
Justice Smith Collection Reading Room: user guide

Please take the time
to read this
document before
removing items from
the shelves.

For RMIT GSBL 2015

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Welcome and about the Justice Smith Collection Reading Room

This room has been purpose built to house this collection and provide students and staff with a sense of what the private study belonging to a law practitioner from an earlier era would have been like.

The majority of this collection was purchased over the life of T. W. Smith with additions by his son T. H. Smith and donated to RMIT's GSBL in 2009. The collection is significant because it shows a snapshot of what reference material a law practitioner would have found important during the middle part of the last century (approx 1930-1980), when T. W. & T. H. Smith were mid to late careers. Items that enhance the collection into the current century have been mostly donated by Phillips Fox and J. McL. Emmerson, the GSBL and its staff.

Brief information on T. W. Smith can be found at

http://www.vicbar.com.au/vicbar_oral/flash_books/Tom%20Smith%20reflections%20by%20Glen%20Waldron%20CJ%20VBN%20Spring%202000%20Pps%2016-17.html

A tongue-in-cheek history of T. H. Smith can be found at

[https://www.vicbar.com.au/GetFile.ashx?file=BarCouncilChairFiles%2FSpeech+3+8+09+version+for+website+\(2\)+approved+edits+accepted+also+formatted+for+website_edit.pdf](https://www.vicbar.com.au/GetFile.ashx?file=BarCouncilChairFiles%2FSpeech+3+8+09+version+for+website+(2)+approved+edits+accepted+also+formatted+for+website_edit.pdf)

Highlights of the collection include:

The Law Reports – a close to complete collection from 1865

Weekly Law Reports – issues from 1843

Victorian Law Reports – a near complete collection to 2008

Some essential reference books including Seton's judgements and orders, William's bankruptcy practice and Lewin on Trusts, among many others can be found.

Search the collection either through the Victorian Collections website:

(<http://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/graduate-school-of-business-and-law-rmit-university>)

or through Trove: (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>) adding this to the search phrase: (nuc:"VJSC") so you only get results housed in the reading room.

This collection is not the definitive RMIT law collection, for more comprehensive law collection information please see the RMIT Library libguide on law: <http://rmit.libguides.com/law>

PLEASE NOTE:

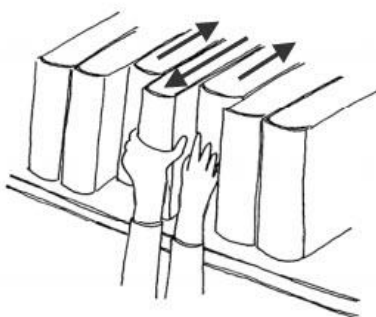
It is important to keep the blinds in this room closed at all times. This is because the manufacturing technique of the items has left a lot of the collection susceptible to UV and heat damage from sunlight.

As temperature and humidity can greatly affect items of this age you may also notice that this room is colder than expected, so please rug up.

When handling items

A few things to keep in mind if you would like to have a look at something in the reading room:

- Please wash and dry your hands thoroughly before touching the books, this removes moisturisers and unnatural oils from your skin that can stain or damage the books.
- No gloves necessary. This is because gloves often dull the sense of touch needed to handle older books such as those found in this reading room.
- When removing a book, please don't pull it from the top of the spine, instead push back the items on either side of it and then grip the spine of the book around the middle (see Figure 1.)



*Figure 1. Correct way to remove a book
(Adapted from p. 6 Handling library material, Trinity College Library Dublin)*

- If you are taking a book off the shelf please insert a green laminated place marker where the book goes so you can replace it easily when you are finished using the book.
- Place books (especially older ones) onto the book pillow – this stops damage to the binding of the book that can happen if a book is opened flat.
- Please keep food and drink well away from any books you take off the shelves, preferably place food and drink on the floor or in your bag.
- Please keep biro/pens away from the books try and use pencil when in the reading room so there is less chance of ink getting on the books.
- Please replace books on the shelf in their original positions when you have finished.

Thank you 😊

Contacts

If you have any questions, wish to report anything or want to discuss the collection please use the contacts below:

RMIT GSBL Phone: 03 9925 5555

RMIT GSBL Email: gsbl.admin@rmit.edu.au

RMIT Law Liaison Librarian: Jennifer Hurley

RMIT Law Liaison Librarian Phone: 03 9925 5696

RMIT Law Liaison Librarian Email: jennifer.hurley@rmit.edu.au

References

Neligan, C. & Bioletti, S. 2007, *Handling library material: information for staff*, Preservation & Conservation Department, Trinity College Library, University of Dublin, Ireland, <<https://www.tcd.ie/Library/preservation/assets/Final%20draft%202007%20HANDLING%20LIBRARY%20MATERIAL.pdf>>.