2016 National Legal Research Teach-In Kit
Research Instruction & Patron Services Special Interest Section
American Association of Law Libraries

Foreign & International Legal Research: Interactive Tutorials, Handouts, and Assignments

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This contribution contains the following materials:

Interactive Tutorials

Foreign & International Legal Research Tutorials

http://researchguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/intlawtutorials

Interactive Tutorials on 3 separate topics (Narrated Video & questions):

- Foreign & International Law Terminology
- International Case Law Research
- Treaty Research
  - Finding Treaties
    - in HeinOnline and
    - in United Nations Treaty Collection
  - Researching Treaty Vocabulary using
    - Oxford Encyclopaedic Dictionary of International Law
    - Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law
    - UN Treaty Collection - Glossary & References
  - Using HeinOnline, UNTC & Treaties In Force to:

To view the entire kit, please visit http://www.aallnet.org/sections/rips/teachin/2015.html
Short Research Handouts

Brief handouts for 2Ls & 3Ls working on International Law issues, indicating the best free and subscription resources for finding:

- Diplomatic Documents
- EU Documents
- Find International Arbitral Documents
- International Court Documents Handout Part 1
- International Court Documents Handout Part 2
- International Law Practice Lab – Treaty Research
- Travaux Préparatoires Research Handout
- UN Documents Handout
- International Human Rights Law Research Handout

Brief handouts for 2Ls & 3Ls working on International Law issues, indicating the best free and subscription resources for researching topics for a course on Music & Copyright Law

- Handout for Gervais Music Copyright Class

Handouts are usually the pdf version of a Vanderbilt Law Library Research Guide with the same or similar name.

Questions and Answers

Resources for evaluating student’s understanding of Foreign & International Law & Legal Research International Law Concepts

- International Law Concepts Answers Foreign Law Questions Handout
- Foreign Law Questions Handout Answers

Detailed Research Handout

Detailed guide to doing step by step research for selecting a topic for a Note or seminar paper. Helps students to pick something that interests them and is the right scope for a seminar paper.

- Researching to Select a Note Topic

To view the entire kit, please visit http://www.aallnet.org/sections/rips/teachin/2015.html
Find Diplomatic Documents

Certain proposals may be transmitted to the UN by Member States, usually as letters to the Security Council or General Assembly.

Step 1: Search the foreign ministry for the country of interest (or for U.S. the Department of State website).

A list of foreign affairs ministries is provided by the United States Institute of Peace Foreign Affairs Ministries on the Web [http://www.usip.org/publications/foreign-affairs-ministries-web](http://www.usip.org/publications/foreign-affairs-ministries-web)

Step 2: Check References in Secondary Sources

One important example (coming soon to Vanderbilt Library in e-book format) is Sources of State Practice in International Law by Ralph Gaebler & Alison A. Shea

“Sources of State Practice in International Law is bibliography of treaty and diplomatic sources for important jurisdictions around the world. It also includes a summary for each jurisdiction of issues related to treaty succession and treaty implementation in municipal law.”

Step 3: Diplomatic Conferences.

Diplomatic proposals submitted during the course of a diplomatic conference may be located by searching within the documents compiled for that particular diplomatic conference, where available.


Step 4: Search all three catalogs

Search all three catalogs and also search Google Scholar & the law reviews on WestlawNext or Lexis Advance and in Legal Indexes to see if anyone has published or referenced the diplomatic proposals of interest to you.

If the diplomatic documents that you seek are old enough to be compiled in a published collection, you can try doing an advanced search in the three catalogs Acorn, Discover Library & WorldCat. Use key words such as:

- diplomatic correspondence
- diplomatic conference
- diplomatic exchange
- diplomatic instructions

Combine your key words with subject headings such as:
Find Diplomatic Documents

- [country name]
  - eg. france
- [name of the diplomatic conference in question]
- [country name] — foreign relations
- [country name] — history — sources

Find U.S. Diplomatic Documents

Contemporary Materials

Start by searching on the U.S. Department of State Website [http://www.state.gov/](http://www.state.gov/).

You can also find diplomatic documents, including Presidential Documents on FDsys: GPO’s Federal Digital System [http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/).

Historical Diplomatic Documents

There are several additional historical sources. Select the right one for the time period of interest.

- **Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS) - HeinOnline (1861-1980).**
- **Department of State Bulletin Vols. 1-89 (1939-1989) - HeinOnline**
  - All Published; Continued by US Department of State Dispatch (1990-1999)
- **US Department of State Dispatch Vols. 1-10 (1990-1999) - HeinOnline**
  - All Published

Broader databases of Congressional documents also contain diplomatic documents:

- **U. S. Congressional Serial Set (1817-1979)**
- **U. S. Congressional Serial Set (1995-present)**
- **Proquest Congressional Publications**
  - Dates of Coverage:
  - Index:1970 to present; full text: coverage varies
Find EU Documents

I. Types of EU Documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Legislation</th>
<th>Secondary Legislation</th>
<th>Case Law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU establishing Treaties</td>
<td>• Regulations • Directives • Decisions</td>
<td>The opinion is a position paper written by the Advocate General and provided as advice to the court. The Judgment is the official decision made by the court.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. Important Sources

EU Documents Generally

**EUR-Lex**
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Search the full-text of EU documents


Multiple Advanced Search options

**Justis**
http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1295

- Subscription Online Database available through VU Law Library Web site
- Specializes in European Law
- Advanced Search Functionality (beyond what is available on any other platform)
- Provides some features of a citator (such as KeyCite & Shepards)
  - Table of Authorities in 2 parts
    1. Cases Cited: Called “Jurifical Citations”
    2. Acts and Treaties Cited: Called “Precise Legal Point”
  - Subsequent Judicial History: Called “Subsequent Juridical Citations”
  - Direct History: Called “Court History” (see Full-Text Outline)
- Headnotes

**WestlawNext**

- Drill down to European Union materials from International Materials
- Type European Union into the search bar
- From the dropdown menu, select the type of EU document that you want to search for
Find EU Documents

*Lexis.com (Not Lexis Advance)*
- First go to [Lexis.com](http://researchguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/EUDocs) by using the drop-down menu under Lexis Advance Research (top left corner)
- Search for Source
- Enter Database Identifier: **EURCOM;LEGIS**

**Specific Types of Documents**

*EU Case Law*
Recommended that you use [Justis](http://researchguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/EUDocs) if you are on campus

European Union Court of Justice (Official Website)
- Select the English version.
- Search page takes you to InfoCuria (so you may as well start there)

InfoCuria

Advanced Search functions *even better than Justis*, **but** the resulting documents have fewer features and are in html. If need be, find the case here, but then look it up in [Justis](http://researchguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/EUDocs) to find related cases

*European Parliament Documents*

Register of Documents

*Council of the European Union*

Database of legislative files under the ordinary legislative procedure

Archives of the Council of the EU

Note that: “The archival descriptions in CASE are currently only available in French. Therefore you will need to use French search terms in order to get valid results.”

Access to Council documents: Public Register

*European Council Documents*

European Council Press Releases

European Council Basic Documents
Find EU Documents

Note: Scroll to the bottom of the page

Documents submitted to the European Council

*European Commission Documents*

PreLex
http://ec.europa.eu/prelex/apcnet.cfm?CL=en

Note: “PreLex follows all Commission proposals (legislative and budgetary dossiers, conclusions of international agreements) and communications from their transmission to the Council or the European Parliament”

III. Learn More about EU Law

*Europa – EU Law*
http://europa.eu/eu-law/index_en.htm

*EU Parlt TV*

*Example: How EU Laws are Made*

*EU Bookshop*
How the European Union works: Your guide to the EU institutions (44 pages)

Download free pdf

EUROPA: The ABC of European Union Law (140 page pdf)

EUROPA – The EU in slides
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

I. General Sources: Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

1. Kluwer Arbitration
http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1296
This database contains practice tools for mediation & arbitration, arbitration journals & books, arbitral awards, rules, legislation, conventions and more materials for International commercial arbitration research.

2. Investment Claims
http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1294
Materials and analysis in international investment law and arbitration. Arbitration awards and decisions, bilateral investment treaties, multilateral treaties, journal articles, monographs, and arbitration laws.

II. International Arbitration Research Guides

1. Research Guide: UN Resources: Commerce and Trade - Dag Hammarskjöld Library

http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/research-guides/settlement-of-international-disputes/international-arbitration-2/

III. World Trade Organization (WTO)

WTO Official Website
http://www.wto.org/

Find WTO Cases & Court Filings Online

Free Sources

1. WTO Official Website

Search WTO Documents
https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S001.aspx

Disputes Documents (including cases)
http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/find_dispu_documents_e.htm

WTO Appellate Body Repertory of Reports and Awards 1995–2010
http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/repertory_e/repertory_e.htm

GATT Documents
http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/gattdocs_e.htm
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

*Dispute Settlement Gateway*

http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/dispu_e.htm#disputes

2. WorldLII

*World Trade Organization Appellate Body Decisions 1996-*
http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/WTOAB/

*World Trade Organization Arbitrators Decisions 1997-*
http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/WTOARB/

*World Trade Organization Panel Decisions 1996-*
http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/WTOP/

3. Stanford University Libraries & Academic Information Resources

*GATT Digital Library: 1947-1994*
http://gatt.stanford.edu/page/home

*Subscription Databases*

1. Kluwer Arbitration
http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1296

This database contains practice tools for mediation & arbitration, arbitration journals & books, arbitral awards, rules, legislation, conventions and more materials for International commercial arbitration research.

2. WestlawNext

1.1 Start typing into the Search bar “WTO & GATT Panel Decisions” and select from the dropdown menu:

*WTO & GATT Panel Decisions*
http://goo.gl/5jitjq2

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

As of October 28, 2014:

*Coverage:*

GATT: 1948 to 1994
WTO: begins with 1995

*Content Highlights:*

“Selected documents from dispute settlement panels formed under the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). A document is a report of a panel or working group, a report of the Appellate Body, an award of an arbitrator, an action by a dispute settlement body, a notification of a mutually agreed
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

solution, a notification of an appeal, a request for consultations, a request for the constitution of a panel, or a submission by a party. Coverage of GATT decisions is from 1948 to 1994; coverage of WTO decisions begins with 1995.”

1.2 Start typing into the Search bar “WTO & GATT Secretariat Awards” and select from the dropdown menu:

WTO & GATT Secretariat Awards
http://goo.gl/tHwhHd

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.
As of October 30, 2014:

Coverage:
Selected coverage for WTOGATT-AWARDS begins in 1949.

Content Highlights:
“This category page contains arbitration settlement awards/decisions from the World Trade Organization and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Secretariat.”

3. Lexis Advance

Search Within Sources for:

International Legal Materials
Among other things, this database within Lexis Advance contains unofficial WTO Documents.
Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.
As of October 28, 2014:

Publisher:
American Society of International Law (ASIL)

Coverage:
From 1962 (Vol 1) through current.

4. HeinOnline

International Legal Materials
http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/intlm&collection=journals

Search International Legal Materials http://goo.gl/jJ4o0K

From on campus, you may just click through the link off campus, you will need to log in with your VUnet ID.

You can also search the Catalog for this Publication Title, or drill down. You will find it in the Law Journal Library.
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

As of October 23, 2014, HeinOnline carries the Full Text of this series (that includes WTO decisions) from Vols. 1-51 (1962-2012).

Citations only are provided for the most recent 2 years.

This means that for the most recent cases, you are probably better off looking in one of the other sources linked to above. Note that you should search within the ILM materials for the key word “World Trade Organization” and then limit your results to Decisions (on the left). Then search within these results using the button at the top of the page.

Other Legal Materials on the WTO Website

WTO Legal Texts & Agreements
http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/legal_e.htm

Dispute Settlement Rules of Conduct
http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/rc_e.htm

Official Records (WTO Bodies and Committees)
http://goo.gl/tBmpSN

Additional Documents on WTO Website

WTO News
http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news_e.htm

Audio
http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/webcas_e/podcasting_e.htm
“WTO publishes audio material from press conferences and certain meetings.”

Video
http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/webcas_e/webcas_e.htm
“WTO videos covering events and conferences, debates and interviews about trade topics and films about the WTO.”

