

**RESEARCHING FOREIGN, INTERNATIONAL &  
COMPARATIVE LAW**  
**LAW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**  
**PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION**  
**JUNE 5, 2007**

**I. Reference Sources**

Accidental Tourist on the New Frontier: An Introductory Guide to Global Legal Research, Eds. Jeanne Rehberg & Radu D. Popa, Littleton, CO: F.B. Rothman, 1998. 1v. Hardbound.

LC CALL NO. K85 .A27 1998

- Designed as a basic guide to foreign, comparative and international law research for the non-specialist
- Chapters cover search strategies, LC classification scheme for foreign, comparative and international law, bibliography of sources and some electronic resource descriptions

Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World, Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo A. Flores, AALL Publication Series, no. 33, Littleton, CO: Fred B. Rothman & CO., 1989 - . 8 v. Looseleaf, Online at: < <http://www.foreignlawguide.com/> >.

LC CALL NO. K38 .R49 1989

- Arranged geographically (Western Hemisphere, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australasia), with countries and jurisdictions listed alphabetically under each area
- Each jurisdiction includes an overview of the legal system in place, major publications which include codifications, gazettes, session laws, court reports, translations and Internet sources
- Supplemented six times annually

A Guide to Official Gazettes and Their Contents, J. Roberts, Washington, DC: Law Library, Library of Congress, 1985.

LC CALL NO. K520 .R63 1985

- Countries are listed alphabetically
- Gives official title, frequency, languages and description of the content

Germain's Transnational Law Research: A Guide for Attorneys, Claire M. Germain, Ardsley-on-Hudson, NY: Transnational Juris Publications, Inc., 1991 - . 1v. Loose-leaf.

LC CALL NO. K85 .G47 1991

- Introductory chapter includes discussion on definitions of international, transnational and comparative law, treaties, structure of civil law systems, and research
- Middle chapters cover subjects such as arbitration, banking, commercial law, immigration, intellectual property, and telecommunications
- Later chapter cover European jurisdictions
- Supplemented regularly

Introduction to Foreign Legal Systems, Ed. Richard A. Danner & Marie-Louise H. Bernal, Sponsored by the American Association of Law Libraries, New York, NY: Oceana, 1994. 1v. Hardbound.

LC CALL NO. K583 .I57 1994

- Sections cover comparisons of common and civil law systems, description of Asian legal systems, interrelationships between customary law and the Western legal systems introduced into Africa
- Section on foreign law collection building and acquisitions
- Sources for translated foreign law materials are provided

International Encyclopedia of Comparative Law, issued under the auspices of the International Association of Legal Science, Eds. R. David [et.al.], Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck); New York: Oceana, <1973-2005> Hardbound (39 total installments w/ multiple volumes per installment).

LC CALL NO. K530 .I57 1973

- Introductory volume provides detailed description of the legal systems of more than 150 countries
- Volumes that follow give detailed comparative analysis of civil and commercial law subjects such as contracts, persons and family, torts, labor law, property and trusts, etc.
- Indexes available

International Law Digest, Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, Summit, NJ: Martindale-Hubbell, 1v. Hardbound. Web access through Lexis: < <http://www.lexis.com> >.

LC CALL NO. K526.5 .M37

- Covers 81 countries and is organized by country
- Summarizes individual statutory law
- Includes selected international conventions
- Issued annually

Legal Systems of the World: a Political, Social, and Cultural Encyclopedia, Ed. Herbert M. Kritzer, Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2002. 4v. Hardbound.

LC CALL NO. K48 .L44 2002

- Covers the legal systems of nations worldwide, every state in the Union, and every province of Canada
- Index provided

Legal Traditions of the World: Sustainable Diversity in Law, H. Patrick Glenn, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2004. 1v. Hardbound. LC CALL NO. K559 .G545 2004

- Detailed examination of seven world legal traditions: chthonic (or indigenous) law; talmudic law; civil law; Islamic law; common law; Hindu law and Asian law

Modern Legal Systems Cyclopedia, Ed. Kenneth Robert Redden, Buffalo, NY: William S. Hein & Co., 1984 - . 21v. Loose-leaf.

LC CALL NO. K530 .M62 1984

- Covers over 120 legal systems around the world
- Arranged by region and then countries within each region

- Bibliography of sources follows each legal system description
- Includes subject and country index
- Includes a World Law School Directory

Szladits' Bibliography on Foreign and Comparative Law, Ed. Vratislav Pechota, New York, NY: Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law, Columbia University: Oceana, 1990- . 39v. Hardbound.

