



AustLII in 2010

A snapshot at age 15

AustLII is a joint facility of UTS and UNSW Faculties of Law

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/>

Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII)

November 2010

Graham Greenleaf, Andrew Mowbray and Philip Chung



AUSTLII'S AUSTRALASIAN SERVICES

AustLII fundamentals

Mission

The Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII) was formed in 1995 by the Faculties of Law at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) and the University of New South Wales (UNSW) as a joint research institute, with funding from a national academic grant to support development of academic research infrastructure.

Our aim from the start was also to provide free access to the public and to the legal profession, not only to academics and students, because we believed that everyone should have free access to key sources of legal information in a democracy under the rule of law. We also believed that the broadest range of support was necessary to make a free-access facility sustainable in the long run.

Scope

Fifteen years later, AustLII now provides access to more than 450 databases of Australian and New Zealand legal information (we have always been 'Australasian', not only 'Australian'). Australia is a federation of eight States and Territories, so once the federal (Commonwealth) jurisdiction and New Zealand are added, AustLII covers 10 jurisdictions. These databases cover the following: decisions of almost all Courts from all nine Australian jurisdictions; legislation (Acts and Regulations) from all jurisdictions; all treaties to which Australia is a party; the texts of over 25,000 journal articles from 70 law journals, and other forms of legal scholarship; and a citator that links together citation patterns from all these different sources. We have added a new database to AustLII at least every two weeks for the last 15 years.

Access

AustLII is the most-used online research facility for Australian law, whether free access or commercial. Our own logs show that we obtain about 600,000 page accesses per day¹ (with a population of less than 25 million). Monthly reports from the Internet ratings agency 'Hitwise' show that AustLII has at least three times the market share of the top three legal commercial publishers combined (LexisNexis, Thomson and CCH), and similar market share to all government sources of legal research materials combined.

¹ This is less than estimates we have given previously, because from July 2010 we have blocked far more attempts at automatic 'spidering' of AustLII data than previously.

Over 45% of accesses to AustLII come from business and the legal profession, close to 30% come from academic institutions (students and staff) and about 25% from government.² The general public also uses AustLII, most accessing AustLII through generic ISPs. Usage across Australia is approximately the same as for the population distribution.

Governance and funding

AustLII is an independent not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the provision of free access to legal information. It was originally established in 1995 as a joint project of the two University Law Faculties at UTS and UNSW, and has always had the support of the Council of Australian Law Deans as shared research infrastructure for all Australian law schools. It has always been open for free access to the general public, legal profession and government, and aimed to also serve their needs as best it could.

In 2008-09 AustLII was restructured into two cooperating entities. AustLII Foundation Ltd is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee with UTS and UNSW as its only members, and an independent Board of Directors.³ Its purpose is to raise funding from contributors to support the maintenance of AustLII's continually expanding Australian databases, and to provide transparent and accountable governance for the use of these contribution funds, which have averaged about A\$1M for each of the past three years.⁴ The company is recognised as a public library, with tax deductibility status for donations. AustLII's 273 contributors in 2009 included 29 universities and academic institutions, 19 Government agencies, 26 Courts and Tribunals, 22 organisations from business and industry, 158 organisations and individuals from the legal profession, 11 Law Societies and Bar Associations and eight contributions from the community.

The other half of AustLII's work, its research projects and international projects (including operation of the portals WorldLII, CommonLII and AsianLII) are now carried out by the AustLII Research Institute. This is a joint facility of UTS and UNSW Law Faculties with a joint Management Committee.⁵ It raised approximately A\$580,000 for research and international projects for 2009,⁶ principally from grants by the Australian Research Council, AusAID and the Commonwealth Secretariat (based in London). The Victorian Legal Services Board and the Australian National Data Service (ANDS) have also provided large current competitive grants for development of Australian databases.

It is this diversity of funding support, from contributing organisations and a number of different competitive grant sources that is the most important guarantee of AustLII's independence. AustLII is no longer dependent on any single source of funding. Its two constituent parts also have objectives which ensure its not-for-profit status.

