

FORDHAM LAW SCHOOL COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY: FOREIGN, COMPARATIVE, AND INTERNATIONAL MATERIALS

(last updated 2/1/2012)

The library maintains a foreign, comparative and international collection that supports the U.S. collection, reflects the current areas of academic and political interest, and supports the curriculum. Fordham Law School has particular interest in the following foreign and international subject areas and collects heavily within them: competition law, European Union law, human rights law and international justice, and national security law.

There has been an extensive migration of primary international and national legal materials to the online environment. The library, reflecting user preference, relies on online primary materials where they are easily accessible, available from the official source and in an image format. The library generally purchases foreign and international materials only in English.

Foreign Primary Legal Materials and Finding Tools

United Kingdom: The library collects the primary legal materials of the United Kingdom in print and electronic formats. These materials are considered a core resource allowing research of the roots of American law. To support the curriculum and interest in English legal history, the United Kingdom collection is intended to allow a researcher to conduct both historical and current legal research. The library relies on Justis, BAILII and Lexis/Westlaw for access to current statutory instruments, session laws, statutes, and court reports from the highest and major appellate courts. Historical materials are available in print and through various HeinOnline libraries, Eighteenth Century Collections Online, Making of Modern Law and Justis.

Canada: The library collects selected primary legal materials for Canada to support current legal research. The library collects official court reports on the federal level and relies on online sources for current legislation and other primary source materials. For provincial and territorial primary sources, the library relies on the many materials now available in digital format and links to those from the library website.

Other Jurisdictions: For other world jurisdictions the library occasionally collects current codes or laws in translation in an area of particular interest (see Appendix A). The library collects other primary legal materials from these jurisdictions as needed to support the law school curriculum or at the request of a faculty member. For foreign constitutions, the library maintains subscriptions to HeinOnline's World Constitutions Illustrated and Constitutions of the Countries of the World (online).

Foreign Secondary Legal Materials on Foreign and Comparative Law

Monographs: The library purchases scholarly monographs on comparative and foreign law in other jurisdictions that support a law school course or research center, are requested by a faculty member, or are of special interest with regard to that jurisdiction. The library collects scholarly works on the legal

systems of other jurisdictions and on legal research in those jurisdictions. The library collects treatises with comparative treatment of important topics with a preference for comparison with the United States. In addition, as part of the Northeast Foreign Law Library Cooperative Group's Vigorous Collection Responsibilities (V.C.R.), the library has collected English-language monographs for the following countries: Malaysia, Singapore, Colombia, Ghana, and Egypt.

Looseleaf Services: The library does not collect foreign looseleaf materials. The library does collect comparative looseleaves but the preferred format is electronic for new subscriptions going forward.

Periodicals and Indexes: The library selectively collects comparative scholarly English-language periodicals in print and online. Scholarly English-language journals published by foreign law schools are selectively purchased. Country-specific journals are purchased very selectively. The Country-specific and foreign language journals are collected only upon specific faculty request.

Yearbooks: The library subscribes to selected English-language yearbooks in print or online in a stable digital format.

Encyclopedias: The library collects selected English-language encyclopedias of foreign and comparative law.

Primary International Law Materials and Finding Tools

Treaties: The library collects the current official treaty series published by the United States in print and online. The library relies on HeinOnline and the UN website for access to the current treaty series for the United Nations. The library subscribes to selected commercial treaty series. The library also subscribes to major finding tools for treaties as available.

Case Law:

International Tribunals: The library collects decisions, pleadings, etc., of international tribunals in print and electronic formats. In addition, the library collects selected commercially published collections of decisions in print and online.

National Courts: the library subscribes to online resources that include international law cases from the United States and other jurisdictions.

Arbitration: The library relies primarily on KluwerArbitration for the decisions of arbitral bodies. The library also collects additional journals and yearbooks that include arbitral decisions.

United Nations: The library relies on the online Official Document System of the United Nations and HeinOnline's United Nations library for current documents and has a retrospective collection of microfiche for historical documents. The library maintains historical indexes in print for the documents not yet available online.

European Union: The library maintains print subscriptions to the major EU court reporters in addition to accessing them online. The library relies on the EU website for current legislative documents. The library maintains a historical collection of the Official Journal and other legislative documents in print and microfiche.

GATT/WTO: The library relies on the WTO website for current documents. The library maintains a historic collection of GATT/WTO documents in microfiche. The library collects Basic Instruments and Selected Documents in print.

Council of Europe: The library relies on the Council of Europe website for current documents. The library continues to receive selected Council of Europe publications in print.

Secondary Legal Materials on International Law

Monographs: The library purchases scholarly monographs in international law on specific topics and institutions as defined in this policy and also topics that are of current relevance. For other international institutions the library selectively collects English-language treatises about their political and organizational aspects.

Looseleaf Services: The library collects selected looseleaf services in those subject areas which are important to the curriculum and faculty interest..

Periodicals and Indexes: The library selectively collects English-language periodicals in print and online.

Yearbooks: The library subscribes to those English-language yearbooks that complement its collection of primary and secondary materials from international organizations in print or online in a stable digital format.

Digests: The library collects the digests of U.S. practice in international law in print and online. The library also collects selected foreign digests of international law.

Encyclopedias: The library collects selected English-language encyclopedias of international law.

Proceedings of Symposia and Festschriften: In general, the library does not collect the proceedings of symposia or festschriften unless a determination is made that this is an area in which such material would be useful or the speakers/honoree is connected to the law school.