LC CALL NO. K38 .B53

- Volumes cover a range of years and provide an annotated bibliography of articles and books (in English) covering a range of subjects
- Sections cover legal theory, foreign and comparative law, private law, commercial law, labor, procedure, criminal law, public law, conflicts and international organizations
- Provides subject and jurisdiction lists

## **II. Compilations**

Constitutions of the Countries of the World: A Series of Updated Texts, Constitutional Chronologies and Annotated Bibliographies, Eds. A.P. Blaustein and G.H. Flanz, Dobbs Ferry, NY: Oceana Publications, 1971 - . 20 v. Loose-leaf set, available online at:

< <http://www.oceanalaw.com> >.

LC CALL NO. K3157 .A2 B58 1971

- Provides the full-text, integrated versions of 192 country constitutions, translated into English
- Arranged alphabetically by country
- Includes editorial analysis and comments
- Many updates throughout the year

Commercial Laws of the World, Ormond Beach, FL: Foreign Tax Law Publisher, Inc., 1976 - . 32 v. Loose-leaf. Web access information at: < <http://ria.thomson.com/foreignlaw/> >.

LC CALL NO. K1004.15 1976

- Sections cover countries listed alphabetically
- Reproduces the text of individual commercial, corporate, labor and related laws in English
- Some volumes contain an index but most have a detailed table of contents
- Each country is updated separately, so currency varies
- Currently published by Thomson/RIA

Comparative Environmental Law and Regulation, Ed. Nicholas A. Robinson, Dobbs Ferry, NY: Oceana Publications, 1996- . 2 v. Loose-leaf.

LC CALL NO. K3585.4 .C65

- Sections cover individual countries/jurisdictions
- Key environmental laws, regulations and implementation agencies are included
- Includes a guide to locating environmental law information on the Internet
- Supplemented biannually

Copyright Laws and Treaties of the World, Paris, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Bureau of National Affairs, Washington, 1956- . 3v. Loose-leaf.  
LC CALL NO. K1419.2 1956

- Compiles copyright laws, orders, regulations and rules of 200 countries and territories
- Includes legislation and multilateral conventions
- Sections are arranged alphabetically by country

International Law Reports, London: Butterworth & Co., 1956- . Hardbound format; continues *Annual Digest and Reports of Public International Law Cases*.

LC CALL NO. KZ199 .I58

- Selectively reports important decisions of international courts, arbitrators and judgments of national courts in English
- Issued annually

International Legal Materials, Washington, DC: American Society of International Law, 1962- . Issued in soft cover format; available online through Hein Online, Lexis and Westlaw.

LC CALL NO. KZ64 .I58

- Contains the full-text of select treaties and agreements, judicial and arbitral decisions, national legislation, international organizations resolutions and other documents
- Published bimonthly
- Annual index issued in each November issue

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute Compilation of Human Rights Instruments, Eds. Göran Melander, Gudmundur Afredsson and Leif Holmström, 2<sup>nd</sup> rev. ed., Leiden: Boston: M. Nijhoff Publishers, 2004. 1v. Hardbound.

LC CALL NO. K3238 .R36 2004

- Includes discussion of universal instruments, regional instruments, and instruments detailed by subjects such as refugees, race, women, criminal justice, etc.

Tax Laws of the World, Ormond Beach, FL: Foreign Tax Law Association, 1964- . 47v. Loose-leaf, Web access information at: < <http://ria.thomson.com/foreignlaw/> >.

LC CALL NO. K4504 .15 1974

- Includes English translations of worldwide tax and commercial laws
- Covers major laws including income and corporate tax law, VAT, corporation law, trust law, commercial codes, environmental law, money laundering and other regulations affecting financial transactions, labor law, and bankruptcy
- Currently published by Thomson/RIA
- Updates issued throughout the year

World Trademark Law and Practice, Ethan Horwitz, New York, NY: M. Bender, 1982- . 5v. Loose-leaf.

LC CALL NO. K1555.4 .H67 1982

- Sections survey trademark laws in over one hundred jurisdictions
- Arranged alphabetically by country

- Focused on the practitioner – provides checklists and forms for filing and opposing applications, renewing registrations, and recording changes in title
- Updated biannually

### III. Citation Guides

Bieber's Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations: a Reference Guide for Attorneys, Legal Secretaries, Paralegals, and Law Students, Mary Miles Prince, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Buffalo, NY: W.S. Hein, 2001. 1v. Hardbound.