² These are only estimates from IP addresses, ISP logs and other sources, as users are not identified by AustLII. These figures are consistent with AustLII's 2010 User Survey.

³ Details of the Board are at p7, and the company's Annual Report starts p28, in the AustLII 2009 Year in Review at <http://www.austlii.edu.au/austlii/reports/2009/AustLII_YiR_2009.pdf>.

⁴ Details of current and past contributors, and amounts contributed, are at <<http://www.austlii.edu.au/austlii/sponsors/>>.

⁵ Details of the Management Committee are in the AustLII 2009 Year in Review, p7.

⁶ Competitive grant details are in the AustLII 2009 Year in Review, p17. These figures do not include partner contributions, which are included under the above amount for contributions.

Staff and equipment

AustLII has approximately 10 staff,⁷ and therefore does very little human editorial work on texts it publishes. Instead, it relies almost entirely on automated mark-up of texts. Most AustLII staff have a high degree of computing skills, and are primarily involved in automating text conversions.

AustLII's technical infrastructure has to have sufficient processing capacity to handle over 600,000 accesses per day, with over 1,000 simultaneous searches being processed. It must provide fast searching of 1.74 million files in a search of the whole system (the most common search type), involving searching over 22.85 GB of searchable texts. AustLII therefore has high capacity principal and auxiliary servers based on Sun equipment,⁸ three 20TB storage systems (main and back-up),⁹ and various ancillary systems used for virtual hosting, firewall, DNS, web spidering, and text conversion and processing. AustLII also has a 90 page per minute duplex scanner and associated equipment.

Case law

Scope of current case law

Before AustLII started in 1995 no Court in Australia provided free public access to its decisions, partly because the Internet was still in its infancy. It was also because some Courts and governments thought they should try to sell access to court decisions to assist their budgets. The term 'court' will be used to refer to both courts and administrative tribunals.¹⁰

In 1995 the High Court of Australia (our highest Court, covering both constitutional and non-constitutional cases) took the lead and provided its decisions back to 1947 to AustLII to publish for free online access. The decisions had previously only been available through a pay-for-access government service or through commercial publishers. The Supreme Court of our largest State, New South Wales, and our other national courts (the Federal Court, Family Court and Administrative Appeals Tribunal) also put their decisions on AustLII in 1995. It took until 1997 for AustLII to obtain the decisions from the Supreme Courts of the other eight States and Territories. Since 1997 AustLII has been working to obtain the decisions of all lower Courts in Australia. We now publish decisions of over 150 Australian courts. Our New Zealand partners who operate NZLII add to AustLII another 30 from New Zealand. AustLII has a current project, funded by a national research infrastructure fund (ANDS), to publish the decisions of all remaining courts in Australia and New Zealand by 2011, which should result in it hosting the decisions of over 200 courts by 2011.

⁷ In 2009, AustLII had 10.5 total equivalent full-time staff (including full-time and part-time staff). This includes the Executive Director, but not the UTS and UNSW Co-Directors. (AustLII 2009 Year in Review, p8).

⁸ AustLII's main server is a Sun Fire Enterprise E2900 server with 12 dual-core UltraSPARC IV+ CPUs and 96GB of memory that is connected via a gigabit link to the UTS network. The main development machine and backup server is a Sun Fire V880 server, with eight UltraSPARC III CPUs and 64GB of memory. A separate email server is used to handle the various email data feeds sent to AustLII. The current email server is a Sun Fire V490 server, with four UltraSPARC IV CPUs, and 16GB of memory.

⁹ The main storage system is a SUN X4140 with a J4400 backend of 20TB raw storage. This is backed up by an EMC NS700 NAS server with 20TB raw storage space scalable to 64TB onsite. A similar EMC NAS unit is located off-site and is used for backup and disaster recovery purposes.

¹⁰ This distinction is made in Australia for constitutional reasons of separation of powers.

