International and Foreign Legal Research:

A Coursebook

Marci Hoffman Mary Rumsey

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About the Authors

Marci Hoffman is the Associate Director and International & Foreign Law Librarian at the University of California, Berkeley Law School. She has been teaching international and foreign legal research since 1994. Ms. Hoffman received her B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Davis and her M.L.I.S. from the University of California, Berkeley. She served as the foreign, comparative, and international law librarian at the University of Minnesota Law Library from 1993 to 1999 and was the international and foreign law librarian at Georgetown University Law Library. She returned to Boalt in fall 2003 as the international and foreign law librarian.

Ms. Hoffman has done extensive work and written widely on international and foreign legal research. Her work is available on the Web as well as in a variety of publications. Ms. Hoffman also has broad experience working with human rights materials and was the co-director of the University of Minnesota Human Rights Library on the Web. She was also one of the project managers of the American Society of International Law's EISIL project.

Mary Rumsey is the Foreign, Comparative & International Law Librarian at the University of Minnesota. She has taught foreign and international legal research since 2001. Ms. Rumsey received her B.A. degree in Philosophy and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin, her law degree from the University of Chicago, and a master's degree in library and information science from Dominican University.

Ms. Rumsey has written extensively on library and legal research issues, with two of her publications receiving national awards. Her work has been published in Law Library Journal, Law Reference Services Quarterly, Spectrum, the International Journal of Legal Information, LLRX.com, and GlobaLex. She also participated as an author in the American Society of International Law's EISIL project.

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ALI	American Law Institute
ASIL	American Society of International Law
AU	African Union
BIT	bilateral investment treaty
CAFTA	Central American Free Trade Agreement
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CIEL	Center for International Environmental Law
CIESIN	Center for Earth Science Information Network
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and Wild Flora and Fauna
CLEA	Collection of Laws for Electronic Access (intellectual property)
COE	Council of Europe
CSCE	Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe
DPI	United Nations Department of Public Information
DSB	Dispute Settlement Body
DSU	Dispute Settlement Understanding
EC	European Community
ECHR	European Court of Human Rights
ECJ	Court of Justice of the European Union
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
EEC	European Economic Community
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EISIL	Electronic Information System for International Law
EPO	European Patent Office
EU	European Union
EURATOM	European Atomic Energy Community

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FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GATT	General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs
HRC	Human Rights Committee
ICANN	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICSID	International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes
ICTR	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
IEL	international environmental law
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGO	intergovernmental organization
ILC	International Law Commission
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IP	intellectual property
ITLOS	International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IUCN	World Conservation Union
LCIA	London Court of International Arbitration
LCSH	Library of Congress Subject Headings
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NHC	Netherlands Helsinki Committee
NGO	nongovernmental organization
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization for African Unity
OCLC	Online Computer Library Center
ODS	Official Document System of the United Nations
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PCA	Permanent Court of Arbitration
PCIJ	Permanent Court of International Justice
PICT	Project on International Courts and Tribunals

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms xxi

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SICE	OAS Foreign Trade Information System (from its Spanish acronym—Sistema de Información al Comercio Exterior)
SSRN	Social Science Research Network
TEU	Treaty on European Union
TRIPs	Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAT	United Nations Administrative Tribunal
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UPU	Universal Postal Union
US	United States
WCT	WIPO Copyright Treaty
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WPPT	WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty
WTO	World Trade Organization

Introduction

This book is designed for use as a coursebook for classes in foreign and international legal research. However, librarians, students, law professors, and other researchers can also use it as a research guide outside of formal classes. The order of chapters is one possible way to structure a class in international and foreign legal research, but it is by no means the only one or the best one. This book can also be used as a tool for quick look-ups when a researcher needs some direction on a topic or information on a source.

Topics covered in the book range from a general section on basic concepts (Chapter 1) to five sections on particular subjects of international law (Chapter 9). Each major aspect of research, such as using periodical indexes, is treated once in depth. Elsewhere in the book, other sections refer readers to that in-depth treatment, while adding information specific to the topic being discussed. We hope that this compromise avoids extensive repetition.

We expect that the landscape of research sources, particularly electronic ones, will continue to change. Thus, we have emphasized strategies more than specific sources.

For easier readability, we give only basic information on sources within the chapters. For books, we provide author, title, and year; for Web sites, just the URL. Full bibliographic information appears in the Appendix of Sources. This appendix is arranged alphabetically by the title of the source, regardless of its format.

We endeavor to maintain a companion Web site, available at http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/iflrbook.html, to help users of the book keep up-to-date on new sources and strategies. Comments from our readers are welcome. Marci Hoffman can be reached at mhoffman@law.berkeley.edu; Mary Rumsey can be reached at rumse006@unm.edu.

Chapter 1 Getting Started

I. BASIC CONCEPTS

When researching international and foreign law, you must know two things: (1) the type of law you are researching, and (2) the sources of law. For example, to research how a Nigerian citizen can sue in a US court for violation of international human rights law, you must know that a combination of national and public international law applies. You must further understand the role of treaties and statutes as sources of national and public international law. Both pieces—the type of law and the sources within that type—are necessary components of any research process.

Therefore, it is important to define and understand some basic concepts related to types of law and sources at the outset of any research project. Listed below are some fundamental terms and concepts used throughout this book and when researching international and foreign law generally. Although definitions in other sources may vary slightly, these brief explanations should provide a baseline for understanding these terms and concepts.

A. National Law

National law is essentially the domestic or internal law of a country. It defines the role of government to the people and controls relationships between people. It may regulate foreign persons and entities, but it does not have effect outside the boundaries of a nation.

Sources: National law is embodied in constitutions, statutes, regulations, and court decisions. Constitutions, statutes, and regulations are primary sources of law for all jurisdictions. Court decisions are also primary sources of law in common law jurisdictions, but they are considered secondary sources of law in civil law jurisdictions. The phrase "foreign law" is sometimes used by US legal researchers when referring to the national law of any country other than the United States. Throughout this book, the term "foreign law" means national law.

2 International and Foreign Legal Research

There is some academic dispute over how to classify or group national legal systems.¹ Most scholars seem to agree that there are five types of legal systems: civil law, common law, customary law, religious law, and mixed legal systems. Many systems are mixed because two or more legal systems operate within the same jurisdiction. The following paragraphs provide only a very general overview of legal systems.

The United States, like most former British colonies, has a common law legal system. While the original common law system consisted of judicial precedents and few statutes, modern common law systems usually express much of their law in statutes. Even in these modern common law systems, however, judicial interpretations of the law (i.e., court decisions) are an important source of law. Statutes in common law systems do not usually prescribe comprehensive rules for an entire area of activity (e.g., commerce).

Most civil law systems are based on comprehensive written codes, designed to address an entire area of activity (e.g., criminal law, commerce, civil procedure). Most countries have civil law systems. In these systems, courts ordinarily decide cases only for the parties before them; court decisions do not officially carry any precedential value.² Civil law systems originated in Roman law but have evolved in different directions.

Customary law plays a role in some legal systems, though no country operates solely under a customary law system. Customary law tends to govern areas of personal conduct, inheritance, and marriage. Most often, customary law is unwritten and is dispensed by persons with elected or hereditary roles within a small community.

Most religious legal systems are based on Islam, although some communities, and one country (Israel), operate in part based on Judaic law. Generally, religious legal systems operate within countries that also have a civil or common law system. Religious law usually applies to issues of personal status (e.g., marriage) and may apply only to some residents of a country.

Mixed legal systems are not a separate type of legal system. Instead, they are a useful way to characterize countries that include elements of more than one

¹ Jaakko Husa, *Classification of Legal Families Today: Is it Time for a Memorial Hymn?*, 66 R.I.D.C. 11 (2004).

 $^{^{2}}$ While there are exceptions to this generalization, it is a useful one to begin to understand the difference between common and civil law systems.

legal system. Because Quebec and Louisiana operate under some elements of civil law systems, for example, you could say that Canada and the United States are mixed legal systems.

For more information about the various legal systems, see the following titles:

- René David & John E.C. Brierly, *Major Legal Systems in the World Today: an Introduction to the Comparative Study of Law* (2d ed. 1978). This is a classic textbook, but a bit dated.
- Mary Ann Glendon et al., *Comparative Legal Traditions in a Nutshell* (2d ed. 1999). In the standard West Nutshell format, this book covers civil and common legal systems, using the British system as a paradigm of common law countries.
- H. Patrick Glenn, *Legal Traditions of the World* (2d ed. 2004). This book describes various legal traditions rather than systems. It includes aspects of Islamic, Asian, Hindu, Talmudic, and other legal traditions.
- *Introduction to Foreign Legal Systems* (Richard A. Danner & Marie-Louise H. Bernal eds., 1994). Aimed in part at legal researchers, this book covers civil law, Asian, African, and common law systems.
- Frederick H. Lawson, *A Common Lawyer Looks at the Civil Law* (1955). As its title implies, this book examines civil law with a focus on features that differ markedly from those in common law systems.
- John H. Merryman et al., *The Civil Law Tradition: Europe, Latin America, and East Asia* (1994). Although written as a casebook, this 1,278-page text describes the history and modern status of various civil law systems in depth.
- John H. Merryman, *The Civil Law Tradition: An Introduction to the Legal Systems of Western Europe and Latin America* (2d ed. 1984). A simpler text than the one above, this book discusses general concepts of civil law systems.
- *Mixed Jurisdictions Worldwide: The Third Legal Family* (Vernon Valentine Palmer ed., 2001). This book provides a comparative overview of legal systems in which civil and common law coexist, then it focuses on several examples (e.g., South Africa, Scotland, Louisiana).

For a quick overview of the major legal systems of the world (civil law, common law, etc.), see World Legal Systems.³ You can use this Web site's map to find out what kind of legal system a country has. The site also provides some

³ http://www.droitcivil.uottawa.ca/world-legal-systems/eng-monde.php.

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interesting statistical information on the number of civil law systems, mixed systems, etc.

B. Private International Law

Private international law governs the choice of which national law to apply when there are conflicts in the domestic law of different countries related to private transactions between private parties. These conflicts arise most often in areas such as contracts, marriage and divorce, jurisdiction, recognition of judgments, and child adoption and abduction. In the United States, Canada, and England, private international law is known as *conflict of laws*.

Sources: Confusingly, the term "private international law" refers primarily to each country's *national* legal rules, which form the main sources of private international law. However, some private international law is also embodied in *public* international law sources, such as treaties and international conventions. For example, the Hague Conventions on Private International Law⁴ govern such areas as international service of process, child abduction, and the form of wills. Despite the increasing number of such treaties, however, there is no well-defined body of private international law.

C. Comparative Law

Comparative law is "the study of the similarities and differences between the laws of two or more countries, or between two or more legal systems. Comparative law is not itself a system of law or a body of rules, but rather a method or approach to legal inquiry."⁵ For researchers who already know how to research US law, comparative legal research ordinarily presents the usual challenges of foreign legal research (as described in Chapter 7).

Sources: Because comparative law is not a system of law, it does not have its own set of sources. The sources depend on the national law systems being compared.

For more information on comparative law, see the following texts:

⁴ See listing of Hague Conventions at http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act= conventions.listing.

⁵ MORRIS COHEN ET AL., HOW TO FIND THE LAW 565 (9th ed. 1989).

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- *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Law* (Reinhard Zimmermann & Mathias Reimann eds., 2006). In 48 chapters, this book describes the current state of comparative law, major approaches to comparative law, and the status of comparative studies in several subjects.
- Peter De Cruz, *Comparative Law in a Changing World* (2d ed. 1999). In addition to explaining various legal systems, this book covers techniques to answer inquiries of comparative law. It then examines some areas of law using comparative methods.
- Konrad Zweigert & Hein Kötz, *Introduction to Comparative Law* (3d rev. ed. 1998). Often used as a textbook, this book covers the function and methodology of comparative law, major world legal systems, and a few areas of law within those systems.

Books that compare specific systems or specific topics are also available. See, for example:

- Raymond Young, *English, French, and German Comparative Law* (2d ed. 2004). This book compares the treatment of selected legal topics under the three legal systems.
- The Boundaries of Strict Liability in European Tort Law (Franz Werro & Vernon Valentine Palmer eds., 2004). This book examines rules on strict tort liability in 12 European legal systems.
- James Gordley, *Foundations of Private Law: Property, Tort, Contract, Unjust Enrichment* (2006). Western legal principles common to both civil and common law systems are identified.
- Michael Cavadino & James Dignan, *Penal Systems: A Comparative Approach* (2006). Drawing on 12 different legal systems, addresses major features of penal systems, including juvenile justice and privately run prisons.
- Human Rights in Asia: A Comparative Legal Study of Twelve Asian Jurisdictions, France, and the USA (Randall Peerenboom et al. eds., 2006). This book examines 12 Asian countries (and France and the United States), exploring the implementation of civil, political, social, cultural, and economic rights.
- Mads Andenaes & Frank Wooldridge, *European Comparative Company Law* (2005). The company law of the European Union (EU) and of seven European countries is examined.

D. Public International Law

Public international law governs the relationships between national governments, the relationships between intergovernmental organizations (IGOs),

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and the relationships between national governments and IGOs. It also regulates governments and IGOs across national boundaries.

Sources: The sources of public international law are enumerated below. Their authority is based on Article 38 of the International Court of Justice (the ICJ Statute)⁶:

- international conventions (treaties);
- customary law (general practices of states⁷ and IGOs that are legally binding and generally recognized by all states);
- general principles of law; and
- judicial decisions and the teachings of the most highly qualified publicists⁸ of the various nations.

For more information on the sources of public international law, see Thomas Buergenthal, *Public International Law in a Nutshell* (4th ed. 2007). Chapter 6 explores the sources of public international law in detail.

E. Transnational Law

Transnational law is a broad category that is generally taken "to include all law which regulates actions or events that transcend national frontiers. Both public and private international law are included, as are other rules which do not wholly fit into such standard categories."⁹ The focus of this subject "is invariably on the legal relationship between a state and alien individuals or corporations, frequently in commercial, industrial or investment situations."¹⁰

⁸ Publicists are considered the most important scholars in international law. While historically they were individual writers, now they are often scholarly organizations such as the American Law Institute, which produced the *Restatement of the Law Third, Foreign Relations Law of the United States.*

⁹ Philip C. Jessup, Transnational Law 2 (1956).

¹⁰ PARRY & GRANT ENCYCLOPAEDIC DICTIONARY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 511 (Craig Barker & John P. Grant eds., 2d ed. 2004).

⁶ 3 Bevans 1179; 59 Stat. 1031, *available at* http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/ ibasicdocuments/ibasictext/ibasicstatute.htm.

⁷ While US lawyers ordinarily use the word "states" to refer to the 50 US states, in international law, you will often see nations referred to as "states" (as in "state responsibility," "state sovereignty," and "state actors").

Sources: Because transnational law encompasses both public and private international law, its sources may include any of the sources for those two types of law.

F. Supranational Law

Practically speaking, there is only one supranational legal order—the European Union. A supranational organization (1) has powers that its member states do not have because they surrendered those powers to it; (2) may enact rules that preempt the laws and regulations of its member states; and (3) may grant rights and privileges to the nationals of its member states, which those nationals may directly invoke.

Sources: The European Union has established various sources of law, including its founding treaties ("primary legislation"); other treaties; regulations, directives, and decisions ("secondary legislation"); general principles of law; and treaties between its members.

G. Soft Law

Soft law refers to nonbinding documents or instruments (guidelines, declarations, or principles) that may have use politically, but are not enforceable. For example, a UN General Assembly resolution on terrorism¹¹ constitutes "soft law."¹² It may express the sense of the international community, but it does not obligate even UN members to comply. Soft law has been effective in international economic law and international environmental law. For example, soft law instruments have created an expectation that states will consult with affected states before taking actions that might create a significant risk of transfrontier pollution.¹³

¹¹ E.g., Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, G.A. Res. 210, U.N. GAOR, 51st Sess., Supp. No. 49, at 346, U.N. Doc. A/51/631 (1996).

¹² See Christine M. Chinkin, *The Challenge of Soft Law: Development and Change in International Law*, 38 INT'L COMP. L.Q. 850 (1989).

¹³ Pierre-Marie Dupuy, *Soft Law and the International Law of the Environment*, 12 MICH. J. INT'L L. 420, 434 (1991).

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II. TYPES OF LEGAL MATERIALS USED IN RESEARCH

Legal materials are published in a variety of sources, some official and some unofficial. The outline below highlights some of the most common types of legal materials. These materials include books, documents, commercial databases, freely available Web sites, articles, and people.

The sources cited in this section are used for illustrative purposes only and are not exhaustive lists of what is available. Other sources will be mentioned in the next chapters.

A. Primary Law Sources

Primary sources of law contain the law itself. In most jurisdictions, these include constitutions, statutes, codes, and regulations. In some jurisdictions, court decisions are also considered primary law.

In public international law, the sources of law are outlined in Article 38 of the ICJ Statute. They include international conventions, international custom, and general principles of law. While Article 38 does not mention the sources of private international law, these sources include national law, treaties, and customary law.

1. Constitutions/Charters

There are many sources for constitutions, both in the vernacular (i.e., the official language of the country) and in English-language translation. One of the well-known sources is *Constitutions of the Countries of the World* (Albert P. Blaustein & Gisbert H. Flanz eds., 1971—). This multivolume print looseleaf is also available in electronic form. A free Web site with less complete coverage is the International Constitutional Law Project.¹⁴

One hazard for US researchers is that we assume other countries rarely amend their constitutions. In fact, many countries amend or even replace their constitutions much more often than the United States does. Be careful of relying on outdated versions, especially translations.

¹⁴ http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl.

2. Statutes/Codes

a. Official Gazettes

Many countries publish official (national) gazettes, and they are usually the first official source for laws, regulations, notices, treaties and agreements, and announcements. Gazettes are usually published daily, by the government, in a format similar to the *Federal Register* in the United States. An example of a gazette is the German *Bundesgesetzblatt* (BGBI), published in two parts. Part I contains laws, ordinances, ministerial notices, and decisions of the federal constitutional court. Part II contains international agreements and treaties.

You can use various sources to learn whether a country publishes an official gazette. Try John E. Roberts ed., *A Guide to Official Gazettes and Their Contents* (rev. ed. 1985). More up-to-date information may be found at Government Gazettes Online,¹⁵ which is maintained by the University of Michigan. Each country entry provides the following information: title of the gazette, URL, languages, access (free or fee), dates, searchability, format (HTML, PDF, etc.), and the description of contents of the gazette. Note that this Web site does not cover every country, and it used *A Guide to Official Gazettes and Their Contents* as the initial source for this project. One major convenience of the Web site, however, is its links to online gazettes.

b. Session Laws

Some countries publish session laws, which are statutes printed chronologically by date of enactment, regardless of the subject. An example is France's *Actualité Législative Dalloz* (1983—). To determine which countries publish session laws, consult Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo A. Flores, *Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World* (1987—) (the electronic version is called *Foreign Law Guide*, available by subscription only).¹⁶ One example is Sweden, which publishes its laws in *Svensk Författningssamling* (1825—). This publication is available online.

c. Codified Law

A codification, or code, is a comprehensive, systematic legislative enactment covering all aspects of a defined subject area. Many countries have enacted five major codifications (civil, civil procedure, criminal, criminal

¹⁵ http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/gazettes/index.htm.

¹⁶ http://www.foreignlawguide.com.

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procedure, and commercial). Some countries, like France, have enacted many more codes, including labor, copyright, public health, etc. Codes can be found mostly in the vernacular. However, some English-language translations do exist, for example, *The Mexican Civil Code* (Abraham Eckstein & Enrique Zepeda Trujillo trans., 1996).

d. Compilations or Official Codifications

Some countries publish codes in looseleaf volumes and some in separate annual volumes, arranged by subject. These are usually in the vernacular, for example, Belgium's *Les Codes Larcier* (1995—).

e. Compilations of Specific Laws

Compilations of specific laws are most often from commercial publishers and cover several jurisdictions. They include topic-specific compilations, such as *Commercial Laws of the World*, or collections of laws from a particular region, such as *Central & Eastern European Legal Materials* (1990—). Most such compilations appear in English.

3. Administrative Rules/Regulations

In many jurisdictions, administrative rules and regulations are published in a separate compilation, such as the UK's *Halsbury's Statutory Instruments* (1986—). These are similar to the US *Code of Federal Regulations*. Rules and regulations may also be published in official gazettes. While these laws are considered primary law, they are nearly always in the vernacular, and few are translated into English.

4. Court Decisions

a. Decisions of National Courts

National case law comes from a variety of sources. In civil law jurisdictions, case law is referred to as "jurisprudence," which should not be confused with "legal philosophy" as the term is used in the United States.

Decisions of national courts are often published in official reporters, such as the *South African Law Reports* (1947—). However, much more case law is published in commercial or unofficial sources, such as the *All England Law Reports* (1948—). In some jurisdictions, such as France and Germany, more complete reporting is done through commercial journals. Although there is little or no systematic reporting of cases from civil law jurisdictions, more thorough reporting is available from the highest courts.

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There are some sources for case law that publish several jurisdictions together. In these sources, the cases are selected based on topic and jurisdiction. Examples include *Bulletin on Constitutional Case Law* (1993—), *International Labour Law Reports* (1978—), and *Law Reports of the Commonwealth* (1994—).

b. Decisions of International Courts and Tribunals

The decisions of international courts and tribunals are fairly accessible through print publications and official Web sites. Many of these bodies issue regular publications, such as yearbooks and annual reports, containing summaries or complete decisions. Some case law is published in commercial publications, such as *European Human Rights Reports* (1979—). There are also some compilations, such as *International Law Reports* (1950—) or *Butterworth's Human Rights Cases* (Jeremy McBride ed., 1997). Recent projects offer access to the case law of multiple courts; see the World Legal Information Institute (WorldLII)¹⁷ and the Project on International Courts and Tribunals (PICT).¹⁸

5. Treaties and International Agreements

You will find many sources for treaties and international agreements. These sources include historical collections, such as the *Consolidated Treaty Series* (1969-1981); national collections, such as the *United Kingdom Treaty Series* (1892—); and multijurisdictional collections, such as the *United Nations Treaty Series* (1947—). Some countries also publish treaties and agreements in official gazettes.

Topic-specific collections are also available, usually published by a commercial publisher or an international organization. For example, *International Protection of the Environment* (3d series, 1992—) includes treaties on various aspects of environmental law. Collections of basic instruments or documents are also common, for example, *International Economic Law: Basic Documents* (1993).

Many treaties are also available on Web sites, such as UN organization sites.

¹⁷ http://www.worldlii.org.

¹⁸ http://www.pict-pcti.org.

6. Customary Law

a. Public International Law

Customary law is an important source of public international law (see Chapter 6). These sources include state or diplomatic papers, municipal legislation dealing with international matters, and legislative acts of intergovernmental organizations. To argue that a rule is part of customary international law, you will need to find sources that embody that rule. For example, to argue that customary international law forbids the execution of juveniles, you could cite to the laws of all the countries that do so. Yearbooks and periodicals are particularly good ways to locate this information.

b. Domestic Customary Law

Custom (practices or beliefs, such as tribal law, folk law, or indigenous law) is a source of law in some jurisdictions, but hardly any country operates under a wholly customary legal system. Custom is embodied in the form of practice or belief and is usually not written down. This makes locating this law very difficult. The best way for a researcher to locate this information is in books and articles (i.e., secondary sources) that discuss this law. To learn more about using secondary sources, see Chapter 4.

B. Background and Secondary Sources

Background or secondary sources discuss and analyze the law. On occasion, these sources translate or summarize relevant portions of laws, or reprint actual texts of laws.

1. Books and Serials

Secondary sources, such as books and serials, are important research tools. In some jurisdictions, lawyers consult them before looking at the law itself. Common secondary sources include treatises, classics of international law, and periodicals. Compendiums or looseleaf services provide information by topic (e.g., *International Environment Reporter* (1978—)) or cover a nation or region (e.g., *African Tax System* (1970—)). Commentaries are extremely important in some jurisdictions. For example, in Germany, researchers rely on commentaries for subject access to laws and for expert interpretation. Other sources include digests (e.g., *Digest of Commercial Laws of the World* (1998—)), textbooks (some with document supplements), and encyclopedias (e.g., *Encyclopedia del Diritto*—Italy).

2. Periodicals and Yearbooks

Some researchers like to review the most important journals every month to learn about new developments in the law and track new legislation and cases. While yearbooks are issued annually, they are excellent sources for locating information on new legislation and legal developments. Publications and proceedings of scholarly organizations, such as Hague Academy of International Law, are also useful because they contain commentary by extremely distinguished contributors.

3. Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, and Abbreviations

Researchers into foreign and international law often encounter unfamiliar terms, or familiar terms used in unfamiliar ways. International and foreign law has also spawned its own assortment of abbreviations. When you encounter these terms, you can avoid confusion by turning to dictionaries and lists of abbreviations.

International law dictionaries may be general, such as *Parry & Grant's Encyclopaedic Dictionary of International Law* (J. Craig Barker & John P. Grant eds., 2d ed. 2004), or may focus on a topic within international law (e.g., human rights or trade). Regardless of their focus, they contain more useful information than a general dictionary or even a standard US law dictionary.

For foreign law research, you will often rely on bilingual legal dictionaries, such as Henry Saint Dahl, *Dahl's Law Dictionary: Spanish-English/English-Spanish* (4th ed. 2006). It is important to use a bilingual *law* dictionary, as opposed to a regular bilingual dictionary. Regular dictionaries often leave out legal "terms of art" and may give only the most common meaning of a term.

While you can sometimes decode an abbreviation or acronym by entering the term in your favorite Web search engine, this won't always work. If it does not, remember that some international law dictionaries include abbreviations.

The online Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations¹⁹ helps you find the meaning of abbreviations for English-language legal publications from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Commonwealth countries, and the United States, including those covering international and comparative law. The editors also

¹⁹ http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/about.jsp.

include some abbreviations for sources not in English, such as "BGB" for the *Burgerliches Gesetzbuch* (German Civil Code).

Another efficient research tool is the legal encyclopedia, which provides an introduction to key legal concepts and lists further sources. For public international law research, the *Encyclopedia of Public International Law* (1981-1990; 1992—) is one of your best starting points. It has entries on important legal problems and institutions, and on major international court and tribunal decisions.

C. Electronic Sources

The term "electronic sources" refers to online databases, CD-ROMS, freely available Web sites, and computer disks. They may contain primary law as well as secondary sources.

In the United States and some other countries, LexisNexis and Westlaw are major sources for law, by subscription only. There are many other companies in other countries that provide similar information for a fee. For example, a service called Indlaw offers access to Indian laws, regulations, cases, etc. CD-ROMS are a popular format for some publishers. CDs abound for journals and supplements for books, and for publishing cases and legislation.

The Internet has become one of the primary publishing formats for both domestic and international law. Although many developing countries are not yet able to provide their laws online, you can find recent legislation from most other countries on the Internet.

D. Finding Tools

While not sources of law themselves, finding tools are critical in the research process. These are the tools that allow the researcher to access the primary and secondary sources of law. They include manuals and research guides, bibliographies, indexes, digests, and much more. Chapter 3 focuses on these tools and their use.

Legal research guides can help you find information and can also tell you what may be unavailable. If you have to tell a supervising attorney that there is no free online source for Ghana's laws, it is comforting to point to an expert guide on Ghanaian law^{20} to back up your statement.

²⁰ E.g., Victor Essien, Researching Ghanaian Law (June 2005), http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Ghana.htm#_Legislation.

E. People and Organizations

Two valuable and often overlooked research sources are people and organizations. While the Internet has sometimes made personal contacts unnecessary, people remain the best source of information on some topics. E-mail has become a primary method for contacting people and organizations, replacing costly and difficult international phone calls. To locate useful contacts, you can use directories and guides, available in both paper and electronic formats. Many organizations' Web sites also list contact information.

III. SOURCES OF LAW

For quick reference, the chart below lays out the sources of law for major legal systems and international law.

	Common Law	Civil Law	Public International Law	Private International Law
Primary Sources	Constitutions	Constitutions	Treaties	National Law
	Statutes/Codes	Statutes/Codes	Customary Law	Treaties
	Regulations	Regulations	Generally recognized	Customary Law
	Court Decisions		Principles of Law	
Secondary Sources	Scholarly Commentary	Court Decisions	Court Decisions	Court Decisions
	connonary	Scholarly Commentary	Teachings of Publicists (Scholarly Commentary)	Scholarly Commentary

Chapter 2 English Translations

This chapter gives important background information on legal translations, and describes strategies for locating them.

I. ABOUT TRANSLATIONS

For Americans researching foreign law, one of the most common tasks is to look for English translations of foreign legal materials. Even US researchers who read foreign languages often feel more comfortable with English-language sources. Unfortunately, the comfort of English comes at a high price—the loss of authority. You will find only a few situations in which English versions have the authority of the foreign-language versions. One of those rare examples is Quebec's laws, which are published in both English and French. If you are not dealing with a jurisdiction like Quebec in which English is an official language, then whenever the English version differs from the original, that original version takes precedence. The original, foreign-language version is called the "authoritative" version.

Even English translations provided by a foreign government, such as the translations of French codes and laws at the Legifrance Web site, lack the authority of their counterparts in the vernacular. They are, however, considered "official" translations, and as such they are more desirable than other kinds. An "official" translation is one created by or for a governmental organization. Official translations are usually fairly accurate. Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) also produce translations; for example, UNESCO offers many translated laws on its Web site. While IGO translations are usually reliable, they are not considered "official."

The most useful and reliable translation is an official translation that provides the original text next to the translation. Side-by-side translations like these are referred to as "synoptic." Researchers who know the foreign language in question value these because they enable quick comparisons between the original and the translation. Unfortunately, they are expensive to produce and therefore hard to find. Examples include Martin Heidenhain et al., *German Antitrust Law: An Introduction to the German Antitrust Law with German Text and Synoptic English Translation of the Act against Restraints of Competition*

(1999), and Martin Peltzer et al., German Law Pertaining to Companies with Limited Liability / GmbHG - GmbH-Gesetz (4th rev. ed. 2000).

Many translations come from commercial publishers. These unofficial translations vary widely in their accuracy. Without knowing the language in question, you can't evaluate the quality yourself. To get an idea of a translation's quality, check the opinions of experts such as Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo A. Flores, *Foreign Law Guide: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World* (1987—) (hereinafter *Foreign Law Guide*). The electronic version is called *Foreign Law Guide*, available by subscription only.¹ Or, if you can afford it, hire your own expert legal translator to evaluate the translation. Other strategies include evaluating the qualifications of the translator (e.g., does she have legal training in addition to language skills?), and the reputation of the publisher. Law librarians can sometimes advise you on the quality or reputation of publishers.

A. Currentness

In addition to their lack of authority, translations often suffer from being out-of-date. Legal translation is time consuming and expensive. Thus, most laws or codes get translated and published only once. Afterwards, or even before the translation is published, governments continue to amend their codes and laws. Civil law countries amend their codes less frequently than do common law countries, but for any translation, you must always find out whether the law you need has been amended since its completion. If you can find a current version of the law in the vernacular, check the beginning and end for dates. Even if you can't read the language, you can often tell by the location of date information that the law has been amended.

For example, here is a Belgian law in French, published in the *Moniteur Belge*, which is available on the Internet.²

Publié le : 1998-09-22

MINISTERE DE LA JUSTICE

10 JUIN 1998. — Loi modifiant la loi du 30 juin 1994 relative à la protection de la vie privée contre les écoutes, la prise de connaissance

¹ http://www.foreignlawguide.com.

² http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi/welcome.pl.

et l'enregistrement de communications et de télécommunications privées

Even if you do not read French, you can pick out the relevant dates, and guess that this is a law from June 10, 1998, modifying a law from June 30, 1994. You will find that dates are an extremely helpful clue in identifying the correct law in a foreign language. Just remember that in many foreign countries, dates appear in day-month-year order, rather than the familiar month-day-year pattern used in the United States.

B. Online Translators

You are probably aware of Web sites that translate Web pages or other electronic text; Babel Fish³ is one of the best known. You may be tempted to use these sites to translate foreign laws, cases, or other legal materials. Unfortunately, they are not good enough for this purpose. No matter how much you want an English translation of a law, relying on online translators will at best embarrass or confuse you. At worst, it might tempt you to provide inaccurate legal advice.

These online translators do not incorporate the specialized vocabulary that is part of every country's legal language. You can prove this for yourself by grabbing a bilingual law dictionary and entering various terms into an online translator. While some terms may be translated correctly, you will notice many errors. For example, here is a sentence from the first article of the French Intellectual Property Code, as translated by Babel Fish:

The existence or the concluding of a contract for services or of service by the author of a work of the spirit does not carry any exemption from the pleasure of the right recognized by the subparagraph 1st.

Here is the official translation from the Legifrance⁴ Web site:

The existence or conclusion of a contract for hire or of service by the author of a work of the mind shall in no way derogate from the enjoyment of the right afforded by the first paragraph above.

Here, Babel Fish substituted "pleasure" as the most commonly used equivalent of the French word "plaisir" instead of the usual legal term, "enjoyment." A French-English legal dictionary, on the other hand, would give the term "enjoyment" as the correct translation of "plaisir."

³ http://world.altavista.com.

⁴ http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr.

Moreover, online translators perform a mechanical word-substitution process, often interchanging word order and altering the syntax of the original text. Unlike a human translator, they cannot look for the sense of a passage.

As an example, consider two more translations from the French Intellectual Property Code, Article L122-10, as translated by Babel Fish:

The publication of a work carries transfer of the reproduction right by reproduction to a company governed by title II of book III and approved for this purpose by the minister in charge of the culture. The approved companies can only conclude any convention with the users for purposes from management of the right thus yielded, provided, for the stipulations authorizing the copies for purposes of sale, hiring, publicity or promotion, the agreement of the author or his having right. In the absence of designation by the author or its having right to the date of the publication of work, one of the approved companies is famous assignee of this right.

Here is the official translation from the Legifrance Web site:

The publication of a work shall imply assignment of the right of reprographic reproduction to a society governed by Title II of Book III and approved to such end by the Minister responsible for culture. Only approved societies may conclude an agreement with users for the purpose of administering the right thus assigned, subject, for the stipulations authorizing copies for the purposes of sale, rental, publicity or promotion, to the agreement of the author or his successors in title. Failing such designation by the author or his successor in title on the date of publication of the work, one of the approved societies shall be deemed the assignee of the right.

As you can see, the Babel Fish translation does not convey the sense of the paragraph. It fails to capture the concept of "successors in title" and generally leaves the reader unsure of its effect. From your work with US legal materials, you know how complex legal language is. Because of this complexity, you must work with the best translation available.

Nonetheless, researchers sometimes use online translators to get a better sense of the content of a document. For example, if you were looking for a recent German law on genetically modified organisms, you might search English-language Web sites until you found out the date the law passed and a couple of key words. (Links to German-language materials from English Web pages will help you find terms such as "gentechnisch.") With that information, you can search again, perhaps restricting your search to Web sites in German. Searching with these terms soon retrieves a PDF document that is formatted like a law, and appears to be entitled "Gesetz zur Neuordnung des Gentechnikrechts." At this point, you might use an online translation site. Running the title through Babel Fish, for example, yields the phrase "Law for the re-organization of the genetic engineering right"—a good sign that you're on the right track.

Thus, you might use online translators to obtain the text of a foreign law and then turn to human translators for a useable version of the law.

Another example of using online translators wisely is when you have a reliable citation to a law or case, and you know that a foreign-language Web site should contain that document. Using Google's translator feature to translate the foreign Web page might be enough to get you through the page's search process.

II. FINDING TRANSLATIONS

A. Introduction

When searching for English translations, the first thing to keep in mind is that the translation might not exist. Most foreign-language statutes do not get translated into English. As a general rule, the more foreign investment money at stake, the more likely a law will be translated into English. So, for example, it is easier to find commercial laws than criminal laws, and it is easier to find intellectual property laws than family laws. By the same token, it is easier to find translations from countries with big economies, like Japan or Germany, than from developing countries like Angola.

Looking for translated court decisions is often a hopeless quest. The market for any particular court decision is likely to be much smaller than for a statute. Also, most jurisdictions that do not use English are civil law jurisdictions, where court decisions play a much smaller role. Because of this smaller role, the market for translations shrinks further.

B. Translations of Laws and Codes

1. Strategies

You can use several strategies to look for English translations. First, if you have the name of the law you need (e.g., Commercial Code of Japan) search the Internet using that name. It is fast, and it sometimes works. The following

sections identify some of the sources to check if you strike out with a quick Internet search.

2. Subject Collections

Because English-speaking lawyers usually specialize in one area of law, legal publishers tend to sell "subject collections" of translations. In other words, you are more likely to find a book or Web site that has translations of laws on one topic—such as joint ventures—from several countries, than to find a book that translates several of one country's laws into English. Large law libraries buy many subject collections, usually in looseleaf format. Among the biggest are *Commercial Laws of the World* (1974—), *Investment Laws of the World* (1972—), and *Constitutions of the Countries of the World* (Albert P. Blaustein & Gisbert H. Flanz eds., 1971—). You can also find many subject collections on the Internet. For example, the World Intellectual Property Organization's *Collection of Laws for Electronic Access*⁵ has a huge collection of translated patent, copyright, trademark, and related laws.

3. Lists of Translations

Several sources identify English translations of foreign laws. The most comprehensive listing of foreign laws in English is Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo A. Flores, *Foreign Law Guide* (1987—).⁶ *Foreign Law Guide*'s editors describe it as "basically a source to accessible translations of the standard codes and all other available major legislative enactments."⁷ To use the *Foreign Law Guide*, first find the entry for the country you need. The introduction for each country describes its legal system and history but also gives you a sense of whether legal materials for the country are particularly difficult to find. Usually, the country chapter then lists major codifications, including available translations and sources of new legislation (e.g., government gazettes). Next, you will find an alphabetical list of subjects, with citations to statutes, parts of codes, and English translations if available.