Learn More about the WTO
Dispute Settlement System Training Module
http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/disp_settlement_cbt_e/signin_e.htm

The WTO Legal Underpinnings
Video Tutorial
http://www.swisslearn.org/wto/module3/e/start.htm
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

WTO Research Guides

DagDok Guide to UN Documentation > UN Structure > Specialized Agencies > WTO

World Trade Organization Research Guide - Peace Palace Library

IV. International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

ICSID Official Website
https://icsid.worldbank.org/ICSID/Index.jsp

Find ICSID Cases

Free Sources

1. ICSID Official Website

Cases
http://goo.gl/L7fuS9

2. WorldLii

Search ICSID on WorldLii
http://goo.gl/5yT2e8

3. UNILEX

List of ICSID cases Unilex
http://www.unilex.info/cases.cfm?pid=2&do=country&cr=15#A67
As of October 28, 2014, coverage included 2000-2012 for a total of 14 cases (html format)

Subscription Databases

1. Investment Claims
http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1294
Materials and analysis in international investment law and arbitration. Arbitration awards and decisions, bilateral investment treaties, multilateral treaties, journal articles, monographs, and arbitration laws.

2. Kluwer Arbitration
http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1296
This database contains practice tools for mediation & arbitration, arbitration journals & books, arbitral awards, rules, legislation, conventions and more materials for International commercial arbitration research.
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

3. Oxford Reports on International Law (ORIL)
   http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1307

   **Jurisdiction: International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)**
   http://goo.gl/TLv1TI

   This is a good source to check because the Oxford Law Citator allows you to find other related materials such as primary & secondary sources that are part of this database or that are available on the free web. **If you find one case of interest, this can really jump start your research.**

   Search Functions

   *Simple Search*
   *Search by Key Word*

   *Advanced Search*
   *Boolean Search in Full-Text*

   Search by:
   - Subject
   - State Party
   - Originating Jurisdiction

   Pre-Search Limit by Content Type

   *Post Search Limits for both Searches*
   - Subject
   - Jurisdiction
   - State Party
   - Dates

4. WestlawNext

   Click onto Arbitration Materials, scan the page for the section entitled Arbitral Awards: International

   Start typing into the Search bar “International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes Arbitration Awards” and select from the dropdown menu:

   **International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes Arbitration Awards**
   http://goo.gl/p7udMv

   This is not the best source to use because coverage is not comprehensive.

   Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

5. Lexis Advance

   Search Within Sources for:

   **International Legal Materials**
   http://goo.gl/VUTigz
Among other things, this database within Lexis Advance contains unofficial ICSID Documents.

6. HeinOnline

*International Legal Materials*
http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/intlm&collection=journals

**Search within ICSID Decisions ONLY**
http://goo.gl/BQj2qr

From on campus, you may just click through the link off campus, you will need to log in with your VUnet ID.

You can also search the Catalog for this Publication Title, or drill down. You will find it in the Law Journal Library.

As of October 23, 2014, HeinOnline carries the Full Text of this series (that includes ICSID decisions) from Vols. 1-51 (1962-2012). Citations only are provided for the most recent 2 years.

This means that for the most recent cases, you are probably better off looking in one of the free resources listed above.

Other Legal Materials on the ICSID Website

*Establishing & Procedural Documents*

ICSID Convention, Regulations and Rules
http://goo.gl/PJc7pW

Rules Governing The Additional Facility For The Administration Of Proceedings By The Secretariat Of The International Centre For Settlement Of Investment Disputes

ICSID Official Publications

*ICSID Review—Foreign Investment Law Journal*
http://discoverlibrary.vanderbilt.edu/VANDERBILT:vanunicorn4397857

*Investment Laws of the World*

Print publication in Vanderbilt Law Library (Upper Level, K1112 .A48 1973)
http://discoverlibrary.vanderbilt.edu/VANDERBILT:vanunicorn428089

*Investment, Promotion and Protection Treaties*

Print publication in Vanderbilt Law Library (Upper Level, K1112 .A35 I58 1983)
http://discoverlibrary.vanderbilt.edu/VANDERBILT:vanunicorn830838

ICSID Research Guides

International Dispute Settlement Research Guide - Peace Palace Library
http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/research-guides/settlement-of-international-disputes/international-dispute-settlement/
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

Foreign Direct Investment Research Guide - Peace Palace Library

V. United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

UNCITRAL Official Website
http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/index.html

Find UNCITRAL Cases & Court Filings Online

Free Sources

1. UNCITRAL Official Website

Search Case Law (CLOUT)
http://www.uncitral.org/clout/showSearchDocument.do

2. WorldLii

Search UNCITRAL Decisions
http://goo.gl/PPSIse

Subscription Databases

1. Kluwer Arbitration
http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1296

2. Investment Claims
http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1294
Materials and analysis in international investment law and arbitration. Arbitration awards and decisions, bilateral investment treaties, multilateral treaties, journal articles, monographs, and arbitration laws.

3. Oxford Reports on International Law (ORIL)
http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1307

Jurisdiction: Ad Hoc Tribunal (UNCITRAL)
http://goo.gl/NU7EnP
This is a good source to check because the Oxford Law Citator allows you to find other related materials such as primary & secondary sources that are part of this database or that are available on the free web. If you find one case of interest, this can really jump start your research.
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

Search Functions

Simple Search
Search by Key Word

Advanced Search
Boolean Search in Full-Text
Search by:
- Subject
- State Party
- Originating Jurisdiction

Pre-Search Limit by Content Type

Post Search Limits for both Searches
- Subject
- Jurisdiction
- State Party
- Dates

4. WestlawNext

Start typing into the Search bar “International Legal Materials” and select from the dropdown menu:

International Legal Materials
Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

5. Lexis Advance

Search Within Sources for:

International Legal Materials
Among other things, this database within Lexis Advance contains unofficial ITLOS Court Documents.

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

6. HeinOnline

International Legal Materials

http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/intlm&collection=journals

From on campus, you may just click through the link off campus, you will need to log in with your VUnet ID.
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

You can also search the Catalog for this Publication Title, or drill down. You will find it in the Law Journal Library

As of October 23, 2014, HeinOnline carries the Full Text of this series that includes ITLOS case law from Vols. 1-51 (1962-2012).

Citations only are provided for the most recent 2 years.

This means that for the most recent cases, you are probably better off looking on Oxford Reports on International Law (ORIL) or the ITLOS website.

Other Legal Materials on the UNCITRAL Website

On-line Resources and Webcasts

Establishing & Procedural Documents

Origin, Mandate & Composition
http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/en/about/origin.html

UNCITRAL Texts and Status

General Assembly Resolutions & Related Documents

Additional Documents on UNCITRAL Website

Press Releases

UNCITRAL Publications

UNCITRAL Research Guides

UNCITRAL Rotterdam Rules – Peace Palace Library Blog Post and References
http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/2009/05/uncitral-rotterdam-rules/

International Contracts Research Guide - Peace Palace Library
http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/research-guides/national-law/international-contracts/

VI. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

UNCTAD Official Website
http://unctad.org/en/Pages/Home.aspx
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

Find UNCTAD Conference Proceedings

Free Sources

1. UNCTAD Official Website

UNCTAD Conferences
http://unctad.org/en/Pages/Meetings/UNCTAD-Conferences.aspx

Meetings
http://unctad.org/en/Pages/meetings.aspx

Reports of Intergovernmental Meetings

UNCTAD Policy Briefs
http://unctad.org/en/Pages/Publications/UNCTAD-Policy-Brief.aspx

Statements of UNCTAD Secretary-General
http://unctad.org/en/Pages/About%20UNCTAD/OSG/OSG.aspx

2. WorldLii

UNCTAD Competition and Consumer Policies
http://goo.gl/EdKCBX

“Contains documents, links, legislation, UNCTAD Meetings and other related materials on competition law and consumer protection. In English, French and Spanish (UNCTAD Competition and Consumer Policies Branch)”

Subscription Databases

1. WestlawNext

Start typing into the Search bar “International Legal Materials” and select from the dropdown menu:

International Legal Materials
Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

2. Lexis Advance

Search Within Sources for:

International Legal Materials
Among other things, this database within Lexis Advance contains unofficial UNCTAD Documents.
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

As of October 23, 2014:

Publisher:
American Society of International Law (ASIL)

Coverage:
From 1962 (Vol 1) through current.

3. HeinOnline

*International Legal Materials*
http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/intlm&collection=journals

From on campus, you may just click through the link off campus, you will need to log in with your VUnet ID.

You can also search the Catalog for this Publication Title, or drill down. You will find it in the Law Journal Library.

As of October 23, 2014, HeinOnline carries the Full Text of this series (that includes unofficial UNCTAD documents) from Vols. 1-51 (1962-2012).

Citations only are provided for the most recent 2 years.

This means that for the most recent cases, you are probably better off looking in one of the other sources provided above.

UNCTAD Publications
Press Releases

Statistics

Learn More about UNCTAD

History

UNCTADOnline
https://www.youtube.com/user/UNCTADOnline/videos

General Publications
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

http://unctad.org/en/Pages/Publications.aspx

**UNCTAD Annual Report**

**UNCTAD Series**
http://unctad.org/en/Pages/Publications/Series.aspx

**UNCTAD Research Guides**

http://libraryresources.unog.ch/unctad

VII. Iran-United States Claims Tribunal (IUSCT)

IUSCT Official Website
http://www.iusct.net/

Find IUSCT Cases & Court Filings Online

*Free Sources*

1. **IUSCT Official Website**

*Database of Tribunal Awards & Decisions*
https://www.iusct.net/Pages/Login.aspx

You need to sign up in advance and get an account (needs to be approved by the Tribunal). So if you plan to use this database, you should sign up for it in advance of when you wish to use it, since it may take some time for the Tribunal to get back to you. It is definitely not instantaneous.

*Subscription Databases*

1. **Kluwer Arbitration**
http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1296

2. **WestlawNext**

Start typing into the Search bar “Iran-United States Claims Tribunal Decisions” and select from the dropdown menu:

*Iran-United States Claims Tribunal Decisions*
http://goo.gl/sGy2EX
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

As of November 10, 2014:

Coverage:
Current coverage is from 1981 through January, 2005.

Content Highlights:
“Full text of documents from the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal. Coverage begins with the General Declaration and Claims Declaration, which established the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal on January 19, 1981.”

3. Lexis Advance

Search Within Sources for:

International Legal Materials
Among other things, this database within Lexis Advance contains unofficial IUSCT Documents.

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

As of October 23, 2014:

Publisher:
American Society of International Law (ASIL)

Coverage:
From 1962 (Vol 1) through current.

4. HeinOnline

International Legal Materials
http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/intlm&collection=journals

From on campus, you may just click through the link off campus, you will need to log in with your VUnet ID.

You can also search the Catalog for this Publication Title, or drill down. You will find it in the Law Journal Library

As of October 23, 2014, HeinOnline carries the Full Text of this series (that includes unofficial IUSCT Documents) from Vols. 1-51 (1962-2012).

Citations only are provided for the most recent 2 years. This means that for the most recent cases, you are probably better off looking on the IUSCT website.
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

Other Legal Materials on the IUSCT Website

Establishing & Procedural Documents

General Declaration
http://goo.gl/aoJoJ2

Tribunal Rules of Procedure
http://goo.gl/0Z12X2

IUSCT Research Guides

IUSCT Blog & References - Peace Palace Library
http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/2012/12/argo-and-the-follow-up-iran-and-the-united-states/

VIII. International Chamber of Commerce International Court of Arbitration (ICC-ICA)

ICC International Court of Arbitration Official Website
http://goo.gl/s8NNei

Find ICC Cases & Court Filings Online

Free Sources

1. WorldLii

   Search ICC International Court of Arbitration Decisions
   http://goo.gl/hJpURk

Subscription Databases

1. Investment Claims
   http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1294
   Materials and analysis in international investment law and arbitration. Arbitration awards and
decisions, bilateral investment treaties, multilateral treaties, journal articles, monographs, and
arbitration laws.

2. Kluwer Arbitration
   http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1296
   International commercial arbitration research. Expert commentary and primary source materials.
Includes case law, commentary, conventions, legislation and rules. Investment Arbitration
section.