Many of the courts whose decisions AustLII publishes do not publish them on their own websites, or on any government website. AustLII is at present the only free access publisher of the decisions of these courts, but this is because other prospective publishers have not organised provision of data by those courts. This includes some of Australia's most important courts, including the High Court of Australia (the apex court), the Federal Court (the court with the largest volume of cases), the Family Court, and the Supreme Courts of the States of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. Some of these courts are now starting to publish decisions on their own websites, and other free access publishers are now obtaining their own 'feeds' of data from some of these courts. For many smaller courts, AustLII is the only publisher of any of their decisions, but these decisions are of considerable importance to some practitioners and community groups.

The total number of court decisions on AustLII is now 445,000 (including 38,000 from New Zealand). AustLII's provision of court decisions is only possible because of the close cooperation of courts as data providers on a day-to-day basis. Over the last 15 years AustLII's Directors and staff have worked closely with courts to develop standards and procedures for provision of cases to AustLII and other publishers.

Australia still has 'Crown copyright' in court decisions, so AustLII has to obtain consent from courts to publish their decisions. However, in 15 years no court has refused to give such consent, and they actively cooperate to provide digital copies of their decisions. So it can now be said that free access republication of court decisions is the accepted practice in Australia. However, that does not mean that AustLII is a repository of court decisions for other publishers to republish: it is necessary for other publishers to source their case law direct from the courts and tribunals concerned. AustLII does not allow other publishers to republish data sourced from AustLII. There are many reasons for this, including that courts sometimes subsequently remove or amend decisions on AustLII.

AustLII aims to keep its decisions as up-to-date as its resources allow. Courts email their decisions as frequently as they wish to a dedicated email address at AustLII for each court. All databases are rebuilt overnight and so all new decisions are searchable the next day. Decisions may, however, be added to the databases much faster than that. For example, new decisions from the High Court are available on AustLII within one hour of the court handing them down. Supreme Court databases are often updated multiple times per day.

Case law: Historical coverage

Because Australia is a common law country, many old judgments remain relevant as precedents. The historical coverage of court decisions on AustLII varies a great deal between courts. For AustLII's first decade the emphasis was on obtaining the current decisions of courts, back to the mid-1990s, as these were likely to be available in digital form. Now AustLII has a new emphasis on back-capturing the historical decisions of the most important courts. Every decision of the High Court published in its official report series since its inception in 1903 is available on AustLII.

AustLII is at present scanning every reported decision of Victoria's Supreme Court from 1875-1956 (the *Victorian Law Reports* (VLRs)), and earlier decisions from 1861, and making them searchable. We will then exchange the digitised copies for a digital set of the *Victorian Reports* (VRs) from LexisNexis. A complete set of reported Victorian case law for 150 years will then be available for

free access from AustLII, and also available from LexisNexis. AustLII has also received the scanned text of over 20,000 unreported Victorian Supreme Court decisions from the Court, and will also make them searchable.

AustLII's eventual aim is to make all reported decisions, and important unreported decisions, of Australian courts available for free online access.

Citation practices

All courts in Australia now use a standard form of citation of their decisions, applied by the court to all decisions that they release for public dissemination, at the time the decision is released. AustLII has applied the same method of citation retrospectively to back-sets of cases that it has obtained.

The citation method, which we now call 'neutral citation', was first used by the High Court of Australia for its first decision in 1998. It has four elements as follows:

Name of case [YEAR] Court designator [n]

So the decision which is cited as '*R v Swaffield* [1998] HCA 1' is the first decision handed down by the High Court of Australia in 1998. The case has subsequently been reported in three commercial law report series, but it is still correctly cited with the neutral 'HCA' citation listed first:

R v Swaffield [1998] HCA 1; 192 CLR 159; 151 ALR 98; 72 ALJR 339

This adoption of a 'neutral' method of citation, where citations are not owned by a particular publisher, can be used for either print or online publication. The citation is applied by the court itself at the time the decision is released for publication. Courts discuss with AustLII what court designators to use, to achieve consistency and avoid conflicts.

The same approach to case citations adopted in Australia has been adopted by courts and Legal Information Institutes (LIIs) in many other countries, particularly across the common law world,¹¹ and they now often cite cases from other courts using neutral citations. AustLII applies the neutral citation method retrospectively to any historical back-sets of cases it publishes. The neutral citation system has made it possible for AustLII to automate very large scale hypertext linking between documents, and create a case citator independent of any legal publisher.