While the authors of *Foreign Law Guide* cover a wide range of material, including Internet sources, you will sometimes find English translations that the

⁵ http://www.wipo.int/clea.

⁶ Also available at http://www.foreignlawguide.com.

⁷ THOMAS H. REYNOLDS & ARTURO A. FLORES, FOREIGN LAW: CURRENT SOURCES OF CODES AND BASIC LEGISLATION IN JURISDICTIONS OF THE WORLD (1987—). The electronic version is called *Foreign Law Guide*.

English Translations 23

authors have not yet listed. If you don't find a translation listed in *Foreign Law Guide*, a good next step is to look at the World Legal Information Institute (WorldLII).⁸ WorldLII's home page has a section called "Catalog" that lists countries in alphabetical order. For each country, the editors at WorldLII provide links to available legislation in English. For example, the Albania page includes links to the Criminal Procedural Code of the Republic of Albania (from the Albanian Legal Information Initiative) and the Electoral Code (from the International Foundation for Election Systems). WorldLII also includes links to legislation in the vernacular.

As another approach, you can check lists of English translations maintained by law librarians. For example, a law librarian at the University of Illinois compiles *Sources of International and Foreign Law in English.*⁹ This Web site offers a subject and a country approach to sources of translations and focuses primarily on materials on paper. The University of Houston's O'Quinn Law Library hosts a similar Web site, *Foreign Primary Law on the Web.*¹⁰ While the Houston site includes non-English-language sources, it lists English translations when available. Lyonette Louis-Jacques of the University of Chicago also compiles links to translations. See the section entitled "Foreign Law in English Translation on the Internet" in her guide, *Finding Foreign Law Online When Going Global.*¹¹

4. Research Guides

As an alternative, consult legal research guides tailored to the country whose laws you need. Good sources for legal research guides include LLRX.com¹² and GlobaLex.¹³ The guides at both of these sites vary in format and content, but many of them point to sources of English translations. For example, Suzanne Thorpe's guide, *Online Legal Information in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden* points to sources of Norwegian Law in English.¹⁴

¹² http://www.llrx.com/category/1050.

⁸ http://www.worldlii.org.

⁹ http://www.law.uiuc.edu/library/ref_sources_intl_foreignlaw_english.asp.

¹⁰ http://www.law.uh.edu/libraries/fi/foreignlaw.html.

¹¹ http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/~llou/global.html.

¹³ http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex.

¹⁴ http://www.llrx.com/features/scanda.htm.

5. Government Web Sites

If you strike out with the strategies above, don't give up. Check for a Web site of the relevant foreign ministry or department. Many foreign government Web sites have small collections of English translations of laws. For instance, Poland's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labor has a handful of statutes in English, including its act on electronic signatures. Since you probably won't know the name of the appropriate agency or ministry, start by checking a Web site such as the University of Michigan's *Foreign Government Resources on the Web.*¹⁵

6. Periodical Articles

Another source of foreign translations is periodical articles. (*Foreign Law Guide* (1987—)¹⁶ does not include translations that appear in journal articles.) If you have access to full-text databases of law reviews, such as the ones on LexisNexis or Westlaw, try searching for the name of the law. For example, an English translation of a 1999 German law on conflicts in tort actions appears in a 2000 law review article.¹⁷ It can be retrieved by searching the name of the law in German or by a search such as *german* /s conflicts /s torts /s 1999*.¹⁸ Even if you don't find a translation of the law you need, you might find a footnote reference to one.

Without access to full-text databases of law reviews, your job is harder. You can find articles using online or paper periodical indexes, such as LegalTrac (LRI) or *Index to Legal Periodicals and Books*. The index references won't specify whether the article includes a translation, but once you have the article, you can look for translations or references to translations.

Moreover, while you search for translations, you may run across useful information such as descriptions or analyses of the law you want. For instance, even if a periodical article doesn't include a translation, the author may give you much more detail about the law's provisions than you had before. This kind of

¹⁵ http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/foreign.html.

¹⁶ Also available at http://www.foreignlawguide.com.

¹⁷ Mathias Reimann, Codifying Torts Conflicts: The 1999 German Legislation in Comparative Perspective, 60 LA. L. REV. 1297 (2000).

¹⁸ This search is formatted using common LexisNexis or Westlaw syntax. Using "German*" retrieves both German and Germany and "/s" means within the same sentence.

information can be very important, especially if it turns out that no one has translated the law you want.

7. Library Catalogs

Keyword searches in library catalogs can sometimes turn up sources not listed elsewhere. You may search by the name of the law (in the vernacular or in English) adding the keywords *English* or *translation*. For example, search *handelsgesetzbuch* and *english* to locate *German Commercial Code* & *Code of Civil Procedure, in English* (2001).

8. Settling for Summaries

As suggested above, you may find only a summary of a law. This can still advance your research significantly, so you should know some key sources for summaries of laws. One such source is the Global Legal Information Network (GLIN) database,¹⁹ a project of the Law Library of Congress. This database contains thousands of English-language summaries from countries around the world, but particularly from Latin America. In some cases, the full text of laws is available in the vernacular.

Another useful resource is NATLEX,²⁰ a database provided by the International Labor Organization. This database focuses on legislation relating to labor, social security, and related human rights. Like GLIN, it provides English-language summaries of laws. NATLEX also links to the full text of laws where possible.

A third source that sometimes yields summaries, and sometimes yields full-text versions of laws, is the WTO's Documents Online database. Depending on the topic of the laws you need, you can choose various "trade topics" from the WTO homepage. Most of the topics have specialized search forms. For example, the intellectual property topics page, called the TRIPS Gateway, allows you to search "reviews of implementing legislation" by country. If you need to find Cameroon's law on geographical indications, you can select Cameroon from the dropdown menu under "Review of legislation on trademarks, geographical indications and industrial designs." The most relevant document this search retrieves, which has the WTO document symbol IP/Q/CMR/1, contains substantial excerpts from the text of Cameroon's law.

¹⁹ http://www.glin.gov/search.action.

²⁰ http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home.

C. Court Decisions

If you are looking for a translation of a court decision, keep in mind that it is unlikely to exist. Your best strategy is probably to look for references within law review articles, ideally by searching a full-text law review database. Alternatively, look at research guides for the individual country. Also, check available law library catalogs for collections of decisions for the country or court in question. For a few courts, such as the German Constitutional Court, you can find collections of decisions in English: see, for example, Donald P. Kommers, *The Constitutional Jurisprudence of the Federal Republic of Germany* (1997).

D. Experts

Experienced researchers will often turn to experts as a last resort. In translation searches, a couple of resources often come in handy. First, you can post a query to an electronic discussion list whose members work in the area needed. The INT-LAW list²¹ has law librarians, attorneys, and other members from many countries. The EURO-LEX list focuses on European countries' legal issues and materials.²² Members of the American Association of Law Libraries' section on Foreign, Comparative & International Law have a discussion list open only to members. Other discussion lists, such as those for immigration law attorneys, may be useful depending on the subject matter of the case. You can search the Web for relevant electronic discussion lists using terms such as "asylum law" "discussion list" or "listserv."

Second, you can also try contacting a legal research expert who has written about the country in question. Many online research guides include the author's e-mail address.

E. Translation Services

Most often, the person seeking a legal translation cannot afford to pay for one. If resources permit, however, you can employ companies or freelance translators. Numerous companies advertise translation services on the Internet. Whenever possible, work with a company that is experienced in the language and area of law you need. One example of a well-regarded company is the

²¹ http://sedac.ciesin.org/home-page/int-law.html.

²² http://www.listserv.dfn.de/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=euro-lex&A=1.

National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade,²³ which focuses on Spanish and Portuguese translations to and from English.

You may see references to "certified translations." These are translations that the translator has certified, usually under oath, are accurate. Evidentiary rules and agency regulations sometimes require certified translations. In immigration proceedings, for instance, translations must include a certification "that the translator is competent to translate the document, and that the translation is true and accurate to the best of the translator's abilities."²⁴ Notice that the translator does not have to be a professional.

III. CONCLUSION

Whenever you rely on translated legal materials, you should indicate the source of the translation, whether it's your own translation, that of a friend or colleague who knows the language, or a translation from a commercial or official source. Also, you should include the date on which the translation was made or published, as well as the full citation of the original document, including its date.

Whether you find a translation or pay for one, the most important thing to remember is that your translation does not have the authority of the original version. It may be cheaper—and it's often safer—to hire a foreign attorney than to get all the relevant materials translated!

²³ http://www.natlaw.com.

²⁴ 8 C.F.R. § 1003.33 (2004).

Chapter 3 Introductory and Background Sources

I. INTRODUCTION

When researching international and foreign law, there are some basic sources that you will use frequently and should get to know. Basic tools or background sources provide a variety of information that may be needed before delving too deeply into a research topic. You may need to:

- find a research guide on your subject;
- define basic international concepts or terms;
- locate the meaning of abbreviations or acronyms;
- find basic background information about an international organization or a specific country;
- locate relevant Web sites; or
- locate secondary sources (journal articles, treatises) on the topic.

Below is a list of international and foreign legal sources that provide these kinds of information. It is by no means a complete list of essential tools, so you are encouraged to examine these tools yourself and determine which ones are most useful for each research question.

II. RESEARCH GUIDES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Research guides and bibliographies are excellent starting points because they identify the best sources, both print and electronic, and often address research methods and strategies. Fortunately, many research guides are easily accessible on the Web, and others are available in books and journal articles. These guides and bibliographies vary in scope and format. Some focus on specific countries, and others concentrate on international topics. Relevant subject headings for locating research guides and bibliographies using an online catalog¹ include the following:

¹ Most libraries provide access to their collections through an online catalog. This is a database that allows the researcher to locate books, journals, and other resources by author, title, subject or keyword.

legal research—[geographic area or country] law—[geographic area or country]—bibliography legal bibliography—[geographic area] law—[geographic area or country] [international organization's name]—bibliography international agencies—bibliography [legal topic in Library of Congress form]—[geographic area]—bibliography

Many of these terms can be used as keywords instead of in a subject search when searching an online catalog or a journal database. The *International Journal of Legal Information* regularly publishes bibliographies on a country or a specific topic, making it a worthwhile tool to consult. For example, in 2004 this journal published "Mexican Law on the Web: The Ultimate Research Guide" and "Chinese Law on Trade, Investment and Intellectual Property Rights: A Bibliography of Selected English-Language Materials." The journal is indexed in both LegalTrac and the *Index to Legal Periodicals and Books*, so searching those indexes for research guides and bibliographies can pay off.

A. Basic Research Guides and Bibliographies

- Accidental Tourist on the New Frontier: An Introductory Guide to Global Legal Research (Jeanne Rehberg & Radu Popa eds., 1997). A basic research book covering international and foreign law, it includes both print and electronic sources, but treatment of electronic sources is minimal and outdated. A few specific topics are covered, including human rights, treaties, international tax, and environmental law.
- The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (2005). This is the standard US legal citation guide, but it also includes basic information on the documentation of international organizations and some foreign jurisdictions. The other US citation guide used in many law schools, the *ALWD Citation Manual* (3d ed. 2006), contains little information on international legal materials and none on foreign sources.
- Claire Germain, *Germain 's Transnational Law Research* (1991—). This single looseleaf volume research guide contains chapters on selected international topics and covers some European countries. Each chapter lists basic sources and provides information on where to go further. Not every chapter is up to date. The chapter on French law is available on the Web.²

² http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/library/encyclopedia/countries/france.

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- *Guide to International Legal Research* (1992—). This is one of the few paper international legal research guides that is regularly updated. It is a good place to start when researching both international legal topics and selected foreign legal jurisdictions. It also provides some historical information.
- *Information Sources in Law* (Jules Winterton & Elizabeth M. Moys eds., 2d ed. 1997). While this book is now a bit dated, it does provide brief overviews of the legal system and research sources for selected European countries.
- International Encyclopedia of Comparative Law (1972—). Some volumes are dated, but it is a useful collection. The slim volumes cover information on foreign legal systems as well as selected topics (e.g., torts, property, etc.). For some jurisdictions, it is the only information available.
- *The International Lawyer's Deskbook* (Lucinda A. Low et al. eds., 2d ed. 2003). Good information on selected topics. Geared toward practicing lawyers, each chapter covers a specific topic and provides an overview of the topic and a compendium of sources for assistance.
- Introduction to Transnational Legal Transactions (Marylin J. Raisch & Roberta I. Shaffer eds., 1995). This one-volume work provides an introduction to several areas of transnational law, including international civil and criminal litigation, arbitration, environmental and intellectual property law, and others. Some of the research advice is outdated, but overall, the book provides useful background.
- *Modern Legal Systems Cyclopedia* (Kenneth R. Redden ed., 1984—). This multivolume looseleaf provides information on foreign legal jurisdictions, but the quality of the chapters varies. Most of them provide at least a history of the legal system and a description of major law-making institutions.
- Thomas Reynolds & Arturo Flores, *Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World* (1987—). This resource is considered one of the most important tools for foreign legal research. Covering over 175 countries and the European Union, it provides brief overviews of the legal system of each jurisdiction, sources for primary law (codes, session laws, etc.), and information on laws by topic. Where possible, it references English-language translations or sources that outline a topic in English. However, the coverage of topics is limited, and it cannot

possibly answer each and every foreign legal research problem. See also the electronic version, *Foreign Law Guide*, available by subscription only.³

B. Guides on the Web

Many research guides are freely available on the Web. Many of the sites listed below also link to other useful electronic and print guides.

- American Society of International Law (ASIL), *Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law*.⁴ This electronic resource guide, often called the ERG, has been published online by ASIL since 1997. Since then, it has been systematically updated and continuously expanded. The chapter format of the ERG is designed to be used by students, teachers, practitioners, and researchers as a self-guided tour of relevant, quality, up-to-date online resources covering important areas of international law.
- Electronic Information System for International Law (EISIL).⁵ EISIL, also sponsored by ASIL, is a database of carefully annotated links to key sources in international law. It functions as an easy starting point on the Web for researchers seeking international legal materials. EISIL allows you to browse the database by topic (such as international economic, criminal, or environmental law) or to search the site using titles, popular names, keywords, dates, or other information. The records in EISIL link to primary documents, the best Web sites on the topic, and research guides. The "More Information" button by each entry leads to a record that provides considerable added information, such as a legal citation, alternate titles or popular names, a description of the document or Web site, and relevant dates (signature or entry into force dates).
- GlobaLex.⁶ Sponsored by the Hauser Global Law School Program at NYU School of Law, GlobaLex is a Web site containing numerous guides to foreign and international legal research. For example, Amy Burchfield's *International Criminal Courts for the Former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone: A Guide to Online and Print Resources* provides a good listing of available sources, an overview of each court, a chart comparing the scope of each one, and other features useful for research in this area.

³ http://www.foreignlawguide.com.

⁴ http://www.asil.org/resource/Home.htm.

⁵ http://www.eisil.org.

⁶ http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex.

GlobaLex's homepage divides the available guides into International, Comparative, and Foreign Law Research. Within the Foreign Law Research category, country guides appear in alphabetical order.

- *Guide to Foreign and International Legal Databases.*⁷ The law librarians at New York University maintain this guide, which lists good-quality free and fee-based databases for foreign and international legal research. The section on Foreign Databases by Jurisdiction is particularly useful for learning what resources are available for a particular country.
- LLRX.com, Comparative/Foreign Law.⁸ LLRX.com is a free Web site containing numerous resources for law librarians and other legal researchers. Its collection of comparative and foreign law guides covers over 50 jurisdictions. Like the guides at GlobaLex, these guides point to useful Web sites, give overviews of foreign legal systems, and offer other information that varies by jurisdiction. Note that guides headed "Update to . . ." researching a jurisdiction are complete rather than just additions to older guides. For example, Nicholas Pengelley's *Update to Researching Australian Law*, published June 23, 2005, contains a comprehensive guide to Australian legal research. Some guides are updated on the GlobaLex site noted above.
- LLRX.com, International Law Guides.⁹ In addition to the many foreign law guides on LLRX.com, the site has an excellent collection of guides to researching various international topics. One example is Louise Tsang's *Legal Protection of Cultural Property: A Selective Resource Guide*, published June 23, 2005. By identifying major treatises, key journals, bibliographies, useful Web sites, and other resources, this guide provides an efficient way for a researcher to approach the topic of cultural property.
- Legal Research on International Law Issues Using the Internet.¹⁰ This Web site, created and maintained by Lyonette Louis-Jacques of the University of Chicago Law Library, provides a comprehensive listing of useful links, nearly all unannotated. The strength of this site is its large number of links, though the size of the listings means that some links no longer work. Researchers can use the table of contents or their browser's "Find" function to look for particular topics.

⁷ http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/foreign_intl.

⁸ http://www.llrx.com/category/1050.

⁹ http://www.llrx.com/category/1050.

¹⁰ http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/~llou/forintlaw.html.

- *Research Guides* (Duke University).¹¹ Duke Law School's foreign law librarian, Katherine Topulos, created and maintains this collection of research guides on foreign and international legal topics. While the guides are written for use by Duke law students, and thus refer to materials in the Duke Law Library, researchers can search for these materials in local law libraries. The guides also provide valuable background and information on Web sources.
- A Selective List of Guides to Foreign Legal Research (Columbia Law Library).¹² Silke Sahl, International, Comparative and Foreign Law Librarian at Columbia's law library, maintains this meta-guide: a list of guides to worldwide, regional, and national foreign law.
- United Nations Documentation: Research Guide.¹³ The United Nations Documentation Research Guide can help researchers accomplish several different tasks. First, its quick links provide an easy way for experienced researchers to get to useful UN sites, such as the collection of General Assembly resolutions. Second, the Research Guide helps researchers understand the complex UN documentation system, including document symbols and major UN databases. Third, the Research Guide offers sections of Frequently-Asked-Questions for many common research tasks. Fourth, the Research Guide also includes three topical guides (on human rights, international law, and peacekeeping).

C. Country-Specific Research Guides

For in-depth research on a foreign country's legal system, you will benefit from the longer research guides published as books. Generally, these guides include much more detailed information than that appearing in online guides. Some of them also contain introductions to the substantive law of the foreign jurisdictions, thereby jump-starting your research. For example, John Bell's *Principles of French Law* (1998) provides overviews of several areas of French law, including commercial, criminal, family, and employment law. Part III of the book, "Studying French Law," provides a bibliography of French law and explains legal research methods.

To locate these kinds of materials using a library catalog, conduct the following subject search:

¹¹ http://www.law.duke.edu/lib/research_guide.html.

¹² http://www.law.columbia.edu/library/Research_Guides/foreign_law/foreignguide.

¹³ http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide.

law—[name of country] legal research—[name of country]

Following are selected titles on foreign legal systems. Other titles are available; you can find them by searching library catalogs as shown above.

- William E. Butler, *Russian Law* (1999). Designed as an introductory textbook on Russian law, this book gives an overview of Russian legal institutions and substantive law, but also contains a major section on resource material.
- Introduction to Chinese Law (Wang Chenguang & Zhang Xianchu eds., 1997). Largely an overview of Chinese law on areas such as criminal law and procedure, contracts, foreign investment, family law, and so on. Introduction to Chinese Law also describes the history and modern structure of Chinese law, including the judiciary, executive and legislative systems.
- Elena Merino-Blanco, *The Spanish Legal System* (1996). This book introduces the history, sources, institutions, court structures and principles of procedure of the Spanish legal system. While the book does not directly address legal research, its extensive discussion of sources of law in Spain, the court structure, the law-making process, and related topics, will make Spanish legal research much easier to understand and undertake.
- Nigel Foster & Satish Sule, *German Legal System & Laws* (3d ed. 2002). This book, like others described above, does not address legal research directly. But its description of German law-making institutions and various areas of substantive law (constitutional, administrative, criminal, private law, and business and labor law) will help anyone doing research on German law. Also, each section is followed by a list of German and English-language sources for "Further Reading."
- *Introduction to Dutch Law* (Jeroen Chorus et al. eds., 3d rev. ed. 1998). This book combines brief overviews of Dutch legal history, culture, and the Dutch judicial system with detailed descriptions of several areas of law. Topics include private law (family, property, commercial, succession, obligations law, etc.), public law (constitutional, administrative, criminal, tax, and environmental law), and labor law.
- *Introduction to Greek Law* (Konstantinos D. Kerameus & Phaedon J. Kozyris eds., 2d rev. ed. 1993). *Introduction to Greek Law* introduces readers to the history and development of Greek law. It then describes sources and materials for Greek law, including a short "basic bibliography." Later chapters cover nearly every area of Greek law, and include bibliographies (unfortunately for most researchers, the majority of listed materials are in Greek).

- Amos Shapira & Keren C DeWitt-Arar, *Introduction to the Law of Israel* (1995). This book outlines the history and sources of Israeli law, and it explains the institutional organization of Israel's legal system. Both of these sections give a researcher useful information with which to devise a research strategy. Subsequent chapters cover several areas of Israeli law, including constitutional, administrative, family, inheritance, tort, property, commercial, and corporate law. Sections include short bibliographies as well as footnotes. The final section is a compiled bibliography for quick reference.
- Introduction to Turkish Law (Tugrul Ansay & Don Wallace, Jr., eds., 2005). Following an introduction to the sources of Turkish law, including explanations of its legislative and judicial processes, the book covers numerous areas of Turkish law, including constitutional, criminal, administrative, family, property, and more. Although the book does not address legal research directly, each subject section is followed by a bibliography of useful sources (some in English, some in Turkish).
- Edilenice Passos, *Doing Legal Research in Brazil* (2001).¹⁴ This extensive guide includes some coverage of substantive areas, lists of relevant sources, and information on legal citation. The online version links to useful Web sources.
- Ted Tjaden, *Legal Research and Writing* (2d ed. 2004). Unlike most of the other books on this list, *Legal Research and Writing* deals primarily with legal research. It does not cover substantive Canadian law; instead, it focuses on print and online legal research and legal writing.
- Robert Watt, *Concise Legal Research* (5th ed. 2004). This book is multijurisdictional; it includes Australia, Canada, England, India, New Zealand, the United States, the European Union, and international law. Focusing on research techniques, this book describes how to research laws, cases, and regulations in several jurisdictions. It includes both paper and electronic sources.

III. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

When using international and foreign legal materials, you will need to decipher unfamiliar acronyms and abbreviations. Below are a few sources that are generally useful in solving these pesky problems. A general approach to finding the meaning of an unfamiliar abbreviation is to look first in the source

¹⁴ A version of this guide is available online at http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/ Brazil.htm.

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where you found the abbreviation; a full title or name might have been indicated in an earlier footnote or there might be a table of abbreviations in the book or periodical. Then try *Bieber's* (see Section III.A). Other sources to consult include periodical indexes, an index of acronyms for organizations, a legal research guide, an abbreviations list, or a dictionary of legal terms from a particular country. Searching full text law reviews (or even US case law) on LexisNexis or Westlaw can sometimes help determine the meaning of an abbreviation or at least provide some context for figuring out its meaning. Finally, searching the Web with the abbreviation and the word *abbreviation* or *abbreviated* may find your answer. For example, searching *BGB abbreviated* on Google retrieves sources explaining that BGB is the abbreviation of the German Civil Code.

A. Basic Sources: Books

- Acronyms and Abbreviations Covering the United Nations Systems and Other International Organizations (1981).
- Mary Miles Prince, *Bieber's Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations* (5th ed. 2001). The fourth edition is available on LexisNexis. The older edition of *Bieber's* can also be useful for international and foreign legal abbreviations.
- *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (18th ed. 2005). Table 2, "Foreign Jurisdictions," provides citation rules and examples for several jurisdictions. These citation rules often include common publication abbreviations.
- *Guide to Foreign and International Legal Citations* (2006). This is also available online.¹⁵ This guide, created by New York University law students, is one of the most comprehensive attempts to provide standardized foreign and international legal citations.
- Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals (1960—). This is also available on the Web and on Westlaw. The paper version of this index includes a section called "Periodicals Indexed by Short Form," which is helpful for some publication abbreviations.
- *World Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations* (Igor I. Kavass & Mary Miles Prince eds., 1991—). Organized alphabetically by language (German, Spanish, French, etc.), the book also covers some abbreviations by topic (United Nations, environment, maritime, military, taxation, etc.).
- Arturo L. Torres, Latin American Legal Abbreviations: A Comprehensive Spanish/Portuguese Dictionary with English Translations (1989). Although

¹⁵ http://www.law.nyu.edu/journals/jilp/Final%20GFILC%20pdf.pdf.

somewhat dated, this book is an excellent source when you know you are dealing with Latin American abbreviations.

- *Noble's Revised International Guide to the Law Reports* (Scott Noble comp. & ed., 2002). This book is a good resource for case reporters from a variety of jurisdictions.
- Edmund J. Osmanczyk, *The Encyclopedia of the United Nations and International Agreements* (Anthony Mango ed. & rev., 3d ed. 2003). The index at the end of volume 4 lists many abbreviations with cross-references to their corresponding term. The main volumes also contain entries for abbreviations, again with cross-references to the full term.
- Donald Raistrick, *Index to Legal Citations and Abbreviations* (2d ed. 1993). This book is a good source for European abbreviations.
- Charles Szladits, *A Bibliography on Foreign and Comparative Law: Books and Articles in English* (1955—). From 1955-1990, this set indexes both books and articles on foreign and comparative law. Beginning in 1991, it does not index articles by topic. This comprehensive set of bibliographies is arranged by both subject and by jurisdiction, with separate indexes by country and author.

B. Basic Sources: Web Guides

- *Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations*, searchable by title or by abbreviation. This Web-based database is an up-to-date source giving abbreviations for many English-language legal publications. The editors also include some abbreviations for sources not in English, such as "StGB" for the Strafgesetzbuch (German Criminal Code). The index covers law reports and law periodicals but also includes a few legislative publications and major textbooks.¹⁶
- *Legal Abbreviations* (University of Kent). This is a selective list of common legal abbreviations, including law report series and legal journals, as well as a few general abbreviations commonly used in law.¹⁷
- Law Reports Searchable by Abbreviation or Title.¹⁸ Provided by the law library at the University of New South Wales (Australia), this database is helpful for English-language law reports and a few foreign ones (e.g., *Recueil Dalloz*, which publishes French cases).

¹⁶ http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk.

¹⁷ http://library.kent.ac.uk/library/info/subjectg/law/abbrev.htm.

¹⁸ http://www.library.unsw.edu.au/~law/repsrch.html.

IV. INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN LAW TERMS AND PHRASES

Relevant subject headings for searching online catalogs and other bibliographic databases include:

international law—dictionaries international relations—dictionaries law—dictionaries—[language] international organization—dictionaries international law—encyclopedias

A. English-Language Publications

Below is a list of books that contain English-language definitions and descriptions of international and foreign legal terms and concepts. There are many dictionaries and encyclopedias devoted to specific international topics as well (e.g., *Dictionary of International Trade* or *Encyclopedia of Human Rights*).

- Gabriel Adeleye, *World Dictionary of Foreign Expressions: A Resource for Readers and Writers* (1999). Although not focused on law, this source offers useful help with abbreviations, words, and phrases from many languages, including Afrikaans, Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, French, Greek, German, Italian, Hebrew, Hindi, Japanese, Latin, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Yiddish.
- LeRoy Bennett, *Historical Dictionary of the United Nations* (1995). This dictionary offers a brief list of abbreviations and acronyms, short entries on various UN issues, undertakings, entities, and individuals, and a long bibliography.
- Robert L. Bledsoe & Boleslaw A. Boczek, *The International Law Dictionary* (1987). In addition to basic definitions, entries provide the context for and the significance of each term.
- Boleslaw A. Boczek, *International Law: A Dictionary* (2005). This dictionary offers a glossary and a list of acronyms and abbreviations, followed by an unusual subject arrangement (e.g., human rights, law of treaties).
- *Encyclopedia of Public International Law* (1981-1990) and the consolidated edition (1992—). This encyclopedia was published initially (1981-1990) in 12 installments, each of which dealt with particular subject areas. The consolidated edition contains in-depth articles, arranged alphabetically by topic, on most aspects of public international law. Each article explains the basic legal principles and concepts and some provide historical information.

Each article ends with a short bibliography. A new electronic version of this encyclopedia is expected from Oxford University Press.

- James R. Fox, *Dictionary of International and Comparative Law* (3d ed. 2003). This is an up-to-date dictionary of international and comparative law terminology. It contains useful resource for quick definitions of unfamiliar terms.
- Parry & Grant Encyclopaedic Dictionary of International Law (J. Craig Barker & John P. Grant eds., 2d ed. 2004). A cross between an encyclopedia and a dictionary, this valuable reference defines and explores numerous international law terms, including leading cases, doctrines, jurists, treaties, and other key concepts.
- Ernest Lindbergh, *International Law Dictionary* (1992). This book defines English, French, and German legal terms relating to international law. It is also published as *Modern Dictionary of International Legal Terms*.
- Edmund J. Osmanczyk, *The Encyclopedia of the United Nations and International Agreements* (Anthony Mango ed. & rev., 3d ed. 2003). This comprehensive, four-volume set defines extensive list of international law, international relations, and related terms. Some entries include brief bibliographic references or citations to cases, treaties, and statutes. It also contains the text of some agreements.
- United Nations Treaty Reference Guide and Glossary of Terms Related to Treaty Actions.¹⁹ This site provides useful, authoritative definitions of terms such as "protocol," "modus vivendi," "entry into force," and so on.

B. Foreign-Language Equivalents

To locate bilingual or polyglot dictionaries with English as one of the languages, use the following subject headings:

english language—dictionaries—[language] [language] language—dictionaries—english law—dictionaries—[language] english language—dictionaries—polyglot law—[country or region]—dictionaries [subject]—dictionaries—[language or polyglot]

• Robert Herbst, *Dictionary of Commercial, Financial and Legal Terms* (1955-1965).

¹⁹ http://untreaty.un.org/English/guide.asp.

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- English-French-Spanish-Russian Manual of the Terminology of Public International Law (Law of Peace) and International Organizations (1983).
- West's Law and Commercial Dictionary in Five Languages: Definitions of the Legal and Commercial Terms and Phrases of American, English and Civil Law Jurisdictions (1985).
- Henry Saint Dahl, Dahl's Law Dictionary: French to English/English to French: An Annotated Legal Dictionary, including Definitions from Codes, Case Law, Statutes, and Legal Writing = Dictionnaire Juridique Dahl (2d ed. 2001). This is also available on LexisNexis.
- Henry Saint Dahl, Dahl's Law Dictionary: Spanish-English/ English-Spanish: An Annotated Legal Dictionary, including Authoritative Definitions from Codes, Case Law, Statutes, and Legal Writing = Diccionario Jurídico Dahl (3d ed. 1999). This is also available on LexisNexis.

V. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON AN INTERNATIONAL OR FOREIGN LAW CONCEPT

A. Some General Sources

Background information on international and foreign legal issues may be necessary at any point during your research but especially when starting a new project. In addition to the sources listed below, books and articles on the specific topic should be consulted. To locate these items, conduct subject or keyword searches in library catalogs or in periodical indices. Note that sometimes nonlegal sources might be worth checking, depending on the breadth of interest in or the interdisciplinary nature of the topic. Articles are a particularly good source for information on an event or concept, especially if it is a relatively new concept or a recent event.

- *Encyclopedia of Public International Law* (1981-1990) and the consolidated edition (1992—). This book was published initially (1981-1990) in 12 installments, each of which dealt with particular subject areas. The consolidated edition contains in-depth articles, arranged alphabetically by topic, on most aspects of public international law. Each article explains the basic legal principles and concepts and some provide historical information. Each article ends with a short bibliography.
- Parry & Grant Encyclopaedic Dictionary of International Law (J. Craig Barker & John P. Grant eds., 2d ed. 2004). A cross between an encyclopedia and a dictionary, this valuable reference defines and explores

numerous international law terms, including leading cases, doctrines, jurists, treaties, and other key concepts.

- *Martindale Hubbell International Law Digest* (1993—). This is also available on LexisNexis (International Law > Treatises & Analytical Materials). Brief summaries of the law of nearly 70 countries, plus Canadian provinces and the European Union. Generally, each country profile covers basic legal topics such as incorporation, contracts, business regulation, succession, marriage, immigration, etc. For basic questions, such as how to enforce a foreign judgment, this source can be very helpful.
- Edmund Jan Osmacyzk, *The Encyclopedia of the United Nations and International Agreements* (Anthony Mango ed. & rev., 3d ed. 2003). This comprehensive, four-volume set defines an extensive list of international law, international relations, and related terms. Some entries include brief bibliographic references or citations to cases, treaties, and statutes. It also contains the text of some agreements.
- Restatement of the Law, Third, Foreign Relations Law of the United States (1987, and annual supplement). This is also available on LexisNexis and Westlaw. The *Restatement* represents the attempt of the American Law Institute (ALI) to distill the US practice and policy on foreign relations into black-letter rules. This source is helpful for identifying customary international law.
- *Treaties and Alliances of the World* (7th ed. 2002). This one-volume work uses a subject arrangement, dividing coverage by topics such as economic organizations and agreements, the environment, and arms control. Several chapters also take a regional approach (e.g., Africa, the Americas, South and East Asia, and the Pacific). Various entries provide summaries, descriptions, and partial or full text of treaties. If you need information on a specific treaty, start with the index.
- *Yearbook of the United Nations* (1947—). The *Yearbook of the United Nations*, using a broad subject arrangement, details the activities of the United Nations and its organs, programs, and bodies. Entries provide useful references to UN documents.

B. Legal Encyclopedias

The titles in this section will focus on publications that are still being published. For a list of historical titles, which may still be useful in today's research, see *Guide to International Legal Research* (2002—).

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1. International and Comparative Law Encyclopedias

- International Encyclopedia of Comparative Law (1972—). This encyclopedia covers international and comparative law. The National Reports volumes cover many different countries and outline the various legal systems. The other volumes cover specific topics: business and private organizations, civil procedure, copyright and industrial property, labor law, restitution, private international law, transport, torts, and more. Some volumes are a bit dated, but overall, the set is still useful.
- *Modern Legal Systems Cyclopedia* (Kenneth R. Redden ed. 1984—). This multivolume looseleaf provides information on foreign legal jurisdictions, but the quality of the chapters varies. Most of them provide at least a history of the legal system and a description of major law-making institutions.
- *Encyclopedia of Public International Law* (1981-1990) and the consolidated edition (1992—). This encyclopedia was published initially (1981-1990) in 12 installments, each of which dealt with particular subject areas. The consolidated edition contains in-depth articles, arranged alphabetically by topic, on most aspects of public international law. Each article explains the basic legal principles and concepts and some provide historical information. Each article ends with a short bibliography.
- International Encyclopaedia of Laws (1991—). This multivolume looseleaf set covers many different topics, including international organizations, civil procedure, commercial and economic law, constitutional law, contracts, corporations and partnerships, criminal law, environmental law, insurance law, medical law, social security law, transport law, torts, etc. Each topic provides chapters on the law for several different countries.
- International Encyclopaedia for Labour Law and Industrial Relations (Roger Blanpain ed., 1977—). This multivolume looseleaf provides information about labor law and industrial relations for many countries and includes legislation.

2. Foreign Jurisdiction Legal Encyclopedias

Some jurisdictions have comprehensive legal encyclopedias that cover a multitude of topics. They may also have specialized encyclopedias focusing on a particular subject. For more information on the availability of encyclopedias for a particular jurisdiction, consult a research guide for the jurisdiction.

• *Canadian Encyclopedic Digest* (3d ed. 1978—). There are two editions, Ontario and Western. The Ontario edition covers Ontario law, and the

Western edition covers the Western provinces, with some emphasis on federal law.

- *Enciclopedia del Diritto* (1958—). This is a multivolume Italian-language legal encyclopedia, with a scholarly focus; it is revised annually with supplements.
- *Encyclopédie Juridique* (date varies). This French-language looseleaf encyclopedia covers a variety of subjects in French law: civil law, civil procedure, commercial law, labor law, conflict of laws, criminal law and procedure, and more.
- *Halsbury's Laws of England* (4th ed. 1973—). This source is arranged alphabetically by topic and includes citations to both statutory and case law. The bound volumes are supplemented by annual cumulative supplements and the *Current Service*.
- *Digesto Quarta Edizione* (1988—). See also previous editions such as the *Novissimo Digesto* (1956—). Less scholarly than the *Enciclopedia Del Diritto*, this multivolume set is divided into four "Disciplines"—public law, private commercial law, private civil law, and criminal law and procedure. Topics within each set are alphabetically arranged.
- *Encyclopedie Juridique Dalloz* (edition and publication dates vary depending on topic). This collection is divided into 11 basic topics, each under the title "Répertoire de . . ." (e.g., *Répertoire de Droit Civil*). Each *Répertoire* is a looseleaf set containing various numbers of volumes.

VI. INFORMATION ABOUT FOREIGN LEGAL SYSTEMS

Subject headings for locating background information about a foreign country include:

law—[country or region] comparative law justice, administration of—[country or region] legal research—[country] courts—[country or region]

Searches can be done under specific legal topics using Library of Congress subject headings with the country or region name as a subheading (e.g., *commercial law—latin america*), or by using the country or region as a main subject heading with topical subdivisions provided by the Library of Congress as subheadings (e.g., *australia—politics and government* or *germa-ny—constitutional law* or *italy—law and legislation*). Periodicals are another good source for background information on a country or on a specific topic.

