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Legal Information Retrieval Tools and Techniques (LLB)



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Outline



AIMS

- Expand on current information research skills
- Look at methodology
- Look at search tools and information sources
- Need to be plagiarism aware

OBJECTIVES

- Better informed
- Find what you need quickly and efficiently



Legal Research Methods



- Plan your search
- Set up off-campus access
- Source information
 - Search Primo
- Look beyond Primo (library catalogue)
 - Find relevant databases
 - Search legal + related databases
 - Search authoritative websites
- Manage your information



3 reasons to develop good legal research skills



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1. Good research skills help you find the information you need
2. Help improve your grade
3. Skills often valued by employers



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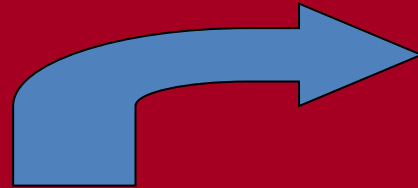
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Overview

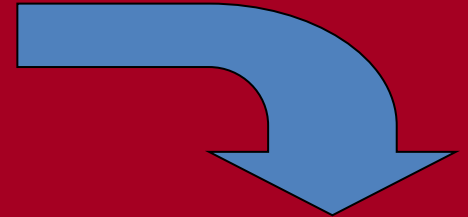
Legal Research Process



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Step 1: What do I need?

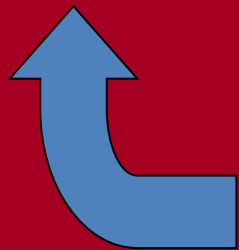
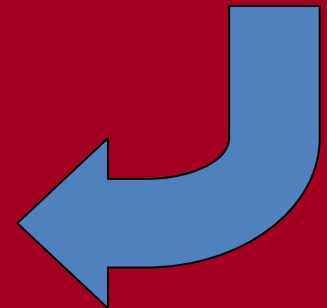


Step 2: How do I
find it?

Legal Research
Process

Step 4: How do I
manage information?

Step 3: Where do I look?



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Step 1: What information do I need?



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Step 1: Where do I start?



You cannot Google your way to a good LLB!



Step 1: Where do I start?



- Best chance of getting good marks if you:
 - use key academic sources
 - cite authoritative sources
 - don't rely too heavily on search engines or social media
 - evaluate any information found using Google
- Know the Library collections

Academic information



- Important to use reliable information and sources in academic work
- Reliability and accuracy generally achieved through checking output by others
 - editing/control within book publishing
 - refereeing process, known as **peer review**, for papers published in journals



Step 1: What do I need?



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1. Define your topic
 - What do you already know?
 - What is your time frame?
2. Identify important concepts and keywords
 - Key authors, organisations, journals,
 - Think about limitations
 - Date, language, type of document, jurisdiction
3. Decide on types of legal materials needed: legislation, case law, treaties, journal articles etc.
4. Do you need more general information?
 - e.g. an overview of a particular subject, or a review of past research done on a topic?



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Step 1: What do I need?

Primary Sources

- Acts of Parliament
- Delegated legislation
- EU law
- International treaties and conventions
- Cases



Secondary Sources

- Textbooks and reference books
- Journal Articles
- Relevant government publications, including Law Commission & Scottish Law Commission reports
- Reports and comments in newspapers
- Bills and Parliamentary debates



Step 1: What do I need?



General Information - starting point:

Textbooks in the relevant area of law (up-to-date)

- Need authority
- Practitioners' works most fully referenced
- Elementary textbooks give you basic principles + leading authorities
- Good but not always current

Search Tools: Primo (Library Catalogue); Westlaw UK



Step 1: Sources

Books on Westlaw UK



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Books

Home > Books

Search

[Advanced Search](#) | [Books Help and Coverage](#) | [List of Connectors](#)

Free Text



Search

Terms in Context



[Clear]

Browse

These titles are included in your subscription:

Select to further refine your search [Select all](#) [Clear all](#)

- Archbold Criminal Pleading Evidence & Practice 2012 Ed.
- Bullen & Leake & Jacob's Precedents of Pleadings 17th Ed.
- CIPA Guide to the Patents Acts 7th Ed.
- Copinger and Skone James on Copyright 16th Ed.
- Current Sentencing Practice
- Getting the Deal Through
- Kerly's Law of Trade Marks and Trade Names 15th Ed.
- Palmers Company Law
- Redfern & Hunter: Law and Practice of International Commercial Arbitration 5th Ed.
- Renton and Brown Criminal Procedure 6th Ed.
- Renton and Brown Criminal Procedure Legislation
- Terrell on the Law of Patents 17th Ed.
- Totty & Moss: Insolvency
- White Book 2012
- Woodfall: Landlord and Tenant

Step 1: Starting points



General statement of law on a subject

- Stair Memorial Encyclopaedia
- Halsbury's Laws of England

Specific area of law

- Encyclopaedia of Planning Law and Practice

Interpretation of particular words

- Words and phrases legally defined
 - *Taylor Library Reference (Ref 34703(42) Wor)*
- Strouds Judicial Dictionary
 - *Taylor Library General (340.03 Str) + reference copy*



Step 1: What do I need?



- The type of information you need determines:
 - the search tool you use
 - the source

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Step 2: How will I find it?



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Step 2: How will I find it?



What you shouldn't do...

... type the title of your assignment in to a database ... you will find little or nothing

What you should do...

...analyse your topic

Step 2: How will I find it?



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- **2 parts: search strategy + search tools**
- **Literature search**
 - Print v electronic
 - Index or Full Text
- **Bibliographic Search Tools**
 - Catalogues (UoA + COPAC + BL)
 - Indexes and Abstracts
 - Databases
 - Search Engines



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Step 2: How will I find it?

Tips for subject searching



1. Define the concepts which form your topic

e.g. child abduction in Scotland

Child – look for: child, children, minor, infant

Abduction – look for: abduction, kidnap, kidnapping

Scotland – look for Scotland, Scottish, Scots

2. Use short phrases

e.g. “parental abduction”, “parental kidnap”



Think about...