Legislation

AustLII provides 76 databases of legislative materials, comprising 1,189,000 searchable documents (the number is large because each section of an Act is separately searchable). There are 30 million hypertext links within the legislation, including to text items such as definitions, other Acts and other sections. For each of the ten Australian and New Zealand jurisdictions these databases include consolidated Acts (ie including all amendments), Acts as enacted each year, Bills, Explanatory Memoranda accompanying Bills, consolidated Regulations and annual Regulations. For some jurisdictions there are also databases of Repealed Acts and Regulations,

¹¹ Including the United Kingdom, Singapore and South Africa (official court adoption), and by BAILII (for Ireland), PacLII (all Pacific Island countries), SAFLII (all southern and eastern African countries), HKLII (Hong Kong), NZLII (New Zealand), and by AustLII for all case law databases it maintains in AsianLII, CommonLII and WorldLII.

detailed analyses of Bills by Parliamentary Libraries, reports on Bills by Parliamentary Committees, and Explanatory Statements accompanying Regulations. On average, these databases go back about twenty years, except for the consolidated databases which are comprehensive.

AustLII has started three projects to extend these legislation databases:

1. To create databases of all historical Acts back to the start of each jurisdiction, the first of which, 'Victorian Historical Acts 1851-1995', has been released;
2. To obtain all the minor delegated legislation in a jurisdiction, the first of which (in 2011) will be 'Legislative Instruments' (FRLI) database of all Commonwealth delegated legislation in force;
3. To create 'point-in-time' or 'versions' databases for all current legislation,¹² showing each successive amended version of a section of an Act, and allowing side-by-side comparison with previous versions. This has been done for NSW Acts since 2002, and for South Australian Acts since 2004. In 2011 it will be extended to Commonwealth Acts.

Among the most common features of LIIs are that, in addition to judgments, they also provide legislation and hypertext links from judgments to legislation and to other judgments.

Treaties and other international agreements

In Australia treaties do not become part of Australian domestic law merely because they are entered into and ratified by Australia. They must also be implemented in domestic law through legislation. From 1996, AustLII has worked in partnership with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to develop the Australian Treaties Library on AustLII,¹³ which contains nine databases of which the most significant is the 'Australian Treaties Series (ATS)' which includes the full texts of every multilateral and bilateral treaty Australia has entered into since 1900 when the country was formed, and is updated monthly. In addition there are databases of treaties Australia has signed but not yet ratified, Parliamentary reports on treaties, explanatory statements, and so on. This may be the largest online national treaties collection.

Legal scholarship

AustLII has included some law journals from inception and in 2008-09, due to an academic grant, expanded these into the Australasian Legal Scholarship Library.¹⁴ The Library now contains over 30,000 searchable items of scholarship and may be the second largest free access collection on the Internet (at least in English), after the US-based Legal Scholarship Network (LSN/SSRN). The Library contains the full texts of 70 Australian and New Zealand law journals (mainly from Law Schools), with the back-sets of some of the more important journals going back to the 1950s;¹⁵ there are four repositories of current academic scholarship (including research not yet published); the abstracts of all law-related Australian PhD theses; the full texts of legal books published by Sydney University Press; and two databases of 'judicial scholarship' (speeches and articles by judges). All this content is also searchable via Google Scholar and is highly visible there.

¹² See Point-in-Time Legislation Project at <<http://portsea.austlii.edu.au/pit/>>

¹³ Australian Treaties Library at <<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/>>

¹⁴ Australasian Legal Scholarship Library at <<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/>>

¹⁵ For example, Sydney Law Review 1953-, University of Tasmania Law Journal 1958-, Adelaide Law Review 1960-, Monash University Law Review 1974-, and University of New South Wales Law Journal 1975-.

Citators

LawCite is a free access citator which currently contains citation records for 3.5 million judgments, journal articles (about 250,000), law reform reports and other legal materials.¹⁶ Australian legal documents are the largest component of its records (because of the number of cases etc on AustLII), it is an international citator based on collaboration between a group of LIIs.¹⁷ It has very good coverage for most common law countries. It is particularly useful for tracking wherever a case has been cited in other cases in common law countries, and in tracking the citation of Australian and New Zealand law journal articles. LawCite is used by some of these collaborating LIIs as their own citator, just as it is used by AustLII. It is a shared resource.



