



DISTRICT COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**District Court Building
(DCB)
Audiovisual Systems
Briefing Paper for
Practitioners**

Table of Contents

1	Document Version History.....	2
2	Definitions	2
3	Introduction	3
4	Court Types.....	3
4.1	Type C Court:	3
4.1.1	Evidence Display.....	3
4.1.2	Video Playback	3
4.1.3	Other Playback	3
4.1.4	Preview	3
4.1.5	Electronic whiteboard.....	3
4.1.6	Portable Video Conference Trolleys.....	4
4.2	Type B Court:.....	4
4.2.1	Video Conference	4
4.2.2	Audio Conference	4
4.2.3	Closed Circuit Television (Remote witness)	4
4.2.4	Evidence Presentation	4
4.2.5	Video Record	4
4.3	Type A Court:.....	5
4.3.1	Evidence Presentation	5
5	Other AV Facilities.....	5
5.1	Mediation Rooms	5
5.2	Remote Witness Facilities.....	5
5.3	AV Holding Cell.....	5
6	Courtroom Assignment.....	5

1 Document Version History

Version Number	Description	Issued By	Issued Date
0.1	First Draft	Courts Technology Group	14 th March 2008
0.2	Incorporate Comments	Courts Technology Group	20 th March 2008
1.0	Final Draft	Courts Technology Group	28 th March 2008

2 Definitions

The following acronym / definitions shall apply to this document:

- AV - Audio Visual.
- CCTV - Closed Circuit TeleVision.
- CODEC - Stands for COmpression/DECompression algorithm, This is the name given to the Video Conference transmit/receive device.
- DCB - District Court Building.
- DVD - Digital Versatile Disk (normal use for Digital Video.)
- JSO - Judicial Support Officer.
- Judicial Support Staff - Either the Usher/Orderly or Associate of courts, as applicable to the jurisdiction, responsible for operating the AV system.
- LCD - Liquid Crystal Display (type of display screen.)
- MP3 - Stands for MPEG-1 Audio Layer 3 – the name given to standard type of digital audio files.
- MPEG - Moving Picture Experts Group – Also the name given to the video and audio standards for broadcast-quality television.
- PC - Personal Computer.
- VCR - Video Cassette Recorder.
- WMA - Windows Media Audio – digital audio files.

3 Introduction

This briefing paper details the high level functionality and uses of the audiovisual systems used in the new District Court building (DCB.) Please note there are twenty-four (24) individual courtrooms, and four mediation rooms. Some of these courts are Integrated Audiovisual Courts whereas others have simple video replay and evidence presentation functionality only.

4 Court Types

In terms of audiovisual equipment and functionality, there are three distinct court types. These are described below:

4.1 Type C Court:

There are 8 courts equipped with the base level of technology.

4.1.1 Evidence Display

Type C courts are able to display documents from a document camera to all courtroom participants via a plasma screen.

4.1.2 Video Playback

Type C courts are able to replay video evidence using either a Video Cassette Recorder (VCR) or DVD Player.

4.1.3 Other Playback

Type C courts are able to display some photo and video formats. These are listed below:

- JPEG – Digital photos/images
- MPEG2 – Digital video including finalised DVD±R/RW discs
- VCD – Video CDs
- ACD – Audio CDs
- MP3 – Audio files
- WMA – Windows Media Audio

Note: **MP3 / WMA disc compatibility is limited:**

- CD-R physical format should be ISO 9660
- File names to have a maximum of eight (8) letters and must incorporate an .mp3 or .wma extension.
- File names must not contain special letters such as / ? * : “ < > | etc.
- The total number of files in a folder must be less than 1,000.

4.1.4 Preview

Type C courts allow the Judicial Support Staff Associate or JSO to preview all images and video footage discretely before showing to others.

4.1.5 Electronic whiteboard

Type C courts are equipped with an electronic whiteboard tablet which enables a witness (or other participant) to draw on a desktop screen and this is displayed on the plasma screens in the courtroom. The Judicial Support Staff (i.e. Associate) is able to print or save the output to an electronic file which can also be retrieved later. In addition, this device enables a witness to mark up a photo or plan and save or print the marked up output.

4.1.6 Portable Video Conference Trolleys

All type C courts are equipped with a connection point to enable one of two shared portable basic video conference systems to be connected. This will enable this court to conduct a basic video conference or audio conference link.

4.2 Type B Court:

These courts have the same equipment as Type C courts together with the following functionality. There are 10 Type B courts.

