

CALL/ACBD Research Grant

Research Databank

The following is a listing of past recipients of the CALL/ACBD Research Grant and the status of their research.

Prison Libraries, Library Resources

Karen Sawatzky and Kirsten Wurmman, “I just wanna know about my rights”: Creating access to legal materials for incarcerated Manitobans”

Abstract

Karen Sawatzky, Director of Legal Resources at the Manitoba Law Library, and Kirsten Wurmman, Chair of the Prison Libraries Committee (PLC), Manitoba Libraries Association (MLA), will investigate the legal needs of incarcerated Manitobans and create a comprehensive list of resources and materials to meet those needs. Through direct and anecdotal interactions with inmates and staff inside provincial correctional institutions, as well as through textual research and a literature review, this proposal aims to highlight major topics of legal information needs amongst incarcerated Manitobans. The proposal will also create a list of legal materials and resources, both free and for purchase, which can assist those unmet legal needs inside the provincial correctional institutions in Manitoba. This list will be useful for provincial correctional institutions in other jurisdictions.

Research grant awarded in 2023

Information Literacy, Legal Education, Legal Research Instruction

Hannah Steeves, “Canadian Legal Research Skills: A Practical Approach”

Abstract

The Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie currently teaches legal research through a blended learning model. This past year, during the pandemic, it was incredibly challenging to fully engage with students in a virtual synchronous class space. It highlighted a need for an interactive instructional tool – not just at the Schulich School of Law, but potentially one that could be available to any law student seeking foundational legal research skills. I propose to research, design, and develop an interactive Open Educational Resource (OER) to help teach Canadian legal research skills.

Research grant awarded in 2021



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Pro se Representation, Administration of Justice

Megan Siu, "Accessing Legal Information as a Self-Represented Litigant in Rural Alberta"

Abstract

Self-represented litigants are on the rise across the country. As a result, the continuing trend of access to justice initiatives in Canada has shifted to empower people by educating them about their legal rights and responsibilities. While free and online resources have been the popular choice, the user experience of those resources isn't necessarily inclusive of those whose internet connections are faulty, slow, or lacking in general. People living in rural areas have more barriers to face as they navigate legal issues compared to their urban counterparts and are more likely to be self-represented in the legal process.

Research grant awarded in 2018 (award declined)

Open Access, Research Citation

Soojin Kim, "The Open Access Impact on Legal Scholarship"

Abstract

The Open Access movement has taken flight; however, there is a dearth of research, particularly in Canada, that describes the implications of providing unrestricted access to law review articles. I would like to examine the scholarly impact of Open Access for a select few law review articles published in Canada. If the ultimate objective for authors is to have their work be as far-reaching as possible, thereby making a tangible difference in the real world, I think it is meaningful to explore the Open Access model as a vehicle to realizing this goal.

[Progress Report submitted May 2017](#)

Research grant awarded in 2016

Law Reporting, Headnotes, Legal Precedents

Greg Wurzer, "The Legal Headnote and the History of Law Reporting", (2017) 42:1 CLLR 10.

Abstract

This paper examines the origins of the legal headnote in England, which can be traced as far back as the twelfth century. The history of the headnote is tied to the history of how law cases were first reported and to the development of early law reports. Technology played an important part in the development of law reporting and the legal headnote, as handwritten manuscripts produced by monks and scribes gave way to the printing press.

Research grant awarded in 2014

KF Modified

Tim Knight & Sarah Sutherland, "Exploring the Linked Data Application of KF Modified Classification"

[Final Report submitted May 2016](#)

Research grant awarded in 2013

Resource Sharing

Kim Nayyer, "Resource-Sharing: Where Do We Go Now?" (Presentation delivered at the 52nd Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries, Winnipeg, 26 May 2014) [unpublished].