   Once you have logged into Kluwer Arbitration using the link above, you can do the following:

   Advanced Search for Awards, Organization: ICC-ICA

C. Deane
http://researchguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/IABDocs
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

http://goo.gl/adWP0E

3. Oxford Reports on International Law (ORIL)

*Jurisdiction: International Court of Arbitration*

http://goo.gl/l6lcyp

Search Functions

*Simple Search*
*Search by Key Word*

*Advanced Search*
*Boolean Search in Full-Text*

Search by:

- Subject
- State Party
- Originating Jurisdiction

Pre-Search Limit by Content Type

*Post Search Limits for both Searches*

- Subject
- Jurisdiction
- State Party
- Dates

4. WestlawNext

Start typing into the Search bar “International Chamber of Commerce” and select from the dropdown menu:

*International Chamber of Commerce*

http://goo.gl/yO4oFQ

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

As of October 28, 2014:

*Coverage:*
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

Content Highlights:
“Abstracts and commentary on the arbitration awards from the International Chamber of Commerce International Court of Arbitration.”

5. HeinOnline

International Legal Materials
http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/intlm&collection=journals

From on campus, you may just click through the link off campus, you will need to log in with your VUnet ID.

You can also search the Catalog for this Publication Title, or drill down. You will find it in the Law Journal Library.


Citations only are provided for the most recent 2 years.

This means that for the most recent cases, you are probably better off looking in one of the sources recommended above.

Other Legal Materials on the ICC International Court of Arbitration Website

Procedural Documents
Rules of Arbitration
http://goo.gl/57mV6k

Standard ICC Arbitration Clauses
http://goo.gl/Z6DfAo

Collections of ICC Arbitral Awards
Collection of ICC arbitral awards, 1974-1985
K2400 .C55 1989
http://discoverlibrary.vanderbilt.edu/VANDERBILT:vanunicorn987449

Collection of ICC arbitral awards, 1986-1990
K2400 .A495 C65 1993
http://discoverlibrary.vanderbilt.edu/VANDERBILT:vanunicorn1429249

Collection of ICC arbitral awards, 1991-1995
K2400 .A495 C65 1997
http://discoverlibrary.vanderbilt.edu/VANDERBILT:vanunicorn1674208

Collection of procedural decisions in ICC arbitration 1993-1996
http://discoverlibrary.vanderbilt.edu/VANDERBILT:vanunicorn1673967
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

IX. Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

PCA Official Website

Find PCA Cases & Court Filings Online

Free Sources

1. PCA Official Website

   Cases
   http://www.pcacases.com/web/

2. WorldLii

   PCA Decisions
   http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/PCArb/

Subscription Databases

1. Kluwer Arbitration
   http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1296
   This database contains practice tools for mediation & arbitration, arbitration journals & books, arbitral awards, rules, legislation, conventions and more materials for International commercial arbitration research.

2. Investment Claims
   http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1294
   Materials and analysis in international investment law and arbitration. Arbitration awards and decisions, bilateral investment treaties, multilateral treaties, journal articles, monographs, and arbitration laws.

3. Oxford Reports on International Law (ORIL)

   Jurisdiction: Permanent Court of Arbitration [PCA]
   http://goo.gl/vhGL34

4. WestlawNext
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents

Start typing into the Search bar “Permanent Court of Arbitration” and select from the dropdown menu:

*Permanent Court of Arbitration*
http://goo.gl/Etny5V

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

As of October 28, 2014:

**Coverage:**
Selected coverage for PCA-AWARDS begins in 1999.

**Content Highlights:**
“Arbitration awards from the Permanent Court of Arbitration, as published in International Legal Materials.”

5. **Lexis Advance**

Search Within Sources for:

*International Legal Materials*

Among other things, this database within Lexis Advance contains unofficial PCA Documents.

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

As of October 23, 2014:

**Publisher:**
American Society of International Law (ASIL)

**Coverage:**
From 1962 (Vol 1) through current.

6. **HeinOnline**

*International Legal Materials*
http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/intlm&collection=journals

From on campus, you may just click through the link off campus, you will need to log in with your VUnet ID.

You can also search the Catalog for this Publication Title, or drill down. You will find it in the Law Journal Library.
Find International Arbitral Bodies Documents


Citations only are provided for the most recent 2 years. This means that for the most recent cases, you are probably better off looking in one of the free resources listed above.

Other Legal Materials on the PCA Website

Establishing & Procedural Documents
Documents and Resources
http://www.icty.org/sections/LegalLibrary/StatuteoftheTribunal

Conventions
http://www.pca-cpa.org/showpage.asp?pag_id=1187

Rules of Procedure
http://www.pca-cpa.org/showpage.asp?pag_id=1188

PCA Publications
http://www.pca-cpa.org/showpage.asp?pag_id=1053

Additional Documents on PCA Website

News
http://www.pca-cpa.org/shownews.asp?ac=actual&pag_id=1261

Learn More about the PCA

Film
http://www.wx4all.net/pca/movie/english/index.html

“Learn more about the PCA, its history and its services, including its recent initiatives and current activities.”

Annual Reports
http://www.pca-cpa.org/showpage.asp?pag_id=1069

PCA Research Guides

Permanent Court of Arbitration on Facebook - Peace Palace Library Blog Post & References
http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/2014/10/permanent-court-of-arbitration-on-facebook/
Find International Court Documents

I. Types of International Court Documents
   • Judicial Decisions
     o Official and Unofficial
   • Advisory Opinions
   • Rules of Procedure/Practice
   • Judicial Ethics
   • International Agreements Establishing the Court

II. General Sources: Find International Court Documents

   Browse WorldLII: International Courts & Tribunals Collection
   http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/

   No need to use the search, just browse by year and jurisdiction.

   World LII: International Courts & Tribunals
   http://www.worldlii.org/catalog/2561.html

   Pros
   • Broad coverage
   • Free resource

   Cons
   • Tricky search engine
   • Boolean Search is unpredictable
   • Glitchy interface
     o can be slow
     o sometimes results just do not load

   Project on International Courts and Tribunals (PICT)
   http://www.pict-pcti.org/index.html

   Research platform for finding court documents related to multiple international courts and tribunals.
Find International Court Documents

III. International Court of Justice (ICJ)

ICJ Official Website
http://www.icj-cij.org/

Find ICJ Cases & Court Filings Online

Free Sources

1. ICJ Official Website

Contentious Cases, Advisory Proceedings and Court Filings

2. WorldLii

ICJ Decisions
http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/ICJ/

ICJ Transcripts
http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/ICJTrans/

Subscription Databases

1. Oxford Reports on International Law (ORIL)

Module: International Courts of General Jurisdiction (ICGJ)

Jurisdiction: International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Search Functions

Simple Search
Search by Key Word

Advanced Search
Boolean Search in Full-Text

Search by:

- Subject
- State Party
- Originating Jurisdiction

Pre-Search Limit by Content Type

Post Search Limits for both Searches

- Subject
Find International Court Documents

- Jurisdiction
- State Party
- Dates

2. WestlawNext

Start typing into the Search bar “International Court of Justice” and select from the dropdown menu:

*International Court of Justice Decisions*

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.
As of October 23, 2014:

*Publisher:* ICJ

*Coverage:* 1947 – 2005

*Content Highlights:* “ICJ's publication Report of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders... Selected documents beginning with 2001, as released and made available by the International Court of Justice prior to publication of the Report, are also included.”

3. Lexis Advance

Search within Sources for:

*International Court of Justice Judgments*

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.
As of October 23, 2014:

*Publisher:* ICJ

*Coverage:* From 1948 through current.

*Description:* The International Court of Justice Judgments (ICJCC) file contains the full-text, English-language judgments of the International Court of Justice for "contentious cases"

*International Court of Justice Advisory Opinions*

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.
As of October 23, 2014:

*Publisher:* ICJ
Find International Court Documents

Coverage:
From 1948

Description:
“The International Court of Justice Advisory Opinions (ICJAO) file contains the full-text, English-language advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice.”

International Court of Justice Filings
Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

As of October 23, 2014:
Publisher:
ICJ
Coverage:
From 2004
Description:
“The International Court of Justice Filings (ICJDOC) file contains various full-text, English-language interim documents filed with the International Court of Justice for pending cases, including the application and written pleadings, as well as various orders of the Court, where available.”

International Legal Materials
Among other things, this database within Lexis Advance contains unofficial ICJ Court Documents.
Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

As of October 23, 2014:
Publisher:
American Society of International Law (ASIL)
Coverage:
From 1962 (Vol 1) through current.
Description:
“These materials include the full texts of... Over 190 decisions of the International Court of Justice”

4. HeinOnline

International Legal Materials
http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/intlm&collection=journals

From on campus, you may just click through the link.

Off campus you need to log into the proxy server using your VUnet ID first, then you can click through the International Legal Materials link above.
Find International Court Documents

You can also search the Catalog for this Publication Title, or drill down. You will find it in the Law Journal Library.


Citations only are provided for the most recent 2 years.

This means that **for the most recent cases, you are probably better off looking on the ICJ website.**

**Other Legal Materials on the ICJ Website**

*Case Related Video & Audio Files*

*Scroll part way down the page*

*Establishing & Procedural Documents*

*ICJ Statute*

*Court Rules*

*Practice Directions*

*Judicial Practice Resolution*

*ICJ Official Publications*

*Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders by International Court of Justice*
“Contains the decisions of the Court in both English and French;

Each decision is published as soon as possible after it has been given, in an unbound fascicle;


*Pleadings, Oral Arguments, Documents by International Court of Justice*
“Volumes in this series are published after the termination of each case; Contain the documentation relating to the case in the original language, i.e. English or French; This comprises the document instituting proceedings, the written pleadings and (selected) annexes, the verbatim record of the oral proceedings, any documents submitted to the Court after the closure of the written proceedings, and selected correspondence.” [http://research.un.org/en/docs/icj/texts](http://research.un.org/en/docs/icj/texts)
Find International Court Documents

*Acts and Documents by International Court of Justice*

*Yearbook by International Court of Justice*
“Covers the work of the Court from from 1 August of the preceding year to 31 July of the current year; Also issued in French (Annuaire).” [http://research.un.org/en/docs/icj/texts](http://research.un.org/en/docs/icj/texts)

*Bibliography by International Court of Justice*
“Each year the Registry issues a Bibliography listing such works and documents relating to the Court as have come to its attention during the previous year.” [http://research.un.org/en/docs/icj/texts](http://research.un.org/en/docs/icj/texts)

*Additional Documents on ICJ Website*

**Press Releases**

**Learn More about the ICJ**

**History**

**How the Court works**

**Court’s Annual Reports**

**The Court at a glance (factsheet, 2014)**

**Questions and Answers about the Court (booklet, 2000)**


**ICJ Research Guides**

**UN Documentation: ICJ – Dag Hammarskjöld Library**

**ICJ Research Guide - Peace Palace Library**
Find International Court Documents

IV. International Criminal Court (ICC)

ICC Official Website
http://www.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/icc/Pages/default.aspx

Find ICC Situations, Cases & Court Filings Online

Free Sources

1. ICC Official Website

Situations, Cases, Court Filings
http://goo.gl/UBpw3k

2. WorldLii

ICC Decisions
http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/IntCrimC/

ICC Transcripts
http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/IntCrimCTrans/

3. The Hague Justice Portal

ICC Decisions & Other ICC Documents
http://www.haguejusticeportal.net/index.php?id=6173


ICC Case Law & Commentary
http://www.casematrixnetwork.org/cmn-knowledge-hub/icc-commentary-clicc/

Subscription Databases

1. Oxford Reports on International Law (ORIL)

Jurisdiction: International Criminal Court (ICC)
http://goo.gl/BwQOhW

Search Functions (See page 1)
Pre-Search Limit by Content Type and Product (International Criminal Law [ICL])

2. WestlawNext

Start typing into the Search bar “International Legal Materials” and select from the dropdown menu:
Find International Court Documents

*International Legal Materials*
[http://goo.gl/cIiE32](http://goo.gl/cIiE32)

Use WestlawNext when you want the I.L.M. version of a document or you want the convenience of using WestlawNext features such as folders and alerts. KeyCite does not work for international materials. This is **not the best source to use** because coverage is not comprehensive.

