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ARMSTRONG, C. & BEBBINGTON, L.W., eds. *Staying legal: a guide to issues and practice affecting the library, information and publishing sectors*. 2nd Edition. London: Facet Publishing, 2004. ISBN 1-85604-438-6 (hdbk): £49.95. 288 p.

This book, aimed at information professionals, "strives to raise awareness and provide an outline of some of the major areas of information work that are increasingly affected by developments in the law." (p. XI–XII). The editors point out that it is not intended to be a legal textbook, or a substitute for professional legal advice and it could therefore be described as a starting point for anyone in the information industry who needs to think about the issues addressed by its contributors. The intention appears to be that the awareness this book brings will allow readers to "stay legal". A question which arises must concern the extent to which this should be considered a 'law for dummies' approach for those in the information industry, and whether the book provides useful information to the information professional.

The book is organised with chapters on issues such as intellectual property rights, user licences, data protection and criminal liability but it also covers topics such as access to legal information and self-regulation. This is the second edition, the first having appeared in 1999. Several chapters have been added to this edition, widening the range of areas where the authors believe information professionals need to 'stay legal'.

Generally the book is appropriately focussed and relevant; most chapters, rather than providing general information on each of the topics they cover, provide relevant explanations of issues presented by the law as it currently stands. There is an acknowledgement that the law is constantly moving, and therefore that this book could never hope to be comprehensive in its coverage. To address this problem the editors mention several starting points on the internet for those who wish to get further and more current information.

The copyright chapter suffers from the problem of constant legislative change, and it is unfortunate that it was written when the process of implementing the Information Society Directive (29/2001/EC) was still ongoing. However, the author deals with this well, covering the main issues of relevance to librarians likely to arise from the implementation – most notably the insertion of "non-commercial" into relevant fair dealing exceptions, something which is of concern to information professionals.

The usefulness of the new chapters is variable, and the one on patents is more successful than others. It does not attempt to turn the reader into an instant expert on patents, but provides a lay person's perspective, including some useful information on using patent specifications and the limits of this – the point where the understanding of a professional patent agent would be required. Other chapters were less successful in my opinion; for example the chapter on trade marks was more general in nature, and did not really highlight specific issues.

The strength of this book does not lie in its ability to convey large amounts of complex legal information to the reader, but in its ability to raise issues of particular relevance to those in the information industry. Chapter 6 illustrates this point. It concerns contract issues, and although it tries to split itself between two main issues, those of IT contracts and copyright ownership in academic employment contracts, the chapter succeeds because it raises issues for further discussion by the reader within his own department or institution.

Probably the most interesting chapter was one which contained material added since the first edition. Chapter 11 was aimed at moving the debate onto a more practical level, by discussing issues such as risk management.

Overall, this book is an interesting and useful read. It will not solve your legal problems and depending on where you work within the information industry, not all the issues it raises will be relevant to you. It is not a 'law for dummies' approach to the subjects presented. However, it should be recognised for what it attempts to be – a useful starting point for anyone who wishes to explore legal issues of relevance to them, as a precursor to attempting to deal with them before they develop into full-blown legal problems.

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BOOTH, A and BRICE, A. (eds) *Evidence-based practice for information professionals: a handbook*. London: Facet, 2004. ISBN 1-85604-471-8 (hbk): £44.95. xvi, 304p.

How do you decide how to address a need in your information service or react to new demands or challenges? Do you ask a colleague, email lis-law or read *Legal Information*

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Management perhaps? The contributors to this book ask us to consider the results from rigorous research studies and apply them to our professional practice.

The book offers several definitions. Eldredge (2002) for example, defines it thus:

> "Evidence-based librarianship (EBL) seeks to improve library practice by utilising the best available evidence in conjunction with a pragmatic perspective developed from working experiences in librarianship. The best available evidence might be produced from quantitative or qualitative research designs, although EBL encourages more rigorous forms over less rigorous forms of evidence when making decisions."