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Synonyms

e.g. conjoined twins or siamese twins

e.g. child or children or minor or infant

Acronyms

e.g. “World Trade Organisation” or WTO

Alternative spellings

e.g. organisation or organization

Terminology

e.g. employment law or labor law



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Step 2: Summary

Plan your Search



TIP: searches on any legal database

- Choose your keywords carefully (be precise)
- Do not use long descriptive phrases
- Select the smallest source possible to search
 - e.g. need information on a specific statute, search using the Legislation option
 - keeps results to a manageable number
- Know and apply the search rules



Step 3: Plan Your Search

Looking for legal materials on

decommissioning offshore oil and gas installations

Concepts	Alternative keywords/phrases	
Topic 1	decommissioning	abandoning
Topic 2	offshore installations	offshore platforms
Topic 3	oil	gas
Topic 4	Continental Shelf	Norway

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Step 3: Plan Your Search

Apply search rules for Westlaw

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Concepts	Alternative keywords/phrases	
Topic 1	decommission!	abandon!
Topic 2	"offshore installation!"	"offshore platform!"
Topic 3	oil	gas
Topic 4	"Continental Shelf"	Norway



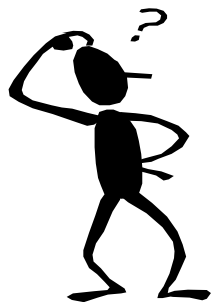
or



Why are search rules important?

- Affect the number of results you get from a search
 - control
 - expand
 - limit
 - focus

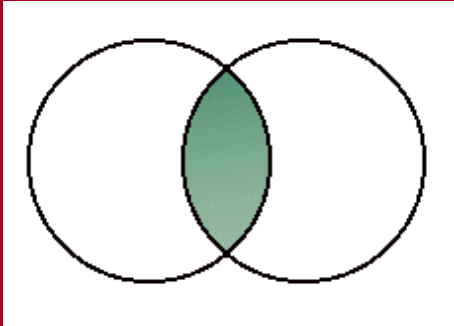




Use Boolean Connectors to refine your search

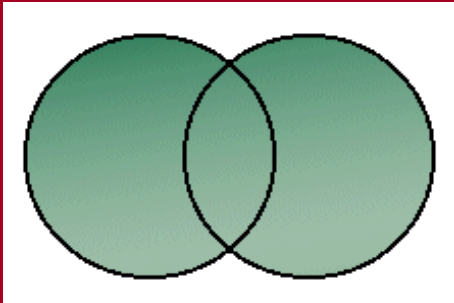


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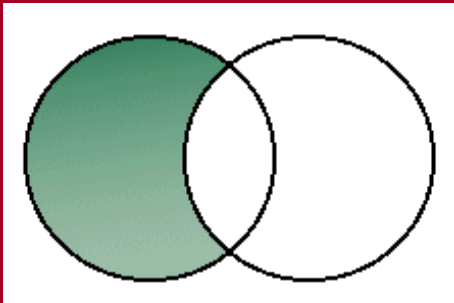
decommission! **AND (&)** "offshore installation!"

AND = narrows your search
combines different ideas
all keywords and phrases must appear



"offshore installation!" **OR** "offshore platform!"

OR = expands your search
either one or both keywords or phrases must appear



oil **AND NOT** wind

AND NOT = narrows and refines your search
when first keyword must appear but not the second

First searches may look like this (Westlaw)...



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decommission! & “offshore installation!” or “offshore platform!”

or (if I find a large number of results)

decommission! /p “offshore installation!” or “offshore platform!”

alternative = add more concepts

decommission! & “offshore installation!” or “offshore platform!” & “oil and gas” & Norway or UK



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Plan your Search

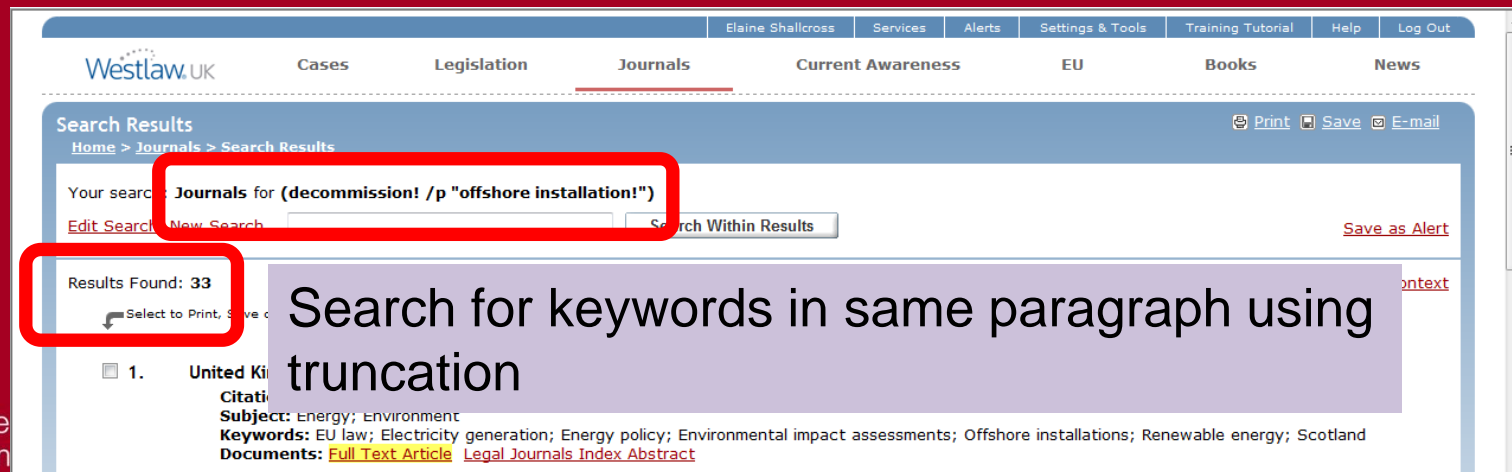
Importance of Search Rules



The screenshot shows the Westlaw UK interface. The 'Journals' tab is selected and highlighted with a red box. The search query is 'Journals for ("decommissioning offshore installations")', also highlighted with a red box. The search results show 'Results Found: 4', which is also highlighted with a red box. The first result is a journal article with the following details:

- Citation:** J.W.E.L. & B. 2011, 4(2), 136-156
- Subject:** Energy; Banking and finance
- Keywords:** Bonds; Decommissioning; Offshore installations; Oil and gas industry; Risk management; United States
- Documents:** [Legal Journals Index Abstract](#)

• Search as a phrase “decommissioning offshore installations” without using truncation



The screenshot shows the Westlaw UK interface. The search query is 'Journals for (decommission! /p "offshore installation!)", highlighted with a red box. The search results show 'Results Found: 33', also highlighted with a red box. The first result is a journal article with the following details:

- Citation:** United Kingdom
- Subject:** Energy; Environment
- Keywords:** EU law; Electricity generation; Energy policy; Environmental impact assessments; Offshore installations; Renewable energy; Scotland
- Documents:** [Full Text Article](#) [Legal Journals Index Abstract](#)

Search for keywords in same paragraph using truncation

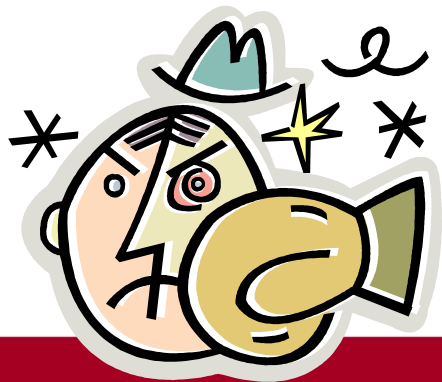
Plan your Search

Importance of Search Rules



- Search for the phrase
“decommissioning offshore installations”
found 4 journal articles on Westlaw
- Search for
decommission! /p “offshore installation!”
found 33 journal articles on Westlaw
- Search for
decommission! & “offshore installation!”
found 47 journal articles on Westlaw





Too many hits?



