
INFORMATION NOTE

Electronic legislation databases in overseas jurisdictions

1. Background

1.1 At the meeting of the Bills Committee on Legislation Publication Bill held on 24 January 2011, members raised concerns relating to the proposed establishment of an electronic legislation database on which copies of legislation with legal effect might be published. Members agreed to request the Research Division to provide information on similar electronic database systems in overseas jurisdictions.

1.2 This information note studies the relevant overseas experiences, and the key findings are summarized in the **Appendix**. The study focuses on the following issues raised by members at the meeting:

- (a) whether the printed official version of legislation has been phased out or has co-existed with the establishment of the electronic database;
- (b) whether the printed or electronic version of legislation is deemed to be the authentic version; and
- (c) steps involved in migrating the printed version to the electronic database.

1.3 This note covers the following jurisdictions which were suggested by members and in line with those studied by the Administration:

- (a) the United Kingdom ("the UK");
- (b) Ireland;
- (c) New Zealand; and
- (d) the Commonwealth, Queensland, New South Wales ("NSW") and the Australian Capital Territory ("ACT") of Australia.

2. The United Kingdom

2.1 Bills become Acts once they have passed all stages within both Houses of the UK Parliament and received Royal Assent. Such Acts are published under the authority of the Queen's Printer by The Stationery Office ("TSO"). Printed copies of all legislation are available for purchase by the public at TSO bookshop.

2.2 Up to 29 July 2010, the UK Statute Law Database ("SLD") was the official online revised version (the version incorporating amendments by subsequent legislation) of the primary legislation of the UK. It was managed by the SLD team under the Ministry of Justice. Previously accessible only to a limited number of users in the government, SLD was made publicly available for free on 20 December 2006. SLD contained all Acts in force with some dating back as far as 1267. The originating text of SLD was derived mainly from the publication "Statutes in Force" ("SIF"), a loose-leaf style official edition of the revised statute book arranged according to subject matter. SIF was regularly updated with the effects of new primary and secondary legislation made until 1 February 1991. The loose-leaf version ceased to exist on 1 February 1991, and the date of this final revision became the "basedate" from which SLD was taken forward. From the basedate onwards, both primary and secondary legislation was held on SLD.

2.3 Most types of primary legislation were held on SLD in "revised" form in that amendments made to them by subsequent legislation were incorporated into the text. Other primary and secondary legislation from 1991 onwards was held on SLD in "as enacted" (the original) form.¹ Newly enacted legislation was loaded onto the SLD website as soon as reasonably practicable following publication by TSO.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>

2.4 In December 2008, the SLD team was transferred from the Ministry of Justice to The National Archives. A new legislation.gov.uk website was launched by The National Archives on 29 July 2010. The legislation.gov.uk website brings together the legislative content on the Office of Public Sector Information ("OPSI") website and SLD to provide a single legislation information service that replaces the two services. Starting from early February 2011, the OPSI and SLD websites have been decommissioned with users visiting these two websites being re-directed to the legislation.gov.uk website. In other words, the contents of these two websites have constituted the new website.

Whether the printed version has been phased-out

2.5 Legislation.gov.uk is the current official place of publication for newly enacted legislation. As stated on the website, "The aim is to publish legislation on legislation.gov.uk simultaneously or at least within 24 hours, of its publication in printed form". In other words, the electronic version of legislation comes simultaneously with or after the release of the printed version which co-exists with the former. There are at present no plans to phase out the printed versions of legislation, with the current arrangements expected to continue for at least the next few years.²

² Reply from legislation.gov.uk, 10 February 2011.