Evidence-based practice started in the medical profession, with the surprisingly revolutionary principle that clinical decision-making should be based on evidence, on the results of rigorous and reliable studies rather than simply on custom and professional practice. In the 1990s evidence-based practice grew in popularity and spread from medicine to related health fields and to other disciplines and professions. The authors contend that, since information management is at the heart of evidence-based practice, we in the information profession ought not only to research the evidence for others, but also apply the same principles to our own professional practice. We are in an excellent position to benefit from the methodology, given our existing skills of information retrieval and evaluation.

The book is divided into three parts, looking at the context, skills and practice of evidence-based information practice. The first chapter, written by the editors, provides a very readable background to, and outline of, the concept, from its origins in medicine to the coining of the phrase "evidence-based librarianship" in 1997. The chapter concludes by addressing objections. Lack of time is the first and comes most readily to mind. The authors note the demands on other busy professional groups which have adopted the practice, such as doctors and teachers, plus the risk of wasting time persevering with an action that evidence might demonstrate to be ineffective.

A history of evidence-based practice is given in Chapter 2 and the "pre-history" of information research in Chapter 3. In Chapter 4, Eldredge reviews the evidence base for information management. He reminds us that evidence for our practice may be found not only in the library literature and grey literature but in the literatures of other disciplines such as social, behavioural, education and management sciences. The chapter assesses how good the evidence base is. To do so the author assumes an understanding of question design not introduced for another 20 pages and research methodologies introduced in Chapter 9. Part 1 is rounded off by a discussion of why librarians don't use research, in which it is noted that the professional literature is dominated by anecdotal material and opinion pieces.

Part 2 looks at skills and resources for evidence-based information practice. Chapter 6 explains how to formulate answerable questions, as the question will determine appropriate research design. Chapter 7 identifies sources of evidence and discusses in detail the range of sources available while Chapter 8 provides practical, detailed advice on how to search the LIS literature.

Chapter 9, written by the editors, is one of the most important of the book. It briefly but clearly outlines how to appraise the evidence found, based on material from the CRitical Skills Training in Appraisal for Librarians (CriSTAL) programme. When reading reported evidence we need to evaluate its

- Validity – did the method used to obtain the results affect the findings?
- Reliability – are the findings reproducible or a fluke?
- Applicability – to what extent will the result impact on practice?

Central to critical appraisal is the so-called "hierarchy of evidence" (page 109). The authors compare the respective merits of different research designs using a narrative where each successive design is seen to improve on its predecessor. In this way, the reader is introduced to, and understands, the benefits of case control studies over case series, and randomised controlled trials over cohort studies, all in one pain-free page.

Chapter 10 looks at the variables which determine whether you can directly apply the evidence in everyday practice. Where there is doubt the author suggests replicating the research to ensure it is valid in your situation. Chapter 11 discusses how to evaluate the effectiveness of your evidence-based intervention and Chapter 12 encourages us to disseminate the ethos of evidence-based practice in our organisations and beyond.

Practical examples comprise Part 3 and the second half of the book. Six domains of evidence-based practice have been identified: reference and enquiry services; user education; collections; management; information access and retrieval; and marketing and promotion. For each domain, a chapter looks at the most relevant sources of evidence, the general quantity and quality of research and the research designs of special importance to that domain. The following chapter gives an example of guidance or an evidence digest for a specific area within the domain, for example "How can I train my users?" and "Should I charge and, if so, what should I charge for?"

This is an important book written by many of the founders of evidence-based information practice in the UK. With one or two exceptions, the chapters are very readable. Scenarios and case studies are used throughout and each chapter concludes with an extensive list of references, as you might expect from a book on this theme. The omission of a glossary and list of abbreviations is a mistake and the index does not compensate with any clear indication of where a definition of a term may be found.