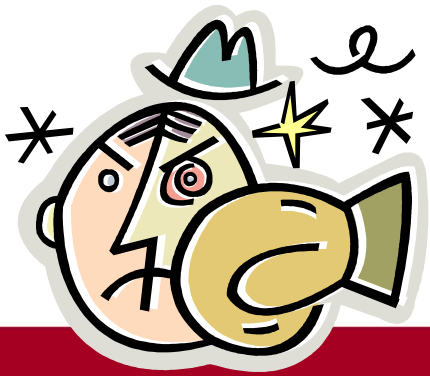
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- Focus the question
- Use more specific legal terminology
- Add more terms using AND (&
e.g. decommissioning & oil & “offshore platforms”
- Search for phrases using “quotation marks”
- Limit search to certain types of legal material e.g. journals articles, cases



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Too few hits?



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- Broaden the question
- Use more alternatives linked by 'or'
e.g. **child or minor or juvenile**
- Try different combinations of keywords
- Use truncation or wildcards,
e.g. **disclos!** finds **disclose, discloses, disclosure, disclosures, disclosing**
- Pearl growing (follow up references)



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Search strategy checklist



1. Define topic
2. Break it down into different concepts
3. Decide on words/phrases that define concepts
4. Decide on relationships between concepts
5. Think of possible alternatives: terminology, spelling, acronyms
6. Use search rules (truncation, wildcards)



Search Strategy Checklist



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7. Try out the search

8. Appraise the results

9. Refine search if necessary

- BROADEN – alternatives, reduce number of concepts linked by &, change terminology
- NARROW – link terms, add more concepts linked by &, change terminology



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Step 3: Where do I look?



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Step 3: Where do I look?

Search Tools



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- **Primo**
 - Tells you what we have in UoA libraries
 - Tells you what databases are relevant to the study of law (and provides links out to them)
- **Databases**
 - Tell you what has been published worldwide
 - Provide full text/links to full text for e-resources we have paid for
- **Free web-based resources**
 - Legal gateways; legal materials on Government web pages; NGO web pages; professional groups



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Step 3: Where do I look? Legislation & Case Law



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Current Law Service, Digest, Citators & Yearbook

– Legal databases

- Westlaw UK, Westlaw International, Lexis®Library
- EUR-Lex, HUDOC
- Specialist: OGEL; KluwerArbitration

– Internet

- **Public Information Online** - contains all material from 2006/07 Parliamentary session onwards (www.publicinformationonline.com/)
- **Bailii** (www.bailii.org/) – links to Worldlii
- **Scottish Court Service** (<http://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/>)



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Step 3: Where do I look? Treaties



In Taylor Library:

- UN Treaty Series (OP 3412 Uni)
- League of Nations Treaty Series (OP 3412 Lea)

Via databases:

- Westlaw UK (EU Law)
- Westlaw International (multinational materials)
- Lexis®Library
- HeinOnline (Treaties & Agreements Library)

Via Internet:

- FLARE Index to Treaties
(<http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/flag/introtreaties.htm>)
- EUR-Lex

(<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/treaties/index.htm>)



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Step 3: Where do I look?



Books - subject searches on:

- Library catalogues - OPACs
 - UoA, COPAC, National Libraries
 - ECLAS (<http://ec.europa.eu/eclas/F>)
- E-book databases
 - Ebrary, SpringerLink, OECD iLibrary
- Publishers Catalogues & Online Bookshops
- Google Books



Step 3: Where do I look? E-books



- **Ebrary** (<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/aberdeenuniv/>)
 - +70,000 items
 - Personal bookshelf
- **SpringerLink** (www.springerlink.com/books)
 - +25,000 e-books
- **OECD iLibrary** (<http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/>)
 - 7,700 e-books
- **SciVerse ScienceDirect** (www.sciencedirect.com)
 - Series of encyclopaedias published by Elsevier
 - +6000 textbooks
- **KluwerArbitration** (<http://www.kluwerarbitration.com/>)
 - 88 e-books



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Step 3: Where do I look for Official Papers?



- UK and Scottish Parliament
- Scottish Executive
- EU official documents
- Agencies, Quangos, NGOs

Sources

- Taylor Library & EDC
 - Official Publications collections
- Databases
 - House of Commons Parliamentary Papers (via Primo)
 - EUR-Lex: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>
- Public Information Online: www.publicinformationonline.com/
- UK Parliament website: www.parliament.uk
- Scottish Parliament website: www.scottish.parliament.uk/
- Directgov (Public Information Service): www.open.gov.uk
 - A-Z of central government services & information



Step 3: Where do I look?

Newspaper resources



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Lexis®Library
ABI INFORM Complete



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Step 3: Where do I look?



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- **Books** are good but not always current
- **Databases** give you access to what has been published – not everything is available electronically in full text



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Step 3: Where do I look?

Primo for initial searches



- Searches at title level
 - titles of books, journals, series of law reports and case reports etc.
- Cannot search contents effectively
 - cannot find individual cases or pieces of legislation
- Indicates how many copies the Library has
- Indicates what is out on loan – request items back
- Indicates loan period (overnight - all academic session)

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Step 3 cont... Look beyond the library catalogue