A. Legal Systems

- Accidental Tourist on the New Frontier: An Introductory Guide to Global Legal Research (Jeanne Rehberg & Radu Popa eds., 1997). A basic research book covering international and foreign law, it includes both print and electronic sources, but treatment of electronic sources is minimal and outdated. A few specific topics are covered, including human rights, treaties, international tax, and environmental law.
- James G. Apple & Robert P. Deyling, *A Primer on the Civil-Law System* ([1995]).²⁰ This brief, well-written guide outlines the history of civil law, how it works today, and how it compares to common law systems. Appendices include sample provisions from the French and German codes (in English), and a comparison of how the French and German systems treat a liability question.
- *Elgar Encyclopedia of Comparative Law* (Jan M. Smits ed., 2006). Covering more than 20 different jurisdictions, this book looks at comparative law methodology as well as various legal topics.
- Mary Ann Glendon et al., *Comparative Legal Traditions in a Nutshell* (2d ed. 1999). In the standard West Nutshell format, this book covers civil and common legal systems, using the British system as a paradigm of common law countries.
- H. Patrick Glenn, *Legal Traditions of the World* (2d ed. 2004). This book describes various legal traditions, rather than systems; includes aspects of Islamic, Asian, Hindu, Talmudic, and other legal traditions.
- *Information Sources in Law* (Jules Winterton & Elizabeth M. Moys eds., 2d ed. 1997). This book provides country-by-country descriptions and lists of major legal sources for Western and Eastern European countries, and for the European Union.
- International Encyclopedia of Comparative Law (1972—). Some volumes are dated, but it is a useful set. The volumes contain information on foreign legal systems as well as topics.
- *Introduction to Foreign Legal Systems* (Richard A. Danner & Marie-Louise H. Bernal eds., 1994). Aimed in part at legal researchers, this book covers civil law, Asian, African, and common law systems.
- *Law and Judicial Systems of Nations* (Charles S. Rhyne ed., 4th rev. ed. 2002). This book covers 193 nations and provides information about each country's practicing lawyers, hierarchy of courts, and the origins of the legal system.

²⁰ http://www.fjc.gov/public/pdf.nsf/lookup/CivilLaw.pdf/\$file/CivilLaw.pdf.

- *Legal Culture in the Age of Globalization* (Lawrence M. Friedman & Rogelio Pérez-Perdomo eds., 2003). This book provides interesting chapters on the legal systems of various Latin jurisdictions: Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Puerto Rico, etc.
- Legal Systems of the World: A Political, Social, and Cultural Encyclopedia (Herbert M. Kritzer ed., 2002). This four-volume set covers more than 400 legal systems and key concepts. Each country profile includes general information about the country, its history, information on the court structure, the evolution of its legal framework, the impact that the legal system has had on the country, and more. It includes references and a bibliography.
- *Modern Legal Systems Cyclopedia* (Kenneth R. Redden ed., 1984—). This multivolume looseleaf provides information on foreign legal jurisdictions, but the quality of the chapters varies. Most of them provide at least a history of the legal system and a description of major law-making institutions.
- John H. Merryman et al., *The Civil Law Tradition: Europe, Latin America, and East Asia* (1994). Although written as a casebook, this 1,278-page text describes the history and modern status of various civil law systems in depth.
- Thomas Reynolds & Arturo Flores, *Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World* (1989—). This resource is considered one of the most important tools for foreign legal research. Covering over 175 countries and the European Union, it provides brief overviews of the legal system of each jurisdiction, sources for primary law (codes, session laws, etc.), and information on laws by topic. Where possible, it references English-language translations or sources that outline a topic in English. However, the coverage of topics is limited and it cannot possibly answer each and every foreign legal research problem. See also the electronic version, *Foreign Law Guide*, available by subscription only.²¹
- United Nations, *Core Document Forming Part of the Reports of States Parties*, U.N. Doc. HRI/Core/1/Add.[]/ (year). This document provides information on the general political structure of states, including basics of the legal system. See the example for the Republic of Korea, at U.N. Doc. HRI/Core/1/Add. 125 (2003).

Some relevant Web sites include:

²¹ http://www.foreignlawguide.com.

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- *Nations of the World.*²² This Library of Congress site includes some information about the legal system as well as other general country information.
- *World Legal Systems.*²³ This University of Ottawa Web site provides a quick overview of the major legal systems of the world (civil law, common law, etc.). You can also use this site's map to find out what kind of legal system a country has. In addition, the site provides some interesting statistical information on the number of civil law systems, mixed systems, etc.
- *Government Gazettes Online.*²⁴ This site is maintained by the University of Michigan. Each country entry provides the following information: title of the gazette, URL, languages, access (free or fee), dates, searchability, format (HTML, PDF, etc.), and the description of contents of the gazette. Note that this Web site does not cover every country. One major convenience of the Web site, however, is its links to online gazettes.
- *Guide to Foreign and International Databases*.²⁵ The law librarians at New York University maintain this guide, which lists good-quality free and fee-based databases for foreign and international legal research. The section on Foreign Databases by Jurisdiction is particularly useful for learning what resources are available for a particular country.

B. General Reference Sources

These sources provide some basic information and brief overviews. While they do not provide detailed information needed for in-depth research, they can answer some basic questions and provide leads for more information.

- *Columbia Gazetteer of the World* (1998—). This is an encyclopedia of geographical places and features, including information on country geography, political conditions, and economic information. It is also available electronically.²⁶
- *The Europa World Year Book* (1989—). This two-volume set (also available as an online database) covers over 200 countries. Country chapters

²² http://www.loc.gov/law/guide/nations.html.

²³ http://www.droitcivil.uottawa.ca/world-legal-systems/eng-monde.html.

²⁴ http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/gazettes/index.htm.

²⁵ http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/foreign_intl/foreign.html.

²⁶ http://www.columbiagazetteer.org.

include basic information about each country's constitution, government, legislature, political organizations, religion, media, finance, trade, industry, transport and tourism. Europa Publications also publishes eight regional surveys, such as *Africa South of the Sahara*, *Central America and the Caribbean*, and *Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia*. It is also available electronically.²⁷

- *The Statesman's Year-Book* (1864—). Also available electronically,²⁸ this annual reference source provides authoritative, basic information about countries of the world. Country profiles include political, economic, demographic, and historical information.
- *The World Almanac and Book of Facts* (1886—). This annual reference work is also available electronically.²⁹ Much more focused on the United States than the Statesman's Year-Book, above, it contains basic statistics about countries and summarizes the world's history (in addition to a lot of nonforeign information).
- *The World Factbook* (1981—). This annual publication from the Central Intelligence Agency is also available without charge on the Web.³⁰ It provides basic information on countries of the world, including form of government, economy, politics, infrastructure, etc.

Some useful Web sites include:

- *Country Studies* (Library of Congress).³¹ This series of profiles of foreign countries offers brief information on each country's historical background, geography, society, economy, transportation and telecommunications, government and politics, and national security.
- *Foreign Government Resources on the Web.* This site provides access to the CIA *World Factbook*, background notes on countries, biographies on officials, and much more.³²

- ³⁰ http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html.
- ³¹ http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles.html.
- ³² http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/foreign.html.

²⁷ http://www.europaworld.com.

²⁸ http://www.statesmanyearbook.com/public/.

²⁹ http://firstsearch.oclc.org.

• *Foreign Governments* (Northwestern University).³³ This site provides links to the official Web sites of national governments, including selected ministries, departments, offices, etc.

VII. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Subject searches on online catalogs, bibliographic databases, and periodical indexes, using the name of the organization, are useful for finding descriptions of international organizations. Yearbooks and dictionaries are excellent sources to check for this type of information. To locate information and materials by an international organization, use the organization's name as an author. Yearbooks and encyclopedias are also good sources for charters and constituting documents for international organizations.

For more assistance in researching international organizations, see the *ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law*, "International Organizations."³⁴

- *Encyclopedia of Associations: International Organizations* (1989—). This encyclopedia is available electronically.³⁵ It gives basic information on over 22,000 multinational, binational, and foreign associations. If you can't find an organization on the Internet, this source is worth checking.
- The Europa World Year Book (1989—). This two-volume set (also available as an online database) covers over 200 countries. Country chapters include basic information about each country's constitution, government, legislature, political organizations, religion, media, finance, trade, industry, transport, and tourism. Europa Publications also publishes eight regional surveys, such as Africa South of the Sahara, Central America and the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia.³⁶
- International Information: Documents, Publications, and Information Systems of International Governmental Organizations (Peter I. Hajnal ed., 2d ed. 1997). This two-volume set lists basic documents and publications of various international organizations, particularly the United Nations. Some citation examples are included.

³³ http://www.library.nwu.edu/govpub/resource/internat/foreign.html.

³⁴ http://www.asil.org/resource/intorg1.htm.

³⁵ http://galenet.galegroup.com.

³⁶ http://www.europaworld.com.

- *Introduction to International Organizations* (Lyonette Louis-Jacques & Jeanne S. Korman eds., 1996). Written from a researcher's perspective, this book describes the United Nations and other international organizations, including regional ones.
- Giuseppe Schiavone, *International Organizations: A Dictionary and Directory* (6th ed. 2005). Each entry in this book provides a description of the organization, including origin and development, objectives, structure, and activities. Information on the headquarters, Web address, and publications is also included.
- Robert V. Williams, *The Information Systems of International Inter-Governmental Organizations: A Reference Guide* (1998). One of the more recent guides, this book covers electronic sources in addition to paper sources. Part I discusses the United Nations and many of its subsidiary or related organizations, while Part II is "everything else," including regional organizations as diverse as ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) and the International Coffee Organization.
- Yearbook of International Organizations (1967—). Also available electronically,³⁷ this multivolume set covers both intergovernmental and nonprofit international organizations. Entries usually list contact information, including officers if available; date organization was created; aims and activities; members (if the organization is intergovernmental); and other information. It is useful when the organization's Web site is unavailable or incomplete.

Some relevant Web sites include:

• EISIL (Electronic Information System for International Law).³⁸ EISIL, sponsored by the American Society of International Law (ASIL), is a database of carefully annotated links to key sources in international law. It functions as an easy starting point on the Web for researchers seeking international legal materials. EISIL allows you to browse the database by topic (such as international economic, criminal, or environmental law) or to search the site using titles, popular names, keywords, dates, or other information. The records in EISIL link to primary documents, the best Web sites on the topic, and research guides. The "More Information" button by each entry leads to a record that provides considerable added information, such as a legal citation, alternate titles or popular names, a description of the

³⁷ https://www.diversitas.org/db/x.php.

³⁸ http://www.eisil.org.

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document or Web site, and relevant dates (signature or entry into force dates).

- International Agencies and Information on the Web (University of Michigan).³⁹ This site has a collection of links to international organizations, with some annotations noting what resources (e.g., documents) are available on the organizations' Web sites. The site also includes links to selected nongovernmental organizations.
- International Organizations Web site (Northwestern University).⁴⁰ This site is intended to offer a comprehensive list of links to intergovernmental organizations' (IGOs') Web sites. It is arranged alphabetically.
- International Organization Information (University of Colorado). This site, like the Northwestern University site above, offers a list of IGOs. Some links connect to guides, but the list of links is not as comprehensive as Northwestern's.
- Materials on International Governmental Organizations (Michigan State University).⁴¹ Written for library patrons at Michigan State University, this guide to IGO materials can also help Internet researchers. It identifies and explains major information sources on IGOs. Its focus is primarily on the United Nations, but some regional IGOs are included.

VIII. JOURNAL LITERATURE

Journal literature is a good way to get information on a topic, find a treaty citation, locate the text of a foreign law, learn the meaning of a term, figure out what an abbreviation stands for, etc. For more information on locating journal articles using indexes and full-text databases, see Chapter 4.

IX. CITING INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN LEGAL MATERIALS

Unfortunately, there is not a single good source for how to cite to international and foreign legal materials. Use the sources listed below for some guidance. Keep in mind that the citation should provide enough information to enable someone to find the source being cited. Also, be consistent throughout the document. For more help, ask a librarian for assistance.

³⁹ http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/intl.html.

⁴⁰ http://www.library.nwu.edu/govpub/resource/internat/igo.html.

⁴¹ http://www.lib.msu.edu/publ_ser/docs/igos/igoorg.htm.

- *Australian Guide to Legal Citation* (2d ed. 2002). The AGLC may also be downloaded as a PDF document for viewing only.⁴²
- *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (18th ed. 2005). This is the standard US legal citation guide, but it also includes basic information on the documentation of international organizations and some foreign jurisdictions.
- Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation = Manuel Canadien de la Référence Juridique (5th ed. 2002).
- *Guide to Foreign and International Legal Citations* (2006). This is also available online.⁴³
- Shabtai Rosenne, *Practice and Methods of International Law* 23-26, 53-54, 105-07, 121-22 (1984).
- The Chicago Manual of Style (15th ed. 2003).

When all else fails, check how others are citing a document or law by conducting a search in full-text law review files on LexisNexis or Westlaw.

X. CURRENT AWARENESS SOURCES

Journals and newspapers, blogs, news wires, newsletters, and press releases, are all appropriate sources for keeping abreast of new developments in international and foreign law. International and comparative law journals and looseleaf services are useful for up-to-date information on legal activities worldwide. Looseleaf services on international and foreign law-related topics often include a "current reports" section that contains new information. Many of these services now offer electronic versions with weekly updates. Key subject headings for locating periodicals in catalogs are:

international law—periodicals comparative law—periodicals [international organization]—periodicals law—[country or region]—periodicals [legal topic in Library of Congress form]—[country or region]—periodicals

 American Journal of Comparative Law (1952—). This is also available from HeinOnline.⁴⁴

⁴² http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/mulr/PDFs/aglc_dl.pdf.

⁴³ http://www.law.nyu.edu/journals/jilp/Final%20GFILC%20pdf.pdf.

⁴⁴ http://heinonline.org.

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- American Journal of International Law (1907—). This is also available from HeinOnline and JSTOR.⁴⁵
- *ASIL's International Law in Brief.* This is an electronic only newsletter that tracks developments in international law, including case law. Free e-mail subscription.⁴⁶
- *Bulletin of International Legal Developments* (2006—). From the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, this biweekly newsletter surveys United Kingdom, European, foreign, Commonwealth, and international legal events.
- *Global Legal Monitor* (Law Library of Congress). Only available electronically, this site tracks legal developments around the world.⁴⁷
- International Enforcement Law Reporter (1985—). This is a monthly newsletter that tracks and summarizes key developments in international law and related areas. Topic areas generally include money laundering, drug trafficking, taxation, extradition, asset forfeiture, human rights, cyber-crime, and intellectual property. It is also available on LexisNexis.
- International Law Update (John R. Schmertz, Jr. & Mike Meier eds., 1995—). A Georgetown Law Center professor and a practicing attorney edit this monthly report on international legal developments affecting the United States. It is also available on LexisNexis.

Blogs and electronic discussion lists are good sources for staying abreast of current topics as well as new laws, resources, and Web sites. For more information, see Chapter 5.

⁴⁵ http://www.jstor.org.

⁴⁶ http://www.asil.org/ilibindx.htm.

⁴⁷ http://www.loc.gov/law/public/glm/index.html.

Chapter 4 Commentary and Analysis

I. INTRODUCTION

Researching international, foreign, and comparative law can be a confusing mess of treaties, documents, unfamiliar legal concepts, and varied sources. The sources of information range from recognized treaty law to more ephemeral materials from nongovernmental organizations to even more hard-to-find foreign regulations. Because of this, it makes sense for you to look for commentary and analysis (books, articles, reports, and other secondary sources) to help set the context and identify relevant law. Reviewing commentary and analysis early in the research process lets you accomplish many key tasks, such as:

- getting an introduction or overview of a topic, often with citations to other sources and relevant laws and regulations;
- familiarizing yourself with terms of art, acronyms, and other vocabulary within your topic;
- · verifying or learning pieces of information, such dates or names; and
- learning about new legal developments.

II. BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES AND ONLINE CATALOGS

International, foreign, and comparative law and related commentaries are growing at an amazing rate. While many researchers are turning to the Internet for access to primary sources, secondary sources are still primarily in print and there is no sign of this changing even with the major digitization projects that are under way.

To see what's available on a topic, you can search the catalogs of your own library as well as catalogs of libraries from around the country—even around the world. The major bibliographic database in the United States is OCLC (the Online Computer Library Center).¹ OCLC includes the records of academic libraries, law firm libraries, and smaller libraries in the United States and a few

¹ http://www.oclc.org/home.

from other countries. WorldCat is OCLC's catalog of books and other materials, and it's available in many academic and public libraries in the United States.

Many bibliographic databases and online catalogs use standard Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH). The Library of Congress Classification outline is available on the Web.² Since the print LCSH volumes are unwieldy, most catalogs provide keyword searching that allows you to locate some materials on your topic and then determine the appropriate subject heading. For example, if you want to locate books on diplomatic immunities, you can start by using this phrase as a keyword search. By doing this search, you can determine that the relevant subject headings are: *diplomats—legal status, laws, etc.*; *diplomats—protection*; and *diplomatic privileges and immunities*. By looking at the records for books with these subjects, you will also see references to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961),³ which you can use as a search term to locate more resources.

Most library catalogs not only offer keyword and subject searching, but also allow you to search by author and title. Therefore, if you know of one book on your topic, you can find others by searching for the subjects associated with that one source. Most catalogs also allow you to limit your search by language, date, and material type (book, journal, electronic resource, etc.). Some catalogs provide even more advanced features, such as tables of contents, links to electronic versions of the materials, and the ability to download and save records.

Libraries from around the world, including the Library of Congress,⁴ have made their catalogs available via the Web. The European Library (a Web service of Europe's National Libraries) provides access to the online public catalogs of national libraries in Europe, national bibliographies, and other useful information.⁵ Another way to locate a library in another country is to consult Libweb—it "lists over 7500 pages from libraries in over 135 countries."⁶

² http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/lcco/lcco.html.

³ 500 U.N.T.S. 95, 23 U.S.T. 3227, *reprinted in* 55 AM. J. INT'L L. 1064 (1961), *available at* http://untreaty.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/9_1_1961.pdf.

⁴ http://catalog.loc.gov.

⁵ http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/index.html.

⁶ http://lists.webjunction.org/libweb.

Not only can you locate books on point by searching library catalogs, publishers and bookstores make information available on the Web as well. AcqWeb's international directory of publishers and vendors,⁷ links to e-mail addresses, Web sites, and a list of vendors and bookstores.

Searching these catalogs and Web sites can prove to be overwhelming because of the amount of literature available on any given topic. Therefore, compiled bibliographies and research books and guides can be handy when beginning a research project. As noted in Chapter 3, these tools guide researchers to the best sources on a topic or for a particular jurisdiction. Some of these bibliographies are available in print and electronic formats. Here are some sources worth consulting:

- Public International Law: A Current Bibliography of Articles (1975—).
- Thomas Reynolds & Auturo Flores, Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World (1989—).
- Charles Szladits, A Bibliography on Foreign and Comparative Law: Books and Articles in English (1955-1989).
- Szladits' Bibliography on Foreign and Comparative Law: Books and Articles in English (1990—).
- United Nations Library, Bibliographie Mensuelle = Monthly Bibliography (1998—).

Concise subject or country specific bibliographies are also available in journal literature. Many journals contain regular sections containing book reviews, lists of books received, and bibliographies. Some examples include:

- American Journal of Comparative Law (1952—). See the "book review" and "books received" sections.
- American Journal of International Law (1907—). The section called "Recent Books on International Law" contains book reviews and books of briefer notice, and a list of books received.
- *Journal of International Economic Law* (1998—) regularly contains comprehensive bibliographies, an annual book survey that covers more than international economic law, and a Web survey of new and important Web sites.
- *Revue de Droit Africain: Doctrine & Jurisprudence* (2002—). See "recension bibliographique et informations."

⁷ http://acqweb.library.vanderbilt.edu (note that this site has not been updated in quite some time).

- *Revue Internationale de Droit Comparé* (1949?—). See the "Informations and Bibliographie" section.
- *Refugee Survey Quarterly* (1994—). Each issue contains a bibliography, selected Internet sources, abstracts of publications, and publications received.
- *Sudebnik* (1996—). See book reviews and bibliography on recent Russian law books.

In addition to these regular publications, you can locate feature articles providing extensive bibliographies on topics, countries, or regions. For example, Karen Willyams, *Bibliography of Books and Articles on International Law Relevant to New Zealand*, 3 N.Z. Y.B. INT'L L. 281 (2006) and William Bradford, *International Legal Compliance: Surveying the Field*, 36 GEO. J. INT'L L. 495 (2005). Searching the journal indexes discussed in Section III.A is a good way to locate these articles.

III. JOURNAL LITERATURE

Locating journal articles is an important part of international, foreign and comparative legal research. You should not rely solely on full-text law reviews on LexisNexis and Westlaw. Many journals on international, foreign, and comparative law are not included in either LexisNexis or Westlaw. Thorough research requires using journal indexes to locate relevant literature. Keep in mind that you may find articles on your topic in both law and law-related journal indexes. Many international and foreign law topics are cross-disciplinary in nature and require researching in law-related fields, such as public policy, international relations, economics, etc.

Like books, journal articles will usually point to relevant sources of law, key concepts, and legal developments. One approach to finding articles is to use a full-text database of law journal articles, such as the ones available on LexisNexis and Westlaw. This approach works well if your topic includes a term rarely used in the database (e.g., Ibos, janjaweed).

If you are working with more common terms, however, you may find that searching in full-text databases gets too many irrelevant results. You can limit your results in both LexisNexis and Westlaw by requiring your search term to appear in the article's title. On LexisNexis, you do this by using the "title" segment. On Westlaw, use the "title" field. You can access these segments and fields by using a drop-down menu on the main search screen.

Unfortunately, limiting your search to articles that include your term in their title can cause you to miss relevant articles. Often, a better approach than

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full-text searching is to use a legal periodical index, such as *Index to Legal Periodicals* (ILP) or LegalTrac, also called *Legal Resource Index* (LRI) or *Current Law Index*. Both of these databases are available on LexisNexis and Westlaw. Although paper versions of periodical indexes are still being printed, use an online version whenever possible. Online versions combine records from large time periods; if you use a paper version, you must repeat your search in several volumes.

Periodical indexes can also make up for shortcomings in your search terms. For example, you might search "corporal punishment" w/p child w/p "human rights" in Westlaw's JLR database, and miss articles that use the UK/European term "chastisement." In the *Legal Resource Index*, however, an indexer has given all these articles the subject heading or descriptor "corporal punishment," so your search would pick them up

Once you have identified the relevant articles using the indexes, you will need to search a library catalog (by the title of the journal) to determine if an institution owns the print and/or provides access to the electronic version of a journal.

A. Legal Journal Indexes

- Index to Legal Periodicals and Books (ILP) (1981—) contains citations from more than 820 legal periodicals from 1981 from the United States, Canada, Ireland, Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand. The print edition covers 1908 to present. The Index to Legal Periodicals and Books and Index to Legal Periodicals Retrospective (1918-1981) are both available on the Web from WilsonWeb.⁸ The database is also available on LexisNexis and Westlaw.
- Legal Resource Index (LRI) indexes approximately 800 legal publications from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand, and Australia. It also covers law-related articles from more than 1,000 additional business and general interest periodicals. Coverage begins in 1980 and is updated monthly. It is available in print as *Current Law Index*, on LexisNexis and Westlaw, and as LegalTrac⁹ on the Web.
- Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals (IFLP) is a multilingual index to articles and book reviews appearing in approximately 492 legal journals published

⁸ http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com.

⁹ http://www.gale.com.

worldwide. The print edition covers 1960 on, and the electronic version covers 1985 to the present. IFLP is available in print, on the Web from Ovid,¹⁰ and on Westlaw (although not with an academic password).

- Legal Journals Index (LJI) indexes approximately 485 journals from the United Kingdom and Europe. Coverage is from 1986 on. The print versions of this index (Legal Journals Index and European Legal Journals Index) were discontinued in 1999. Legal Journals Index is available on Westlaw and through Current Legal Information on the Web.¹¹
- *Current Index to Legal Periodicals* (CILP) provides access to approximately 475 university legal publications and other law journals. It's a good way to update your research since it indexes journals four to six weeks before they are picked up by ILP and LRI. It is available on the Web through the University of Washington Law Library¹² and Westlaw.

B. Law-Related Journal Indexes

Other indexes that focus on law-related topics can also be of use when doing international and foreign legal research. These include EconLit¹³ (journals on economics), First Search,¹⁴ which contains many different databases arranged by topic, International Political Science Abstracts,¹⁵ which indexes journals related to political science, and PAIS International,¹⁶ which covers international relations, political science, and social sciences. Most of these indexes are available at college and university libraries.

When you are researching certain areas of human rights, humanitarian law, international trade, and environmental law, to name a few, journal literature from the social sciences can be very useful. For example, when researching humanitarian law, you may need to get some background sources on basic humanitarian principles. This kind of information is easier to locate using *PAIS International* or a social science index than in the legal literature.

¹⁰ http://www.ovid.com/site/catalog/DataBase/104.jsp?top+2+mid=3+bottom=7+subsection=10.

¹¹ http://www.sweetandmaxwell.co.uk/online/cli.html.

¹² http://lib.law.washington.edu/cilp/cilp.html.

¹³ http://www.econlit.org.

¹⁴ http://www.oclc.org/home.

¹⁵ http://www.csa.com/factsheets/polsci-pqft-set-c.php.

¹⁶ http://www.csa.com/factsheets/pais-set-c.php.

C. Full-Text Journal Articles

In addition to journal indexes, there are many collections of full-text journal articles. These include databases provided by publishers, like Cambridge University Press or Oxford University Press, which provide access only to the journals they publish. There are specialty collections, including *Contemporary Women's Issues*,¹⁷ which provides information on women's issues around the world, *Ethnic NewsWatch*¹⁸ (a collection of the newspapers and journals of the ethnic, minority, and native press), and *GenderWatch*,¹⁹ which focuses on the impact of gender across a broad spectrum of subject areas. And there are journal databases such as HeinOnline²⁰ (a retrospective collection of legal journals), JSTOR²¹ (backfiles of many scholarly journals from a variety of disciplines) and Project Muse²² (access to over 100 scholarly full-text journals in the humanities and social sciences).

Another approach is to start by finding a relevant journal. You can find numerous periodicals on international law topics or the law of a particular country. To find the titles of these periodicals, search your library catalog with subject headings, such as *comparative law—periodicals* or *international law—periodicals*.

Once you identify a relevant periodical, look for an index either specific to the publication, such as an annual end-of-the-year index, or a broader periodical index that covers the periodical you need. The journal indexes listed above allow you to search for the title of a journal to see if it is included.

D. Other Web Resources

A few free indexes (or similar tools) are available on the Web. For example, the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law's OPAC²³ contains information on articles and books since 1996. You can search

- ²⁰ http://heinonline.org.
- ²¹ http://www.jstor.org.
- ²² http://muse.jhu.edu/.
- ²³ http://www.mpil.de/ww/en/pub/library.cfm (see "Catalogs and Databases").

¹⁷ http://www.gale.com.

¹⁸ http://www.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/ethnic_newswatch.shtml.

¹⁹ http://www.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/genderwatch.shtml.

the catalog or you can browse the classifications for public international law, comparative law, or municipal law. If you select "Rvgl 2.8.5. Other Basic Rights [Right to Petition see 2.3.; Conscientious Objection see 6.8.4.; Right of Asylum see 5.2.]" from the classification, you can get a list of articles (in a variety of languages) on the topic. When you select one of the articles from the list, you retrieve a complete record for the item.

Some other freely available tools available on the Web include Contents Pages from Law Reviews and Other Scholarly Journals—a searchable database of tables of contents from more than 750 law reviews and other scholarly publications related to the law published in the United States and abroad.²⁴ Washington & Lee Law School also provides a similar database called Current Law Journal Content.²⁵ Here you can search the contents of 1,268 journal content pages. These databases don't provide access to the full text of the articles, but they do provide enough information for you to obtain the article either in print or from another electronic source like LexisNexis or Westlaw.

You can also consult the catalogs or recent acquisitions lists from libraries or institutes with reputations for being the leading institutions in a particular field. As noted above, the Max Planck Institute is a good model. Others include the Hague Peace Palace²⁶ and the Swiss Institute for Comparative Law.²⁷

IV. WORKING PAPERS, REPORTS, AND OTHER SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

The desire to access working and research papers, reports, and other publications in the social sciences has grown with increased availability of scholarly publishing on the Web. Several services have become available, some for a fee, and many academic institutions, think tanks, and international organizations have also made these materials available. Often, these works are a good way to penetrate the research available on current topics. Some working and research papers are available in full text in a variety of formats (PDF, HTML, or Word); others may only have abstracts, and the documents must be ordered or located in a library. Social Science Research Network (SSRN)²⁸

²⁴ http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/tallons/content_search.html.

²⁵ http://law.wlu.edu/library/CLJC/index.asp.

²⁶ http://www.ppl.nl.

²⁷ http://www.isdc.ch.

²⁸ http://www.ssrn.com/index.html.

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provides electronic journal abstracts and working papers for law and social sciences.

Working paper collections provide a good source for commentary on new and fast developing topics. For instance, a quick search using Avena in both the title and the abstract fields yields many recent scholarly articles on the *Avena* case. Many law schools are posting collections of working papers by their faculty and visiting scholars and students. The Hauser Global Law School Program at NYU provides access to several working paper collections: Global Law Working Papers, Human Rights and Global Justice Working Papers, Jean Monnet Working Papers, and Institute for International Law and Justice Working Papers.²⁹

Individual law professors are posting their recent scholarly articles on their own Web sites, through SSRN, and on their law school's Web site. In fact, some professors are making articles and other documents freely available on their personal Web sites.

Think tanks, centers, and institutes also provide access to this kind of literature. The Brookings Institute, the National Bureau of Economic Research, and the Center for Migration and Development are just a few examples of such institutions that provide access to much of their commentary and analysis for free. Since there is no way to list all of the possible collections, use Web searches to retrieve these working paper collections.

To learn about new working papers and reports, take a look at DocuTicker, "a hand-picked selection of resources, reports and publications from government agencies, NGOs, think tanks and other public interest organizations."³⁰ Once you find a new individual document, you might also stumble across an entire collection, such as the EspressO Preprint Series.³¹

With so much commentary and analysis available in print, online through subscription databases, and through publicly available Web sites, there is no way to locate everything with one simple search. A variety of sources and tools—library catalogs, journal indexes, Web sites, and other databases—all need to be consulted. Nor should you be satisfied with the sources just in law. Once you have identified these secondary sources, you also must be careful to

²⁹ http://www.nyulawglobal.org.

³⁰ http://www.docuticker.com.

³¹ http://law.bepress.com/expresso/eps.

evaluate the information you find, especially from Web sites. For more information on evaluating what you find on the Web, see Chapter 5.

Chapter 5 Internet Research

I. INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers strategies and tools for Internet research. The chapter also covers technologies such as blogs, electronic discussion lists, and wikis. Of course, the rest of the book also discusses Internet research, but in this chapter, you will find specific strategies for improving your Web search techniques. Unlike other chapters, this one deals only with free Internet resources.

The Internet has made many aspects of foreign and international legal research much easier. In particular, finding "known items" is often simple. It is usually easy, for example, to find a multilateral treaty on the Internet just by typing its name into your favorite search engine. Keep in mind, however, that Internet research creates some new pitfalls for researchers.

The first pitfall is the unreliability of some Internet information. Traditional publishers acted as a gatekeeper; researching, writing, editing, and publishing a book on paper costs a lot of money. Authors and publishers need to sell their product to recoup these costs. They can't do that if the information isn't reliable. Contrast this model with Internet publishing—Web pages are easy to create. On the Web, no one acts as a gatekeeper. To some extent, however, the criteria used by search engines to rank their results have a gatekeeping function. For example, Google ranks pages higher if many other pages link to them. That means Google's top search results show the influence of people's decisions to add links to those pages. However, on controversial topics such as whether the Palestinians or Israelis have committed war crimes, for example, you may still retrieve biased and inaccurate Web pages in your top search results. That happens because so many people who feel strongly about the topic have linked to specific pages.

The second pitfall is the tendency to limit information searches to Internet information. Because researchers can find such a large quantity of free information on the Web, they sometimes rely solely on freely available Web sources. Using paper sources and subscription databases can often save time and provide more reliable, useful information.

For example, if you want to understand the international law of treaties, you may already know that the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties sets out the basic rules. But it would be much quicker and easier to read about the law of treaties in an introduction to international law, such as Thomas Buergenthal & Sean D. Murphy, *Public International Law in a Nutshell* (4th ed. 2007), than to read the Vienna Convention itself on the Web. (This example also illustrates the advantages of using a secondary source rather than going straight to the primary source.)

Limiting your research to the Internet can also make it impossible for you to find the information you want. Older treaties, bilateral treaties, diplomatic correspondence, and national regulations are a few examples of documents that may be available only in paper sources.

II. WEB SEARCHING

A. What's on the Free Web

The World Wide Web contains billions of Web pages. Most of the information was created after 1996, though organizations such as the United Nations have added older documents. The authors of Web information range from distinguished international law scholars (contributors to the American Society of International Law's *ASIL Insights*,¹ for example) to small children. Much of the Web, such as the profiles on Facebook or MySpace, is nonscholarly, personal information. Thus, to use the Web for legal research, you must sift the useful sites from the less useful.

Legal information on the Web usually lacks the "added value" of commercially published material. For example, you can often find the text of laws on the Web, but this text will lack useful features such as notes about cases that interpret the law. Also, laws on the Web are often "uncodified"—in other words, they are published in chronological order and not arranged by topic. Even worse, these laws do not usually reflect later amendments.

B. Information Quality and Bias

1. Quality

As discussed briefly above, the quality of Internet information dips lower than that of traditionally published information. Thus, you must scrutinize the

¹ http://www.asil.org/insights.htm.

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reliability of Internet information carefully. Check these sources for attribution: Who is the author? What are his or her credentials? Does the source provide citations to support the author's statements? How recent is the information? Much information on the Web lacks any date; look for clues such as textual references to dates or even events that may help you figure out when the page was created. Note that it's possible to add code to a Web page so that it gives the current date as the date of the last update, even if the page hasn't changed. Thus, don't assume that a page that says "last updated on [today's date]" actually reflects current information.

Another way to improve the quality of your search results is to restrict it to noncommercial pages. Many search engines allow you to limit your results to particular Internet "domains." For example, Yahoo!'s advanced search allows the user to specify "Any domain," "Only .com domains," "Only .edu domains," "Only .gov domains," or "Only .org domains."

Keep in mind, however, that these options are US-centric. In the United Kingdom, for example, academic or educational sites are indicated by "ac.uk." rather than "edu."

2. Bias

While authors of traditionally published information often have biases, the lack of gatekeeping for Internet information means that Web pages are more likely to contain biased information. For instance, nongovernmental organizations may exaggerate the problems on which they focus, either to increase their visibility or to raise funds. To guard against reliance on biased information, try to determine who sponsors a particular Web site. Look at the other Web sites to which the site links. Check for inflammatory language, and try to figure out the purpose for which the information is offered (e.g., for fund-raising, to elicit political action, or to get customers). If you are still not sure about the reliability of the information, try to confirm it by finding corroborating sources.

C. Special Problems with International and Foreign Sources

1. English as a Second Language

Often, we tend to judge quality by whether a site is well written, just as you can usually identify phishing scams by the quality of the writing and spelling. Phishing is a term used in computing to refer to electronic communications that lure ("fish") a person into providing financial information by masquerading as

a legitimate entity.² But if an author is writing in a second language, information from her badly written Web page may still be reliable. Take the author's language ability into account. For example, Chinese lawyers may provide Web pages with summaries of Chinese laws; while these summaries may not read like a law review article, they might be the most current and accurate information available in English.

2. Style

Non-Western or non-US Web sites may not look like what US researchers expect. For example, some Web pages on legal information for Thailand have flashing lights, scrolling text, and animated graphics, yet the information itself is reliable. Other sites may have the text of laws in very simple, unprofessional looking pages, without headings, links to other pages, or other features associated with legitimate Web sites. The page may not look especially sophisticated, but it contains the accurate text of, and citation to, official law. Thus, a researcher would not want to dismiss these sources simply because of their appearance.

3. Unfamiliarity

If you are unfamiliar with a region or country, you may not know enough to pick up on bias or to judge credentials. In the United States, there are certain topics where you easily see the potential for bias—for example, a Web site about abortion law, or gun control. Similarly, you probably know the biases of organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Rifle Association, and the John Birch Society. To figure out the biases of a foreign organization, start with what the organization's site tells you about itself. Next, look for information from unaffiliated organizations or individuals. For example, if you are researching the French law on Holocaust denial, called the Fabius-Gayssot law, you will probably retrieve pages from many organizations, some of which are violently anti-Semitic, others that are much more subtly anti-Semitic. You may need to take extra time to determine the reliability of any sites you retrieve. Search the name of the organization, and look at how other Web pages treat it.

If you are unfamiliar with other countries' educational systems, you may have trouble judging Web authors' academic credentials. For instance, in the United Kingdom and Europe, many well-qualified university teachers are not

² For more information, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phishing.

called professors: they may be called "readers" ("lecteurs" in French), "lecturers," or, in Germany, "Privatdozenten." If you are concerned about the qualifications of an author, you may need to do additional research to learn what the credentials mean.

III. USING SEARCH ENGINES EFFECTIVELY

A. Constructing Searches

Although search engines can sometimes help you with spelling errors, with a "did you mean?" feature, they work in a very literal way. You enter keywords; they retrieve pages that contain those keywords. (Most search engines will also bring back pages that contain only one of your keywords, though they will rank those pages low in your search results.) Because search engines are literal, you need accurate spelling and good search terms. Keep in mind that many international organizations, including the United Nations, use British spellings—e.g., labour, organisation, centre, licence. (While Google has expanded its search function to look for British and American spelling variants automatically, not all search engines have done so.)

