

Berkeley Law Library
University of California, Berkeley
Foreign, Comparative & International Law Outline
July 2009

The Law Library seeks to remain one of the foremost legal research facilities and centers for foreign, comparative and international legal study in the world. As funding permits, we purchase important primary and secondary law from over 100 civil, common and mixed legal jurisdictions. We collect in the vernacular for many jurisdictions, as well as in English or other languages as appropriate. We have difficulty collecting in certain non-Romance languages, such as Arabic and Chinese. Therefore, we buy less in these languages and add what we can with help from librarians in the main library.

Over the past few years, we have stepped up our collecting for contemporary materials from Latin and Central America, Africa and the Middle East. Due to budgetary constraints, we have dramatically cut back our collections of law from Commonwealth jurisdictions, especially the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

We have a very deep collection of public international law and comparative law. When possible, we purchase all important primary and secondary international legal materials. For comparative law, we purchase most major sources, in a variety of languages. We also have major collections of documents, publications and supporting materials from international organizations, such as the United Nations, European Union and the Council of Europe.

We continue to collect historical materials in foreign, comparative and international law, dating back to the 16th century. This extends particularly to Europe, but also increasingly encompasses Latin and Central America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

The Robbins Collection holds over 340,000 titles distributed into several related categories: civil law, religious law encompassing the canon law of the Roman and Greek churches and the Church of England, Jewish law, Islamic law and secular law. Also among these titles are extensive collections in comparative law, jurisprudence, and legal history in general, with an emphasis on continental Europe. Included are over 275 manuscripts, the majority of which are medieval, over 200 incunables, and another 2,300 titles which were printed before 1600. Holdings also include more than 100 single-folio manuscript legal documents from France, England, and the Papal Court, and 544 Catalan consilia printed between 1620 and 1756.

Additionally, as host institution to the *Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals*, the Law Library aims to support the production of this research tool. As such, we continue to subscribe to many foreign legal periodicals from the many jurisdictions covered by the *Index*.