A truly digital library service

Designed to meet the needs of judicial officers and the profession

LAW LIBRARY STRATEGY 2020-2025
Beginning in August 2019, under the leadership of the Hon. Justice Greg Garde and Ms Laurie Atkinson, the Law Library of Victoria undertook a consultative process of engagement with the legal community to develop our five-year strategic plan.

The process saw us engage 68 participants across four workshops + 26 written submissions through surveys, emails and letters. This included input from leaders across the courts and wider legal sector.

Importantly, the strategy was also developed in the context of the COVID-19 crisis – where new and emerging ways of working have helped to shape the library’s digital transformation and service strategy.

This consultative process has helped to deliver a comprehensive, fit-for-purpose strategy to guide the Law Library of Victoria over the coming five years – enabling us to provide an authoritative, digitally engaged resource to enhance the capabilities of Victoria’s legal sector.
Vision

To provide judicial officers, the profession and community with ready access to legal information, thereby contributing to the administration of justice and the practice of law in Victoria.

Mission

To support the administration of, and access to, justice, and the practice of law by providing comprehensive and authoritative legal information to judicial officers, the profession and the community of Victoria.

Values/Principles

- Authoritative
- Accessible
- Responsive
- Independent
- Innovative
- Collaborative
Our strategic priorities

Our five strategic priorities have been developed in collaboration with some of the legal sector’s leading voices.

Outcomes

The strategic priorities will work to deliver an authoritative and accessible digital library service – designed to support tomorrow’s legal workforce to deliver better justice outcomes for all Victorians.
STRAEGIC PRIORITY 1

Comprehensive and authoritative collection

OUTCOME
Judicial officers, the profession and community have access to authoritative legal information when needed. Judicial officers and the profession have flexibility about where and when they access legal information.

 Actions

- Support judicial officers and the profession by providing timely access to digital and print resources
- Develop the website as the primary resource of Victorian legal information
- Support and enhance access to legal information
- Monitor and respond to changing needs for legal information
- Curate Victorian legal history material

Measuring Performance

- Seamless digital access to the collection
- Increasing use of digital resources
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Enhance legal research capabilities

OUTCOME
Judicial officers and the profession are readily able to locate and access legal information, including information about new developments in law.

Actions
- Build the confidence of judicial officers and the profession to readily navigate resources and locate information
- Build the capability of the library to support research services
- Provide training to users and foster a collegiate environment
- Produce and distribute updates on legal information in a range of formats

Measuring Performance
- Research enquiries
- Information sessions for Judicial Officers
- CPD sessions for the profession
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Increase awareness and reach of services

Judicial officers and the profession can readily access library resources and services across Victoria. Greater community awareness leads to better use of the library’s services and enhances access to justice.

OUTCOME

Actions

- Expand digital access to resources across Victoria, and especially in suburban and regional areas
- Build the Law Library of Victoria brand and reputation
- Increase availability of free resources

Measuring Performance

- Increasing numbers of lawyers using the library
- Support initiatives that increase access to justice
- Publish a calendar of events in advance of activities
- Roadshows in regional locations
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

Strengthen collaboration and partnerships

OUTCOME

The library extends its reach and impact of its services through leveraging and complementing the services offered by partner organisations.

Actions

→ Maintain the Supreme Court Library as a focal point for library staff and activities
→ Build and strengthen connections and referral pathways between the library and jurisdictions, professional associations and community legal centres
→ Collaborate with partners including the Victoria Law Foundation, Victorian Legal Services Board, Victoria Legal Aid, Legal Practitioners’ Liability Committee and Justice Connect to identify opportunities and innovations

Measuring Performance

✓ Develop structured strategic stakeholder relationship management
✓ Collaborate with universities
✓ Collaborate with publishers
Governance and dynamic workforce

**Outcome**
The library will have a modern, transparent governance structure, comply with all applicable standards and law, and measure effectiveness. The staff of the library will be supported to ensure an optimal library user experience.

**Actions**
- Update the governance structure
- Improve risk management with particular attention to cyber resistance
- Monitor and enhance staff competence in digital and technical fields
- Adopt a user pays financial model for public and private usage
- Review and strengthen revenue sources
- Identify opportunities for financial efficiencies

**Measuring Performance**
- Build research and technical capability of library staff
- Progress library structure initiatives and governance
- Seek additional revenue opportunities and identify collection and service efficiencies
Should funding and partners become available during the period of the strategic plan, desirable extensions:

→ Identify opportunities to make library resources and services available to the public in regional hubs, legal institutions and other libraries.

→ Foster community access to legal information.

→ Enhance community understanding of the library’s role and services.

‘Judicial officers’ includes judges, magistrates and all members of Victoria’s courts and tribunals.

‘Profession’ includes all who have been admitted to practice by the Supreme Court of Victoria, and Australian legal practitioners whose principal place of practice is in the State of Victoria and are listed on the Local Legal Profession Register.

This strategy is authorised by the Law Library Committee.