




**WHAT'S LAW
GOT TO DO WITH IT?**

**DEVELOPING AND
SUPPORTING COLLECTIONS
AND RESEARCH IN LEGAL
STUDIES, NOT LAW**

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We would like to begin by acknowledging that we are meeting on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations, and within the lands protected by the “Dish with One Spoon” wampum agreement.

FOR PHOTOGRAPHY INCONVENIENCES
OTHERS, YOU MAY BE ASKED TO STOP.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.



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OVERVIEW

Development of law schools and legal studies programs

Collections standards and guidelines

Reference / research questions

Future trends: interdisciplinarity, methodological approaches, evidence synthesis

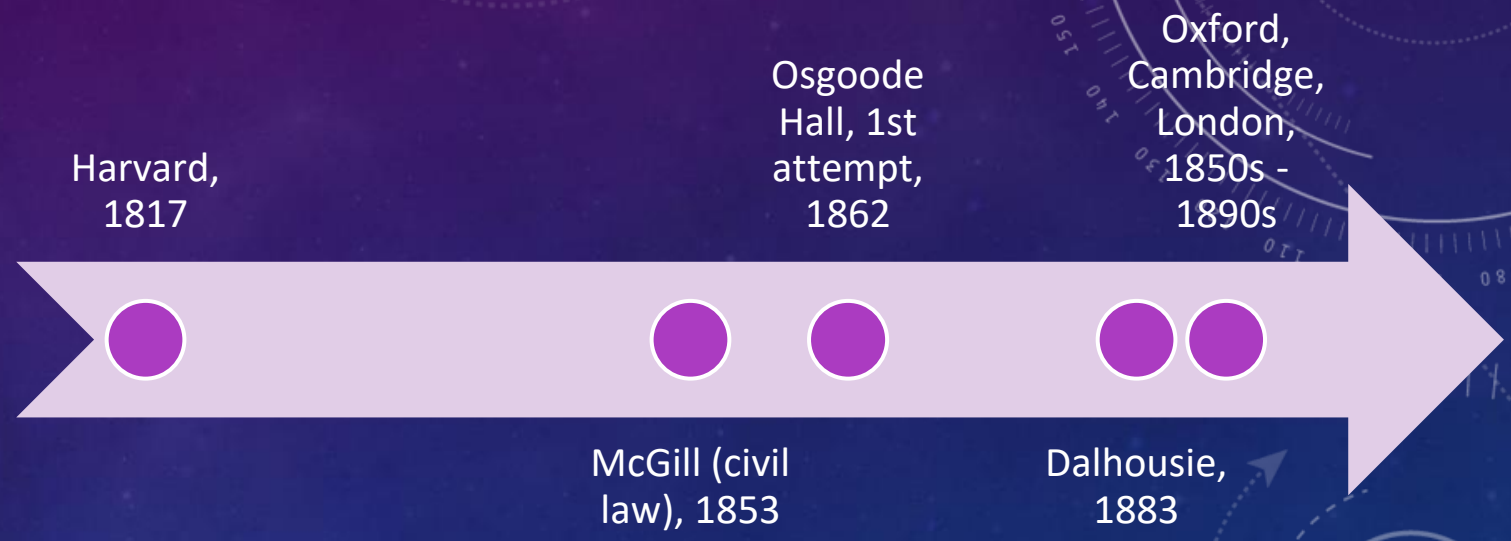




LAW SCHOOLS AND LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAMS



DEVELOPMENT OF LAW SCHOOLS



post-WWII explosion in professional law schools,
but tension over law school's purpose remains constant

1913: "This approach to law, as a system of rules devoid of social political or moral context was ideological ... Criticising law and discussing law reform was dangerously like sociology which would ... impinge on the objectivity necessary for legal study."

Cownie at 81

1960: "Academic law has had to compete with practice whereas History can only be academic ... Law teaching still appears to the outside world like the teaching of a trade...that other faculties no longer regard as the prime task of a university."

Chief Justice Roberts in 2017, quoted in Winston at 4

Cownie at 2-3

2002: "The study of law, of the philosophy of law, and of the role of law in society ... alongside the study of ... disciplines in the humanities and social sciences ... law cannot be just a study of the content of rules."