You should be flexible in your search terms. Be prepared to try alternatives—for example, death penalty *or* capital punishment. Scan your results to see whether they contain more specific or more commonly used terms; if so, use them in a new search. If someone tells you to find information about a subject, such as an expert's name, or the name of a treaty, you may need to experiment with dropping pieces out of your search string before you are successful, because often people don't give accurate information. For example, you might be asked to find the "Convention on Endangered Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat." This convention does not actually have the word "endangered" in its title, so you might try "convention" with "wetlands of international importance," which would successfully retrieve the treaty.

For similar reasons, although phrase searches are useful when you're confident that your phrase will appear, you may not want to use them with uncertain information. Thus, if someone tells you to find the "Human Rights Council Manual on Special Procedures to Enforce Human Rights," you should enter these search terms without putting them in quotation marks. If, however, you want to find a document specifically referenced in that manual, such as the ICJ opinion on the Difference relating to Immunity from Legal Process of a Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, it might be faster to enclose the title in quotation marks, adding "International Court of Justice" or

"ICJ" outside the quotation marks. Otherwise, with fairly generic terms like those, you risk retrieving a lot of irrelevant results.

Generally, avoid phrasing your search as a question ("what is an internationally wrongful act"). On the other hand, you can sometimes get good results by phrasing your search as part of an answer (e.g., "an international wrongful act consists of").

Adding search terms that describe the form in which you want the information, such as "report" or "discussion," may decrease the quality of your results. In that situation, you might specify that your results should be in PDF format; many search engines have an advanced feature that lets you do so.

B. Iterative Searching

Perhaps the most important concept in constructing searches is "iterative searching." As you search, keep refining or changing your search terms and strategies based on what you find. For example, a law firm associate is asked to find the law that governs incorporating a business in Nigeria. Her first search is simply *nigerian business incorporation*. Although she doesn't retrieve the law, her first result is a summary of the law from the Nigerian Embassy. The summary includes the name of the law: The Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990. By copying and pasting this name as a new search, she immediately retrieves a copy of the law.

C. Multiple Search Engines

Remember that different search engines cover different "territory." In other words, there is surprisingly little overlap in the coverage of major search engines, though they tend to have fairly comparable coverage of major Web addresses like the UN and federal government Web sites. Thus, if you don't find what you're looking for using your usual search engine, or if you need to perform a particularly comprehensive search, you should use more than one search engine. Useful search engines include Google, MSN Search, Exalead, Yahoo, Teoma, and many others.

One situation that you may encounter is research for an asylum claim. Perhaps your client claims to be a member of a group that is subject to persecution in his home country. For some groups and some countries, it is very hard to document persecution. Scouring the Web using several search engines is a good approach.

D. Capturing Information and the Invisible Web

Another aspect of the Web that bears remembering is its changeability. If you find useful information, particularly from an unfamiliar site, consider making a paper or electronic copy for your records. Content often disappears from Web pages, as their creators remove older information, delete pages, or take down entire Web sites. If you find yourself in need of information that you found on the Web, but can no longer find, look for tools such as the Internet "Wayback" site.³ Do not rely on them to archive all Web content, however; it is much better to keep your own copies of useful Web pages.

A large percentage of Web content cannot be retrieved by search engines directly; instead, the user must go to the site hosting the content and perform a search or click on links at that site. Some researchers refer to this part of the Web as the "invisible Web" or "dark matter." One example of this information is the contents of most library catalogs. While you can go directly to a Web catalog and search its contents, a search engine like Google cannot index the catalog's contents—just its first screen. Similarly, search engines cannot access the useful international fisheries law information at "FISHLEX"⁴ —the content is dynamically generated when a user enters a query.

To gain access to the invisible Web, you can use a couple of approaches. First, think about what nongovernmental organizations, governments, or other organizations might collect the kind of information you need. The United Nations, as one example, has created large databases of statistical information on human development—poverty measures, health, investment, etc. If you need to document investment conditions in connection with a business project, the United Nations, the World Bank, or the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would be reasonable places to look.

A second approach, when you don't know what organization might have helpful information, is to try Web searches to find a database that contains the information you need. For example, you might have an international environmental law problem involving toxic substances. You could enter the terms *toxic chemicals database*, and retrieve some useful databases whose contents aren't indexed in search engines. This is also when a Web directory is a good source to

³ http://www.archive.org/Web/Web.php.

⁴ http://faolex.fao.org/fishery.

consult. For example, see the Librarians' Internet Index⁵ or Infomine Scholarly Internet Resource Collections.⁶

E. Up-to-Date Information

As you know, search engines don't search actual Web pages when you enter a search query. They search their index of pages, based on information they gathered at some earlier time. This method explains why you sometimes retrieve pages that don't contain the search terms you entered. Some search engines, such as Google, may allow you to see the previous version via a "cache." More often, you may be interested in finding newer information than what you have retrieved. With some sites, it's helpful to go from the page you retrieved to the site's main page, and then look for later information.

For example, searching for information on *torture guantanamo bay*, you retrieve a document from Amnesty International: Amnesty International, Guantánamo and Beyond: The Continuing Pursuit of Unchecked Executive Power, AI Index: AMR 51/063/2005.⁷ Starting with this Web document, you can find more recent documents by clicking on the Amnesty International home page icon. From there, you can use the site's search engine, or its list of regions or themes, to find the most current information on Guantánamo Bay and torture.

Another approach is to use search engines designed specifically to find Web news rather than all kinds of Web pages. Yahoo, Google, MSN, and other search engines offer this option. Alternatively, you can use advanced search features to restrict your results to pages that have been updated within a certain time period. This approach, however, may retrieve pages of old information to which irrelevant changes have been made. It doesn't guarantee that a page will contain new information.

F. Advanced Search Features

1. Proximity Searching

Another reason to vary your choice of search engines is that some of them offer better search features. Currently, one of the few search engines that permit

⁵ http://lii.org.

⁶ http://infomine.ucr.edu.

⁷ http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engamr510632005.

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"proximity" searching is Exalead.⁸ Exalead's proximity search lets you specify that your search terms must appear within a certain number of terms from each other. For example, if you need to find information about international arbitration of oil contracts, you might enter the terms *oil "international arbitration"*—but you can retrieve more precise results by using Exalead's proximity search to specify that the terms must appear within four words of each other: *("international arbitration" NEAR/4 oil)*.

2. Domain and Site Restrictions

As noted above, you can restrict your search to particular Internet "domains" or sites. For example, if a searcher is looking for Dominican Republic Law No. 285 on migration, she might use Google's Advanced Search page to restrict her search to the ".gov.do" domain, which would limit the results of the search to government pages from the Dominican Republic.

Another useful way to use this feature is to restrict your search to a particular site, particularly if the site's own search engine or navigation doesn't work well. This technique comes in handy with large sites like intergovernmental organizations, whose sites have huge numbers of documents. For example, a researcher was asked to find an IMF paper discussing (in part) infant and child mortality in Guatemala. While the IMF's own search engine retrieved the document, Google's results ranked the document much higher, making it easier to find.

3. Excluding Terms

Most search engines allow you to exclude terms from your results by prefacing them with a minus sign (e.g., -pharmaceutical). This technique should be used sparingly, since it excludes documents or Web pages that contain your term anywhere. For example, when searching for information on human trafficking in Thailand, you might want to exclude information on drug trafficking: *thailand human trafficking -drug*. Because some organizations are involved in both human and drug trafficking, however, excluding the term "drug" might remove useful results. Excluding terms is probably best used to weed out a meaning of a word that you don't want (e.g., *virus –computer*).

⁸ http://www.exalead.com/search.

4. Synonyms

You can include synonyms in your searches, most often by separating the synonyms with the word "or" in capital letters. For example, searching *capital punishment OR death penalty turkey* gets more complete results than searching only for *capital punishment turkey*.

Google supports the tilde symbol (~) as a way to search for synonyms. Searching ~*data patents*, for example, also retrieves documents containing the word "statistics" and patents. This feature can be unpredictable, however; searching for ~*aluminum* retrieves not only documents with the British spelling aluminium, but Al-Qaeda, Weird Al, and Alabama.

IV. BLOGS AND ELECTRONIC DISCUSSION LISTS

Blogs and electronic discussion lists are two Internet applications that create smaller online communities with shared information interests. They act as a tool to keep you apprised of new developments and a way to communicate with other researchers and experts. As you begin to focus on a specific practice area, these will become more important.

A. Blogs

A blog is a Web site or page that is updated regularly with "postings" (blog entries) structured in reverse chronological order so that the most recent information appears first. Two or more authors may cooperate to produce a blog, or a blog may be a single author's effort. Usually, postings, or posts, are relatively short and informal. Some blog authors have distinguished academic credentials; for example, Georgetown University law professors produce a blog called Exploring International Law.⁹ Several other law professors collaborate on Opinio Juris,¹⁰ another international law blog, and on IntLawGrtls.¹¹

Blogs on foreign law have become commonplace too; Prof. Darius Whelan's Irish Law Update¹² is one example, but many are produced in foreign languages.¹³

⁹ http://explore.georgetown.edu/blogs/?blogid=2.

¹⁰ http://www.opiniojuris.org.

¹¹ http://intlawgrrls.blogspot.com/index.html.

¹² http://www.ucc.ie/law/irishlaw/blogger/blogger.html.

¹³ E.g., the French law blog Au fil du droit, http://aufildudroit.over-blog.com or the German-language Swiss criminal procedure blog, http://www.jeno.ch/Weblog.

1. RSS Feeds and RSS Readers

Many blogs offer an "RSS feed."¹⁴ These feeds provide an easy way for you to read the headlines of new content in blogs you want to monitor. (The alternative is to visit the site of each blog to see whether you want to read any of the new content—very time consuming!) Using an RSS reader, you can subscribe to RSS feeds. RSS "readers" take RSS feeds and present them on one Web page that you can visit whenever you choose. Practitioners and legal scholars use RSS readers, sometimes called newsreaders or aggregators, to get a quick look at current legal developments in their areas of interest. Postings often link to useful documents—for example, the text of a just-released court decision. People who read a blog posting often have the option of posting a comment on it.

If you are not familiar with RSS feeds and readers, a quick Web search will give you enough information to get started.

2. Finding Useful Blogs

To identify law-related blogs that interest you, you have several options. First, you can check a site that collects information on available legal blogs. One good example is Blawg.¹⁵ This site has a searchable directory of blogs. Also, most RSS readers, such as Bloglines, have a search feature that lets you look for blogs by topic. Major search engines like Google offer a search option restricted to blog content; if you find relevant postings on a particular blog, you may want to subscribe to it.

3. Searching Blog Content

You can use search engines' blog search features to focus your search on blog content across multiple blogs. RSS readers usually offer a way to search postings across multiple blogs.

Some blogs (a minority) include an index to previous postings, usually on the first screen. Others have a built-in search feature.

¹⁴ RSS is usually said to stand for "really simple syndication." It refers to a type of document markup, XML (similar to HTML), which makes it easy to share Web content.

¹⁵ http://www.blawg.org. Law-related blogs are sometimes called "blawgs."

B. Electronic Discussion Lists

Electronic discussion lists, or "listservs," can be another source of information on current developments. They are also a good way to seek help from experts.

Unlike blogs, electronic discussion lists do not have centralized authors or editors, though some have moderators who exert some control over content. Persons who share an interest, such as international legal information, subscribe to a list. They then receive email messages sent from other list subscribers to everyone on the list. For example, a subscriber to the INT-LAW list might send the message: "Do any of you know where I can get a copy of the most recent Kuwaiti Labor Code—Law No. 38 of 1964?" Other list subscribers can then reply either to the whole list, or to the person who sent the question. Subscribers often send messages announcing new information (e.g., that a case has been decided, or that a new database of laws is available). To some extent, then, the functions of blogs and lists overlap.

You can often learn of useful electronic discussion lists from other lawyers or law students. Alternatively, search the Web with the terms "electronic discussion list" and your topic of interest. For example, searching "*electronic discussion list*" *japan law* retrieves information about the JAPANLAW list, including directions for how to subscribe.

Many electronic discussion lists have online archives. To find whether a list has archives, simply search on the name of the list and the word "archive." For example, searching *intbuslaw archive* retrieves the archives of the International Business Law list.

C. Contacting Experts

By subscribing to blogs and electronic discussion lists, or just by searching for blog postings and list archives, you can often identify people who are experts on particular subjects. Some—not all—of these experts will respond to requests for help or information. The Foreign, Comparative & International Law Section of the American Association of Law Libraries provides a list, compiled by Lyonette Louis-Jacques, of legal research experts on various international and foreign legal topics (e.g., Swedish law).¹⁶ Generally, experts are more likely to respond if you:

¹⁶ http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/Jumpstart.htm.

- explain briefly how you found their name,
- clearly identify the information you seek, and
- · describe the ways you have already looked for the information.

V. WIKIS

A. What Is a Wiki?

You are probably familiar with Wikipedia, and perhaps with other "wikis." A wiki is a collaborative Web site containing information created by its users. Wiki software allows site visitors to add, delete, and otherwise modify entries on the site. While this model has led to a few egregious errors and attempts at manipulation (such as politicians tweaking their own biographies), a 2005 study comparing the reliability of information on Wikipedia to the Encyclopedia Britannica found that Wikipedia entries were only slightly more prone to error.¹⁷

B. Using Wikis in Research

Wikis do not yet have enough credibility and authority to cite in legal documents, even internal ones. Legal scholars have questioned the practice of citing to Wikipedia and other wikis, pointing out that authors can simply edit a Wikipedia entry to support their contentions.¹⁸ Wikipedia has also been criticized for containing unreliable information, and its credibility has suffered from "contributors" such as congressional staffers who pad their employers' entries with propaganda. Thus, when you use wikis, try to verify the accuracy of information on which you rely.

You may find, however, that they can be very useful in providing leads for your research. For example, the Wikipedia entry for Salim Ahmed Hamdan, the petitioner in *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*,¹⁹ contains links to related Department of Defense documents, newspaper stories, and the Supreme Court's opinion in the case.

One of the first significant efforts to create a wiki specifically on law came from Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute. This wiki, called Wex,

¹⁷ Robert Levine, *The Many Voices of Wikipedia, Heard in One Place*, N.Y. TIMES, Aug. 7, 2006, at C4.

¹⁸ Adam Kolber, posted to PrawfsBlawg, Dec 13, 2006, 10:01 a.m., *at* http:// prawfsblawg.blogs.com/prawfsblawg.

¹⁹ 126 S. Ct. 2749 (2006).

aims to be a combined law dictionary and encyclopedia for "law novices." At present, its information on international and foreign law is minimal, but wikis can grow quickly.

Chapter 6 Public International Law

I. INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS: INTRODUCTION

Treaties can be referred to by a number of different names: international conventions, international agreements, covenants, final acts, charters, protocols, pacts, accords, and constitutions for international organizations. Usually these different names have no legal significance in international law. Treaties may be bilateral (two parties) or multilateral (between more than two parties), and a treaty is usually only binding on the parties to the agreement. An agreement "enters into force" when the terms for entry into force, as specified in the agreement, are met. Bilateral treaties usually enter into force when both parties agree to be bound as of a certain date.

For assistance in locating the definitions of key terms used in treaties and agreements, see the UN *Treaty Handbook*.¹

For basic information on treaties, see Thomas Buergenthal & Sean Murphy, *Public International Law in a Nutshell* (4th ed. 2007) or 7 *Encyclopedia of Public International Law* 459-514 (1981—).

When researching treaties, you will usually need to find the following information:

1. The text of the treaty. If you already know the treaty you want, you will often find it quickly using an Internet search engine. Finding a treaty by subject, or finding out whether a treaty exists at all, is much harder, and usually requires using secondary sources.

2. The parties to the treaty (or at least whether the countries in which you are interested are parties), and the treaty's effective date. This piece of your research is called "status information." For major treaties, such as the Geneva Convention, you can find status information fairly easily on the Web sites of

¹ http://untreaty.un.org/English/TreatyHandbook/hbframeset.htm.

inter- or nongovernmental organizations. It is harder to find accurate status information for less important treaties or for recent ones.

When researching treaty status, you will see countries listed as "signatories" or "parties" or both. Generally, the number of parties to a treaty is more important in international law than the number of signatories.

Signing a treaty, for most countries, means that they will *begin* the process of ratifying the treaty. The United States may sign a treaty but never ratify it or may sign a treaty and ratify it much later. For example, the United States signed the Genocide Convention in 1948 but did not ratify it for 40 years. If a country signs a treaty but needs to take further steps for ratification, it must in the meantime refrain from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of the treaty.

Interpreting status information takes a little practice. For example, following is partial status information on the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, taken from *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General:*

Participant [i.e., party]	Signature	Ratification, Accession (a), Acceptance (A), Approval (AA), Formal confirmation (c), Succession (d)
Bosnia and Herzegovina		1 Sep 1993 d
Fiji		25 Mar 1993 a
Finland	8 Feb 1989	15 Feb 1994 A
France	13 Feb 1989	31 Dec 1990 AA
Gabon	20 Dec 1989	
Ghana	20 Dec 1988	10 Apr 1990

The negotiating parties concluded the Convention on December 20, 1988. Ghana signed on that date, and ratified it two years later. The Convention was "open for signature" until December 20, 1989. During that period, Finland, France, and Gabon signed it. Subsequently, Finland "accepted" the treaty, and France "approved" it. (Acceptance and approval refer to two different internal procedures by which countries can submit to be bound by a treaty.) Gabon, however, has not taken further action. If you were interested in Gabon's status, you would have to investigate whether Gabon law requires such further action.

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Fiji has "acceded" to the treaty. Accession, done by notifying the treaty secretariat, is a common way for a country to become a party to a treaty that it did not sign. In fact, the Convention has 87 signatories and 178 parties. As indicated in the table above, most of the parties acceded to it rather than signing the treaty.

Finally, the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina "succeeded" to the treaty, which the former Yugoslavia had signed and ratified. (Succession is usually done by notifying the treaty secretariat, though the subject is complex and disputed in international law.)

3. Any reservations, understandings, declarations, or other conditions made by the relevant parties. Reservations are unilateral statements by a country that purport to limit the effect of certain provisions of a multilateral treaty. A country may make a reservation when it signs, ratifies, accepts, or otherwise takes action on a treaty. Countries may also issue "understandings" and "declarations," unilateral statements that do not normally affect the binding nature of the treaty's provisions.

Reservations can significantly limit the effect of a treaty. For example, the United States ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which prohibits the death penalty for juveniles. But the US government made a reservation by which it refused to accept this prohibition.

4. Any subsequent modifications to the treaty (often made in the form of "protocols"), and whether the relevant parties have become parties to those modifications. Treaties, like laws, may need to be modified to reflect changing circumstances. Usually, treaties include rules for making such changes. It is important to understand that the parties to a treaty are not automatically bound by changes to it. The most common scenario requires parties to undertake the same kind of procedures to agree to amendments as they did for the original treaty. It is not unusual for countries to be parties to a treaty but not to its amendments. For example, the United States is a party to the ICCPR, but it is not a party to its Optional Protocol.

The elements above make up the initial phase of treaty research. Additionally, you may need to research how the treaty should be interpreted. This phase includes two or three components. First, you may want to research the drafting history of a treaty. Its drafting history is referred to as the *travaux préparatoires*, and it consists of early drafts, reports of the drafters, proceedings of the drafters' meetings, and other documents. Like legislative history for

statutes, *travaux préparatoires* are used to help interpret the meaning of treaty language.

Second, a country's internal ratification history may be used to interpret treaties. For example, the documents generated by the US Congress as it ratifies a treaty may be useful in understanding how the United States interprets that treaty.

Third, you may want to find how scholars, states parties, and tribunals and courts have interpreted the treaty. This task involves locating commentary, analysis, and interpretations through case law.

With the introduction above in mind, consider the most common task for US researchers—researching treaties to which the United States is a party.

II. US TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS

A. Introduction

Domestically, treaties to which the United States is a party are equivalent in status to federal legislation, forming part of what the Constitution calls "the supreme Law of the Land." Yet, the word "treaty" has a narrower meaning in the United States than in international law.² The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties defines a treaty "as an international agreement concluded between States in written form and governed by international law, whether embodied in a single instrument or in two or more related instruments and whatever its particular designation."³

United States law, however, distinguishes between the terms "treaty" and "executive agreement":

In the United States, the word treaty is reserved for an agreement that is made "by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate" (Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution). International agreements not

³ Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1155 U.N.T.S. 311 (May 23, 1969), art. 2, § 1(a), http://www.un.org/law/ilc/texts/treaties.htm.

² Treaties and Other International Agreements: The Role of the United States Senate: A Study, prepared for the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, S. Print 106-71, (2001), http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=106_cong_ senate_print@ocid=f:66922.pdf. Note that this document is 448 pages long and takes some time to load.

submitted to the Senate are known as "executive agreements" in the United States.⁴

Regardless of whether an international agreement is called a convention, agreement, protocol, accord, or anything else, if it is submitted to the Senate for advice and consent, it is considered a treaty under US law. Under international law, however, both types of agreements are considered binding. For a brief overview of this issue, see Frederic Kirgis, "International Agreements and U.S. Law," *ASIL Insights*, No. 10 (May 1997).⁵ The United States undertakes many more international agreements as executive agreements than as treaties.

The implications of the difference between treaty and executive agreements arise primarily when you explore the history of the instrument. Because of the Senate's involvement in the treaty process, you can find documents such as hearings and reports that shed light on how the United States interprets a treaty. Executive agreements, on the other hand, do not generate these documents and are consequently harder to research. Moreover, until 1945, executive agreements were published separately from treaties, in a series called *Executive Agreements*.

B. Ratification and Implementation of US Treaties and Agreements

When conducting US treaty research, it is important to understand the ratification and implementation process. Negotiation of treaties and international agreements is the responsibility of the Executive Branch. The US Department of State provides the Foreign Service with detailed instructions for the negotiation and conclusion of treaties and international agreements. These instructions are part of the *Foreign Affairs Manual*, Circular 175.⁶ Circular 175 summarizes the constitutional requirements for determining whether an international agreement should be considered a treaty or an agreement. It outlines the general procedures for negotiation, signature, publication, and registration of treaties and international agreements.

⁴ Treaties and Other International Agreements: The Role of the United States Senate: A Study, supra note 1.

⁵ http://www.asil.org/insights/insigh10.htm.

⁶ 11 *Treaties and Other International Agreements*, Chapter 700, *Foreign Affairs Manual* (revised Feb. 25, 1985), *at* http://foia.state.gov/REGS/fams.asp?level=2&id= 12&fam=0.

1. Outline of the Treaty-Making Process

- · Secretary of State authorizes negotiation
- US representatives negotiate
- · Agree on terms, and upon authorization of Secretary of State, sign treaty
- President submits treaty to Senate
- Senate Foreign Relations Committee considers treaty and reports to Senate
- Senate considers and approves by two-thirds majority
- President signs instrument of ratification
- Treaty enters into force based on the terms of the treaty
- · President proclaims entry into force

For more information on the treaty-making process, see *Treaties and Other International Agreements: The Role of the United States Senate: A Study* (2001).⁷ This is an excellent study of the treaty-making provisions of the US Constitution. See also Robert E. Dalton, "National Treaty Law and Practice: United States," *in National Treaty Law and Practice: Dedicated to the Memory of Monroe Leigh* (Duncan B. Hollis et al. eds., 2005).⁸

2. Outline of the Agreement-Making Process

- Secretary of State authorizes negotiation
- US representatives negotiate
- Agree on terms, and upon authorization of Secretary of State, sign agreement
- Three types of agreements⁹
- Agreement enters into force
- President transmits agreement to Congress (pursuant to Case-Zablocki Act)¹⁰

⁹ Agreements based on the president's constitutional authority (executive agreements), agreements pursuant to legislation or congressional-executive agreement, and agreements pursuant to treaty (authorization is based on a treaty previously ratified by United States).

¹⁰ 1 U.S.C. § 112b.

⁷ *Available* at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=106_ cong _senate_print&docid=f:66922.pdf.

⁸ The first edition of this chapter is available on the Web, *National Treaty Law and Practice: United States, in* NATIONAL TREATY LAW AND PRACTICE: AUSTRIA, CHILE, COLOMBIA, JAPAN, THE NETHERLANDS, UNITED STATES (1999), *available at* http://www.asil.org/dalton.pdf.

For an examination of executive agreements, see R.J. Erickson, *The Making* of *Executive Agreements by the United States Department of Defense: An Agenda for Progress*, 13 B.U. INT'L L.J. 45 (1995).

Another aspect of implementation concerns domestic legislation that may be passed to implement a treaty. This issue is one of US legal research and will not be covered here. Using an index to an annotated US Code, however, you can often find implementing legislation by looking up the treaty name.

C. Forms of Publication

Until 1950, US treaties appeared regularly after proclamation in *Statutes at Large* (1847—). Pre-1950 treaties can also be found in *Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States of America*, 1776-1949 (Bevans ed., 1968-1976). This 13-volume set is commonly cited by the compilers' name, *Bevans*. In 1950, *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements* (U.S.T.) (1950—) became the official source for all US treaties and agreements. Several volumes are published annually, each with a noncumulative subject and country index. Note that there is almost a 20-year lag time between ratification and official publication in U.S.T.

US treaties first appear in slip form in *Treaties and Other International Acts Series* (T.I.A.S.) (1946—), a set of individually paginated pamphlets, consecutively numbered. This series has a lag time of eight to nine years. Before ratification, you can check on the status of a treaty sent to the Senate for "advice and consent" in *CCH Congressional Index* (1938—).

After ratification, but still well before treaties appear in slip form, selected treaties (after they are cleared for publication by the Senate) are published in the *Senate Treaty Document Series* (Congressional Information Service) (formerly the *Senate Executive Document Series*).

D. Indexes and Finding Tools

These tools are useful for locating citations for United States bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements.

Relevant Library of Congress subject headings include:

treaties—indexes united states—foreign relations—treaties—indexes

• *Treaties in Force* (TIF) (1950—). This annual publication lists all US treaties and agreements still in force, arranged by country and subject. It

includes both bilateral and multilateral treaties and gives references to U.S.T. cites and T.I.A.S. numbers (if they exist). The primary use of TIF is verification of the existence of a treaty. TIF is also available on the State Department's Web site, but the electronic version is no more current than the print.¹¹ Since TIF is only published once a year, use Treaty Actions to update TIF. Treaty Actions used to be issued monthly when they were available in print. Now, on the Web, they are not issued as reliably. Archived issues back to 1997 are also available.¹² TIF is also available on several subscription-only databases: (1) HeinOnline,¹³ (2) LexisNexis ("U.S. Treaties in Force" database), and (3) Westlaw ("USTIF" file). Both HeinOnline and Westlaw provide access to some archived volumes.

- A Guide to the United States Treaties in Force (I. Kavass & A. Sprudzs, eds., 1982—). This annual publication should be used in conjunction with TIF. Access is by a combined subject index for both bilateral and multilateral treaties, as well as by numerical and country index. The *Guide* contains three parts and a supplement: Part 1 is a numerical list of bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements listed in TIF; Part 2 provides expanded subject lists of the treaties and agreements; and Part 3 provides a chronological index to US multilateral treaties and agreements in force. The *Guide* is supplemented by *Guide to the United States Treaties in Force: Current Treaty Action Supplement*, which cumulates and indexes the information about treaty developments that have occurred since the cut-off date of the last edition of TIF. HeinOnline provides access to the *Guide* back to 1982.
- United States Treaty Index (15 vols.) (I. Kavass, ed., 1991—). This is one of the most comprehensive sources for US treaty information. There are subject, chronological, and country indexes. This set is supplemented by *Current Treaty Index;* see next paragraph. The treaties are available on microfiche in *Hein's United States Treaties and Other International Agreements* (see below).
- *Current Treaty Index* (I. Kavass & A. Sprudzs, eds., 1982—). This looseleaf index lists current treaties and agreements published in slip form in T.I.A.S. as well as those treaties without such numbers. It supplements the *United States Treaty Index* (see above). This index is available on HeinOnline from 1982-1999.

¹¹ http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaties.

¹² http://www.state.gov/s/l/c3428.htm.

¹³ http://www.heinonline.org/front/front-index.

- *Treaties and International Agreements Online* (Oceana Online Web site,¹⁴ [1999-]). This fee-based service is available on the Web from Oceana Publications. It provides access to over 15,000 treaties and agreements from 1783 to present. According to the Web site, this database "[c]ontains all treaties and international agreements ratified by the US, major treaties in the process of ratification, and all tax treaties, even those to which the US is not a party." It is updated monthly.
- *CCH Congressional Index* (1937—). This two-volume looseleaf set is issued for each congressional session. The Senate volume of this set contains a section on treaties pending before the Senate. It provides information on the status of treaties. Look under the tab "Treaties and Nominations."
- *Thomas: Treaties.* This freely available Web site provides some information for locating treaty documents from the 90th Congress to the present. Search by Congress, treaty document number, word/phrase, or by type of treaty. Some full-text treaties are available from this site.¹⁵
- Congressional Record Index (1873—). This provides a listing of treaty actions and discussion appearing in the Congressional Record under the heading "Treaties" and occasionally under the name of a particular treaty or its subject matter. It may provide the text of a treaty or reservation to a treaty, and it is often a good source for legislative history of a treaty. The Congressional Record is available on many Web sites: (1) via a fee-based service called LexisNexis Congressional, (2) on the government site called Thomas,¹⁶ and (3) on another government site called GPO Access.¹⁷ It is also available on LexisNexis and Westlaw; coverage begins in 1985. Journal articles can be a very good source for citations to and information about treaties. Search the full-text journal databases on either LexisNexis or Westlaw.

E. Full-Text Sources

One of the tricky aspects of treaty research is that you may have to consult several different sources before locating the text of the document. If you have an exact treaty citation, go directly to the source, such as U.S.T. or T.I.A.S.

¹⁴ http://www.oceanalaw.com.

¹⁵ http://thomas.loc.gov/home/treaties.htm.

¹⁶ http://thomas.loc.gov.

¹⁷ http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cri/index.html.

Relevant subject headings include:

united states-foreign relations-treaties

1. Historical Sources

- Treaties and Other International Acts of the United States of America (H. Miller ed., 1931). This eight-volume set contains the text of treaties from 1776-1863. The set also includes legislative history information and commentary. Use the four-volume index called United States Treaties and Other International Agreements Cumulative Index 1776-1949: Cumulative Index to United States Treaties and Other International Agreements and Other International Agreements 1776-1949 as Published in Statutes at Large, Malloy, Miller, Bevans, and Other Relevant Sources (Igor I. Kavass & Mark A. Michael comps., 1975). The entire set is also available electronically in PDF format on HeinOnline,¹⁸ Treaties and Agreements Library.
- Treaties, Conventions, International Acts, Protocols, and Agreements Between the U.S.A. and Other Powers (William D. Malloy ed., vols. 1-2; C.F. Redmond & Edward J. Trenwith eds., vols. 3-4, 1910—). This set contains text of treaties from 1776-1937; Volume 4 has a cumulative index and chronological list of treaties. Use the four-volume index called United States Treaties and Other International Agreements Cumulative Index 1776-1949: Cumulative Index to United States Treaties and Other International Agreements 1776-1949 as Published in Statutes at Large, Malloy, Miller, Bevans, and Other Relevant Sources (Igor I. Kavass & Mark A. Michael comps., 1975). It is also available electronically in PDF format on HeinOnline, Treaties and Agreements Library.
- Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States, 1776-1949 (Bevans ed., 1968-1976). This work supersedes Miller and Malloy; Volumes 1-4 have the text of multilateral treaties and agreements in chronological order by date of signature; Volumes 5-12 includes bilateral treaties and agreements in alphabetical order by country; Volume 13 has a cumulative country and subject index. It covers 1908-September 1929. Use the four-volume index called United States Treaties and Other International Agreements Cumulative Index 1776-1949: Cumulative Index to United States Treaties and Other International Agreements 1776-1949 as Published in Statutes at Large, Malloy, Miller, Bevans, and Other Relevant Sources (Igor I. Kavass & Mark A. Michael comps., 1975). It is also

¹⁸ http://heinonline.org.

available electronically in PDF format on HeinOnline, Treaties and Agreements Library, and it is commonly referred to as *Bevans*.

- *Treaty Series* (cited as T.S.) (October 1929-1945) (1908-1946). This series provides the text of treaties only. Later, this publication merged with *Executive Agreement Series* to form *Treaties and Other International Acts Series* (T.I.A.S.).
- *Executive Agreement Series* (cited as E.A.S.) (October 1929-1945) (1929-1946). Contains international executive agreements only. This publication later merged with *Treaty Series*.
- Statutes at Large (cited as Stat.) (1847—). From 1776-1950, treaties and international agreements were published in *Statutes at Large*. Volume 8 contains all treaties between the United States and other countries from 1778-1845. Volume 64, part 3 contains a cumulative list of all treaties and agreements included in Volumes 1-64. The first 18 volumes of Statutes at Large (1789-1875) are available on the Web on the Library of Congress, A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation.¹⁹
- Unperfected Treaties of the United States of America, 1776-1976 (1976-1994). This six-volume set includes treaties and agreements concluded by the United States that, for various reasons, never entered into force between 1776 and 1976.

2. Current Sources

- United States Treaties and Other International Agreements (cited as U.S.T.) (1950—). This is the cumulative collection of T.I.A.S. (slip copies of treaties) and is the current official collection of US treaties and agreements. There is a considerable lag time with this publication, about 20 years. Volumes 1-35 are also available electronically in PDF format on HeinOnline,²⁰ Treaties and Agreements Library. HeinOnline includes all published volumes of the U.S.T. series.
- *Treaties and Other International Acts Series* (cited as T.I.A.S) (1946—). This series is the first official publication of new treaties and agreements—slip treaty—and is later bound in U.S.T. (see above). There is a lag time of about eight to nine years. T.I.A.S. 11060 to T.I.A.S. 12734 are also available electronically in PDF format on HeinOnline, Treaties and

¹⁹ http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsl.html.

²⁰ http://www.heinonline.org.

Agreements Library. A few years are available on the State Department's Web site (1996 and 1997 only).²¹

- Hein's United States Treaties and Other International Agreements Current Service [microfiche] (1990—). Use the United States Treaty Index and the Current Treaty Index to locate the correct microfiche. This set is a good source for recent treaties. This service is also available on HeinOnline, Treaties and Agreements Library, and it is called "KAV Agreements" (KAV 1-7639).
- Consolidated Treaties and International Agreements (cited as C.T.I.A.) (1990—). This set is a continuation of the 231 volume set Consolidated Treaty Series (1969-1986) that covers 1648-1918. The continuation set covers from January 1990 to the present (with about a six-month lag). It is available in electronic format as part of Treaties and International Agreements Online (see next item).
- Treaties and International Agreements Online ([1999—]). This is a subscription database service from Oceana Publications.²² This database contains US treaties and international agreements in force since 1783. You can search by title, parties, date, and the full text of over 15,000 bilateral and multilateral treaties signed by the United States. See the "document details" button for citation and ratification information. See the "source image" button for access to some PDF documents (*Senate Treaty Documents*, T.I.A.S., U.S.T.). It also contains many international tax treaties, including non-US tax treaties.
- *CIS Index to Publications of the United States Congress* [and microfiche] (1970—). Treaties appearing in the *Senate Treaty Document Series* are indexed by CIS. Access is through subject matter of the treaty, title of the treaty, as well as through the heading "Treaties and agreements," and the treaty document number (assigned by the Senate). The index gives a citation to the CIS microfiche set where the full text of the treaty is located. See also CIS, *Senate Executive Documents and Reports* [and microfiche] (1987), a microfiche collection of treaty documents and reports from 1817-1969. There is a two-volume index for accessing the relevant microfiche numbers. See also Congressional Information (CIS), available from LexisNexis-Nexis Academic Service.
- Senate Treaty Documents (cited as S. Treaty Doc.) (1981—). Senate, House, and Treaty Documents are available on the Web from 104th

²¹ http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/tias.

²² http://www.oceanalaw.com.

Congress on.²³ These documents include the text of treaties submitted by the Executive Branch to the Senate for its advice and consent, together with supporting documentation. *Senate Treaty Documents* are also available through the *Serial Set*, Congressional Information, CIS publications, LexisNexis, and Westlaw. Prior to 1979, these documents were called *Senate Executive Documents*.

- Senate Executive Reports (cited as S. Exec. Rep.) (n.d.). Senate Executive Reports are available on the Web from 104th Congress on.²⁴ These reports are issued by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and include the Committee's analysis and recommendations concerning proposed treaties. They also include the text of proposed treaties, together with any conditions (i.e., amendments or reservations) recommended by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. These documents are also available in the Serial Set, CIS Senate to US Senate Documents and Reports and other CIS publications, such as Congressional Publications.
- Declassified State Department & Other Agency Documents, International Agreements.²⁵ A recent addition to the Web, and available pursuant to Pub. L. No. 108-458, 11 Stat. 3638, 3807 (2004), the Secretary of State is required to publish on the State Department's Web site "each treaty or international agreements proposed to be published in the compilation 'United States Treaties and Other International Agreements' not later than 180 days after the date on which the treaty or agreement enters into force." This collection begins with March 1998.
- *Thomas: Treaties.* This collection provides the text of treaties submitted to the Senate, from the 104th Congress to the present (it is the same as the documents available from GPO Access noted above).²⁶

Both LexisNexis and Westlaw contain US treaties and agreements. Treaties can be located in the USTREATIES file on Westlaw and in US Treaties on LexisNexis. Both of these systems have many topical agreements and treaties:

²³ http://www.gpoaccess.gov/serialset/cdocuments/index.html.

