

The University of Chicago D'Angelo Law Library Foreign Law Statement - July 2010

The D'Angelo Law Library (the Library)'s foreign and international law collections and staff serve the needs of a diverse user base with predictable and unpredictable interests and varied language skills.

Description of Our Collection

Foreign, comparative, and international law books comprise about one-third of our 700,000-volume library collection in the open stacks and in our storage spaces. We have research level collections of works on international and comparative law. Our international law (and international relations) collection is our most popular and rapidly growing collection. Our IL/IR strengths are:

- Human rights
- International antitrust law
- International commercial arbitration
- International criminal law (including war crimes)
- International economic law (GATT/WTO, etc.)
- International humanitarian law
- International relations theory

Our foreign and comparative law strengths include:

- Administrative, regulatory law
- Antitrust law
- Bioethics, abortion, health law and policy
- Contracts/Obligations
- Comparative constitutional law, public law, constitutionalism, judicial review
- Comparative criminal law and procedure
- Comparative family law
- European legal history (including medieval canon law)
- Torts and products liability law
- Women and the law

The D'Angelo Law Library has strong print historical collections for selected foreign law jurisdictions, including early English yearbooks and nominate reports, and rare books.

The Library's strongest common law jurisdictions are the Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, and the UK. For India and Pakistan, we get PL-480 materials. For other common law jurisdictions, we select materials on constitutional law, the legal system, and judicial review.

The Library's civil law collections are principally limited to Western Europe, Israel, and Japan. We have research quality collections of the law of Germany and the European Union, with slightly less complete collections from the Scandinavian and East European countries, France, Italy, Austria, and the Netherlands. We are building our collection of Chinese and Korean legal materials. We are developing an Islamic law and finance collection. We select very few materials from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, except on the legal system, constitutional law, criminal law and procedure, and human rights, and major primary law in English translation.

DLL maintains comprehensive print collections of primary law for many foreign law jurisdictions, with LexisNexis, Westlaw, and other databases and Internet resources serving as online alternatives or, in some cases, as sole sources for some jurisdictions. We are getting less primary law for sub-national jurisdictions in print. We cancelled state and provincial reports for Australia and Canada respectively, and German *Länder* primary legal materials, including looseleaf services.

Current initiatives include more systematically identifying freely-available foreign law resources on the web, especially primary law, with the intent of canceling related print. We are also cancelling selected foreign and international law serials if they are infrequently used or duplicated online. We are reviewing our holdings of private international law materials. We are buying less foreign law than in past years, and more foreign law in English.

Free web resources and subscription databases, eBook packages, collaboration with vendors, plus library colleagues, ILL, and "just in time" purchases may help us better handle the unpredictable requests for foreign law.