

LAW/GOVERNMENT

LAW
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Library has developed significant holdings of research materials in *Law* such as law reports and legislation. The historical significance of the *Law* collection has been achieved through acquisition by legal deposit and exchange of government publications.

The *Law* collection emphasises the social aspects of law and current issues of general interest. Historical and biographical approaches; accounts in non-technical language of matters of interest to the non-professional; reference works; law reform and comparative and descriptive material providing a broad overview of the different legal systems of the world are collected.

The *Political Science* collection includes the study of state, government and politics. Military science is also included and is one of the Library's strengths. The collection covers warfare, armed forces, military equipment, strategy and related subjects. Its strength lies in government publications concerned with military sciences.

In the subjects *Political Science* and *International Relations*, the Library has developed broad coverage for the majority of countries and for all significant political movements.

LAW

Dewey range

340–349

Description

Law includes common law, statute law and subordinate legislation. Specific areas of law covered include equity, administrative law, criminal and civil law, industrial arbitration, property and family law.

Target users

Members of the general public with legal concerns and questions, first time law seekers, legal practitioners and other libraries.

Trends

- availability and access to electronic materials, online databases and Internet sites in the area of law (government material is becoming less accessible in hard copy)
- the changing nature of law as globalisation continues to have an impact
- the public and community are made increasingly aware of their rights and laws which affect them and community involvement in litigation is increasing
- access to free legal aid is more limited as the conditions to qualify are more difficult
- plain language interpretations of the law make the law more accessible to all.

Collection statement

The Library has developed significant holdings of research materials in law, such as law reports and legislation. The historical significance of the Law collection has been achieved through acquisition by legal deposit and exchange of government publications, notably Victoria, Australian Commonwealth and state publications, United Nations and British publications. Generically the Law collection is at Conspectus Level 3, with the emphasis on the areas of Australian and Victorian law which have collections established at Conspectus Level 4 for Australia and Level 5 for Victoria.

The collection emphasises social aspects of law and current issues of general interest. Historical and biographical approaches; accounts in non-technical language of matters likely to be of interest to the non-professional; reference works; law reform and comparative and descriptive material which provide a broad overview of the different legal systems of the world are collected. For legal serials, an emphasis is placed on those that deal with the law from a general viewpoint. Works popularising aspects of the law, such as famous trials, biography and the history of the law, are acquired. Where the subject is in an area of self-litigation or do-it-yourself, specific lawyers' tools such as loose-leaf resources are held.

Legislation: Victorian and Commonwealth legislation including subordinate legislation, bills and government publications complementing the legislation contribute to a comprehensive historical and current research collection. Loose-leaf services on specific Victorian and Australian legislation are collected to augment this research collection. The legislation and subordinate legislation of the states and territories of Australia are acquired at Level 4.

Principal collections of current legislation include that of the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. A substantial collection is held of older legislation, particularly from Commonwealth and Pacific countries.

Law reports: the principal general law reports for all Australian jurisdictions and a collection of specialist Australian law reports are held. Major series of law reports for the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea and international courts are collected.

International law (341): a very substantial collection of the texts of treaties and agreements is held. Publications from the United Nations, the European Communities and other international organisations are collected. The emphasis of the collection is on the basic texts of international agreements and supporting material.

The collection in *International law* complements the Library's holdings in the area of *International relations*. The collection is oriented to issues such as law of the sea, the Geneva conventions, the status of Antarctica, disarmament and International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions on labour law and any international conventions to which Australia is a signatory party. Access to electronic and Internet collections supplements hard copy collections. (See *Government publications*)

Constitutional and administrative law (342–344): significant historical material on the Australian constitution and the constitutions of other countries are held and collecting is maintained at Level 3 for overseas countries.

Administrative law: collected in depth (Level 5) for Australia and Victoria. For other Australian states the collection is at Level 3. In areas of *Administrative law* such as immigration and citizenship, human rights, equal opportunity, local government and freedom of information, there is an emphasis on comparison of developments in other Australian states and non-specialist material on other comparable countries.