Version of legislation deemed to be the authentic version

2.6 Both the printed and electronic versions are official. Actually, the issue of "authentic versions" of legislation is, in practice, not a concern in the UK. Because of the doctrine of "judicial notice"³ of legislation, the authenticity of the text of an Act of Parliament produced to a court does not have to be established.⁴ The revised legislation on legislation.gov.uk is the official version, and its authoritative status derives from the fact that it is published by and under the authority of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (in her capacity as The Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament, and Government Printer of Northern Ireland) and the Queen's Printer for Scotland.⁵ According to legislation.gov.uk, new features will be developed to establish a verifiable audit trail for legislation on the website in the future. Nonetheless, the purpose of this development will be not so much to provide formal authentication as to maintain user confidence in the authoritative provenance of the text.⁶

3. Ireland

3.1 The Office of the Attorney General publishes the electronic Irish Statute Book ("eISB") database online. The eISB database comprises the Acts of the Oireachtas (the Parliament of Ireland) and Statutory Instruments (orders, regulations, rules, by-laws and schemes) for the period 1922 onwards and a Legislation Directory (formerly Chronological Tables of the Statutes) in a searchable format. The source material for this database is the bound volumes of the Acts of the Oireachtas and Statutory Instruments from 1922 to date as published by The Stationery Office.

³ Judicial notice is a rule in the law of evidence that allows a fact to be introduced into evidence if the truth of that fact is so well-known that it cannot be refuted. This is done upon the request of the party seeking to have the fact at issue determined by the court. Matters admitted under judicial notice are accepted without being formally introduced by a witness or other rule of evidence, and even if one party wishes to lead evidence to the contrary.

⁴ Reply from legislation.gov.uk, 10 February 2011.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

Whether the printed version has been phased-out

3.2 The printed version of legislation has co-existed with the electronic database. Hard copies of the Acts of the Oireachtas and Statutory Instruments are still published. They are printed by The Stationery Office and are available from the Government Publications Sales Office. The hard copies of the Acts and Statutory Instruments are produced as individual documents and are available for sale separately. While a loose-leaf volume is not produced, a bound volume of Acts for each year is produced in A4 format and a bound volume of the Statutory Instruments is produced each year in A3 format.⁷ There are no plans to phase out the printed versions of Acts or Statutory Instruments.⁸

Version of legislation deemed to be the authentic version

3.3 As stated on the eISB website, "The official version of the Acts of the Oireachtas and Statutory Instruments remains the printed version published by the Stationery Office". In other words, only the printed version of legislation is deemed to be the authentic version. At the moment, there are no plans to confer legal status on the electronic versions of Acts or Statutory Instruments.⁹

⁷ Reply from the Office of the Attorney General, Ireland, 17 February 2011.

⁸ Reply from the Office of the Attorney General, Ireland, 16 February 2011.

⁹ Ibid.

4. New Zealand

4.1 The New Zealand Legislation website is provided by the New Zealand Parliamentary Counsel Office ("the PCO"), which is responsible for drafting and publishing New Zealand's legislation. In operation since January 2008, this website provides free public access to up-to-date unofficial versions of the Acts of Parliament, Regulations published in the Statutory Regulations series, and imperial subordinate legislation in force in New Zealand, Bills, and Supplementary Order Papers. Amendments of Acts and Regulations are provided in all cases from 1999 onwards and in summary format for 1997 and 1998. Acts repealed and Regulations revoked after 4 September 2007, and Bills and Supplementary Order Papers current at 1 January 2008 or later are also available on this website. Current Acts and Regulations are updated with amendments as soon as possible after the amendments come into force.

Whether the printed version has been phased-out

4.2 The printed official version of legislation has co-existed with the electronic database. The PCO does not publish loose-leaf legislation. New Acts and Statutory Regulations are printed in booklet form, which is double-hole-punched so that they can be filed in ring-binders, and there are no loose-leaf updates. Legislation on the New Zealand Legislation website is constantly being updated with amendments. While these amendments are republished on the web with new "as at ..." dates, the PCO does not print them in hard copy except when a printed reprint (limited to eight to ten titles per year) is produced. Hard-copy reprints of certain Acts and Statutory Regulations are printed in the same booklet form as those of new Acts and Statutory Regulations. In addition, the PCO publishes annual bound volumes of Acts and Statutory Regulations in hard-back book format at the end of each year.¹⁰

4.3 Printed copies of individual Acts, Bills, Statutory Regulations, and Supplementary Order Papers, copies of individual reprints and copies of the bound volumes can be purchased from Legislation Direct (the Parliamentary Counsel Office's contracted printer and distributor of legislation) or selected retail outlets, and are available at many public libraries.