LawCite's citator software is developed by AustLII and uses heuristics to recognise and extract citation information from the content made accessible by the collaborating LIIs and other sources. LawCite records are updated daily, because it is fully automated. In a new version of AustLII's results interface released in September 2010, each item in a list of search results also includes an indication (1 to 5 stars) of how often it is cited, and a link to its full citation record in LawCite.

1. [Waterford v Commonwealth \[1987\] HCA 25; \(1987\) 163 CLR 54 \(24 June 1987\)](#)
(From [High Court of Australia](#); 24 June 1987; 147 KB) LawCite ★★★★★
2. [White, Nadine --- "Julie Breen v Cholmondeley Williams \(1996\) 186 CLR 71" \[1997\] NewcLawRw 7; \(1997\) 2\(1\) The Newcastle Law Review 7](#)
(From [The Newcastle Law Review](#); no date; 25 KB) LawCite ★★★★★
3. [Re Corrs Pavey Whiting and Byrne v Collector of Customs of Victoria and Alphapharm Pty Ltd \[1987\] FCA 266 \(13 August 1987\)](#)
(From [Federal Court of Australia](#); 13 August 1987; 110 KB) LawCite ★★★★★
4. [VFAB v Minister for Immigration & Multicultural & Indigenous Affairs \[2003\] FCA 872 \(20 August 2003\)](#)
(From [Federal Court of Australia](#); 20 August 2003; 112 KB) LawCite ★★★★★
5. [Re Vangel Colakovski v Australian Telecommunications Corporation \[1991\] FCA 152; 100 ALR 111 13 Aar 261 29 FCR 429/23 ALD 1 \(17 April 1991\)](#)
(From [Federal Court of Australia](#); 17 April 1991; 54 KB) LawCite ★★★★★
6. [B and Brisbane North Regional Health Authority \[1994\] QlCmr 1; \(1994\) 1 QAR 279 \(31 January 1994\)](#)
(From [Queensland Information Commissioner](#); 31 January 1994; 275 KB) LawCite ★★★★★
7. [Re Jennifer May Mcdonald Harris v Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Keith Cameron Mackriell and Michael H Cosby \[1983\] FCA 242; \(1983\) 78 FLR 236 \(4 October 1983\)](#)
(From [Federal Court of Australia](#); 4 October 1983; 70 KB) LawCite ★★★★★

¹⁶ LawCite citator at <<http://www.worldlii.org/LawCite/>>

¹⁷ AustLII, BAILII, CyLaw, HKLII, IRLII, NZLII, PaCLII, SAFLLI, MalawiLII, ULII, AsianLII, CommonLII and WorldLII.

AUSTLII'S INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

Assisting development of new LIIs

The Declaration on Free Access to Law (2002)¹⁸ recognises ‘the primary role of local initiatives in free access publishing of their own national legal information’ and its signatories including AustLII agree ‘to help each other and to support, within their means, other organisations that share these goals’ by means such as ‘technical assistance, advice and training’. AustLII was one of six founding members of the Free Access to Law Movement in 2002, an informal association of free access to law providers which now has 33 members.

Since 2000 AustLII has provided its software, infrastructure, expertise and development efforts to assist in the formation of Legal Information Institutes (LIIs) in other countries when requested. AustLII helped to build, and then to run, five of these LIIs until our local partner institutions were able to assume full independent operation: the *British and Irish Legal Information Institute* (BAILII) <<http://www.bailii.org/>> for the five UK and Irish jurisdictions; the *Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute* (PacLII) <<http://www.paclii.org/>>, operated by the University of the South Pacific School of Law in Vanuatu covering 17 Pacific Island nations plus Papua New Guinea; the *Hong Kong Legal Information Institute* (HKLII) <<http://www.hklai.org/>>; the *Southern African Legal Information Institute* (SAFLII) <<http://www.saflii.org/>> covering all English or Portuguese speaking countries in southern and eastern Africa. These LIIs continue to use AustLII’s Sino search engine, and AustLII continues to provide technical upgrades and innovations, and assistance as requested. These LIIs are also AustLII’s closest collaborators in the operation of WorldLII, CommonLII and AsianLII.