Look in the Scope Note [1] to find out what documents are included.

As of October 23, 2014:

**Publisher:**
American Society of International Law

**Coverage:**
Selected coverage begins with 1980 (vol. 19)

3. Lexis Advance

Search within Sources for:

*International Legal Materials*
[http://goo.gl/VUTigz](http://goo.gl/VUTigz)

Among other things, this database within Lexis Advance contains **unofficial** ICC Court Documents.

4. HeinOnline
[http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=741](http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=741)

*International Legal Materials*

From on campus, you may just click through the link.

Off campus you need to [log into the proxy server using your VUnet ID](http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=741) first, then you can click through the International Legal Materials link above.

You can also search the Catalog for this Publication Title, or drill down. You will find it in the Law Journal Library


Citations only are provided for the most recent 2 years.
Find International Court Documents

This means that for the most recent cases, you are probably better off looking in one of the free resources listed above.

Other Legal Materials on the ICC Website

*Case Related Video & Audio Files*
http://goo.gl/fZ8eAh

*Establishing & Procedural Documents*

*ICC » Legal Texts and Tools*
http://goo.gl/PJc7pW

Includes Code of Judicial Ethics; Rules of Procedure & Evidence and other regulations.

*ICC Official Publications*

*Official Journal of the International Criminal Court*
http://goo.gl/CkrLJ7

*Additional Documents on ICC Website*

*Educational Resources*
http://goo.gl/XAuhT5

*ICC Research Guides*

*UN Documentation: ICJ – Dag Hammarskjöld Library*
http://research.un.org/c.php?g=98280

*ICJ Research Guide - Peace Palace Library*
I. International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

ITLOS Official Website
https://www.itlos.org/

Find ITLOS Cases & Court Filings Online

Free Sources

1. ITLOS Official Website

   Contentious Cases, Advisory Proceedings, Docket and Court Filings
   https://www.itlos.org/index.php?id=10&L=0

2. WorldLii

   ITLOS Decisions
   http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/ITLOS/

Subscription Databases

1. Oxford Reports on International Law (ORIL)

   http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1307

   International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) – 15 case law documents available
   Even with only 15 documents available, this is still a good source to check because the Oxford Law Citator allows you to find other related materials such as primary & secondary sources that are part of this database or that are available on the free web. If you find one case of interest, this can really jump start your research.

Search Functions

   Simple Search
   Search by Key Word

   Advanced Search
   Boolean Search in Full-Text

Search by:

   - Subject
   - State Party
   - Originating Jurisdiction

Pre-Search Limit by Content Type
Find International Court Docs Pt2

*Post Search Limits for both Searches*

- Subject
- Jurisdiction
- State Party
- Dates

2. **WestlawNext**

Start typing into the Search bar “International Legal Materials” and select from the dropdown menu:

*International Legal Materials*

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

3. **Lexis Advance**

Search Within Sources for:

*International Legal Materials*

Among other things, this database within Lexis Advance contains unofficial ITLOS Court Documents.

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

4. **HeinOnline**

*International Legal Materials*

http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/intlm&collection=journals

From on campus, you may just click through the link. Off campus, you will need to log in with your VUnet ID.

You can also search the Catalog for this Publication Title, or drill down. You will find it in the Law Journal Library.

As of October 23, 2014, HeinOnline carries the Full Text of this series that includes ITLOS case law from Vols. 1-51 (1962-2012).

Citations only are provided for the most recent 2 years. This means that for the most recent cases, you are probably better off looking on Oxford Reports on International Law (ORIL) or the ITLOS website.
Other Legal Materials on the ITLOS Website

Case Related Live and Archived Video
https://www.itlos.org/index.php?id=39&L=0

Establishing & Procedural Documents

ITLOS Statute
Court Rules
https://www.itlos.org/index.php?id=12&L=0

ITLOS Official Publications

Additional Documents on ITLOS Website
Press Releases
https://www.itlos.org/index.php?id=295&L=0%20and%207%3D2
List of Official Court Publications
https://www.itlos.org/index.php?id=14&L=0

Learn More about the ITLOS
History
https://www.itlos.org/index.php?id=32&L=0
Court's Annual Reports
https://www.itlos.org/index.php?id=156&L=0

ITLOS Research Guides

http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/research-guides/special-topics/law-of-the-sea/

II. European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

ECHR Official Website
http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=home

Find ECHR Cases & Court Filings Online

Free Sources

1. ECHR Official Website

Reports of Judgments and Decisions
http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=caselaw&c=

“an official collection of the Court's leading judgments, decisions and advisory opinions since 1998. The selection of the most important cases is made by the Bureau* following a proposal by the Jurisconsult**”
Find International Court Docs Pt2

2. WorldLiib

*ECHR Decisions*
http://www.bailii.org/eu/cases/ECHR/

*Subscription Databases*

1. Oxford Reports on International Law (ORIL)

*Jurisdiction: European Court of Human Rights [ECtHR]*
http://goo.gl/15uXz5

*Search Functions*

*Simple Search*
Search by Key Word

*Advanced Search*
Boolean Search in Full-Text
Search by:
- Subject
- State Party
- Originating Jurisdiction

*Pre-Search Limit by Content Type*

*Post Search Limits for both Searches*
- Subject
- Jurisdiction
- State Party
- Dates

2. WestlawNext

Start typing into the Search bar “International Legal Materials” and select from the dropdown menu:

*International Legal Materials*
Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

3. Lexis Advance

Search Within Sources for:

*International Legal Materials*
Among other things, this database within Lexis Advance contains *unofficial* ECHR Court Documents.
Find International Court Docs Pt2

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.
As of October 23, 2014:

Publisher:
American Society of International Law (ASIL)

Coverage:
From 1962 (Vol 1) through current.

4. HeinOnline

International Legal Materials
http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/intlm&collection=journals

From on campus, you may just click through the link. Off campus, you will need to log in with your VUnet ID.

You can also search the Catalog for this Publication Title, or drill down. You will find it in the Law Journal Library


Citations only are provided for the most recent 2 years. This means that for the most recent cases, you are probably better off looking on the ECHR website.

Other Legal Materials on the ECHR Website

Webcasts of Hearings
http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=hearings&c=#n1357300199863_pointer

Establishing & Procedural Documents
The European Convention
http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=basictexts&c=
Court Rules & Practice Directions
http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=basictexts/rules&c=#n1347875693676_pointer
Judicial Ethics Resolution
http://goo.gl/aKXF1q

Additional Documents on ECHR Website
Press Releases
http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=press&c=#n1347882722901_pointer

Learn More about the ECHR
History: General presentation
Video & pdfs about the ECHR
http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=court&c=#n1354801701084_pointer
Find International Court Docs Pt2

ECHR Guide to Case Law
http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=caselaw/analysis&c=

Annual Reports
http://goo.gl/h4Yvi5

III. Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR)

IACHR Official Website
http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index.php/en

Find IACHR Judgments, Decisions & Advisory Opinions

Free Sources

1. IACHR Official Website

Judgments, Decisions & Advisory Opinions
http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index.php/en/jurisprudencia

2. WorldLii

IACHR Decisions
http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/IACHR/

Subscription Databases

1. Oxford Reports on International Law (ORIL)

Jurisdiction: Inter-American Court of Human Rights [IACtHR]
http://goo.gl/t5K2wE
Close to full coverage of Inter-American Court of Human Rights cases.
Search Functions
Simple Search
Search by Key Word
Advanced Search
Boolean Search in Full-Text
Search by:
- Subject
- State Party
- Originating Jurisdiction

Pre-Search Limit by Content Type
Post Search Limits for both Searches
- Subject
- Jurisdiction
- State Party
- Dates
Find International Court Docs Pt2

2. WestlawNext

Start typing into the Search bar “International Legal Materials” and select from the dropdown menu:

*International Legal Materials*

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

3. Lexis Advance

Search Within Sources for:

*International Legal Materials*

Among other things, this database within Lexis Advance contains *unofficial* IACHR Court Documents.

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

As of October 23, 2014:

**Publisher:**
American Society of International Law (ASIL)

**Coverage:**
From 1962 (Vol 1) through current.

4. HeinOnline

*International Legal Materials*


From on campus, you may just click through the link. Off campus, you will need to log in with your VUnet ID.

You can also search the Catalog for this Publication Title, or drill down. You will find it in the Law Journal Library.


Citations only are provided for the most recent 2 years. This means that for the most recent cases, you are probably better off looking on the IACHR website.

**Other Legal Materials on the IACHR Website**

Many of the materials on the website are in Spanish only. English language materials include:

*Establishing & Procedural Documents*

**Statute of the I/A Court**

**Court Rules**
IV. International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

ICTY Official Website
http://www.icty.org/

Find ICTY Cases & Court Filings Online

Free Sources

1. ICTY Official Website

   Cases & Court Filings
   http://www.icty.org/action/cases/4

2. WorldLii

   ICTY Decisions
   http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/ICTY/

3. United Nations Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals

   ICTR/ICTY Case Law Database

4. United Nations ICTY Court Records

   ICTY Court Records Database
   http://icr.icty.org/

Subscription Databases

1. WestlawNext
Find International Court Docs Pt2

Start typing into the Search bar “International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia” and select from the dropdown menu:

*International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia*

There are 3 relevant databases included in Westlaw. Look in the Scope Note for each one to find out what documents are included.

*Administrative Decisions*
http://goo.gl/l27MJG

*Basic Legal Documents*
http://goo.gl/0R6h8s

*Press Releases*
http://goo.gl/jcDIoG

2. Lexis Advance

Search Within Sources for:

*International Legal Materials*

Among other things, this database within Lexis Advance contains [unofficial](http://www.icc-cpi.int) ICTY Court Documents.

Look in the Scope Note for each one to find out what documents are included.

As of October 23, 2014:

*Publisher:*
American Society of International Law (ASIL)

*Coverage:*
From 1962 (Vol 1) through current.

3. HeinOnline

*International Legal Materials*
http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/intlm&collection=journals

From on campus, you may just click through the link. Off campus, you will need to log in with your VUnet ID.

You can also search the Catalog for this Publication Title, or drill down. You will find it in the Law Journal Library

As of October 23, 2014, HeinOnline carries the Full Text of this series (that includes ICTY case law) from Vols. 1-51 (1962-2012).
Find International Court Docs Pt2

Citations only are provided for the most recent 2 years. This means that for the most recent cases, you are probably better off looking on the ICTY website.

Other Legal Materials on the ICTY Website

Case Related Video & Audio Files
https://www.youtube.com/user/ICTYtv/playlists?view=50&sort=dd&shelf_id=5

Trial Broadcasts
Courtroom 1
http://www.icty.org/sid/10915
Courtroom 2
http://www.icty.org/sid/10916
Courtroom 3
http://www.icty.org/sid/10917

Establishing & Procedural Documents
Statute of the Tribunal
http://www.icty.org/sections/LegalLibrary/StatuteoftheTribunal
Rules of Procedure and Evidence
http://www.icty.org/sections/LegalLibrary/RulesofProcedureandEvidence
Practice Directions
http://www.icty.org/sections/LegalLibrary/PracticeDirections
Legal Library
http://www.icty.org/sid/5

Additional Documents on ICTY Website
Press
http://www.icty.org/action/press/6

Learn More about the ICTY
Documentaries
http://www.icty.org/sections/Outreach/Documentaries

Reports & Publications
http://www.icty.org/sections/AbouttheICTY/ReportsandPublications

ICTY Research Guides
UN Documentation: ICTY – Dag Hammarskjöld Library

Interview: ICTY Judge Alphons Orie - Peace Palace Library Blog Post & References
http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/2013/07/interview-icty-judge-alphons-orie/
Introduction

The bad news.
Treaty research is generally not intuitive.

The good news
There are useful resources available to guide you through the process and many free and subscription databases are available to you such that you should be able to find everything that you need.