¹⁰ Reply from the Parliamentary Counsel Office, New Zealand, 17 February 2011.

4.4 Since the launch of the New Zealand Legislation website in January 2008, the PCO has noted a decline in the amount of hard-copy printed Acts and Regulations purchased even though the electronic legislation is not yet official. The PCO has also reduced the number of hard-copy reprints published. There are no plans to stop printing hard-copy versions of legislation but the PCO is discussing with the printer and retailers a move towards a user-pays print-on-demand service after the electronic database has been officialised with the electronic copy being designated as an official source of legislation alongside the hard copy version.¹¹

Version of legislation deemed to be the authentic version

4.5 As stated on the New Zealand Legislation website, "The electronic versions of legislation on this website, and any legislation printed from this website, have no official status, and are made available for information only and should not be relied on as the authoritative text". In other words, only the printed version of legislation is deemed to be the authentic version.

Migration of the printed version to the electronic database

4.6 Nevertheless, the PCO has intended to make the New Zealand Legislation website an official source of New Zealand legislation in the future. This involves two steps. Firstly, starting from 2009, the PCO has been officialising the existing material of the website, giving it the so-called "semi-official" status.¹² The officialisation process includes exercising the powers conferred by section 17C of the *Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989*, which authorises the PCO to make certain editorial changes to a reprinted enactment so that it can be reprinted in a format consistent with the current legislative drafting practice. The goal is for the officialisation to be completed by 31 December 2012. Secondly, when the officialisation process has been completed, the PCO will introduce legislation¹³ to make the New Zealand Legislation website an official source of legislation.

¹¹ Reply from the Parliamentary Counsel Office, New Zealand, 17 February 2011.

¹² The semi-official status of officialised legislation has no legal effect. See paragraph 4.7 for details.

¹³ The *Legislation Bill 2010* was introduced to the House of Representatives on 25 June 2010. See paragraphs 4.8 and 4.9 for details.

4.7 Existing items on the website that have been officialised include an image of the New Zealand Coat of Arms in PDF or HTML version. New legislation, i.e. legislation published since the establishment of the website in 2008, has semi-official status and does not need further officialising as it has been published from the same source files as official printed legislation published. It should be noted that the semi-official status of officialised legislation has no legal effect. The only official source of legislation is the hard-copy version with hard-copy amendments. However, those Acts and Regulations which have been "officialised" are subject to a rigorous checking process in preparation for them being designated as official when all the officialisation work has been completed.¹⁴

4.8 The *Legislation Bill 2010*, introduced to the House of Representatives on 25 June 2010, was reported back to the House by the Regulations Review Committee on 1 December 2010. The purpose of the *Bill* is to modernise and improve the law relating to the publication, availability, reprinting, revision, and official versions of legislation and to bring this law together in a single piece of legislation. Key policy decisions implemented in the *Bill* include that the PCO will be required to publish legislation electronically as well as in printed form, and will be able to issue official versions of legislation in both electronic and printed form. The *Bill* is scheduled to go through second reading on 10 February 2011.

4.9 According to the current plan for the officialisation work, by the time the *Bill* becomes an Act and comes into force on 1 July 2011, the officialisation programme will not be completed yet. Hence, the provisions in the *Bill* that require official electronic versions to be produced and made available will not come into force immediately but will come into force by 1 July 2013. Until then, the hard-copy version produced on behalf of the New Zealand government will remain as the only official source of New Zealand legislation. After 1 July 2013, it is intended to make both the electronic and hard-copy versions official versions.¹⁵

¹⁴ Reply from the Parliamentary Counsel Office, New Zealand, 17 February 2011.

¹⁵ Reply from the Parliamentary Counsel Office, New Zealand, 18 February 2011.