As the editors note to conclude their chapter on appraising the evidence "the success . . . of evidence-based librarianship depends on the production of rigorous and useable research studies" and "better ways of getting appraised and synthesised research reports to the profession

in more readily accessible formats" (page 116). As *Legal Information Management* announces the introduction of peer-reviewed articles, we now have an ideal platform to publish systematic reviews of valid, reliable research applicable to law librarians, as well as to report the results of our own research studies. Reading this book should inspire us to check out the literature for our current or planned activities and, where necessary, to do our own research and then *write it up!*

Reference

Eldredge, J.D. (2002) Evidence-based librarianship: what might we expect in the years ahead? *Health Information and Libraries Journal*, **19** (2), 71-7, as cited on page 7 of *Evidence-based practice for information professionals: a handbook* (2004)

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UK central and local government departments are currently working towards the 2005 deadline for making all services available electronically. These radical changes in service delivery have vast implications for citizens, business and other organisations for the way in which they will interact with the public sector. The legal implications are wide-ranging for any party involved in an e-government programme. This text is a detailed reference guide to the legal aspects of implementing e-government aimed both at those inside government implementing the programme and those externally affected (e.g. contractors). The approach clearly breaks the text down into three parts: definitions/background, implementation and implications.

An overview of e-government clearly explains the context to the newcomer, and offers a good starting point to the topic. Some of Chapter 2 is now slightly dated as in May 2004 the Office of the E-envoy (responsible for co-ordinating the UK e-government programme) was disbanded and replaced by the new E-government unit with Ian Watmore (formerly of Accenture) as the new head. The UK online service also referred to has been replaced by Directgov http://www.direct.gov.uk/). However much of the other content in the chapter is still current and helps explain the UK government structure.

Although not a technical book, the explanations and level of detail in amplifying the issues involved in electronic service delivery are clear. Use of diagrams to explain areas such as security frameworks and infrastructure are valuable and pitched at the right level. The technology primer in Appendix 1 is a valuable addition.

The scope of the text is well balanced in terms of sectoral coverage – central and local government plus the NHS are all covered. The range of legal issues covered focuses firstly on the area of public procurement, electronic procurement and contracts. The coverage takes a legal and practical approach which makes the text easily readable for someone without a legal background. For example, the section on procurement clearly explains public procurement law and then discusses practical aspects in operation such as the GCat service run by the Office of Government Commerce which allows public sector bodies to bypass EC procurement legislation by providing a "pre-tendered" service. This approach is reflected through the text.

Other issues covered include data protection, monitoring, and intellectual property. The section on copyright was written before the European Directive "Copyright and Related Rights in the Information Society" was implemented in the UK and therefore has little value. It is also surprising to see that the Freedom of Information Act 2000 only has a small section dedicated to it and makes no reference to the issues related to commercial information and implications for contracts with third parties.

The text takes a formal legal format, with tables of cases, statutes, SIs, European legislation and treaties and conventions. It is referenced and indexed to a high standard.

I can recommend this work as a reference text to those working on e-government projects. It offers a good introduction to the context of the topic and covers all the key legal issues related to e-government. The only concern is that already some elements have become dated, and the lack of coverage of the Freedom of Information Act and Copyright Directive.

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The full implementation of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is nearly upon us, and its January 2005 deadline is concentrating the minds of information practitioners and publishers alike. Aiming to strike a balance between

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extending public access to official information and preserving confidentiality, the legislation gives a general right of access to information held by public authorities, and can trace a legislative line from the Official Secrets Act of 1911 through to, in recent times, the Data Protection Acts of 1984 and 1998, and the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

Kelvin Smith's book aims to give a practical approach to the Act and, for the most part, succeeds in this objective. His style is concise and simple, breaking up the text regularly to give examples and tables of information, but without compromising his flow. His description of the Act itself, where he deals thematically rather than section-by-section with the text, using headings such as "Advice and Assistance", "Right of Access", "Exemptions", "Public Interest" and "Costs and Fees", is particularly effective.

Each chapter begins with a short summary of its content, which is particularly useful in a practical guide and shows that the writer has focussed effectively on the needs of his readership. The book is obviously meant as a short work of reference, with a comprehensive and accurate index and the text organised into discrete compartments.