The most recent substantial LII developed with AustLII’s assistance is the Legal Information Institute of India (LII of India) <<http://www.liiofindia.org/>>, developed in cooperation with three National Law Schools in India, with AusAID funding. It is open for public access from November 2010 and has over 50 databases which include over 300,000 full text cases, national legislation, treaties, law reform and law journals. From 2010 AustLII is working with partner organisations in other countries to develop new LIIs, including in the Caribbean and Nepal.

Multi-country free access law portals: WorldLII, CommonLII, AsianLII

The Declaration on Free Access to Law also states that ‘All legal information institutes are encouraged to participate in regional or global free access to law networks’. There are currently three such portals operated by AustLII in collaboration with other LIIs.



The **World Legal Information Institute** (WorldLII),¹⁹ launched in 2002, was the first multi-LII site, and was adopted by the Free Access to Law Movement as their joint portal. As well as providing access to databases on other collaborating LIIs, WorldLII hosts the largest collection of databases of international law materials on the Internet, and a global Catalog of law-related websites which is one of the few such catalogs still being maintained.

¹⁸ <<http://www.worldlii.org/worldlii/declaration/>>

¹⁹ WorldLII at <<http://www.worldlii.org/>>

In 2005 AustLII developed the **Commonwealth Legal Information Institute** (CommonLII),²⁰ covering 59 Commonwealth and Common Law countries, in collaboration with seven other LIIs (see Table below). A major addition to CommonLII in 2008 was the 125,000 cases from the English Reports 1220-1873,²¹ the basis of the common law worldwide. AustLII has received an Australian Research Council LIEF grant for 2010-11 to re-develop CommonLII.



AsianLII

The **Asian Legal Information Institute** (AsianLII)²² developed by AustLII in 2006, drew on CommonLII's content (for eight Asian Commonwealth countries), PacLII (for Papua New Guinea), LawPhil (for the Philippines) and HKLII (for Hong Kong).

However, most of its content comprises databases from 17 additional Asian countries which do not yet have local LIIs. AsianLII provides over 220 databases from 27 of these 28 countries in Asia, Myanmar excepted (Afghanistan to Japan; Mongolia to Timor-Leste). The South Asian databases (available through all three portals) provide over 250,000 cases.

The development of CommonLII and AsianLII also significantly expanded the content searchable via WorldLII. Cooperation between the 15 LIIs and FALM members that collaborate in the provision of WorldLII (see Table below) has resulted in their joint provision of nearly 1,200 databases from 165 countries (as at September 2009), searchable from one location. The number of databases has been expanding by an average of more than 100 per year since 2002, and is now expanding by about 200 per year.

Table of searchable databases in multi-LII systems (as at 19 November 2009)

Systems	AsianLII	CommonLII	WorldLII	Countries
AltLaw	-	-	14	-
AsianLII	98*	-	98*	24
AustLII	-	335	335	1
BAILII	-	78	78	4
CanLII	-	-	165**	1
CommonLII	49*	69*	69*	22
CyLaw	-	6	6	1
GLIN	4	-	42	34
HKLII	13	13	13	1
LawPhil	16	-	16	1
LII (Cornell)	-	-	3	1
NZLII	-	35	35	1
PacLII	25	156	180	19
SAFLII	-	56	63	18
ULII	-	7	7	1
WorldLII	-	-	66*	35
TOTAL	205	755	1,190	165

** CanLII databases on WorldLII are not being updated (since 2008).

In this Table, the 'Countries' column indicates the number of additional countries that a particular LII adds to the total number of countries whose databases are searchable via WorldLII. From the total of 165 countries, the only databases from about 40 are the Constitution of the country, but even if those are deducted, the LIIs collaborating in WorldLII provide databases from 125 countries. AustLII maintained 233 of the non-Australian databases (marked *), on AsianLII, CommonLII and WorldLII, in addition to the 335

on AustLII (at that time). This has increased to approximately 300 in the past year.