5. Australia

The Commonwealth

5.1 ComLaw, the electronic database of legislation of the Australian Commonwealth, is managed by the Office of Legislative Drafting and Publishing within the Australian Attorney-General's Department. Established in January 2005, ComLaw contains the Commonwealth primary legislation, ancillary documents and information related to the legislation, the new Federal Register of Legislative Instruments ("FRLI"), previous compilations of the law as amended, and legislation of the Commonwealth that is no longer in force. ComLaw contains the full text of every Act as made since 1973. New Acts are normally available on ComLaw shortly after assent, and Act compilations are generally available when the amendments commence.

Whether the printed version has been phased-out

5.2 The printed official version of legislation has co-existed with the electronic database. Printed versions of all new "as made"¹⁶ Acts and Select Legislative Instruments (Regulations) are produced, and the Office of Legislative Drafting and Publishing still produces some printed versions of consolidations. The Office of Legislative Drafting and Publishing also produces one specific loose-leaf service under contract for another government agency but there is no general loose-leaf service available for the public.¹⁷ People can order them individually, or subscribe to receive all new releases of a particular document type. Official copies of major new laws as made and some existing laws as amended can be ordered at more than 40 bookshops nationwide. Printed copies of all Acts as made since 1901 and reprints of some popular Acts as amended are also available from major libraries. There is no plan to phase out the printed version. The Office of Legislative Drafting and Publishing intends to continue to print the new "as made" Acts, Select Legislative Instruments and some consolidations in the foreseeable future.¹⁸

¹⁶ "As made" is the form in which the law was originally made.

¹⁷ Reply from the Office of Legislative Drafting and Publishing, the Attorney-General's Department, Australia, 21 February 2011.

¹⁸ Ibid.

Version of legislation deemed to be the authentic version

5.3 The *Legislative Instruments Act 2003* confers official status on the electronic version of legislative instruments¹⁹ contained in FRLI, which is freely available electronically through the ComLaw database. On the other hand, prior to 2008, there was no provision in any Commonwealth legislation to confer official status on a particular version of a Commonwealth Act. Through a combination of legislative provisions in the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* and the *Evidence Act 1995*, official status is conferred on printed versions of both Acts and legislative instruments printed by the Government Printer.²⁰ Accordingly, before 2008, while the printed versions of both Acts and legislative instruments had official status, only the electronic version of legislative instruments had this status.

5.4 In 2006, the Attorney-General's Department proposed that new legislative provisions be introduced to allow the Department to designate a database of Acts and compilations of Acts, made available to the public, as authoritative. In practice, this would consist of the PDF documents from which printed legislation is produced, that are already available on ComLaw. This proposal was adopted when the *Acts Publication Act 1905* was amended in 2008, conferring official status on ComLaw.

5.5 Under the amended *Acts Publication Act 1905*, both the printed and electronic versions of the Commonwealth legislation are deemed to be the authentic version. As stated on the website, ComLaw is "the only database of Australian Government legislation that is authoritative for the purposes of legal proceedings". Authoritative text is in PDF format and is stamped with the unique ComLaw/FRLI ID on every page. Relevant records are identified with a distinctive "tick" logo. Nonetheless, as stated on the ComLaw website, not all materials on ComLaw are authoritative. If there is no authoritative logo or if the text is in a format other than PDF, then the material is not authoritative.

¹⁹ According to the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*, a legislative instrument is an instrument in writing that is of a legislative character and is or was made in the exercise of a power delegated by the Parliament. All legislative instruments must be registered on a part of ComLaw, i.e. FRLI, and tabled in the Parliament. Most are also subject to Parliamentary veto and cease to exist automatically around 10 years after commencement. Regulations and rules are examples of legislative instruments contained in FRLI.

²⁰ Attorney-General's Department (2006) p.1.

