

Westlaw Guide

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About Westlaw

Westlaw is an online service providing law publications from the UK, the EU, the US, Canada, Australia and other jurisdictions, as well as international law material.

IALS Library's Westlaw subscription is for academic use only. It covers Westlaw UK and Westlaw International Materials (Westlaw IM).

This guide covers the IALS subscription. For general Westlaw information, see the [Thomson Reuters website](#).

Accessing Westlaw at IALS Library

Only IALS Library members with *academic status* are licensed to use Westlaw at IALS.

- Connect your device to the IALS Lib wifi, or use one of the library PCs;
- On the IALS [Law Databases](#) page, select Westlaw UK or Westlaw International Materials;
- click 'Access onsite at IALS'; no login is required for on-site access.

Accessing Westlaw remotely

Remote access to our Westlaw account is restricted to IALS staff, IALS fellows and IALS students. Other members of the library should ask their own college or university about remote access to Westlaw.

To log in remotely, IALS staff/fellows/students should:

- go to the [Law Databases](#) page and select Westlaw UK or Westlaw International Materials;
- click 'Remote access';
- log in with Shibboleth ID and password (same login as StudyOnline & SAS email): **firstname.lastname** + [chosen password].

(Shibboleth is also used for Practical Law, but not for other IALS e-resources.)

Overview of Westlaw Content

Westlaw UK

Most of Westlaw UK covers UK law, but it also has EU material, cases from the European Court of Human Rights and European Patent Office, and journals focusing on European, African and international law. The content list below is not exhaustive: full details are given under 'Product support' on Westlaw UK.

Legislation

- UK public and general acts 1267 onwards, as amended (Westminster, Wales and Scotland);
- Northern Ireland legislation 1991 - , as amended;
- UK local acts 1991 - (and fairly large selection of earlier ones), some as amended;
- historical versions of UK legislation (acts 1991 - ; selected SIs 1948 -);
- secondary legislation as amended:
 - all UK statutory instruments (SIs) 1991 - ; large selection 1920-1990;
 - Scottish SIs 1999 – ;
 - Wales SIs 1999 - (use Search; browsing not available);
 - Northern Ireland statutory rules (SRs) 1996 - (and some earlier SRs, either as amended or in original form)
- retained EU legislation;
- bills and draft secondary legislation (UK, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland).

Cases

- About 50 UK law reports, including *The Law Reports (Appeal Cases, Chancery, King's / Queen's Bench, Family)* and *Weekly Law Reports*.
- UK transcripts 1967 onwards (plus a few earlier cases);
- several European series, including *Common Market Law Reports*, *European Human Rights Reports* and *European Patent Office Reports*;
- abstracts of cases from other law reports (UK and some other jurisdictions)

Journals

- About 120 full-text law journals or newsletters (UK, European, international and some foreign law);
- abstracts of articles from law journals/newsletters, 1986 onwards (dates vary), (UK, European, international and some foreign law); used to cover >800 titles, but only about 215 are currently abstracted.

Current Awareness

- Legal news from the UK, EU and international organisations, covering recent cases, new legislation, policy announcements and so on.

Books

- 351 books and encyclopedias, covering UK, EU and international law.

European Union material

- EU tab: EU cases and legislation (primary and secondary), international agreements, preparatory legislative documents, information and notices from the *Official Journal C* series;
- Journals tab: 10 full-text journals focusing on EU or European law, and abstracts from over 100 others.

Index of Legal Terms

- Definitions from legal dictionaries, cases and other sources.

Policy & Guidance (on Legislation menu)

- UK official publications: circulars, codes of practice, consultation documents, guidance, parliamentary papers, practice directions, reports, tax manuals;
- documents from European and international organisations.

Westlaw International Materials (IM)

IALS Library's Westlaw IM subscription covers the US, Canada, Australia and some other jurisdictions. The US content has its own page, under 'U.S. Materials':

Home International Materials [Copy link](#) [Other International Legal Products](#)
Search all International Materials above or navigate to specific content below.

Jurisdictions

- Australia
- Canada
- European Union
- Hong Kong
- Korea
- United Kingdom
- Other International Jurisdictions

Content Types

- Cases
- Administrative Materials
- Legislation
- Treatises
- Journals
- Current Awareness
- Court Documents
- Legal Memoranda
- Jury Verdicts
- Forms

PRACTICAL LAW
Practical Law Global ¹

RELATED LEGAL

- International Materials Index
- Academic Library
- Government Library
- European Practitioner Library
- World Journals
- UK Research
- EU Research
- Global Competition & Antitrust
- International Arbitration Materials
- U.S. Materials

