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IALS Summer Newsletter 2017

Law PORT: a new suite of online skills training tutorials

We are thrilled to announce the launch of Law PORT, a brand new collection of online tutorials created to help you hone your public international law research skills and to brush up on your knowledge of OSCOLA. The tutorials in Law PORT are free-to-use, interactive (with optional quizzes to test your learning) and designed so that you can dip in and out as you need to. The following topics are covered:

- Citing references using OSCOLA
- Customary international law
- Treaties and international conventions

For more information about these new resources see the Spotlight feature on page 5. To access them go to <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/lawport>.



Summer building works

Between July and September 2017 the basement heating plant and the pipes running up beside the library lift will be replaced. This necessary upgrade will give IALS local control over the building heating levels. We apologise for any noise and disruption during this essential work. We will remain open throughout and do everything we can to limit noise and disruption. More information will be posted when the detailed programme of works is available.

IALS Library Reader Satisfaction Survey 2017: Summary results and response

In order to find out how satisfied readers are with the IALS Library's collections and information services and to help us continue to improve the Library, a survey of library users was carried out between Tuesday 7th March and Tuesday 14th March 2017.

Highlights in brief

- Almost every 2017 satisfaction rating has increased on 2016.
- The top rating was again for helpfulness of library staff at 97%.
- The overall satisfaction rate increased yet again to 96%.
- This year we had 8 satisfaction ratings above 90% (there were 4 in 2016) which were for our electronic training sessions; range of journals; range of electronic journals and databases; quality of computing facilities; control of noise; and availability of photocopiers; as well as for the helpfulness of library staff and overall satisfaction.
- Satisfaction ratings above 80% were received for our range of books, study facilities, closing times and ease of use of the library catalogue.
- All the ratings from postgraduate research degree students increased this year.

Some positive comments made a number of times:

- *“The range of books is phenomenal.”* (x14)
- *“The most positive aspect of IALS is its amazingly helpful library staff.”* (x13)
- *“Overall, a great library.”* (x9)
- *“I always find what I am looking for at IALS.”* (x8)

Library actions: you said, we did

The many comments about wanting a refurbished library (e.g. the need for improved temperature control, more seating in the reading rooms, better chairs and desks with integrated power and data points, wider WiFi provision, new bookable group study rooms, and more lockable study rooms) have already been anticipated by the library management team in its current IALS Refurbishment Business Plan. This detailed plan is currently being discussed by the University of London’s Planning and Resources Group and the Library is lobbying hard for its approval by the University. Your recent comments will help strengthen our case for significant investment in the library environment.

The individual suggestions about improving areas of our research collections have been passed to Liz Murray, Information Resources Manager, who will act on them.

We have also included a more prominent link to our book suggestion form on the library catalogue pages to make it easier for users to make suggestions in the future.

A project already in progress will help us to address the slightly lower rating for ease of use of the library catalogue. We are working to introduce a new discovery platform later this year which will improve access to our many electronic resources and enable article-searching from our e-resources subscriptions.

To help us improve patchy WiFi provision on some library floors, we are pleased to be able to say that there are interim plans by the University to increase the coverage of our current WiFi service as soon as possible by installing more wireless access points. In the longer term there are proposals in the IALS Refurbishment Business Case to install a completely new WiFi system across the Library.

It was gratifying to see the rating for control of noise has received a rating above 90% for the first time which shows that library staff’s efforts over the past year to monitor the noise levels in the reading rooms via regular checks and to take action to promote a quiet study environment were appreciated by library users.

As a result of the complaints about the noisy beeping from the regular testing of our emergency Fire Exit lighting, we have asked for this noise to be switched off. The Emergency lighting will continue to operate as needed without the noise.

The lowest satisfaction rating of 61.2% was for the cost of public photocopying/printing. However on investigation it was found that the IALS charge of 5p per A4 copied sheet was very comparable to the current charges at the University of London colleges which have the benefit of much larger economies of scale.

There were a few requests for us to allow eating and drinking within the Library. However as the nationally-funded legal research library which preserves and makes available often unique legal materials for use by its users, we believe our existing regulations which only allow water to be drunk inside the library are sufficient. This view is in line with the regulations of all other research libraries within the School of Advanced Study and with the Bodleian Law Library, Oxford and the Squire Law Library, Cambridge. We would encourage readers to use the large café space on the ground floor of IALS to eat and drink and to make use of the two self-service food and drink machines that are available to readers on floor L1.

