

# Subject Gateway

**Bookmarks** – we all have them and some of us have probably painstakingly categorised and re-categorised them as new useful and/or interesting websites are discovered. One of the difficulties in keeping a good set of bookmarks is maintaining it. This is especially so if the bookmarks relate to a particular subject area of law.

If you have several subject areas, then the difficulty of this task is compounded.

What's more, you know that someone else out there is also trying to maintain a similar list of resources.

Wouldn't it be great if you could share the burden with someone else, even combine efforts so that the lists are of a higher quality?

*WebLaw* is doing just that!

This is not a new idea and many people and organisations publish subject indexes to legal resources on the Internet.

However, *WebLaw* is different. Described as a cooperative subject gateway to Internet resources for Australian legal researchers, it provides annotated links to quality assessed resources.

In addition, *WebLaw* offers a search facility to search for information across the subject areas.

*WebLaw* differentiates itself from other subject indexes through quality.

Law librarians from the participating organisations have taken responsibility for one or more subject areas and each

resource added to the site is quality assessed.

In addition, an academic or practitioner with expertise in the subject area is involved in peer assessment of the linked resources.

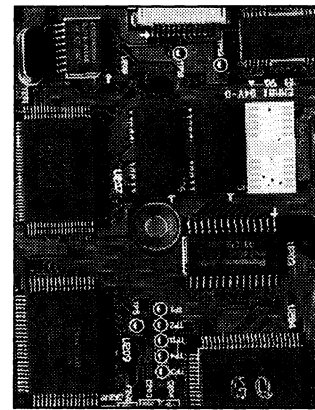
Further, quality is maintained through adherence to common selection criteria and quality guidelines in addition to designated metadata and thesaurus schema.

Organisations participating in the *WebLaw* project must demonstrate that they have the infrastructure and expertise in place to develop and maintain a quality subject area.

In addition, they are required to show institutional support and commitment to the *WebLaw* project and sign an agreement stating they will maintain their subject area in accordance with the selection and quality criteria.

Contributors so far include universities from around Australia, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library, Law and Justice Foundation of NSW and the National Library of Australia.

Current subject areas range from women and the law to e-commerce to administrative law to family law.



This searchable database of internet resources aims to enhance research and learning in all areas of Australian law.

Each subject area includes links to relevant legislation, courts & tribunals, organisations, international resources, publications and more.

This site is very useful for any legal practitioner and with the quality assurance processes surrounding its maintenance combined with its easy navigation and searchable database, it is sure to become a regular place to visit for anyone undertaking legal research.

Links:

[www.weblaw.edu.au](http://www.weblaw.edu.au)

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## Federal Court amendment rules published

The Federal Court amendment rules have been gazetted and are available on the internet site: <http://law.agps.gov.au>

Among the changes, Schedule One to the amendment rules provides as follows:

\* amend Order 6 and Order 52 to include a new rule which deals with people seeking to intervene in a proceeding or appeal (as the case may be) – in brief, the new rule provides that:

- the Court, at any stage of a proceeding, on its own motion or on the application of a person, may give leave to a person ("the intervener") to participate in the proceeding, on the terms and conditions, and with such rights, privileges and

liabilities (including liabilities for costs), determined by the Court;

- the role of the intervener is confined to assisting the Court in its task of resolving the issues raised by the parties.

Go to the internet site for more info.