Queensland

5.6 The official Queensland Legislation website is maintained by the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel ("the QQPC") which is responsible for drafting all Queensland Acts and subordinate legislation made under most Queensland Acts. The collection provides electronic access to consolidated versions of Queensland Acts and subordinate legislation, as well as Queensland Acts as passed from June 1991 and all subordinate legislation published from 1 July 1991. Other information of interest and assistance to users of legislation is also included on the website including Bills introduced into the Queensland Parliament. Legislation in the current electronic reprints collection is updated as soon as possible after amending legislation comes into force. New principal legislation is included in the collection as soon as possible after commencement.

Whether the printed version has been phased-out

5.7 The printed official version of legislation has co-existed with the electronic database. The official hard copy versions are printed by the Government Printer. Printed copies of official legislative texts including Bills, new Acts and subordinate legislation, annual volumes of Acts and explanatory notes, annual volumes of subordinate legislation, and reprints of Acts and subordinate legislation are available from The Queensland Government Bookshop.

Version of legislation deemed to be the authentic version

5.8 Only the printed version of legislation is deemed to be the authentic version. Legislation released on the Queensland Legislation website is not authorised under the *Evidence Act 1977* or the *Reprints Act 1992*. According to the two *Acts*, the electronic versions of Queensland legislation are not authorised or considered to be official documents and therefore have no evidentiary value. The electronic collection simply serves as a convenient reference and research tool for lawyers, public servants and all those who use legislation. The QQPC is progressing to make the electronic versions of legislation on the website "official authorised versions". Nonetheless, no concrete plan or timetable has been established at the moment.²¹

²¹ Reply from the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel, 16 February 2011.

New South Wales

5.9 The NSW legislation website is established under Part 6A of the *Interpretation Act 1987* as the official NSW Government site for the online publication of legislation. Launched in 2001, the website is maintained by the Parliamentary Counsel's Office. This website contains an "In Force database" and an "As Made database".²² The In Force database is a dynamic collection of over 1 100 current NSW Acts, 600 statutory instruments and 300 environmental planning instruments in HTML format. All titles in the In Force database have complete sets of historical versions from a base date of 1 January 2002, and selected titles have more extensive collections of historical versions. This database also contains historical versions of repealed legislation back to 1 January 2002. The As Made database is a collection of over 22 000 instruments in PDF and consists of Acts as assented to since 1824, statutory instruments as originally made since 1990, explanatory notes for Bills introduced and passed since 1990, and environmental planning instruments as they were originally made.

Whether the printed version has been phased-out

5.10 The printed official version of legislation has co-existed with the electronic database, but new legislation is in electronic format rather than printed form. Since early 2009, statutory instruments (regulations, rules and environmental planning instruments, etc.) have been notified on the legislation website instead of the paper Government Gazette. The notification page on the NSW legislation website is linked to the As Made database which is fully searchable. Meanwhile, authorised printed NSW legislation and legislative information publications are still made available to the public by Strategic Communications and Government Advertising, a division of the NSW Department of Services, Technology and Administration.

²² "As made" form is the original text passed by the Parliament and assented to by the Governor.

Version of legislation deemed to be the authentic version

5.11 Since its launch in 2001, the content of the NSW legislation website has been considered authoritative even though it initially had no legislative basis.²³ The step of formally conferring authorised status for its content was not taken until 2006 by amendments to the *Interpretation Act 1987*. In October 2008, the NSW Parliamentary Counsel's Office finally certified under section 45C(5) of the *Interpretation Act 1987* that the In Force database of current legislation (HTML format) and the As Made database of original legislation (in PDF) dated 2000 or later on the website was correct. A Ministerial Memorandum, "M2009-02 NSW Legislation Website: Authorisation of Online Legislation and Online Notification of New Statutory Instruments", has also made it clear that "NSW legislation published online now has the same status as authorised printed legislation". In other words, both the printed and electronic versions are deemed to be the authentic version.

Migration of the printed version to the electronic database

5.12 The process of maintaining the source data in SGML²⁴ and its automated publication to the website in HTML was adopted in the NSW legislation website for seven years before the content of the website was formally authorised or authenticated in 2008. At that time the reliability of the website and the confidence among users was such that authorisation passed with little fanfare or comment.²⁵ Both the online publishing process and the website were also reinforced then with a new underlying software system and new servers with greater capacity.