RELATED NEWS
International News

Westlaw IM homepage, showing link to US content

Westlaw IM includes the following (not an exhaustive list):-

- US federal and state cases and legislation; over 1,000 US journals; over 2,400 US books, including the encyclopedia, *Corpus Juris Secundum*;
- Canadian cases and legislation, federal and provincial; about 60 law journals/newsletters; 64 books/encyclopedias, including the *Canadian Encyclopedic Digest*;

- Australian federal and state cases; three journals and one book;
- Hong Kong cases and legislation; two journals and one book;
- Other foreign content: Korean cases, legislation and journals (no longer updated); a few 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.
- International law:
 - treaties, including *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements*, *Tax Treaties (RIA)*, *International Environmental Law Documents*, *International Economic Law Documents*;
 - cases from the International Court of Justice, the Rwanda and Yugoslavia international criminal tribunals and the Iran-US Claims Tribunal (see International Materials - Administrative Materials);
 - arbitral awards, model laws, treaties and related material (under 'International Arbitration Materials');
 - international law journals: see *World Journals* and *International Law Reviews & Journals*.

Searching and browsing Westlaw UK

Researching UK cases

The Cases collection on Westlaw UK consists of law reports and transcripts (published and unpublished cases). For each case, Westlaw gives details of cases cited/citing and legislation cited, links to commentary and other information.

Searching

Cases Search allows you to find a specific case, or any cases on your topic, e.g:

- Parties: **Pepper v Hart**
- Citation: **1993 AC 593**
- Subject/keyword: **costs** (finds cases substantially about costs)
- Free Text: **"benefits of directors"** (finds mentioning this phrase)

To search by date, legislation cited, court and other criteria, click on 'More options'.

Cases Search also has a Pending Actions tab and a Permissions to Appeal tab, for searching forthcoming cases and appeal applications; only brief details of this content are available under the IALS subscription.

The Quantum Reports option on the Cases menu offers a search facility for personal injury lawyers; full access to this is not covered by IALS Library's subscription.

The Dockets collection on the Cases menu has details of ongoing cases.

Browsing

Select Law Reports from the Cases menu to see a list of the available reports and transcripts. Select a title - for example, *British Company Cases* - to browse it by volume or year, or search by case name.

The Courts option on the Cases menu displays news of recent cases, books on civil and criminal procedure, court rules and related material.

Researching UK legislation

Westlaw UK includes legislation from all four UK legislatures. It gives details of commencement, amendments, statutory instruments (SIs) made under acts, enabling provisions for SIs, and legislation citing. It also provides annotations and links to commentary in books and journals.

More: see *Westlaw UK User Guide* (via Westlaw UK's 'Product support' link).

Searching

Select Legislation Search from the Legislation menu. The default is to search primary and secondary legislation (acts and statutory instruments/statutory rules).

To find a particular act or statutory instrument (SI), search by title, for example:

Title: **Data Protection Act 2018**

Title: **Protection of Wrecks (Designation) (England) Order 2017**

You can also use the Title field to search by SI number, for example:

Title: **2014/3253**

To find legislation on a particular topic, do a free text search, for example:

Free Text: **equality and "protected characteristics"**

This will find any legislation that mentions both equality and protected characteristics.

Browsing

Select Primary & Secondary from the Legislation menu to browse by jurisdiction (UK, Scotland, Wales* or Northern Ireland) and type of legislation. Next, drill down through the chronological or alphabetical indexes, or search by title.

*Wales statutory instruments are not browseable, but can be accessed using Search.

Journal research

The Journals collection consists of over 100 full-text law journals/newsletters and abstracts of articles from hundreds more. The date ranges vary from title to title and many titles are no longer abstracted; the Publications list on the Journals tab gives the date range for each title.

More: see *Westlaw UK User Guide*, under 'Product support' on Westlaw UK.

Searching

From the Journals menu, select Journals Search.

To find articles on a topic, use Subject/Keyword and/or Free Text, for example:

Subject/Keyword: **“money laundering” and sanctions**

To find a specific article, enter part of the title and the author’s family name:

Article Title: **“right to health”**

Author: **Adusei**

Browsing

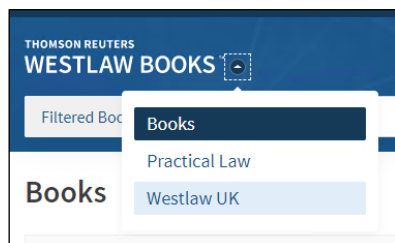
Select Publications from the Journals menu to display a list of all the journals and newsletters covered by Westlaw UK; filter by ‘Full-text only’ if required. Browse alphabetically, or use Search by Publication Title to find a particular journal.

After selecting a journal (for example, *Law Quarterly Review*), choose a year and drill down. Alternatively, you can search the selected journal by article title.

Books

Search the whole collection, or select one or more titles. Filter by topic, jurisdiction or publisher if required.