Abstract

Is interlibrary loan still a valued library service? What does resource sharing mean in the digital library landscape? Are formal agreements between libraries for resource sharing, reciprocal borrowing, and other collaborative collection decisions still relevant? Does a last print copy repository make sense for Canada, given our geographic size and institutional diversity? We invite you to join the discussion on "Resource Sharing: Where do we go now?" with panelists from a wide variety of law libraries, in courts, academic institutions, law firms and law societies. Kim Nayyer will share with us the results of her survey on formal and informal resource sharing agreements in Canadian law libraries. Tracy Thompson will discuss NELLCO's resource sharing initiatives, including PALMPrint. What are best practices for ILL and cooperative collection development? How has the closure of libraries across the country affected your resource sharing network? And where do we go from here?

Research grant awarded in 2012

Information Literacy, Legal Education, Legal Research Competencies

David Michels, "Assessing Legal Research Skills Within the Information Literacy Framework", (2016) 41 CLLR 14.

Abstract

In this study I ask the question: Can standardized information literacy tests help assess and benchmark the learning of information skills by Canadian law students? This study replicates an earlier study that found that a standardized test of information literacy competencies, SAILS, was not an effective measure of law student information literacy levels. By applying the same test under similar conditions to another group of law students, I found that while the test did not measure legal research competencies, it was effective in measuring basic information literacy skills in law students with often surprising results. I argue that legal research training programs cannot assume students have achieved competency in information literacy skills.

Research grant awarded in 2010

Political Satire, Culture and Law

Mary Hemmings, "Make 'em Laugh: Images of Law in Eighteenth Century Popular Culture" in Anne Wagner and Richard Sherwin, eds, *Law, Culture and Visual Studies* (London : Springer, 2013) ch 40 or 893.

Abstract

In the eighteenth century, satire was seen as a liberty and could be expressed as visual popular culture. When aimed at power, satire deflected the taint of treason and sedition through the use of public voice in the name of liberty. Law and its actors stood as juxtaposition to the newly found ideals of liberty. Visual satire was instrumental in shaping the move from exemplary punishment to defining new paradigms of justice through the use of visual metaphor.

Research grant awarded in 2009

Librarians Job Satisfaction, Law Librarians Employment

Nancy McCormack & Nicole Eva, "If You Could Do It All Again: Job Satisfaction and Law Library Workers in Canada" (2009) 34:5 CLLR 241.

Sommaire

En 2008, l'Association canadienne des bibliothèques de droit a parrainé un sondage qui portait sur le degré de satisfaction des gens travaillant dans les bibliothèques de droit vis-à-vis leur emploi. Les participants au sondage ont répondu à des questions sur la rémunération, l'autonomie, la communication ou les relations avec les supérieurs/collègues, le stress/l'épuisement professionnel, l'interaction avec les usagers, le sens du travail, l'horaire de travail, l'aire de travail, la condition physique de la bibliothèque, la localisation géographique, etc. Les résultats révèlent que les gens travaillant dans les bibliothèques de droit, pour la plupart, sont satisfaits de leur emploi. Les aspects les moins satisfaisants de l'emploi ayant été le plus souvent mentionnés sont la rémunération et les opportunités d'avancement.

Research grant awarded in 2008

Legal Services, Access to Justice

Kirsten Wurmman, "Public Legal Education Bibliography" (2009) 34:5 CLLR 232.

Sommaire

À travers le Canada, les bibliothécaires pour l'éducation juridique publique ont travaillé d'arrache-pied pour augmenter l'accès public à l'information juridique et à développer les habiletés des non-juristes afin qu'ils puissent utiliser et influencer le système juridique. Cette bibliographie annotée, bien qu'incomplète, essaie d'identifier ces bibliothécaires et l'important travail qu'ils ont accompli.

Research grant awarded in 2007

Library Resources, Information Technology, Film Collections

Nancy McCormack "Beyond Print - A Survey of Educational and Documentary Film Collections in Canadian Law Libraries" (2007) 32:4 CLLR 184.

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine the extent to which Canadian law libraries have incorporated educational and documentary films into their collections and how they deal with such media once it forms part of their collection. While more and more material of this nature is now available from publishers and vendors, the author's hypothesis was that it has yet to make any great impact on law libraries with, perhaps, the exception of academic libraries which might collect this type of media specifically as a resource to be shown in the classroom.