²³ Colagiuri & Rubacki (2009) p.12.

²⁴ SGML stands for "Standard Generalized Markup Language", which is a system for organizing and tagging elements of a document. SGML is used widely to manage large documents that are subject to frequent revisions and need to be printed in different formats.

²⁵ Colagiuri & Rubacki (2009) p.9.

The Australian Capital Territory

5.13 The ACT legislation register, established by the *Legislation Act 2001*, began operation on the approved secure website on 12 September 2001. The legislation register is an authorised electronic statute book that provides free and quick access to ACT legislation and related information. The ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office, the office that drafts and publishes ACT legislation, is responsible for the authorisation work. The legislation register includes all ACT Acts and subordinate laws in up-to-date authorised form. New amendments are included on the day they come into force or as soon as possible afterwards. The register also contains repealed legislation and other material such as explanatory statements for Bills, subordinate laws and disallowable instruments and information about legislation.

Whether the printed version has been phased-out

5.14 The printed official version of legislation has co-existed with the electronic database, but new legislation and reprints are in electronic format rather than printed form. From 12 September 2001, ACT legislation has been notified on the legislation register rather than in the Government Gazette. Notification involves the publication of both a statement that an Act or legislative instrument has been made and the text of the Act or instrument on the register. Meanwhile, since 12 September 2001, republications of legislation have been published in authorised PDF format on the register.

5.15 The ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office does not make printed versions of legislation as it only makes the legislation available on the ACT legislation register on the day it is notified.²⁶ Nonetheless, selection of authorised republications has continued to be published in printed format by the ACT Government Publishing Services, which has a subscription service. The legislation is printed in booklet form, and it is noted that ACT legislation has never been printed in a loose-leaf format.²⁷ Republications with printed version are marked with an asterisk on the legislation register. Electronic and printed versions of an authorised republication are identical. There are no plans at present to phase out the printing of legislation as long as there is still a demand for it.²⁸

²⁶ Reply from the ACT Parliamentary Counsel' Office, 16 February 2011.

²⁷ Reply from the ACT Government Publishing Services, 17 February 2011.

²⁸ Ibid.

Version of legislation deemed to be the authentic version

5.16 Both the printed and electronic versions are deemed to be the authentic version. Under the *Legislation Act 2001*, authorised versions of legislation on the legislation register are placed under the same evidentiary presumptions that apply to authorised printed versions. Authorised versions appear in PDF. A document printed from an authorised file is legally presumed to be an accurate copy of the piece of legislation. At the same time, the register also provides versions of legislation in rich text format ("RTF"). These versions are not authorised, but are included to facilitate searching and copying.

5.17 Extra security is necessary to make sure that the downloaded documents from the legislation register website are true copies of ACT legislation. The ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office has implemented measures to provide this security. It has started to apply digital signatures to authorised versions. People can verify the authenticity of the versions that have digital signatures.

Prepared by Yuki HUEN
23 February 2011
Tel: 2869 8343

Information notes are compiled for Members and Committees of the Legislative Council. They are not legal or other professional advice and shall not be relied on as such. Information notes are subject to copyright owned by the Legislative Council Commission (the Commission). The Commission permits accurate reproduction of information notes for non-commercial use in a manner not adversely affecting the Legislative Council, provided that acknowledgement is made stating the Research Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat as the source and one copy of the reproduction is sent to the Legislative Council Library.

Appendix

Electronic legislation databases in overseas jurisdictions

	The United Kingdom	Ireland	New Zealand	The Australian Commonwealth	Queensland	New South Wales	The Australian Capital Territory
Whether the printed version has been phased-out or co-existed with the electronic database	Co-existed with the electronic database.	Co-existed with the electronic database.	Co-existed with the electronic database.	Co-existed with the electronic database.	Co-existed with the electronic database.	Co-existed with the electronic database.	Co-existed with the electronic database.
Version of legislation deemed to be the authentic version	Both printed and electronic versions.	Printed version.	Printed version, but electronic version is being officialised.	Both printed and electronic versions. ⁽¹⁾	Printed version, but electronic version may be authorised in the future.	Both printed and electronic versions.	Both printed and electronic versions.

