available on request. The law reports include the major national and state series as well as some subject series. Searches can be made by party name, citation, catchwords, judicially considered statutes, court, judges, date and words and phrases.	Updated Frequently
CIVIL PROCEDURE VICTORIA (LexisNexis) This mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated Regularly
COMMONWEALTH LAW REPORTS (Westlaw) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
CRIMINAL LAW JOURNAL (Westlaw) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
CRIMINAL LAW NSW (Westlaw) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
CRIMINAL LAW QLD (LexisNexis) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
CRIMINAL LAW WA (LexisNexis) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
CROSS ON EVIDENCE (LexisNexis) This mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated Regularly
ENGLISH REPORTS (ICLR) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Not updated
EXPERT EVIDENCE ONLINE (Westlaw) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
FAMILY LAW REPORTS (LexisNexis) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
FEDERAL COURT REPORTS (Westlaw) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
FEDERAL CRIMINAL LAW (LexisNexis) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically
FEDERAL LAW REPORTS (Westlaw) This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	Updated periodically

FEDERAL OFFENCES (Westlaw)

This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.

Updated periodically

FIRSTPOINT (Westlaw)

Updated Frequently

This is an electronic case citator with case references from major Australian law reports and legal journals. There are also some references to unreported judgments from state Supreme Courts (including NT) as well as several federal courts. A specific list of courts included and date coverage is available on request. The law reports include the major national and state series as well as some subject series. Searches can be made by party name, citation, catchwords, judicially considered statutes, court, judges, date and words and phrases.

HALSBURY'S LAWS OF AUSTRALIA (LexisNexis)

Updated Regularly

This is a legal encyclopaedia which comprises a narrative statement of the law of Australia covering every subject area and all nine jurisdictions. It mirrors the paper product of the same name.

INFORMIT

Updated Monthly

This product includes databases of journal articles citations with legal and criminological content as well as social and economic references. Searches can be made across several databases simultaneously or across one only. The databases we subscribe to are

- AGIS (legal articles of relevance to Australia)
- CINCH (criminology)

JOURNAL OF CIVIL LITIGATION AND PRACTICE ONLINE (Westlaw)

Updated periodically

This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.

JOURNAL OF CONTRACT LAW (LexisNexis)

Updated periodically

This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.

JOURNAL OF EQUITY (LexisNexis)

Updated periodically

This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.

JOURNAL OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION (Westlaw)

Updated periodically

This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.

JOURNAL OF LAW AND MEDICINE (Westlaw)

Updated periodically

This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.

JUSTISONE

Updated periodically

JustisOne is a legal search engine and citatory service that cross-references case law, legislation and journal articles for the UK, Ireland and the EU

LAW REPORTS (AC, Ch, Fam, QB) (ICLR UK)

This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.

Updated periodically

LAWNOW (LexisNexis)

Updated periodically

This full-text online legislation service includes all Acts, and Regulations from all nine jurisdictions in Australia: CTH, NSW, QLD, VIC, ACT, SA, WA, TAS and NT as passed and consolidated legislation provided in electronic form, with extensive legislative histories; in the NT the legislative histories are from 2008. Full historical versions are also provided.

LAWS OF AUSTRALIA (Westlaw)

Updated Regularly

This is a legal encyclopaedia which comprises a narrative statement of the law of Australia covering every subject area and all nine jurisdictions. It mirrors the paper product of the same name.