A further investment in library opening hours last year helped us to achieve far fewer adverse comments about our closing times with appreciation of our Saturday and Sunday library opening hours.

We are glad to report no negative comments about the general cleanliness of the public toilets since extra cleaning sessions were provided.

To see the full results of the satisfaction survey please view

<http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/library-services/ials-library-reader-satisfaction-survey-0>.

Summer opening hours

From 12th June to mid-September the Library will revert to its summer vacation opening hours.

Monday - Friday: 09.00-20.00

Saturday: 10.00-17.30

Sunday: Closed

Information skills training this summer

Throughout June we are running training sessions designed to help you with your dissertation. On Wednesday 21st June at 10.15am you can join a hands-on session on researching public international law, where we will demonstrate how to find key sources of law in this sometimes confusing area. On Thursday 29th June at 3pm we will be showing you how to successfully find legal journal articles using a number of e-resources. For full details please visit <http://libguides.ials.sas.ac.uk/training/summer>.

How to use Microsoft Word to write your dissertation

During June and July of 2017, the IALS Information Services team will once again be running the very popular Formatting your Dissertation with Microsoft Word hands-on training sessions. These sessions are designed to make the formatting of dissertations and theses as easy and as stress-free as possible leaving students to concentrate on the content.

The sessions will take place in the training room on the 4th floor of IALS Library and run from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. There will also be two evening sessions which run from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. See <http://libguides.ials.sas.ac.uk/training/summer> for details and to book your place. This training is free of charge but as places are limited to 18 per session early booking is recommended.

One-to-one advice

If you need assistance with your research, don't forget that you can make an appointment with a librarian at IALS for one-to-one advice. We can help you with tasks such as searching the catalogue for relevant books, tracking down legislation and law reports, identifying the most appropriate databases for your chosen research topic, and helping you run effective searches that bring back relevant results. We can also answer your questions about OSCOLA. Simply email ials@sas.ac.uk or ask at the Issue & Enquiry Desk on the 4th Floor. We look forward to hearing from you.



How to get a PhD in Law

David Gee, Deputy Librarian

I am pleased to report that the 2016/17 "How to get a PhD in Law" programme of tailored legal research training days proved very popular again. This annual programme to assist MPhil and PhD students in law registered at universities across the UK has been offered by IALS for over five years now and continues to attract interest and very good feedback.

This year IALS offered the following specialist legal research training programmes using a mix of IALS and SAS academic and library staff and also staff from legal publishers as presenters.

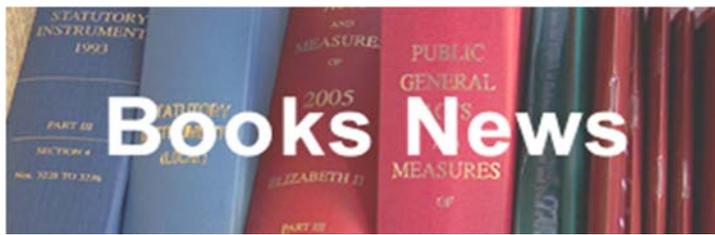
Day 1 on "What legal research skills will I need?" was on Saturday 3rd December 2016 and covered the following topics: literature reviews, comparative legal research and researching foreign and international law sources.

Day 2 on "Meeting the key challenges" was on Friday 17th March 2017. It covered sessions on the early challenges of getting a PhD in law; the PhD in law in the digital world; handling the supervision relationship; a discussion panel of research students who have nearly completed their PhD in law; IALS Library - making the most of our online legal resources; and free law e-resources available from IALS including the BAILII gateway.

Day 3 on "Legal writing, the Ethics Committee, Vivas and getting yourself known" was on Friday 5th May 2017. It covered topics such as legal writing; preparing for the Ethics Committee; preparing for the mini Viva and Viva; practical presenting skills for your work and yourself; what books are law publishers looking to publish?; getting your research published in journals; publishing in Open Access online law journals; and tips on keeping up-to-date with your research topic after completion.

As well as these tailored research training sessions, the programme also provided many opportunities for the attendees to discuss the issues and network which was much appreciated.

I am currently planning our 2017/18 IALS legal research training programme which will be advertised to UK law faculties on the IALS website at the beginning of the 2017 autumn term. We do take into account ideas for new research training areas made at the training days during the year and if you have any other suggestions, please do feel free to let me know. My email is david.gee@sas.ac.uk.



Here is just a small selection of some of our new books here at IALS Library. You can see the full list on our new books page: <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/ials-collections/new-additions-library>.