²⁴ http://www.gpoaccess.gov/serialset/creports/index.html.

²⁵ http://www.foia.state.gov/SearchColls/CollsSearch.asp. (*Note:* In June 2007, the State Department removed its collection of international agreements from the Freedom of Information Act Electronic Reading Room page, and has not yet announced where this collection will be available.)

²⁶ http://thomas.loc.gov/home/treaties.htm.

major trade agreements (GATT and NAFTA), International Economic Law Documents, International Environmental Law Documents, and tax treaties.

There are many collections of treaties and agreements, such as *Tax Treaties* (1965—) and *Extradition Laws and Treaties* (1980—). Some of these sets are regularly updated in looseleaf format or available by subscription on the Web.

For additional major Web sources of US treaties, see the listing at the end of this chapter.

F. Status, Updating and Ratification Information, and Amendments

Once you locate the text of the agreement, you must determine its status. This includes determining the existing parties to a multilateral agreement and its entry into force date. Since status information is ever changing, figuring out the current status of treaties and agreements has always been a challenging task for the researcher. Keep in mind that unratified treaties do not die at the end of the congressional session; therefore, it is often important to determine where a treaty is in the ratification process.

One of the best ways to get status information is to look for a treaty secretariat or treaty administrator Web site. Treaty secretariats, like the United Nations, maintain status information for numerous treaties. Many treaties set up organizations to administer the treaty, and these organizations often have Web sites that post ratification information. For example, the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (the London Convention) created an Office for the London Convention, which has its own extensive Web site.

- *Treaties in Force* (TIF) (see Section II.D) is another good source for status information—it lists parties and the entry into force date for the United States. As for protocols and other amendments, TIF includes protocols after the treaty they affect. It also sometimes has the heading "amendments" after treaties, and under that heading it gives citations to any amendments. For example, TIF's entry for the Nice Agreement concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks is followed by a reference to an 1979 amendment. Its entry for the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution includes four protocols, with parties listed after the last one.
- A Guide to the United States Treaties in Force (see Section II.D).

- CCH Congressional Index (see Section II.D).
- Current Treaty Index (see Section II.D).
- The US Senate Web site, Treaties,²⁷ provides the following information: a list of treaties received from the President, treaties reported on the Executive Calendar, treaties approved by the Senate, and listings of other recent treaty status actions, including treaties that were rejected by the Senate or withdrawn by the President, during the current Congress. There is also a link to Thomas²⁸ and to information about the Senate's treaty-making power.
- *Shepard's Federal Statute Citations* (1996—). Pre-1950 treaties are listed by *Statutes at Large* number and after 1950 they are listed by U.S.T. or T.I.A.S. number. This book provides citations to treaties, cases, and statutes that cite or affect the treaty being shepardized. You cannot shepardize treaties using LexisNexis.
- *Dispatch* (1990-1999) was a weekly newsletter formerly issued by the State Department. It contained a section called "Treaty Actions," which included current information on bilateral and multilateral treaties. This publication ceased in print in 1999, and the monthly Current Treaty Actions information is now available only on the Web (although this information is not always issued monthly).²⁹ Older editions of the *Dispatch* are available on the State Department's Web site,³⁰ on LexisNexis, Westlaw, and on HeinOnline.³¹

Depending on the topic of the treaty or agreement, consult relevant looseleafs, periodicals, or series on the topic. For example, the *Tax Management International Journal* contains a section called "Current Status of U.S. Tax Treaties and International Tax Agreements." Other topical journals may contain similar information.

If you need status and ratification information for multilateral treaties, use the many treaty secretariat Web sites and collections on the Web. See Section III on multilateral treaties for more information.

 $^{^{27}}$ http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/d_three_sections_with_teasers/ treaties.htm.

²⁸ http://thomas.loc.gov/home/treaties/treaties.htm.

²⁹ http://www.state.gov/s/l/index.cfm?id=3428.

³⁰ http://www.state.gov/www/publications/dispatch/index.html.

³¹ http://heinonline.org.

If all else fails, call the Department of State's Office of Treaty Affairs at (202) 647-1345 for up-to-date treaty information.

G. Background Information (Legislative Histories and Treaty Interpretation)

There are many US government documents that are useful for doing background research. Most of the US government documents mentioned below can be located with the same tools used for researching federal legislative histories, such as the *CIS/Index to Publications* and *LexisNexis Congressional*. Also, if it is a multilateral agreement done under the auspices of an international organization, consult the documentation of the organization, the conference materials or Web site, or the treaty secretariat Web site. For example, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Web site provides background information and documents.³²

- Senate Treaty Documents (see Section II.E.2).
- Senate Executive Reports (see Section II.E.2).
- Consult congressional Committee hearings, especially the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. See the US Senate Web site, Treaties, for current information about treaties received from the President, treaties on the calendar, approved treaties, and other recent treaty status actions.³³ See also *CIS/Index to Publications* and Congressional Information.
- Consult State Department documents, including *Dispatch* (1990-1999) (See Section II.F) or *Foreign Relations of the United States* (FRUS) (1861—). Some volumes of FRUS are available on the Web.³⁴ The Office of the Legal Advisor publishes an annual *Digest of United States Practice in International Law*. Documents listed in the *Digest* are available on the State Department's Web site.³⁵
- Presidential documents, including *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* (WCPD) and *Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States* can also be useful for ratification statements and other documents.

³² http://unfccc.int/2860.php.

 $^{^{33}}$ http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/d_three_sections_with_teasers/ treaties.htm.

³⁴ http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/ and http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/FRUS/.

³⁵ http://www.state.gov/s/l/c8183.htm.

Portions of these collections are available on the Web.³⁶ They are also available on LexisNexis.

• Christian L. Wiktor, *Treaties Submitted to the United States Senate: Legislative History, 1989-2004* (2006). This book traces the history of 329 treaties; it provides a summary of the history of Senate action, implementing legislation, and annotations.

You can conduct some legislative history research using LexisNexis (Legal > Legislation & Politics - U.S. & U.K. > U.S. Congress > Legislative Histories) and Westlaw (LH database). LexisNexis and Westlaw also include the *Congressional Record* from 1985 onward and more recent congressional hearings.

Look for *travaux préparatoires* or other commentaries in library catalogs or by searching periodical indexes. For example, Vern Krishna, *The Canada-U.S. Tax Treaty: Text and Commentary* (2004). The Library of Congress does not have a *travaux préparatoires* subject heading; instead, use the treaty name as a subject heading, or search the treaty name as keywords, along with the phrase "travaux préparatoires." Finally, instead of "travaux préparatoires," try the treaty name and "commentary" as keywords, because many commentaries on treaties make extensive references to the *travaux préparatoires*.

- *Shepard's Federal Statute Citations* (1996—). Pre-1950 treaties are listed by Statutes at Large number, and after 1950 they are listed by U.S.T. or T.I.A.S. number. Provides citations to treaties, cases, and statutes that cite or affect the treaty being shepardized.
- United States Code Service (1972—). See unnumbered volume "Notes to Uncodified Laws and Treaties." This volume contains interpretive notes and decisions involving multilateral and bilateral treaties. Available on LexisNexis.
- *Treaties and Other International Agreements Online* (Oceana Publications)³⁷ also provides access to some Senate Treaty Documents (select the "source image" button).

³⁶ http://www.gpoaccess.gov/wcomp/index.html and http://www.gpoaccess.gov/ pubpapers/search.html.

³⁷ http://www.oceanalaw.com.

H. US Treaties and Agreements on the Web

Listed below are selected treaty collections available on the Web. These sites focus on US treaties and agreements.

1. US Government Web Sites

- Bilateral Agreements [International Aviation] (Federal Aviation Administration).³⁸
- Bilateral Agreements [Environment] (USAID).³⁹
- Bilateral Investment Treaties and Related Agreements (US Department of State).⁴⁰
- Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties (Electronic version of the treatise compiled and edited by Charles J. Kappler).⁴¹
- International Agreements (Declassified State Department and Other Agency Documents).⁴²
- International Antitrust and Consumer Protection Cooperation Agreements (Federal Trade Commission).⁴³
- International Judicial Assistance, Notarial Services, and Authentication of Documents (US Department of State).⁴⁴
- Income Tax Treaties (Internal Revenue Service).⁴⁵
- Private International Law (US Department of State).⁴⁶
- Trade Agreements (US Department of Agriculture).47
- Treaty Information (US Department of State).48

³⁹ http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/climate/policies_prog/joint_ statements.html.

- ⁴⁰ http://www.state.gov/e/eb/ifd/c644.htm.
- ⁴¹ http://digital.library.okstate.edu/kappler.
- ⁴² http://www.foia.state.gov/SearchColls/CollsSearch.asp.
- ⁴³ http://www.ftc.gov/bc/international/coopagree.htm.
- ⁴⁴ http://travel.state.gov/law/info/judicial_judicial_702.html.
- ⁴⁵ http://www.irs.gov/businesses/international/article/0,id=96739,00.html.
- ⁴⁶ http://www.state.gov/s/l/c3452.htm.
- ⁴⁷ http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/agreements.asp.
- ⁴⁸ http://travel.state.gov/law/legal/treaty/treaty_785.html.

³⁸ http://www.faa.gov/aircraft/air_cert/international/bilateral_agreements.

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- Trade Agreements (Office of the US Trade Representative).49
- Trade and Related Agreements (US Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration).⁵⁰
- US Bureau of Nonproliferation, Treaties, and Agreements (US Department of State).⁵¹
- US Department of Energy, International Agreements Database.⁵²
- US International Social Security Agreements (Social Security Administration).⁵³

2. Other Web Sites

- Avalon Project (Documents in Law, History, and Diplomacy) (Yale Law School).⁵⁴
- Trade and Investment Treaties (OAS, Foreign Trade Information).55
- HeinOnline, Treaties and Agreements Library.56
- US Treaties on LexisNexis (International Law > Treaties & International Agreements > U.S. Treaties on LEXIS).⁵⁷
- Westlaw, U.S. Treaties and Other International Agreements (International/Worldwide Materials > Multi-National Materials > Legislation > U.S. Treaties and Other International Agreements).⁵⁸

III. TREATIES WHERE THE UNITED STATES IS NOT A PARTY AND MULTILATERAL TREATIES

Much of the information in Sections I and II also apply to treaty research where the United States is not a party.

- 53 http://www.ssa.gov/international/agreements_overview.html.
- ⁵⁴ http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/avalon.htm.
- ⁵⁵ http://www.sice.oas.org/ctyindex/USApg.asp.
- ⁵⁶ http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?collection=ustreaties.
- 57 http://www.lexis.com.
- ⁵⁸ http://web2.westlaw.com.

⁴⁹ http://www.ustr.gov/Trade_Agreements/Section_Index.html.

⁵⁰ http://tcc.export.gov/Trade_Agreements/index.asp.

⁵¹ http://www.state.gov/t/ac/trt.

⁵² https://ostiweb.osti.gov/iaem/index.html.

When researching treaties where the United States is not a party or multilateral treaties, you will be interested in finding the following:

- the text of the treaty,
- status and ratification information for specific countries,
- reservations and declarations,
- any subsequent modifications to the treaty (often made in the form of "protocols"), and whether the relevant parties have become parties to those modifications,
- background documents that may explain the intent of the treaty,
- commentary and analysis.

A. General Sources for Treaties and Agreements

There are many sources for locating the full text of treaties and agreements. Listed below are some general sources where treaties (both bilateral and multilateral) are published.

• Official country treaty series—for example, the *Canada Treaty Series* (1928—). These series can be identified by using the *List of Treaty Collections* by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (1956). Also check a country legal research guide or search under the Library of Congress subject heading:

[country]—foreign relations—treaties

Official treaty series are usually slower in publication than other treaty sources, and not all countries have treaty series. These series are especially important for locating bilateral treaties.

- International governmental organization (IGO) treaty series, such as the *League of Nations Treaty Series* (1919-1945) or the *United Nations Treaty Series* (1946—). Locate these sets by using the subject treaties—collections or by checking a bibliography or publications catalog for the IGO. These sets are usually slow in publication—the United Nations is about two or three years behind. This series is the most important compilation for locating multilateral treaties.
- Official gazettes—often the first official source—for example, *Bundesges-etzblatt*, Part II for Germany. See John E. Roberts ed., *A Guide to Official Gazettes and Their Contents* (rev. ed. 1985), or conduct a subject search using *gazettes*—[country] to locate the title of the publication. See also

Government Gazettes Online.⁵⁹ The EU's *Official Journal* is often the easiest place to find a treaty in print first.

- Statutory compilations (arranged chronologically)—for example, *Statutes at Large of the United States* (1847—) used to publish all US treaties. Volume 8 of the *Statutes at Large* has treaties from 1778-1845; later volumes have treaties annually until 1951. To find statutory compilations for another country, search under the country's name or check a legal research guide (see Chapter 7).
- Looseleaf services. There are numerous such services; to find a service on the subject matter of the treaty, consult *Legal Looseleafs in Print* (1981—) or a legal research guide. The frequency of updating for looseleafs varies from every week to every year to every two to three years. These publications can be a good source for recent treaties and agreements. For example, *ICSID's Investment Promotion and Protection Treaties* (1983—).
- Electronic sources, including Web sites and subscription databases. To identify relevant electronic sources, use database directories, catalogs, and legal research guides. Electronic sources are good for locating very recent treaties. An example is the United Nations Treaty Collection.⁶⁰ The collection includes a separate database called *Texts of Recently Deposited Multilateral Treaties*. This database is not searchable; treaties are in chronological order only. Use "control f" or your browser's Find function to search for a key word from the treaty you want.
- Periodical literature, such as *International Legal Materials* (I.L.M.) (1962—). Some periodicals regularly reprint major treaties and others contain articles in which the text of a treaty being discussed might be appended.

Other sources of treaty texts include proceedings of international conferences (sometimes, the treaty is the "final act" of the conference); documents of international organizations and national government bodies, such as the US Congress (*Senate Treaty Documents*); monographic subject compilations (e.g., *Basic Documents on Human Rights*); newspapers (e.g., *New York Times*); governmental bodies (US State Department or foreign consulates); and press releases.

⁵⁹ http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/gazettes/index.htm.

⁶⁰ http://untreaty.un.org/English/treaty.asp.

Some treaties are separately published (not part of a set); you can find these by doing a search on an online catalog using the name of the treaty as a keyword or as the subject heading. To find compilations, add the word 'treaties' to a subject search, as in *taxation, double—united states—treaties*. You may also use other subject searches, such as *commercial treaties* or *european economic community countries—commercial treaties*.

B. Bilateral Treaties (Where United States Is Not a Party)

Relevant subject headings include:

[country]—foreign relations—treaties

Bilateral agreements can be difficult to locate, especially if the agreement is between small countries or if it is an older treaty. Moreover, if neither party is an English-speaking country, you are unlikely to find an English-language version. Sources to consult include the treaty series, statutory compilation, or official gazette of one of the country parties. Some examples include *United Kingdom Treaty Series* or *Australian Treaty Series*. Some governments make their treaties available on the Web, in free databases such as the Australian Treaties Library.⁶¹ France has an excellent online treaty collection called Base Pacte.⁶² This collection includes citations to France's *Journal Officiel*, the *United Nations Treaty Series*, and to other publications. To locate other such country treaty series, see the WorldLII Web directory of treaties and agreements by country.⁶³ See also the Foreign Treaties section of *Foreign and International Law Resources: An Annotated Guide to Web Sites Around the World.*⁶⁴

- *International Legal Materials* (I.L.M.) (1962—) reprints selected treaties based on their importance. It is often the first place a treaty appears in a paper publication. I.L.M. is also available on LexisNexis, Westlaw, and HeinOnline.⁶⁵
- Since there are not very good indexes or finding tools for bilateral treaties, use the *World Treaty Index* (1983) or the *United Nations Treaty Series*

⁶⁵ http://heinonline.org.

⁶¹ http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat.

⁶² http://www.doc.diplomatie.gouv.fr/pacte.

⁶³ http://www.worldlii.org/catalog/2322.html.

⁶⁴ http://www.law.harvard.edu/library/services/research/guides/international/web_resources/treaties.php.

Index (1946—) for a citation to bilateral treaties. The full text of the treaty might be available in U.N.T.S.

• International yearbooks (e.g., *African Yearbook of International Law*) or other international law periodicals provide some information on treaties and agreements for selected countries. While the full text is not usually available, you may find a citation or other information that will let you verify the existence of the treaty and locate it elsewhere. For more yearbooks and related periodicals, search an online catalog using subject searches: *international law—periodicals or international law—[geographic area or country]—periodicals*.

Another possible source for bilateral agreements includes compilations of documents from an international organization or topical compilations of treaties. For example, the two series of *International Protection of the Environment: Treaties and Related Documents* (1975-1982 and 1990-1994) and *Investment Promotion and Protection Treaties* (1983—) both contain bilateral treaties.

As a last resort, try electronic messages or phone calls to interested parties (organizations), embassies, the Department of State's Office of Treaty Affairs, or the UN Office of Legal Affairs, Treaty Section.

C. Multilateral Treaties

1. Indexes and Finding Tools

Relevant subject headings include:

treaties-indexes

• Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary General (1982—). This is a good source for citations and a list of the parties to an agreement, although it is limited to those treaties deposited with the United Nations. This source is also available on the United Nations Treaty Collection on the Web.⁶⁶ For the most recent information about treaties registered with the UN Secretariat, such as whether a treaty has in fact been registered, see Statement of Treaties and International Agreements Registered or Filed and Recorded with the Secretariat during . . . (1947—). This information is also available on the UN Treaty Collection Web site as the Monthly Statement of Treaties and International Agreements. Be careful, as documents are not cumulative. If you need to confirm the existence of a

⁶⁶ http://untreaty.un.org.

treaty, or whether a treaty has recently been registered, you may need to look at several months' worth of statements.

- *World Treaty Index* (Peter H. Rohn ed., 1983). This index covers bilateral and multilateral treaties between 1900-1980. A beta version of this index is available on the Web, but it's not any more up to date.⁶⁷
- Christian L. Wiktor, *Multilateral Treaty Calendar = Repertoire des Traites Multilateraux*, *1648-1995* (1998). This index is considered the best multilateral index available. It is very complete for the time period it covers, but it lacks ratification information.
- *Multilateral Treaties: Index and Current Status* (M.J. Bowman & D.J. Harris eds., 1984) used to be the best source for citations and status information for multilateral treaties. This can be a useful source for older multilateral treaties. With each passing year, however, the information is less and less useful. It has a vague subject and keyword index, and all of the entries are arranged in chronological order. There is a cumulative supplement, but it is also quite dated.
- Index to the United Nations Treaty Series (1946—). This index accompanies U.N.T.S. Some of the index volumes are available on the United Nations Treaty Collection on the Web.
- United Nations Cumulative Treaty Index (1999—). A 15-volume set in the same format as the United States Treaty Index, this set is also supplemented periodically. This is much more useful than the U.N.T.S. Index, mentioned above; however the print version of this index is no longer current. For current information, see the United Nations Treaty Index on CD-ROM, issued twice a year from Hein. You can also use recent volumes of the Index through the UN Treaty Collection on the Web, but they are large, noncumulative PDF documents and offer only the usual PDF search function. You may have to consult several documents to cover the entire time span you need to cover.

2. Full-Text Sources

Relevant subject headings include:

[name of individual treaty] treaties—collections

• Consolidated Treaty Series (cited as C.T.S.) (1969-1986) covers 1648-1918.

⁶⁷ http://db.lib.washington.edu/wti/wtdb.htm.

- *League of Nations Treaty Series* (cited as L.N.T.S.) (1920-1946) covers 1920-1944. The complete set is available on the United Nations Treaty Collection Web site.⁶⁸
- United Nations Treaty Series (cited as U.N.T.S.) (1944—). This series covers both bilateral and multilateral treaties from 1944 to date. The United Nations Treaty Collection contains 158,000 treaty texts.
- *International Legal Materials* (cited as I.L.M.) (1962—). I.L.M. publishes selected treaties and agreements. It is available on LexisNexis, Westlaw, and HeinOnline.⁶⁹

Since not all treaties are deposited with the United Nations, there are many regional organizations that publish the treaties done under the auspices of the organization. For example, the Council of Europe publishes the *European Treaty Series* (1949—) and *European Conventions and Agreements* (1971—). Other European IGO treaties can be found in the *European Yearbook* (1955—). The Organization of American States publishes (sporadically) a *Treaty Series* (1954—) as well. Many IGOs have Web sites that contain the text of these regional treaties; see the Treaty Collections on the Web in Section III.G.

Other useful sources include periodicals, looseleaf services, or subject compilations, such as *International Law & World Order: Basic Documents* (1994—) or *International Documents on Children* (2d ed. 1998).

And, as with bilateral conventions, country treaty series or official gazettes contain multilateral treaties as well. See John E. Roberts ed., *A Guide to Official Gazettes and Their Contents* (rev. ed. 1985) for more information.⁷⁰

LexisNexis and Westlaw have selected treaties on various topics (trade, taxation, environment, etc.).

The Web is a great resource for multilateral treaties; see Treaty Collections on the Web in Section III.G and the research guides mentioned at the end of this chapter.

D. Signatories, Status, Ratification, Reservations

Relevant subject headings include:

⁶⁸ http://untreaty.un.org/English/access.asp.

⁶⁹ http://www.heinonline.org.

⁷⁰ See also http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/gazettes/index.htm.

treaties—ratification treaties—reservations

This can be the most difficult information to locate for many treaties. The UN's *Status of Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General* includes status information and reservations, but it covers only a small proportion of the world's treaties. For treaties not covered, the best place to start is with a database or Web site, such as the sites provided by treaty secretariats and depositories. To date, there is no one collection of links that provides access to all of the relevant treaty information. Some of the useful sites are listed below. This is only a sampling of what is out there on the Web.

- ECOLEX.⁷¹
- Environmental Treaties and Resource Indicators.⁷²
- FAO Conventions and Agreements.⁷³
- Council of Europe, European Treaties.⁷⁴
- Hague Conventions on Private International Law.⁷⁵
- International Humanitarian Law.⁷⁶
- ILOLEX (International Labour Organization).77
- Inter-American Treaties (Organization of American States).⁷⁸
- International Fisheries Treaty Database.⁷⁹
- NATO Basic Texts.⁸⁰
- Peace Agreements Digital Collection (USIP).⁸¹

- 73 http://www.fao.org/Legal/TREATIES/Treaty-e.htm.
- ⁷⁴ http://conventions.coe.int/treaty/EN/cadreprincipal.htm.
- ⁷⁵ http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.listing.
- ⁷⁶ http://www.icrc.org/ihl.
- ⁷⁷ http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp1.htm.
- ⁷⁸ http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/treaties.html.
- ⁷⁹ http://www.intfish.net/treaties/index.htm.
- 80 http://www.nato.int/docu/basics.htm.
- 81 http://www.usip.org/library/pa.html.

⁷¹ http://www.ecolex.org/index.php.

⁷² http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/entri.

- United Nations Treaty Collection.⁸²
- WIPO Treaties.⁸³

For some treaties, the treaty indexes, such as *Treaties in Force* (1950—), *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary General* (1982—), or *Multilateral Treaties: Index and Current Status* (M.J. Bowman & D.J. Harris eds., 1984), may be the only source available.

Depending on the topic of the treaty or agreement, you can consult relevant looseleafs, periodicals, or series on the topic. For example, for human rights treaties, see the *Human Rights Law Journal* (1980—); for Hague conventions, see the *Netherlands International Law Review* (1975—). These are just a few of the many sources available.

Sometimes a call to the US State Department's Treaty Affairs Office or the UN treaty information office can be useful.

E. Implementing Legislation

Some treaties are "self-executing"; these do not require implementing legislation and become effective as domestic law as soon as they enter into force. Other treaties are non-self-executing and require "implementing legislation." Implementing legislation may require a new domestic law or changes to an existing law (technically, the legislation is the domestic law and not the treaty).

It is important to note that it is not always clear whether a treaty is self-executing or requires implementing legislation. Some treaties contain a provision calling for implementing legislation. The Executive Branch often decides whether or not a treaty requires such legislation. However, on occasion, the Senate includes an understanding in the resolution of ratification that certain provisions are not self-executing or that the President is to exchange or deposit the instrument of ratification only after implementation legislation has been enacted.⁸⁴

⁸² http://untreaty.un.org.

⁸³ http://www.wipo.int/treaties/index.html.

⁸⁴ Treaties and Other International Agreements: The Role of the United States Senate: A Study, prepared for the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, S. Print 106-71 (Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 2001).

To locate implementing legislation, you may need to consult sources of domestic legislation for the country in question. Some treaty secretariats provide such information. For example, see the secretariat's Web site for the Chemical Weapons Convention⁸⁵ or the OECD's Anti-Bribery Convention: National Implementing Legislation.⁸⁶

F. Background Information (Commentary, Treaty Interpretation, and *Travaux Préparatoires*)

Researching the background or history of non-US treaties is challenging, especially for bilateral treaties. For the most part, you will not have access to materials for a legislative history for other countries. If you are researching the background of a multilateral treaty, there are many more resources available.

For relatively few treaties, but including some of the most important ones, experts have compiled and published the *travaux préparatoires* as books; for example, Sharon Detrick, *The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: A Guide to the "Travaux Préparatoires*" (1992). Look for these publications, or for history and commentaries in library catalogs and journal indexes. For more information on the nature of this documentation and how to locate these documents, see Jonathan Pratter, À la Recherche des Travaux Préparatoires: An Approach to Researching the Drafting History of International Agreements.⁸⁷

If the treaty or agreement was concluded pursuant to an international conference, look for conference documents using the name of the conference as an author or subject in a library catalog. If it is a recent conference, try searching for the conference on the Web.

If the treaty or conference was done under the auspices of an international organization, such as the United Nations, look for documents using tools for locating such documents. See *United Nations Documentation: Research Guide* for assistance with such documents.⁸⁸ See also the *ASIL Guide to Electronic*

⁸⁵ http://www.opcw.org.

⁸⁶ http://www.oecd.org/document/30/0,2340,en_2649_34859_2027102_1_1_1_1_00.html.

⁸⁷ http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Travaux_Preparatoires.htm.

⁸⁸ http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide.

Resources for International Law: International Organizations for tips on researching intergovernmental organizations on the Web.⁸⁹

To research how treaties are implemented or interpreted in domestic legal systems, the most useful tools include international law yearbooks and *International Law Reports* (1919—) (cited as I.L.R.). I.L.R. is a compilation of selected international and domestic court decisions, all translated into English. Another useful tool is a database called *International Law in Domestic Courts* (ILCD).⁹⁰ ILDC is a regularly updated collection of domestic cases in international law from over 60 jurisdictions. The database contains commentary, full texts of judgments in their original language, and English translations of important provisions.

Since locating case law can be difficult, try looking at collections based on a specific treaty.

- CISG Database (UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods).⁹¹
- CISG-online.ch.⁹²
- UNILEX (CISG and UNIDROIT Principles).⁹³
- Case Law on UNCITRAL Texts (CLOUT).94
- International Child Abduction Database (Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (1980).⁹⁵

G. Treaty Collections on the Web

• Electronic System for International Law (EISIL).96

- 92 http://www.cisg-online.ch.
- 93 http://www.unilex.info.
- 94 http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/en/case_law.html.
- 95 http://www.incadat.com/index.cfm.
- ⁹⁶ http://www.eisil.org.

⁸⁹ http://www.asil.org/resource/intorg1.htm.

⁹⁰ http://ildc.oxfordlawreports.com.

⁹¹ http://cisgw3.law.pace.edu.

- Foreign and International Law Resources: An Annotated Guide to Web Sites Around the World: Treaties (Harvard Law Library).⁹⁷
- Multilaterals Project.⁹⁸
- Washlaw Web—Treaties.99

H. Treaties by Popular Name

Often treaties and agreements are referred to by popular names, which can cause some frustration for the researcher trying to locate them in indexes and finding tools. Using a search engine on the Web, such as Google, can often provide clues to the complete names of treaties. If not, the following sources may be helpful in deciphering the official name of the document.

- Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States of America, 1776-1949 (Charles I. Bevans ed., 1968-1976). Available on HeinOnline.¹⁰⁰
- Avalon Project: Alphabetical Title List.¹⁰¹
- Edmund Jan Osmanczyk, *Encyclopedia of the United Nations and International Agreements* (3d ed. 2003). The index in Volume 4 includes many popular names and acronyms.

Searching full-text sources (especially law review articles) on LexisNexis and Westlaw can often lead to the full title of a treaty or agreement.

I. Treaty Citations

• The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (18th ed. 2005) requires that treaty citations include the name of the agreement; date of signing; parties; the subdivision referred to, if applicable; and the source(s) for the text of the treaty (see rule 21.4). The treaty sources will vary depending upon the parties. See *The Bluebook* for guidance on appropriate sources. Keep in mind that many "official sources" can take a long time for publication, so you may not be able to cite to the sources listed in *The Bluebook*.

⁹⁷ http://www.law.harvard.edu/library/services/research/guides/international/web_resources/treaties.php.

⁹⁸ http://fletcher.tufts.edu/multilaterals.html.

⁹⁹ http://www.washlaw.edu/forint/alpha/t/treaties.html.

¹⁰⁰ http://www.heinonline.org.

¹⁰¹ http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/alfalist.htm.

- The *ALWD Citation Manual* (3d ed. 2006) has more lenient rules on treaty citation, and permits Internet citations at the writer's discretion.
- *Guide to Foreign and International Legal Citations* (2006). This is also available online.¹⁰²
- Frequently-Cited Treaties and Other International Instruments includes a handy list of treaties with complete citations.¹⁰³

J. Research Guides

These guides are good places to begin when researching treaties and agreements. Most contain information on both print and electronic sources.

- Guide to International Legal Research (2002—).
- Claire M. Germain, Germain's Transnational Law Research (1991-).
- Jeanne M. Rehberg, "Finding Treaties and Other International Agreements," *in Accidental Tourist on the New Frontier: An Introductory Guide to Global Legal Research* 123 (Jeanne M. Rehberg & Radu Popa eds., 1998).
- Sources of State Practice in International Law (Ralph Gaebler & Maria Smolka-Day eds., 2002—). This set covers selected countries and includes information on general treaty collections, treaty indexes, topical treaty collections, and state practice materials for each country.
- Suzanne Thorpe, "A Guide to International Legal Bibliography," *in Contemporary Practice of Public International Law* 17 (Ellen G. Schaffer & Randall J. Snyder eds., 1997).

In addition to the print guides mentioned above, there are many Web guides on treaty research. Here are some of the ones that provide good coverage and link to other relevant guides.

- ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law: Treaties.¹⁰⁴ See also the other topical chapters for subject specific treaties.¹⁰⁵
- Researching U.S. Treaties and Agreements (LLRX).¹⁰⁶

- ¹⁰³ http://www.law.umn.edu/library/tools/pathfinders/most-cited.html.
- ¹⁰⁴ http://www.asil.org/resource/treaty1.htm.
- ¹⁰⁵ http://www.asil.org/resource/treaty1.htm.
- ¹⁰⁶ http://www.llrx.com/features/ustreaty.htm.

¹⁰² http://www.law.nyu.edu/journals/jilp/Final%20GFILC%20pdf.pdf.

IV. CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW AND GENERALLY RECOGNIZED PRINCIPLES

Like treaties, customary international law can bind states and individuals. For example, nationals of a state (e.g., Taiwan) that has not ratified the 1949 Geneva Conventions are nonetheless subject to prosecution for violations of common Article 3 committed during an armed conflict such as an insurgency. The basis for prosecution would not be the Conventions themselves, but the customary law evidenced by common Article 3.¹⁰⁷

Even a powerful state can be bound by customary international law. The United States, for example, has not ratified the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. The *Restatement of the Law, Third, the Foreign Relations Law of the United States*, however, concludes that the Vienna Convention dominates customary law on that topic, and that the United States is bound by at least some parts of the Treaty's rules.

According to Article 38 of the International Court of Justice Statute,¹⁰⁸ custom and general principles of law are two primary sources of international law. These sources of public international law are difficult to research because they are not easy to identify and locate. It is important to remember that there is no one collection of all of the sources of customary international law since these are available in a variety of sources: treaties, national law, state papers, etc. The aim of this section is to provide some overall guidance to the sources for custom and principles and to provide ideas on what to look for to support the contention that a rule or principle is customary international law.

Article 38 also mentions judicial decisions and the teachings of publicists as "subsidiary means for the determination of rules of law." It is important to remember that decisions and teachings are not authorities themselves, but they are authoritative *evidence* of the state of international law.

For more information about customary international law and its complexities, see Vladimir Djuro Degan, *Sources of International Law* (1997) and Mark Eugene Villiger, *Customary International Law and Treaties: A Manual on the Theory and Practice of the Interrelation of Sources* (rev. 2d. ed. 1997).

¹⁰⁷ Jordan J. Paust, *The Importance of Customary International Law during Armed Conflict*, 12 ILSA J. INT'L & COMP. L. 601, 601 (2006).

¹⁰⁸ Statute of the International Court of Justice, June 26, 1945, art. 38(1), 59 Stat. 1031.

A. Research Guides

There are not many guides that are aimed specifically at researching customary international law. Guides that cover researching public international law generally can be helpful when researching international custom. These guides have been mentioned in other chapters and include *Guide to International Legal Research* (2002—), Claire M. Germain, *Germain's Transnational Law Research* (1991—), and Columbia Law Library's *Researching Public International Law* (unlike most such research guides, this one does provide some guidance on researching custom and state practice as well as general principles).¹⁰⁹

There are a few research books that do provide more detailed information on researching custom and state practice. These include Shabtai Rosenne, *Practice and Methods of International Law* (1984), an excellent research guide that refers to the classic resources for international law research, although the sources are dated; *Contemporary Practice of Public International Law* (Ellen G. Schaffer & Randall J. Snyder eds., 1997), one of the only guides that specifically addresses customary international law research, see chapter 4; and *Sources of State Practice in International Law* (Ralph Gaebler & Maria Smolka-Day eds., 2001—), a looseleaf providing detailed information on state practice sources for selected countries.

B. Customary International Law

To locate materials in a library collection, search a library catalog using the subject: *customary law international*. This search will retrieve books and other items that specifically address customary international law. However, many of the materials used as evidence of customary international law will not be retrieved by this search. For example, diplomatic correspondence and records of diplomatic conferences, although they often evidence customary international law, do not get this subject heading. Instead, they are likely to be given a subject heading such as "World War, 1939-1945—Sources," or the name of the conference in question. The subject heading may also relate to the international topic in question, e.g., "German reunification question (1949-1990)."

Rather than search for the subject *customary law international*, or for types of sources, you may want to start your search by reading about your international topic (e.g., the right to an education in international law). Books

¹⁰⁹ http://www.law.columbia.edu/library/Research_Guides/internat_law/pubint.

and articles on this topic will probably address claims of customary international law, with reference to sources that support the claim.

Another effective approach to researching customary international law is to use Westlaw and LexisNexis full-text databases of law review articles. For example, to find articles discussing whether the precautionary principle has risen to the level of customary international law, search the law review databases with terms such as "precautionary principle" w/s "international custom" or "customary international law."

1. What Is Customary International Law?

"It consists of rules of law derived from the consistent conduct of States acting out of the belief that the law required them to act that way."¹¹⁰

The elements of customary international law include:

- widespread repetition by states of similar international acts over time (referred to as *state practice*);
- 2. acts occurring out of sense of obligation (referred to as *opinio juris*); and
- 3. Acts taken by a significant number of states and not rejected by a significant number of states.

Customary international law develops from the practice of States. To international lawyers, "the practice of states" means official governmental conduct reflected in a variety of acts, including official statements at international conferences and in diplomatic exchanges, formal instructions to diplomatic agents, national court decisions, legislative measures or other actions taken by governments to deal with matters of international concern.¹¹¹

You should also be aware of peremptory norms (also called *jus cogens*). These are international law rules or principles that are accepted and considered binding by the international community. There is no agreement on what norms are peremptory. However, these norms generally include the following: prohibitions on use of force, crimes against humanity, war crimes, piracy,

¹¹⁰ Shabtai Rosenne, Practice and Methods of International Law 55 (1984).

¹¹¹ THOMAS BUERGENTHAL & SEAN D. MURPHY, PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW IN A NUTSHELL 22-23 (4th ed. 2007).

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genocide, and slavery. For a thorough discussion of this issue, see Alexander Orakhelashvili, *Peremptory Norms in International Law* (2006). This book states that "custom is the most commonly recognized source of peremptory norms."¹¹²

For a good analysis of customary international law, see Anthea E. Roberts, *Traditional and Modern Approaches to Customary International Law: A Reconciliation*, 95 AM. J. INT'L L. 757 (2001). This article contains references to many standard sources of customary international law.

2. Evidence of State Practice

When doing research in this area, your objective is to find evidence of state practice. Evidence of state practice is found in a variety of primary source materials. In 1950, the International Law Commission listed the following sources as forms of evidence of customary international law: treaties, decisions of national and international courts, national legislation, opinions of national legal advisors, diplomatic correspondence, and practice of international organizations.¹¹³ This list was not intended to be exhaustive, nor is there agreement among international legal scholars "on the forms of evidence that must be used to demonstrate state practice."¹¹⁴ A good source for locating sources of state practice for a number of countries is *Sources of State Practice in International Law* (Ralph Gaebler & Maria Smolka-Day eds., 2001—).

a. Records of a State's Foreign Relations and Diplomatic Practices

Among the records of a state's foreign relations and diplomatic practices, a state's official treaty publication is perhaps the most important. One example is Canada's *Treaty Series*, published by the Office of External Affairs and International Trade. To look for evidence of Canada's practice relating to an issue, you would consult subject indexes to the series.