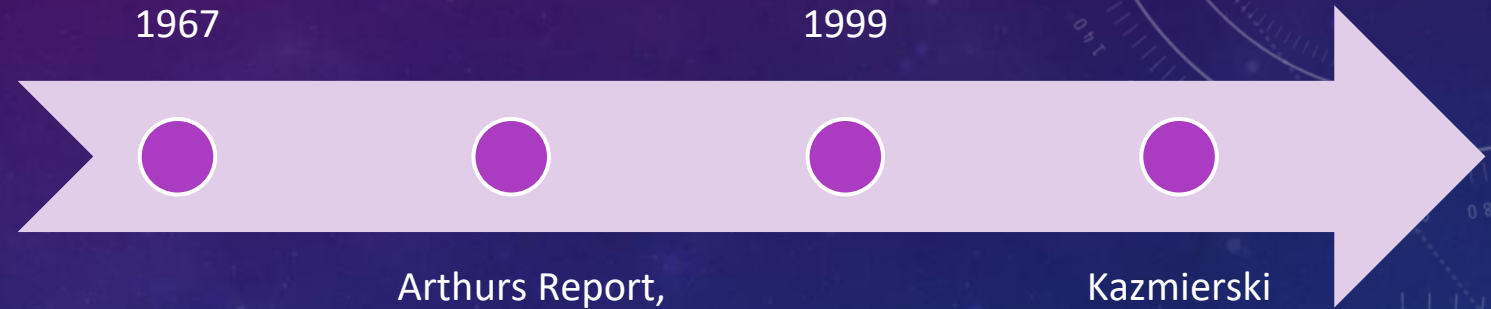
Cownie at 3-4



LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAMS

Carleton,
1967

Princeton*,
1999



Arthurs Report,
1983

Kazmierski
and Pacione
survey, 2019

14 universities with undergraduate legal education degrees:

- excludes specializations/concentrations in law, graduate-level programs, and programs offered by law schools

LEGAL STUDIES AT SIMON FRASER

Criminology

- BA (1216 majors), MA, PhD in Criminology
- Minor, post baccalaureate diploma, and a certificate in Legal Studies
- MA in Applied Legal Studies (Notaries Public)

Philosophy

- Major or Minor in Philosophy with a Concentration in Law
- Joint Major in Business, Philosophy and the Law
- Concentration or certificate program in Ethics, Justice and Law

Psychology

- Graduate program in Forensic Psychology & Law

LEGAL STUDIES AT CARLETON

Law & Legal Studies

- BA (1100 majors) in Law, MA and PhD in Legal Studies
- Bachelor of Global & International Studies with specialization in Global Law & Social Justice
- Concentrations in Business Law; Law, Policy & Government; Transnational Law & Human Rights
- Minor

Criminology & Criminal Justice

- BA (1200 majors) in Criminology
- Concentrations in Law, Psychology, or Sociology
- Minor

Human Rights and Social Justice

- BA, MA anticipated Fall 2023
- Concentration in Transnational Law and Human Rights
- Minor

LIBRARY SUPPORT FOR LEGAL STUDIES



research guides

9/14 have at least one research guide for legal studies

most schools have just one guide, except for Carleton and unis with law schools

unis with law schools had no separate guide, except York which has a legal research guide for non-law students



liaison responsibilities

4/14 have a librarian for legal studies who has ≤ 4 liaison areas, and 2/14 with > 5 subject areas

2/14 assign responsibility by faculty, not individual programs

liaisons unclear for remaining schools



government information

12/14 have a librarian responsible for gov-info, most of which have 2-4 other liaison areas

most have at least one gov-info research guide, but often no individual contact named

