

Law Society library - helping you wherever you are

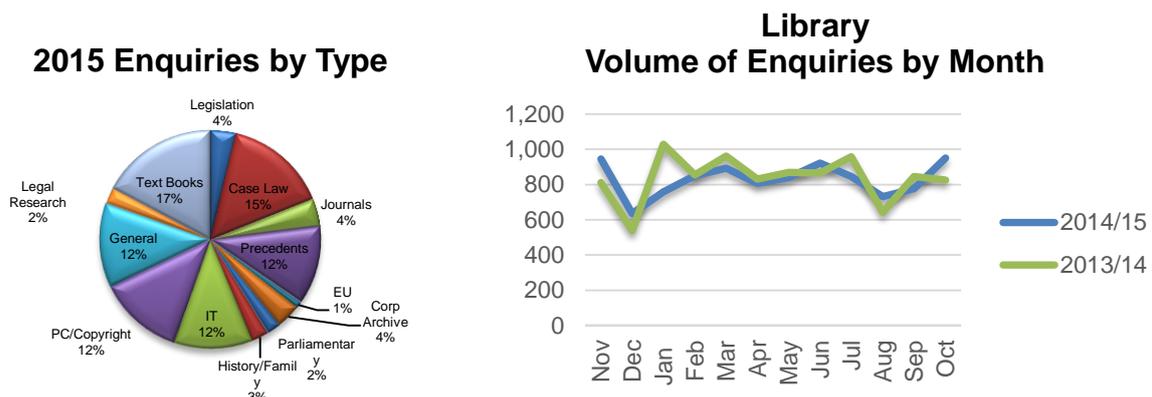
Introduction

The Law Society library has one of the most comprehensive printed collections of law material in England and Wales. The library provides all members of the Law Society with three key services to support their information needs, wherever they are located, whatever organisation they work in, and irrespective of career stage.

The library's seven experienced law librarians provide members with a free research service, same-day document delivery and help them to navigate the Law Society's unparalleled collection.

1. Law Society library research is free

The Law Society librarians deal with over 10,000 member enquiries each year, covering a wide range of legal research from point-in-time legislation, finding precedents, case law, parliamentary material, articles, even genealogy.



And enquiries come from members working in all types of legal environments - small practices, big law firms, in-house, government. Also from all different geographical locations - in 2015 the library has answered enquiries from members located not only across the UK, but also Russia, Australia, Japan, Canada, Singapore, Israel and many other countries. The majority of enquiries they receive are either by email or by telephone so it does not matter where you are based, you can use the research service.

For the vast majority of research done by the Law Society library **there is no charge**. Charges only apply if research takes longer than 30 minutes and you will be notified well in advance if that is likely to happen. So, if you need some research help please contact the librarians on **020 7320 5946** or library@lawsociety.org.uk

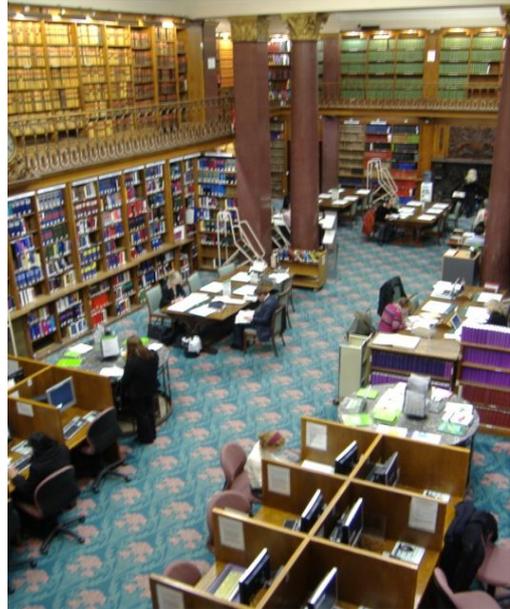
Telephone and emails enquiry lines are open 09.00am - 17.00pm, Monday to Friday.

2. Collection

The library has one of the most comprehensive printed collections of law material in England and Wales. The printed collection comprises of 55,000 volumes mainly housed in a Grade 2

listed interior room at The Law Society in Chancery Lane. It is a reference only collection made up of:

- **Law Reports** - a wide range of law reports for England and Wales, smaller collections covering other British jurisdictions and a small collection of Commonwealth law reports
- **Legislation** - public general acts, local and private acts, plus access to both original and amended legislation
- **Precedents** - including EF&P, Atkins and a wide range of textbooks which include precedents
- **Journals** - a large collection of journal indexes and legal journals
- **Parliamentary** - House of Commons papers from 1801 and Hansard debates from 1804
- **Commentary** - an extensive collection of up-to-date practitioner textbooks and looseleaves to find commentary relevant to your query



The library also has 11 public access computers, including two for visually impaired lawyers, providing access to Lexis, Westlaw, PSL and Justis.

3. Lawdocs

Lawdocs is the library's heavily used document delivery service and deals with around 100 member requests for copies of legal information each month. Providing it is within copyright, the majority of the collection can be emailed straight to your inbox. Alternatively, documents can be posted, sent by DX delivery, faxed or collected. The service is often used when documents are required for current judicial proceedings. Delivery time is normally within 3 hours but can be carried out in 45 minutes if the request is urgent.

Email contact details are: lawdocs@lawsociety.org.uk and the service is open 9.00am - 5.00pm, Monday-Friday.

As the library is fully compliant with the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) agreement requirements there is a copyright fee for using the service which is passed on to the CLA.

Practice Advice Service - Helplines for Solicitors

As well as these library services the Law Society provides a range of telephone helplines to support members. The busiest of these is probably the Practice Advice Service.

A team of solicitors runs the **Practice Advice Service**, offering confidential advice on legal practice and procedure in areas including

- anti-money laundering,
- conveyancing,
- private client,

- solicitors' costs and
- dealing with complaints.

The **Practice Advice Service** can be contacted on **020 7320 5675**. Lines are open from 9:00am to 5:00pm weekdays.

For information about our other helplines, including pastoral support, and PII helpline please visit www.lawsociety.org.uk/helplines