Welcome to the Diana M. Priestly Law Library

The Law Library at the University of Victoria is named for its founding librarian, Diana M. Priestly who was Law Librarian and Professor of Law from June 1, 1974 until her appointment as Professor Emeritus on July 1, 1987. The Library opened on November 15, 1980 in the Murray and Anne Fraser Building, and a stunning extensive renovation project was completed in November 2009 with funding from the Law Foundation of British Columbia and the University of Victoria.

Renovation Features

The renovation expands the existing strengths of the Library and provides additional collaborative and quiet study spaces, better lighting, a more accessible reference desk, a larger computer lab and room for a tremendous collection of electronic and print resources.

The renovated Library has 511 seats (a 22% increase in overall seating), and includes informal seating with comfortable chairs and couches, reconfigured classrooms, adaptable furniture for students with disabilities, carrels that accommodate laptops, more space for graduate students and clinical programs, and additional group study, seminar space and quiet seating areas.

The new configuration integrates cutting-edge technology into dynamic new spaces:

Main Floor
- The open, central area provides increased visibility and access to service points on the main floor
- Incorporation of Indigenous design elements in the Library
- New reference desk
- A current periodicals reading area situated near the entrance to the Library, with couches, coffee tables and comfortable chairs and the newspaper reading table
- Better access to research materials, including the open reserve collection so users can browse material
- Dedicated space for the Indigenous Law Students Association
- Computer lab with increased seating capacity, new computers and technology products to support instruction
  - 32 computer workstations + instructor station
  - 2 designated workstations for students with disabilities
- Group collaboration room: IT equipment and furniture allow students to work in groups, project content from multiple laptops onto a large screen (useful for planning presentations or preparing for moot team competitions)

Second Floor
- A ‘reading room’ on the 2nd floor with spacious study tables for quiet study
- 42 open study carrels and many study tables
- Library classroom on the 2nd floor (designated as a ‘silent study area’ when not used for instruction)
- Collaboration and meeting room space for clinical programs

3rd Floor Mezzanine
- The addition of a 3rd floor mezzanine created new study spaces and collaborative work areas for the graduate program
Collections

The Diana M. Priestly Law Library supports the “UVic Law Difference” in producing graduates who are competent, ethical, and who exhibit humane professionalism. We do this by ordering well-chosen information resources that promote innovative teaching and outstanding scholarship in an equal and supportive learning environment.

The Diana M. Priestly Law Library serves the needs of law students, faculty members and British Columbia’s legal community, members of the general public and the campus community. The Library offers access to a tremendous collection of legal texts, case law reporters, journals, legislative materials, and research databases.

Currently, the Library has over 180,000 print volumes (serials and monographs), more than 24,000 legal ebooks, over 2300 electronic serial titles, over 330,000 microform items, AV materials (including documentaries, feature films, recordings of law school lectures and court hearings), CD ROMS, government documents, as well as access to Web-based services.

Major jurisdictions represented in the collection are Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, New Zealand. International materials include treaties and reports of cases from courts such as the International Court of Justice and the Court of Justice of the European Union. The collection also includes a selection of legal material from the European Union and the Asia-Pacific region.

Other notable collections:
- B.C. Legal History collection
- Picture collection: includes photographs of leading members of the legal profession and law buildings, and reprints of legal documents

Reference and Research

- Librarians will help you research legal topics and will advise on bibliographic tools and library services. Librarians do not give legal advice.
- The Reference Desk is on the main floor. Current hours are found at library.law.uvic.ca. Call us at 250-472-5023.
- Ask Us! - Law email is available at lawref@uvic.ca. Email requests are answered during normal Reference Desk hours.
- Chat reference service is available from the Law Library home page.
- Consult with Librarians by appointment: contact the Reference Desk for more information.

Circulation & Reserve

- Borrow all library materials at the Circulation Desk on the main floor.
- Specialized materials housed in Reserve include:
  - Law course reserve materials (short-term loan)
  - In-demand legal treatises and textbooks
  - CD ROMS
  - Videos on legal and law related topics (viewing equipment available)
  - Law School exams

Interlibrary Loan

- ILL services are available to Law faculty, Law students, and MADR students. Submit your requests at the Circulation Desk or online at library.law.uvic.ca/services/interlibrary-loan
- Fee based ILL services are available for lawyers, law firms, and government departments. Contact Priestly Law Library ILL: email to lawill@uvic.ca, fax 250-472-4174 or call 250-472-5081. Ariel ILL address: ariel.law.uvic.ca or 142.104.14.179