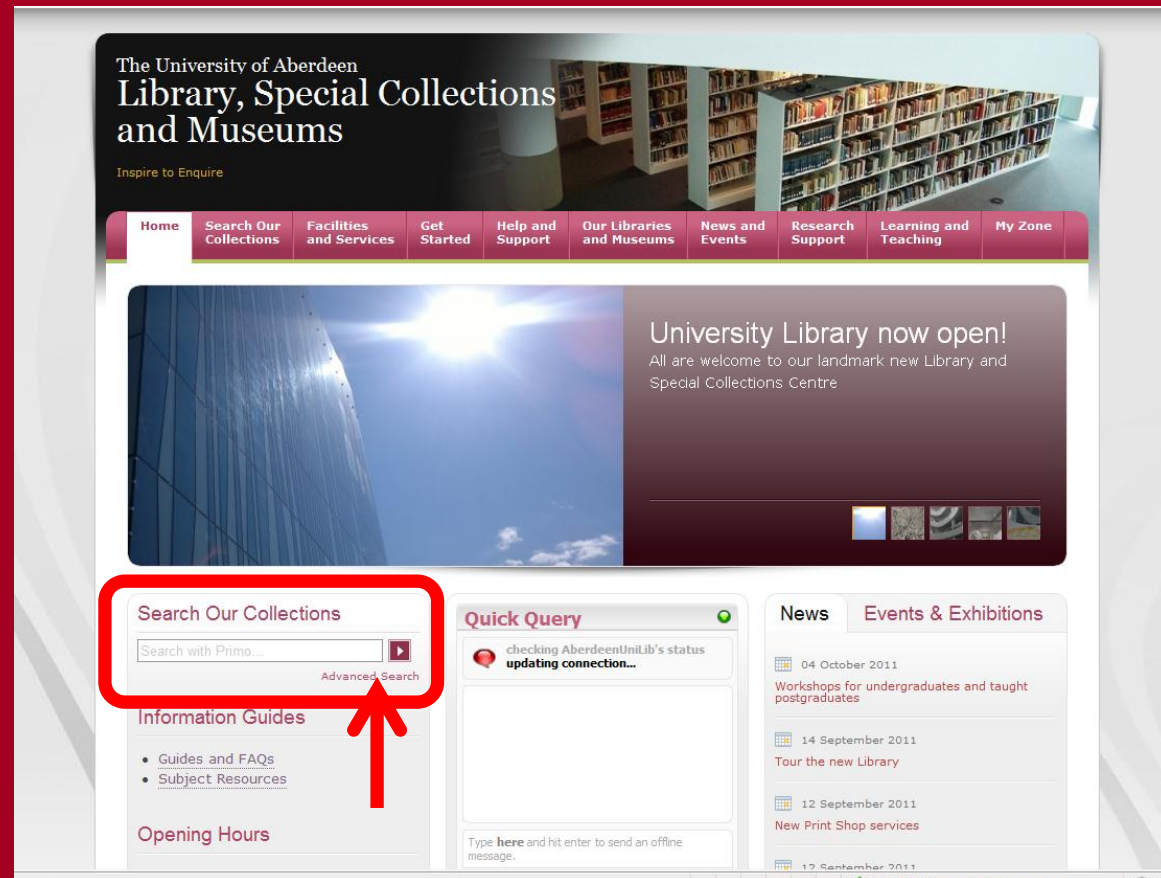


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Step 3: How do I find databases relevant to Law?

- Use Primo
- www.abdn.ac.uk/library
- Search Our Collections | Advanced Search
- Open Primo search screen



The University of Aberdeen
Library, Special Collections
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Inspire to Enquire

Home Search Our Collections Facilities and Services Get Started Help and Support Our Libraries and Museums News and Events Research Support Learning and Teaching My Zone

University Library now open!
All are welcome to our landmark new Library and Special Collections Centre

Search Our Collections
Search with Primo...

Quick Query
checking AberdeenUniLib's status
updating connection...

Information Guides
• [Guides and FAQs](#)
• [Subject Resources](#)

Opening Hours

News Events & Exhibitions
04 October 2011
Workshops for undergraduates and taught postgraduates
14 September 2011
Tour the new Library
12 September 2011
New Print Shop services
17 September 2011



About Primo

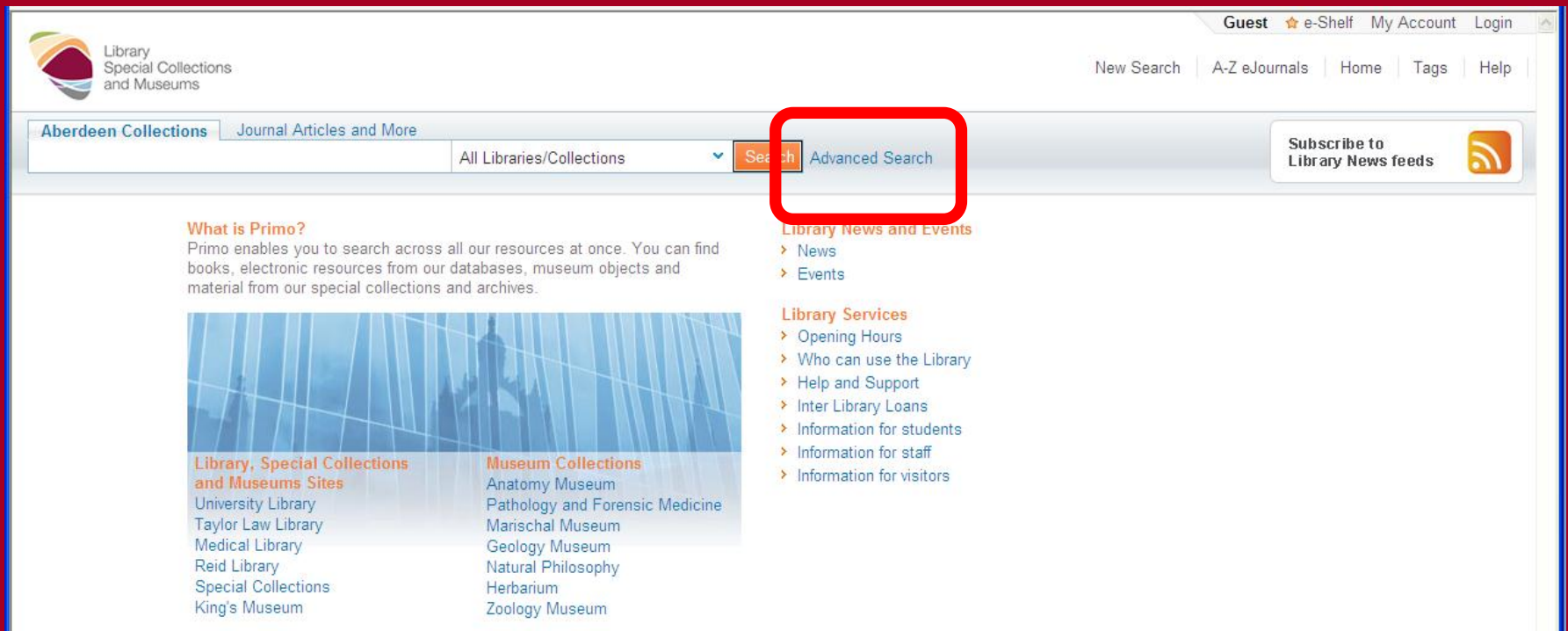


- Choice of searches:
 - Finds electronic and paper materials
 - Limit to material type (books, journals etc.)
 - Finds e-journals
 - Finds databases useful for study of law
- Provides links directly to websites of journals and databases (via SFX)
- Use [Show info](#) link to find out subject contents of a database + search rules



