Chinese Legal Research

Westpac – Honolulu
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Today’s Assignment
• English Sources on Chinese Law
• On the Internet
• “Free”
• In 15 Minutes …
• A Tall Order!
What Does “Free” Mean?
• “Free to anyone”?
• “Free to me”?
• “Free to someone” (so maybe I can get it for free)

What I’ll Cover Today:
• Online Research Tools and Portal Sites
• Sources for Specific Types of Information

General: ONLINE RESEARCH TOOLS/PORTAL SITES:
• Introductions to Legal System / Chinese Legal Research Guides
• Portal Sites (Worldlii, Library of Congress, Law Libraries)
• Search Engines (Special Tricks)
Where to Start??

General: ONLINE RESEARCH TOOLS/PORTAL SITES:
• Introductions to the Legal System

http://english.gov.cn/
http://www.llrx.com/features/chinajudicial.htm

Chinese Legal Research Guides

- Chinese Legal Research at the University of Washington (Bill McClay)
Chinese Legal Research Guides

• Chinese Legal Research at the University of Washington (Bill McCloy)
  • Internet Chinese Legal Research Center / Wei Luo

http://ls.wustl.edu/Chinalaw/
Chinese Legal Research Guides

- Chinese Legal Research at the University of Washington (Bill McCloy)
- Internet Chinese Legal Research Center / Wei Luo
- LLRX, Globalex Guides:
  - Beyond the Border: The Chinese Legal Information System in Cyberspace / by Joan Liu
  - A Complete Research Guide to the Laws of the People's Republic of China (PRC) / by Wei Luo and Joan Liu

http://www.llrx.com/features/prc.htm
General: ONLINE RESEARCH TOOLS/PORTAL SITES:

• Introductions to Legal System / Chinese Legal Research Guides

• Portal Sites (Worldlii, Library of Congress, Law Libraries)

http://www.worldlii.org
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• Portal Sites (Worldlii, Library of Congress, Law Libraries)
• Search Engines (Special Tricks)

Search Engines:
• Google Advanced Search
• Google Scholar
• Google Books
• GoogleToolbar

Search Caveat
People’s Republic of China
Vs.
Republic of China (Taiwan)
http://www.google.com/advanced_search?hl=en
SOURCES FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF INFORMATION:

- News (English)
- Importance of News Sources
- Lexis/Westlaw
- Chinese Newspapers (archives, etc.)
- Blogs, Email Lists
SOURCES FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF INFORMATION:

- News (English)
  - LexisNexis
  - Westlaw

- News: Chinese Newspapers
Sources for Specific Types of Information:

- Laws, Regulations
- Gov't websites: agencies
- Databases: LawinfoChina ("Chinalawinfo"), Isinolaw
- NGO websites

http://www.npc.gov.cn/zgrdw/english/home/index.jsp
SOURCES FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF INFORMATION:

- Laws, Regulations
- Gov't websites: agencies
- National People's Congress (NPC)
- State Council, Its Ministries, Commissions, etc.
Ministries & Commissions of the State Council
(A Few of the Many…)

- Legislative Affairs Office 法制办公室
- Ministry of Justice 司法部
- People's Bank of China 中国人民银行
- Ministry of Health 卫生部
- State Environmental Protection Administration 国家环境保护总局
- State Intellectual Property Office 国家知识产权局
- China Securities Regulatory Commission 中国证券监督管理委员会
But …

Some are in Chinese!!!
SOURCES FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF INFORMATION:
• Laws, Regulations
• Gov’t websites: agencies
• Databases: LawinfoChina, Isinolaw
• NGO websites

http://www.chinadevelopmentbrief.com/dingo/

SOURCES FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF INFORMATION: Caselaw
- How Important?
- Court Websites?
  - Many Are All in Chinese
- Isinolaw, LawinfoChina, Chinalawinfo (LexisNexis) Include Some Cases
- Journals like China Law Highlight Important Cases
- Internet: News, Full Text?

SOURCES FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF INFORMATION:
- Journal Articles (English)
  - Lexis/Westlaw
  - LegalTrac – Legal Resource Index
  - Google Scholar
  - Hein Online

http://www.china-aids.org/
Challenges & Pitfalls

• Are Chinese Websites Bilingual? – Not really!
• Many Laws, Regulations, Cases Never Translated
• Problem of Variant Translations

"Property Law of the People's Republic of China" (Isinolaw)

"Real Right Law of the People's Republic of China" (LawinfoChina)
Challenges & Pitfalls

• What About Automatic Translation Websites?
• Very Misleading!

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• Internet Chinese Legal Research Center (Wei Luo)
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谢谢！