If you would like to suggest or recommend any books for our collection, please fill out our new book suggestion form:

<http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/ials-collections/recommend-book>.

Facing the Past: Amending Historical Injustices through Instruments of Transitional Justice, edited by Peter Malcontent (Intersentia, 2016)

How do societies at the national and international level try to overcome historical injustices? What remedies did they develop to do justice to victims of large scale atrocities? And even more important: what have we learned from the implementation of these so-called instruments of transitional justice in practice?

Lawyers, social scientists and historians have published shelves full of books and articles on how to confront the past through international criminal tribunals, truth commissions, financial compensation schemes and other instruments of retributive/punitive and restorative justice. A serious problem continues to be that broad interdisciplinary accounts that include both categories of measures are still hardly available. With this volume a group of international experts in the field endeavors to fill this gap, and even more. By alternating historical overviews with critical assessments this volume does not only offer an extensive introduction to the world of transitional justice, but also food for thought concerning the effectiveness of the remedies it offers to face the past successfully.

Introduction to Belgian Law, 2nd edited by Marc Kruithof & De Bondt (Wolters Kluwer, 2017)

Introduction to Belgian Law, now in its second completely revised and upgraded edition, is the ideal overview of Belgian law for foreign lawyers. This book identifies the basic legal sources, institutions and concepts of Belgian law. It offers an up-to-date, state of the art systematic and critical rendition of the principal branches of the law as practised, and it provides the necessary historical background and theoretical framing.

Boat Refugees and Migrants at Sea: a Comprehensive Approach: Integrating Maritime Security with Human Rights, edited by Violeta Moreno-Lax and Efthymios Papastavridis (Brill, 2017)

This book aims to address 'boat migration' with a holistic approach. The different chapters consider the multiple facets of the phenomenon and the complex challenges they pose, bringing together knowledge from several disciplines and regions of the world within a single collection. Together, they provide an integrated picture of transnational movements of people by sea with a view to making a decisive contribution to our understanding of current trends and future perspectives and their treatment from legal-doctrinal, legal-theoretical, and non-legal angles. The final goal is to unpack the tension that exists between security concerns and individual rights in this context and identify tools and strategies to adequately manage its various components, garnering an inter-regional / multi-disciplinary dialogue, including input from international law, law of the sea, maritime security, migration and refugee studies, and human rights, to address the position of 'migrants at sea' thoroughly.

On the Legitimacy of International Tax Law by Cees Peters (IBFD, 2014)

This study aims to demonstrate that there is a strong need to reconsider the structures for democratic international tax governance in the 21st century.

The purpose of this study is to not only assess the legitimacy of contemporary international tax law, but to also find ways to improve it. The book focuses on two constitutive elements of this legitimacy: the democratic underpinnings of the legal framework of international tax law and the contribution of social-scientific knowledge to the legitimacy of international tax law. Furthermore, it puts forward some recommendations to safeguard the legitimacy of international tax law for the long term.

The first part of the book comprises a study of the sociology of international tax law in the period following the Second World War, including an analysis of the role of international tax neutrality for the development of this field of law. Specific attention is paid to recent developments relating to the exchange of information and the taxation of multinational corporations. The second part constructs a theoretical framework to assess and improve the legitimacy of international tax law, which is mostly based on a thorough analysis of the work of Jürgen Habermas. His views on law and democracy – including the role of civil society and the media – provide a useful perspective to value the legitimacy of international tax law. The third part contains recommendations for the future.

IALS Library Road Shows

Each year the IALS Library goes on the road to law schools across the UK. The purpose of the road show series is to provide training on the many online research tools and digital resources that IALS makes available for free for the benefit of PhD students across the country. At each session we talk to postgraduate researchers, academics and law librarians and remind them of the world-class law collections available to them at IALS Library. We also provide demonstrations of e-resources such as Eagle-i, FLARE Index to Treaties, Foreign Law Guide, Current Legal Research Topics and the brand new Law PORT. Our 2017 programme includes the University of the West of England, the University of Essex and Lancaster University. If you would like to host a free IALS Library Road Show at your law school, please contact lisa.davies@sas.ac.uk.



Helen Gaterell, Document Supply Services Manager, arriving at UWE for the Road Show

New and updated research guides

This summer we are working to update the ever-popular research guides on our website. We have guides to the law resources of 27 jurisdictions and five areas of international law. Each one covers the key print and online resources that are available in the IALS Library, through a subscription database or freely available on the internet. The guides cover constitutions, legislation, codes, law reports, journals, commentary, websites, encyclopaedias, research guides and more. To access the guides please visit <http://libguides.ials.sas.ac.uk>.

