



INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL LAW RESEARCH

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I. DICTIONARIES AND CITATION GUIDES

Dictionaries

Parry and Grant Encyclopaedic Dictionary of International Law, 2nd ed./edited by John P. Grant and J. Craig Barker.

Reference KZ1161 .P37 2004

Foreign & International Law Dictionaries (List of Links)

<http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/research/foreigninternationaldatabases/dictionaries/index.htm>

Citation and Abbreviations Guides

Bieber's Dictionary of Abbreviations

Reference KF246 .B46 2000

Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviation (University of Cardiff – Wales)

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

“Search for the meaning of abbreviations for English language legal publications, from the British Isles, the Commonwealth and the United States, including those covering international and comparative law.”

EISIL (Electronic Information System for International Law) Database

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

- Collection of links to key sources in international law, by topic
- Document information includes authoritative citations

New York University. Guide to Foreign and International Legal Citation

Available for PDF download (free) from:

<http://www.law.nyu.edu/journals/jilp/guidetoforeignandinternationallegalcitation/index.htm>

Reference K89 .G85 2006

Stacks K89 .G85 2006

United Nations Documentation Research Guide

(United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library)

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/>

Describes the categories of UN documents and explains the complex UN document classification and citation systems

University of Minnesota – Most Cited Treaties (Links & Citations)

<http://local.law.umn.edu/library/pathfinders/most-cited.html>

“A list of treaties frequently cited in law review articles, along with available sources of hard copy. In addition, wherever possible, the entries are linked to the [EISIL](#) database of the American Society of International Law.”

World Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations

Reference K89 .K38

II. RESEARCH GUIDES – GENERAL

Note: For topic-specific research guides, see other headings throughout this guide.

Print Research Guides

Accidental Tourist on the New Frontier: an Introductory Guide to Global Legal Research / edited by Jeanne Rehberg & Radu D. Popa.

Reserves K85 .A27 1998

Bob Berring’s Commando Legal Research, International Law (Tape 7)

Reserves KF 240 .B476

Good for basic understanding of sources, but out of date

Germain’s Transnational Law Research/Claire Germain (loose-leaf)

Reference K85 .G47 1991

Bibliographies of sources in specific areas of international and foreign law

**Guide to International Legal Research (2005) / the George Washington University
International Law Review**

Reference KZ1234 .G85

International and Foreign Legal Research: A Coursebook / Marci Hoffmann and Mary Rumsey

Reference and Circulating KZ1234 .H64 2008

Internet Research Guides

Syracuse University Center for Global Law & Practice

<http://www.law.syr.edu/academics/centers/glap/links.asp>

Includes public international law links and research guidance as well as news sources and collections on specific topics, including:

Human rights and refugee law
International criminal law
International economic law
International environmental law
Foreign and comparative law

American Society of International Law (ASIL) Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law

<http://www.asil.org/resource/home.htm>

- Access to ASIL electronic databases and articles
- Well-organized and current list of links in the areas of: the UN, treaties, human rights, international economic, environmental and criminal law, private international law, listservs, newsgroups and networks, commercial arbitration
- For an overview of core resources in international law, see “ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law: Introduction” at:
<http://www.asil.org/resource/ergintr1.htm>

GlobaLex International, Comparative & Foreign Law Research Guides (NYU)

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

- Excellent collection of research guides by scholars and librarians
- Guides cover issues in international law and research in specific regions and countries

Harvard Law School – Int’l, Foreign & Comparative Law Research Guides

<http://www.law.harvard.edu/library/services/research/guides/>

Extensive collection of practical guides on various aspects of international, foreign & comparative law research

LLRX: International Legal Research Guides

<http://www.llrx.com/category/857>

- Multitude of topics covered in guides by law librarians
- Note: check date of publication to determine currency – some quite out of date

