

A QUICK-REFERENCE COMPARISON OF LEXIS+® AND WESTLAW

Based on IALS Library's subscriptions

Background

Lexis+® is owned by RELX Group; Westlaw is owned by Thomson Reuters.

Coverage

UK legislation

Both Lexis and Westlaw have UK primary and secondary legislation, as amended.

UK cases

- Lexis has about 50 UK law reports, including *The Law Reports* and the *All England Law Reports*. Westlaw has about 50 UK law reports, including *The Law Reports* and *Commercial Law Cases*.
- Lexis has a feature called Case Overview, giving case status, parallel citations, summaries and links to commentary. Westlaw has a feature called Case Analysis, give the same types of information: case status, parallel citations and so on.
- Lexis has transcripts from 1980 onwards. Westlaw has transcripts from 1967 onwards.

UK books and encyclopedias

- Lexis has five books or encyclopedias, including *Bennion on Statutory Interpretation* and *Halsbury's Laws of England*. Westlaw has 349 books or encyclopedias, including *Chitty on Contracts* and *Palmer's Company Law*.

Journals (UK plus)

- Lexis has 120 full-text journals and Westlaw has 117 full-text journals. The main focus of both collections is on UK, European and international law.
- Lexis has abstracts from journals and newsletters from 1995 onwards; over 500 titles used to be abstracted by Lexis, but now 148 or fewer are. Westlaw has abstracts from journals and newsletters from 1986 onwards; over 800 titles used to be abstracted by Westlaw, but this has now been reduced to about 240.

European Union

- Lexis has EU cases, EU retained legislation and archives of pre-Brexit EU secondary legislation, but no post-Brexit EU legislation. Westlaw has EU cases, EU legislation, EU international agreements, COM docs, OJ C documents and other EU official publications.
- Lexis has the *All England Law Reports (European Cases)*, *European Procurement and Public Private Partnership Law Review* and other commercially-published titles. Westlaw has the *Common Market Law Reports*, *European Law Review* and other commercial titles.

United States

- Lexis and Westlaw both have vast collections of US federal and state cases and legislation.
- Lexis has over 850 US journals and over 280 books. Westlaw has over 1,000 US journals and over 2,400 books.

International law

- Lexis has ASIL's *International Legal Materials* from volume 1 onwards; Westlaw has it from volume 19 onwards.
- Lexis and Westlaw both have collections of treaties.
- Lexis has international cases, plus arbitral awards from the WTO/GATT and NAFTA. Westlaw has international cases, plus arbitral awards from the WTO/GAT, NAFTA, ISCSID, the ICC, et cetera.
- Lexis has about 110 international law journals (see Content tab and International tab). Westlaw has over 140 international law journals (see Westlaw UK's Journals tab and Westlaw International Materials' *International Law Reviews and Journals* collection).

Foreign law

- Lexis' International tab has substantial coverage of Australia and Canada. It also has several French journals; Hong Kong cases and *Halsbury's Laws of Hong Kong*; Irish cases and one Irish Journal; Malaysian legislation and cases, *Malayan Law Journal* and one book; New Zealand cases, *New Zealand Law Journal* and *Laws of New Zealand*; South African legislation and one South African law report.
- Lexis' Content tab has *Law Reports of the Commonwealth* and the *West Indian Reports*.
- Westlaw International Materials has substantial coverage of Canada. It also has Australian federal and state cases, a few Australian journals and one Australian book; Hong Kong cases and legislation, two Hong Kong journals and one HK book; Korean cases, legislation and journals (no longer updated); several books on Chinese law; a few journals from New Zealand, Ireland, Israel, Taiwan and Singapore; legislation from Barbados and the Cayman Islands; a few items from other jurisdictions.

Searching

Boolean connectors

- On both Lexis and Westlaw, use 'and' to combine search terms: for example, *arbitration and evidence*.
- On both Lexis and Westlaw, use 'or' for alternatives: for example, *Medical or clinical*.
- On Westlaw International, most searches with 'and' or 'or' connectors are expanded by the algorithm to add similar terms to those entered (more info from Thomson Reuters' [guide to Boolean](#)). To avoid this algorithm, use the Advanced Search facility on Westlaw International Materials
- On Lexis, use 'and not' to exclude: for example, *taxation and not income*. On Westlaw, use 'but not' to exclude: for example, *taxation but not income*.
- On Westlaw, if no connector is used, e.g. *oil gas*, Westlaw UK automatically inserts 'and', whereas Westlaw International Materials automatically inserts 'or' (except in Advanced Search).

Proximity connectors

- On both Lexis and Westlaw, enter '/n' to find two terms within so many words of each other: for example, *tax /5 gifts, oil /10 pollution*.
- On both Lexis and Westlaw, enter '/s' to find terms in the same sentence, or '/p' to find terms in the same paragraph. For example: *oil /s pollution*.

Truncation and phrases

- On both Lexis and Westlaw, enter the start of a word followed by an exclamation mark to find variations. For example, enter *acqui!* to find acquire, acquires, acquired, acquiring, etc.
- On both Lexis and Westlaw, use double quotation marks to specify an exact phrase: for example, "transboundary pollution".

Access

- Lexis is available on site to all academic members of IALS Library; remote access to Lexis is not available.
- Westlaw is available on site to all academic members of IALS Library. Westlaw is available remotely to IALS staff, IALS fellows and IALS students.