¹¹² Alexander Orakhelashvili, Peremptory Norms in International Law 113 (2006).

¹¹³ [1950] 2 Y.B. INT'L L. COMM'N 367, U.N. Doc. A/CN.4/Ser.A/1950/Add.1 (1957), *available at* http://untreaty.un.org/ilc/publications/yearbooks/Ybkvolumes(e)/ILC_1950_v2_e.pdf.

¹¹⁴ MARK VILLAGER, CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW AND TREATIES 17 (rev. 2d ed. 1997). *See also* ANDREW T. GUZMAN, *Saving Customary International Law*, 27 MICH. J. INT'L L. 115, 125 (2005).

Another useful type of resource is a collection of diplomatic documents. These may be published by a government, an independent organization, or an individual. For example, Swiss practice in foreign relations is documented in a publication entitled *Diplomatische Dokumente der Schweiz*, published by the Swiss National Commission for the Publication of Diplomatic Documents. The Commission has also created an online database of diplomatic documents.¹¹⁵

To locate compiled state papers and diplomatic archives, search a library catalog under the following subject headings:

[country]—foreign relations [country]—history—sources

The sources cited below focus on the United States; while other countries may publish these kinds of materials, access to them can be difficult. To locate the titles of sources for some other countries, check *Sources of State Practice in International Law* (Ralph Gaebler & Maria Smolka-Day eds., 2001—).

Of course, locating state and diplomatic papers for the United States is a much easer task for the researcher since there are several published compilations.

- American State Papers: Documents, Legislative and Executive, of the Congress of the United States (38 vols., reprint, 1998). In particular, see the six volumes on foreign relations, covering the 1st Cong.-20th Cong., 1st Sess., Apr. 30, 1789-May 24, 1828. This is available on the Web.¹¹⁶
- Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States (1861-1931) covers 1789-1931 and contains documents, letters, etc.
- *Foreign Relations of the United States* (1861—). This set provides retrospective coverage with more than a 20-year lag time. Some volumes are available on the Web.¹¹⁷
- A Decade of American Foreign Policy: Basic Documents, 1941-1949 (1985).
- American Foreign Policy: Current Documents (1959-1969). This book covers 1956-1967 and contains full text documents on fiche (official messages, reports, press statements).

¹¹⁵ http://www.dodis.ch/e/home.asp. This site links to other national collections of state papers, see http://www.dodis.ch/e/links.asp.

¹¹⁶ http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsp.html.

¹¹⁷ http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/ and http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/FRUS.

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- American Foreign Policy: Basic Documents (1983—). Documents cover 1977-1980.
- American Foreign Policy: Current Documents (1984-1991). Documents cover 1981-1991.

U.S. Department of State, *Department of State Bulletin* (1939-1989) and *Dispatch* (1990-1999). These periodicals contained monthly updates on foreign relations. Though no longer published, the Dispatch is available on Westlaw and LexisNexis. Archived issues of the Dispatch are available on the State Department's Web site and on HeinOnline.¹¹⁸ Both of these publications have been discontinued, so use the State Department's Web site to locate information and documents related to foreign relations.

Other countries have similar collections, but they may not be as easy to access. However, some collections are available on the Web. For example, Swiss Diplomatic Documents (DDS)¹¹⁹ provides access to thousands of documents and pieces of information. This site links to collections of diplomatic papers for other countries.¹²⁰

b. Legislation Concerning a Country's International Obligations

A country's domestic laws also provide evidence of international custom. For example, a scholar examining a possible customary international law norm of universal jurisdiction for drug trafficking analyzed the laws of numerous states:

When viewed as a whole, state practice indicates that while several states have enacted legislation embracing universal jurisdiction over drug trafficking, that trend is not yet firmly enough established to suggest that states feel compelled to recognize universal jurisdiction over drug traffickers as a matter of course.¹²¹

To find relevant materials, look at session laws, gazettes, statutory laws, and compilations of laws. Cumulative or yearly subject indexes to these publications

¹¹⁸ http://www.heinonline.org.

¹¹⁹ http://www.dodis.ch/e/home.asp.

¹²⁰ http://www.dodis.ch/e/links.asp.

¹²¹ Anne H. Geraghty, Universal Jurisdiction and Drug Trafficking: A Tool for Fighting One of the World's Most Pervasive Problems, 16 FLA. J. INT'L L. 371, 391 (2004).

will include some international topics. Yearbooks are helpful in identifying legislation; see Section IV.B.3.c below. To find session laws and statutory compilations of individual states, search a library catalog under the subject headings:

gazettes—[country] [country]—law; session laws—[country]

To identify official gazettes, see also John E. Roberts ed., *A Guide to Official Gazettes and Their Contents* (rev. ed. 1985). Many official gazettes are now available on the Web; consult Government Gazettes Online.¹²²

To locate specific laws or sources for legislation, see Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo A. Flores, *Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World* (1989—). The electronic version of this source is *Foreign Law Guide*.¹²³

Another useful source is the *United Nations Legislative Series* (1951—). It contains a collection of national laws concerning various areas of international law, though it is not complete for every country. Researchers interested in international custom relating to terrorism, for example, could consult *National Laws and Regulations on the Prevention and Suppression of International Terrorism* (2002—).

Some national legislation is freely available on the Web or through subscription databases like LexisNexis and Westlaw (see the database directories for more information). For more assistance researching foreign law, see Chapter 7 of this book.

c. Practice of Intergovernmental Organizations

One of the best-known examples of the use of international governmental organization (IGO) practice to show customary international law is found in the *Nicaragua* case before the International Court of Justice (ICJ).¹²⁴ In that case, the ICJ found that acceptance of certain UN resolutions on the use of force evidenced a norm of customary international law. UN resolutions about nuclear weapons were cited in the ICJ's advisory opinion on the Legality of the Threat

¹²² http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/gazettes/index.htm.

¹²³ http://www.foreignlawguide.com.

¹²⁴ Military and Paramilitary Activities (Nicar. v. U.S.), 1986 I.C.J. 14 (June 27), *available at* http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/icases/inus/inusframe.htm.

or Use of Nuclear Weapons, although in that case the resolutions failed to prove the existence of customary international law.¹²⁵

The aim is to locate resolutions, decisions, and other legislative acts of IGOs. While these instruments are generally nonbinding instruments, they can reflect the acceptance of international norms. International practice of states is evident in these documents through voting practices and through the positions taken by states during negotiations. Official records contain the relevant acts and documents, and yearbooks are good for identifying the documents and acts within the official records. For a list of yearbooks and other tools, see Section IV.B.3.c.

For example, resolutions and decisions of the UN General Assembly are good indicators of customary international law. General Assembly official records contain the resolutions for each session.¹²⁶ An easier method for accessing these documents is the Official Documents System (ODS) and the UN Web site.¹²⁷ UNBISnet, the UN Bibliographic Information System,¹²⁸ is a good source for identifying relevant resolutions and for obtaining voting records. UNBISnet allows you to limit your search results to resolutions; it also offers a separate search feature for finding voting records. AccessUN, a subscription database, is another useful tool for locating resolutions and provides access to some full-text documents.

Other IGOs issue similar types of resolutions and decisions. For more information on the practice of international organizations, see the yearbooks listed in Section IV.B.3.c. To learn more about researching the documentation of international organizations, see Chapter 8 of this book.

3. Locating the Evidence

Using the sources listed above to find the relevant evidence of customary international law can be challenging. Use international law digests, repertories,

¹²⁵ Legality of Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, Advisory Opinion, 1996 I.C.J. 226 (July 8), *available at* http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/icases/iunan/iunanframe.htm.

 $^{^{126}}$ Resolutions and Decisions Adopted by the General Assembly (New York: United Nations, 1976—).

¹²⁷ http://www.un.org/documents/.

¹²⁸ http://unbisnet.un.org.

yearbooks, and the other sources listed below to identify evidence contained in the primary sources. Search a library catalog under the subject headings:

law reports, digests, etc law reports, digests, etc—[country]

a. International Digests

United States

- John L. Cadwalader, *Digest of Published Opinions of the Attorneys-General and of the Leading Decisions of the Federal Courts, with Reference to International Law, Treaties, and Kindred Subjects* (1877). This is a subject guide to documentary sources (mostly quotations) taken from court cases and attorney general opinions.
- Francis Wharton, *Digest of the International Law of the United States* (1886). This is a subject guide to official statements of President and Secretary of State, court decisions and attorney general opinions.¹²⁹
- John Bassett Moore, *Digest of International Law* (1906). This book supersedes *Cadwalder* and *Wharton*; it is more like a treatise.
- Green Haywood Hackworth, *Digest of International Law* (1940-1944). This book the continues 1906 edition through 1939.
- Marjorie M. Whiteman, *Digest of International Law* (1963-1973). This covers 1940-1960, but topics have different coverage.
- Digest of United States Practice in International Law (1973-1980; 2001—). This series continues Whiteman (noted above). It does not use the complete approach of its predecessors; instead, it includes only calendar year material. The earlier edition was continued by Cumulative Digest of United States Practice in International Law (1981—), which covered 1981-1988. This source is supplemented monthly by the American Journal of International Law (column: "Contemporary Practice of the United States Relating to International Law"). The new edition of the Digest began with 2000 and is issued annually. Some source documents that are cited in the Digest are available on the State Department's Web site.¹³⁰
- Sean D. Murphy, *United States Practice in International Law* (2002—). Volumes 1 and 2 cover 1999-2004. This new series is a thorough survey of

¹²⁹ HeinOnline's Foreign and International Law Resources Database, to be released in 2007, offers searchable versions of *Wharton, Moore, Hackworth, Whiteman,* and the *Digest of United States Practice in International Law.*

¹³⁰ http://www.state.gov/s/l/c8183.htm.

US international law practice arranged by topic. It includes citations to US statutes and cases, US documents, international documents, and materials.

- *Restatement of the Law, Third, Foreign Relations* (1987—, plus annual supplement). This is an unofficial but authoritative digest to US practice. It is also available on Westlaw and LexisNexis.
- Charles C. Hyde, International Law Chiefly as Interpreted and Applied by the United States (1945).

Other Countries

- Hugh M. Kindred, *International Law, Chiefly as Interpreted and Applied in Canada* (6th ed. 2000).
- *British Digest of International Law* (1965—). This set covers materials from the British Foreign Office from 1860 on.
- National Treaty Law and Practice: France, Germany, India, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom (Monroe Leigh & Merritt R. Blakeslee eds., 1995).
- National Treaty Law and Practice: Austria, Chile, Colombia, Japan, The Netherlands, United States (Monroe Leigh & Merritt R. Blakeslee eds., 1999).
- National Treaty Law and Practice: Canada, Egypt, Israel, Mexico, Russia, South Africa (Monroe Leigh et al. eds., 2003).
- National Treaty Law and Practice: Dedicated to the Memory of Monroe Leigh (Duncan B. Hollis ed., 2005). This set covers Austria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Israel, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, Russia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom and the United States).

Many country foreign offices or ministries, similar to the US Department of State, have good Web sites. For example, the United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Office,¹³¹ Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade,¹³² and Germany's Auswärtiges Amt.¹³³ Information varies from country to country.

¹³¹ http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage &c=Page&cid=1007029390554.

¹³² http://www.dfat.gov.au.

¹³³ http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/de/Startseite.html.

b. Repertories

These are considered the digests to the practice of international organizations.

- *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* (1958—). This digest provides a comprehensive summary of the decisions of UN bodies, organized by the articles of the UN Charter. It deals with the application and interpretation of the Charter. It is kept up with supplements, but nothing new has been issued in quite some time. It is available on the UN's Web site.¹³⁴
- *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (1946—). This digest provides the "ways and means for making the evidence of customary international law readily available." For example, if you need to research the Security Council's practice of recommending states for membership in the United Nations, this is one of the best sources. The *Repertoire* is an analytical record of the practice of the Security Council, kept up with supplements. It is also available on the UN Web site from 1946-2003.¹³⁵

c. Yearbooks of States and Organizations

Yearbooks provide surveys of state practice arranged by treaty and international activities, and provide one of the best ways to access this information. They note important legislation, case law, and diplomatic practice dealing with matters of international law. However, the nature of yearbooks mean that they are not issued for a year or more after the close of the specific year. To locate yearbooks and similar periodicals, search a library catalog using the subject headings:

international law—yearbooks international law—periodicals

In 2007, HeinOnline made a large collection of yearbooks available electronically via its Foreign and International Law Resources Database;¹³⁶ check whether your library subscribes to this collection.

¹³⁴ http://www.un.org/law/repertory.

¹³⁵ http://www.un.org/Depts/dpa/repertoire.

¹³⁶ http://heinonline.org.

State Yearbooks

- African Yearbook of International Law = Annuaire Africain de Droit International (1994—).
- Annuaire Européen = European Yearbook (1955—). This yearbook is in French and English. It contains information on various European IGOs (staff, members, activities, documentation).
- *Annuaire Français de Droit International* (1955—). This yearbook also provides information on IGOs.
- Anuario Mexicano de Derecho Internacional (2001—).
- Asian Yearbook of International Law (1993—). Covers issues related to the region and international law.
- *Australian Year Book of International Law* (1966—). This is a survey of current international law issues and a digest of Australian practice. It is also available on HeinOnline.
- Baltic Yearbook of International Law (2002—).
- *British Year Book of International Law* (1921—). This yearbook provices substantive articles, case tables, index, list of treaties signed, and municipal laws related to international law. It is also available on HeinOnline.
- Canadian Yearbook of International Law = Annuaire Canadien de Droit International (1963—).
- Chinese Yearbook of International Law and Affairs (1981—). This yearbook contains articles and state practice relating to international law issues.
- Finnish Yearbook of International Law (1990—).
- German Yearbook of International Law = Jahrbuch für Internationales Recht (1948—). The table of contents is in English; articles are in German, French, and English. It also also summarizes work of IGO's. The Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law provides the text of German practice from the Yearbook from 1993-2003 (in German).
- ISIL Year Book of International Humanitarian and Refugee Law (2001—).
- *The Italian Yearbook of International Law* (1975—). Articles are by Italian legal scholars, and information on Italian practice related to public international law issues is provided.
- Japanese Annual of International Law (1957—). This yearbook contains articles on international law issues as well as court decisions, treaties, etc.
- *Netherlands Yearbook of International Law* (1970—). Substantive articles and Netherlands state practice are provided.
- New Zealand Yearbook of International Law (2004—).
- The Palestine Yearbook of International Law (1984—).

- *The Polish Yearbook of International Law* (1967—). This yearbook contains articles on international law issues and a list of the treaties Poland has ratified.
- Schweizerisches Jahrbuch fur Internationales Recht = Annuaire Suisse de Droit International (1944-1990). In German and French, this yearbook includes articles and documents.
- Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Internationales und Europaisches Recht = Revue Suisse de Droit International et de Droit Europeen (1991—).
- *Singapore Year Book of International Law* (2004—). It is also available on HeinOnline.
- South African Yearbook of International Law = Suid-Afrikaanse Jaarboek vir Volkereg (1975—). This yearbook includes articles, court decisions, notes, and South Africa's practice regarding international law.
- Sovetskii Ezhegodnik Mezhdunarodnogo Prava = Soviet Year-Book of International Law (1958-1994). The table of contents is in English, French, and German. Articles are summarized in English.
- Spanish Yearbook of International Law (1994—). This yearbook provides articles on international law from a Spanish point of view as well as Spain's state practice.
- Rossiiskii Ezhegodnik Mezhdunarodnogo Prava = Russian Yearbook of International Law (1994—). Summaries and table of contents are in English.

Intergovernmental Organization Yearbooks

Individual IGOs publish yearbooks that provide an annual survey of activities. Some yearbooks cover the international law activities of various organizations.

- *Annual Review of United Nations Affairs* (1957—). ARUNA provides the text of important documents from the five key UN bodies.
- *Anuario Juridico Interamericano* (1948-1986). Reports on activities of the Organization of American States (OAS) are included; it includes legal studies and essays.
- Global Community: Yearbook of International Law and Jurisprudence (2001—). This yearbook contains substantive articles on international law issues, decisions of international courts and tribunals (such as ICJ, ITLOS, WTO, ICTY, and more), and a section on contemporary practice of international law.
- Hague Yearbook of International Law = Annuaire de La Haye de Droit International (1988—). This yearbook contains articles on international

law issues and a section on the activities of international law institutions at the Hague (ICJ, ICTY, PCA, etc.).

- Max Planck Yearbook of United Nations Law (1998—). This annual focuses on UN activities in the field of international law.
- United Nations Juridical Yearbook (1962—). This yearbook provides coverage of judicial decisions of international and national tribunals, and it includes unpublished legal opinions of the secretariat.
- United Nations International Law Commission, *Yearbook of the International Law Commission* (1949—). This body is charged with codifying international law. *The Yearbook* includes summaries of reports and documents of ILC and UN General Assembly, records of current session (commentaries on draft articles, articles under consideration), and record of annual session. This is a very important tool because often the views of the member states are sought on draft treaties. See the ILC Web site for access to yearbooks and documents.¹³⁷
- *Yearbook of European Law* (1981—). This yearbook focuses on the European Union.
- Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law (1998—).
- *Yearbook of the United Nations* (1947—). Proceedings and activities of UN organs and bodies are described.

Some Specific Sources

Some books that compile state practice have been published recently. The most comprehensive and long-awaited book is the one on international humanitarian law.

- Jean-Marie Henckaerts & Louise Doswald-Beck, *Customary International Humanitarian Law* (2005). This is a detailed three volume set; Volume 1 contains the rules and Volumes 2 and 3 contain examples of state practice.
- Customary International Law on the Use of Force: A Methodological Approach (Enzo Cannizzaro & Paolo Palchetti eds., 2005).
- State Practice Regarding State Immunities (Council of Europe ed., 2006).

C. General Principles

Article 38 of the International Court of Justice Statute includes "general principles of law recognized by civilized nations" as another source of international law. General principles of law are doctrines of fairness and justice

¹³⁷ http://www.un.org/law/ilc/.

that are applied universally in legal systems around the world (e.g., laches, good faith, *res judicata*, impartiality of judges). They frequently involve procedural matters. International tribunals rely on these principles when they cannot find authority in other sources of international law.

There is no one collection of general principles, but they can be identified by reference in decisions of international tribunals and national courts and in the writings (or teachings) of publicists. The sources for locating these materials are detailed in Section IV.D.

There are a few sources that provide information on general principles; see, for example, Bin Cheng, *General Principles of Law, as Applied by International Courts and Tribunals* (1953).

D. Judicial Decisions and Writings of Publicists

Along with general principles, Article 38 of the ICJ Statute also mentions "judicial decisions and the teachings of the most highly qualified publicists of the various nations, as subsidiary means for the determination of rules of law." These are not considered authorities according to Article 38, but they are persuasive evidence of a customary rule. Decisions can also contribute to the emergence of a rule of customary law. Use decisions and writings to find references to and recognition of rules in other sources (treaties, customary law, and general principles).

1. Judicial Decisions of International Tribunals

You will often find citations to decisions of international tribunals while reading secondary sources. To find the actual decisions in paper sources, use a library catalog, and search under the author: [name of court]; or under the subject heading:

international law-cases

- a. Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ)
- Recueil des Arrets = Collection of Judgments [Series A] (1923-1930).¹³⁸

¹³⁸ Available in HeinOnline's Foreign and International Law Resources Database, released in 2007.

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- Recueil des Avis Consultatifs = Advisory Opinions [Series B] (1922-1930). Later merged with Series A into Arrets Ordonnances et Avis Consultatifs = Judgments, Orders, and Advisory Opinions [Series A/B] (1931-1940).
- Actes et Documents Relatifs aux Arrêts et aux Avis Consultatifs de la Cour = Acts and Documents Relating to Judgments and Advisory Opinions [Series C] (1922-1930).
- Permanent Court of International Justice (1922-1946) decisions and the documents from Series A-F are available on the ICJ Web site.¹³⁹

Decisions and other information are also available on the World Courts Web $\,\rm site.^{140}$

b. International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- Recueil des Arrets, Avis Consultatifs et Ordonnances = Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders (1947—). Reports are also available on LexisNexis and Westlaw.
- *Memoires, Plaidoiries et Documents = Pleadings, Oral Arguments and Documents* (1947—). Motions, briefs, and oral arguments are contained in French and English.
- Yearbook (1947—). Provides summaries of Court's work each year.
- *World Court Reports* (Reprint of the 1934 ed. 1969). This includes commentary and summaries.
- *Case Law of the International Court* (1952—). This provides a digest of cases and includes a bibliography.
- Répertoire de la Jurisprudence de la Cour Internationale de Justice (1947-1992) = Repertory of Decisions of the International Court of Justice (1947-1992) (50 vols).
- *World Court Digest* (1993—). This digest covers 1986-2000 so far. It is available on the Web site of the Max Planck Institute.¹⁴¹ Earlier editions are under the title *Fontes Iuris Gentium*.
- Official ICJ Web site¹⁴² and the mirror site at Cornell.¹⁴³ This site also offers Germain's *International Court Research Guide*.¹⁴⁴

¹³⁹ http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/idecisions/icpij/.

¹⁴⁰ http://www.worldcourts.com/.

¹⁴¹ http://www.mpil.de/ww/en/pub/research/details/publications/institute/wcd.cfm.

¹⁴² http://www.icj-cij.org.

¹⁴³ http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/library/cijwww.

c. Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ)

- Reports of Cases Before the Court (1959—).
- Digest of Case Law Relating to the European Communities (1981—).
- LexisNexis and Westlaw.
- The ECJ's Web site.¹⁴⁵

d. European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

- Publications de la Cour Européenne des Droits de l'Homme. Série A, Arrêts et Décisions = Publications of the European Court of Human Rights. Series A, Judgments and Decisions (1961-1996).
- Publications de la Cour Européenne des Droits de l'Homme. Série B, Mémoires, Plaidoiries et Documents = Publications of the European Court of Human Rights. Series B, Pleadings, Oral Arguments, and Documents (1962-1995).
- Recueil des Arrêts et Décisions = Reports of Judgments and Decisions (1996—).
- European Human Rights Reports (1979—). These reports are also available on LexisNexis.
- European Court of Human Rights Web site.¹⁴⁶

e. Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

- Hague Court Reports (1916-1932).
- Reports of International Arbitral Awards (1948—).¹⁴⁷
- International Commercial Arbitration (1979—).
- PCA's Web site.¹⁴⁸ Cornell is a mirror site for this court as well.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁴ http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/library/Finding_the_Law/Guides_by_Topic/ icj.htm.

¹⁴⁵ http://curia.eu.int/en/index.htm.

¹⁴⁶ http://www.echr.coe.int.

¹⁴⁷ Available in HeinOnline's Foreign and International Law Resources Database, released in 2007.

¹⁴⁸ http://www.pca-cpa.org.

¹⁴⁹ http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/library/pca/default.htm.

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f. Other International Courts and Tribunals

There are several other international courts and tribunals, all of which issue decisions. To locate print versions of judgments from these courts, do an author search on a library catalog.

- Iran-United States Claims Tribunal.¹⁵⁰
- Inter-American Court of Human Rights.¹⁵¹
- International Criminal Court.¹⁵²
- International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).¹⁵³ This is also available on Westlaw.
- International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).¹⁵⁴ This is also available on Westlaw.
- International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).¹⁵⁵
- Iraqi Special Tribunal.¹⁵⁶
- Khmer Rouge Trials.¹⁵⁷
- Khmer Rouge Trial Task Force.¹⁵⁸
- Serious Crimes Unit, East Timor.¹⁵⁹
- Special Court for Sierra Leone.¹⁶⁰

g. Other Useful Web Sites

These sites provide access to many other international courts and tribunals, as well as other related information.

- ¹⁵¹ http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index-ingles.html.
- ¹⁵² http://www.icc-cpi.int/php/index.php.
- ¹⁵³ http://www.un.org/icty/index.html.
- ¹⁵⁴ http://www.ictr.org.
- ¹⁵⁵ http://www.itlos.org.
- 156 http://www.iraq-iht.org/.
- ¹⁵⁷ http://www.unakrt-online.org.
- ¹⁵⁸ http://www.cambodia.gov.kh/krt/english/index.htm.

¹⁵⁹ http://ist-socrates.berkeley.edu/~warcrime/Serious%20Crimes%20Unit%20Files/ default.html.

¹⁶⁰ http://www.sc-sl.org.

¹⁵⁰ http://www.iusct.org.

- Commonwealth and International Human Rights Case Law Databases (Interights).¹⁶¹
- Hague Justice Portal¹⁶² provides access to selected court documents from various judicial bodies located in the Hague.
- International Justice Tribune is an e-journal that covers international criminal justice and publishes investigative articles and interviews about worldwide efforts to try war criminals, from the International Criminal Court to domestic courts. An archive of past articles is also available.
- Project on International Courts and Tribunals (PICT).¹⁶³
- African International Courts and Tribunals.¹⁶⁴
- World Courts (access to decisions from several international courts).¹⁶⁵
- WorldLII: International Courts & Tribunals Project¹⁶⁶ allows for searching across a variety of courts and tribunals.
- WorldLII: International Courts & Tribunals Directory.¹⁶⁷

h. Print Collections

These compilations reprint selected cases from a variety of courts and tribunals.

- Global War Crimes Tribunal Collection (1997—).
- International Human Rights Reports (I.H.R.R.) (1994—). Cases from the UN Human Rights Committee, the UN Committee against Torture, CERD, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Yugoslav and Rwanda War Crimes Tribunals, and the Bosnian Human Rights Chamber are reproduced.
- International Law Reports (1919—). This contains full text of cases, translated into English, from both national and international tribunals.

- ¹⁶⁵ http://www.worldcourts.com.
- ¹⁶⁶ http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases.
- ¹⁶⁷ http://www.worldlii.org/catalog/2561.html.

¹⁶¹ http://www.interights.org/searchdatabases.php?dir=databases.

¹⁶² http://www.haguejusticeportal.net.

¹⁶³ http://www.pict-pcti.org.

¹⁶⁴ http://www.aict-ctia.org.

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- *International Legal Materials* (1962—). This is also available on HeinOnline,¹⁶⁸ LexisNexis and Westlaw. Reprints selected cases from international courts and tribunals.
- The International Criminal Law Reports (2000—).
- International Environmental Law Reports (1999—).
- International Labour Law Reports (1978—).
- The International Trade Law Reports (1996—).

2. Court Decisions of an Individual State (Country) Concerning Its International Obligations

Look at court reports and special collections of court reports concerning international law. Search a library catalog under the subject headings:

international law—cases [country]—law reports, digests, etc

The yearbooks mentioned in Section IV.B.3.a are also a good source for this information.

- *International Law Reports* (1919—). The set contains full text of cases, translated into English, from both national and international tribunals.
- *British International Law Cases* (1964-1970). This is a collection of British decisions on international law.
- Malgosia Fitzmaurice & Eric Heinze, Landmark Cases in Public International Law (1998).
- International Law in Domestic Courts. This online database is available through a few U.S. law libraries. It includes selected national court decisions that address international law, along with commentary on each decision.

3. Writings of Publicists

Although a publicist is defined simply as an "international law scholar" in *Black's Law Dictionary*,¹⁶⁹ keep in mind that the ICJ Statute refers to "the most highly qualified publicists" of various nations. Thus, when you look for writings of publicists, do not assume that any law professor who writes about international law can provide evidence of customary international law. The list below identifies some such publicists. Increasingly, a "publicist" is a scholarly

¹⁶⁸ http://heinonline.org.

¹⁶⁹ Black's Law Dictionary (8th ed. 2004).

international organization, such as the American Law Institute, which publishes the *Restatement of the Law, Third, Foreign Relations*. To determine whether a certain author is a highly qualified publicist, consider such factors as the author's number of publications and how often they are cited.

a. Treatises

The writings of publicists abound, and some of the most important works are listed below. If looking for more works, search a library catalog under the subject heading:

international law

To locate such treatises in other languages, select the appropriate language from a keyword search or limit the original search by language.

- J.L. Brierly, *Law of Nations: An Introduction to the International Law of Peace* (6th ed. 1963).
- Ian Brownlie, Principles of Public International Law (6th ed. 2003).
- Thomas Buergenthal & Sean D. Murphy, *Public International Law in a Nutshell* (4th ed. 2007).
- Louis Henkin, International Law: Cases and Materials (3d ed. 1993).
- *Oppenheim's International Law* (Robert Jennings & Arthur Watts ed., 9th ed. 1992).
- Peter Malanczuk, *Akehurst's Modern Introduction to International Law* (7th rev. ed. 1997).
- Malcolm N. Shaw, International Law (5th ed. 2003).
- Georg Schwarzenberger, A Manual of International Law (6th ed. 1976).
- Gerhard Von Glahn, Law Among Nations: An Introduction to Public International Law (7th ed. 1996).
- *Encyclopedia of Public International Law* (1981-1990) and the consolidated edition (1992—).¹⁷⁰

b. Periodicals

Search a library catalog under the subject heading:

international law-periodicals

¹⁷⁰ A new edition of this important work should soon be available from the Max Planck Institute and Oxford University Press.

These are just a few of the relevant journals, but don't forget to search periodical indexes. International journals and yearbooks provide surveys of state practice by treaty as well. For more information about searching periodicals and periodical indexes, see Chapter 4.

- *American Journal of International Law* (1907—). This is also available on HeinOnline,¹⁷¹ JSTOR,¹⁷² LexisNexis, and Westlaw.
- Hague Academy of International Law, Recueil des Cours (1923-).
- International and Comparative Law Quarterly (1952—).
- Annuaire de l'Institut de Droit International (1877—).
- European Journal of International Law (1990—).
- c. Publications of Scholarly International Law Associations

Search a library catalog under the author:

[name of the organization]

- International Law Association, *Report of the*... *Conference* (1873—). This provides reports of working committees, as well as names and addresses of members. It often summarizes the state of customary law on a particular subject.
- Institute of International Law, *Annuaire de l'Institute de Droit International* (1877—). Reports of the annual meeting and texts of resolutions are provided.
- Hague Academy of International Law, *Recueil des Cours* (1923—). This is in French and English.
- United Nations International Law Commission, Yearbook of the International Law Commission (ILC) (1949—). This body is charged with codifying international law. This is a very important tool because often the views of the member states are sought on draft treaties. See the ILC Web site.¹⁷³

¹⁷¹ http://www.heinonline.org.

¹⁷² http://www.jstor.org.

¹⁷³ http://www.un.org/law/ilc/index.htm.

Chapter 7 Foreign and Comparative Law

I. INTRODUCTION

As noted in Chapter 1, foreign or national law is essentially the domestic or internal law of any country. For the purposes of this book, it is national law of any country other than the United States. Comparative law is "the study of the similarities and differences between the laws of two or more countries, or between two or more legal systems. Comparative law is not itself a system of law or a body of rules, but rather a method or approach to legal inquiry."¹

Research methods will vary depending on the country you are researching. When beginning to research a legal system, you usually need to do the following:

- 1. Understand the structure of the foreign legal system.
 - a. Is it a civil law system based upon codes, a common law system (such as the United States), or a mixed system? Some legal systems are influenced by religious law or by a political structure, like a socialist system. For a quick look at the legal system of a particular country, see the World Legal System Web site.² For more information on legal systems generally, see *Patrick H. Glenn, Legal Traditions of the World* (2d ed. 2004).

For example, if you need to research German law, you should know that Germany is a civil law system. Its civil code lays out highly detailed rules for legal relationships. Because of Germany's legal system, your research will probably involve looking at a commentary on the civil code, and the text of some code sections, but you are unlikely to spend much time looking at court decisions.

b. Begin your research with a source that explains the legal system, such as Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo R. Flores, *Foreign Law:*

¹ MORRIS L. COHEN ET AL., HOW TO FIND THE LAW 565 (9th ed. 1989).

² http://www.droitcivil.uottawa.ca/world-legal-systems/eng-monde.php.

Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World (1989—) (hereinafter *Foreign Law Guide*),³ *Modern Legal Systems Cyclopedia* (Kenneth R. Redden ed., 1984—), or *Introduction to Foreign Legal Systems* (Richard A. Danner & Marie-Louise H. Bernal eds., 1994).

c. Determine if a specific research guide or overview exists for the country of interest.

For example, if you're asked to research New Zealand law, it makes sense to start with a research guide, such as Margaret Greville's *Introduction to New Zealand Law & Sources of Legal Information.*⁴ You can find this guide online by using search terms such as *legal research new zealand*.

- 2. Identify exactly what you need—the constitution, a specific statute or law, a case, or general information.
 - a. Do you have a citation to the law, article, etc.? Many research requests start with the name of a law, as referred to in a news article, a legal document, or on a Web page. For example, you may come across a reference to the "Loi Toubon," a French law requiring advertisements to be written in French. The citation might look like this: Law no. 94-665, *Journal Officiel de la République Française*, Aug. 4, 1994, p. 11392. You would then start your search by checking whether your library has the *Journal Officiel*. By checking a research guide, you would also learn that the French official gazette is available on the Web.⁵
 - b. What are the dates?
 - c. Do you need the complete text of the law, a summary, an English translation, or a detailed explanation or commentary? Some sources offer full-text versions of laws, while others just summarize key features of a law.
 - d. Will an electronic version be sufficient?

³ The electronic version is available by subscription at http://www. foreignlawguide.com.

⁴ http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/New_Zealand.htm.

⁵ http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/France.htm.

- 3. Use a secondary source to start your research since these sources describe the law or legal issue, provide commentary, and put the issue into context. See Chapter 4 for more information on locating such sources.
- 4. Identify the sources of law for the country.
 - a. Does the country publish codes, compilations of statutes, or case reporters?
 - b. A good source for gathering this information is Reynolds & Flores, *Foreign Law Guide*.
 - c. Once you have identified the sources, consult a Web database, library catalog or other bibliographic databases to determine if the item is available.

For example, if you need to research Canadian law, *Foreign Law Guide* informs you that the most current set of consolidated statutes is the *Revised Statutes of Canada*. Enter this title into your library catalog to find out whether your library owns it.

II. LOCATING PRIMARY LAW

The sources of law can vary from country to country. In civil law systems, statutes and codes are primary law, and court decisions are secondary. Consult the "Sources of Law" outline in Chapter 1 for a refresher on primary and secondary sources of law. Keep these concepts in mind when doing foreign law research.

A. Where to Start

When researching the law of another country, it is important to start with a relevant research guide, bibliography, or some other tool for determining the sources that are available for a particular country. To locate relevant guides, search a library catalog using subject headings:

legal research—[country] law—[country]—bibliography law—[country]

Research guides and bibliographies may be contained in journal articles or in a chapter of a more general book.

A relevant research guide or an introductory source often provides an outline of the legal system and identifies the relevant sources for law. Chief among these tools is Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo R. Flores, *Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World* (1989—). There is a chapter for each country represented, and each chapter includes the following components: an introduction to the legal system of the country, including legal history; major publications, which outline the sources for major codes, official gazettes, compilations or official codifications, session laws, court reports, and some Internet sources; subject arrangement, an alphabetical arrangement of subjects with references to specific laws; and a bibliography at the end of the chapter. There is also a list of materials indexed. The Web version of this source is *Foreign Law Guide,* and it is updated more frequently than the print.⁶ Keep in mind that this source does not cover every country or every subject.

Other useful sources include:

- John E. Roberts ed., *A Guide to Official Gazettes and Their Contents* (rev. ed. 1985), which outlines the official gazettes for different countries, although the book is now a bit dated. For updated information, see Government Gazettes Online.⁷ Both of these sources identify and describe national official gazettes. Many countries have made these gazettes available online, and they are a good source of recent foreign laws in the vernacular.
- *Introduction to Foreign Legal Systems* (Richard A. Danner & Mary-Louise H. Bernal eds., 1994). This text provides a good introduction to the basics for a number of different legal systems, including France, Mexico, Japan, Africa, and other Asian countries.
- Claire M. Germain, *Germain's Transnational Law Research* (1991—). Country guides focus on Europe.
- *Modern Legal Systems Cyclopedia* (Kenneth R. Redden ed., 1984—). This comprehensive multivolume set provides general information about the legal system of most countries in the world.
- *Guide to International Legal Research* (2002—). This softcover guide contains general information on "geopolitical regions" (e.g., Africa), but provides detailed information on one country (e.g., Nigeria) within each region.

⁶ http://foreignlawguide.com.

⁷ http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/gazettes/index.htm.

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- International Encyclopedia of Comparative Law (1973—). The National Reports volumes provide an outline of a country's legal system, and there are also topical volumes. Some sections are dated, but it is still a useful source.
- A Bibliography on Foreign and Comparative Law: Books and Articles in English (1955-1989); Szladits' Bibliography on Foreign and Comparative Law: Books and Articles in English (1990—). These are useful for locating English-language secondary sources; they are organized by topic and country.
- Accidental Tourist on the New Frontier: An Introductory Guide to Global Legal Research (Jeanne Rehberg & Radu D. Popa eds., 1998). This is a basic research guide.
- Information Sources in Law (2d ed. 1997). The focus of this book is Europe.
- Introductions or Doing Business In . . . volumes are very useful places to start. See, e.g., Doing Business in Mexico, Introduction to Chinese Law, Introduction to Dutch Law, Doing Business in Asia, or Doing Business in Argentina. These sources can be located by using keyword searches on a library catalog.

B. Introductory Works on Specific Countries

The researcher is well advised to look for an introductory work on the country in question. There are many print sources that provide excellent information on the legal system, the structure of legal materials, and information and tips on subject areas. Some of these sources are listed below.

To locate these materials, search catalogs using the subject headings:

law—[name of country]

See also the introductions for each country in the *Foreign Law Guide* (see Section II.A).