Note: (1) Most but not all ComLaw contents are authoritative. Authoritative text is always in PDF format and is stamped with the document's unique ComLaw/FRLI ID on every page. If there is no authoritative logo or if the text is in a format other than PDF, then the material is not authoritative.

References

The United Kingdom

1. *legislation.gov.uk*. (2011) Available from: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/> [Accessed February 2011].
2. *The UK Statute Law Database*. (2011) Available from: <http://www.statutelaw.gov.uk/> [Accessed January 2011].

Ireland

3. *Irish Statute Book*. (2011) Available from: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/home.html> [Accessed February 2011].
4. *Law Reform Commission of Ireland*. (2011) Available from: <http://www.lawreform.ie/> [Accessed February 2011].
5. *Office of the Attorney General*. (2010) Available from: http://www.attorneygeneral.ie/index_en.html [Accessed February 2011].

New Zealand

6. *Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989*. Available from: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1989/0142/latest/096be8ed8009cca5.pdf> [Accessed February 2011].
7. *Legislation Bill 2010*. Available from: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2010/0162/latest/096be8ed8065efa2.pdf> [Accessed February 2011].
8. *New Zealand Legislation*. (2011) Available from: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/> [Accessed February 2011].
9. *Parliamentary Counsel Office*. (2011) Available from: <http://www.pco.parliament.govt.nz/> [Accessed February 2011].

Australia

10. *ACT Legislation Register*. (2011) Available from: <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/> [Accessed February 2011].
11. *Acts Publication Act 1905*. Available from: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2009C00561> [Accessed February 2011].
12. Attorney-General's Department. (2006) *Proposal for Authorised Electronic Versions of Commonwealth Acts*. Available from: [http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/rwpattach.nsf/VAP/\(CFD7369FCAE9B8F32F341DBE097801FF\)~Authorised_electronic_versions_of_Acts_public_consultation.pdf/\\$file/Authorised_electronic_versions_of_Acts_public_consultation.pdf](http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/rwpattach.nsf/VAP/(CFD7369FCAE9B8F32F341DBE097801FF)~Authorised_electronic_versions_of_Acts_public_consultation.pdf/$file/Authorised_electronic_versions_of_Acts_public_consultation.pdf) [Accessed February 2011].
13. Colagiuri, D. & Rubacki, M. (2009) *The long march: pen and paper drafting to E-publishing law*. Available from: <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/The-Long-March.pdf> [Accessed February 2011].
14. *ComLaw*. (2011) Available from: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/> [Accessed February 2011].
15. Department of Premier and Cabinet of New South Wales Government. (2009) *M2009-02 NSW Legislation Website: Authorisation of Online Legislation and Online Notification of New Statutory Instruments*. Available from: http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/publications/memos_and_circulars/ministerial_memoranda/2009/m2009-02_nsw_legislation_website_authorisation_of_online_legislation_and_online_notification_of_new_statutory_instruments [Accessed February 2011].
16. *Interpretation Act 1987*. Available from: <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/inforcepdf/1987-15.pdf?id=e9b8e8d6-1149-c0c5-91d5-8d8816967a7e> [Accessed February 2011].
17. *Legislation Act 2001*. Available from: <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2001-14/current/pdf/2001-14.pdf> [Accessed February 2011].

18. *NSW legislation*. Available from: <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/>
[Accessed February 2011].
19. *Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel*. (2011) Available from:
<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/OQPChome.htm> [Accessed
February 2011].
20. *Reprints Act 1992*. Available from:
[http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/R/ReprintA92.
pdf](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/R/ReprintA92.pdf) [Accessed February 2011].