

Ministry of Justice

Wellington, New Zealand

The [Ministry of Justice](#) is an executive branch of the New Zealand Government, offering a range of justice services throughout the country. The Ministry's responsibilities extend to all three arms of government – Government Ministers, the judiciary, and the justice sector and other agencies.

Staff are supported in the activities by the [Ministry of Justice](#) library, based in the nation's capital Wellington. Senior Advisor and Library & Records Specialist, Judith Foreman, says the government library's focus is on crime, criminal justice, law and treaty settlements.

"We work closely with New Zealand's Corrections, Police, Crown Law and Serious Fraud Office agencies and libraries."

To streamline the provision of services, [Ministry of Justice](#) staff are provided with online access to the library's catalogue from their desktops.

"The majority of our users are policy advisors and analysts, and we receive most of our requests via email. When they are able to visit the library in person, they can search for and self-issue books."

Although the library still maintains a substantial print collection, under Judith's lead the collection has become increasingly focused on electronic resources.



Liberty

"Our users can access 282 serials, including journals and databases, and almost all our subscriptions are electronic now. We've also digitised our historical archive collection and there are almost 2,000 PDFs available through the catalogue."

Judith says she has also helped grow the library's user numbers in recent years.

"I have worked to increase our current awareness service, mostly journal distribution and search alerts and have doubled our services."

To ensure this momentum could be sustained into the future, Judith says the library decided to upgrade their [Liberty](#) library management system to the latest version, [Liberty v5](#). The change has had a positive impact on the user experience.

"Our library users have given us really good feedback on the upgrade. We had a huge spike in new users when we launched Liberty v5."

It has encouraged users to access more of the library's services and statistics, such as loans and search, have gone up."

The [Liberty v5](#) upgrade has allowed users to search across all of the Ministry of Justice library's online databases using integrated Federated Search and Judith says that it has also improved the management of serials.

"Making so many resources electronic, has been a great winner."

Library users have not been the only beneficiaries of the [Liberty v5](#) upgrade. Judith says that [Liberty v5](#) has also delivered a number of administrative advantages.

“We can now design and change the library home page ourselves, and I love the carousels! New features for managing the administrative side of the library, like Analytical Reporting, have made my life easier.”

Judith has been impressed by the Softlink support services available to help library staff learn how to use [Liberty v5](#).

“Training and support from Softlink has been great. We receive regular emails with useful tips on how to use [Liberty v5](#) including YouTube videos that show us exactly what to do, and I use the Help documentation within [Liberty](#) whenever I’m unsure of something.”

“Overall, we have been delighted with the upgrade to Liberty v5.”