A minor reservation I have, given this approach, is that, although the writer quotes Codes of Practice under Sections 45 and 46 of the Act as an Appendix, I am surprised that he hasn't also placed the exemptions in Sections 21 to 44 of the Act as an Appendix also. Instead he has placed this chapter rather uncomfortably between a general overview of the Act and a chapter on publication schemes. Similarly, a twenty page synopsis of the Lord Chancellor's Code on Records Management has been included on the pretext, presumably, of its supporting relationship to the Act, but sits rather like a "filler" in this text, as it raises more questions of the institution than it answers and might have been better developed as a companion volume to this book.

The chapter which closes the book gives "eight major steps that need to be taken to be ready for the implementation of Freedom of Information". It manages to be concise and authoritative at the same time, and will be welcomed by those who need to grasp the practicalities quickly.

Although the index is comprehensive, the bibliography stretches the definition of the word *select*, in being very light.

Overall, however, a clearly written text, with useful examples and full of practical advice, free of jargon and with the more obscure sections of the Act explained very effectively. Recommended.

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SZAJKOWSKI, B. ed. *Revolutionary and Dissident Movements of the World*, 4th edition. London: John Harper Publishing, 2004. xiv + 562pp. ISBN 0-9543811-2-2 (hardback)

This directory has been considerably updated since the third edition was published in 1991. Being a systematic review of the world's political events of recent years, this is hardly surprising. However, given the recent prominence of international terrorism and counter-terrorism activities, particularly since the events of September 2001, there could be no argument that an update to the third edition was not a long time waiting.

Some 202 territories, including all the world's independent countries, dependencies and disputed territories are reviewed in ample detail. In each section the present-day role of revolutionary and dissident groups is put in the context of the historico-political development of the territory. Some sections are unsurprisingly brief, such as Liechtenstein, Greenland (covered in the section on Denmark), Andorra, Nauru and Palua. But even for some minuscule territories there is discussion about the role of democracy and the possibility of emergence of extra-legal political and social groups.

In each country's section the country author presents clearly the alignment and role of far-left groups (e.g. the revolutionary communist movements still present throughout Latin America) and far-right groups (including white extremists such as the Afrikaner Resistance Movement in South Africa or Aryan Nations in the United States), separatist movements (such as the Mouvement de Libération Nationale du Québec in Canada and the many nationalist parties in Cechnya), religious extremists (such as the many Islamist groups), black militants (such as Nation of Islam in the United States), and other extra-legal extreme or dissident social groups.

Helpfully, within the country sections the revolutionary and dissident movements are clearly classified under headings such as "far-left", "far-right" etc., whilst within each category the names of the movements are highlighted in bold. This makes for rapid scanning of each country section to gauge the number and prominence of particular movements.

What is clear from a cursory scan of this directory is that the significance of leftist revolutionary movements has diminished since the collapse of the Soviet empire. Similarly, the number of dissident movements has shrunk considerably in this period. The same cannot be said for radical religious movements, although whether this is a result of Islamic-Western conflict is not clear.

The only major criticism of this reviewer is that more contact details for each revolutionary and dissident movement are not given. Clearly this is impractical in many cases as some movements have no formal structure. However, it would have been helpful to have at least some indication of further reading material for each group, or references to web sites where protagonists (or antagonists) of each movement contribute to discussions or information.

A smaller but no less frustrating criticism is that run-on entries in the index are not indented, making it difficult to locate some entries quickly.

Despite these two criticisms, this directory is undoubtedly a valuable reference to students and researchers

in politics, international law and society. Although it is necessarily concise, it gives an excellent overview of the role of revolutionary and dissident movements at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Thus journalists and those needing ready reference to salient details of individual revolutionary and dissident movements will find this directory extremely valuable, as will librarians and other information professionals who may need to contextualise political groups when handling inquiries or in carrying out research.

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Review of books on the Criminal Justice Act 2003 by Denis Clark

The subject matter of the reviewed texts is the Criminal Justice Act 2003 – a mammoth and complex piece of legislation which has far reaching consequences for the criminal justice system, in terms of procedure, the admissibility of evidence and sentencing. There are changes to the law on rights of appeal, disclosure by the defence, police bail powers; major changes to the law of evidence relating to previous convictions and hearsay; significant changes to sentencing powers and further strengthening of police powers. It consists of 339 sections, of which 163 relate to sentencing and 38 schedules.