Step 3: Using Primo to identify relevant databases

<http://primo.abdn.ac.uk:1701/>



The screenshot shows the Primo search interface for the University of Aberdeen. At the top left is the logo for 'Library Special Collections and Museums'. The top right contains user options: 'Guest', 'e-Shelf', 'My Account', and 'Login'. Below these are navigation links: 'New Search', 'A-Z eJournals', 'Home', 'Tags', and 'Help'. A search bar is present with a dropdown menu set to 'All Libraries/Collections' and a 'Search' button highlighted with a red box. To the right of the search bar is a link for 'Advanced Search' and a 'Subscribe to Library News feeds' button with an RSS icon. The main content area includes a 'What is Primo?' section, a 'Library News and Events' section with links to 'News' and 'Events', and a 'Library Services' section with links to 'Opening Hours', 'Who can use the Library', 'Help and Support', 'Inter Library Loans', 'Information for students', 'Information for staff', and 'Information for visitors'. At the bottom, there are two columns of links: 'Library, Special Collections and Museums Sites' (University Library, Taylor Law Library, Medical Library, Reid Library, Special Collections, King's Museum) and 'Museum Collections' (Anatomy Museum, Pathology and Forensic Medicine, Marischal Museum, Geology Museum, Natural Philosophy, Herbarium, Zoology Museum).



Step 3: Using Primo to identify relevant databases



Library Special Collections and Museums

Guest e-Shelf My Account Login

New Search | A-Z eJournals | Home | Tags | Help

Aberdeen Collections | Journal Articles and More

Any contains []

Any contains []

Any contains []

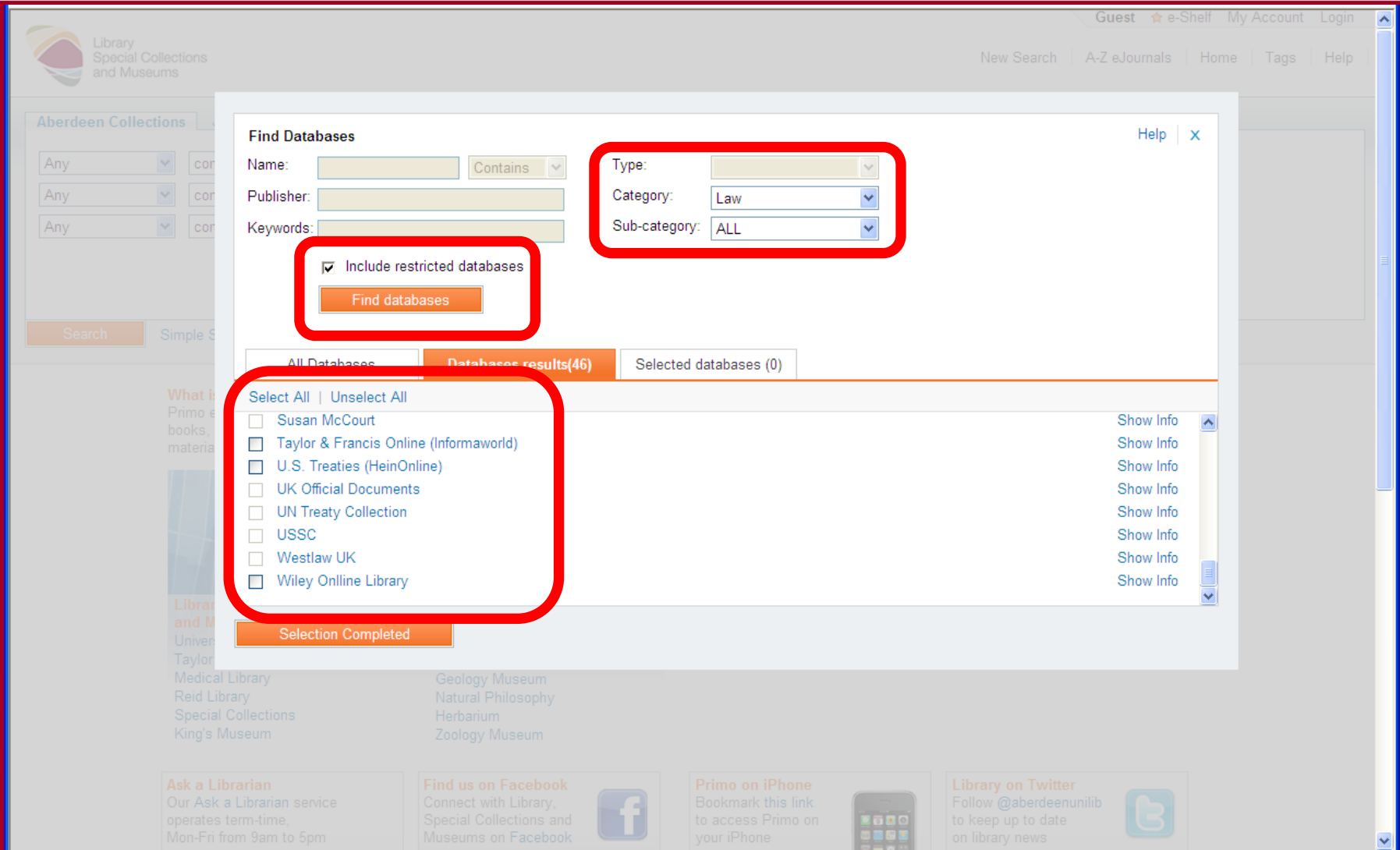
Publication Date: Any year []

Material Type: All items []

Search Scope: All Libraries/Collections []

Find Databases

Step 3: Using Primo to identify relevant databases



The screenshot shows the 'Find Databases' search interface. Red boxes highlight the following elements:

- The search filters: 'Type', 'Category' (set to 'Law'), and 'Sub-category' (set to 'ALL').
- The checkbox for 'Include restricted databases' and the 'Find databases' button.
- The search results list, which includes:
 - Select All | Unselect All
 - Susan McCourt
 - Taylor & Francis Online (Informaworld)
 - U.S. Treaties (HeinOnline)
 - UK Official Documents
 - UN Treaty Collection
 - USSC
 - Westlaw UK
 - Wiley Online Library
- The 'Selection Completed' button at the bottom of the results list.

Background interface elements include the University of Aberdeen logo, 'Guest', 'e-Shelf', 'My Account', 'Login', 'New Search', 'A-Z eJournals', 'Home', 'Tags', 'Help', and a sidebar with 'Aberdeen Collections' and 'Library Special Collections and Museums'.