LLRX: Comparative/Foreign Legal Research Guides

<http://www.llrx.com/category/857>

These research guides by law librarians are organized by the following subtopics: cultural property; human rights; immigration; Islamic law; parliamentary procedure; refugees; terrorism, and; treaties and agreements

NYU Guide to Foreign and International Legal Databases

<http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/research/foreigninternationaldatabases/index.htm>

- Compendium of links to sources in foreign and international law research
- Organized by topic, jurisdiction, type of research

Researching and Preparing a Persuasive Written and Oral Argument for International Law Moot Court Students

<http://brkl.brooklaw.edu/screens/isla.html>

- Covers print and online resources
- Extensive annotated list of sources
- Specific guidance for students participating in the Jessup Competition

III. FUNDAMENTAL TEXTS & COLLECTIONS

Basic Documents in International Law, 5th ed. / edited by Ian Brownlie.

c.1 KZ64 .B37 2002

c.2, 3 Reserves KZ64 .B37 2002

EISIL (Electronic Information System for International Law) Database

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

- ASIL's searchable database of authenticated primary and secondary materials across the breadth of international law topics
- Use the "More Information" button under the source links to locate citations, descriptive information, keywords, and source/contact information.

Hein Online's Foreign and International Law Resources Database (Barclay Law Library licensed database – restrictions may apply)

<http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/electronic/international.asp>

- Full-text databases
- International yearbooks and periodicals
- U.S. Law Digests pertaining to international law
- International Tribunals/Judicial Decisions

- Historical texts and treatises

International Legal Research in a Nutshell

- c. 1 KZ1234.H64 I56 2008
- c. 2 Reserves KZ1234.H64 I56 2008

Introduction to International Law, 4th ed. / Mark W. Janis.

- KZ3140.J36 A35 2003
- c.1 KZ3140.J36 A35 2003
- c.2: Reserves KZ3140.J36 A35 2003

Principles of International Law (West Concise Hornbook Series) / Sean D. Murphy

- c. 1 KZ3410 .M87 2006
- c. 2 Reserves KZ3410 .M87 2006

Additional Reference Sources & Treatises – SUMMIT (Local Online Catalog)

<http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/catalog/index.asp>

IV. MAJOR TREATY SOURCES – UNITED STATES TREATIES

Note: Westlaw and Lexis databases require valid username and ID.

Research Guides

Mark Engsberg, *An Introduction to Sources for Treaty Research* (on GlobaLex – 3/2006)

http://www.nyulawglobal.org//globalex/Treaty_Research.htm

Succinct, readable introduction to treaty research with links to other treaty research web sites

Research Guide: Researching US Treaties & Agreements (Marci Hofmann)

www.llrx.com/features/ustreaty.htm

University of Minnesota – Most Cited Treaties (Links & Citations)

<http://local.law.umn.edu/library/pathfinders/most-cited.html>

“A list of treaties frequently cited in law review articles, along with available sources of hard copy. In addition, wherever possible, the entries are linked to the [EISIL](#) database of the American Society of International Law.”

U.S. Treaty Indexes and Sources for U.S. Treaty Status

Treaties in Force (U.S. Department of State) 1955 –

KZ235 .T74 (1929, 1932, 1941, 1955-)

Also available on Hein Online Treaties & Agreements Library, 1929 – 2007

<http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/electronic/fulltext.aspx>

(College of Law licensed database: access restrictions may apply)

- Annual index to U.S. treaties in force as of January 1st of each year
- Includes treaty signatories, amendments
- Organized by country and subject for bilateral treaties
- Organized by topic for multilateral treaties

Westlaw United States Treaties in Force ([USTIF](#))

Lexis United States Treaties in Force ([USTIF](#))

complemented by:

Guide to United States Treaties in Force (Kavass/Sprudz)

KZ235 .G85 (1982 –)

Also available on Hein Online Treaties & Agreements Library, 1982-

<http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/electronic/fulltext.aspx>

(College of Law licensed database: access restrictions may apply)

- Privately published complement to Treaties in Force, above
- Offers additional indexing for access to Treaties in Force

United States Treaty Index, 1776-2000

KZ235 .U58 2001

Comprehensive U.S. treaty index

updated by:

Current Treaty Index

KZ235 .U58 Suppl.