HeinOnline (http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=741) has an almost comprehensive collection of treaties as well as secondary sources to help you understand the treaties. First log in with the link above, then navigate to:


Treaty Research by Topic

Step 1: Is there a Treaty on your topic?

a) Search the free web for compilations of international law research on your topic.

   i. In other words, look for treaties online using Google or looking on research guides or research portals related to your topic.

b) Search secondary sources on your topic to see if they refer you to related treaties.

   i. Sometimes, a book on your topic will have a table of authorities that lists the titles of relevant treaties.

   ii. Many major treaties are described and analyzed in the Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law and starting with an encyclopedia entry about a treaty, you can use the Oxford Law Citator to find the full-text of the treaty.

c) I highly recommend starting your treaty research with the

   i. ASIL eRG (The American Society of International Law Electronic Resource Guide).
      • http://www.asil.org/resources/electronic-resource-guide-erg

d) The Public International Law Research Guide has a section on Treaty Research.
      • http://www.asil.org/sites/default/files/ERG_PUBLIC_INT.pdf#page=9

e) The International Humanitarian Law research guide (http://goo.gl/K2e7PV) has a section that provides links to the most important:

   i. treaty collections
Step 2: Describe the Treaty

Recording a description of the treaty that you are looking for (either the one you know of or the one that you think may exist), will enable you to find the right sources in which to look for treaties. Each of the questions below, when answered allows you to use any good research guide to determine what source to use to find full-text treaties, or indexes of treaty information.

Choose the correct research source. The following questions will help you determine which resources will be most helpful in your research:

1. Is it a treaty or is it another official document that may have a treaty-like effect? These will have different creation and publication histories and patterns.

2. Who are the relevant parties? Is the United States a party to the treaty?
   i. If yes, and if you are looking for a treaty in force, you would want to look for treaties by topic on the U.S. Department of State website in Treaties and Other International Acts Series (TIAS)
      • http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/tias/
   ii. Alternatively you might check the HeinOnline World Treaty Library
      • http://www.heinonline.org/HOL/Index?collection=weaties&set_as_cursor=clear
iii. Another good place to search for treaties, and one that will likely have more up-to-date information than the TIF pdf is the Library of Congress' website Thomas.
   
   - Although Thomas is being phased out and replaced by the website https://www.congress.gov/, Congress.gov currently redirects you to the old site to do treaty research.
   
   - Thomas Home> Treaties http://thomas.loc.gov/home/treaties/treaties.html

iv. If you need to find a non-U.S. treaty, a good place to start is with the foreign government website. Often they maintain a database of all treaties to which they are a party.

v. Another good place to look for non-U.S. treaties is the United Nations Treaty Collection
   

vi. If you need to research the way non-U.S. countries interpret and implement a treaty, you will need to do foreign legal research. For this, you need a Foreign Law Research Guide. My recommendations are:
   
   - Foreign Law Guide http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/eres?id=1290
     - Look for an entry for the country of interest
   
   - Globalex http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/#
     - Look for a Research Guide for the country of interest
   
   - Search Discover Library, Acorn and WorldCat (in that order) for books on treaty law for the specific country of interest.
   
   - Discover Library http://discoverlibrary.vanderbilt.edu/
   
   - Acorn http://acorn.library.vanderbilt.edu/
   
   - WorldCat https://secureforms.library.vanderbilt.edu/forms/worldcat.phtml

3. Is it a multilateral (many nations are parties) or bilateral (two nations are parties) treaty?
   
   i. Sometimes there are multiple treaties on the same topic

4. When was the treaty negotiated and signed? When was it ratified by the parties of interest? Dates are important to your research because:
   
   i. The Treaty Indexes and Treaty Collections are generally searchable and browseable by date.
   
   ii. Treaty Indexes and Treaty Collections sometimes only cover treaties that were negotiated or signed during a specific time period
5. Was the treaty ever in force? Is it still in force? Usually, a treaty requires, by its terms, that a certain number of parties sign and ratify the treaty before it comes into force, or becomes effective.
   i. To find out if a U.S. Treaty is still in force, I recommend consulting the Treaties and Other International Acts Series (TIAS)
   ii. Alternatively you could examine the most recent version of the pdf document Treaties in Force (TIF). Unlike TIAS, TIF will not give you the full text of the treaty, it will give you a citation and then you will need to go look for the actual treaty text in a collection
      • [http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/tif/index.htm](http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/tif/index.htm)
   iii. If you want to know the status of a non-U.S. treaty, a good starting point is the United Nations Treaty Collection’s Treaty Status page
      • [https://treaties.un.org/pages/ParticipationStatus.aspx](https://treaties.un.org/pages/ParticipationStatus.aspx)

6. Will the treaty have a wide range of international interest?
   i. If it does, it will generally be a lot easier to find the text & related information.

7. Do you need the “official” version in an “official” language or will any version in a language you can understand suffice?
   i. Often there are official/authentic versions in more than one language.

8. Can you find the full-text of the treaty (Search the free web first it might be easy to find an unofficial version and you can use the citation to find the official version more easily).
   a) Use an index to locate a citation to the treaty in a collection.
   b) The ASIL-eRG will lead you to relevant treaty indexes
   c) Make sure it covers the years (and parties) that are of interest to you.

Based on the answers to these 8 questions, you will be directed to relevant sources from any good Research Guide on Treaties.

**Step 3: Find the treaty in a collection by following the detailed instructions in a research guide**

**Research Guides**
I recommend the following Treaty Research Guides in this order

1. Treaty Section of the Public International Law Research Guide (ASIL eRG)
   • [http://www.asil.org/sites/default/files/ERG_PUBLIC_INT.pdf#page=9](http://www.asil.org/sites/default/files/ERG_PUBLIC_INT.pdf#page=9)
2. **An Introduction to Sources for Treaty Research** - Mark Engsberg and Mary Beth Chappell (Globalex)
   - [http://goo.gl/h8RcV3](http://goo.gl/h8RcV3)

3. **Treaty Research** – Georgetown Law Library
   a. [http://goo.gl/D7QNSz](http://goo.gl/D7QNSz)

**Treaty Research Next Steps**

**Background or interpretation assistance?**

Use the Treaty research guides to figure out the details on how to interpret the treaty once you have found it.

1) If you have a treaty, you will want to identify “RUDs” (reservations, understandings or declarations)
   a. “Reservations are unilateral statements by a country that purport to limit the effect of certain provisions of a multilateral treaty...Reservations can significantly limit the effect of a treaty.” (Hoffman & Rumsey, 2012 p.83)

2) Identify subsequent modifications
   - [http://goo.gl/Rsq5FZ](http://goo.gl/Rsq5FZ)

3) If the treaty is ambiguous, you may need to find the negotiation history of the treaty or the legislative history of the ratification of the treaty by the United States or other parties.

**Travaux Préparatoires**

If you need to find out the negotiation history of the treaty or the legislative history of the ratification of the treaty, use a research guide on finding Travaux Préparatoires.

- See [http://researchguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/TravauxP](http://researchguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/TravauxP)

Last Updated: Thursday, February 12, 2015
Find Travaux Préparatoires

Step 1: Search for an already compiled or collected *travaux préparatoires*.

Check for instance on the website [http://library.law.yale.edu/collection-travaux-preparatoires](http://library.law.yale.edu/collection-travaux-preparatoires).

(Some overlap with steps 2 & 3).

Step 2: Check References in Secondary Sources

If no collected *travaux préparatoires* is available or readily findable, try a secondary source.

- Guide to the *travaux préparatoires* for a specific treaty
- "article-by-article commentary on a particular agreement" (Pratter 2012).
  - This will often have references to *travaux préparatoires* documents.

Search all three catalogs and also search the law reviews on WestlawNext or Lexis Advance and in Legal Indexes to see if anyone has referenced the drafting materials for a specific treaty.

Use as keywords the title of the treaty or agreement (in quotes) and the keywords "*travaux préparatoires*" AND (Commentary OR Guide)

Step 3: Commercial or quasi-commercial compilation and publication of *travaux préparatoires*.

Starting from the Vanderbilt Library Homepage, search all 3 catalogs (Discover Library, Acorn, WorldCat).

Use as keywords the title of the treaty or agreement (in quotes) and the keywords "*travaux préparatoires*"

Step 4: Published series of conference records

Check to see if there is a published series of conference records for the conference at which the treaty was drafted.

e.g. Hague Conference on Private International Law. Actes Et Documents. (1900)

Step 5: Records of Conference during which a specific treaty was negotiated

Search for treaty-specific conference records.

Search the three catalogs for:

keywords: "formal name of conference during which the text of the agreement was negotiated"

AND keywords "travaux préparatoires"

Note that these sources are not necessarily comprehensive.
Find Travaux Préparatoires

Step 6: UN Websites
Look for the records of the body that drafted the treaty on the official website for the international organization.

  - Research the documents related to the work of the International Law Commission.
  - Includes "information relating to the work of the Sixth Committee during the current or most recent session of the General Assembly, as well as links to the websites of previous sessions. It also provides links to related websites on legal matters."
  - Covers 52nd Session (1997) to 68th session (2013)
  - The official records of a series of diplomatic conferences, convoked by the United Nations in order to negotiate and adopt several treaties based on drafts worked out by the International Law Commission and considered by the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the General Assembly.
- **Audiovisual Library of International Law** (Historical Archives section) [http://legal.un.org/avl/historicarchives.html](http://legal.un.org/avl/historicarchives.html)
  - Links to official websites of Committees. These websites may contain relevant documents.

Step 7: Search for individual documents
Search for drafting documents individually.


Search by UN Document Symbol for the conference at which the treaty was drafted.

e.g. CONF.39

Then use the filters on the right of the page to limit your results appropriately by Language, date, UN body.
Find UN Documents

I. Important Sources
(Modified from the UN Documents Research Tools Guide at http://research.un.org/en/docs/find )

UN Documents Generally

Official Document System (ODS)

Search the full-text of UN documents

Choose from four types of searches (further explanation below).

UNBISnet - Bibliographic Records
http://unbisnet.un.org:8080/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=bib&menu=search#focus

Catalogue of the UN Library in New York. In addition to the library's holdings it accesses multilingual versions of UN documents (1993-present) & citations to documents (1979-present).

UNBISnet - Index to Speeches
http://unbisnet.un.org:8080/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=speech&menu=search&submenu=power#focus

Provides access to meeting records of the Principal organs, beginning in the mid-1980s, by country or organization, speaker, document symbol, or topic.

UNBISnet - Voting Records
http://unbisnet.un.org:8080/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=voting&menu=search&submenu=power#focus

“[U]se UNBISnet to locate documents and publications.”¹

Provides the recorded vote for all resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and Security Council, 1946-present. Documents can be searched by resolution symbol, keyword, or date.

UN-I-QUE
http://lib-unique.un.org/

Provides citations only. Not comprehensive. As of 2014, the database is no longer updated.

Useful if you have a topic and you want citations to older UN materials on a specific topic.

Once you have the citation, you will still need to find the document.

Specific Types of Documents

UN Member States: On the Record
http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/unms/

Find UN Documents

Links to pre-set, standard searches for each Member State in UNBISnet, UN-I-QUE, and the Press Release database. Searches available for each Member State include: the key documents related to its membership in the UN; statements made before the principal organs; draft resolutions sponsored; periodic reports submitted on Human Rights conventions, and more.

UN Press Releases

“Because press releases are usually issued in advance of official documents, they are a valuable tool for research, especially on current topics. Press releases are available online from October 1995 to the present.” (http://research.un.org/en/docs/pressreleases)

Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council

Allows for navigating through the Repertoire website via a list of frequent/important terms.

- Key terms
- Region and country specific issues
- Procedural Issues
- Provisional Rules of Procedure
- Subsidiary Organs
- Constitutional issues

All of the material in the Repertoire is drawn from the official documents of the Security Council.

The Security Council’s activities concerning a particular situation or a thematic topic on its agenda are summarized in the section on:


In addition, you may use these links to find information on specific themes of Security Council practice, such as:

- Participation in Council proceedings
- Adoption of agenda
- Sanctions
- Peacekeeping missions
- Security Council missions
- Use of force
- Cooperation with regional organizations

Find UN Documents

II. Find UN Legal Documentation

“The principal legal bodies of the United Nations are the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, the International Law Commission (ILC), and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).”

Use UNBISnet & ODS

III. Find Resolutions

A. Security Council Resolutions

Document Symbol:

*S/RES/<sequential number of resolution> (year of adoption)*


B. General Assembly Resolutions

Depending on the date of the resolution there are different formats.