MOTOR VEHICLE REPORTS (LexisNexis)	Updated periodically
This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	
NEW SOUTH WALES LAW REPORTS (Westlaw)	Updated periodically
This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	
NEW ZEALAND LAW REPORTS (LexisNexis)	Updated periodically
This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	
NORTHERN TERRITORY LAW JOURNAL (Westlaw)	Updated periodically
This product mirrors the paper product of the same name and published in the Northern Territory Law Reports	
NORTHERN TERRITORY LAW REPORTS (Westlaw)	Updated periodically
This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	
NORTHERN TERRITORY REPORTS (LexisNexis)	Updated periodically
This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	
PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE HIGH COURT AND FEDERAL COURT (LexisNexis)	Updated periodically
This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	
QUEENSLAND REPORTS (LexisNexis)	Updated periodically
This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	
QUICK ON COSTS (Westlaw)	Updated periodically
This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	
ROSS ON CRIME ((Westlaw) Westlaw)	Updated periodically
This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATE REPORTS (Westlaw)	Updated periodically
This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	
TASMANIAN REPORTS (Westlaw)	Updated periodically
This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	
TIMES LAW REPORTS (ICLR)	Updated periodically
This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	
TORT LAW REVIEW (Westlaw)	Updated periodically
This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	
TORTS LAW JOURNAL (LexisNexis)	Updated periodically
This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	
UNIFORM EVIDENCE LAW ((Westlaw) Westlaw)	Updated periodically
This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.	
UNREPORTED JUDGMENTS (LexisNexis)	Updated Daily
These databases contain judgments from all states and territories of Australia, High Court, Federal Court, Industrial Court and Administrative Appeals Tribunal. NT decisions are included from 1994 onwards. It is a full text database and searching can be across the database as a whole or confined to catchwords only; searching can also be confined by date or a particular court/state.	

UNREPORTED JUDGMENTS ONLINE (Westlaw)

Updated Daily

It includes judgments from the High Court, Federal Courts and State Supreme Courts. NT decisions are included from 1995 onwards.

VICTORIAN REPORTS (LexisNexis)

This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.

Updated periodically

WEEKLY LAW REPORTS (ICLR)

This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.

Updated periodically

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN REPORTS (Westlaw)

This product mirrors the paper product of the same name.

Updated periodically

CD ROM PRODUCTS

AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY (Please ask at Front Desk of the Darwin library)

This is a comprehensive dictionary of biographical information about Australian identities. It contains volumes 1-12 of the Dictionary and Australians from all fields of activity from 1788 onwards are included.

Not Updated

COMPTON'S INTERACTIVE ENCYCLOPAEDIA (Please ask at Front Desk of the Darwin library)

This is a general encyclopaedia on disk and can be used to answer general knowledge questions.

Not Updated

JUSTICE AND EQUITY (Please ask at Front Desk of the Darwin library)

This is an electronic library of publications which includes all the volumes of the reports of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (including individual death reports), the High Court *Mabo* decision, the ALRC's 1986 report *The Recognition of (Aboriginal) Customary Law*, and a few other items.

Not Updated

POLICE GENERAL ORDERS (Please ask at Front Desk of the Darwin library)

This disk is held under restricted licence from the NT Police and contains the text of the NT Police General Orders, including the Custody Manual and other documents. The Library has the disk in order to supply PGO to the Northern Territory legal profession.

Updated periodically

NETWORKS

LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA NETWORK [See all staff]

The LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA Network is a national cooperative cataloguing system which incorporates the holdings of participating Australian libraries and records from sources in Australia, Britain, Canada, USA, New Zealand and Singapore amongst others.

It can be used to compile subject bibliographies, verify details of items for ordering purposes and facilitate inter-library loans. It is important to note that it lists details about the whole of books or the names of journals; it is not an index to specific items in their content.

LINNET [See all staff]

LINNET has a database of the holdings of participating Northern Territory Libraries. The Northern Territory Library, public libraries, high school libraries and some other libraries are some of the participants.

This is available online on the Northern Territory Library [homepage](#).

INTERNET

The Public PC in the Darwin library has access to the products listed on pages 7-11 of this handbook as well as some others. Internet access on these PCs is restricted to legal research only.

General internet access is not available from the Public PC.

LIBRARY DATABASES

The library uses the DB/TEXTWORKS software to construct databases about data held within the library. These are available at <https://ntsentencing.nt.gov.au/OPAC/>

LIBRARY CATALOGUE

All books, journals and legislation are listed in the library catalogue. Access is by title, subject, Dewey number and author.

ARTICLES INDEX

An index is prepared from the current issues of journals received by the library.

GAZETTE INDEX

An index to notices in the NT Government Gazette is maintained by library staff. Current issues are indexed as soon as possible after receipt by the library and an effort is being made to index notices retrospectively. Notices are indexed by subject, legislation and date.

COMMENCEMENT DATES FOR NT LEGISLATION INDEX – NT Acts & NT Regs

Two databases are available showing the commencement and gazettal details of NT legislation (acts and regulations) from 1911-. The indexes show the act/regulation number, assent date (acts only), gazettal date of making legislation and gazettal of commencement date.