Research grant awarded in 2006

Legal Research Instruction, Academic Law Libraries

Sonia Poulin, "Comparative Review of Academic Legal Research Courses in Canada and Abroad" (Presentation delivered at the 45th Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries, Ottawa, 8 May 2007) [unpublished].

Abstract

Sonia described the development of her interest in and concerns about teaching legal research as a result of her experiences as a law firm librarian, an academic law librarian, and a legal research instructor. Furthermore, she sees that globalization in legal education has significant implications for teaching legal research. Her research, conducted in the course of a Ph.D. degree, will study and understand learning behaviour of law students with respect to legal research and will assess the practical use of knowledge gained through legal research courses. Research methodology will include surveys of legal research instruction in law school courses, in private law library training, and evaluation of skills of articling students and/or junior lawyers.

Research grant awarded in 2006

Civil Justice, Law Dictionaries, Thesaurus, Access to Justice

Michael Lines "Thesaurus of Canadian Civil Justice System Terminology: Sources, Data Collection and Technology" (Presentation delivered at the 44th Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries, Edmonton, 9 May 2006) [unpublished].

Abstract

Following on research estimating that most large Canadian academic law libraries contain some 10,000 titles relevant to Civil Justice; demonstrating the inadequate access to the materials provided by LC subject headings and various classification systems; and suggesting that a large portion of the available literature has not been collected in the first place, this CALL-funded research will establish the sources and technical requirements for the creation of a Thesaurus of Canadian Civil Justice Terminology. The research will also begin collecting the terminology and will encourage discussion of the issues in law library circles. The Thesaurus of Canadian Civil Justice System Terminology will improve access to justice in three ways: by collecting and organizing the disparate terminology currently used across Canada to describe civil justice system concepts and making those concepts available to library users for searching; by assisting libraries in establishing better collection development practices; and by making the concept of civil justice more visible generally.

See also article from Slaw dated August 12, 2010 <http://www.slaw.ca/2010/08/12/defining-civil-justice/>

Research grant awarded in 2005

Legal Bibliography, Common Law, French Language

Simone Clermont "Bibliography of Common Law materials written in French", Ongoing.

Abstract

This project is the compilation of a bibliography of Common Law materials written in French. These include books, theses and periodical articles. The Université de Moncton Law School offers an LLB in Common Law and teaches in French only. It was, therefore, important to obtain all available French books dealing with Common Law, either in the original editions or in the reprint versions. The project started a decade ago and the researcher has worked in numerous law libraries in North America (Harvard, Yale, UCLA, Berkeley, Library of Congress, etc and of course in Canadian Law Libraries) and in Europe (France, Belgium, Switzerland and England).

Research grant awarded in 2004



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Legal Annotations and Citations, Information Storage and Retrieval Systems, Legal Research

Greg Wurzer, Rhonda O'Neill & Aleksandra Zivanovic, "Canadian Electronic Legal Citators: an Evaluation of Their Accuracy and Efficiency" (2004) 29 CLLR 68.

Sommaire

Au cours de la dernière décennie, la recherche légale a été considérablement modernisée par l'arrivée des bases de données de citations légales électroniques. Ces services sont devenus des outils essentiels permettant aux chercheurs de compléter leurs recherches de façon précise et efficace.

Au début de cette étude, les auteurs s'attendaient à trouver que toutes les bases de données de citations contiennent essentiellement la même information et qu'un oubli occasionnel d'une décision par une des bases de données serait dû à une variation régionale ou de juridiction.

Un échantillon de décisions canadiennes au niveau des cours d'appel rendues à partir de 1998 a été sélectionné et testé dans QuickCITE, Shepard's et KeyCiteCanada en mars 2002 et encore une fois en décembre 2002.

Les résultats du test révèlent que le niveau d'exhaustivité de tous les services de citations était plus bas que prévu. Si un mot devait être choisi pour résumer le traitement légal fait de la jurisprudence canadienne dans les bases de données de citations, ce serait inconstance. Les différences quant au traitement des décisions trouvées dans chaque base de données de citations étaient aussi évidentes que les différences trouvées entre les bases de données de citations. La terminologie employée pour décrire le traitement a également été soulevé comme un problème connexe.

