
Elizabeth Naumczyk

Bond University

Follow this and additional works at: http://epublications.bond.edu.au/blr

This Book Review is brought to you by the Faculty of Law at ePublications@bond. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bond Law Review by an authorized administrator of ePublications@bond. For more information, please contact Bond University’s Repository Coordinator.

Abstract
Legal researchers wanting to find secondary sources of legal information for Australia, will welcome the recent publication of Finding the Law.
Book Reviews

Finding the Law: a guide to Australian secondary sources of legal information, by C Fong and G Ellis,


by Elizabeth Naumczyk
Associate Law Librarian
Bond University Law Library

Legal researchers wanting to find secondary sources of legal information for Australia will welcome the recent publication of Finding the law.

This work is first and foremost a guide and reference work. It is easy to browse and a quick first step to uncovering the various secondary sources available. The main work comprising 503 pages spanning over some twenty years, is comprehensive, well presented and organised by subject. Secondary sources cover textbooks, looseleaf services, periodical articles, videos and computerised legal databases. To assist the user further, the authors have provided various lists namely a List of publishers’ abbreviations, and a List of subject headings (10 pages). The appendices include Australian Legal Abbreviations (62 pages), and an Annotated Legislation Index (22 pages), followed by an Author index (107 pages).

The task undertaken by the authors is enormous considering the burgeoning amount of information generated in today’s society. Not surprising, therefore, some selectivity has been necessary. The preface states what has and has not been included, for example, references to particular government publications such as law reform agencies are included while “generally articles in Australian Current Law prior to 1986 have been omitted: the 1975-1985 Index should be consulted for prior articles”.

Of particular interest is the listing of looseleaf services, databases, and their print versions, under particular subject headings. In future, the versions available on CD-ROM discs could be included. Other useful features are the listing of individual conference papers, as well as the contributors and chapters found in an edited work; indicating changes to specific title headings between the 2nd and 3rd editions of the Australian Digest, and providing the Annotated Legislation Index in Appendix 2 to show where statutes have been annotated as monographs or in looseleaf services.