

***** DRAFT *****

**Description of the Foreign and International Law Collection
Cook County Law Library
Chicago, IL
July 2010**

The Cook County Law Library is the practitioner's law library in Chicago. The Library supports the foreign and international law research needs of the practicing bar, government officials, judiciary, and members of the public.

Historical Collections

Just prior to its opening in 1966, the Cook County Law Library acquired the collection of the Chicago Law Institute. This collection contained an extensive collection of case law and statutes of British Commonwealth countries, an extremely fine collection of English nominate reports, and late 19th and early 20th century English treatises. The Institute collected European civil law, primarily major codes, to a lesser degree. The Library also holds an extensive collection of codes and secondary resources from Latin America from the 1960's and 1970's.

The Library holds more than 500 titles from England, Scotland, Ireland, and France, published between 1539 and 1890, in the Law Institute Memorial Antiquarian Collection.

Contemporary Collection

The emphasis of the collection is foreign law with some support for public international law, primarily treaties. The Library collects English-language resources, as that is the preferred language of our users. The Library collects many European and Pacific Rim jurisdictions with limited support for Latin America, Africa, and Australasia. Jurisdictional resources collected include introductory materials, major codes or statutes, and available topical resources. The Canadian collection includes the Canadian Gazette, statutes, and selected secondary resources.

The Library collects in variety of topics with special emphasis in three main areas: family law and succession, litigation, and commercial law including bankruptcy, agency, and the legal aspects of doing business. Comparative law treatises meet a need for broad jurisdictional coverage in multiple topics. Selection criteria for treatises include practical nature, quality, coverage, and cost.

Due to limited demand and escalating costs, the Library purchases very few specialized foreign and international law journals. HeinOnline's Law Journal Library addresses our need for foreign and international law journals.

The Library collects foreign and international law materials almost exclusively in print. Database subscriptions include the Foreign Law Guide and HeinOnline's Foreign & International Law Resources Database and Treaties and Agreements Library.

Public international law resources include the United Nations Treaty Series in print, the International Law Reports, and selected yearbooks.