

The COVID-19 lockdown – How the Inn libraries can help

The four Inn libraries are maintaining information services as far as possible, while they remain closed due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Although the libraries are closed, the librarians have access to considerable online resources to assist with enquiries and document supply requests.

In addition to their own resources, the Inn libraries are working collectively to provide their members with the widest range of resources and expertise possible. The libraries are also liaising closely with legal publishers to maximise their resources.

In recognition of the many challenges facing members, the document supply services are currently being offered free of charge to members.

Library services for each Inn are available 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday.

FAQs

- How can I find further information?

Please check the websites of the Inn libraries

- Gray's Inn: Library.Information@graysinn.org.uk ;
<https://www.graysinn.org.uk/library/document-supply-service>
- Inner Temple: library@innertemple.org.uk ;
<https://www.innertemplelibrary.org.uk/library-services-and-covid-19/>
- Lincoln's Inn: Library.Library@lincolnsinn.org.uk ;
<https://www.lincolnsinn.org.uk/library-archives/covid-19/>
- Middle Temple: library@middletemple.org.uk ;
<https://www.middletemple.org.uk/library-archive/library/covid-19>

- Which library should I contact for enquiries / document supply?

Please contact your own Inn library, or the library you usually use.

Please **do not** send the same enquiry or request to more than one library, as this wastes staff time. If the library you have initially asked is not able to assist, they will check with the other Inn libraries.

- What online access to databases can the Inn libraries provide?

Each Inn library subscribes to the online version of legal textbooks published by Bloomsbury Law Online. These subscriptions include a number of additional licences which can be allocated to members of the Inn to use directly. Please contact your own Inn library to enquire about access.

Please contact your own Inn library to enquire if there are other databases you can access directly.

- Why can't the Inn libraries share their login details to all their databases?

Most of the licences which the Inn libraries have with online publishers are restricted to members of staff and to members of the Inn who are visiting the Library. The Inns have had discussions with a number of publishers about extending their licences to include direct access for members, but have not been able to agree a model which provides this access whilst protecting the publishers' need to be able to sell to individual barristers and chambers.

- [Are there other ways of accessing legal materials?](#)

Yes – many publishers are offering trials to their databases. These include online textbooks from Westlaw (Sweet & Maxwell) and Lexis (Butterworths). For more information see your Inn's library information site as above.

In addition all the Inn libraries offer a document supply service (details below).

- [What document supply service is offered by the Inn libraries?](#)

The Inn libraries all provide a document supply service and can provide copies of material for members in line with the statutory exemptions for copyright.

Please contact your own Inn library, or the library you usually use for any distance service requests. The librarians are working collectively to answer all queries, so you effectively have access to the combined resources of the four Inns.

- [How do I know what material can be supplied?](#)

Please check with your Inn library. Not only do the libraries have access to the main UK databases, they also have sources related to their specialist collections.

They will also have expertise in searching legal sources freely available on the internet.

Even where material is not available, they may be able to offer alternative suggestions.

- [When does copyright legislation allow the libraries to supply material?](#)

The exemptions are:

- For existing judicial or Parliamentary proceedings,
- For non-commercial research or for private study,
- The material may be copied (so long as it is not to be republished or reproduced for commercial gain). The usual classes of material here are documents covered by Crown copyright and historic material which is out of copyright.

- [What may be supplied?](#)

The amount of material is limited to:

- one article in any one issue of a periodical
- one law report in any one issue
- a reasonable proportion of any other published work (i.e. 10% or one chapter)