LC CALL NO. KF246 .B46 2001

- Reference source of over 30,000 legal abbreviations
- Coverage includes some U.K. and other common law countries

The Bluebook: a Uniform System of Citation, Cambridge, MA: Harvard Law Review Association, 18<sup>th</sup> ed., 2005, 1v.

LC CALL NO. KF245 .B58

- The standard guide for formatting and analyzing legal citations in the United States
- Rule 20 relates to citing foreign publications while Table 2 lists foreign jurisdictions alphabetically

Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations, Cardiff University

< <http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/> >

- Includes English language legal publications from the British Isles, the Commonwealth and the United States
- Over 295 jurisdictions are included
- Covers mainly law reports and law periodicals, but some legislative publications and major textbooks are included
- Searching is available by title or abbreviation

Guide to Foreign and International Legal Citations, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., Journal of International Law and Politics, New York, N.Y.: New York University, 2006.

LC CALL NO. KF89 .G85 2006

< <http://www.law.nyu.edu/journals/jilp/Final%20GFILC%20pdf.pdf> >

- Foreign and international legal citation guide which relies on the source jurisdiction's internal citation system
- Organized by individual countries and then by international forum
- Country profiles/ legal system overviews are provided

Index to Legal Citations and Abbreviations, Donald Raistrick, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., London; New York: Bowker-Saur, 1993, 1v. Hardbound.

LC CALL NO. KD400 .R35 1993

- Source includes over 25,000 legal abbreviations
- International in scope with coverage of major publications in various countries

Noble's Revised International Guide to the Law Reports, Scott Noble, 1998 Ed., Etobicoke, Ont.: Nicol Island Pub., 1998  
LC CALL NO. K89 .N63 1998

- Focus is solely on case reporters
- Provides bibliographic information on each reporter listed (title, jurisdiction, time period, etc.)

World Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations, Eds. Igor I. Kavass and Mary Miles Prince, Buffalo, NY: W.S. Hein, 1991- .4v. Loose-leaf.  
LC CALL NO. K89 .K38 1991

- Divided into different language and/or country sections
- Strong Spanish and common law coverage

#### **IV. Periodicals – Indexes and Databases**

Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals, Berkeley, CA: University of California Press for the American Association of Law Libraries, 1960- .  
LC CALL NO. K33 .I527

- Electronic access available
- Multilingual index to articles and book reviews appearing in approximately 540 legal journals published worldwide
- Published quarterly with an annual bound-volume cumulation

Hein Online, < <http://www.heinonline.org> >

- See International and Non-U.S. Law Journals library
- Provides full-text access to legal journals with multiple search capabilities, including an official citation search option

Index to Legal Periodicals and Books, Bronx, NY: H.W. Wilson Co., 1994- . Continues *Index to Legal Periodicals*, New York City : Published for the American Association of Law Libraries by the H.W. Wilson Co., 1909-1994.  
LC CALL NO. K33 .I534

- Electronic access available
- Issued monthly except September, with a bound cumulation each year
- Indexes legal periodicals and law books with coverage of the United States and Commonwealth countries

Current Law Index, Lose Altos, CA: Information Access Corp., 1980 - .  
LC CALL NO. K33 .C87

- Electronic access available
- Indexes law journals from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand
- Issued monthly with an annual cumulation

## **V. Dictionaries**

Dahl's Law Dictionary: French to English/English to French: An Annotated Legal Dictionary, including Definitions from Codes Case Law, Statutes, and Legal Writing = Dictionnaire Juridique, Henry S. Dahl, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Buffalo, NY: W.S. Hein, 2001.  
LC CALL NO. K52.F7 D35 2001

Dahl's Law Dictionary: Spanish-English/English-Spanish: An Annotated Legal Dictionary, including Authoritative Definitions from Codes, Case Law, Statutes, Legal Writing, International Treaties and Legal Opinions from Attorneys General = Diccionario Jurídico, Henry S. Dahl, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Buffalo: NY: W.S. Hein, 2005.  
LC CALL NO. K52.S6 D33 2005

Elsevier's Legal Dictionary: in English, German, French, Dutch and Spanish, compiled by D.C. van Hoof, D. Verbruggen, and C.H. Stoll, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., Amsterdam; New York: Elsevier, 2001.  
LC CALL NO. K54 .E45 2001

Faruqi's Law Dictionary: English-Arabic: Meanings and Definitions of Terms of English and American Jurisprudence (Ancient and Modern), Forensic Medicine, Commerce, Banking, Insurance, Civil Aviation, Diplomacy and Petroleum, 5<sup>th</sup> rev. ed., Beirut: Librairie du Liban, 2005.  
LC CALL NO. K52.A7 F37 2005