Westlaw Books opens on a separate platform to Westlaw UK. Click on the small arrow next to ‘WESTLAW BOOKS’ to return to Westlaw UK, as shown below:



European Union material

Westlaw UK’s EU tab has a search facility for EU legislation, EU cases, preparatory legislative documents and other EU official publications; browsing is not available.

Many journals with a European focus are available on the Journals tab, either in full text form or as article abstracts.

Searching and browsing Westlaw International Materials (IM)

Select a jurisdiction – for example, Canada - then browse or search.

For the law of the United States, open the separate US home page by clicking on the ‘Westlaw Classic’ logo, or select ‘U.S. Materials’ on the right-hand side of IM home page. There is a link back to International Materials on the US home page.

If you know which publication you want (for example, *Sydney Law Review*), or which collection (for example, *International Court of Justice Decisions*), start typing its name in the search bar, then select it from the list of suggestions that comes up; this works for both US and non-US material.

You can also search by journal or law report citation (US or non-US) using the Westlaw IM search bar, for example: **22 F.Supp. 388**, or **41 Sydney L. Rev. 73**.

Selecting a US jurisdiction

The search bar on the US home page defaults to 'All Federal'; click on this to switch to 'All States', et cetera. Alternatively, select a state from the State Materials tab.

International law

Most of the public international and international commercial law material is on Westlaw IM under 'International Administrative Materials' > 'Multi-National Administrative Materials'.

The World Journals collection includes over 100 journals focusing on international law, published in the US, Canada and elsewhere. The International Law Reviews & Journals collection consists of over 120 US-published law journals focusing on international law (many of which are also in World Journals).

There is a separate 'International Arbitration Materials' collection on the right-hand side of the IM home page. It consists of cases, awards, rules, model laws, conventions, legislation, guides, books, journals and current awareness (news).

For US treaties, from the IM home page, start typing **United States treaties** into the search bar and select 'United States Treaties and International Agreements'. Alternatively, from the US home page, select Administrative Decisions & Guidance > Federal Administrative Decisions & Guidance > Department of State.

For other treaties, see the following collections: European Union, Arbitration Materials, Global Competition & Antitrust:Treaties, International Economic Law Documents, International Environmental Law Documents, International Taxation (RIA), Native American Law Treaties.

Journals on Westlaw IM

The World Journals collection contains law journals from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and elsewhere. World Journals is located at the side of the Westlaw IM home page, under 'RELATED LEGAL'.

For US journals only, go to the US page (via Westlaw logo or US Materials link on IM homepage) and select Secondary Sources > Law Reviews and Journals.

TIP: there are more US titles in the US Law Reviews and Journals collection than in World Journals, and about six times as many Canadian journals on the Canada page as there are in World Journals.

Westlaw search methods

Westlaw UK and Westlaw International Materials interpret strings of key words differently, for example, if you type **arbitration rules germany**:-

Westlaw UK reads it as **arbitration AND rules AND germany** and finds every document in which all three words appear;

Westlaw IM reads it as **arbitration OR rules OR germany** and finds every document in which one or more of these words appears.

If you enter AND and OR connectors on Westlaw IM, however, the algorithm expands your search by adding similar terms. To avoid this, use proximity connectors (see below) instead of AND, or use Advanced Search ('All of these terms').

Westlaw IM gives a 'Looking for this?' prompt if you enter search terms that match certain subject headings, e.g. if you search World Journals for **corporate governance**, it prompts you to click on the matching heading on a drop-down menu; if you do this, you leave World Journals and land on a US search page. To avoid this, ignore the prompt and click on the search button.

Westlaw automatically finds plurals: **child** finds **child** and **children**; **farm** finds **farm** and **farms**.

Connectors and other commands

OR to find alternatives:	kidney OR renal EU OR European Union
AND to find all words:	frontier AND benin AND niger
BUT NOT to exclude words:	tax BUT NOT income
% (meaning 'but not') to exclude:	capital allowance % property
quotation marks for a phrase:	"leasehold reform"
/n to specify proximity:	medical /5 negligence ('medical' within 5 words of 'negligence'; use any number)
/s for words in the same sentence:	treaty /s interpretation
/p for words in the same paragraph:	treaty /p interpretation
! to find word variations:	bank! (finds 'bank', 'banks', 'banker', 'banking', et cetera.)

Westlaw IM expands certain searches by adding terms that are similar to the ones you have entered. To avoid this, use the connectors /s, /p or /n, or Advanced Search. (See Thomson Reuters guide, [How to Search with Boolean Terms and Connectors](#).)

Printing, saving and emailing

Westlaw UK has print, download and email icons located either top-right or down the right-hand side of the page; click on the desired option.

On Westlaw IM, click on the envelope icon to open the print/save/email menu.

If you need help with Westlaw, please ask at the Enquiry Desk, [email the library](#), or use the [live chat facility](#).