- John Bell et al., Principles of French Law (1998).
- William E. Butler, Russian Law (2d ed. 2003).
- Wan Arfah Hamzah, An Introduction to the Malaysian Legal System (2003).
- Nigel Foster, German Legal System & Laws (3d ed. 2002).
- Introduction to Dutch Law (J.M.J. Chorus et al. eds., 4th rev. ed. 2006).
- *Introduction to Greek Law* (Konstantinos D. Kerameus & Phaedon J. Kozyris eds., 2d rev. ed. 1993).

- Introduction to the Law of Israel (Amos Shapira & Keren C. DeWitt-Arar eds., 1995).
- *Introduction to Turkish Law* (Tugrul Ansay & Don Wallace, Jr. eds., 5th ed. 2005).
- The Law and Legal System of Uzbekistan (Ilias Bantekas ed., 2005).
- Wei Luo, Chinese Law and Legal Research (2005).
- Martin Partington, Introduction to the English Legal System (2d ed. 2003).
- Edilenice Passos, *Doing Legal Research in Brazil* (2001). A version of this is available on GlobaLex.⁸
- Charlotte Villiers, *The Spanish Legal Tradition: An Introduction to the Spanish Law and Legal System* (1999).
- Ian Ward, A Critical Introduction to European Law (2d ed. 2003).

Consider sources on the region when looking for laws or information on a specific legal system. Sources on the region may contain sections or chapters on the country in question. See *Taxes and Investment in the Middle East* (1977—), *Taxation in Latin America* (1987—), or *Doing Business in Asia* (1991—).

Many research guides are available on the Web:

- An Annotated Guide to Web Sites Around the World (Harvard Law Library) covers regional and national law sites.⁹
- A Selective List of Guides to Foreign Legal Research (Columbia Law Library) provides a list of guides available in print and electronic sources.¹⁰
- LLRX.com country guides provides many guides on researching the law of foreign jurisdictions, such as Argentina, Canada, China, Germany, Israel, and the United Kingdom.¹¹
- Legal Research Guide for China, Taiwan, Korea and Japan (University of Washington).¹²
- Globalex.¹³

- ¹⁰ http://www.law.columbia.edu/library/Research_Guides/foreign_law/foreignguide.
- ¹¹ http://www.llrx.com/category/1050.
- ¹² http://lib.law.washington.edu/eald/eald.html#Legal%20Research%20Guides.
- ¹³ http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/index.html.

⁸ http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Brazil.htm.

⁹ http://www.law.harvard.edu/library/services/research/guides/international/web_resources/index.php.

Multinational Collections Database (Library of Congress). The Multinational Collections Database lists items which reprint the laws and regulations of international jurisdictions on a particular legal topic, comparative in nature. The purpose of the database is to provide additional identifying information about titles, beyond that which is provided in the Library's Online catalog.¹⁴

For example, if you want to find out whether *Investment Laws of the World* covers the country of Chad, you can select the Jurisdiction box and enter "Chad." You will then get a list of all the multijurisdictional collections that have an entry for Chad.

- NYU's Collection of Foreign Databases by Jurisdiction is an annotated collection of foreign law databases by jurisdiction. It is a good place to consult when trying to locate law for a particular country.¹⁵
- Sources of International and Foreign Law in English.¹⁶

C. Constitutions

One of the most important texts to locate when doing foreign and comparative research is a country's constitution. Luckily, this is one of the easier legal sources to locate in both the vernacular as well as in English. Relevant subject headings include:

constitutions constitutions—[country] constitutional history—[country] constitutional law—[country] constitutional courts—[country] judicial review judicial power

1. Collections of Constitutions

• Constitutions of the Countries of the World (Albert P. Blaustein & Gilbert H. Flanz eds., 1971—). Each chapter provides some historical information, and the older versions help the researcher track changes to the

¹⁴ See the Multinational Collections Database Web site, *at* http://www.loc.gov/mulp/ index.html?Submit=HOME.

¹⁵ http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/foreign_intl/country.html.

¹⁶ http://www.law.uiuc.edu/library/ref_sources_intl_foreignlaw_english.asp.

language. It is available electronically from the publisher's Web site, by subscription.¹⁷ The electronic version of this collection allows you to do comparative constitutional law research with ease. For example, if you want to determine which national constitutions contain the right to freedom of expression, you can search this phrase and limit it to current constitutions. This search allows you to locate over 90 national constitutions containing this particular right.

- Constitutions of Dependencies and Territories (Philip Raworth ed., 1975—) (former title, Constitutions of Dependencies and Special Sovereignties). This book is similar in format to the title above and also available electronically from the publisher.¹⁸
- Constitutions of the World: 1850 to the Present (2003—). This microfiche set contains past versions of constitutions at the state and federal level, in both the vernacular and English, where possible. It is quite useful for historical research.
- Constitutions of the World from the Late 18th Century to the Middle of the 19th Century (2006—). This multivolume set contains about 1,000 constitutions, human rights declarations, and drafts of constitutions that never came into force from this period. These early constitutional documents were collected and examined in archives and libraries all over the world. The set supplements the microfiche edition of Constitutions of the World: 1850 to the Present.
- Central & Eastern European Legal Materials (1990—). This title contains constitutions and related documents for this region.
- Global Constitutional Law Collection (1996). Volume 1, Europe—A-Est.; Volume 2, Europe—Finland-Liechtenstein; Volume 3, Europe— Lithuania-Romania; Volume 4, Europe—Russian Federation-Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Many constitutions are available from free Web sites.

- The Constitution Finder.¹⁹
- International Constitutional Law.²⁰

¹⁷ http//www.oceanalaw.com.

¹⁸ http//www.oceanalaw.com.

¹⁹ http://confinder.richmond.edu.

²⁰ http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/home.html.

- National Constitutions.²¹
- Constitutions of the Americas.²²
- Rise of Modern Constitutionalism, 1776-1849.²³ This site seeks to include all constitutions that these scholars consider part of the constitutional movement during these years. There is limited material at this time, but offers images and translations of 18th- and 19th-century materials.

2. Relevant Journals

The journals listed below focus on constitutional law issues in a variety of countries or regions. Many of these journals are indexed in the *Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals* (IFLP); check this index to locate relevant articles. To find other relevant journals, search a library catalog using the following subject headings:

constitutional law—[country]—periodicals [country]—politics and government—periodicals

- Anuario Iberoamericano de Justicia Constitucional (1997—).
- Archiv des Öffentlichen Rechts (1886—).
- Bulletin on Constitutional Case-law ([1993]—).
- Constitutional Law & Policy Review (1998—).
- Cuestiones Constitucionales: Revista Mexicana de Derecho Constitucional (1999—).
- East European Constitutional Review (1992—).
- Gaceta Constitucional ([1998?]—).
- Journal of Constitutional Law in Eastern and Central Europe (1994—).
- Les Cahiers du Conseil Constitutionnel (1996—).
- National Journal of Constitutional Law = Revue Nationale de Droit Constitutionnel (1991—).
- Review of Constitutional Studies = Revue D'études Constitutionnelles (1993—).
- Revista Española de Derecho Constitucional (1981—).
- Revue Française de Droit Constitutionnel (1990—).
- The Supreme Court Law Review (1980—).
- University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law (1998—).

²¹ http://www.constitution.org/cons/natlcons.htm.

²² http://www.georgetown.edu/LatAmerPolitical/Constitutions/constitutions.html.

²³ http://www.modern-constitutions.de.

• Vesnik Kanstytutsyinaha Suda Respubliki Belarus: VKS (1994—).

• Vestnik Konstitutsionnogo Suda Rossiiskoi Federatsii (1993—).

D. Legislation

There are generally two approaches for looking for foreign law—by subject or by jurisdiction. If you are looking for a piece of legislation for a specific country, the tools mentioned in Sections II.A and II.B (research guides and introductory books) are very useful. The *Foreign Law Guide*²⁴ is particularly useful since it contains a section of laws arranged by subject for each country. Country research guides may not provide guidance for all specific laws, but they will provide information on compilations of laws or specific codes.

Be sure to look for subject compilations; for example, European commercial laws are contained in *Commercial Laws of Europe* (1978—). One drawback of library catalogs is their failure to identify all the countries covered in subject compilations. For example, if you need to find investment law for Djibouti, you might try searching keywords in your catalog: *Djibouti, investment, law.* You might conclude that your library owns nothing on the topic, even if your law library owns the multivolume subject compilation *Investment Laws of the World* (1972—), which includes a chapter on Djibouti investment law. Extend your research, either by checking the Law Library of Congress's Multinational Collections Database or the *Foreign Law Guide*, or by asking a reference librarian.

Other sources include:

- Claire Germain, *Germain's Transnational Law Research* (1991—). See Section 3.01 of this book for lists of subject compilations or the sections on particular topics.
- Amber Smith, "Foreign Law in Translation," *in Introduction to Foreign Legal Systems* ch. 14 (Richard A. Danner & Marie-Louise H. Bernal eds., 1994). While this chapter is now a bit dated, it does list many compilations of foreign laws in translation.
- *The International Lawyer's Deskbook* (Lucinda A. Low et al. eds., 2d ed. 2002) focuses on areas of interest to practicing lawyers, like arbitration, family law, and litigation.

 $^{^{24}}$ The electronic version is available by subscription only at http://www.foreignlawguide.com.

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- Accidental Tourist on the New Frontier: An Introductory Guide to Global Legal Research (Jeanne Rehberg & Radu D. Popa eds., 1998). Chapter 4, "Finding Foreign Law," is particularly helpful. The chapter describes strategies for foreign legal research, and then provides an annotated list of useful sources.
- *Martindale Hubbell International Law Digest* (1993—). For selected countries, it provides brief outlines of the law and references to codes and legislation. It is also available on LexisNexis.
- *International Encyclopaedia of Laws* (date varies). Arranged by topic (civil procedure, contracts, environmental law, family and succession, social security, etc.), it summarizes the law in many jurisdictions.

Look for subject compilations, digests, or periodicals, such as *Tax Laws of the World, Commercial Laws of the World, Digest of Commercial Laws of the World,* and *China Law and Practice. Foreign Law Guide* has a good listing of subject compilations under the section called "materials indexed." Remember to use Multinational Collections Database (Library of Congress) (see Section II.B) to help locate relevant sources and the jurisdictions covered by these sources. You can locate periodicals by doing a subject search of:

law-[country]-periodicals

E. LexisNexis and Westlaw

While these databases provide exhaustive coverage of American law, they do not provide comprehensive coverage of other jurisdictions. Some of the country files provide coverage of statutory law, some cover case law, some provide only access to news sources. Be sure to check the scope of coverage for any file on these databases.²⁵

LexisNexis is a useful source for the laws of many different countries. The extent of coverage varies from country to country. See the "Global Legal" section on the Web site. Some of the countries include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Hong Kong, France, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Philippines, Russia, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. LexisNexis also offers databases of foreign news sources; check under News & Business > Country & Region (excluding United States).

 $^{^{25}}$ The scope or database information can be checked by clicking on the "i" next to the title of the source.

Westlaw is building its coverage of foreign law. It contains law for the United Kingdom, the European Union, Australia, Argentina, Canada, and Hong Kong. The Mexico database contains both English-language and Spanish-language legal materials. Westlaw also contain news and business information. From the Database Directory, select "International Worldwide Materials" and then the desired region.

F. English-Language Sources

When using translations, keep in mind the information provided in Chapter 2 of this book. Generally speaking, there are many English language compilations, especially in the areas of taxation, trade, intellectual property, commercial and business law.

1. Topical Collections

Listed below is a sampling of the many English-language sources available. Many of these sources are looseleafs. Not all looseleafs, however, are frequently updated.

- Butterworth's International Insolvency Laws (1994).
- Citizenship and the State: A Comparative Study of Citizenship Legislation in Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon Edition (1997).
- Commercial Laws of Europe (1978—).
- *Commercial Laws of the World* (dates vary) (also available online by subscription).²⁶
- Comparative Environmental Law and Regulation (1997—).
- The Global Encyclopaedia of Data Protection Regulation (1999—).
- International Encyclopaedia of Laws (dates vary) (topics vary: civil procedure, contracts, corporations, family law, insurance, etc.).
- Investment Laws of the World (1972—).
- Tax Laws of the World (dates vary) (also available online by subscription).²⁷
- World Arbitration Reporter (1986—).
- World Patent Law and Practice (1974—).

²⁶ http://checkpoint.riag.com.

²⁷ http://checkpoint.riag.com.

2. Country or Region Collections

There are some English-language collections of national laws organized by country or region. Some individual codes and laws are also available in translation.

- Central & Eastern European Legal Materials (1990—).
- *China Laws for Foreign Business* (1985—) (also available electronically, by subscription).²⁸
- EHS Law Bulletin [Japan] (dates vary).
- Hungarian Rules of Law in Force (1990—).
- Russia and the Republics: Legal Materials (1992—).

3. Selected Web Sites

In addition to the databases mentioned in Sections II.A through II.F.2, many Web sites provide access to foreign law in translation. Note the breadth of subjects covered and that some of the sources below are provided by intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), such as FAO, WIPO, and the ILO. IGOs can be a good source for translated laws and information.

- American Law Sources Online.²⁹
- Annual Review of Population Law (covers a variety of topics: abortion, family planning, domestic violence, etc.).³⁰
- CODICES, Laws on the Courts (Council of Europe, Venice Commission).³¹
- Collection of Laws for Electronic Access (WIPO).³²
- Criminal Law Resources on the Internet (Buffalo Criminal Law Center).³³
- Election Law Resource (Ace Project).³⁴
- Foreign Trade Information Center (OAS) (trade laws and related issues).³⁵

- ³⁰ http://www.law.harvard.edu/programs/annual_review/annual_review.htm.
- ³¹ http://codices.coe.int.
- 32 http://www.wipo.int/clea/en/.
- ³³ http://wings.buffalo.edu/law/bclc/resource.htm.
- ³⁴ http://www.aceproject.org/main/english/pi/pid.htm.
- ³⁵ http://www.sice.oas.org.

²⁸ http://www.chinalawandpractice.com.

²⁹ http://www.lawsource.com/also.

- FAOLEX (FAO) (food and agriculture laws).³⁶
- Global E-Commerce Law (Baker & McKenzie).³⁷
- International Constitutional Law.³⁸
- International Digest of Health Legislation (WHO).³⁹
- Latin American Government Documents Project—National Legislative Documents.⁴⁰
- Legislationonline.org (OSCE, legislation dealing with the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms).⁴¹
- NATLEX (labor law, social security).⁴²
- UNHCR Legal Information (law relating to refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons).⁴³
- UNODC Legal Library (drug and related legislation).44
- World Trade Organization (good source for laws associated with trade topics; see the trade topics page and the official documents database).⁴⁵

IGO Web sites can be useful for getting translations for free. For example, if you need antidumping regulations for China, the WTO Web site is an excellent place to check. Select the country you need from the link called "150 Members" and then select "China" from the list. Scroll down the page to the section called "Notifications from China." Select "antidumping" from the topic and click on search. A search for notifications for China will be run by the database. Notifications contain the text of national laws pursuant to various WTO agreements.

To locate more foreign laws on the Web, see the guides mentioned in Sections II.A and II.B, and Foreign and International Law Resources: An

- ⁴⁰ http://lib1.library.cornell.edu/colldev/lalegisdocs.html.
- ⁴¹ http://www.legislationline.org.
- ⁴² http://natlex.ilo.org.
- ⁴³ http://www.unhcr.ch/research/legal.htm.
- ⁴⁴ http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/legislation.html.
- ⁴⁵ http://www.wto.org.

³⁶ http://www.fao.org/Legal/default.htm.

³⁷ http://www.bmck.com/ecommerce/intlegis.htm.

³⁸ http://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/law/home.html.

³⁹ http://www-nt.who.int/idhl/en/ConsultIDHL.cfm.

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Annotated Guide to Web Sites around the World⁴⁶ (Harvard Law Library), or WorldLII by country or subject.⁴⁷ Keep in mind that some national government Web sites provide selected laws in English.

III. CASE LAW

A good place to find out if the country of interest produces compilations of court decisions is through the sources mentioned above. Keep in mind that in many countries, court decisions are not considered primary law, and there may not be any official publication of decisions. Also, in some countries, only the country's highest court will issue its decisions. Periodicals and journals may be the best source for decisions.

Relevant library catalog subject headings include:

international law—cases law reports, digests, etc.—[country] [topic]—[country]—cases

For example, to find out whether your library collects court decisions from Germany, use the subject search *law reports, digests, etc. Germany.*

Check the sections on "Court Reports" in *Foreign Law Guide.*⁴⁸ This section will tell you whether the country issues official reports or if you must look in other sources, such as periodicals.

LexisNexis contains summaries or the full text of some case law from Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, Mexico, and a few others. See the "Global Legal" section on the Web site. Westlaw also contains some case reporters for the United Kingdom and Europe; check in the Directory under International/Worldwide Materials.

To determine the full title of an unfamiliar case citation, try the following resources:

• Donald Raistrick, Index to Legal Citations and Abbreviations (2d ed. 1993).

⁴⁶ http://www.law.harvard.edu/library/ref/ils_ref/annotated/foreignA.htm.

⁴⁷ http://www.worldlii.org.

⁴⁸ The electronic version is available by subscription at http://www.foreignlaw guide.com.

- *Guide to Foreign and International Legal Citations* (2006) (also freely available online).⁴⁹
- Noble's International Guide to the Law Reports (Scott Noble ed., 2002).
- Law Reports Searchable by Abbreviation or Title.⁵⁰
- Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations.⁵¹

For example, you might run across this citation while reading an article about international copyright law: [2004] E.C.D.R. 16. Using the "Search by Abbreviation" feature of the Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations, you can see that E.C.D.R. stands for "European Copyright and Design Reports." With the name of the reporter, you can begin searching for libraries that own the title.

Note that in many countries, legal periodicals act as unofficial sources for case decisions. For instance, many German cases appear in the weekly periodical *Neue Juristische Wochenschrift*.

It is much easier to locate case law on the Web than ever before. While some courts put up large collections, other courts may be more selective. Here are a few selected Web sites for case law:

- American Law Sources Online.⁵²
- CODICES, Constitutional Case Law from Europe (Council of Europe, Venice Commission).⁵³
- LII: Legal Information Institute, Law by Source: Global.54
- Judicial Institutions of the Americas (Georgetown).55
- Global Courts: Supreme Court Decisions from Around the World.⁵⁶
- Institute of Global Law (selected French and German cases).⁵⁷

- 52 http://www.lawsource.com.
- 53 http://codices.coe.int.
- ⁵⁴ http://www.law.cornell.edu/world.
- ⁵⁵ http://www.georgetown.edu/LatAmerPolitical/Judicial/judicial.html.
- ⁵⁶ http://www.globalcourts.com/.
- ⁵⁷ http://www.ucl.ac.uk/laws/global_law/content.shtml?decisions.

⁴⁹ http://www.law.nyu.edu/journals/jilp/Final%20GFILC%20pdf.pdf.

⁵⁰ http://www.library.unsw.edu.au/~law/repsrch.html.

⁵¹ http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk.

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- Links to Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Bodies.⁵⁸
- NYU's Collection of Foreign Databases by Jurisdiction.59
- World Law Guide (Courts/Cases).⁶⁰

Some of the sites noted above provide access to cases in the vernacular, while others provide some English translations. For example, the Global Courts Web site allows you easily locate the Supreme Court decisions for 129 countries, such as the Dominican Republic's Supreme Court. This site provides information about the Court as well as its jurisprudence, statistical data, and other relevant information regarding the Court.⁶¹

The Institute for Transnational Law provides users with access to German, French, Italian, Austrian, and Israeli cases in English in the areas of constitutional law, administrative law, tort law, contracts, and restitution law.⁶² While other cases may be available, note that only those that have been translated are available on this Web site. The site also indicates the origin of the translation.

While there are many publications that provide translated text of foreign laws, there are relatively few sources for case law.

- International Law Reports (1919—).
- International Labour Law Reports (1975—).
- *Bulletin on Constitutional Case Law* (1993—). See also CODICES,⁶³ the infobase on Constitutional Case-Law of the Venice Commission.
- The International Criminal Law Reports (2000—).
- International Environmental Law Reports (1999—).
- International Labour Law Reports (1978—).
- The International Trade Law Reports (1996—).
- Law Reports of the Commonwealth (1980/85—) (contains cases from many Commonwealth jurisdictions; topics include constitutional law, administrative law, commercial law and criminal law).

63 http://codices.coe.int/.

⁵⁸ http://www.venice.coe.int/site/dynamics/N_court_links_ef.asp?L=E.

⁵⁹ http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/foreign_intl/country.html.

⁶⁰ http://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/courts/nofr/courts.htm.

⁶¹ http://www.suprema.gov.do/scj/scdej2.htm.

⁶² http://www.utexas.edu/law/academics/centers/transnational/work_new/.

To locate compilations of cases in English, try library catalog searches using relevant subject headings or keyword searches (e.g., *Korea* and *translat?* and *case?*). You may retrieve texts such as *The First Ten Years of the Korean Constitutional Court: 1988-1998* (2001), *The Constitutional Jurisprudence of the Federal Republic of Germany* (2d ed. 1997), or *Selected Judgments of the Supreme Court of Israel* (1962—).

Journal articles are an especially good source for summaries of and citations to new case law. For example: Kenneth L. Port, *Japanese Intellectual Property Law in Translation: Representative Case and Commentary*, 34 VAND. J. TRANSNAT'L L. 847 (2001).

As noted throughout this chapter, country Web sites can provide needed laws. Since a Google search may not always work, remember to consult a directory, like WorldLII,⁶⁴ to see if a national court has a site. For instance, you might have a reference to a 1976 Zambian Supreme Court case called *Musonda v. The People.* A Google search for the name of the case does not yield any useful results. However, if you use WorldLII, you will find out that there is a collection of Zambian Supreme Court decisions in English.⁶⁵ Within that collection, a search by the name of the case will produce this 1976 decision.

IV. OTHER SOURCES OF LAW

Secondary legislation, regulations, and administrative decisions are often sought after. These sources may be even more elusive than statutory law and case law. Start by using the sources mentioned in the above sections. Relevant subject headings include:

delegated legislation—[country]

Secondary sources may be another way to track down relevant sources or citations. If a country publishes an official gazette (as most civil law systems do), you have a better chance of locating regulations, notices, circulars, etc. See John E. Roberts ed., *A Guide to Official Gazettes and Their Contents* (rev. ed. 1985) or *Foreign Law Guide*⁶⁶ for more information. As noted in Section III for cases, the WorldLII collection is a good directory for locating government

⁶⁴ http://www.worldlii.org/catalog/2172.html.

⁶⁵ http://www.zamlii.ac.zm/supreme-court.html.

⁶⁶ The electronic version is available by subscription only at http://foreignlaw guide.com.

agency Web sites or collections of regulations. Keep in mind that translated secondary legislation is extremely difficult to obtain.

V. CITING TO FOREIGN LAW

Consult *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (18th ed. 2005), Rule 20 and Table 2, for assistance with citing to foreign law. Unfortunately, not all jurisdictions are listed in Table 2, so follow the general guidelines noted in Rule 20. To locate proper abbreviations, consult *Noble's International Guide to the Law Reports* (2002), *World Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations* (1991—), or other sources of abbreviations (see Chapter 3).

Some countries have their own citation manuals, such as *the Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation* (5th ed. 2002) or the *Australian Guide to Legal Citation*.⁶⁷ For guidance on a number of countries, see *Guide to Foreign and International Legal Citations* (2006), also available online.⁶⁸

VI. PERIODICAL LITERATURE AND OTHER SOURCES

Periodical literature is a good way to obtain background information, locate the text of a foreign law or a citation, or locate information about a subject. To obtain the best results, use periodical indexes to locate relevant articles. For more assistance with locating journal literature, see Chapter 4.

Other databases that compile a variety of sources (newsletters, news articles, reports) can be good places to find the text of a law, a summary, or an explanation. Some good sources for these kinds of materials include *Gender-Watch, Ethnic NewsWatch, World News Connection* (formerly FBIS), and INTNEWS on Westlaw (which includes full-text, English-language articles and English-language abstracts for non-English-language newspapers, magazines, trade journals, newsletters, and news services). Some countries have English-language newspapers that may contain the text of a new law or some information—for example, *South China Morning Post.*⁶⁹

⁶⁷ http://mulr.law.unimelb.edu.au/aglc.asp.

⁶⁸ http://www.law.nyu.edu/journals/jilp/Final%20GFILC%20pdf.pdf.

⁶⁹ Available on LexisNexis and Westlaw.

VII. COMPARATIVE LAW SOURCES

A. General Works

Comparative law books and materials present information in a couple of different ways. Some focus on comparing legal families or traditions (civil law versus common law, ancient law, etc.). Some books compare specific countries (German law as compared to French law). Others focus on comparing topics within laws and within countries (constitutional law in Germany and the United States). And some sources do all of the above. Books are not the only sources—much comparative work can be found in journal literature; see Chapter 4 on searching for journal articles. Remember, comparative law is not a body of law—it is the process of comparing different legal systems or legal concepts.

To locate books on comparative law generally, use the subject heading:

comparative law

Listed below are some examples of the above-mentioned sources.

- Comparative Law: An Introduction (Vivian Grosswald Curran ed., 2002).
- Comparative Law in the 21st Century (Andrew Harding & Esin Örücü eds., 2002).
- Peter De Cruz, Comparative Law in a Changing World (2d ed. 1999).
- Mary Ann Glendon et al., *Comparative Legal Traditions in a Nutshell* (2d ed. 1999).
- James T. McHugh, Comparative Constitutional Traditions (2002).
- John Henry Merryman et al., *The Civil Law Tradition: Europe, Latin America, and East Asia* (1994). Successor edition to John Henry Merryman & David S. Clark, *Comparative Law: Western European and Latin American Legal Systems* (1978).
- Victor Thuronyi, Comparative Tax Law (2003).
- Werner Menski, *Comparative Law in a Global Context: The Legal Systems of Asia and Africa* (2d ed. 2006).
- Raymond Youngs, *English, French, and German Comparative Law* (2d ed. 2007).
- Konrad Zweigert & Hein Kötz, Introduction to Comparative Law (1998).

B. Selected Comparative Law Journals

Articles about comparative law can be found in many different law journals, including international and foreign journals. For example, Yoav Dotan, *The Spillover Effect of Bills of Rights: A Comparative Assessment of the Impact of*

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Bills of Rights in Canada and Israel, 53 AM. J. COMP. L. 293 (2005) or Giesela Rühl, *Common Law, Civil Law, and the Single European Market for Insurances*, 55 INT'L. & COMP. L.Q. 879 (2006). There are some journals that focus on comparative law; these are listed below.

Locate relevant articles by searching journal indexes⁷⁰ or by searching a library catalog for relevant journals using the subject heading:

comparative law-periodicals

You can also search Westlaw and LexisNexis full-text law review databases, perhaps narrowing your results by limiting searches to the title field (Westlaw) or name segment (LexisNexis). Some of these journals are available on HeinOnline.⁷¹

- American Journal of Comparative Law (1952—).
- Annual Survey of International & Comparative Law ([1994]—).
- Arizona Journal of International and Comparative Law (1982—).
- Boston College International and Comparative Law Review (1979—).
- Cardozo Journal of International and Comparative Law (1995—).
- Duke Journal of Comparative & International Law (1991—).
- *Electronic Journal of Comparative Law* (1997—) (available via the Web only).⁷²
- The Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law (1970—).
- Hastings International and Comparative Law Review (1978-).
- ILSA Journal of International & Comparative Law (1995—).
- Indiana International & Comparative Law Review (1991—).
- The International and Comparative Law Quarterly (1952-).
- Loyola of Los Angeles International & Comparative Law Review (1999—).
- Maastricht Journal of European and Comparative Law (1994—).

- ⁷¹ http://heinonline.org.
- 72 http://www.ejcl.org.

⁷⁰ See Chapter 4 of this book.

Chapter 8 International Organizations

I. GENERALLY

According to the *Yearbook of International Organizations* (1983—), there are over 61,000 international organizations (intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other bodies).¹ The sheer number of organizations makes it impossible for this chapter to cover all or even a small percentage of these organizations. Some organizations, like the United Nations and the European Union, play a major role in international law, so these organizations will be covered in greater detail. Other organizations will be covered more generally in this chapter as well as in the topical chapters of this book.

A. Definitions

What is an intergovernmental organization (IGO)?

Generally, an IGO is a public or governmental organization created by treaty or agreement between states. Examples include the United Nations, the European Union,² the Council of Europe (COE), and the Organization of American States (OAS). Countries usually become members of these organizations by signing a treaty or agreement. Here is a basic outline of the legal characteristics of an IGO:

- An IGO has international legal status (privileges, immunities, rights, and duties) that is based upon its founding charter, constitution, or statute. As such, an IGO can enter into agreements with other IGOs or with states.
- An IGO usually has a legislative body that creates legal acts (decisions, resolutions, directives, etc.) that may bind the IGO and its member states

¹ Yearbook of International Organizations (Munich: K. G. Saur, 1983—). Also available at http://www.diversitas.org/db/x.php.

² The European Union is considered a supranational organization, which is a specific type of IGO; see Chapter 1 for a definition of a supranational organization.

under international law. Most of these legislative acts do not supersede national law (with the exception of the European Union).

- An IGO may have a dispute resolution mechanism or body that is empowered to resolve disputes among its member states.
- The IGO may have an executive body (a secretariat) that facilitates the operations of the IGO.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has all of these characteristics:

- 1. It was created by the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.³
- 2. Its legislative body or the top-level decision-making body is the Ministerial Conference which meets at least once every two years.
- 3. There is a Dispute Settlement Body for resolving trade disputes between member States.
- 4. There is a WTO Secretariat headed by a Director-General.

See the WTO Web site for basic information and an organizational chart for more details.⁴

What is a nongovernmental organization (NGO)?

Organizations established by individuals or groups of individuals are considered NGOs. NGOs are not endowed with governmental powers or the same legal status as IGOs.⁵ NGOs vary in size, structure, and influence; and some of the larger organizations, such as Amnesty International and Greenpeace, exercise considerable pressure in national and international policy debates.

Many NGOs have consultative status with international organizations like the United Nations. Consultative status means that an NGO has been admitted to participate or contribute to the work of the United Nations. NGOs can serve as technical experts, advisors and consultants to governments and the secretariat.⁶

³ Apr. 15, 1994, 1867 U.N.T.S. 14, reprinted in 33 I.L.M. 1143 (1994).

⁴ http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/tif_e.htm.

⁵ PARRY & GRANT ENCYCLOPAEDIC DICTIONARY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 347 (2d ed., 2003).

⁶ http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo.

More information on consultative status is available on the ECOSOC Web site and on the UN DPI-NGO Web site.⁷

For more information on the legal nature of international organizations and the role these organizations play in international law, see the sources listed below. To locate similar books, search an online catalog using *international organization*, *international agencies*, or *non-governmental organizations* as the subject.

- José Alvarez, International Organizations as Law-makers (2005).
- José Alvarez, International Organizations: Then and Now, 100 AM. J. INT'L. L. 324 (2006).
- Chittharanjan F. Amerasinghe, *Principles of the Institutional Law of International Organizations* (2d rev. ed. 2005).
- Steve Charnovitz, *Nongovernmental Organizations and International Law*, 100 Am. J. INT'L. L. 348 (2006).
- Frederick H. Gareau, *The United Nations and Other International Institutions: A Critical Analysis* (2002).
- Jan Klabbers, International Organizations (2005).
- Jan Klabbers, An Introduction to International Institutional Law (2002).
- The Legitimacy of International Organizations (Jean-Marc Coicaud & Veijo Heiskanen eds., 2001).
- Anna-Karin Lindblom, Non-governmental Organisations in International Law (2005).
- Philippe Sands & Pierre Klein, *Bowett's Law of International Institutions* (5th ed. 2001).
- Henry G. Schermers & Niels M. Blokker, *International Institutional Law: Unity within Diversity* (4th rev. ed. 2003).
- Paul C. Szasz, Selected Essays on Understanding International Institutions and the Legislative Process (2001).

B. Background Information

This section includes sources that contain a variety of information about organizations, such as history, structure and function, addresses, names of member countries, and a short list of publications produced by international organizations. Relevant subject headings include:

⁷ http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo; http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/index. asp.

international agencies—periodicals international law—sources

See also Chapter 3, Section VII for more background sources and information.

Although IGOs often provide a lot of information on their Web sites, it can be useful to consult an independent source. In addition to providing a more impartial assessment of the organization, another advantage of using a source like the *Europa World Year Book* is that it provides well-organized summaries of organizational history, structure, and publications. For example, the *Europa World Year Book* entry for the Inter-American Development Bank includes a "Publications" section with which you can quickly identify the Bank's major publications.

- Encyclopedia of Associations: International Organizations (1989—).8
- *Encyclopedia of Public International Law* (1981-1990) and the consolidated edition (1992—).
- Europa Directory of International Organizations (1999—).9
- *Europa World Year Book* (1989—). This yearbook provides detailed information on selected international organizations. It also includes the text of the UN Charter and other documents.¹⁰
- International Organizations: A Dictionary and Directory (6th ed. 2005).
- *International Organization* (1947—). This journal covers the legal and political aspects of international organizations.¹¹

C. Bibliographies and Research Guides

Bibliographies and guides will help you determine what kinds of documents and publications an organization produces and how to locate them. Since the Web is not always adequate for locating documents issued prior to 1995, or documents with limited distribution, these sources can be helpful in determining where (and whether) a document was published.

Some of these tools are listed below or you can search a library catalog using the subject headings:

⁸ Also available online by subscription, http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/AU.

⁹ Also available online by subscription, http://www.europaworld.com.

¹⁰ Also available online by subscription, http://www.europaworld.com.

¹¹ Also available on JSTOR, http://ww.jstor.org, and Westlaw.

international agencies—bibliography international agencies—information services [name of organization]—bibliography

- George W. Baer, International Organizations, 1918-1945: A Guide to Research and Research Materials (1991).
- Claire M. Germain, Germain 's Transnational Law Research (1991-).
- *Guide to International Legal Research* (2002—). Updated annually, this book covers researching a variety of international organizations: UN, EU, WTO, and regional organizations.
- International Bibliography: Publications of Intergovernmental Organizations (1983-1991).
- International Information: Documents, Publications, and Electronic Information of International Governmental Organizations (Peter I. Hajnal, 2d ed. 1997—). This two-volume work covers a few organizations in great detail.
- Introduction to International Organizations (Lyonette Louis-Jacques & Jeanne S. Korman eds., 1996).
- Shabtai Rosenne, Practice and Methods of International Law (1984).
- Robert V. Williams, *The Information Systems of Inter-Governmental Organizations: A Reference Guide* (1998).

Web guides and resources:

- ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law: International Organizations. This chapter of the guide has some handy tips on locating documents and information.¹²
- Non-Governmental Organizations Research Guide (Duke University) is one of the few guides that focuses on NGOs.¹³
- International Organizations/Nongovernmental Organizations Research/ Subject Guide (Emory University).¹⁴
- International Governmental Information (UC Berkeley).¹⁵
- EISIL (Electronic Information System for International Law), a good tool for locating international organizations and related resources.¹⁶

¹² http://www.asil.org/resource/intorg1.htm.

¹³ http://docs.lib.duke.edu/igo/guides/ngo.

¹⁴ http://web.library.emory.edu/subjects/socsci/polsci/igongo.html.

¹⁵ http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/doemoff/govinfo/intl.

¹⁶ http://www.eisil.org.

As an example, suppose you are asked to find out what international organizations regulate the use of nuclear power in the international arena. EISIL includes a section on Nuclear Energy¹⁷ under its Environmental Law category, and you can quickly identify two international organizations that make international policy on this subject: the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Energy Agency.

D. Publications and Information

Many IGOs issue publications and documents that may be of interest to the legal researcher: founding documents (treaties, charters, statutes); treaties where the IGO is a party; treaties where the IGO is the sponsor; legal acts, proceedings, and documents issued by the IGO's legislative body; and decisions of the IGO's adjudicative body. IGOs also produce reports that provide information on a country's laws and legal system. For example, the World Bank has a series of reports called "Legal and Judicial Sector Assessments."¹⁸ These reports provide a detailed analysis of the legal and judicial system, including information on key legal and judicial system institutions, legal education and training, availability of laws and regulations, access to justice, and more.

NGOs tend to publish reports, newsletters, and documents that may not have a great deal of legal weight, but that are valuable because they document country conditions within countries and provide current analysis of problems and issues. The most effective method for locating these materials is to consult the NGO's Web site. For older and harder to locate documents, try searching a library catalog and secondary sources. Many law reviews and books will cite to documents published by NGOs, especially in the area of human rights, refugees, asylum, and environmental protection. A few collections of NGO documentation also exist. In the area of human rights, see *Human Rights Documents* 1980-2001; it contains the documents for 355 NGOs.¹⁹

1. How to Find Documents

When searching an online catalog or database, use the name of the organization in an author search to locate the materials published under the auspices of that organization. A subject search using the name of the

¹⁷ http://www.eisil.org/index.php?sid=343214878&cat=446&t=sub_pages.

¹⁸ http://www4.worldbank.org/legal/leglr/index.html.

¹⁹ http://www.idcpublishers.com/?id=128, available only on microfiche.

organization will produce materials about that organization. Be sure to note spelling variations when searching by name or keywords, such as organization and organisation or labor and labour.