Legal Dictionary in Four Languages=Dictionnaire de Termes Juridiques en Quatre Langues = Viertalig Juridisch Woordenboek, (Dutch, English, French and German) Edgard Le Docte, Antwerpen : MAKLU, 1995.  
LC CALL NO. K54 .L4

West's Law and Commercial Dictionary in Five Languages: Definitions of the Legal and Commercial Terms and Phrases of American, English and Civil Law Jurisdictions, St. Paul, MN: West Pub. Co., 1985.  
LC CALL NO. K54 .W47 1985

## **VI. Web Resources**

### **A. Electronic Research Guides**

Basic Guide to Researching Foreign Law, GlobalLex  
< [http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Foreign\\_Law\\_Research.htm](http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Foreign_Law_Research.htm) >

Collection of Guides, Foreign Laws on the Web, Georgetown University School of Law Library  
< <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/intl/research.htm> >

Comparative and Foreign Law Guides, LLRX.com  
< <http://www.llrx.com/category/1050> >

Foreign and Comparative Law Research Guide, Duke Law Library  
< <http://www.law.duke.edu/lib/researchguides/foreign.html> >

Foreign Law Research, University of Washington School of Law Library  
< <http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/foreign.shtml> >

International Legal Research, LLRX.com  
< <http://www.llrx.com/category/857> >

Introduction to International Law Research, Brooklyn Law School Library  
< <http://brkl.brooklaw.edu/screens/rgintl.html> >

Introduction to International and Foreign Legal Research, UC Berkeley Law Library  
<  
[http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/dynamic/guide.php?guide=international\\_foreign/introduction](http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/dynamic/guide.php?guide=international_foreign/introduction)  
>

Legal Research on International Law Issues Using the Internet, Lyonette Louis-Jacques,  
University of Chicago  
< <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/~llou/forintl.html> >

Researching Foreign and Comparative Law, Georgetown Law School Library  
< <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/intl/guides/foreign/print.html> >

## **B. Free Public Web Sites**

ASIL-- Electronic Information System for International Law  
< <http://www.eisil.org> >

- A database that provides access and links to primary materials, authoritative Web sites, and research guides related to international law on the Internet
- Browse through a subject-oriented format
- Search by dates, keywords, resource type, and many other options

ASIL -- Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law  
< <http://www.asil.org/resource/Home.htm> >

- Subject-orientated guide that provides research tips
- Subjects include: United Nations, International organizations, treaties, commercial arbitration, criminal, economic, environmental, intellectual property and private law
- Updated every 6 months

EUR-Lex: European Union Law  
< <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/> >

- EUR-Lex contains legislation and case law
- Mission is to publish the whole body of European Union law



## Europa

< <http://europa.eu> >

- Gateway to the European Union
- Serves as a portal for information
- Available in twenty languages

## Findlaw.com, International Resources

< <http://www.findlaw.com/12international/countries/index.html> >

- Provides links to sources and information
- Arranged by jurisdiction

## FLARE – Foreign Legal Research

< <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/flare/flare.htm> >

- Presented by an association of major UK research libraries
- Offers a collection of research guides for a number of jurisdictions and a Union list of official gazettes

## Foreign Collections by Jurisdiction, NYU School of Law Library

< [http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/foreign\\_intl/country.html](http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/foreign_intl/country.html) >

- An annotated collection of foreign law databases by jurisdiction

## Foreign Law Translations, University of Texas Institute for Transnational Law

< <http://www.utexas.edu/law/academics/centers/transnational/work/> >

- A collection of nearly 1,000 English translated judicial decisions and statutes
- Coverage includes France, German, Italy, Austria and Israel
- Areas include constitutional, administrative, contract and tort law

## Foreign Laws on the Web, Georgetown University School of Law Library

< [http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/foreign/find\\_laws.cfm#jurisdiction](http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/foreign/find_laws.cfm#jurisdiction) >

## GlobalLex, Hauser Global Law School Program at NYU School of Law

< <http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/> >

- An electronic legal publication dedicated to international and foreign law research
- The information, guides and articles cover foreign, international and comparative law research topics

## Global Legal Information Network, Law Library of Congress

< <http://www.glin.gov> >

- Online database of legal documents with contributions made by government agencies and international organizations
- Full-text access to judicial decisions, legislation, regulations and other legal sources presented in the official language of the originating jurisdiction
- Summaries provided in English
- Covers jurisdictions from around the globe
- Fully searchable through a multilingual subject index