Step 3:

Types of databases



- **Bibliographic/index/abstract databases**
 - wide date range
 - publications from many countries
 - publications from many publishers
 - good for comprehensive subject search
e.g. Legal Journals Index - Westlaw UK, Index to Legal Periodicals and Books, Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals
 - SFX technology gives speedy access to full text (if we have a subscription!!)
- **Full text databases**
 - limited date range (e.g. 1995-, 1998-, 2000-)
 - often publications from only one publisher, e.g. Lexis®Library
 - good for quick access to full text papers, but not comprehensive



What's in Westlaw UK?



- **UK cases:** 30 series full text. UK Case Report series from 1220
- **Case analysis:** case status, summary + links to related material, from 1865
- **Unreported Cases:** from 1999-
- **UK Legislation:** consolidated and historic (all jurisdictions)
- **Books:** 15 titles including Palmers Company Law
- **UK Journals:** 90 full text titles (mostly academic)
 - Coverage selective for some titles
 - Legal Journals Index 1986- (>800 journals)



What's in Westlaw?



- **EU Material**
 - EU Legislation, case law, international agreements, COM docs, OJC etc. access via EU screen
 - Several commercially published titles
- **US material**
 - Comprehensive coverage of legislation and case law
 - federal and state
 - Hundreds of journals. Mid-1990s onwards -
 - Access via Westlaw International link
- **International materials**
 - International legal materials 1962-
 - International court decisions
 - US treaties
 - Journals
 - Access via Westlaw International



What's in Lexis®Library?



- UK cases
 - +500,000 cases from 1558-
 - 60 series full text
 - unreported cases from 1980 onwards
- Legislation
 - consolidated UK legislation from 1266, updated daily
 - includes amendments by SI; all UK Parliament Acts available in PDF
 - Scottish legislation post-devolution
- UK journals
 - UK Journals Index 1995– (>500 journals)
 - >100 titles in full text
- Stair Memorial Encyclopaedia
- UK newspapers
 - national and regional



What's in Lexis®Library?



- **EU material**
 - EU legislation, case law, international agreements, COM docs, OJC etc access via International link on main legislation and cases screens
 - limited commercially published titles
- **US material** (access via Sources tab)
 - Comprehensive coverage of legislation and case law – federal and state
 - Hundreds of journals. Mid-1990s onwards
- **International materials** (access via Sources tab)
 - Includes International Legal Materials 1962-
 - International court decisions
 - US treaties
 - Journals



What's in HeinOnline?



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- Journals from US, Canada, UK & other jurisdictions
- English Reports (1220-1867)
- Treaties & Agreements (where US is a party)
- US Supreme Court decisions
- Foreign & International materials, including some European materials (Yearbooks, international tribunal/judicial decisions)
- US Statutes, Treaties and Supreme Court Library
- Legal classics library (+100 textbooks on constitutional law and political science)
- Selden Society + History of Early English Law



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Step 3: Summary

Searching Databases



- Don't rely on searching only one database
 - Repeat your search across several different but relevant databases
- Each database has content unique to it
- Bibliographic databases tell you what has been published worldwide but not all resources full text
- Look out for review (journal) articles

Step 3: Where do I look?

Links to Legal Resources



<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/collections/subjects-az/law/>

Law Research Tools page

- Electronic databases
- Reference works
- UK/Scottish legal materials
- UK Parliaments & Assemblies

A screenshot of the University of Aberdeen Library website. The page title is 'Library, Special Collections and Museums' with the tagline 'Inspire to Enquire'. The navigation menu includes Home, Search Our Collections, Facilities and Services, Get Started, Help and Support, Our Libraries and Museums, News and Events, Research Support, Learning and Teaching, and My Zone. The breadcrumb trail is 'Home > Search Our Collections > Subject Resources A-Z > Law'. The main content area is titled 'Law' and lists various resources: Books, Journals & other resources, Electronic databases, Legal abbreviations, Reference works in the Taylor Library, Electronic reference works, Web links by subject, Scottish legal materials, Legal materials - UK, England, Wales and Northern Ireland, UK Parliaments & assemblies (with sub-links for Scotland, United Kingdom, Wales, and Northern Ireland), EUR-Lex (access to EU law), Legal gateways & portals, and Taylor Library. The footer includes 'Top of Page', 'Home', 'Contacts', 'Search', 'Sitemap', 'A-Z', and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and others.



Library
Special Collections
and Museums



The University Library
University of Aberdeen
Bedford Road
Aberdeen
AB24 3AA

Tel: +44 (0)1224 273330



Share and keep up to date

Step 3: Where do I look?

Other subscription databases



www.abdn.ac.uk/library/collections/subjects-az/law/e-dbases/

Database	Scope
OGEL	global energy law & regulation portal
KluwerArbitration	international arbitration
Accounting & Tax	tax law, finance law
EconLit	law and economics
ABI/INFORM Complete	business, management, finance
JSTOR	all subjects – historical content
IBSS	international relations, human rights

Access through Primo or Taylor Library web page

Other databases



Social Science Research Network

(<http://www.ssrn.com/>)

- Accounting Research Network
- Corporate Governance Network (includes Corporate Governance & Law) Research Paper Series
- Financial Economics Network Research Paper Series
- Legal Scholarship Network Research Paper Series



Library
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www.abdn.ac.uk/library

Social Science Research Network

<http://www.ssrn.com/>

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SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH NETWORK
Tomorrow's Research Today

QuickSearch

Accounting **ARN**
Research Network

Cognitive Science **CSN**
Network

Corporate **CGN**
Governance Network

Economics **ERN**
Research Network

Entrepreneurship **ERPN**
Research & Policy Network

Financial **FEN**
Economics Network

Health **HEN**
Economics Network

Information **ISN**
Systems Network

Innovation **IRPN**
Research & Policy Network

Leadership **LRN**
Research Network

Legal **LSN**
Scholarship Network

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Research Paper Series
Conference & Meetings

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Job Openings
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[Law Research Centers Papers](#)

[Law School Research Papers - Law & Economics \(LSN-LEC\)](#)

[Law School Research Papers - Legal Studies \(LSN-LEG\)](#)

[Law School Research Papers - Public Law & Legal Theory \(LSN-PUB\)](#)

Law Research Centers Papers

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[Center for Global Energy, International Arbitration, & Environmental Law Research Paper Series](#) [Subscribe Free](#)

[Center on Law & Globalization Research Paper Series](#)

[Clinical Research Institute \(sponsored by New York Law School\) Research Paper Series](#) [Subscribe Free](#)

[European Central Bank \(ECB\) Legal Research Paper Series](#) [Subscribe Free](#)

[European Corporate Governance Institute \(ECGI\) Working Paper Series](#)

[Interdisciplinary Centre for Law & ICT \(ICRI\) Research Paper Series](#)

