

Lexis+® UK Guide

August 2024

[Email the library](#)

[IALS Library website](#)

Lexis+® UK Introductory Guide

About the database

Lexis+ UK's Legal Research service covers the United Kingdom, the United States, other common law jurisdictions and a few other placed. It also includes EU law and international law material.

This guide is tailored to IALS Library's Lexis+ subscription; general Lexis information is available on the Lexis+® UK [Help page](#).

Accessing Lexis+

Onsite access: from the IALS [Law Databases](#) page, select Lexis+, then click 'Access onsite at IALS'. Only readers with *academic status* are entitled to use Lexis at IALS Library.

Remote (off-site) access is restricted to IALS and SAS staff/fellows/students. Readers based at other institutions usually have remote access to Lexis via their own college or university website.

Home page

The Lexis+ home page offers:

- Basic and advanced search facilities.
- *My Sources*: use 'Search Sources' to find a known UK source (e.g. *Tax Journal*); click 'View all Sources' to see a list of UK and Irish sources, material from the EU/other European bodies, and foreign/international titles published in the UK. Remove filters to browse other jurisdictions.
- *Content*: here you can browse UK, Irish, EU, European Patent Office (EPO) and European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) material, plus foreign/international law titles published in the UK.
- *International*: here you can access material from Australia, Canada, France, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa and the US, plus international law content.

United Kingdom content

- *Cases*: about 50 UK law reports (including *The Law Reports*, the *All England Law Reports* and the *Weekly Law Reports*); unreported cases 1980 onwards; *Case Overview*, giving status (applied, overruled, etc), cases cited/citing,

legislation cited, case summaries and links to commentary.

- Legislation: primary legislation, as amended, from the UK, Scottish and Welsh Parliaments; UK/Scottish/Welsh statutory instruments (SIs), as amended (Welsh SIs are with the UK ones); historical versions of acts and SIs back to 1998 (and earlier on request); retained EU legislation; status information for legislation.

Does not include: UK acts/SIs applying only to Scotland; Northern Ireland orders; acts of the Northern Ireland Assembly; local legislation (unless relating to London).

- Journals: about 120 full-text law journals and newsletters; most titles focus on UK, international and/or European law.
- Journals Index: abstracts of articles from law journals and newsletters, 1995 onwards (under Content – Books & Journals – Journals Summaries). Over 500 titles were once covered; by 2021 it was 148; test searches now indicate that far fewer are indexed.
- *Halsbury's Laws of England*: encyclopedia of the law of England and Wales.
- Books: *Bennion, Bailey and Norbury on Statutory Interpretation* and a few other books (plus various newsletters).
- Newspapers: national and local newspapers.
- News: updates about cases and legislation, summaries of journal articles.

Searching for UK cases

On the Lexis+ home page, set the search facility to cover 'Cases'.

Advanced search: select 'Cases' from Content tab and open Advanced Search; search by case name, date, court, case cited and/or other criteria.

Searching for UK legislation

On the Lexis+ home page, set the search facility 'Legislation'.

Advanced search: select 'Legislation' from Content tab and open Advanced Search; search by title, provision/part/schedule number and/or other criteria.

Searching journals

The journals on the Content tab are published in the UK, for the most part. The majority focus on UK, EU or international law, but they do include some articles on the law of individual foreign jurisdictions.

On the Content tab, select 'Books and Journals' then 'Journals'. Search all journals in the collection, or choose specific journals using 'Select sources to search'.

Use Advanced Search (on the Journals page) for title, author, date and/or citation searches.

To browse a particular journal by volume and issue, click on its title on the Journals page and drill down using the plus signs ('+').

European Union official publications

EU cases are under Content – Cases – Case Reports.

Retained EU Legislation is under Content – Legislation.

View All Sources (on the home page) gives access to Archived EU Directives, Archived EU Consolidated Versions, Archived EU Non-Binding Regulations and Retained EU Legislation.

No other EU official publications appear to be available on Lexis+. The 'EU Legislation' option under Content – Legislation does not contain EU legislation.

Foreign law material

The International tab provides material from Australia, Canada, France, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States.

Irish material, the *West Indian Reports* and *Law Reports of the Commonwealth* are on the Content tab, not the International tab.

Lexis also has the Lex Mundi guides, e.g. *Lex Mundi's Guide to Doing Business in Brazil*, via 'View All Sources' (remove default UK and Ireland filters first).

