

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES

SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDY



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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Legal Records at Risk: questionnaire for users

What are your contact details?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Name (optional)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Email address (optional)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Field of interest (please specify eg legal history, social history, local history, politics, sociology, geography, genealogy, race, gender, class, property, famous cases or events)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research institution (if applicable)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reason for research (please specify eg personal pleasure, family history, school project, university undergraduate or postgraduate programme, academic research programme, journalism, politics, research for a book, article or media programme)	
Where are the records you currently use in your research located? Tick all that apply	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Records in The National Archives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Records in local, specialist or company archives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Records still held by the creating bodies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Private papers held by their owners	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Accessible via the internet – location irrelevant	
What categories of legal records do you currently use? Tick all that apply	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Papers of or relating to individuals eg judges, barristers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Court records	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">State or local government records	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Company records	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Records of local events, properties or families	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Individual documents eg deeds, wills, certificates, contracts	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Records of law firms	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Other (please specify)	
If (more) readily available, would you use any of the following?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Records of patent agents	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Records of legal executives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Records of legal publishers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Records of legal stationers	

• Records of local law centres	
• Records of major law firms	
• Solicitors' case/client files	
• Arbitration records	
• Mediation records	
• Conciliation records	
• Other (please specify)	
What issues do you think might prevent the above from being collected and made available for research?	
• Concerns over confidentiality	
• Lack of interest from the archival community	
• Lack of archival resources to actively collect the records	
• Lack of archival resources to catalogue and preserve the records	
• Lack of interest from the research community	
• Lack of interest or understanding as to potential value on the part of the information creators/owners	
• Digital obsolescence (ie the records do not survive long enough to be collected in their born-digital format)	
• Other (please specify)	
What do you think could or should be done? Tick all that apply	
• Nothing – no-one is interested in these records	
• Archives should revise their collections policies to include more legal records	
• Local and specialist archives should be given better resources to collect and manage these records	
• A central archive for legal records should be created	
• A group of archive consultants should be created to investigate, appraise, list and arrange transfer of legal records to the appropriate repository	
• There should be better classification of legal records already held in archives to enable them to be more readily identified and accessed	
• More legal records should be digitised/made available in their original or upgraded digital formats to improve accessibility	
• The research community should lobby potential repositories to actively collect legal records	
• The research community should actively request access to legal records from the information owners	
• Information owners should be made aware of the potential research value of their records	
• An appropriate body should take the lead on rescuing these records and making them available eg The National Archives; the Business Archives Council; the British Records Association; the University of London; The Law Society (please specify)	
• Other suggestions? (please specify)	