[Max Planck Institute for Comparative & International Private Law Research Paper Series](#) [Subscribe Free](#)

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[MultiRights Research Paper Series](#) [Subscribe Free](#)

[Nordic & European Company Law Working Paper Series](#) [Subscribe Free](#)

[Opinio Juris in Comparatione \(Studies in Comparative & National Law, Etudes de Droit Compare et National, Estudios de Derecho Comparado y Nacional\) Research Paper Series](#) [Subscribe Free](#)

[Osgoode Hall Law School, Comparative Research in Law & Political Economy \(CLPE\) Research Paper Series](#) [Subscribe Free](#)

[Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research \(NCCR\) Trade Regulation Research Paper Series](#)

[The Shelf Project Research Paper Series](#)

[Transitional Justice Institute \(University of Ulster\) Research Paper Series](#) [Subscribe Free](#)

Law School Research Papers - Law & Economics (LSN-LEC)

[Boston University Law & Economics Research Paper Series](#) [Subscribe Free](#)

[Columbia Law School, Law & Economics Research Paper Series](#) [Subscribe Free](#)

[Florida State University, Law, Business & Economics Research Paper Series](#) [Subscribe Free](#)

Step 3: Where do I look? Legal Gateways

AccessToLaw



- Search Engines = information overload
 - not evaluated
- Legal Gateways
 - compiled by experts
 - evaluated
- Google Scholar
 - Searches across better quality material

Step 3: Where do I look?

Legal Gateways: AccesstoLaw



AccessToLaw

Home - Alphabetical Index - Print - About This Site - Legal Notice - Privacy Policy



United Kingdom

Case Law
Civil Procedure
Court Information
Courts and Tribunals

Government
Inquiries
Law Reform
Legislation

Local Government
Northern Ireland
Ombudsmen
Parliaments

Practice Directions
Scotland
Wales

Commonwealth

Australia
Bahamas
Bermuda
Canada
Caribbean
Cyprus

General
Gibraltar
Hong Kong
India
Malaysia
Malta

Mauritius
New Zealand
Nigeria
Pacific
Pakistan
Sierra Leone

Singapore
South Africa
South Atlantic Territories
Sri Lanka
Zambia

Other Jurisdictions

Channel Islands
Europe

Isle of Man
Republic of Ireland

United States
World Law

Legal Subject Areas

Air and Space Law
Arbitration
Armed Forces
Banking
Company Law
Competition Law
Construction Law
Coroners
Costs
Criminal Law
Data Protection
Discrimination
Ecclesiastical Law

Education
Electoral Law
Employment Law
Environmental Law
Family Law
Food and Drugs
Freedom of Information
Gambling Law
Gender Law
Health & Social Care Law
Housing Law
Human Rights
Immigration & Asylum

Insolvency
Insurance Law
Intellectual Property
International Law/Treaties
Islamic Law
Legal Aid
Licensing Law
Media Law
Medico-Legal
Mental Health
Pensions Law
Personal Injury
Planning

Property/Conveyancing
Regulatory Law
Religion and the Law
Restitution
Road Traffic
Shipping Law
Social Welfare
Sports Law
Surveillance/Investigatory
Powers
Taxation
Wills and Trusts

General Resources

Expert Witnesses
General Reference
Legal Gateways

Legal History
Legal Journals
Legal Profession

Legal Reference
Libraries
Newspapers

Publishers
Search Engines



Legal Resources
selected & annotated by
Inner Temple Library

BIALL Wallace Broom Award
Winner 2012

Contact Us
Last Update - August 2012

AccessToLaw Google™

Current Awareness Blog

Legal News selected by Inner
Temple Library

02.10.2012

DPP refuses to consent to
private prosecution of Babar
Ahmad and Syed Ahsan for
terrorism offences – Crown
Prosecution Service
"Statement from Keir Starmer QC,
the Director of Public Prosecutions:
'On 7 September 2012, I received a
request..."

01.10.2012

Top Gear: Jeremy Clarkson's
Elephant Man joke ruled
offensive – The Guardian
"The BBC Trust has ruled that
Jeremy Clarkson's joke comparing a
Japanese car to the Elephant Man
was..."

01.10.2012

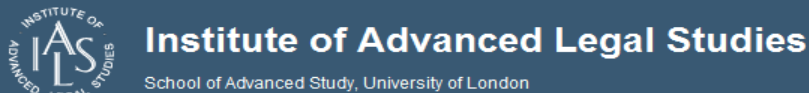
Jailed mother who smacked
children released on appeal –
BBC News
"A mother jailed after her children
were..."

<http://www.accesstolaw.com/>

WARNING: primary materials will not be up to date!

Step 3: Where do I look?

Legal Gateways: Eagle-i



Contact Us Text Options Search Site Map



IALS Home Page | Eagle-i Internet Portal for Law Project



Eagle-i Internet Portal for Law Project

<http://ials.sas.ac.uk/eaglei/project/eiproject.htm>

Eagle-i (Electronic Access to Global Legal Information) is a free to use dedicated portal to high quality legal information sources on the Web - being developed by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies as a national service for law.

Eagle-i Internet resource database - find high quality resources for law on the web at www.ials.sas.ac.uk/eagle-i.htm

Eagle-i is designed to help legal researchers find relevant information on the Internet - providing insight into authoritative web resources and the most reliable sites and materials, through site profiles, content assessments and well-maintained dynamic links.

Coverage includes: **UK, European, Foreign, Comparative** and **International law**



The Internet has become a valuable research tool for law but finding the most relevant and trusted sites can demand time and a range of information skills.

- Who is the source?
- What is the content?
- When was the information produced and published?

The Eagle-i portal's Internet resource database is designed to help save time and aid discerning use of the Internet.

Eagle-i can be searched using a simple search screen which enables you to find relevant sites from words in the title or our description. Brief results provide a link to the site itself and an option to see more detail about the site. Over 4,500 resource records in Eagle-i feature brief evaluative descriptions indicating who is providing the site and why - with a note on important content and coverage to help in judging which Internet resources are appropriate for your particular legal studies and research.

Step 3: Where do I look?

Legal Gateways: LawLinks

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/lawlinks/>



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Kent | The UK's
European
university

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Quick links | Information for me

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Search

LAWLINKS

< Library Services home

> University of Kent > Information Services – Library Services > Lawlinks

< Subject guides home

Lawlinks

Home

About Lawlinks

Electronic Law Library

Researching the law

FAQs

Learn online

Signposts

UK resources

UK government

International law

Special legal topics

Other jurisdictions

European Union

Human rights

Private international law

Legal profession & education

Further research resources

Search Information Services

Enter keywords here...

Welcome to Lawlinks

Legal information on the internet

Lawlinks is designed to help you find your way around legal resources on the internet. If you haven't used it for some time, find out more about how it is arranged.

