Methodology of using library resources for legal research

Cappella, Wednesday 3 October 2012

Starting points on the Library home page:

- **Law Research Guide**
- **Library catalogue** for finding books and journals on specific topics: keyword search, subject search and search by shelf mark
- **New Acquisitions** : monthly lists of newly arrived books, journals, e-resources

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**PRIMARY SOURCES**

1. **International law**
   - **Treaties**
     - Martens’ **Nouveau Recueil Général des Traites** (3 series), CAS Da28, covering period 1847-1944. Shelved at the beginning of the Law Reports (Upper top floor)
     - **International Legal Materials**: full texts of important treaties and agreements, judicial and arbitral decisions, national legislation, international organizations resolutions and other documents. Shelved in CUR, SER 34, also accessible in Westlaw International and LexisNexis Academic.
     - **UN Treaty Collection** (free website)
   - **Cases**
     - **List of Law Reports** shelved on the top floor, shelf mark CAS.
     - **Westlaw International** (international/worldwide materials/multi-national materials)
     - **Annotated Leading Cases of International Criminal Tribunals**
     - **Oxford Reports on International Law**: decisions on public international law from international law courts, domestic courts, and ad hoc tribunals
     - Court websites on the internet
   - **Dispute settlement**
2. European law

European Union Information Research Guide is the starting point

How to find specific EU laws or monitor legislative procedures

Here you find indications how to find case law and legislation both on paper in the library and on the web.

3. Comparative and national law

- National legal databases
  - De Jure: Italian legislation and case law
  - Juris: German legislation and case law
  - Lex Polonica: Polish legislation and case law
  - LexisNexis Academic: Anglo-American legislation and case law
  - LexisNexis JurisClasseur: French legislation and case law
  - vLex: case law and legislation from many countries (Spanish oriented)
  - Westlaw International: Anglo-American legislation and case law
  - Westlaw Spain: Spanish legislation and case law

- Law reports in the Library, shelf mark CAS, upper top floor
- World Constitutions Illustrated: constitution of every country in the world in the original language and with at least one English translation

SECONDARY SOURCES

1. International law

- Encyclopedias/treatises
  - Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law Online (MPEPIL)
• Hague Academy Collected Courses online: individual chapters are indexed in the catalogue. Also paper version in the library (SER 34 RECUEI)

• Articles and books
  o Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals: index to legal journals covering areas outside the Anglo-American world. Direct link to journals in Hein online.
  o IBSS: index of social science journals and books, compiled at the LSE
  o Peace Palace library: includes a weekly e-mail alerting service on recent acquisitions in the various areas of international law
  o Max Planck Library Heidelberg including Public International Law, an important bibliography, available also in the library (CUR 34)

2. European Law

• Articles and books
  o ECLAS: books and articles on European affairs
  o ECI Library: indexes all articles on EU law from around 1000 journals
  o ERPA: European Research Papers Archive
  o Legal Journals Index in Westlaw International: covering topics pertaining to EU law. More than 430 United Kingdom and English language journals are covered.
  o Case notes in EUR-Lex ("doctrine" under "bibliographic notice" of individual case)

• Full-text journals
  o Kluwer law online
  o Jurisquare
  o Beck online (Europarecht plus, individual titles)
  o Westlaw International/ UK Journals and Law Reviews: many EU-oriented journals

3. Comparative and national law

• Articles and books
  o Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals
  o IBSS
  o Catalogue of the Max Planck Institute in Heidelberg
  o Books on comparative law are classified under LAW Fa9 (see separate sheet for shelf marks of books on comparative law)

4. Legal theory

• Articles and books
REFERENCE WORKS AND RESEARCH GUIDES

1. International law
   - **EISIL**: search tool for relevant primary documents and the most important websites and research guides on international law (project of the ASIL).
   - **UN documents** – see webpage under “Special Collections”.
   - **ASIL guides**: electronic resource guides on various areas of international law

2. European law
   - **Reference collection** on the EU – part of EU research guide

3. Comparative and national law
   - **Research guides** on national jurisdictions compiled at the NYU Law School Library
   - **Foreign Law Guide**: important reference tool for finding national legal sources