Telling Legal Backstories: Making historic case papers from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council available to all online

Steven Whittle
Information Systems Manager
IALS

IALS
Institute of Advanced Legal Studies
School of Advanced Study, University of London

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Summary

- IALS project – making case papers available alongside the judgments on BAILII
- 1930 – 1985 plus selected earlier papers held at IALS suggested by legal researchers
- Background to the case papers held at IALS
- Significant work of the JCPC reflected in case papers
- The digital initiative at IALS and additional content on BAILII
IALS digital initiative

Case papers of JCPC appeals

• 35+ countries
• 1930 – 1985 + selected earlier
• Significant moments in time
  – late 19th century and early 20th century
• Contemporary resonance

• An earlier project in 2010-2011 made the Judgment texts available on BAILII

• Additional case papers:
  – Case for the appellant
  – Case for the respondent
  – Factums
  – Record of proceedings
  – Appendices

• Online open access on BAILII

http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKPC/
IALS digital initiative

Work on the collaborative project

• IALS
  – Nimal Waragoda Vitharana
  – Steven Whittle

• BAILII
  – Viky Martzoukou
  – Joe Ury

• Research advisors:
  – Professor Catharine MacMillan
    (University of Reading)
  – Dr Charlotte Smith
    (University of Reading)
  – Dr Nandini Chatterjee
    (University of Exeter)
Background

Early years of IALS

- George Curtis
  Dean, Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia
- David Hughes Parry
  Director, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies

“Their value to us would be so very great that I would like to make an effort to collect as many as possible”

“I think that as the years go by this sort of material for research and teaching purposes would be very valuable indeed”
Background

- Canadian Law Library
  - maintained in London by Canadian Government for Counsel appearing before the Privy Council.

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office

- Judicial Committee of Privy Council

- Papers from many former colonies and Commonwealth jurisdictions
  - Aden, Antigua, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Basutoland, Bermuda, Canada, Ceylon, Cyprus, Dominica, Fiji, Ghana, Gibraltar, Gold Coast, Great Britain, Guernsey, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Jersey, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaya, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Palestine, Rhodesia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somaliland, Tanganyika, Trinidad and Tobago and Uganda.
Range of cases

Significant work of JCPC reflected in case papers

- Examples of the Law in action
- Demonstrating legal professionals at work + legal arguments employed
- Illustrating the impact of legal process on individual lives
- Stories of global significance from the end of Empire and start of Nationhood
- Colonial devolution and development of Common Law and international law
- Insight into public, personal, social, political, cultural and human issues
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Free Access to Law Movement

• IALS + BAILII are FALM members
• Focus on primary law – legislation and court decisions. Recognition of importance of scholarly commentary on the law + value to comparative legal research

School of Advanced Study

• IALS project in 2015 – creating an additional resource for UK and international legal researchers
• Made possible by School of Advanced Study Strategic Development funding
• Scholarly / Public benefit.
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Outsourced digitisation + local
Open Access delivery

- Hollingworth & Moss
  http://www.hollingworthmoss.co.uk/

- RDW Digital
  http://www.rdw.co.uk/heritage-scanning-digitisation/

- MAX communications
  http://maxcommunications.co.uk/

- TIFF page image master copies
- B/W + colour as relevant
- PDF assembly public copy
- OCR text file

- 300,000+ pages
- 5,000+ documents
- 1,400+ appeals
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Geographic visualization: Range of Countries

- Alternative views and routes
- Google maps – Geomap visualization
- Interacting with our data
- JCPC decisions by Country
- Through to the documents on BAILII
- Developing search options
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- JCPC Decisions on BAILII
  [http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKPC/]

- Reminders of Law as a collective enterprise and as an individual lived experience

- Further work …. IALS digital project updates

- Commentary on particular countries

- Commentary on individual cases

- Future collaboration
  - British Library / TNA
  - Lincoln’s Inn
  - CommonLII
  - LLMC Digital

[http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/pcdocs/pcddd_project.htm]
JCPC on BAILII

http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKPC/