

## **Pritzker Legal Research Center, Northwestern University School of Law**

### **Foreign law holdings:**

The Pritzker Legal Research Center holds rich historical collections for many jurisdictions worldwide. Holdings vary in depth and chronological scope, with the largest single jurisdictional collection being the United Kingdom. Other major common law jurisdictions also have significant holdings. Among non-common law jurisdictions the largest collections are for Germany, France, and Italy. The library does not have vernacular collections for Latin American countries, Eastern European countries, or Russia.

The rare book collection includes, among other materials, English and French imprints prior to 1840, significant holdings of French *coutumes*, and the Williams collection of English legal documents created between 1300 and 1700 concerning land.

The library has collections of ancient law, customary law, Roman law, Canon law, Islamic law, and Jewish law. The richness of the PLRC's historical foreign law holdings is largely due to the significant support the library received in an earlier era from John Henry Wigmore and Elbert H. Gary, who were responsible for acquiring collections in continental law, international law, ancient and Far Eastern law (particularly Japanese materials) and the law of nonliterate peoples.

### **Collection goals:**

The library strives to make available current authoritative information in English on the laws and legal systems of jurisdictions worldwide, as well as on other subjects of comparative law, such as religious legal systems. For print format collecting, secondary source materials are favored, as are English language translations. In digital format the library makes available, through its Web site and/or library catalog, primary and secondary source materials for all jurisdictions and languages, when available within budgetary limits. Such resources include free governmental Web sites, intergovernmental and non-governmental Web sites, and the World Legal Information Institute (WorldLII) and its component regional and national institutes. We also use databases available on our academic subscriptions to LexisNexis and Westlaw. We use databases available via University Library subscriptions, such as ISI Emerging Markets (Hungarian and Russian laws). We subscribe to iSinoLaw (bilingual database of Chinese law), and to Constitutions of the Countries of the World.

Most print materials that the library acquires currently are in English. We collect very selectively in the following languages: French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. We do not collect materials on Latin American countries in vernacular languages. We collect some materials in Hebrew to support the course in Jewish law. We receive a few Japanese language

serials. We collect materials in other languages if in a bilingual work that includes English, such as bilingual dictionaries and English translations of foreign laws.

Primary source materials in print format may be acquired in English language translation for any jurisdiction or subject. Some primary source materials in print format are acquired at present for the United Kingdom and other major common law jurisdictions. For non-Anglophone countries, some primary materials are acquired for France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland. Secondary source materials in print format are acquired with the following subject emphasis: introduction to laws and legal systems, law reform, legal research, legal education and the legal profession, legal aspects of doing business. We also collect civil law, civil procedure, competition (antitrust) law, constitutional law, contracts, criminal law and criminal justice, human rights, intellectual property, taxation, and telecommunications. Most monographs that are acquired are in English. A few monographs are acquired in other languages, particularly French and German. Most journals to which we subscribe are in print format. We subscribe to most comparative law journals published in English and a few foreign law journals in other languages, principally French and German.