

Foreign Law Primary Materials

Generally, the library aims to collect all current primary source materials (codes, statutes, regulations, court decisions, jurisprudence), and standard finding tools for major jurisdictions of the world, for selected countries for which it has primary responsibility among the Northeast Foreign Law Libraries Cooperative Group, and as many others as it is possible to acquire, concentrating on Western Europe (primarily Austria, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland); Eastern Europe (primarily Romania); Latin America (primarily Argentina, and Mexico); and Commonwealth countries. Collecting is of English language material except for French material on Canadian law (Quebec) and for some jurisdictions of Asia (China, Hong Kong, Japan).

For non Anglo-American jurisdictions, the library collects mainly in English, where available, but has also acquired items in French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and other Slavic languages. The library's strength for Africa is in English materials on Nigeria and South Africa. Collecting for East Asia and South Asia is only in English.

Secondary Materials

Scholarly treatises in English and the vernacular are collected intensively for Western and Eastern Europe, Latin America, commonwealth countries and in English only for China and Japan. For other jurisdictions, treatises tend to focus upon civil law and procedure, commercial and business law, constitutional law, criminal law and procedure, environmental law, human rights, patent, trademark and copyright law, private law, taxation, and trade. For the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, the library tries to maintain almost all the scholarly academic periodicals, as well as other leading journals on specific topics (civil and criminal law, labor law, business, taxation, legal history).

For non Anglo-American jurisdictions, the library tries to have a broad collection of foreign law journals and reviews, in English and vernacular, as budgetary conditions allow. The main component of this facet of the collection consists of French, German, Italian, Belgian, Swiss, and Austrian periodicals. In general, periodicals must be listed in a major index to be purchased.

Comparative Law

The library collects comparative law materials, predominantly in English, in which the United States is one of the jurisdictions studied or in which two or more legal systems are compared. The library also acquires the most important comparative law journals published in the U.S. and throughout the world and major loose-leaf sets, such as Constitutions of the Countries of the World.

International Law

To support the wide variety of subjects covered in the curriculum, faculty research, the Global Law School Program, and law school journals, including the New York University Journal of International Law and Policy, the law library aims toward comprehensiveness for current English language materials in public international law. The library has particularly strong collections in international human rights, taxation, procedure, arbitration, international commercial law, and international organizations. In general, the collection contains all primary sources and substantial periodicals and monographs from major publishing houses. Treatises for the subjects covered are collected in English and vernacular. The library's goal is to have all international journals published by U.S. law schools and the leading law periodicals produced abroad, in English, French, Italian, German, and Spanish, as well as a wide range of yearbooks, essays and festschriften; international law loose-leaf services are acquired in certain fields.

The library maintains guides on its website for researching international law and international organizations, with links to the major official and commercial online databases and websites.

The library collects major court reports in print, including the International Court of Justice, Court of International Arbitration, Court of Justice of the European Communities, European Court of Human Rights, and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

International organizations.

The library buys extensively monographs, journals, looseleaf services, and finding tools to support the strong curricular and research interest in international organizations, in particular the European Union, the United Nations, and the World Trade Organization. The library has official documents of these three organizations as follows:

The library is a designated depository for documents of the European Union. The library buys selected United Nations official records, the UN Treaty Series, the ICJ reports, and selected other UN materials in paper. The library also has the Readex microfiche collection of UN documents through 2005, and AccessUN, the online index to the microfiche. For UN materials not available in the law library, patrons may consult the UN depository at the NYU Bobst Library. The library buys the World Trade Organization dispute settlement reports, as well as other WTO publications.

Electronic Legal Databases

In the field of international and foreign law, the library subscribes to an extensive list of legal databases and services that support the teaching needs of the Law School. Priority is given to those products that are used as primary sources, such as treaty series, legislation and jurisprudence for those jurisdictions most often studied in our academic environment, and secondary sources such as indexes and databases required to access the primary materials. In addition, the law school community is able to access electronic resources that Bobst Library subscribes to on behalf of the university community. Professors may suggest new subscription databases. Evaluation, ordering and start-up of new databases subscriptions requires time, money, availability, hardware and software evaluation, and a trial stage, and proposals should always be made in advance.

The following links lead users to these databases:

[Law Databases](#)

[Bobst Library's databases for the university community](#)