4.2.1 Video Conference

Type B courts have full video conference functionality. The Judicial Support Staff are able to initiate, as well as receive, video conference calls. Whilst in a video conference call, the Judicial Support Staff are able to control the courtroom cameras to present image of various participants in the Court to the far end. They are also able to present in-court evidence to far-end participants.

4.2.2 Audio Conference

Type B courts have full audio conference functionality. The Judicial Support Staff are able to initiate, as well as receive, audio conference calls. Whilst in an audio conference call, the Judicial Support Staff are able to control the courtroom audio levels. The calls are integrated into the court reporting system so the entire proceedings are being recorded.

4.2.3 Closed Circuit Television (Remote witness)

Type B courts have complete remote witness functionality. The Judicial Support Staff are able to initiate a link to a remote witness room within the court building for child or vulnerable witnesses. This link will present a confidence image of the Judicial Officer on a dedicated screen within the remote witness room. The image presented on the second screen viewed by the remote witness is controlled by the Judicial Support Staff. They are able to select an image of various courtroom cameras to show an image of the participant(s) in the Court.

4.2.4 Evidence Presentation

Type B courts have high-resolution evidence presentation functionality. With PC inputs at:

- The Judicial Officer bench
- The front Bar table (two inputs),
- The Associate
- The Witness

There are no individual LCD displays for the bar table.

4.2.5 Video Record

Type B courts are able to record the video and audio for any video link onto an in court DVD recorder.

4.3 Type A Court:

These six (6) courts have the same equipment and functionality as Type B and, in addition, support fully integrated electronic trials.

4.3.1 Evidence Presentation

Type A courts have full high-resolution evidence presentation functionality. With PC inputs at:

- The Judicial Officer bench
- The front Bar table (two inputs), rear Bar table (two inputs)
- The Associate
- The Witness.

Four individual LCD displays are also available for the bar table. Two for the front bar table and two for the rear bar table.

5 Other AV Facilities

5.1 Mediation Rooms

There are two mediation rooms equipped with shared portable basic video conference systems that enable either video conference or audio conference links.

5.2 Remote Witness Facilities

There are a total of nine (9) remote witness facilities in the building. This is to enable vulnerable witnesses to give testimony in the court without the need for them to face the accused. These rooms enable connection to courtrooms within the DCB as well as courtrooms outside the DCB via video conference.

5.3 AV Holding Cell

There is a single holding cell equipped with AV that allows an accused to participate in courtroom proceedings via a CCTV circuit. The audio and video are fed into this cell and audio and video signals from this cell can be fed back to the courtroom.

6 Courtroom Assignment

Listed in the table below is the type of Court is available on each of the Courtroom floors of the DCB.

Level	Room No	Court Description	Type	Court Number
Level 1	1.45	Large Civil Court	A	Court 1.1
Level 1	1.30	Standard Civil Court	C	Court 1.2
Level 1	1.34	Standard Civil Court	B	Court 1.3
Level 1	1.36	Standard Civil Court	C	Court 1.4
Level 2	2.55	Standard 16 Juror Court	B	Court 2.1
Level 2	2.70	Standard 14 Juror Court	C	Court 2.2
Level 3	3.17	Large 18 Juror Court	B	Court 3.1
Level 3	3.16	Standard 16 Juror Court	B	Court 3.2
Level 3	3.56	Standard 14 Juror Court	B	Court 3.3

Level	Room No	Court Description	Type	Court Number
Level 3	3.55	Standard 14 Juror Court	B	Court 3.4
Level 4	4.25	Large 18 Juror Court	A	Court 4.1
Level 4	4.56	Standard 16 Juror Court	B	Court 4.2
Level 4	4.51	Standard 14 Juror Court	C	Court 4.3
Level 4	4.02	Standard 16 Juror Court	C	Court 4.4
Level 5	5.23	Large 18 Juror Court	A	Court 5.1
Level 5	5.56	Standard 16 Juror Court	B	Court 5.2
Level 5	5.51	Standard 14 Juror Court	C	Court 5.3
Level 5	5.02	Standard 16 Juror Court	C	Court 5.4
Level 6	6.23	Large 18 Juror Court	A	Court 6.1
Level 6	6.56	Standard 16 Juror Court	B	Court 6.2
Level 6	6.51	Standard 14 Juror Court	B	Court 6.3
Level 6	6.02	Standard 16 Juror Court	C	Court 6.4
Level 7	7.01	High Risk Court	A	Court 7.1
Level 7	7.34	Ceremonial Court	A	Court 7.2