Overview of foreign content:

- Commonwealth as a whole: *Law Reports of the Commonwealth Reports* (Content tab – Cases – Case Reports).

Australia: national and state/territory cases; 15 journals (some under 'Australia', some under 'United States', some under both).
- Canada: Federal and provincial cases and legislation; about 25 journals
- Caribbean: *West Indian Reports* (Content – Cases – Case Reports).
- France: several French law journals, including *La Semaine Juridique*.
- Hong Kong: cases, *Halsbury's Laws of Hong Kong* (an encyclopedia).
- Ireland (on Content tab): cases, two journals
- Malaysia: legislation, cases, *Malayan Law Journal*, *Malaysian Court Practice*.
- New Zealand: cases, *New Zealand Law Journal*, *Laws of New Zealand* (an encyclopedia).

- South Africa: legislation; *Butterworths South African Constitutional Law Reports*.
- United States: see below

United States material

Lexis+ has vast collections of US material, including:

- federal and state legislation
- federal and state cases
- over 880 law journals (under 'US Secondary Materials')
- about 280 books, including the American Law Institute's *Restatement of the Law* series (under 'US Secondary Materials').

To search, go to the International tab and select 'United States of America'. Choose a collection if required, for example, 'All US Cases'.

To browse, go to My Sources – View All Sources and remove the UK and Ireland filters. Scroll down and click 'More' to see the US content.

Tips

To find a section of the *United States Code* (federal laws as amended), select 'All US Statutes & Legislation', then enter the citation, e.g. **17 USCS 203**.

To search within the *United States Code*: click 'My Sources' - 'View All Sources', then select *USCS - United States Code Service - Titles 1 through 54*.

Federal laws as passed are under *United States Statutes at Large* or *USCS - Public Laws* (see 'View All Sources').

To search cases for a particular US state: in 'View all Sources', select 'US Cases'; in 'Search within sources', enter the state abbreviation (e.g. **mi** for Michigan); click 'Add all These as Search Filters'.

International law material

The international law content is scattered across different parts of Lexis+:

- International tab: cases from the ICJ, WTO/GATT, International Trade Commission and US Court of International trade; a small set of treaties involving the US (*USCS - International Conventions*); about 90 journals of international law, mostly published in the US; other sources.
- My Sources - View All Sources – United States: *US Treaties on Lexis* (comprehensive set, 1776 - present), *US Treaties in Force* (list of treaties applying to the US), NAFTA Panel cases, *Restatement of the Law Fourth: The Foreign Relations Law of the United States*, and other sources.
- Content – Cases – Case Reports: European Court of Human Rights cases.

- Content – Books and Journals – Journals: 25 international law journals (many of which are only found here, not on the International tab).

Lexis search methods

Focus your search using connectors between terms, or Advanced Search:

and / & to find two or more words/phrases: **medical and negligence** finds documents in which both words appear (alternatively, use Advanced Search – *All of these terms*)

or for alternatives: **kidney or renal** finds documents with either/both of these words in them (alternatively, use Advanced Search – *Any of these terms*)

and not to exclude: **capital allowance and not property** (Advanced Search – *Excluding these terms*)

/n to specify proximity: **medical /5 negligence** (medical within 5 words of negligence)

/s to find terms in the same sentence: **treaty /s interpretation**

/p to find terms in the same paragraph: **treaty /p interpretation**

Connectors must be in lower case (see 'Help' – 'Search Connectors').

To find an exact phrase, use double quotation marks, for example **“unfair dismissal”** (alternatively, use Advanced search - *Exactly this phrase*).

Lexis automatically finds plurals and other word variations, for example:

- **dog bite** finds **dog bite, dog bites, dog biting, and dog bitten**
- **woman** finds **women and woman**

If you do not want variations, put your search term in double quotation marks, for example **“amend”** does not find **amending** or **amendment**.

To find variations of a word stem, add **!** (exclamation mark): for example, **acqui!** finds **acquire, acquires, acquired, acquisition** and other words starting 'acqui'.

For more information, see the Lexis+ Help pages, under 'Search Connectors' and 'How do I Search for Variations of Words?'.

Printing, emailing and downloading

Use the print, email and download icons located at the top of documents and lists of search results.

If you need help with Lexis®+ UK, please ask at the Enquiry Desk, [email us](#) or use the live chat on the [Library website](#).