**Up to the end of the 30th Session**

*A/RES/<sequential number of resolution> (number of the General Assembly session in capitalized roman numerals)*

Eg. A/RES/491 (V)

**After the 31st session in September of 1976**

*A/RES/<number of the General Assembly session in arabic numerals>/<serial number of the resolution for that session>*

Eg. A/RES/64/293.

Special sessions and emergency sessions have different symbols.

C. Find Resolutions From UN Document Symbol Or Date

You have several options.

1. Find the resolution by searching on the official website of the related UN Body
2. Search ODS or UNBISnet using the Symbol or Date
3. Search within International Legal Materials on:
   a. Lexis Advance
   b. WestlawNext
   c. HeinOnline

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Find UN Documents

D. Find Resolutions When UN Document Symbol And Date Are Unknown

Use ODS & UNBISnet

Official Document System of the United Nations
ODS < http://documents.un.org/>

- Contains Official UN Documents
- Most documents are available if published after 1993
- All resolutions issued by most of the principal organs available back to 1946.  

ODS Search Page

Search the full-text of documents

Four types of searches

1. ODS Basic Search
   Recommended when you do not have a specific UN Symbol or when you are researching something relatively unfamiliar.
   - This search page allows you to do a natural language search like you would in WestlawNext or LexisAdvance.
   - After you search, you can narrow your search using the fields on the right of the page:
     - UN Body
     - Language
     - Year

2. ODS Global Search
   Recommended for advanced research when you are looking for a specific document or set of documents and you know some key words or phrases that appear in the document.
   - This search allows you to use Boolean Search techniques without having to use Boolean Search Symbols.
   - You can limit by language before you search
   - You can search within the title of the document
   - Or you can by default search within the full-text of the document

3. ODS - Simple Search

Searches the UN Documentation database.

Use this to find documents and preliminary versions of UN resolutions.

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Find UN Documents

4. ODS - Advanced Search

- Recommended if you need to find UN documents from UN Symbols (eg. ACC/1992/3/ADD.2)
- Choose which database you want to search within – this lets you decide which type of documents you want.
- Choose what type of search you want to do:
  - Find phrase
  - Find all words
  - Find any words
  - Use Boolean Operators

United Nations Bibliographic Information System
UNBISnet <http://unbisnet.un.org/>

Bibliographic Record Search
New Keyword Search

Search the record that describes the document.

Keyword search by:

- Title
- Author
- Subject etc.

Limit search by:

- Databases
  - UN Publications only
  - Non-UN Publications only
  - UN & Non-UN Publications
- Language
- Date
- Type of material
  - Handbooks
  - Essays
  - Book reviews etc.
- Type of record
  - Journal
  - Journal article
  - Monograph
  - Monograph article

Sample Search:
Find UN Documents

Try finding the English versions of the most recent UN publications on Outer Space.

E. Find Voting Records for Resolutions

UNBISnet

- Find out numerical totals
- Search for voting records on resolutions
- Find roll-call information for some General Assembly Resolutions

IV. Online Research Guides & Tutorials

Dag Hammarskjöld Library Research Guides
http://research.un.org/en

UN Documentation: How to Find UN Documents
http://research.un.org/c.php?g=98281&p=636258

Learn how to find UN documents (resolutions, reports, meeting records, speeches, and more).

UN Documentation: Overview

Overview of selected UN documents, publications, databases and websites. Learn more on the patterns of documentation of the active principal UN organs.

UN Resources
http://research.un.org/en/un-resources

Exhaustive alphabetical and topical lists of United Nations databases and research tools.
Secondary Sources

I. Find Books (including e-books)

In the Vanderbilt Library System

1. Discover Library (General Catalog of Vanderbilt Libraries Books, Articles, etc.)

http://discoverlibrary.vanderbilt.edu/

Use Subject Headings Searches to get the most relevant results
You can use the advanced search to combine a Subject Heading and Keyword search

Human Rights

Human Rights—France (Or replace France with any country name)

Asylum, Right Of

Asylum, Right Of—Great Britain (Or replace Great Britain with any country name)

Books beyond the Vanderbilt Library System

2. WorldCat (General Catalog of Books, Articles, etc. from libraries around the world that will lend you a book via interlibrary loan (ILL))

https://goo.gl/3zeksw

Use Subject Headings Searches to get the most relevant results

Human Rights

Asylum, Right Of

3. Google Books

Since you can search the full-text of books using the Google Books search, I recommend using this to find a book that looks on topic and then checking Discover Library or WorldCat to see if Vanderbilt Libraries has it or can procure it for you via interlibrary loan (ILL).

https://books.google.com/

Subscription Databases

1. Oxford Scholarly Authorities on International Law (OSAIL)
2. Index to Legal Periodicals and Books

In this database you will find mostly citations to books, so subject searches are better than keyword searches, because you cannot search the full-text of the book.

Curated Bibliographies

Vanderbilt Law Library Select Bibliography of Introductory Human Rights Law Books

http://researchguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/HumanRights/Introduction

Oxford Bibliography of Human Rights Law by Rory O’Connell

http://goo.gl/el7EGs

The Peace Palace Library has a Select Bibliography of some of the most well respected Human Rights Law Books
http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/research-guides/individuals-and-groups/human-rights/#bibliography

If you wish to use a book from the Peace Palace or the Oxford bibliography, you should check to see if it is available in Discover Library, then email the Foreign and International Law librarian to see if it can be purchased for the library, only after a “no” response should you try to ILL a book found in a Peace Palace Bibliography.

II. Find Encyclopedia and Dictionary entries (online)

Subscription Databases


http://goo.gl/DSDyta

2. Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law

http://goo.gl/iZF99F

You can search within the Human Rights Subject to get the most relevant results
http://goo.gl/2d3gmq
3. Oxford Encyclopaedic Dictionary of International Law

http://goo.gl/UfFrXk

Official & Unofficial Primary Sources & Court Documents

I. European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

ECHR Official Website
http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=home

Find ECHR Cases & Court Filings Online

Free Sources

1. ECHR Official Website

Reports of Judgments and Decisions
http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=caselaw&c=

“an official collection of the Court’s leading judgments, decisions and advisory opinions since 1998. The selection of the most important cases is made by the Bureau* following a proposal by the Jurisconsult**”

2. WorldLii

ECHR Decisions
http://www.bailii.org/eu/cases/ECHR/
Subscription Databases

1. Oxford Reports on International Law (ORIL)

*Jurisdiction: European Court of Human Rights [ECtHR]*

http://goo.gl/15uXz5

Search Functions

*Simple Search*

Search by Key Word

*Advanced Search*

Boolean Search in Full-Text

Search by:
- Subject
- State Party
- Originating Jurisdiction

Pre-Search Limit by Content Type

*Post Search Limits for both Searches*

- Subject
- Jurisdiction
- State Party
- Dates

2. WestlawNext

Start typing into the Search bar “International Legal Materials” and select from the dropdown menu:

*International Legal Materials*

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

3. Lexis Advance

Search Within Sources for:

*International Legal Materials*

Among other things, this database within Lexis Advance contains unofficial ECHR Court Documents.

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

As of October 23, 2014:

*Publisher:*

American Society of International Law (ASIL)
Coverage:
From 1962 (Vol 1) through current.

4. HeinOnline

International Legal Materials
http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/intlm&collection=journals
From on campus, you may just click through the link. Off campus, you will need to log in with your VUnet ID.

You can also search the Catalog for this Publication Title, or drill down. You will find it in the Law Journal Library.


Citations only are provided for the most recent 2 years. This means that for the most recent cases, you are probably better off looking on the ECHR website.

Other Legal Materials on the ECHR Website

Webcasts of Hearings
http://goo.gl/V8p7sG

Establishing & Procedural Documents
The European Convention
http://goo.gl/ykYoSg
Court Rules & Practice Directions
http://goo.gl/9RSwwm
Judicial Ethics Resolution
http://goo.gl/aKXFiq

Additional Documents on ECHR Website
Press Releases
http://goo.gl/3q2Tnv

Learn More about the ECHR
History: General presentation
Video & pdfs about the ECHR
http://goo.gl/EU35Kh
ECHR Guide to Case Law
http://goo.gl/4rpUCR
Annual Reports
http://goo.gl/h4Yvi5
II. Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR)

IACHR Official Website
http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index.php/en

Find IACHR Judgments, Decisions & Advisory Opinions

Free Sources

1. IACHR Official Website

Judgments, Decisions & Advisory Opinions
http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index.php/en/jurisprudencia

2. WorldLii

IACHR Decisions
http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/IACHR/

Subscription Databases

1. Oxford Reports on International Law (ORIL)

Jurisdiction: Inter-American Court of Human Rights [IACtHR]
http://goo.gl/t5K2wE
Close to full coverage of Inter-American Court of Human Rights cases.

Search Functions

Simple Search
Search by Key Word
Advanced Search

Boolean Search in Full-Text

Search by:

- Subject
- State Party
- Originating Jurisdiction

Pre-Search Limit by Content Type
Post Search Limits for both Searches

- Subject
- Jurisdiction
- State Party
- Dates

2. WestlawNext

Start typing into the Search bar “International Legal Materials” and select from the dropdown menu:
International Human Rights Law Research

*International Legal Materials*

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

3. Lexis Advance

Search Within Sources for: *International Legal Materials*

Among other things, this database within Lexis Advance contains unofficial IACHR Court Documents.

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

As of October 23, 2014:

**Publisher:**
American Society of International Law (ASIL)

**Coverage:**
From 1962 (Vol 1) through current.

4. HeinOnline

*International Legal Materials*

http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/intlm&collection=journals

From on campus, you may just click through the link. Off campus, you will need to log in with your VUnet ID.

You can also search the Catalog for this Publication Title, or drill down. You will find it in the Law Journal Library.


Citations only are provided for the most recent 2 years. This means that for the most recent cases, you are probably better off looking on the IACHR website.

Other Legal Materials on the IACHR Website

Many of the materials on the website are in Spanish only. English language materials include:

*Establishing & Procedural Documents*

**Statute of the I/A Court**

**Court Rules**
Additional Documents on IACHR Website

Learn More about the IACHR

History

Court’s Annual Reports & Jurisprudence Bulletins

III. African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACtHPR)

ACtHPR Official Website
http://www.african-court.org/en/

Find Applications, Case Summaries, Decisions, Orders & Advisory Opinions

Free Sources

3. ACtHPR Official Website

Finalized Cases: Applications, Case Summaries, Decisions and Orders

Pending Cases
http://www.african-court.org/en/index.php/2012-03-04-06-06-00/pending-cases

Referred Cases
http://www.african-court.org/en/index.php/2012-03-04-06-06-00/referred-cases

Advisory Opinions

Subscription Databases

5. Oxford Reports on International Law (ORIL)

Jurisdiction: African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights [ACtHPR]
http://goo.gl/ojFild

Note:
As of 12/9/15 there are only 2 cases, but if one is your case of interest, you can use the Oxford Citator (like Shepards or KeyCite) to find other related legal materials.
6. WestlawNext

http://www.lawschool.westlaw.com

Start typing into the Search bar “International Legal Materials” and select from the dropdown menu:

*International Legal Materials*

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included - contains unofficial ACTHPR Court Documents.

7. Lexis Advance

http://www.lexisadvance.com/

Search Within Sources for:

*International Legal Materials*

Among other things, this database within Lexis Advance contains unofficial ACTHPR Court Documents.

Look in the Scope Note to find out what documents are included.

As of October 23, 2014:

*Publisher:*

American Society of International Law (ASIL)

*Coverage:*

From 1962 (Vol 1) through current.

8. HeinOnline

*International Legal Materials*

http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/intlm&collection=journals

From on campus, you may just click through the link. Off campus, you will need to log in with your VUnet ID.

You can also search the Catalog for this Publication Title, or drill down. You will find it in the Law Journal Library.


Citations only are provided for the most recent 2 years. This means that for the most recent cases, you are probably better off looking on the ACTHPR website.
Other Legal Materials on the ACtHPR Website

Establishing & Procedural Documents

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
http://goo.gl/a5dtav
Court Rules
http://goo.gl/pQJH3T
Basic Documents
Sources of Law

Additional Documents on ACtHPR Website

Learn More about the ACtHPR
Establishment of the Court
Court's Activity Reports
Speeches
Press Releases
Addressing the needs of individual students and planting the seeds for further learning.