Lawlinks provides links to many websites. When you select a Signposted area click on the plus by the subject you are interested in. If you don't want to browse the suggested websites, use the search box to search the whole group of sites.

Use Learn Online to refresh your searching skills and improve techniques.

Your subject specialist



Ben Watson

Subject Librarian for Law

Telephone: (01227 82) 3111

Email: B.Watson@kent.ac.uk

Academic Liaison office, Level 1 East, Templeman Library



Kent Law School

Shortcuts

Top sites

[Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations](#)

Top FAQs

[How can I search all North American law journals on Lexis@Library?](#)

Researching the law

[Looking up journal articles online](#)

Uses Signposts
Good starting points
Browse

Evaluation Checklist (Search Engines)



Accuracy – Spelling errors? Content - editorial control?

Authority – Check credentials; domain

Objectivity – Aim? Bias? Sponsored?

Currency – Up-to-date? Undated = no authority

Coverage – topics (in-depth or summary)

Supported by evidence? Research? References?

Code of practice?

Web Source – evaluated? e.g. subject gateway

Contact information?

Links to reputable websites?



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Step 4 How do I manage information?



Library
Special Collections
and Museums

www.abdn.ac.uk/library

Step 4: How do I manage information?



- Keep careful records
- Databases used – with dates
- Keywords entered
- Documents found and documents read
- Update search where necessary

Step 4: How do I manage information? Evaluate



- **Subscription databases** (Westlaw UK, Lexis®Library, HeinOnline, ebrary etc.) contain published academic papers (journal articles) + books
 - peer-reviewed before publication
 - authoritative and reliable
- **Search engines** (Google etc.) information not evaluated
 - essential to evaluate
 - must meet certain criteria
 - never cite Wikipedia

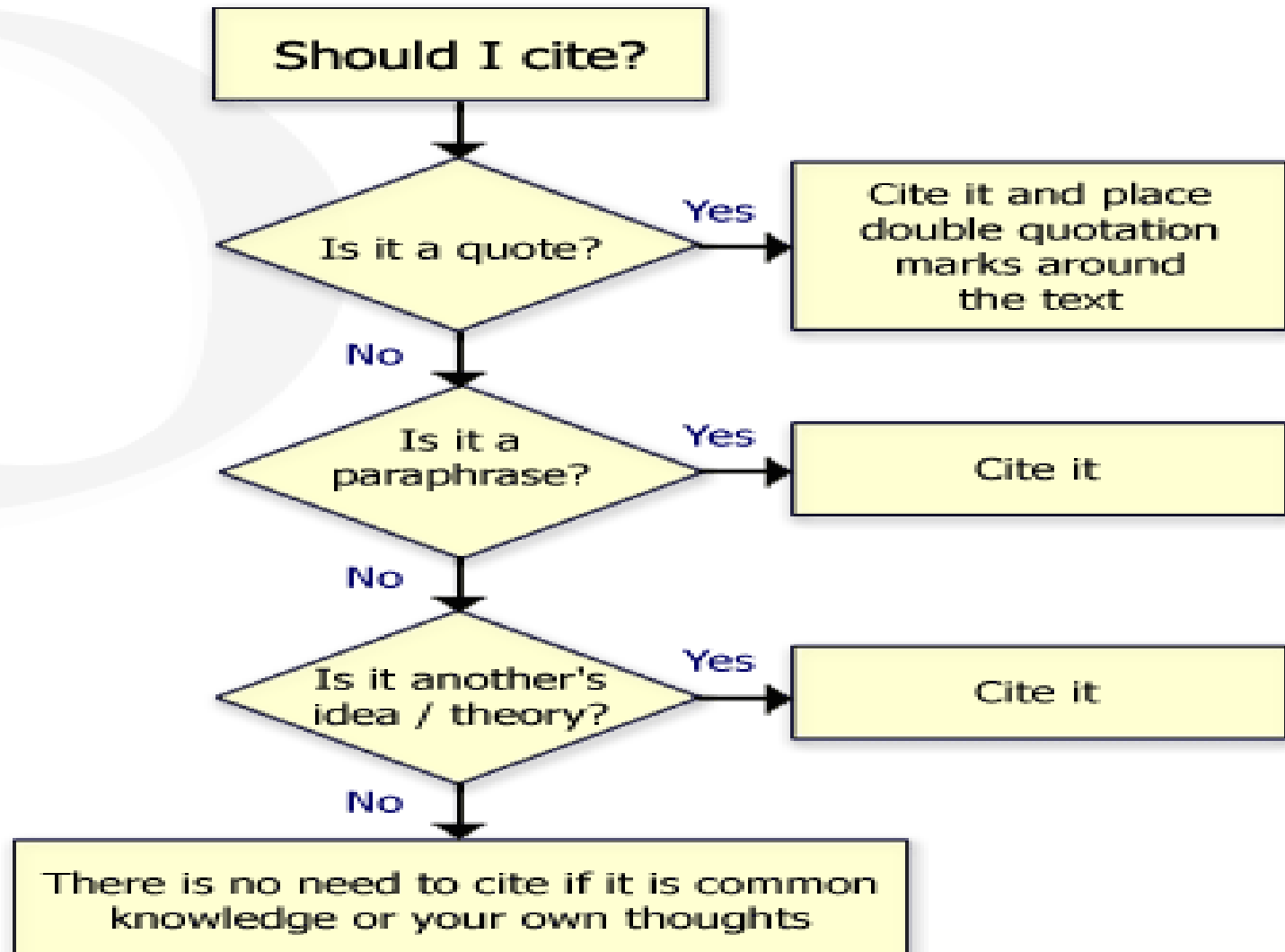


Step 4: How do I manage information? Avoid plagiarism

Source: Cardiff University, 2006



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Panic?

- Time manage
 - Concentrate on resources held locally
 - Searching takes longer than you think
 - locating text, reading and digesting can be even longer
- Organise and be systematic
- Be realistic



Where to go for help



- Use online help and tutorials
- Use Taylor Library guides
 - <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/support/guides/#law>

But most importantly



Library
Special Collections
and Museums

www.abdn.ac.uk/library

Ask Us for Help



It's why we are here...

Ask at the Help Desk in the Library

Knock on my office door

Email an enquiry to lawlib@abdn.ac.uk

Email me at e.shallcross@abdn.ac.uk

Use Instant Messaging (Quick Query)



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www.abdn.ac.uk/library

Thank you



Elaine Shallcross

Information Consultant, Law

e.shallcross@abdn.ac.uk

Mon, Fri: Taylor Library; Tel 273892

Tue-Thu: Floor 3 University Library ; Tel 273848



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Finally...
good luck with your research



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