Those who take on the task of producing guides to legislation embark on an unenviable task, not least because of the workload in keeping up to date with the parliamentary timetable and the requirement to produce a timely guide which meets the needs of practitioners and law students alike. Despite these problems, guides to legislation have become a staple of the law publisher and expertise in producing them is apparent. Consequently it has been possible to review four texts to attempt to draw comparisons and to comment on their relative utility to the intended audience. A fifth text - *Blackstones Guide to the Criminal Justice Act* to be published by Oxford University Press was not available in mid-September which in itself demonstrates the problem in achieving timeliness, especially since the others were on the shelves by May of this year.

Users of these guides will inevitably have variable requirements with price and utility influencing choice. With the exception of Bryan Gibson's title (Waterside Press) they all contain copies of the Act and schedules. For those who have access to the Act additional expense will be incurred by choosing one of the other titles but this will be mitigated by the convenience of checking the statutory wording against the commentary.

Three of the texts follow the same broad style, comprising an overview and relevant chapters on the key areas. Gibson's work is succinct, providing a well laid out easy to use commentary on the Act in a pocket-sized work.

TITLE AND DETAILS	CONTENT AND DETAIL	ACCESSIBILITY	INDEX	PRICE
"CJA 2003 A Guide to the New Procedures and Sentencing" Bryan GIBSON Waterside Press ISBN 1-904380-07-7	Broad overview of main points with little comment	Excellent, easy to locate relevant points Pocket sized reference text	Good	£15.99 Inexpensive if the reader does not require a copy of the Act
The CJA 2003 – A Practitioners Guide Richard WARD and Olwen DAVIES Jordans ISBN 0-85308-871-3	Detailed text with some analysis	Very good – well laid out but bulky text	Thorough and detailed	£35 Contains the Act and Schedules
CJA 2003 – A Guide to the New Law Andrew KEOGH Law Society ISBN 1-85328-877-2	Detailed text with good analysis	Excellent, well laid with useful charts and summaries	Very comprehensive	£35 Contains the Act and Schedules
CJA 2003 – A Current Law Statute Guide David THOMAS/Rudi FORTSON Thomson-Sweet and Maxwell ISBN 0421878509	Annotated version of the Act with detailed academic commentary	General notes at relevant points in the statute difficult to follow in places	Excellent index	£58 Contains the Act and Schedules

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It has a concise index and is suitable for the busy practitioner who needs practical knowledge without having to consider a mass of detail. Ward and Davies *Practitioners Guide* (Jordans) is much more comprehensive with detailed analysis of the law and particular attention is given to human rights considerations. The section on evidence is thorough, and given that there is much uncharted territory in this area, is well balanced and has many useful references. Keogh's Guide (Law Society) is something of a hybrid of the other two. It is well presented with useful summaries and flow charts but with rather less analysis than the Jordan's publication.

Thomson Sweet and Maxwell produce a series of annotated statute guides, of which the Criminal Justice Act is one of the more recent. The expert analysis directs the reader to a wide range of sources and would meet the requirements of both practising lawyers and academics who wished to focus on more detailed points of law.

These texts tend to have a limited lifespan, in that they are superseded by other legislation or consumed by specialist texts which cover the areas affected by the legislation. The Criminal Justice Act may prove to be an exception because of its far reaching implications. For that reason alone my preference is Thomson's book because of its detailed analysis, excellent detailing of secondary sources and the reputation of its authors.

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Oxford Dictionary of National Biography online edition

The *Dictionary of National Biography* is a familiar reference source to most information professionals. The original *DNB* was completed in 1901, and has become a staple reference work. It was updated by supplements over the following 90 years, but by the late twentieth century Oxford University Press realised that a massive programme of revision was required to prevent it from stagnating.

In 1992 work began on the new *DNB* and the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* is thus the culmination of twelve years work. Thousands of specialists worldwide have contributed biographies to this new edition. Over 70 per cent of the articles have been rewritten and the remainder revised for the first time.

