

A QUICK-REFERENCE COMPARISON OF LEXIS+® AND WESTLAW

Based on IALS Library's subscriptions

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 (a broadly different set to Lexis'), 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 351 books or encyclopedias, including *Chitty on Contracts* and *Palmer's Company Law*.

Journals (UK plus)

- Lexis has 120 full-text journals and Westlaw has 118 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 only a handful 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 215.

European Union

- Lexis has EU cases, EU retained ('assimilated') 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, other EU official publications and retained EU legislation.
- Lexis has the *All England Law Reports (European Cases)* 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 880 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 over 120 international law journals (see Content tab, International tab and US secondary materials – Law Reviews & Journals). 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 some material from France, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Malaysia and South Africa.
- Lexis' Content tab has Irish cases, one Irish journal, *Law Reports of the Commonwealth* and the *West Indian Reports*.
- Westlaw International Materials has substantial coverage of Canada. It also has some material from Australia, Barbados, China, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Korea, New Zealand, Taiwan and Singapore.

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. To avoid this, use the Advanced Search facility.
- 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; IALS & SAS staff and students have off-site access.
- Westlaw is available on site to all academic members of IALS Library. Westlaw is available remotely to IALS staff, IALS fellows and IALS students.