Cette recherche démontre qu'il y a plusieurs problèmes partagés par les trois services et qu'il n'y a pas un de ces services qui est supérieur aux deux autres. L'objectif de cette recherche est maintenant d'initier une discussion sur comment nous pourrions aider ceux définissant les termes reliés au traitement des décisions, établissant les liens au niveau de l'historique et suivant le traitement des décisions afin de mieux rencontrer les besoins des chercheurs juridiques.

Research grant awarded in 2002

Legal Classification, KF Modified

Tim Knight, "The Future of KF Modified in Canadian Law Libraries: A Research Report" (2002) Can. L. Libr. 20.

Abstract

440 surveys were sent to all types of law libraries in Canada. Of these, 84 were KF Modified users and 92% of these indicated that they were satisfied with the classification system. The results demonstrated that the KF Modified user base is quite stable with only 4 libraries reporting that they had switched from KF modified to some other system. There are 7 libraries that are currently considering adopting the classification scheme in the future indicating that the number of KF modified users continues to grow.

Research grant awarded in 2001

Legal Publishing, Access and Preservation

Ann Rae, "Preserving Canadian Legal Treatises and Monographs, 1921-1980: A Feasibility Study" (Presentation delivered at the 38th Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries, Charlottetown, 29 May 2000) [unpublished].

Published as:

Anne Rae, "Preserving Canada's Law Collections: Is It Time For a National Strategy?" (2004) 29 CLLR 16.

Abstract

This project is designed to identify the volume of material represented by Canadian legal treatises and monographs published between 1921 and 1980 and to investigate best practices and costs for preserving and enhancing access to them.

Research grant awarded in 1999

Law Librarians, Continuing Education

Ted Tjaden, "A Study of the Education of Law Librarians in Canada" (Presentation delivered at the 38th Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries, Charlottetown, 29 May 2000) [unpublished].

Published as:

Angela Gibson & Ted Tjaden, "A Study of the Education Levels and Professional Development Needs of Canadian Law Librarians" (2005) 30 CLLR 242.

Abstract

This study will examine: (i) the existing education levels of Canadian law librarians, (ii) the availability of current master's level library science programs in Canada offering training in legal literature. (iii) the availability of current continuing education courses for law librarians in Canada and (iv) the demand for continuing education courses for law librarians in Canada. A review will be done of the literature in in the United States on these same points in an attempt to draw conclusions or make recommendations for the Canadian environment.

Note: there is also an Executive Summary and Report on the original list but the links do not work.

Research grant awarded in 1999

Legal Citation, Supreme Court of Canada, Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Jann Lynn-George, "A Survey of Supreme Court of Canada Practice on Citation of Authorities in s.1 Charter Decisions since 1982" (Presentation delivered at the 37th Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries, Banff, 31 May 1999) [unpublished].

Abstract

The general aim of this research project is to produce a survey of Supreme Court of Canada practice on citation of authorities in s.1 Charter decisions since 1982. The specific objectives are to determine whether there are any trends in citation practice according to: (a) whether the S.C.C. decides that legislation that violates the Charter is "of no force and effect" or whether it is upheld on the basis that it is within "such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society" (s.1); (b) whether the S.C.C. affirms or reverses the decision of the court of appeal (where applicable); (c) whether the action is civil or criminal; and (d) whether impugned legislation came into force before or after the Charter.

Research grant awarded in 1998



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Legal Citation, Judicial Treatment

Jane Parkinson, "Fine Wine in Dusty Bottles? A Study of the Age of Cited Decisions" (2002) 27 Can. L. Libr. 63.

Jane Parkinson, "The Labels on the Bottles: Or, Where to Find Cited Cases" (2003) 28 Can. L. Libr. 62.

Abstract

The purpose of the project is to analyze the average frequency of citations for each of the following years: 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990 and the length of time over which decisions are cited. A pattern of longevity will be determined for each record and for each year. If time permits, some analysis of frequently-cited and/or long-lived decisions will be presented.