Industrial and labour law (344): works on environmental and planning law, social security, welfare and health including pensions and benefits, workers' compensation, industrial health and other social issues of public interest have been emphasised. Victorian and Australian material is the priority. This collection complements that in the field of labour economics.

Criminal law (345): the collection focuses on the Commonwealth of Australia and Victoria. Coverage includes material on the rights of the accused, police procedures, criminal procedure and state plus Commonwealth offences.

Civil law (346): material relating to the civil law of the Commonwealth of Australia and Victoria has been acquired comprehensively, providing a significant research collection.

Company law (346.066): the emphasis has been on the acquisition of Victorian material and federal law.

Civil procedure and courts (347): material relating to all courts, state and Commonwealth, with jurisdiction in Victoria is acquired at Level 5, while for interstate courts a selection of general monographs is acquired at Level 3. The subject includes a wide range of tribunals, commissions and boards, and relates also to court procedures such as jury service and legal aid.

Laws of other countries (349): this is a general collection with the emphasis on the countries whose legal systems have an important impact upon Australian law, notably those countries emphasised in our government publications policy through deposit, exchange or purchase arrangements: United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. Hard copy collections are supplemented with Internet sites selectively catalogued.

Collecting intentions

The legal collections exist primarily to serve those who are unable to access a comprehensive library collection of legal materials. Unless specifically stated, overall collecting in Law is at Conspectus Level 3, except for the law relating to Victoria which is at Conspectus Level 5 and for Australia and law affecting all states at Conspectus Level 4. The Law collection will continue to emphasise acquisition of materials related to social aspects of law and topics of public debate and interest, such as law reform and the privatisation of medicine.

The Library will continue to build on its strengths in the following areas:

Legislation: collecting for Victorian and Commonwealth legislation, including subordinate legislation, bills and government publications complementing legislation, will remain at Research Level (Conspectus Level 5). Loose-leaf services providing commentary on legislation and enhancing the legislation collections are collected for specific areas of legislation for Victoria and Australia. The legislation and subordinate legislation of the Australian states and territories will continue at Conspectus Level 4. In general, most legislation for Australia is now available in electronic format.

The Library will continue to acquire the major legislative series of those countries for which it has major government publications collections, and for the countries in the Southern Pacific region including Papua New Guinea (see *Government publications*)

Law reports: principal general law reports are acquired for all Australian jurisdictions. Law reports, which relate to particular aspects of law, are generally only acquired where they relate to the law of Victoria or of the Commonwealth of Australia or where they relate to all Australian jurisdictions, such as family law, administrative law and criminal law. The principal law report series for major countries and international law will be accessible either in hard copy or via access through the Internet, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, and collecting will be maintained at Conspectus Level 3.

International law: the collection will be maintained at Conspectus Level 3. International law and agreements specifically relating to Australia are emphasised. International agreements and globalisation of law and trade are requiring a refocus on basic texts and supporting material. The aim is to collect the agreements and parliamentary documents supporting the treaties, conventions and legislation and to collect texts which provide indexes, guides and commentary on these basic documents.

Constitutional and administrative law: constitutional law for Australia and Victoria is collected at Conspectus Level 5. Up-to-date texts of the constitutions of all countries of the world will continue to be maintained. *Administrative law* is collected at Conspectus Level 4 for Australia and Victoria, and at Level 3 for other Australian states. In areas of administrative law such as immigration and citizenship, human rights, equal opportunity, local government and freedom of information, the emphasis is on comparative developments in other states and non-specialist material relating to other comparable countries, with collecting maintained at Conspectus Level 3.

Taxation law: the Library aims to collect sufficient material for the lay person seeking basic information and an understanding of the tax system. Collecting will be maintained at Conspectus Level 2 for all Australian jurisdictions and summary information for countries with which Victorians have close ties.

Industrial and labour law: the emphasis will be on collecting Victorian and Australian materials in the areas covered in this subject. Conspectus Level 3 will be maintained for all other Australian jurisdictions.

Criminal law: material relating to criminal law of the Commonwealth of Australia and Victoria is acquired at Conspectus Levels 4 and 5 respectively, while that of other Australian jurisdictions is acquired at Level 2. Specific areas of interest include the rights of the accused, police procedures and criminal procedures.

