

LA Law Library
301 West First Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3100
2008

Description of Foreign and International Collection

The LA Law Library was founded in 1891 and began collecting foreign and international material in 1894. The foreign, international, and comparative collection comprises 271,711 volumes as of 2008. This is 37% of the main collection at the LA Law Library which consists of over 1 million volumes.

The focus of the foreign and international law collection is on material which is of primary use to practitioners. Most of the collection consists of foreign law. The Law Library attempts to collect available law for all independent jurisdictions of the world. At a minimum, the Law Library attempts to have current statutes, either in the form of an official gazette or an annual session law service, a current compilation of statutes where one exists, current editions of the basic codes (civil, commercial, criminal, civil procedure, and criminal procedure), the decisions of the highest court, the major law journals, form books and the other practice materials. The Law Library also collects treatises in subject areas which have proved to be most in demand: commercial law, family law, inheritance and succession, procedural law, intellectual property and some aspects of taxation. The Law Library does not have all of these materials for all countries. The Law Library acquires English translations and English language summaries of foreign law where these are available.

The Law Library does not have all of these materials for all countries. A few countries have proved to be of so little interest to patrons that the Law Library makes minimal purchases, but an attorney in Los Angeles who needs foreign law sources should be able to find them at the LA Law Library.

Our collection's strength is in the commonwealth countries, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. We also collect heavily in the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, China, European Union, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, and Switzerland.

The Law Library also buys journals, yearbooks, and treatises in such areas as arbitration, commercial transactions and international trade, transnational litigation, intellectual property, international tax, and materials for international entities such as the WTO.

The Law Library collects far less extensively in public international law, both because they are generally available in other libraries in Southern California and are less in demand. Current United Nations materials, for example, are limited to the treaty series, the yearbooks, and many of the publications of the International Court of Justice.