

ALIA TEAM – OUT AND ABOUT

J V Barry Library



The JV Barry Library at the Australian Institute of Criminology is located in leafy Leichhardt Street in Canberra. The library, named for prominent criminologist Sir John Vincent Barry, was established in 1973 and now houses the most comprehensive library-based criminology and criminal collection in Australia. The library supports the information needs of the Institute's research programs and provides services to key stakeholders and other clients. It produces the CINCH database, an index of Australian crime and criminal justice information.

Recently, the library team offered to take ALIA staff on a tour of the collection which includes English-language material with a strong Australian representation. There are approximately 28 000 monographs and 1,440 current serials, with over 60,000 items included in the CINCH database. The serials include journals, statistics, annual reports and other report series including AIC publications. Subjects covered by the collection include criminology, criminal justice, criminal law, social research and statistical methods, policing, corrections and justice administration. Most AIC publications are available online from the website, although the library building is only open to the public by appointment.

The Australian criminology database, CINCH is produced by the JV Barry Library and consists of a bibliographic database indexing and abstracting material on all aspects of crime and criminal justice from 1968 onwards.

Source documents include journal articles, monographs, monograph chapters, conference papers, government reports, book reviews and theses. Statistical publications in serial form such as annual statistical reviews are gradually being added to the database.

ALIA's tour of the JV Barry Library included the physical collection, the meeting areas, and the online catalogue. The staff explained how the library is accessed and used by the main internal and external users, which include members of the public, researchers, students, and other government departments. The library space and staff are co-located with the AIC's Media and Communications section enhancing the Institute's collaborative knowledge function and services.

The reference librarian works closely with internal researchers and handles around 60 requests a month on all aspects of criminology, as well as responding to hundreds of external requests for information coming into the AIC.

A monthly set of information alerts, and special clearinghouse entries are created from the JV Barry Library database and disseminated through the web page and by subscription. The library is a bulk interlibrary loan lender in its specialist area and is a member of several networks, including Australian Libraries in the Emergency Sector (ALIES) and Australian Government Libraries and Information Network (AGLIN).



Images:

1. The library staff – Left to right: Lepa Petrovic, Janine Chandler (Library Manager), Jessica Begley, Maureen Lee.
2. Prominent criminologist Sir John Vincent Barry