- Updated regularly (check specific jurisdictions for more information)

Global Legal Monitor, Law Library of Congress

< <http://www.loc.gov/law/public/glm/index.html> >

- Monthly electronic publication that reports on legal developments from around the world
- Summaries are based on official national legal publications and various press sources.
- Organized and indexed by subject and jurisdiction

Government Gazettes Online, University of Michigan

< <http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/gazettes/> >

- Listing of online government gazettes
- Each listing includes a description of the contents and coverage

Guide to Law Online, Law Library of Congress

< <http://www.loc.gov/law/guide> >

- Annotated compendium of links to online information on government and law
- Arranged by jurisdiction

Jurist, World Law

< <http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/world/index.htm> >

- Arranged alphabetically by jurisdiction
- Provides information on the constitution, government and current news as well as on the legal system for each jurisdiction

LLRX.com

< <http://www.llrx.com/category/1050> >

- Collection of research guides to foreign and comparative law
- Arranged alphabetically by jurisdiction

Multinational Collections Database, Law Library of Congress

< <http://www.loc.gov/mulp/> >

- Database of publications which reprint in English the laws and regulations of international jurisdictions on a particular legal topic
- Searchable by title, jurisdiction or subject

NAFTA – Canada, Mexico & the United States

< <http://www.nafta-sec-alena.org/DefaultSite/index.html> >

Treaties in Force – United States Department of State

< <http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/treaties/> >

World Legal Systems, University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law

< <http://chopin.cc.uottawa.ca/droitcivil/world-legal-systems/eng-monde.php> >

- Provides a world map distinguishing nations by type of legal system (civil law, common law, customary law, Muslim law, and mixed legal systems)

- Provides a brief description of each system with listings by type of system or jurisdiction

### C. Subscription-Based Services

LexisNexis, < <http://www.lexis.com> >

- Offers a mix of primary foreign legal material and secondary sources
- File scope (statutory, regulatory or case law) depends on individual jurisdictional coverage
- Jurisdictions covered: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, China & Hong Kong, European Union, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, United Kingdom

Westlaw, < <http://www.westlaw.com> >

- Offers a mix of primary foreign legal material and secondary sources
- File scope (statutory, regulatory or case law) depends on individual jurisdictional coverage
- Jurisdictions covered: Australia, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, Cayman Islands, China and Hong Kong, European Union, France, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Spain, United Kingdom

Hein Online, < <http://www.heinonline.org> >

- Includes an International & Non-U.S. Law Journals Library as well as a Treaties and Agreements Library

United Nations Treaty Database, < <http://untreaty.un.org/> >

### D. Subject-Specific Web Sites

Collection of National Copyright Laws, UNESCO

< [www.unesco.org/culture/copyrightlaws/](http://www.unesco.org/culture/copyrightlaws/) >

- Provides access to national copyright and related rights legislation of UNESCO Member States
- Organized by geographic area and by country name

International Digest of Health Legislation, World Health Organization

< <http://www.who.int/idhl> >

- Selection of national and international health legislation
- Legislation is summarized in English or a citation to the law is provided
- Links to full-text resources are provided when available
- Search by country, subject or keyword

Natlex, International Labour Organization

< <http://natlex.ilo.org> >

- Compiles national labor, social security and human rights laws

- Abstracts are provide in either English, French or Spanish with relevant citation information
- Indexed by keywords, subject and countries
- Links to full-text resources are posted when available

World Legal Information Institute

< <http://www.worldlii.org> >

- Provides free access to worldwide law from countries in six continents
- Databases cover case-law, legislation, treaties, law reform reports, law journals, and other legal material
- Databases are listed by region, type (case law, legislation, etc.), or subject
- Collaborative effort by Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII), British and Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII), Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII), Hong Kong Legal Information Institute (HKLII), Legal Information Institute (Cornell) (LII (Cornell)), Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute (PacLII) and Wits University School of Law

Trial of Saddam Hussein, Law Library of Congress

< <http://www.loc.gov/law/public/saddam/> >

- Provides information on the tribunal and its historical background with articles related to key legal issues
- Includes citations and links (where available) to relevant treaties, laws and reference sources on the subject

## **E. Country Overviews**

Country Overviews - U.S. Department of State (available through the Undersecretary for Political Affairs office – see regional bureaus for individual country information)

< <http://www.state.gov/p/> >

Country Studies, Library of Congress

< <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html> >

Portals to the World, Library of Congress

< <http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/portals.html> >

The World Factbook, CIA

< <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html> >