Also available on Hein Online Treaties & Agreements Library, 1929 – 2007

<http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/electronic/fulltext.aspx>

(College of Law licensed database: access restrictions may apply)

Sources for Texts of U.S. Treaties

Westlaw US Treaties Database ([USTREATIES](#))

- From 1778 through current
- Also includes U.S. Senate Treaty Documents

U.S. Treaties on Lexis ([USTRTY](#))

- From 1776 through current
- Also includes Senate Treaty Documents

United States Treaties and Other International Agreements, v. 1-

Bound volumes and Consolidation Index: JX231 .A34

Historical collection also available on Hein Online Treaties & Agreements Library,

Vols. 1-35 (1950-1984) at Hein Online: <http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/electronic/fulltext.aspx>.

(College of Law licensed database: access restrictions may apply)

updated by:

Hein United States Treaties and Other International Agreements

Microform JX1291.H46 U54

Historical collection also available on Hein Online U.S. Treaties & Agreements Library,

TIAS 11060 to TIAS 12883 (1982-1997) at Hein Online:

<http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/electronic/fulltext.aspx>

(College of Law licensed database: access restrictions may apply)

- Recent treaties and agreements yet published in TIAS
- TIAS treaties and agreements not yet published in UST
- Starts with 1990 -

indexed by:

United States Current Treaty Index/edited and compiled by Igor I. Kavass (looseleaf)

KZ235 .U58 Suppl.

Also available on Hein Online Treaties & Agreements Library at Hein Online:

<http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/electronic/fulltext.aspx>

(College of Law licensed database: access restrictions may apply)

and:

KAV Agreements: Hein Online Treaties & Agreements Library

<http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/electronic/fulltext.aspx>

(College of Law licensed database: access restrictions may apply)

- Recent State Department Agreements, Senate Treaty Documents,
- Trade Agreements and others, KAV 0001-8046 (1987-2007).

Hein Online Treaties & Agreements Library – Other

<http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/electronic/fulltext.aspx>

(College of Law licensed database: access restrictions may apply)

In addition to the sources from the Hein Online collection cited by title, the collection also offers additional historical collections of U.S. treaties and a collection of relevant treatises, books and texts.

Historical, 18th C. -: Avalon Project at Yale Law School

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/avalon.htm>

United States Government Treaty Materials

U.S. Senate: Treaties Page

http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/d_three_sections_with_teasers/treaties.htm

- Contains information on all treaties received, under consideration, or approved by the Senate during the current session

Senate Treaty Documents – Westlaw ([USTREATIES](#))

Senate Treaty Documents – Lexis ([USTRTY](#))

U.S. Department of State Dispatch

1990-1999, status information on U.S. treaties

Also available on Hein Online Treaties & Agreements Library, 1982-

<http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/electronic/fulltext.aspx>

(College of Law licensed database: access restrictions may apply)

Superseded by *Treaty Actions*, a chronological listing of recent U.S. treaty actions, available on the U.S. Senate treaties web site, above

V. MAJOR TREATY SOURCES – NON-U.S. TREATIES

Note: Some of the resources described below may encompass United States treaties; however, none of these resources are exclusive to United States treaties and they all contain information about treaties to which the U.S. is not a party.

Research Guides

Mark Engsborg, *An Introduction to Sources for Treaty Research* (on GlobaLex – 3/2006)

http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Treaty_Research.htm

- Succinct, readable introduction to treaty research
- Links to other treaty research web sites

University of Minnesota – Most Cited Treaties (Links & Citations)

<http://local.law.umn.edu/library/pathfinders/most-cited.html>

“A list of treaties frequently cited in law review articles, along with available sources of hard copy. In addition, wherever possible, the entries are linked to the [EISIL](#) database of the American Society of International Law.”