CASES INDEX

Decisions in law reports not held by the library or unreported decisions from other courts are indexed by party names, date, court, law report (if applicable), subject and judge.

JUDGMENTS NT

This database records details of the Courts of Appeal and Criminal Appeal, Supreme Court, Magistrates Courts, Local Court and NT Civil and Administrative Tribunal decisions usually with a link to the decision on the website. We also index the decisions of the Anti-Discrimination Commission, Liquor Commission, Mental Health Review Tribunal, and the Lands, Planning and Mining Tribunal (previously the Lands and Mining Tribunal)

WORK HEALTH

This database indexes the decisions handed down in the Work Health Court and by the Work Health Court/ Supreme Court/ Court of Appeal in the Work Health jurisdiction.

JUSTICES APPEALS

This database contains general information relating to appeals against sentences given by Magistrates that have been heard in the Supreme Court.

LOCAL COURT APPEALS

This database contains general information relating to appeals against sentences given by Local Court Judges that have been heard in the Supreme Court.

RACING APPEALS

The decisions of the interstate racing appeal bodies are indexed.

SUPREME COURT LIBRARY **ACCESS & LOANS POLICY**

1. PERSONS PERMITTED TO ACCESS THE LIBRARY

The following persons only are permitted to use the library when the library is open:

- (a) Judges of the Supreme Court, their Associates, Judges of the Local Court, President and members of NTCAT, Associate Judge, Registrar and CSS staff;
- (b) Persons approved by the Library Manager;
- (c) NT Legal Practitioners and Visiting Counsel and Graduate Clerks;
- (d) Full time law lecturers at CDU;
- (e) Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory; and
- (f) Librarians.

2. BORROWING RIGHTS

The following persons only may borrow select material from the library collection:

- (a) Judges of the Supreme Court, their Associates, Judges of the Local Court, President and members of NTCAT, Associate Judge and Registrar;
- (b) Legal Practitioners and Graduate Clerks on behalf of a Practitioner
And
- (c) Visiting Counsel (to be taken to court only)

3. LOANS

(a) No book shall be removed from the Library unless the authorised user shall have recorded their name and the date on the cards provided by the Library staff for the purpose.

(b) Patrons are personally responsible for library material they have borrowed.

(c) A person shall not remove from the Library the following material:

- Loose-leaf material
- Reference material
- NT Judgments (bound volumes)
- Halsbury's Laws of Australia and Laws of Australia
- Legislation (bound volumes)
- English Digest

- White Book
- Australian Encyclopaedia of Forms and Precedents
- Legal encyclopaedias
- Legal Journals (bound volumes or loose parts)

4. BORROWABLE MATERIAL

This includes:

- Textbooks
- Biographies
- Legal Humour
- Legal History.

This material will be available for loan outside the court building for a maximum of four weeks. The following people may borrow this material:

- (a) Judges of the Supreme Court and Local Court, Associate Judge and staff of Court Support Services;
- (b) Persons nominated by the Library Manager;
- (c) Legal Practitioners; and
- (d) Persons on reciprocal inter-library loan.

Textbooks in the reference collection will not be available for loan.

5. INTER LIBRARY LOANS

The following law libraries may access and borrow, unrestricted library holdings on a reciprocal inter-library loan basis:

- (a) NT Department of Attorney-General and Justice – Graham Nicholson Law Library;
- (b) NT Legal Aid Commission Library;
- (c) Other libraries at the discretion of the Library Manager. The material is to be retained in the borrowing library when in use.

6. REPLACEMENT COSTS

Borrowers will be responsible for replacement costs of any items not returned to the library.

7. REGISTRATION

All library users should be registered with the library and keep their registration current.

8. PENALTIES

Where the Library Manager is satisfied that an authorised user of the Library has failed to comply with the above rules, the Library Manager may suspend or cancel the registration as an authorised user.

THIS POLICY WAS APPROVED BY THE SUPREME COURT LIBRARY COMMITTEE IN AUGUST 1991 AND AMENDED IN SEPTEMBER 1994, JUNE 1998, FEBRUARY 2006 AND JUNE 2017