

International Law Research: *Introduction & Starting Points*

Prepared for Global Perspectives on Law A508
University of Washington Gallagher Law Library
May 2013

Getting Started: Research Strategy

- Preliminary Analysis
 - Assess knowledge
 - Consult secondary sources for background on topic and citations to primary law
- Gather, read, and analyze primary law
- Update research and refine preliminary conclusions

See the University of Washington Gallagher Law Library Guide for more information, “Research Strategy” (<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/resstrat.shtml>)

Research Guides (online roadmaps to exploring topics in international law prepared by research experts)

- University of Washington Gallagher Law Library Guide: Start with the Law Library’s “Foreign, Comparative and International Law” page (<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/fcil.html>) for link to “International Legal Research” (<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/intlegal.shtml>) and others
- ASIL (American Society of International Law) ERG (Electronic Resource Guide) covers important areas of international law (<http://www.asil.org/erg/>)
- EISIL (Electronic Information System for International Law) is a free online database from ASIL that organizes and provides links to useful information on international law (<http://www.eisil.org/>)
- GlobaLex (New York University School of Law) (<http://www.nyulawglobal.org/Globalex/>) “International Law Research” (<http://www.nyulawglobal.com/globalex/index.html?open=ILR>) provides a list of research guides on international law topics, such as an “Introduction to Public Law Research” (http://www.nyulawglobal.com/globalex/Public_International_Law_Research1.htm)

Searching for Sources of International Law

Treaty Research:

- **Multilateral treaty collection resources**
 - University of Washington Gallagher Law Library Guide, “Treaties & Other International Agreements” (<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/treaties.html>)
 - United Nations Treaty Collection (<http://treaties.un.org/Pages/Home.aspx?lang=en>). Includes the *United Nations Treaty Series* (U.N.T.S.) database. U.N.T.S. also is available in print at Compact Stacks KZ172 .T74.
 - HeinOnline’s “Treaties and Agreements Library” includes all U.S. treaties, whether currently in-force, expired, or not-yet officially published (http://www.heinonline.org/HOL/Index?collection=ustreaties&set_as_cursor=clear)
 - “FLARE Index to Treaties” is a searchable database of basic information on over 2,000 of the most significant multilateral treaties and some bilateral treaties concluded between 1353 – present. Includes citations and links where available (<http://193.62.18.232/dbtw-wpd/textbase/treatysearch.htm>)
 - University of Minnesota’s “Frequently-Cited Treaties and Other International Instruments” (<http://library.law.umn.edu/researchguides/most-cited.html>) provides a succinct list of important treaties with citations; entries are linked to EISIL and HeinOnline when available.

- International Legal Materials (I.L.M.) publishes selected treaties and agreements. Current issues at Reference Area KZ64 .I58, on LexisNexis, HeinOnline, and Westlaw: ILM.
- **U.S. treaty research**
 - U.S. Dept. of State web site includes the topic of “Treaty Affairs” with descriptions and links useful for U.S. treaty research (<http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/index.htm>)
 - *Treaties in Force* (an index updated annually by the Dept. of State) (<http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/tif/index.htm>). Also available on HeinOnline, the catalog record is [here](#).
 - *Treaty Actions* (contains current information on treaties, used to update *Treaties in Force*) (<http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/c3428.htm>)
 - *Treaties and Other International Act Series (T.I.A.S)* (1996 -) (<http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/tias/index.htm>). Also available on HeinOnline, the catalog record is [here](#).
 - HeinOnline’s “Treaties and Agreements Library” includes all U.S. treaties, whether currently in-force, expired, or not-yet officially published. *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements* (U.S.T.) is an official source of U.S. treaties available in this HeinOnline collection (http://www.heinonline.org/HOL/Index?collection=ustreaties&set_as_cursor=clear)
 - Treaties on *Thomas.gov* (90th Congress -) (<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/treaties/treaties.html>)

International Custom:

- University of Washington Gallagher Law Library Guide, “Customs, Principles, & Teachings in International Law” (<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/custom.html>)
- RESTATEMENT (THIRD) OF FOREIGN RELATIONS LAW (1987). Updated with supplements. KF395.F67 1987 at Reference Area and on Westlaw: REST-FOREL

International Case Law:

- University of Washington Gallagher Law Library Guide, “International Cases” (<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/intcases.shtml>)
- WorldLii International Courts & Tribunals Collection (<http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/>)
- The Project on International Courts & Tribunals Chart (http://www.pict-pcti.org/publications/synoptic_chart/synoptic_chart2.pdf)
- Examples of International Courts:
 - United Nations, International Court of Justice (<http://www.icj-cij.org/homepage/index.php>)
 - The Court of Justice of the European Union (http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/court-justice/index_en.htm)

Researching Intergovernmental Organizations (“IGOs”)

Research Guides:

- University of Washington Gallagher Law Library Guide, “Intergovernmental Organizations” (<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/igos.shtml>)
- ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law “International Organizations” (<http://www.asil.org/erg/?page=io>)
- Northwestern University LibGuide, “List of IGOs” (<http://libguides.northwestern.edu/IGO>)

- YEARBOOK OF ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (48th ed. 2011-2012). JZ4836 .Y43 at Reference Office (earlier volumes in Classified Stacks).

IGOs (select):

United Nations (<http://www.un.org/en/>):

Research Guides:

- University of Washington Gallagher Law Library Guide, “United Nations Research” (<https://lib.law.washington.edu/content/guides/UNresearch>)
- GlobaLex research guide (update), “Researching the United Nations” (http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/United_Nations_Research1.htm)

Useful links:

- UN Charter (<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>)
- Structure & Organization (<http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/structure/index.shtml>)
- Organizational Chart (http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/structure/org_chart.shtml)
- Official Website Locator of UN System of Organizations (<http://www.unsystem.org/>)
- UN Treaty Handbook (http://treaties.un.org/pages/Publications.aspx?pathpub=Publication/TH/Page1_en.xml)
- UN Treaty Collection -- Definitions (http://treaties.un.org/pages/Overview.aspx?path=overview/definition/page1_en.xml)
- Dag Hammarskjöld Library (<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/>)

European Union (http://europa.eu/index_en.htm):

Research Guides:

- University of Washington Gallagher Law Library Guide, “European Union Research” (<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/eu.shtml>)
- Columbia University Arthur W. Diamond Law Library “Research Guide: European Union Legal Materials” (http://library.law.columbia.edu/guides/European_Union_Legal_Materials)

Dictionaries, Citations, & Citations

- PARRY & GRANT ENCYCLOPAEDIC DICTIONARY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (3rd ed. 2009). KZ 1161 .P37 2009 at Reference Area.
- JAMES R. FOX, DICTIONARY OF INTERNATIONAL & COMPARATIVE LAW (3rd ed. 2003). KZ 1161 .F69 2003 at Reference Area.
- MARY MILES PRINCE, PRINCE’S BIEBER DICTIONARY OF ABBREVIATIONS (6th ed. 2009). KF 246 .B46 2009 at Reference Office & Reference Area.
- New York University School of Law, GUIDE TO FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL CITATIONS (2d ed. 2009). K89.G84 2009 at Reference Office.
- THE BLUEBOOK: A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF CITATION (19th ed. 2010). KF245.U5 2010 at Reference Office & Reference Area.

Tutorials

- “International Legal Research Tutorial,” a project of Duke University School of Law & University of California, Berkeley School of Law (<http://www.law.duke.edu/ilrt/>)
- CALI International Law Lessons. Stop by the Reference Office for login information (<http://www.cali.org/>)