Spotlight On... ...Law PORT

Law PORT is the name given to a new collection of online interactive training resources that aim to improve the legal information literacy skills of PhD researchers in a number of key areas. The project was funded by the School of Advanced Study and the resources are hosted on the School's platform for Postgraduate Online Research Training (PORT). The tutorials available in Law PORT are free-to-use, can be accessed anywhere, at any time and be undertaken at your own pace. So far three tutorials have been published and a summary each is provided below.

An introduction to citing references using OSCOLA

This tutorial offers an introduction to the rules for the citation of legal and other authorities according to OSCOLA (Oxford University Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities). It covers primary sources of law for the UK and EU, as well as secondary sources including books, journals and websites. The general principles are also covered, allowing students to apply these with confidence to sources not explicitly covered in the guide, along with information about various other sources of help and information.

2.1 Citing UK Legislation

Footnotes are not required when citing legislation if all the information is provided in the text, as in the following sentence:

Changes to bail conditions imposed by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 caused much debate.

No footnote required here.

If the text does not include the name of the Act or the relevant section, then you must provide a footnote with this information:

The British police are now in a much stronger position to impose mandatory drug testing.¹

¹ Criminal Justice Act 2003, s 19.

Footnote required.

Not sure whether to cite an authority? Example of a slide from OSCOLA course.

Researching customary international law

This tutorial gives an overview of the key sources, print and online, for researching customary international law. It covers finding evidence of state practice in the records of states' foreign relations and diplomatic practice, and in legislation concerning international obligations. It also looks at researching the practice of the UN Security Council, UN General Assembly and UN human rights committees. The learning outcomes are based on the International Association of Law Libraries' Guidelines for Public International Law Research Instruction.

British state practice exercises

Question 2

On 29 March 2007, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office issued a news release on cooperation with Argentina. Find the old versions of the FCO website (the whole site) in the [UK Government Web Archive](#) and look up the news release.

On which two subjects were discussions continuing between the United Kingdom and Argentina? Drag and drop the shapes to enter your answers below.



Test your knowledge: Do you know how to find examples of British state practice?

Treaties and international conventions

This tutorial covers the fundamentals of treaty research; finding treaties, checking status and party information, understanding treaty citations and tracing travaux préparatoires. It focuses on authoritative sources of treaties in print and online. The learning outcomes for this tutorial are also based on the International Association of Law Libraries' Guidelines for Public International Law Research Instruction.

We have received a lot of excellent feedback on the courses that have been published so far. Many thanks to everyone who helped us with the testing process. We would love to hear your feedback on Law PORT – please do get in touch at ials@sas.ac.uk.

Treaties and international conventions

"Fantastically accessible tutorial to treaties and international conventions. Whether you're a total beginner or just need to clear up a few minor confusions, the Law PORT tutorial is comprehensive and engaging." ~ Emily Allbon, Senior Lecturer and Director of Mooting, City, University of London

"Immensely useful for doctoral research." ~ Dr Maria Xiouri, LL.M (Cantab, Athens), PhD (QMUL)

OSCOLA

"It will be greatly appreciated by postgraduate researchers and taught-course students alike. I will certainly be an early adopter for the overseas users who email me asking for training." ~ Dr Elizabeth Wells, Foreign, Comparative, & International Law Librarian, Bodleian Law Library.

"This is a really good piece of work. It is way more comprehensive than anything else available and I can see it becoming used a huge amount by law students at all levels for many years to come." ~ Bob Burns, Subject Librarian for Law, SOAS

Customary international law

"A succinct but scholarly introduction to PIL materials." ~ Diamond Ashiagbor, Professor of Law and Director of Research, IALS

"A good general survey of the field of information available." ~ Ronan Cormacain, PhD student, IALS

Sources of treaty status information

The treaty depository

The depository is the official source for information on the status of a treaty. Select an option below for tips on finding status information.

If a state is the depository...

If the United Nations is the depository...

If another international organisation is the depository...

The MTDSG Database (*Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General*) on the [UN Treaty Collection](#) website gives detailed information about the status of treaties for which the UN Secretary-General is the official depository, including:

- *Status of Treaties*, which lists signatures and ratifications and gives the full text of reservations, declarations etc.
- *Depositary Notifications* (2001-), which are notices relating to the opening of treaties for signature, ratifications, withdrawals and so on.

Need to check the status of a treaty? Our treaties course gives tips and advice.

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