gov-info librarian never same person as legal studies liaison

University	Program (Department)	Research guide?	Liaison librarian?	Gov Docs/Info Librarian?
Algoma	Law & Justice (Law & Politics)	Y	-	-
Athabasca	Legal Studies (Centre for Social Sciences)	Y	-	-
Calgary	Law & Society (Sociology)	N	unclear – either Sociology Librarian or one of the law librarians	Y, with Political Science, Public Policy, and Director of Business Library
Carleton	Law (Law & Legal Studies)	Y	Legal Studies Librarian	Y, with Business, Economics
Dalhousie	Law, Justice & Society (Arts & Social Sciences)	N	-	Y, with OER, OA, OJS, etc
Laurentian	Law & Justice (Law & Justice)	Y	two liaisons (Eng/Fr) for all Faculty of Arts programs	Y, with data/stats, IS/IT, RDM, etc
Memorial	Law & Society (Political Science)	Y	unclear – no name on guide; subject areas not listed in staff directory	Y, but no further info available
Regina	Human Justice, Police Studies (Justice Studies)	Y	Y, with other areas, incl Classics, History, Philosophy, Sociology, etc	Y, with Geography + data Services
St Thomas	Law, Politics & Society (Social Sciences)	*see UNB	*see UNB	*see UNB
UNB	Law in Society (Interdepartmental Programs)	N	-	Y, with Data, GIS, and Head of Reference
UOIT	Legal Studies (Legal Studies)	Y	Liaison Librarian for Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, and the Faculty of Education	Y, with Geography, History, Anthropology, Fine Arts, Newspapers, etc
Waterloo	Legal Studies (Sociology & Legal Studies)	Y	Y, with Gender and Social Justice, Philosophy, Sociology	Y, with Business, International Development, etc
Wilfred Laurier	Law & Society (Liberal Arts)	Y	Liaison Librarian, Criminology & Law	Y, with Political Science, Education
York	Law & Society (Social Science)	N*	Y, with Social Sciences, Business, Criminology, etc	-Y, but no further info available



COLLECTIONS

LAW COLLECTIONS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

A law school must be **“adequately resourced”** in order to meet the needs of its (accredited) academic program, and must maintain “a law library in **electronic and/or paper form** that provides services and collections **sufficient in quality and quantity** to permit the law school to foster and attain its teaching, learning and research objectives” (FLSC, 2015 National Requirement standard)



Canadian Academic Law Library Standards (June 2020), re: core collection:

all reported SCC + FC decisions, and of the appellate court of each prov + terr;	all fed, prov + terrl statute revisions + annual volumes, as well as regulations;	all international treaties to which Canada is signatory;	fed + prov admin decisions appropriate to teaching, scholarly + research needs of the Uni;	fed legislative materials (Hansard, debates, bills), and of the school's prov;	significant secondary works to support law school programs + the Uni;	citators, indexes, bibliographies + encyclopedias to find + update legal info sources as appropriate.
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LEGAL STUDIES COLLECTIONS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

- relationships with faculty and student researchers
- curriculum assessment
- book reviews, professional sources, etc.
- death of the loose-leaf?
- less practitioner titles
- restricted budget, restricted space

COLLECTIONS ASSESSMENT & USAGE STATS

print circulation

evidence-based acquisition (EBA)

e-book collections



REFERENCE / RESEARCH QUESTIONS



COMMON THEMES

citations  APA and McGill

content analyses

known-item searches

self-represented litigants



COMMON THEMES

surveys of the state of the law, esp internationally

corpus of law by specific filter (eg, demographic, subject)

court transcripts and other original case documents

systematic/comprehensive reviews of law in an area (eg, scoping review)

statistical information



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POPULAR PAPER TOPICS

- defences in criminal law, particularly NCRMD: Not Criminally Responsible on Account of Mental Disorder
- ways in which mental health conflicts with the law
- application of *Charter* and/or constitutional rights in particular circumstances
- discrimination against / overrepresentation of marginalized groups in the justice system, particularly indigenous persons and women
- mass media representations of certain high-profile cases or topics, such as sexual assault, discrimination against certain groups, policing
- indigenous law and legal traditions



FUTURE TRENDS

INTERDISCIPLINARIT

Y

“law and”
research

data and
statistical
legal research

non-law
patrons and
legal research

“non-
traditional”
legal research

Hollander 2007 at 185-792

cross-disciplinary collaborations

information literacy

community outreach



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METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES



legal research methods should relate to practice

shift from purely doctrinal analysis to increased use of research methodologies based in the social sciences

EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS

Used to identify gaps in knowledge, develop evidence-based best practices or guidance, and inform policymakers and practitioners, and includes:

- associated protocols, reporting guidelines, frameworks/mnemonics, and conducting guidelines;
- a well-defined information universe from where the evidence/data is drawn;
- a reproducible and transparent search strategy;
- search sensitivity and exhaustivity;
- grey literature; and,
- searches in multiple databases and other information sources



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EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS IN LEGAL RESEARCH

1

Stating the question.

2

Defining the sample of cases.

3

Explaining the weighting.

4

Conducting the analysis + stating the conclusion.

THANK YOU!



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*For references and more sources, please see
[our bibliography in Google Drive \(tinyURL:
https://tinyurl.com/2ex2js7b\)](https://tinyurl.com/2ex2js7b).*