

LEGAL RESEARCH: MATERIALS AND METHODS. By Enid Campbell and Donald MacDougall. [Australia: Law Book Company Limited, 1967].

As the title of the book would suggest, this book serves as a general guide to all those who are and would be engaged in legal research. As the authors point out in their Preface, "the book has uses not only for lawyers, but for politicians, civil servants, historians, political scientists, librarians, accountants and other professional men whose work takes them into the legal subjects."

In the first chapter of the book, the authors introduce law students to the layout of a law library. They give a detailed account on how law books are divided and how they are classified and catalogued.

Law reporting is discussed in chapters two and three. The different types of cases reported, how these cases are reported and the different terms commonly used in law reporting would prove to be most useful to anyone who is new to the subject. The table of Law Reports, at the end of Chapter Three gives a very comprehensive account of all the available reports which are commonly found in law libraries. Under the heading of 'Digests', the authors discuss the main digests and abridgements and give an account of the nature of the materials found in these digests and when they should be used.

Another part of the book deals with statute law and subordinate legislation. The authors discuss how such laws are made, the procedure followed, and how they are numbered, arranged and published. The discussion on the Indices and the different methods of finding whether such legislation has been amended or repealed would be particularly useful to the practising lawyer.

For those who are involved in legal writing, the authors mention useful tips which must be followed; the proper mode of citation, use of the footnotes and the use of legal abbreviations are well discussed.

Among the special features of the book are the Glossary of Latin and Foreign Words and Phrases, and specimen copies of the different legal materials discussed in the book. The latter is most helpful to the reader in understanding parts of the book where such legal materials are discussed, since a quick reference to these specimen copies would make the reader understand easily what is being explained.

On the whole, though this is an Australian publication, yet because the major part of the book is based on legal research in English, Commonwealth and American materials, it would prove to be most useful to any lawyer or student who is engaged in legal research in any of these countries. In short, this is an excellent book and a must for every law student and the practising lawyer.