Treaty Indexes and Sources for Treaty Status

Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary General

New York: United Nations, 1982-
KZ235 .G85

Also available as part of the United Nations Treaty Collection online, 1982-
<http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/electronic/international.asp>
(College of Law licensed database: access restrictions may apply)

- Annual guide to status of UN treaties, with signatories, declarations & reservations
- Organized by broad topical areas

Multilateral Treaties Index and Current Status (Bowman & Harris)

KZ118 .B69 1984 (Reference)

- Great source for older treaties
- Provides useful parallel citations for treaties

World Treaty Index

JX171 .R63 1983
5 volume set covers 1900-1980

- Has index volumes by party or keyword

Sources for Texts of Treaties

United Nations Documentation Research Guide (United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library)

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/>

United Nations Treaties

Microform JX170 .U35
Library has: v. 1 (1946/47-)

<http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/electronic/international.asp>
(College of Law licensed database: access restrictions may apply)

Includes:

- Status of Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General,
- United Nations Treaty Series
- Monthly Statement of Treaties and International Agreements
- Recently Deposited Multilateral Treaties

Photographs of Treaty Signature Ceremonies
Titles of the Multilateral
Texts of registered treaties which have not been published in the paper volumes

Tufts University Fletcher School – Edwin Gwinn Library - Multilaterals Project
<http://fletcher.tufts.edu/multilaterals.html>

Treaties and treaty information organized by topic (searchable)

Westlaw and Lexis

Note: Westlaw and Lexis databases require valid username and ID.

- Current treaties and treaty documents are sometimes published in the journal, *International Legal Materials*, found in both Lexis and Westlaw
- Check the Westlaw and Lexis database directories for more information about treaties by subject

see also:

Web sites of international and intergovernmental organizations (e.g. Organization of American States; United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights)

Countries' official government web sites (especially helpful for bilateral treaties)

Subject collections of treaties

- In print through SUMMIT keyword search
- On the Internet (e.g., environmental law treaties on the Washington College of Law web site)
- On web sites of intergovernmental organizations (e.g., International Labour Organization treaties on the ILO web site)

VI. CASE LAW

International Courts and Tribunals

Note: Westlaw and Lexis databases require valid username and ID.

Directory of International Courts and Tribunals:

Harvard Law Library Foreign & International Law Resources

http://www.law.harvard.edu/library/services/research/guides/international/web_resources/courts.php

- Links to official courts' and tribunals' web sites
- These sites may contain court documents, rules, calendars and other materials not available on Westlaw or Lexis

**International Court of Justice Decisions (INT – ICJ), 1947 -
International Court of Justice Decisions, Combined (1948 -)**

[Westlaw](#)
[Lexis](#)

International Court of Justice Web Site

<http://www.icj-cij.org/>

International Criminal Court – official web site

<http://www.icc-cpi.int/>

International Criminal Court Resources

(Syracuse University College of Law Global Law & Practice Links)

<http://www.law.syr.edu/academics/centers/glap/internationalcriminallaw.asp>

International Courts & Tribunals – Cases on Westlaw

Use the Westlaw Directory and follow this trail:

All Databases > International/Worldwide Materials > Multi-National Materials > Court & Tribunal Cases

European Case Law

Court of Justice of the European Union (official web site)

<http://curia.europa.eu/index.htm>

The ECJ's official Web site contains recent judgments, proceedings, press releases, a digest of Community case law, annotations of judgments (in French) and other information

European Court of Human Rights (official web site)

<http://www.echr.coe.int/echr>

European Human Rights Reports (EHR-RPTS)

[Westlaw](#)

- Full-text decisions from expression, company law, and prisoners' rights
- Coverage begins with 1979 - some judgments included in the series date back to 1960