Civil law: overall, material relating to civil law of the Commonwealth of Australia and Victoria is acquired at Conspectus Levels 4 and 5 respectively and other Australian jurisdictions at Level 2. Areas highlighted are family law, including marriage, divorce, adoption, custody, child welfare, de facto relationships and related areas, which are acquired at Level 5 for Victoria and Level 4 for all other Australian jurisdictions. Laws relating to contracts and agency, to property, tenancy, conveyancing,

planning appeals, intellectual property, succession, torts, negligence and related areas, are acquired primarily for Victoria. A range of serials and general texts in these areas is acquired. Other comparable countries are maintained at Conspectus Level 2.

Company law: company law is acquired at Conspectus Level 4 for all Australian jurisdictions and Level 5 for Victoria, with a limited summary coverage for other countries.

Commercial law: commercial law is acquired at Level 5 only for Victoria and focuses on consumer aspects in the field of hire purchase, sale of goods, debt and bankruptcy. Where Commonwealth law is applicable in these areas, there is also the same level of coverage. Banking, insurance and securities law is acquired at Level 2.

Civil procedure and courts: material relating to all courts, state and Commonwealth, with jurisdiction in Victoria is acquired at Conspectus Level 5, while for interstate courts a selection of general monographs is acquired. Subjects covered include basic texts on how the court system works and court procedures including legal aid and jury systems, which are acquired for the non-professional and self-litigant.

Laws of other countries: general works are acquired on the legal systems of countries which have an important impact upon Australian law and Australians. Introductory material is acquired in the areas of the law of other countries where there may be high levels of involvement, for example Greek or Italian family or succession law. The collection in this area is at Conspectus Level 2.

Material not generally collected

- local council by-laws
- loose-leaf services or specialised law reports in the area of banking, insurance and securities law
- specialist legal serials.

Other collections

- Law Library, Monash University, Clayton
- Library, Legal Aid Commission, Melbourne
- Library, Australian Securities Commission, Melbourne
- Library, Australian Taxation Office, Melbourne
- Supreme Court Library, Melbourne
- Australian Government Solicitor Library, Melbourne
- Federal Court Library, Melbourne
- Law Branch Library, Melbourne University, Parkville

Conspectus Levels

Class	Descriptor	CL*	AC*	GL*
340	Law	3	3	3
341	International Law	2	2	3
342	Constitutional & Administrative Law	3	3	3
343	Military, Tax, Trade, Industrial Law	2	2	2
344	Social, Labour, Welfare, Health, Safety, Education, Cultural Law	3	3	3
345	Criminal Law	2	2	2
346	Private Law	2	2	2
347	Civil Procedure and Courts	3	3	3
348	Laws (Statutes), Regulations, Cases	3	3	3
349	Law of Specific Jurisdictions and Areas	2	2	2

* Collection Level, Acquisition Commitment Goal Level

Note: Within the overall Conspectus Levels for Law the following differentiation is made:

Victoria – Conspectus Level 5

Australia – Level 4

Other states – Level 3–4

Other jurisdictions – Level 2–3

POLITICAL SCIENCE (POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT)

Dewey range

320–328, 350–359

Description

Both *Political science* and *Military science* are included in this section.

Political science covers the study of state, government and politics. It includes political theories, political parties and systems, elections, legislation, the relationship between governments and the people, and international relations. This Division encompasses public administration and policy at a national, state and local government level.

Military science includes the nature, theory and conduct of land, sea and air warfare. Also included is regimental history. This Division is closely associated with *History*. In particular, there is overlap with subjects such as World War 1, 1914–1918 (940.3), Military history of World War 1 (940.4), World War 2, 1939–1945 (940.53) and Military history of World War 2 (940.54).

Target users

Political science

Historians, researchers, the media, lobbyists and special interest groups and business community.

Military science

Historians, researchers, military enthusiasts (wargamers, collectors and weapons enthusiasts) and genealogists.

Trends

- access to and availability of publications through the Internet
- issues-based interest groups and lobbyists seeking to influence government at all levels through the political process
- increased community demand for material relating to government policies and programs to assist debate.