The dictionary contains 50,000 biographies of men and women who have made an impact in British life over the past two and a half millennia. All areas of life, including of course, the law, are represented. No living person qualifies for entry. Only those who died before 31 December 2000 are included, although it is planned to update the online version three times a year with new biographies and revisions to existing entries.

The work is published simultaneously in 60 print volumes and online. This review focuses on the online version, which not only provides access to the complete text of the print edition, but also includes the complete text of the first thirty-three volume *DNB*.

Search screens are clearly laid out and straightforward to navigate. Useful "help" text is displayed in the left margin that tells readers about specific features of the screen being used. Users can also open a *help* box, providing more comprehensive information relating to the area of the site being used, along with a neatly arranged table of contents with links to various help topics. An impressive range of search options are available to hand. Most straightforward is quick search, which can be for a name in the dictionary or a word or phrase in the full text. This option is handily available from every web page.

Advanced search options allow the user to search by people, full text, references, contributor and image. Search criteria can be further narrowed by using fields within each category. For example, the people category allows you to combine name, fields of interest, sex, life dates, places, dates, life events, religious affiliation, image and text search. A search for female lawyers between 1850 and 1950 returned four entries as against 337 results when the search was not restricted to women. A *fields of interest* option can be used to find people connected with a particular area of life. Within the *law and crime* area, more than 50 branches and sub-branches of the topic can be combined. For example, the user can search for types of lawyers, such as barristers, solicitors or advocates. Another branch that caught my eye concerned crimes of religion, the sub-branches of which are blasphemers, iconoclasts, religious conspirators and witches. Unfortunately the *fields of interest* option did not function when I tried to use it, but according to OUP this has not been a commonly-reported problem. I hope not, because it should prove to be a very useful tool when searching quite specific subject areas.

The *full text* search screen facilitates Boolean searches (AND, OR, WITHOUT) allowing combinations of up to three words and/or phrases. Search operators are selected by a simple click in the checkbox beside each one. Other checkboxes provide the option for each field of retrieving the exact phrase, all words, or any words. Drop-down boxes beside each field provide more options for narrowing the search, specifying criteria such as statement of occupation, place, organisation, creative work. Contributors can also be searched for by name.

The *Browse* facility is available to search biographical entries or contributors, alphabetically, by birth or death date. Browsing can be limited to females, males, family groups, and illustrated entries. A *Themes* section contains lists of people sharing some distinction or office. Comprehensive lists of Chief Justices, Lord Chancellors, and Masters of the Rolls are included. Preceding each list

is a brief overview of the history and function of the post. The list contains all office holders, including those without a biographical entry, with dates that they held the post. All lists link to the relevant biographies for those who have an entry (most do).

The biographies retrieved were informative and interesting. They provide a good starting point for those with little familiarity of the person being written about, but with enough substance and detail to engage readers possessing some prior knowledge. In many cases the standing of contributors is self-evident, with at least three entries written by sitting Law Lords. However, not all contributors are as familiar, especially to the layperson; it might be helpful if some brief information could be included about them. The *references* link to the left of each entry displays a list of sources, likenesses, and even wealth on death, for those wishing to pursue further research. Cross-references within the entries are linked, enabling the user to move to related articles quickly and easily.

The online *ODNB* is very impressive, and I thoroughly enjoyed exploring the entries, both law-related and in other areas. The breadth, flexibility and speed of search options provide obvious advantages over the print version, as will the regular updates. Unlikely to be used with great frequency by most librarians specialising in the field of legal information, it certainly won't be a top-of-the-list purchase for those working in law firms or courts, whose priorities lie in the provision of primary materials and current awareness rather than the study of legal personalities. However, for those working in academic and public libraries, it should greatly enhance their ability to cater for the needs of students and researchers of legal history. The biographies of key judges, lawyers, and parliamentarians, as well as campaigners and reformers, should prove to be a rich resource for such users.

Notes

The website for the ODNB is http://www.oup.com.oxforddnb/info/order and subscription information is under "How to order the dictionary."

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