



**35th Annual Course on Law and Legal Information
Common Law Perspectives in an International Context
Keble College, Oxford. 31 July - 3 August 2016**

Visits to London law libraries - 5 August 2016

IALS Library

<http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/library.asp>

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies was founded in 1947. It was conceived and is funded as a national academic institution, attached to the University of London, serving all universities through its national legal research library. Its function is to promote, facilitate and disseminate the results of advanced study and research in the discipline of law, for the benefit of persons and institutions in the UK and abroad.

IALS Library is a national and international resource for legal research and has over 288,000 volumes the majority of which are housed at the Institute site on Russell Square in Bloomsbury. The collections of foreign and international law are the most extensive in the UK and contain much unique material. The collections concentrate primarily on common law, civil law and Roman-Dutch law systems throughout the world and include material in western European languages for all jurisdictions for comparative and general reference purposes.

IALS Library's primary function is to serve a national academic research community but it has other significant and diverse communities to which it provides services including the world's largest taught course master's degree programme, large numbers of subscribing practising lawyers, and a small community of researchers and PhD students at the Institute itself. The Library seeks to support law librarians in other universities and organisations to provide specialist library and information services in law, particularly in foreign, comparative and international law.

The Institute and its Library are located in Charles Clore House, part of the iconic Bedford Way building complex designed by the renowned architect Sir Denys Lasdun completed in the mid-1970s. The building is now Grade II* listed with many original exterior and interior features representative of the dramatic Brutalist style.

The Institute Library has been used as a setting for television interviews with legal scholars participating as expert contributors in a number of news items, current affairs programmes and documentaries.

Inner Temple Library

<http://www.innertemplelibrary.org.uk/>

The Inner Temple is one of the four Inns of Court. The other Inns are Middle Temple, Gray's Inn and Lincoln's Inn. These are unincorporated associations which have existed since the 14th century. They play a central role in the recruitment, training and professional life of barristers, holding the exclusive rights to call candidates to the bar of England and Wales

The Inner Temple Library has an enquiry service (in person, by telephone and by email) and a comprehensive collection of English legal materials and specialist Scottish & Commonwealth materials. The library provides various services to barrister, judicial and student members of all four Inns of Court.

The Library, one of the oldest Law Libraries in the country, is mentioned in the records of the Inn as early as 1506. Although the building has been renewed and repaired over the centuries, the Inn's Library has been in continuous use since the early 16th century. The predecessor of the present building was erected in the 19th century and destroyed in the Second World War by enemy action in 1941. Fortunately all the manuscripts and early printed books had been removed to places of safety, but about 45,000 volumes were lost. Many of the losses have been made good by gifts and purchases. The present library was opened in 1958. It now contains about 70,000 volumes.

The Supreme Court Justices' Library

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/index.html>

The Supreme Court is open to the public from 9.30am-4.30pm Monday to Friday and any member of the public can enter the building during these hours without booking in advance.

The Court itself comprises three beautiful courtrooms, the Lawyers' Suite and the magnificent Justices' Library, which is not normally open to the public. The Library is only for the use of the UKSC Justices and their Judicial Assistants.

The home of The Supreme Court is the former Middlesex Guildhall, an impressive building in an historic location directly linked with justice and the law for nearly a millennium. Long before the earliest courthouse was built here, the site was occupied by Westminster Abbey's Sanctuary Tower and Old Belfry, where fugitives could seek refuge from their pursuers on an island at the junction of the Tyburn and the Thames.

In 1889 the old courthouse was replaced by the first Middlesex Guildhall, which housed the Middlesex County Council and Quarter Sessions. However, even this soon became too small, and the present building opened its doors just before the First World War in 1913. Designed by architect James Gibson, and built in Portland stone, it features a great deal of internal and external decorative work by Henry Fehr and was described by Nikolaus Pevsner as art nouveau Gothic.

In 1964 Middlesex ceased to exist as an administrative and judicial area, and the Guildhall was converted in the 1980s to a Crown Court centre with seven busy criminal courtrooms. Original features were obscured by machinery, cells and partitions. The amount of natural light entering the building was vastly reduced, making it feel cluttered and gloomy. Today, renovation work for The Supreme Court has restored many of these hidden details, including fine panelling, carving and stained glass with connections to the old county of Middlesex.

Restored to full splendour, the building now brings both dignity and accessibility to its role, housing the highest court in the United Kingdom.

Middle Temple Library

<http://www.middletemple.org.uk/library-and-archive/library>

The Middle Temple is one of the four Inns of Court. The other Inns are Inner Temple, Gray's Inn and Lincoln's Inn.

There are records of Middle Temple having a small library prior to 1540. An early record about the Inns of Court states, however that 'they had a simple library in which were not many bookes besides the law and that library by meanes that it stood always open, and that the learners had not each a key unto it, it was at last robbed of all the bookes in it'.

Over the centuries, the library has been housed in various locations throughout the Temple. In 1861 a new purpose-built library was opened by the Prince of Wales - later Edward VII - an honorary member of the Inn. That building was damaged beyond repair during World War II and had to be demolished. The library's current building was designed by Sir Edward Maufe, who also designed Guildford Cathedral, and opened in 1958.

The Library holds one of the largest and most useful collections of American law outside of the United States. Many volumes were donated in the 20th century by the Carnegie Foundation, FOLAL and the American Ambassador, the Hon. W. Aldrich. The Inn has always had very strong ties to the United States, as many early American settlers sent their sons to be educated at Middle Temple. The Library is used by members of the four Inns of Court, including judges, barristers, pupils, students and clerks.

The Library holds approximately 250,000 volumes, covering all aspects of British, European and American law.