



The Lawpaths project

[Lawpaths](#)

- The Lawpaths project is funded by JISC under the X4L programme for 3 years from August 2002

www.ukc.ac.uk/library/lawpaths

- Project partners
 - University of Kent
 - UK Centre for Legal Education
 - Institute of Advanced Legal Studiesin collaboration with
 - Bristol University
 - Cardiff University
 - Institute for Learning & Research Technology



What is Lawpaths?

- LAWPATHS is a project to develop a resource bank of materials to support the learning and teaching of legal information research skills.
- These will be based on the best existing examples and will consist of guides, tutorials, workbooks and other materials developed by librarians and legal academics and publishers in a form which can be re-used and customised by other institutions
- They will be made available to teachers and librarians and to students of law at all levels
- This is informed by changing student needs such as 24/7 access, reluctance to attend classes, and large student numbers
- The project recognises the need for legal research skills materials where law is taught as a component of non-law courses, in FE colleges and elsewhere



Other elements

- A key element will be to negotiate with publishers to provide guides to their service in an agreed format
- Publishers will be encouraged to develop interactive guides within the standards set by X4L
- An online community of users will be created
- Focus groups within universities and FE colleges will establish needs, priorities and preferences
- Awareness of interoperability, accessibility and IPR will inform the project at all times.
- The prototype service will be evaluated for needs, content, functionality and pedagogical utility in test sites



What the service will provide

- A web based service offering a database of of skills training material of all kinds
 - Customisable
 - Flexible
 - High quality
 - Interoperable
 - Based on existing materials and perceived needs
- An online user community
 - to receive updates and information on new developments
 - To provide feedback and suggestions for developments
- Emerging technologies and new ideas will feed into the service at all times



Where we have got to

[LawPaths resources](#)

- An initial trawl of resources was completed in April. Nearly 600 resources have been identified, more than we anticipated. This took 6 months to complete
- The authors (mainly law librarians) have been contacted by email for permission to link and to elicit comments
- A database is being created to enable retrieval by subject, type, format, etc.
- Data on the kind of materials required and the needs and desiderata of law librarians are being collected from the email responses and from focus groups





Project team

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