“[most students] who arrive at law school [are] overly confident in their research abilities…… This means that they don’t seek out legal research instruction, and many law school students graduate without obtaining the required competency in the performance of legal research”


Helping you achieve your goals for your seminar paper

Do you want to:
1) Research more efficiently and effectively
2) Write better papers
3) Give better peer feedback
4) Have a competitive edge in the workplace
5) Be able to realistically evaluate your level of legal research competency?
6) Know who, when, and how to ask for help researching your seminar paper?

Do you know how to:
1) Develop a Research plan?
2) Select a Topic Genre?
3) Pick the best topic for you?
4) Search across multiple Blawgs for emerging ideas in your subject Area?
5) Conduct a pre-emption check?
6) Search LegalTrac or IFLP?
7) Submit an ILL

Docket & News Watch

Using Bloomberg Law, you can set up Docket & Legal News Alerts using your own key words and limiting it to courts or topics of interest to you.

To register, follow this activation link for Bloomberg https://www.bloomberglaw.com/activate use your Vanderbilt email address.
Getting the most from the time you spend on research

Choose a Topic That Inspires You & Matters to Others

“Your interests should be your first place to find a topic. That’ll fuel your drive when your project becomes rocky or tiresome.”

GERALD LEOVITS

“In my experience, the ultimate and weightiest factor in the selection of the topic is the student’s interest—passion—for the subject. Without that passion, all else is futile.”

RUTHANN ROBSON

“You’ll be investing a lot of time in your article. You’ll also want readers to invest a bit of time in reading it. It helps if the article is useful—if at least some readers can come away from it with something that will be professionally valuable.”

EUGENE VOLOKH

References:

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INTERNATIONAL LAW RESEARCH – CONCEPT REVIEW

PART 1

True/False

_____ I plan to practice law in the U.S. so I don’t need to know about International Law

_____ Treaties are available on Westlaw and on LexisNexis

_____ Prior International court opinions are binding in that court in subsequent cases

_____ The European Court of Human Rights was created by the European Union

PART 2

Treaty Research Process

• The three major steps to treaty research are (1) finding ____________ in a source that is ______ _______. (2) Figuring out if it is in ______ and with what __ and _______. (3) ________ its provisions with the help of ____________ , ___________ and ___________.

• Although there is no citator\(^1\) for treaties, researchers can find cases that interpret a treaty and documents generated by the treaty drafting process by searching ______________ databases on Westlaw for ________________________.

\(^1\) Shepards or KeyCite are examples of citators
Advanced Legal Research
Spring 2014
In-Class Research – Wed, March 12, 2014
PART 3

TREATY RESEARCH CROSSWORD

ACROSS
3. Treaties between two governments are called ____.
6. Most comprehensive source for modern treaties.
7. The ____ date for a treaty is important for research purposes because lists and indexes use this to identify treaties.
8. Legislative history documents for treaties are known as the ___ Preparatoires

DOWN
2. Treaties are generally published in this order instead of by subject. That's why you need an Index to find treaties in print.
4. Even for online research, you will want to consult online Index and ____ Tables, such as the FLARE Index to Treaties as it will provide you with access to links to the full-text of the treaty online sources and basic information about the treaty.
True/False

__F___ I plan to practice law in the U.S. so I don’t need to know about International Law¹
__T___ Treaties are available on Westlaw and on LexisNexis²
__F___ Prior International court opinions are binding in that court in subsequent cases³
__F___ The European Court of Human Rights was created by the European Union⁴

Treaty Research Process

- The three major steps to treaty research are (1) finding its text in a source that is authoritative. (2) Figuring out if it is in force and with what parties and reservations. (3) interpreting its provisions with the help of commentaries, judicial decisions and legislative history.⁵
- Although there is no citator⁶ for treaties, researchers can find cases that interpret a treaty and documents generated by the treaty drafting process by searching secondary source/law review databases on Westlaw for the treaty’s name or citation.⁷

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¹ Cohen & Olson, 374.
² Id.
³ Id., 375.
⁴ Id. 394.
⁵ Id. 379.
⁶ Shepards or KeyCite are examples of citators
⁷ Id. 384.
Treaty Research Crossword

Across
3. Treaties between two governments are called **bilateral**.
6. Most comprehensive source for modern treaties.
7. The **signing** date for a treaty is important for research purposes because lists and indexes use this to identify treaties.
8. Legislative history documents for treaties are known as the **Travaux Préparatoires**

Down
1. Subscription database for searching the United Nations Treaty Series by citation. **HeinOnline**
2. Treaties are generally published in this order instead of by subject. That’s why you need an Index to find treaties in print. **Chronological**
4. Even for online research, you will want to consult online Index and **Status** Tables, such as the FLARE Index to Treaties as it will provide you with access to links to the full-text of the treaty online sources and basic information about the treaty.
TRUE/FALSE

1. 
   a) There is an English translation available online for all foreign legal information if you only know where to look. ________

FOREIGN LEGAL SYSTEMS

2. The two most common legal systems are common law and __________ law.
3. Civil law systems are characterized by comprehensive and systematic ¬______________.

CIVIL LAW SYSTEMS

4. The main reason case law research is difficult in civil law countries is that:
   A. Cases come from so many different courts.
   B. There are few systematic case reporters and digests.
   C. Judges do not issue written decisions.

LANGUAGE PROBLEMS IN FOREIGN LEGAL RESEARCH

5. The identified problem with bilingual Legal dictionaries is that they provide only a _____ translation of the term.
6. What problems are associated with translations of legal materials? (Check all that apply.)
   A. Translations are often outdated.
   B. Translations are often unofficial.
   C. Translations are often unavailable.

RESEARCH STRATEGY

4 STEPS TO FOREIGN LEGAL RESEARCH

First figure out

   1. What __________ are available to you?
   2. What kind of ______ _________ (2 words)?
   3. Where are __________ legal documents published?

Then find

   4. Documents (in _________ Translation)

TRUE or FALSE?

SECONDARY SOURCES

7. If you're researching a legal issue in an unfamiliar legal system, your best approach is probably through a secondary source.______
BEST STARTING POINT

8. Martindale Hubbell’s *International Law Digest* is the foreign legal research expert’s starting point for most questions. Y/N?

FIND A BOOK

9. Using the Discover Library or Acorn Catalogs, find a 2013 book published by Hein that would help you to do research on Mexican Law. Provide the Call Number. Hint: It begins with K...
FOREIGN LAW RESEARCH – CONCEPTS

TRUE/FALSE
1. **F** There is an English translation available online for all Foreign legal information if you only know where to look

FOREIGN LEGAL SYSTEMS
2. The two most common legal systems are common law and **civil** law
3. Civil law systems are characterized by comprehensive and systematic **codes**

CIVIL LAW SYSTEMS
4. The main reason case law research is difficult in civil law countries is that:
   A. Cases come from so many different courts.
   B. **There are few systematic case reporters and digests.**
   C. Judges do not issue written decisions.

LANGUAGE PROBLEMS IN FOREIGN LEGAL RESEARCH
5. The identified problem with bilingual Legal dictionaries is that they provide only a **superficial** translation of the term.
6. What problems are associated with translations of legal materials? (Check all that apply.)
   A. Translations are often outdated. ✓
   B. Translations are often unofficial. ✓
   C. Translations are often unavailable. ✓

RESEARCH STRATEGY

4 STEPS TO FOREIGN LEGAL RESEARCH
First figure out
1) What **resources** are available to you?
2) What kind of **legal system**?
3) Where are **authentic** legal documents published?

Then find
4) Documents (in **English** Translation)

TRUE OR FALSE?

SECONDARY SOURCES
7. If you're researching a legal issue in an unfamiliar legal system, your best approach is probably through a secondary source. __T__

C. Deane
BEST STARTING POINT

8. Martindale Hubbell’s *International Law Digest* is the foreign legal research expert's starting point for most questions. Best to start with the Foreign Law Guide

FIND A BOOK

9. Using the Discover Library or Acorn Catalogs, find a 2013 book published by Hein that would help you to do research on Mexican Law. Provide the Call Number. Hint: It begins with K...

- **Answer:** *The Mexican legal system : a comprehensive research guide*
- **By** Avalos, Francisco.
- **Available at the Vanderbilt Law Library; Call Number: KGF150 .A95 2013**
Choosing a Note Topic: Research Strategies & Sources

Theory

A. Select a Research Topic that Inspires You

Why? Why choose something that interests you and that you care about?

Reading: Read at least 1 of the following 2 articles to learn why you should select a topic that inspires you and to get law review research & writing tips:

1. Article written by someone who believes in the value of your opinion

   “In my experience, the ultimate and weightiest factor in the selection of the topic is the student's interest—passion—for the subject. Without that passion, all else is futile.”

   Ruthann Robson, Law Students As Legal Scholars: An Essay/review of Scholarly Writing for Law Students and Academic Legal Writing (Fn2), 7 N.Y. City L. Rev. 195, 198 (2004)

   Author’s CV: Ruthann Robson is Professor of Law & University Distinguished Professor

2. Brief Bar Journal article with bullet points suggesting how to find and refine your topic

   “Your interests should be your first place to find a topic. That'll fuel your drive when your project becomes rocky or tiresome.”

   Gerald Lebovits, Academic Legal Writing: How to Write and Publish, N.Y. St. B.J., January 2006, at 64

   Author’s Works: Gerald Lebovits, Judge, New York City Civil Court (2012-Present)

B. Select a Research Topic that Matters

Why? Why choose something that matters to your audience?

Reading: In Article 3, read Section D: Utility, to learn why you should select a topic that matters.

3. Article written by someone who is pragmatic about using your law review note to jump-start your career.

   “You'll be investing a lot of time in your article. You'll also want readers to invest a bit of time in reading it. It helps if the article is useful—if at least some readers can come away from it with something that will be professionally valuable.”

Choosing a Note Topic: Research Strategies & Sources

Author’s Works: Eugene Volokh, Gary T. Schwartz Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law

C. Select a Topic Genre that Suits You
To select a Topic Genre, you need to know what they are. The following list is not comprehensive; it is merely illustrative of types of topics you might consider.

1. Law Reform
   a. Implementing International Law
   b. Emulating Foreign Law because of Positive Empirical Results
   c. Incorporating Foreign Law into U.S. Law

2. Analysis of Law
   a. Fill Holes in Transnational Governance Regimes
   b. Case Law in Conflict, or in Transition
   c. Ambiguous Case Law or Legislation
   d. Analysis of New Law

3. Interdisciplinary
   a. Economics
   b. Social Science
   c. Political Science
   d. Philosophy
   e. Psychiatry
   f. Statistics

4. Meta
   a. Legal Education
   b. Legal Profession
   c. Legal Language

5. New Legal Theory

6. Legal History

7. Continuing Debate

I developed this list after reading Richard Delgado, How to Write a Law Review Note, 20 U.S.F. L. Rev. 445 (1986) and from Elizabeth Fajans & Mary R. Falk, Scholarly Writing For Law Students (2011). I highly recommend these two sources if you would like more guidance on or explanation about topic genres.
Choosing a Note Topic: Research Strategies & Sources

Strategy

A. Recommended Research Process
Let’s start by matching you with a type of Note that you would be particularly good at and that you would enjoy writing.

What Makes You Special
Do this quick exercise to help you identify some article genres that might be a good fit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Things You Are Good At</th>
<th>Things You Like to Do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If you have these skills</td>
<td>• Reading in another language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Foreign Language Skills and</td>
<td>• Researching law in Foreign Legal Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Familiar with a Foreign Legal System</td>
<td>&amp; Enjoy Using them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You might want to write a:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Comparative Law Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depending on what your Undergraduate Degree is in, if you</td>
<td>If you like using these skills to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may be good at researching in that area, using that field</td>
<td>● Correct Injustice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as a lens for analyzing the law, and/or researching legal</td>
<td>● Find better solutions to legal problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>topics related to that field</td>
<td>● Suggest better legal theories to apply to legal problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Or, if you like using statistics or ethnographic data to support an argument for law reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Social Science or Economics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Philosophy &amp; Humanities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Statistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You might want to write an:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Interdisciplinary Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using Empirical Qualitative or Quantitative Data to suggest a:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Policy Based Law Reform</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or proposing a:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>New Legal Theory</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from an exercise from Leslie Ayres, Be Real: Your Ultimate Career Guidance System (2012).