Human Rights Cases (HRIGHT)

[Lexis](#)

Summaries and transcripts of decisions of the European Court of Human Rights from 1960, Butterworths Human Rights Cases from 1996, covering landmark decisions from international, European and English courts and tribunals

Case Law of Other Intergovernmental Organizations

Inter-American Court of Human Rights (University of Minnesota)
<http://hei.unige.ch/humanrts/iachr/iachr.html>

Inter-American Human Rights Database (American University)
<http://www.wcl.american.edu/pub/humright/digest/Inter-American/index.html>

Includes resolutions and reports on cases.

African Union: Africa Court of Justice
http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/organs/Court_of_Justice_en.htm

Print Collections of International Case Law; search SUMMIT – Online Catalog
<http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/catalog/index.asp>

Run a keyword search under name of court or tribunal, e.g., “International Court of Justice”

VII. DOCUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

United Nations Documents

Official Document System of the United Nations (ODS)
<http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/electronic/international.asp>

- Covers all types of official United Nations documentation from 1993
- Older UN documents added to the system on a daily basis
- Provides access to the resolutions of the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council from 1946
- Press releases may be searched at <http://www.un.org/News/Press/full.htm>
- UN sales publications are not included: search SUMMIT for sales publications held in the Syracuse University Library system

AccessUN: United Nations Documents Index, 1946 - (SU Library Database)
http://library.syr.edu/cgi-bin/Xdatabases.cgi?title=Databases+by+Title%3A+A&sort_a=Name&Name=%5Ea.

- Includes Official Records, masthead documents, draft resolutions, meeting records, UN Sales Publications, and the UN Treaty Series citations
- Some documents available in full-text; if full-text is not available, search the title in SUMMIT. If the item is not available in the SU system, you may wish to request it on ILL.

Documents of Other Organizations

Harvard Law School Library:

Foreign & International Law Resources: International Organizations (IGO's)

http://www.law.harvard.edu/library/services/research/guides/international/web_resources/index.php

- United Nations

- European Union
- Other IGO's and NGO's

Documents of International Organizations

(SUMMIT - Local Online Catalog)

<http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/catalog/index.asp>

Author search by organization, e.g., International Labour Organization

VIII. FOREIGN LAW BASICS

Research Guide:

LLRX Comparative & Foreign Law Guides

http://www.llrx.com/comparative_and_foreign_law.html

Alphabetical list of research guides by country or region

New York University. GlobaLex (Hauser Global Law School Program)

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

Extensive collection of authoritative research guides on broad and narrow topics in international, comparative and foreign law

University of Michigan Documents Center: Foreign Government Resources on the Web

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/> (select 'Foreign' from left navigation bar)

Links to foreign government sites providing directory and statistical information

Sources of Foreign Law

Constitutions of the Countries of the World

K3157.E5 C65

Also available at <http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/electronic/international.asp>

(College of Law licensed database: access restrictions may apply)

- Full-text English translations of more than 190 world constitutions

- Introductory and Comparative Notes provide commentary and examine recent amendments
- Pertinent historical, political, and economic information for each country

Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World
/ Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo a. Flores. Littleton, CO: Fred B. Rothman & Co., 1997-.
Reference K38 .R49 1989

Electronic version: Foreign Law Guide

<http://www.law.syr.edu/lawlibrary/electronic/international.aspx>

(College of Law licensed database: access restrictions may apply)

- This essential reference work provides detailed information about countries' sources of law.
- Organized by region and country
- Country listings provide information by legal source category and subject.

Library of Congress: Global Legal Information Network (GLIN)

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

“GLIN is a database of laws, regulations, judicial decisions, and other complementary legal sources contributed by governmental agencies and international organizations. GLIN members contribute the official full texts of published documents to the database in their original language.”

Non-members may search the database and access bibliographic information and a selection of English language summaries. Sometimes, there is a link to the full-text, where available.