

AUSTLII MEDIA RELEASE



www.austlii.edu.au

Australasian Legal Information Institute

A joint facility of UTS and UNSW Faculties of Law

Level 12 Building 10, 235-253 Jones Street, Ultimo

P O Box 123 Broadway NSW 2007 Australia

Tel: +61 2 9514 4921

Fax: +61 2 9514 4908

Email: feedback@austlii.edu.au

Australian Research Council funding success for Legal History Libraries

The Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII) is pleased to announce that the proposed expansion of the Australasian Legal History Libraries has received substantial matched funding in the latest round of grants announced by the Australian Research Council (ARC) recently. The ARC has announced that the project will receive \$410,000 through its Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) program. A consortium of 15 partner universities will match that funding to provide a total project budget of \$800,000.

Partner institutions include: Griffith University, Southern Cross University, The University of Melbourne, University of Canberra, University of Notre Dame Australia, The University of Western Australia, University of Technology, Sydney, The University of New England, The University of Sydney, University of Western Sydney, The University of Queensland, The Australian National University, University of Tasmania, The University of Adelaide

AustLII's Founding Co-Director Professor Graham Greenleaf will lead a partnership of 29 Chief Investigators, representing many of Australia's leading legal historians, to create a massive expansion of free online access to Australasian legal history through the digitisation and data aggregation of paper based texts. The Legal History Libraries on AustLII will become a comprehensive trans-Tasman collection from 1788-1999, including all available reported case series and those from colonial newspaper reports, and all Acts enacted, plus key collections of historical Bills, Gazettes, legal commentaries, and Parliamentary reports. The Libraries are expected to double in size from their current 50,000 items of cases and legislation. The Libraries will enable previously impractical access, comparative research, and international collaborations.

Announcements from the ARC can be found here:

[http://www.arc.gov.au/media/releases/Ministerial_releases/2014_11_05_\\$30_million_to_support_research_infrastructure.pdf](http://www.arc.gov.au/media/releases/Ministerial_releases/2014_11_05_$30_million_to_support_research_infrastructure.pdf)

and here:

<http://www.arc.gov.au/media/mga15/Major%20grants%20-%20examples%20-%20LIEF%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

AustLII is Australia's largest and most popular online legal research facility. AustLII's 633 Australasian legal databases include current and historical case law, legislation, law reform reports, law journals and the largest national treaties collection on the Internet. AustLII receives over 600,000 accesses per day, and is regularly rated by HitWise as Australia's most used legal website. Since its inception AustLII has provided free access for the Australian public to the essential legal information needed for the rule of law and democracy to function effectively. AustLII's broad public policy agenda is to improve access to justice through better access to information.

For further information please contact:
Richard Hunter, Development Manager
02 9514 4930 or richard@austlii.edu.au

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