Your Values
Next, examine your values, to find out what is important enough to you that researching and writing about it will be interesting to you for an extended period of time.

List 3-5 of your heroes and for each, give three meaningful responses to why they are your heroes.

Eg.
Choosing a Note Topic: Research Strategies & Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hero 1: Hilary Clinton</th>
<th>Hero 2: Echo (Dollhouse)</th>
<th>Hero 3: Aquaman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reasons:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reasons:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Came from Working Class Background</td>
<td>• Self-Aware</td>
<td>• Orphan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hard Working, Intelligent &amp; Educated</td>
<td>• Many Skills &amp; Talents</td>
<td>• Cares about sea creatures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Succeeds in a Profession Dominated by Men</td>
<td>• Passionate about Animal Abuse</td>
<td>• UN Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cares about Children</td>
<td>• Brave enough to act on her beliefs</td>
<td>• Workaholic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once you have listed a few heroes, you will probably start to see a pattern with regard to why you admire them. It may be that you are passionate about Human Rights and particularly by Women’s rights to education, to equality or to self-determination. Maybe you care about the Animal Rights or Environment and particularly about the fish in the ocean.

Now that you know who you are and what you care about, and you have an idea of the type of article that you want to write, you can start matching up your interests with General Topic Areas.

Research Plan for Finding a Topic
Generate a step-by-step plan that contain at the following elements:

1. Types of information sought when doing research on a specific issue.
2. Relevant databases and catalogs
3. Search queries that you would try in specific databases or catalogs
4. Anticipated research problems and potential solutions to those problems

More detailed plan:
1. Types of information sought when doing research on a specific issue. For example:
   a. Secondary Sources
      i. Legal Newspaper Articles
      ii. Recent blog posts by legal experts (Law Blogs/Blawgs)
      iii. Legal Encyclopedia entries (for an overview of specific legal concepts)
      iv. Treatises (Books on your legal subject area)
      v. Practice Guides ("How to..." books on your subject area)
      vi. Bar Journals ("How to..." articles)
      vii. Law Journals (scholarly articles)

During this process, you will encounter new and unfamiliar words and phrases.
Look up terms in the: Oxford Encyclopaedic Dictionary of International Law
Choosing a Note Topic: Research Strategies & Sources

b. Primary Sources
   i. Cases
   ii. Statutes
   iii. Regulations
   iv. Treaties

2. Relevant databases and catalogs
   a. Secondary Sources
      i. Legal Newspaper Articles
         1. WestlawNext
         2. LexisAdvance
         3. Bloomberg Law
            a. Eg. Patent, Trademark & Copyright Law Daily™
               i. (Find it under BNA Law Reports)
      ii. Recent blog posts by legal experts (Law Blogs/Blawgs)
         1. Justia Blawgs
         2. ABA Blogs
      iii. Legal Encyclopedia entries (for an overview of specific legal concepts)
         1. WestlawNext
         2. LexisAdvance
         3. Bloomberg Law
      iv. Treatises (Books on your legal subject area)
         1. WestlawNext
         2. LexisAdvance
         3. Discover Library
         4. Acorn
         5. WorldCat
      v. Practice Guides (“How to...” books on your subject area)
         1. WestlawNext
         2. LexisAdvance
         3. Bloomberg Law
         4. Discover Library
Choosing a Note Topic: Research Strategies & Sources

5. Acorn
6. WorldCat
   vi. Bar Journals ("How to..." articles)
      1. WestlawNext
      2. LexisAdvance
   vii. Law Journals (scholarly articles)
      1. WestlawNext
      2. LexisAdvance
      3. LegalTrac
      4. HeinOnline

b. Primary Sources
   i. Cases, Statutes or Regulations
      1. WestlawNext
      2. LexisAdvance
   ii. Dockets & Documents Filed in the Case
      1. Bloomberg Law
   iii. Treaties
      1. HeinOnline

3. Search queries that you would try in specific databases or catalogs
4. Anticipated research problems and potential solutions to those problems
   a. Problem: Not many books on this topic in Discover Library & Acorn
   b. Solution: Look for books at other libraries using the WorldCat database, then make an
      request to borrow this book from another Library through InterLibrary Loan. (Do it early
      on because books can take 2 weeks or more to arrive).

Things to do to Find a Topic

Examine Topic Areas

Start by looking at the big picture
1. Scan the Library of Congress Subject Headings to see the wide variety of Legal Topics and
   Jurisdictions. You can use Foreign and U.S. Legal Topics for a Comparative Paper, or stick to the
   KZ section if you are specifically interested in International Law subjects.
2. Use the Subject Headings that interest you to look for Books. If you still are unsure about a
   particular sub-topic area, look for general books on the subject that interests you. Be sure to use
Choosing a Note Topic: Research Strategies & Sources

a. Discover Library
b. Acorn
c. WorldCat

3. Scan the Contents, Detailed Summary of Contents or Outline to get an idea of how legal scholars subdivide relevant issues. Look at the Index for key words and related terms.

1. Familiarize yourself with Subtopics in U.S. & International Law using
   a. Legal Encyclopedia
      i. Corpus Juris Secundum - CJS [Westlaw]
      ii. American Jurisprudence 2d [Westlaw]
      iii. Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law. Click onto Subject and then select an area to see Encyclopedia entries related to that area of international law.

4. Scan Research Guides on Music Law, Intellectual Property or Copyright Law Topics for another view of the big picture and to start familiarizing yourself with some of the major treatises on this legal subject. Three great starting points are:
   a. Google key words related to your topic and the words “Research Guide”
      i. Examine a few research guides that you find that are created by librarians.
      ii. Look for references to significant books, articles, and other resources on the subject at hand.
   b. International Law Research Guides
      i. ASIL e-RG (American Society of International Law Electronic Resource Guide)
      ii. Globalex
      iii. Peace Palace Library Research Guides
         1. Browse All Subjects

Highly recommended!

2. Current Legal Topics from Around the World

News

WestlawNext
WestlawNext carries legal news on a variety of Topics.

1. From the main WestlawNext Search Page
2. Under Browse, select the Topics tab
3. Then choose the Topic of interest. Eg. Intellectual Property
4. To the right of the page, in the Tools & Resources box, select News

Bloomberg Law
If you have never used Bloomberg Law, this is the time to try it out.
Choosing a Note Topic: Research Strategies & Sources

Bloomberg law carries legal news on a variety of legal topics, including Intellectual Property Law Topics.

Blawgs

*The ABA maintains a list of Legal Blogs (Blawgs)*
http://www.abajournal.com/blawgs/by_topic/

These are useful for researching a Topic, because the information in recent blog posts is generally fresh, cutting-edge and may outline a kernel of an idea that an expert has and you can build on their idea. If you do this, be sure to cite the blog post.

*Justia also maintains a list of Blawgs*
http://blawgsearch.justia.com/

Justia also has a search engine that allows you to search for your key words across all blawgs or across all on a specific topic. Be sure to evaluate the credibility of the blawg and the author.

*Recent Topics in Top Law Journals*
Search WestlawNext or Lexis Advance for Student Notes written within the last

Spotting Timely and Important Problems and Legal Holes in Topic Areas of Interest to you

Once you have identified the Sub-genre of Law that interests you (or are debating which one to choose), you should start looking at what legal scholars in that field are currently discussing. To find the most relevant recent legal problems, you will want to do two things.

1. Scan breaking Legal News written by legal scholars who provide a brief analysis and describe the impact of the new legal doctrine. You can look for Legal News Sources:
   a. On a specific Topic
   b. On International Law Generally
   c. Published by a specific International Organization
      • Look at the Newsletters and Recent Reports on their Websites
      • You can also look at their Twitter feeds and FB pages
   d. Or Scan Global News for Stories that strike you as related to the Legal Issues of interest to you
2. Search online for Conferences and Calls for Papers on your chosen Subject Area

Getting a Feel for the Scope of a Note Topic

Find student written articles from the top Law Journals for the last three years.

1. Find the Top International Law Journals:
   • Washington and Lee Law Journal Rankings
2. Find subject specific journals relevant to the area of law of interest to you
3. Generate a list of Student written articles from these Journals. Here’s how:
Choosing a Note Topic: Research Strategies & Sources

**WestlawNext**

5. Search for the top ranked journals by name
6. Favorite each one
7. Go back to main WestlawNext Search Page
8. Under Browse, select the Topics tab
9. Then choose the Topic of interest. Eg. Intellectual Property
10. Select Secondary Sources on the right side of the page
11. Under Law Reviews and journals will be a list of any Law Reviews, carried by Westlaw, on your subject.
12. Select any of these journals that interests you, and favorite them.
13. Now, you can return to the WestlawNext main search page
14. You will notice your list of favorite journals on the right side of the page
15. Select each favorited journal and perform this search within it.
   a. `adv: DA(LAST 3 YEARS) & PR(Note OR Comment) & (“J.D. Candidate” or “J.D. candidates” or “J.D. expected”)`
16. Scan the resultant list of titles to get a sense of the area of law that these topics fall under.
17. Cut and Paste the Titles to group the articles by Area of Law.
   • Questions
     i. What topics areas are trending?
     ii. What unique topic areas made it into the Journal?

**Abstract Analysis**

From the Previous List, Select 5-10 titles that interest you. Look up these titles in HeinOnline.

For each abstract, answer the following questions:

1. What is the problem?
2. Why is it Timely?
3. Why does it matter?
4. To whom does it matter?
5. What about this note makes it a legal problem related to the subject area of interest to you?
6. What is the scope of the Topic?
7. What topic genre is this?

**Researching Your Topic**

By this time, you should have a good idea of:

1. What Note Genre You may want to use
2. What general Topic Area Appeals to you
   a. And 1 or more subtopics that are relevant
3. Recent Newsworthy incidents that highlight why your subtopic matters
4. Which countries, transnational organizations, and/or courts are implicated

Now you need to:
Choosing a Note Topic: Research Strategies & Sources

1. Spend some time coming up with key words related to your topic.
2. Search for a few good articles on your topic in newspapers, magazines, blogs and newsletters.
3. Search for Journal articles on topics similar to or related to your topic idea.
   a. Sources of Journal Articles include:
      i. HeinOnline Index to Foreign Legal periodicals
      ii. Country Specific Law Journals on vLex
      v. WestlawNext International Law Reviews & Journals – Not as comprehensive as WORLD-JLR
      vi. Hein Online Index to Legal Periodicals and Books
      vii. Peace Palace Library Catalogue
      viii. Discover Library Catalog

Research to Prepare to Consult Your Professor
You will want to talk to your professor about the viability of your topic.

Be sure that you can speak intelligently about your topic idea before meeting with your professor!

After you have spent time working through all of the questions on the previous pages, and you have done extensive research on your topic idea, do the following activity with a friend to prepare for your conversation with your mentor.

What Topic did you Choose & How did you choose your Topic?
1. Briefly describe your Topic in words a reasonably intelligent 12-year-old could understand?
2. Value of Topic:
   a. What group of people will benefit from your research?
3. Audience:
   a. Who will read it?
   b. What do they value?
   c. What do you want them to do (or stop doing) after reading it?
   d. What kinds of information will persuade them?
4. Scope: Scope: Goldilocks Syndrome...not too big, not too small, just right
   a. Your topic should be “[b]ig enough to be important and interesting but small enough to be manageable” (Volokh 2010, 19)
   b. How does the scope of your topic compare to the recent Law Student Note Topics in Vanderbilt Transnational Law Journal?
5. Topic Genre:
   a. Use the List of Topic Genres on page 2 to identify which genre or genres you will use to write your topic.
Choosing a Note Topic: Research Strategies & Sources

6. Storytelling
   a. Consider beginning your article by story-telling, what story would you tell?

Academic Legal Writing Texts

Further Reading

There are a variety of Texts and Law Journal Articles that describe the process for selecting your topic and writing your Note. Be sure to find one that you like and use it to guide you through the process.