²⁰ CommonLII at <<http://www.commonlii.org/>>

²¹ English Reports at <<http://www.commonlii.org/uk/cases/EngR/>>

²² AsianLII at <<http://www.asianlii.org/>>

Searching databases in Asian languages

Most of the databases located on or searchable from the three portals are in English. However, a large number of databases are now being added to AsianLII in Chinese (from the PRC, Taiwan, Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR). There are also substantial databases in Vietnamese, Bahasa Indonesian and Portuguese (from Macau).

The International Law Library on WorldLII

The International Law Library on WorldLII is the most comprehensive free access international law research infrastructure on the Internet.²³ It has over 70 databases, the bulk on WorldLII and some on other collaborating LIIs, containing over 120,000 searchable documents concerning international law. It includes the International Courts and Tribunals Collection (37 databases) with over 30,000 decisions from most significant ICTs; and the Treaties & International Agreements Collection (26 databases) with over 35,000 documents includes the complete League of Nations and United Nations treaties series, plus numerous national treaties collections. The Library has been developed since 2002 with ARC support.

The WorldLII Catalog

Since 1997, AustLII has developed and maintained one of the largest catalogs or indexes of law-oriented web sites around the world.²⁴ It has over 20,000 entries classifying websites from or concerning every country into over 10,000 law-related categories. Developed originally from 1997-2003 as 'Project DIAL' (Development of the Internet for Asian Law) for the Asian Development Bank, it has since been absorbed into all of the AustLII-operated international portals (WorldLII, CommonLII and AsianLII) on every country page, and also into other LIIs such as SAFLII, NZLII, AustLII, and LII of India. The Catalog is now updated and maintained selectively in order to complement other funded AustLII projects, but funding is not available to maintain the whole catalog. Sites are removed automatically when links are recognised as no longer valid.

Catalog and Websearch

- [Commonwealth Caribbean Organisations](#)
- [Introductions to Caribbean Laws](#)
- [Legal History](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Law Journals](#)
- [Regional Courts](#)

- [Anguilla@](#)
- [Bahamas@](#)
- [Belize@](#)
- [British Virgin Islands@](#)
- [Dominica@](#)
- [Guyana@](#)
- [Jamaica@](#)
- [Saint Kitts & Nevis@](#)
- [Saint Vincent & the Grenadines@](#)
- [Trinidad & Tobago@](#)
- [Antigua & Barbuda@](#)
- [Barbados@](#)
- [Bermuda@](#)
- [Cayman Islands@](#)
- [Grenada@](#)
- [Haiti@](#)
- [Montserrat@](#)
- [Saint Lucia@](#)
- [Suriname@](#)
- [Turks & Caicos Islands@](#)

²³ International Law Library at <<http://www.worldlii.org/int/special/ihl/>>

²⁴ WorldLII Catalog at <<http://www.worldlii.org/catalog/270.html>>

Top AustLII contributors (1995-2010)

Over \$1 million

Australian Research Council
University of Technology, Sydney
University of New South Wales

\$500,000 to \$1 million

Victorian Legal Services Board
Law Foundation of New South Wales
AusAID
Asian Development Bank

\$100,000 to \$500,000

Australian Business Limited
CCH Australia Limited
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Thomson Reuters
Australian National Data Service
Department of Defence
Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department
Legal Practitioners' Liability Committee
Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation
Australian Taxation Office
Australian Law Reform Commission
Federal Court of Australia
High Court of Australia
Federal Magistrates Court of Australia
Family Court of Australia
Australian National University
Macquarie University



Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII)

AustLII Research Institute

A joint facility of UTS and UNSW Faculties of Law

AustLII Foundation Ltd

ACN: 134 717 972 ABN: 41 134 717 972

Level 12, 235 Jones St
Ultimo NSW 2007 Australia

Tel: +61 2 9514 4921

Fax: +61 2 9514 4908

Web: <http://www.austlii.edu.au/>

Email: feedback@austrlii.edu.au

