IALS Autumn Newsletter 2019

Welcome to the autumn issue of the IALS Library newsletter.

IALS Library is the national library for legal research. We are here to support PhD researchers and academic staff from across the UK with our extensive print collections, online resources and knowledgeable law librarians. Academic membership is free. Find out more about membership and how to join on our website.

This newsletter is published every term to round up news about IALS Library. In this issue we share an update on the IALS Library Transformation Project, news of the recent project to introduce RFID tags to our collections, and information about changes to some of our online resources.

All new Library floors now open

By Andrew Beach, Project Officer

The Project Team at IALS is very pleased to announce that the new 2nd floor is now open. This brings the three floors of the IALS Library together, with the entrance/exit on the 2nd floor and the internal stairs now open between 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors. The 2nd and 1st floors were handed back to the University on Monday 4th November. New furniture was then installed on both floors and the IALS Library teams moved into the 2nd floor on Wednesday the 13th.

The British Institute for International and Comparative Law (BIICL) moved back from Senate House and into the new 1st floor on Tuesday the 19th.

The 2nd floor has been completely re-designed with new lighting, services, carpet, toilets, etc. Both the staff and student sides of the floor have all new

Christmas and New Year opening hours

IALS Library will be closed between Saturday 21st December 2019 and Wednesday 1st January 2020 for the Christmas break.

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2017/18 Annual survey of academic law libraries

David Gee, the IALS Librarian, has recently authored the annual survey of academic law libraries in the UK and Ireland for 2017/18. Conducted for the Society of Legal Scholars (SLS) and the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL), the comprehensive report provides a snapshot of the collections and services offered by 93 universities and colleges in the 2017/18 academic year and identifies the key trends.

The survey provides data which academic law library managers use to benchmark their own services and law course validation bodies note when appraising the provision of institutions seeking to run law courses.

The survey has been published in the journal Legal Information Management, on the BIALL website and it is also available to read on SAS-Space. Previous annual survey reports are available via the IALS website here.

The 5th floor has now been handed over to the building contractor with completion set for early March 2020. The next milestone will be the installation of new front doors to the building. This will be happening over the Xmas/New Year period.

In the meantime the Project Team is looking at the options for limited, further works on the lower floors of the Institute.

Feedback, comments, questions and concerns are very welcome and can be sent to the Project Team by emailing ials2020@london.ac.uk

How to get a PhD in law: National research training days at IALS

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies welcomes students enrolled for an MPhil/PhD in law from across the UK to these specially tailored days of presentations, library tours and networking opportunities. Day one, The PhD in Law and Research Methods, took place in November 2019, but there is still time to book a place on days two and three.

Day 2, 11 March 2020
The PhD journey: supervision, research ethics and preparing yourself for upgrade and vivas. Book now

Day 3, 22 May 2020
Researching, disseminating and publishing in the digital world. Book now
New library guide for Trinidad & Tobago

To help our users locate legal information from Trinidad & Tobago, IALS Library has recently created a [new research guide](#). Here you will find information on sources for legislation, case law, digests, books, journals and free internet sources. IALS Library has created over 30 jurisdiction guides and five international law guides. All [IALS Library Guides](#) are freely available on our website.

Legal Records at Risk: a strategy for safeguarding our legal heritage

IALS has recently published a new book, Legal Records at Risk: a strategy for safeguarding our legal heritage, under the University of London Press imprint. The book summarises the work of the Legal Records at Risk (LRAR) project and its predecessors, diagnoses the problems of preservation of archives in the legal sector in England and Wales and outlines a national strategy for such records. Written by Clare Cowling, IALS Archivist, the book is available for free as an IALS Open Access publication. It is also available to be purchased as a paperback.

Introducing RFID at IALS

By Liz Murray, Information Resources Manager

IALS Library has updated its security system to RFID, which is now used by over 70% of higher education libraries. In October, 166,000 library items were security tagged; this includes all our open access library materials, plus books in our onsite stores.

The introduction of RFID enables IALS library to future proof its collections, creating an environment where it is easier to implement future innovations, for example, in self-service issue, for the benefit of library members. Other benefits of the new security system include the ability to find misplaced books more easily and improved stock management, which will assist with collection development in the future.

As part of the retagging process, library staff took the opportunity to review library materials on the open shelves and move older, less used items, such as pamphlets and folio, to our onsite store. All of this has helped to give more seating space and a fresher look to the library collections, while still retaining immediate access to library materials.
IALS Library E-resources Highlights

By Dalia Maoz-Michaels, Senior Library Assistant (Cataloguing & Acquisitions)

Hart e-Book Collection

IALS Library recently purchased the 2017, 2018 and 2019 full-text e-book collections from Hart Publishing, which is a part of Bloomsbury Publishing. These e-books are available on-site at IALS and also off-site to all IALS Library academic members. You can search and access the Hart e-book collection (around 300 titles so far) via the IALS Electronic Law Library or directly from the IALS library catalogue here. All e-books in this collection are also individually listed on the library catalogue. E-book chapters can be printed or saved in pdf format.

New Brill e-Books

The library also purchased two additional full-text Brill e-book collections: International law e-book collection 2019 and Human rights and humanitarian law e-book collection 2019. You can search and access all our Brill e-book collections via the IALS Electronic Law Library or directly from the IALS library catalogue here. All Brill e-books are available on-site at IALS and also off-site to all IALS Library academic members.