Collection statement

The Library has developed broad coverage of *Political science* and *International Relations* for the majority of countries and for all significant political movements. A balanced collection of reference material is also held in this area with a wide selection of current serials.

There is considerable overlap between *Political science* and 'current affairs'. Material is also located in general serials as well as in *History* and *Geography*.

Material relating to Victoria has been collected comprehensively to provide a research collection of printed material. For Pacific neighbours, collecting has been at Conspectus Level 3. Extensive holdings of the major parliamentary series (see *Government publications*) and selected serials and monographs are held. The focus is on reference material including indexes to serials.

A significant collection of material has been acquired from the British Isles, the European Community, South-East Asia and from those countries which have made a substantial contribution to Victoria's population. The emphasis is on English language material and authoritative reference material in appropriate languages. This collection complements the *Government publications* collection.

The Library's coverage of the Australian political and legislative scene is augmented by comprehensive collections of state and federal parliamentary debates, papers, acts, bills and statutory rules. Similarly, extensive holdings of the legislative and parliamentary debates, papers, acts, bills and statutes of the United Kingdom complement the study of politics. (See *Government publications*)

Military science is one of the Library's strengths. The collection on warfare, armed forces, military equipment, strategy and related subjects is assessed as Conspectus Level 3. Its strength lies in government publications concerned with military sciences. These include handbooks, lists, manuals, technical works and related materials, particularly those of the United States, United Kingdom and Australia published in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Library holds a strong collection of historical works on military subjects including regimental history. As well, archival materials such as casualty lists and medal winners are also significant strengths. (See *History*)

Collection intentions

Political science at a generic level will be collected at Conspectus Level 2. Current Australian political debates will continue to be emphasised. Political issues and processes that occur in those countries with which Australia is closely involved, either through trade, strategic alliances or migration, are also emphasised.

Major political points of view will be covered systematically. A representative selection of material on minority viewpoints will be collected.

Current issues such as human rights, ethnicity, civil rights, censorship and other major issues of public debate will continue to be collected at Conspectus Level 3 (see *Popular culture*).

For *Public administration* (350–354) the emphasis is on the practice rather than theory. Government publications and secondary works will be acquired comprehensively for Victoria (Conspectus Level 5), at the Research Level for Australia (Conspectus Level 4), and selectively for other countries. For other countries the emphasis is on those which have similar systems to Australia. The Library's substantial collection of handbooks, directories, gazettes, reports and other government publications relating to *Public administration* will continue to be collected overall at Conspectus Level 3. Likewise, in the area of Public Policy (352–354) the focus will be on Victoria, with a substantial reference collection.

Military science (355–359) will continue to be collected at Conspectus Level 3. Materials related to the armed forces of Australia and their involvement in conflict will be collected at Level 4. World War 1, World War 2 and Vietnam will be emphasised.

Material not generally collected

- theoretical in-depth political science material
- collectors' catalogues relating to various aspects of *Military science* such as uniforms and weaponry.

Other collections

- Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne, Parkville
- Main Library, Monash University, Clayton
- Parliamentary Library, Parliament of Victoria, Melbourne

Conspectus Levels

Class	Descriptor	CL*	AC*	GL*
320	Political science (Politics and government)	2	2	2
321	Systems of governments and states	2	2	2
322	Relation of state to organised groups and their members	2	2	2
323	Civil and political rights	3	3	3
324	The political process	2	2	2
325	International migration and colonisation	2	3	3
327	International relations	2	2	2
328	The legislative process	2	2	2
350	Public administration & military science	2	2	2
351	Public administration	2	2	2
352	General considerations of public administration	2	2	2
353	Specific fields of public administration	2	2	2
354	Public administration of economy and environment	2	2	2
355	Military science	3	3	3
356	Foot forces and warfare	3	3	3
357	Mounted forces and warfare	3	3	3
358	Air and other specialised forces and warfare; engineering and related services	3	3	3
359	Sea (Naval) forces & warfare	3	3	3

* Collection Level, Acquisition Commitment, Goal Level