Cambridge Core Law Books Online

Our Cambridge Core subscription has been renewed for another year, giving all our academic members continued access on-site and off-site to all Cambridge Core law titles (around 2,800 e-books). You can access the Cambridge Core law collection via the IALS Electronic Law Library or directly from the IALS library catalogue here.

IALS Library also subscribes to the Oxford Scholar-ship Online law e-book collection (1648 titles), the Westlaw Books collection (310 titles), the Elgar online law e-book collection (279 titles) and dawsonera selected law titles (from reading lists). All these e-book collections, other than the Westlaw collection, are available on-site and off-site to all IALS Library academic members. The Westlaw collection is available on-site to all Library academic members and off-site only to IALS staff, fellows and students.

Max Planck Encyclopedia of International Procedural Law

The Max Planck Encyclopedia of International Procedural Law (MPEiPro) is a new trial database, available on-site at IALS and off-site to IALS and SAS staff, fellows and students, University of London law staff and postgraduate students and all other IALS Library academic members. MPEiPro, which is published by Oxford University Press, is accessible via the IALS Electronic Law Library or directly from the IALS library catalogue here.

Access to IALS Electronic Resources

Due to occasional URL changes and platform switch-es by some of our electronic suppliers, we recommend that you always access our e-resources via the IALS Electronic Law Library or directly from the IALS library catalogue. This will ensure that you are accessing the most up-to-date electronic resource.

Books news

By Carole Farmer, Assistant Librarian - Information Resources.

Below is just a small selection of some of the new books at IALS Library. If you would like to suggest new books for our collection, please fill out our book recommendations form.

Society and the Internet: How Networks of Information and Communication are Changing Our Lives (2nd Edition)
Mark Graham and William H. Dutton (Oxford University Press, 2019)

How is society being reshaped by the continued diffusion and increasing centrality of the Internet in everyday life and work? Society and the Internet provides key readings for students, scholars, and those interested in understanding the interactions of the Internet and society. This multidisciplinary collection of theoretically and empirically anchored chapters addresses the big questions about one of the most significant technological transformations of this century, through a diversity of data, methods, theories, and approaches.

Avoiding the Terrorist Trap: Why Respect for Human Rights is the Key to Defeating Terrorism
Tom Parker (World Scientific Publishing Europe, 2019)

For more than 150 years, Nationalist, Populist, Marxist and Islamist terrorists have all been remarkably consistent and explicit about their aims: provoke the State into over-reacting to the threat they pose, then take advantage of the divisions in society that result. Faced with a major terrorist threat, States seem to reach instinctively for the most coercive tools in their arsenal and, in doing so, risk exacerbating the situation. This policy response seems to be driven in equal parts by a lack of understanding of the true nature of the threat, an exaggerated faith in the use of force, and a lack of faith that democratic values are sufficiently flexible to allow for an effective
Drawing on a wealth of data from both historical and contemporary sources, Avoiding the Terrorist Trap addresses common misconceptions underpinning flawed counter-terrorism policies, identifies the core strategies that guide terrorist operations, consolidates the latest research on the underlying drivers of terrorist violence, and demonstrates how a comprehensive and coherent counter-terrorism strategy grounded in respect for human rights and the rule of law is the only truly effective approach to defeating terrorism.


Sri Lanka has a long and rich history of engagement with international human rights instruments. However, despite its active membership in the UN, the country’s post-colonial trials and tribulations are emblematic of the limited influence the international organisation has exerted on this country in the Global South. Assessing the impact of this international engagement on the country’s human rights infrastructure and situation, this book outlines Sri Lanka’s colonial and post-colonial development. It then considers the development of a domestic human rights infrastructure in the country. It also examines and analyses Sri Lanka’s engagement with the UN’s treaty-based and charter-based human rights bodies, before offering conclusions concerning the impact of said engagement.

The book offers an innovative approach to gauging the impact of international human rights engagement, while also taking into account the colonial and post-colonial imperatives that have partly dictated governmental behaviour. By doing so, the book seeks to combine and analyse international human rights law, post-colonial critique, studies on biopower, and critical approaches to international law.

The End of Law: How Law’s Claims Relate to Law’s Aims David McIlroy (Elgar, 2019)

Augustine posed two questions that go to the heart of the nature of law. Firstly, what is the difference between a kingdom and a band of robbers? Secondly, is an unjust law a law at all? These two questions force us to consider whether law is simply a means of social control, distinguished from a band of robbers only by its size, or whether law is a social institution justified by its orientation towards justice.

The End of Law applies Augustine’s questions to modern legal philosophy as well as offering a critical theory of natural law that draws on Augustine’s ideas. McIlroy argues that such a critical natural law theory is realistic but not cynical about law’s relationship to justice and to violence, can diagnose ways in which law becomes deformed and pathological, and indicates that law is a necessary but insufficient instrument for the pursuit of justice. Positioning an examination of Augustine’s reflections on law in the context of his broader thought, McIlroy presents an alternative approach to natural law theory, drawing from critical theory, postmodern thought, and political theologies in conversation with Augustine.

People news

The Library has recently welcomed a new member of staff, Shaun Heaney. Shaun joined the Library team in September as our new graduate trainee. Shaun completed undergraduate and Masters degrees in Ancient History at the University of Liverpool. He is hoping to pursue a career working in librarianship in the future, and is looking forward to learning more about the library this year, during which he will be dividing his time between the Information Resources and Academic Services teams.