Use the research guides listed above to find out what kinds of documents organizations publish as well as descriptions of how the documents are organized. Such a guide may explain the official documents of the organization as well as information on other related publications; for example, see the organization-specific guide for WTO and GATT research at http://www.law. nyu.edu/library/print-wtoguide.html. Topical guides may contain sections on the documentation of specific organizations; for example, see the ASIL topic-specific guide to human rights at http://www.asil.org/research/ humrts1.htm#Section5. The "International Organizations" section of EISIL provides links to many research guides for individual organizations and topics.²⁰

Many unofficial sources contain reproductions or compilations of important legal documents from international organizations. However, some of these may only provide access to portions of documents or only selected documents. Subject compilations, like *International Protection of the Environment: Conservation in Sustainable Development* (Wolfgang E. Burhenne & Nicholas A Robinson eds., 1995—), are good sources for documents from a variety of environmental organizations. Journals and yearbooks are another useful source. For example, each issue of *Refugee Survey Quarterly* contains a section called "Documents" that contains a selection of documents from various refugee and related organizations. A recent issue contains a resolution from the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization as well as several documents from the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Program Standing Committee (UN High Commissioner for Human Rights).

See Section I.D.3 for some tips on searching the Web for international documents or contact the IGO or NGO directly. Consult the *Yearbook of International Organizations* (1983—)²¹ or the *Encyclopedia of Associations: International Organizations* (1989—)²² for more information.

For publications about international agencies generally, use the subject headings:

²² Available by subscription at https://www.galenetgroup.com

²⁰ http://www.eisil.org.

²¹ Available by subscription at https://www.diversitas.org/db/x.php.

international agencies—dictionaries international agencies—encyclopedias international agencies—yearbooks

2. Journal Articles

As noted above, journal articles are a good source for information about international organizations and current developments. They are also good for getting citations to international documents or information about other publications issued by IGOs and NGOs. To find articles in legal and nonlegal journals, use periodical indexes. You may also search online catalogs to find relevant periodicals using the subject headings:

international agencies—periodicals international law—periodicals

See Chapter 4 for more information on researching journal articles. Some useful journals to review on a regular basis include:

- *International Journal of Legal Information* (1982—) (also available on HeinOnline²³).
- *International Organization* (1947—) (also available online from a variety of sources).
- Journal of International Affairs (1952—) (also available online from a variety of sources).
- *Government Information Quarterly* (1984—) (also available online from a variety of sources).
- International Organizations Law Review (2004—) (also available online).

3. The Web

The Web is a valuable vehicle for obtaining needed documents. Many international organizations are using Web sites as a distribution mechanism or as a tool to alert the researcher to new publications and information. As noted in the *ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law*, "International Organizations,"

[W]hen searching the Web for the sites of international organizations, utilize the advanced features on search engines to limit your results to sites ending in the domain name .int which is reserved for organizations

²³ http://heinonline.org.

established by international treaties between or among national governments. For example, in Google's Advanced Search mode,²⁴ enter ".int" in the domain box to limit your results.²⁵

Note, however, that not all international organizations use ".int" as part of their Web addresses. For example, the African Union uses ".org." It is best to locate the organization's Web site first, and check what its higher-level domain name is.

For instance, assume that you need to locate the OECD Best Practices on Competition in Telecommunications (2002). While you can search the OECD Web site using the site's search engine, you can also search Google using the advanced search mechanism and limiting the search to the OECD domain. If you do a quick search for the OECD Web site, you will find that it uses the domain name ".oecd.org." The first three links on this list will all retrieve the appropriate OECD document.

Web directories and compilations of sites help you locate the correct Web site for an IGO or NGO:

- International Governmental Organizations (Northwestern University).²⁶
- International Agencies and Information on the Web (University of Michigan).²⁷
- Official Web Site Locator for the United Nations Systems Organizations.²⁸
- Materials on International Governmental Organizations (IGOs) and the Law in the MSU Libraries: Information by Organization.²⁹
- International Organization Information (University of Colorado).³⁰
- International Organization Web Sites: Index Page (IGOs and NGOs).³¹ See also the links to multiorganization or resource sites.³² Many portions of this site are available by subscription only.

- ²⁶ http://www.library.nwu.edu/govpub/resource/internat/igo.html.
- ²⁷ http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/intl.html.
- ²⁸ http://www.unsystem.org.
- ²⁹ http://www.lib.msu.edu/publ_ser/docs/igos/igoorg.htm.
- ³⁰ http://www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/gov/int/internat.htm.
- ³¹ http://www.uia.org/website.htm.

²⁴ http://www.google.com/advanced_search.

²⁵ http://www.asil.org/resource/intorg1.htm.

NGO Links.³³

4. LexisNexis and Westlaw

Neither of these databases provides access to much in the way of IGO and NGO documentation. However, for selected IGOs, some materials are available, such as GATT and WTO panel reports. Both LexisNexis and Westlaw provide full-text law reviews and indexes to periodical literature.

5. Words of Caution

Finding documents produced by IGOs and NGOs can be difficult and frustrating. There is a general lack of good indexing, abstracting, and bibliographies for these documents. Many organizations have their own classification schemes for documentation, or, even worse, no classification or numbering scheme. Even if you have what you think is a valid citation, the document may not actually be available on the organization's Web site or in a library's collection. And, while official documents are preferable, the publication of these documents can be quite slow.

Other sections of this chapter will focus on the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union, the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

II. UNITED NATIONS

A. Introduction

The United Nations is the most well-known and the largest intergovernmental organization. The United Nations is the successor organization to the League of Nations, which was established in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles 'to promote international cooperation and to achieve peace and security.'³⁴ The constituting document, the UN Charter,³⁵ was signed on June 26, 1945, at the Conference on International Organization in San Francisco.³⁶ The UN's mandate

³² http://www.uia.org/website2.htm#multi.

³³ http://www.ngo.org/links/index.htm.

³⁴ http://www.un.org/aboutun/unhistory.

³⁵ 3 Bevans 1153, UN Yearbook, http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter/index.html.

³⁶ http://www.un.org/aboutun/sanfrancisco.

includes peace and security, economic and social development, human rights, decolonization, and international law. It is composed of six principal organs: the General Assembly (GA), the Security Council (SC), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the Secretariat. Currently there are 192 member states.³⁷

The Security Council, General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, and the Secretariat are all responsible for many other bodies, commissions, and committees within the UN system; see the Organization Chart.³⁸ Of particular interest to legal researchers are the autonomous organizations called "Specialized Agencies." These include the following: ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, World Bank Group, IMF, ICAO, IMO, ITU, UPU, WMO, WIPO, IFAD, UNIDO, and WTO (tourism).³⁹ Each specialized agency has its own membership, governing bodies, budgets, and secretariats. Being a member of the United Nations does not make a country a member of these independent organizations.

In addition to these organizations, there are a number of UN offices, programs, and funds, such as the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Development Program (UNDP), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and many more.

B. Research Guides

Since navigating through all of the documents and information issued by the United Nations can be challenging, you should probably start with a research guide. Listed below are a few guides that deal with the United Nations specifically, but they may also be helpful for researching other intergovernmental organizations.

- Accidental Tourist on the New Frontier: An Introductory Guide to Global Legal Research (Jeanne Rehberg & Radu Popa eds., 1997); see chapter 7.
- Brenda Brimmer et al., *A Guide to the Use of United Nations Documents* (1962). This is good for historical research.
- Claire Germain, *Germain's Transnational Law Research* (1991—); see IV-346.
- Guide to International Legal Research (2002—); see § 5.06[3].

³⁷ http://www.un.org/Overview/unmember.html.

³⁸ http://www.un.org/aboutun/chart.html.

³⁹ http://www.un.org/Overview/uninbrief/agencies.html.

- Peter I. Hajnal, *Guide to United Nations Organization, Documentation and Publishing for Students, Researchers, Librarians* (1978).
- International Information: Documents, Publications, and Information Systems of International Governmental Organizations (2 vols., Peter I. Hajnal ed. 1988); chapter 2 is on the United Nations.
- Introduction to International Organizations (Lyonette Louis-Jacques & Jeanne S. Korman eds., 1996); see pp. 207-391.

Some of the best guides are available on the Web:

- ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law: United Nations.⁴⁰
- United Nations Documentation: Research Guide (UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library).⁴¹
- United Nations System Pathfinder.⁴²
- Research Guide: The United Nations (Columbia University).43
- Research Guide to League of Nations Documents and Publications (Northwestern University).⁴⁴

Example: You are asked to find a General Assembly resolution from the 2005 session, relating to measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Pulling up the *United Nations Documentation: Research Guide* (by an Internet search for United Nations Research Guide or by entering the URL provided in this chapter), you see "Quick Links." The "Quick Links" let you go immediately to a list of General Assembly resolutions for the 61st session (2005). By using your browser's "Find" function (control f) to look for the terms *mass destruction*, you quickly locate the title of the resolution, along with a link to the PDF version.

Example: You are beginning a project on international intellectual property law. Because you don't know what international agency is most active in this area, you start with the *UN System Pathfinder*. By choosing the headings "International Law," then "Intellectual Proper-

⁴⁰ http://www.asil.org/resource/un1.htm.

⁴¹ http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/index.html.

⁴² http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/pathfind/frame/start.htm.

⁴³ http://library.law.columbia.edu/UN.

⁴⁴ http://www.library.northwestern.edu/govpub/collections/league/background.html.

ty," you see that the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the key organization. The pathfinder also offers a link to WIPO's annual reports.

C. Background Information

Basic information about the United Nations is available on its official Web site—see "About the United Nations."⁴⁵ This page provides an introduction to the structure and work of the United Nations. For more detailed information, check out the many books about the United Nations and its work. Some of these include the following:

- *Annual Review of United Nations Affairs* (1957—). ARUNA provides the text of important documents from the five key UN bodies.
- *Basic Facts About the United Nations* (1983—). This is a basic handbook providing information about the organization.
- *Everyone's United Nations* (1979—). This book describes the structure, history, and procedures of the UN organs and specialized agencies; it contains text of the Charter of the United Nations, the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and covers over 20 years.
- Edward Osmancyzk, *Encyclopedia of the United Nations and International Agreements* (2003). This four-volume set provides brief explanations of terms related to the United Nations as well as international law and economics.
- United Nations Handbook (1973—). This handbook provides up-to-date information on all of the organs of the United Nations as well as the specialized agencies. This is a good source for information on the purpose and structure of a particular body or agency.
- *The United Nations System and Its Predecessors* (1997). This book contains a collection of important documents, including some League of Nations materials.
- *Yearbook of the United Nations* (1946/47—). This yearbook includes full text of resolutions and gives useful references to important reports and documents. Many UN bodies and institutions issue their own yearbooks, such as the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission*.

⁴⁵ http://www.un.org/aboutun.

• UN Chronicle (1975—). This is a good source for current information; it also provides cites to important resolutions and documents. An online edition is also available on the UN Web site.⁴⁶

Example: To get a quick introduction to the international law instruments governing the treatment of prisoners, check the *Encyclope-dia of the United Nations and International Agreements* (2003). The entry for "Prisoners" lists some key international instruments, including a Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment,⁴⁷ and it sets out the text of those principles.

For some sources more focused on international law, see:

- *Charter of the United Nations: A Commentary* (Bruno Simma ed., 2d ed. 2002). This is the most detailed commentary on the UN Charter, with relevant citations to other documents.
- Benedetto Conforti, *The Law and Practice of the United Nations* (3d rev. ed. 2005). This book provides a legal analysis of membership, structure, origins, and practice.
- *Max Planck Yearbook of United Nations Law* (1998—). This yearbook focuses on the activities of the United Nations in the field of international law.

To locate more books about the United Nations and its work, search a library catalog. For example, search UNBISnet, the catalogue for the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, and the Library of the UN Office at Geneva.⁴⁸ While the *United Nations* is a valid subject heading for locating books, it is not very specific. Keyword searching is more effective, e.g., *states* and *united nations*.

D. Documents and Publications

There are four basic types of UN documents: periodicals, sales publications, mimeographed/masthead documents, and official records. Periodicals (like the *UN Chronicle*) can be located by searching the indexes mentioned in this guide.

⁴⁶ http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle.

⁴⁷ G.A. Res. 43/173, annex, 43 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 49) at 298, U.N. Doc. A/43/49 (1988).

⁴⁸ http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/unbisnet/index.html.

Periodicals generally report on the activities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organizations.

Sales publications include yearbooks and annuals (*Yearbook of the United Nations and Yearbook on Human Rights*) serials, monographs, and special studies. They are classified as "sales publications" because the United Nations feels the public (libraries, researchers, schools, etc.) has enough interest in them to purchase them. Any type of UN document can end up as a sales publication.

Mimeographed documents include provisional records of meetings, reports, resolutions, and other working documents of the UN organs. Some are republished in final corrected form in the official records or sales publications. Official records contain the meeting records of the UN organs (usually summary records, with the exception of the records of General Assembly and First Committee and Security Council meetings which verbaare tim-procès-verbaux). Annexes contain the text of agenda items (papers submitted to the organs for discussion), and supplements contain reports of subsidiary organs and resolutions. For more information on types of UN documents, see Section II.B on research guides.

1. UN Legal Documentation

An excellent overview of UN legal materials is contained in the *United Nations Documentation: Research Guide*, "International Law" chapter.⁴⁹

The chapter defines the principal UN bodies working in the area of international law; identifies the document series symbols attached to their working documents, as well as the major types of documents and publications they produce; and gives some basic tips for conducting topical searches in the Library's online database UNBISnet.⁵⁰

The principal legal bodies of the United Nations are the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, the International Law Commission (ILC), and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). See the *United Nations Documentation: Research Guide*, noted above, for an understanding of

⁴⁹ http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/specil.htm.

⁵⁰ See Maureen Ratynski Andersen, *Where to Begin*. . . *When You Don't Know How to Start: Tips for Researching UN Legal Materials*, 31 INT'L J. LEGAL INFO. 264 (2003).

the documents and publications issued by these principal legal bodies, and use UNBISnet to locate documents and publications.⁵¹

The UN Web site is a good tool for locating the full text of selected documents. See the UN Documentation Center⁵² for access to documents from the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and the Secretariat. However, not all UN documents are available from this site.

The UNBISnet database should be used to locate legal documents (more details below). For access to more documents, see ODS (Official Document System of the United Nations),⁵³ which covers all types of official UN documentation beginning in 1993, and it is updated daily. The system does not contain press releases, UN sales publications, or the UN Treaty Series. The most efficient way to locate documents through ODS is by using a UN document symbol. If you don't have a symbol, use UNBISnet to help you locate the correct symbol.

Most UN documents collections are arranged by the document symbol. The basic principle is that documents are identified by the issuing body and are composed of capital letters and numbers. The first letter(s) indicates the main body of the UN (A/ is the General Assembly, E/ is ECOSOC, etc.). Specific symbols after the first slash indicate the subbody within the main body (/CN is a commission, /WP is working party, etc.).

The classification system of the United Nations is explained (with lists of the abbreviations) in many of the research guides mentioned above. The *UNDOC: Current Index* lists new document symbols. See also the Document Symbols section of the UN Web site.⁵⁴

- ⁵³ http://documents.un.org/welcome.asp?language=E.
- ⁵⁴ http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/symbol.htm#symbols.

⁵¹ http://unbisnet.un.org.

⁵² http://www.un.org/documents/index.html.

A-55-1	General Assembly, 55th session, document no. 1
A/CONF.157/PC-63/Add.4	General Assembly, World Conference on Human Rights, Preparatory Committee, document no. 63, addendum no. 4
E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/38/Rev.2	Economic and Social Council, Commission on Human Rights, Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, year: 2003, document no. 38, revision no. 2

Examples of Document Symbols:

By the way, many UN documents can be retrieved in a simple Web search by entering the document symbol along with a couple of other keywords.

Example: You can retrieve the General Assembly resolution A/RES/53/243 or the CEDAW report CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/6 simply by entering those document symbols into Google. Other document symbols are not sufficiently unique; for example, if you are searching for Security Council Resolution S/RES/1216, that document will rank high in your search results only if you add "Security Council" to the symbol for your search: i.e., *S/RES/1216 security council*.

2. Document Indexes

Over the years, there have been many UN document indexes. A good overview of UN document indexes is available on the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library Web site.⁵⁵

If you are doing some historical research, you may need to consult some of the older UN document indexes. These include: United Nations Documents Index (UNDI) (1950-1962), United Nations Documents Index (UNDI) (1963-1973), UNDEX (1973-1978), and UNDOC: Current Index (1979-1996). The most current index is United Nations Documents Index (1998—). Issued quarterly, this index provides broad subject access to UN documents; UNBISnet is the online version.

AccessUN is an electronic index to UN documents including Official Records, masthead documents, draft resolutions, meeting records, UN Sales

⁵⁵ http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/itp.htm.

Publications, and the UN Treaty Series citations. It also includes the full text of several thousand UN documents. AccessUN covers 1944 to the present and is available by subscription only, but many academic libraries make this index available to users.⁵⁶

UNBISnet (UN Bibliographic Information System) is a valuable index of UN publications and publications held in the two main UN libraries, since 1979 (or earlier for selected documents).⁵⁷ Not only can you search for UN documents, but you can also search voting records, speeches, and publications held by these two libraries, including non-UN publications. Some records are linked to the full text of the document (usually in PDF from ODS). Use the UNBIS Thesaurus for assistance with subject searches.

Example: A research assistant was asked to locate the recent UN Convention on Corruption. She went to UNBISnet, and entered "corruption" as a subject heading. She took advantage of the options for minimizing irrelevant results by specifying that she wanted only UN documents, in English, and selecting "treaties, etc." as the "type of material." She retrieved four results, with the Convention included as part of the first and second documents.

3. Resolutions

Resolutions of the major organs of the United Nations are usually sought after by legal researchers. General Assembly resolutions are compiled in the last supplement of its official records. Between 1946 and 1975, resolutions were numbered consecutively; those adopted after 1975 include the session as the third component of the symbol.

Resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council are all on the Web back to the first year of the United Nations. Economic and Social Council resolutions currently only extend back to 1992. Some common sources for GA resolutions include:

• Resolutions and Decisions Adopted by the General Assembly . . . (1976—). This press release is sometimes available seven to eight months before the official record supplement.

⁵⁶ http://www.newsbank.com/govlib/accessUN.html.

⁵⁷ http://unbisnet.un.org.

- *Yearbook of the United Nations* (1946/47—). This is not a good source for current resolutions.
- AccessUN. This is a subscription database described in Section II.D.2.
- ODS. This is a freely available source described in Section II.D.1.
- UNBISnet.⁵⁸
- UN Documentation Center Web site.⁵⁹

The resolutions of the Security Council appear in an unnumbered supplement to its official records. Unlike GA resolutions, SC resolutions are numbered in one continuous sequence since 1946. These documents are available in the SC official records and all of the sources mentioned above. Resolutions are published in the first numbered supplement of the official records of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and of the Trusteeship Council. Some ECOSOC documents and resolutions are available on the UN Web site.⁶⁰ See also UNBISnet for access to Economic and Social Council resolutions from 1946 to present.

4. Treaties

Start by consulting the *United Nations Documentation: Research Guide on Treaties*. This guide outlines major UN publications related to treaty research.⁶¹

- United Nations Treaty Series (U.N.T.S.) (1946/1947—). U.N.T.S. contains both bilateral and multilateral treaties in the language of the original treaty, as well as English and French. The United Nations makes the full text of the published UN treaty series—as well as new, unpublished treaties—available on the Web by subscription through the United Nations Treaty Collection.⁶²
- *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary General* (1982—). This is a very useful tool for locating the citation to a treaty (often including cites to conference proceedings if the treaty is not yet available in U.N.T.S.). The participating parties with the dates of signature and ratification are also included. This source is also available through the

⁵⁸ http://unbisnet.un.org.

⁵⁹ http://www.un.org/documents/.

⁶⁰ http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/document.htm.

⁶¹ http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/spectreat.htm.

⁶² http://untreaty.un.org/English/access.asp.

United Nations Treaty Collection on the Web, where it is updated more frequently than the print version.

Collections of multilateral treaties are accessible through many UN and specialized agency Web sites—here is a sampling of what's available:

- FAO Conventions and Agreements (Food & Agriculture Organization).⁶³
- ILOLEX (International Labor Organization).⁶⁴
- IMO Conventions (International Maritime Organization).⁶⁵
- UNESCO Legal Instruments.⁶⁶
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.⁶⁷
- WIPO-Administered Treaties.⁶⁸

5. International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice (ICJ or World Court) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. The ICJ Statute⁶⁹ is an annex to the Charter of the United Nations. A guide to the history, composition, jurisdiction, procedure, and decisions of the Court is available on the ICJ Web site.⁷⁰ If you need more assistance with ICJ documents, see *Germain's International Court of Justice Research Guide*.⁷¹ To locate books about the ICJ, do a subject search using *International Court of Justice*.

There are many publications containing ICJ documents.

- Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders (1947-).
- *Pleadings, Oral Arguments, Documents* (1949—). This book contains motions, briefs, and oral arguments.

⁶⁵ http://www.imo.org/home.asp?topic_id=161.

⁶⁶ http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=12024&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC &URL_SECTION=201.html.

- ⁶⁷ http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/index.htm.
- ⁶⁸ http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en.
- ⁶⁹ http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/ibasicdocuments/ibasictext/ibasicstatute.htm.
- ⁷⁰ http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/igeneralinformation/ibbook/Bbookframepage.htm.
- ⁷¹ http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/lawlibrary/guides/icj/ICJ2.CMG.htm.

⁶³ http://www.fao.org/Legal/TREATIES/Treaty-e.htm.

⁶⁴ http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/index.htm.

• ICJ, *Yearbook* (1947—). This contains summaries of judgments, advisory opinions, and orders of the Court.

To see whether your library carries these publications, search by title, or enter *International Court of Justice* as an author search.

Several tools exist to help the researcher locate relevant decisions.

- Digest of the Decisions of the International Court of Justice (1978) (summaries of cases from 1959-1975).
- Digest of the Decisions of the International Court of Justice, 1976-1985 (1978).
- Répertoire de la Jurisprudence de la Cour Internationale de Justice (1947-1992) = Repertory of Decisions of the International Court of Justice (1947-1992) (2 vols., 1995)
- *World Court Digest* (1993—) (1986-2000). See the Max Planck Web site for an electronic version of the *World Court Digest*.⁷²

Full-text judgments are also available on the Web, including the ICJ official Web site, which has full text for most of its decisions and summaries of the rest.⁷³ See also Westlaw (full coverage of ICJ decisions in INT-ICJ) and LexisNexis (full coverage in Legal > Area of Law - By Topic > International Law > Cases). Some ICJ decisions are searchable on WorldLII's International Courts & Tribunals Project⁷⁴ and are also available on the Project on International Courts and Tribunals (PICT), along with basic documents and biographies of the judges.⁷⁵

For judgments and documents from the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ), conduct an author search on a library catalog using *Permanent Court of International Justice*. PCIJ decisions are also available on the ICJ Web site, on HeinOnline,⁷⁶ and on a site called worldcourts.com.⁷⁷

- ⁷⁵ http://www.pict-pcti.org/courts/ICJ.html.
- ⁷⁶ http://www.heinonline.org.
- ⁷⁷ http://www.worldcourts.com.

⁷² http://www.mpil.de/ww/en/pub/research/details/publications/institute/wcd.cfm.

⁷³ http://www.icj-cij.org.

⁷⁴ http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases.

6. Other Tribunals

Decisions and documents from other international courts under the authority of the United Nations include the sites listed below. See also the *United Nations Documentation: Research Guide on International Law* for guidance on researching these tribunals.⁷⁸

- International Criminal Court (ICC).79
- International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).⁸⁰
- International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).⁸¹
- International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).⁸²
- United Nations Administrative Tribunal (UNAT).⁸³

Westlaw offers databases of decisions from the Yugoslavia⁸⁴ and Rwanda⁸⁵ tribunals. Many libraries collect the print resources for these tribunals as well as books and materials about these bodies. Search library catalogs using the tribunal name as a keyword, an author, or a subject.

7. Journal Literature

Journal literature is a good way to locate information on the United Nations and international law issues, especially for current topics. See Chapter 4 for more information on researching journal articles. UNBISnet also indexes some non-UN publications, including journal articles. When searching for articles about UN subsidiary and specialized agencies, keep in mind that the terms "united nations" may not appear in the article or index entry.

Example: If you are searching for information about the World Intellectual Property Organization, use "WIPO" and the organization's full name as search terms.

- ⁸¹ http://69.94.11.53.
- ⁸² http://www.itlos.org.
- 83 http://untreaty.un.org/UNAT/main_page.htm.
- ⁸⁴ INT-ICTY database.
- 85 INT-ICTR database.

⁷⁸ http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/specil.htm#trib.

⁷⁹ http://www.icc-cpi.int.

⁸⁰ http://www.un.org/icty/index.html.

8. Current Awareness

You can monitor many different sources to learn about what's going on at the United Nations or to learn about new reports and documents.

- *UN Chronicle* is a good source for current information and also provides cites to important resolutions and documents. Selected articles are available on the Web.⁸⁶
- The UN News Center provides access to the Daily Journal, press releases, briefings, etc.⁸⁷
- Recent Additions on the UN Web site keeps you informed about new documents and information on the UN Web site, including new Web sites and Web casts.⁸⁸
- UN Pulse alerts you to selected UN online information, major reports, publications, and documents. Created and maintained by a team of reference librarians at the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library in New York, UN Pulse is updated as new information is published and received.⁸⁹

Other non-UN groups provide information about UN activities and monitor the work of the organization. *UN Wire* is an independent news briefing about the United Nations available by free subscription⁹⁰ and *UN Watch* monitors the performance of the United Nations with a focus on human rights.⁹¹

9. Other Web Sites

Listed below are some sites which are good starting points for locating other UN sites, documents, and related information. Many of the documents prepared before and after UN conferences are now available on the Web even before they are issued in paper.

- ⁸⁹ http://unhq-appspub-01.un.org/lib/dhlrefweblog.nsf.
- 90 http://www.unfoundation.org/unwire.
- ⁹¹ http://www.unwatch.org.

⁸⁶ http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle.

⁸⁷ http://www.un.org/News.

⁸⁸ http://www.un.org/NewLinks.

- Official UN Web sites includes specialized topical sites, such as International Law, Peace and Security, Economic and Social Development, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs.⁹²
- Official Web Site Locator for the United Nations System of Organizations provides alphabetical and thematic indexes of UN Web sites.⁹³
- World Map of UN Web sites.⁹⁴

Each specialized agency has its own Web site; link to these sites from the organization chart of the United Nations⁹⁵ or consult a directory of international governmental organizations.⁹⁶ You should consult these Web sites for history, membership, documents, treaties, reports, and other information prepared under the auspices of the specialized agency. For assistance with researching specialized agencies, see the guide prepared by the Stanford University Library, United Nations Specialized Agencies.⁹⁷

III. THE EUROPEAN UNION

A. Introduction

The European Union holds a unique place among IGOs because it is a supranational organization. Its member states have given up some of their sovereignty in return for the advantages of a common market. The relationship between a member state and the European Union creates a rough landscape for the legal researcher. You must identify relevant EU law in addition to national laws, and you must understand the relationship between the two kinds of law. Moreover, EU documentation is voluminous; it takes practice to sort out the key documents.

The EU evolved from the 1951 founding of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), which led the way for the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) and the European Economic Community (EEC), formed in 1957. These three separate institutions merged in 1967. The term

⁹² http://www.un.org.

⁹³ http://www.unsystem.org.

⁹⁴ http://www.un.org/aroundworld/map.

⁹⁵ http://www.un.org/aboutun/chart.html.

⁹⁶ http://www.library.northwestern.edu/govinfo/resource/internat/igo.html.

⁹⁷ http://library.stanford.edu/depts/jonsson/collections/intl/spec.html.

"European Union" (EU) appeared in 1992, with the Treaty of Maastricht. The Treaty of Maastricht also removed the term "Economic" from "European Economic Community," which is why you may see materials referring to the EC. Don't worry much about the terminology, but keep it in mind if you are searching library catalogs or other databases for older materials.

B. Sources of EU Law

The primary source of EU law is the set of treaties that establish the European Union and its powers. The treaties provide authority for secondary EU law and take precedence over the law of member states. Written in fairly broad language, the treaties have been fleshed out by EU regulations, directives, and decisions—these instruments comprise the EU's secondary legislation. Treaties and secondary legislation are roughly analogous to US federal laws and regulations.

1. Treaties (Primary Legislation)

The European Union began with a fairly limited treaty in 1951. Later treaties expanded its powers. The main "founding" treaties you should know are the following:

- Treaty Establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, April 18, 1951 (also called the ECSC Treaty or Treaty of Paris). This treaty expired in 2002; its main importance is that it was the first of the EU treaties.
- Treaty Establishing the European Economic Community, March 25, 1957 (also called the Rome Treaty).
- Treaty Establishing a Single Council and a Single Commission of the European Communities, April 8, 1965 (also called the Merger Treaty).
- Single European Act, February 17, 1986.
- Treaty on European Union, February 7, 1992 (also called the Maastricht Treaty or TEU).
- Treaty of Amsterdam Amending the Treaty on European Union, the Treaties Establishing the European Communities and Certain Related Acts, October 2, 1997 (also called the Treaty of Amsterdam).
- Treaty of Nice Amending the Treaty on European Union, the Treaties Establishing the European Communities and Certain Related Acts, 2001 (also called the Treaty of Nice).

These treaties are easily found by searching their names on the Internet, but most of the time you will want to work with a consolidated version.⁹⁸ A Web search such as *consolidated treaty european union* quickly retrieves the text. For a useful summary of the main goals of each treaty, see Marylin Raisch, *European Union Law: An Integrated Guide to Electronic and Print Research.*⁹⁹

The Treaty of Amsterdam renumbered the articles from the earlier treaties; thus, if you're reading EU documents or commentary from before 1998, those sources may refer to different article numbers from the current ones. Some post-Amsterdam sources include both article numbers—in the format, for example, Article 81 (ex Art. 85). Article 85 is the old treaty article on Restraint of Competition; Article 81 is the new number. If you need a conversion chart, search on the Web for "Table of Equivalences Referred to in Article 12 of the Treaty of Amsterdam," or consult the *Official Journal*, at 1997 O.J. (C 340) 85.

Other types of EU treaties include "accession treaties," marking the addition of a new country to the EU;¹⁰⁰ and treaties made between the EU and other entities, such as other countries or intergovernmental organizations.¹⁰¹

2. Regulations (Secondary Legislation)

European Union "regulations" resemble federal statutes or regulations. They apply to all member states. An example of a regulation is Commission Regulation No. 1577/2006, establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of certain fruit and vegetables, 2006 O.J. (L 291) 1 (EC).

3. Directives (Secondary Legislation)

"Directives" also apply to all member states, but they allow states to devise their own means of complying with the policy goals prescribed in the directives. Usually, the European Union acts through directives, rather than regulations, leaving member states more flexibility regarding implementation. An example

⁹⁸ The founding treaties and consolidated versions are available at http://europa.eu.int/ eur-lex/lex/en/treaties_founding.htm.

⁹⁹ http://www.llrx.com/features/eulaw2.htm (updated Sept. 17, 2006).

¹⁰⁰ Some accession treaties are available at http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/en/treaties/ treaties_accession.htm.

¹⁰¹ Other treaties and protocols are available at http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/en/ treaties/treaties_other.htm.

of a directive is Council Directive 2001/29 on the Harmonisation of Certain Aspects of Copyright and Related Rights in the Information Society, 2001 O.J. (L 167) 10 (EC).

Directives contain time limits giving member states a certain amount of time to comply, whether by enacting legislation, regulations, or even constitutional amendments. It is not unusual, however, for member states to fail to meet these deadlines.

4. Decisions (Secondary Legislation)

"Decisions" have narrower scope than regulations and directives. They bind only the parties to which they are addressed. A decision may be addressed to one member state or to a corporation. More often, decisions simply address some internal EU procedure. An example is Council Decision appointing members of the Committee provided for in Article 3(3) of Annex I to the Protocol on the Statute of the Court of Justice, 2005 O.J. (L 50) 9 (EC).

C. EU Law-Making Institutions

Three main bodies play key roles in the EU legislative process; they are described briefly below.

1. European Commission¹⁰²

The European Commission drafts legislative proposals. In some respects, the Commission acts like the Executive Branch of the US government: it administers and implements the law, and it negotiates treaties. The Commission is organized into Directorates-Generale (DGs), which have responsibility in various areas of the law (e.g., competition, taxation and customs, fisheries). The DGs draft legislation and administer the law in their portfolio areas.

2. European Parliament¹⁰³

After a weak start, the Parliament has played an increasingly important role in the legislative process. Parliament now adopts most legislation in "codecision" with the Council of Ministers.¹⁰⁴ While the Parliament cannot initiate

¹⁰⁴ For a brief explanation of the three procedures used for EU lawmaking, see RALPH H. FOLSOM, EUROPEAN UNION LAW IN A NUTSHELL 43-45, 81-84 (2005).

¹⁰² http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm.

¹⁰³ http://www.europarl.europa.eu.

legislation, it can amend or veto it in most policy areas: in some areas—agricultural and commercial policy—it must be consulted, but still cannot amend or veto legislation.

3. Council of Ministers (Council of the European Union)¹⁰⁵

The Council of Ministers has final legislative authority. It can amend legislative proposals from the Commission, but only by unanimous vote.

It is composed of government ministers from member countries. The composition of the Council, however, varies depending on the subject matter that the Council is addressing. For example, member states' finance ministers meet together as the Council to consider matters of economy and finance. This consideration includes voting on proposed legislation.

D. European Court of Justice¹⁰⁶

The European Court of Justice plays an informal but important law-making role, filling in gaps in the EU's treaties and legislation. The Court has created an EU "common law" consisting of general principles of law, such a duty to respect fundamental human rights or a right to contractual certainty.

Decisions of the European Union's courts—the European Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance—lack precedential value. The courts' verdicts bind only the parties to whom they're addressed. Previous court decisions may be used as *persuasive* authority.

One important aspect of the Court of Justice's jurisprudence, however, is its ruling that EU law has primacy over member states' laws.¹⁰⁷ This doctrine has enabled the Court of Justice to invalidate numerous national laws.

E. Research Strategies and Information Sources

This section will address some common research scenarios in EU law.

¹⁰⁵ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_fo/showPage.ASP?lang=en.

¹⁰⁶ http://curia.europa.eu/en/index.htm.

¹⁰⁷ Case 6/64, Costa v. ENEL, 1964 E.C.R. 1251.

1. Finding a Known EU Document

a. Legislation

If you have a citation to the *Official Journal*, your task will be fairly easy. EU legislation is published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, usually referred to as "O.J." This journal is divided into the "L" series and the "C" series (including CE and CA). Final legislative acts and treaties appear in the "L" series. The "C" series contains preparatory acts, information, and notices. The O.J. is available on the Web from 1998,¹⁰⁸ and on both LexisNexis and Westlaw back to 1952 for the "L" series.

Official Journal:	1993 O.J. L 95/29	1993 = Year L95 = Issue in L Series 29 = page # in Issue L95
Regulations:	(EC) 2913/92	EC = Community initials 2913 = number of regulation numbered consecutively 92 = year
Other legal acts:	93/13 (EC)	93 = year 13 = number of decision or directive EC = Community initials

Official Journal Citations

The O.J. Web site has drop-down boxes into which you can put the year, series, and issue number. Clicking "Search" will take you into the table of contents for that issue.

b. Cases

Finding an EU case with a known citation—for example, 2004 E.C.R. I-5039—is also fairly straightforward; you can use the "Find" function on Westlaw. LexisNexis's "Get a Document" feature does not work with citations to the European Court Reports, but you can search the "CITES" segment in Legal > Global Legal > European Union > Case Law > EUR-Lex European Union Cases.

¹⁰⁸ http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/JOIndex.do?ihmlang=en.

You can also find cases on the Web site of the European Court of Justice, Curia.¹⁰⁹ Select "Numerical Index to Case Law," select the appropriate date range, and use your web browser's "Find" function with the E.C.R. page number of the case—for example, I-5039.

The official case reports for the ECJ and the Court of First Instance are the *Reports of Cases before the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance*. These reports are also called the *European Court Reports*, and are abbreviated as E.C.R. (e.g., 2004 E.C.R. I-5039). Unofficial paper reporters, which are more current, include the *European Community Cases*, part of the *European Union Law Reporter* and the *Common Market Law Reports*, which has selected cases (this publication is also on Westlaw as CML-RPTS).

c. Finding Relevant Law

One easy way to identify relevant EU law is to use the subject approach of the SCADPLUS Web site.¹¹⁰ Under "Summaries of the Union's Legislation," this site has a hierarchical organization starting with broad subject categories (e.g., Consumers, Environment, or Energy). You can click on increasingly specific subjects; at the lower levels, SCADPLUS lists relevant EU legislation. For example, to find EU regulations on the labeling of "organic" food, start with Consumers. One subcategory is "Product Labeling and Packaging," which includes the even more specific category "Organically grown agricultural products and foodstuffs." Clicking on this category retrieves a Web page that identifies, summarizes, and links to the governing EU regulation. The page also identifies related legislation and provides links to those documents.

Using secondary sources is another good way to find relevant legislation. In addition to treatises, Web sites, and journal articles, many researchers use the Sweet & Maxwell, *European Union Law Reporter* (2000—). This publication summarizes and identifies governing EU law in major subject areas.

Current EU law is available on the free EU Web site Europa,¹¹¹ but it can be confusing to navigate this huge site. One resource for current legislation is the Directory of Community legislation¹¹²—an outline of all EU law. You can

¹⁰⁹ http://curia.europa.eu.

¹¹⁰ http://europa.eu/scadplus/scad_en.htm.

¹¹¹ http://europa.eu/index_en.htm.

¹¹² http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/en/repert/index.htm.

navigate from broad to narrow subject headings, eventually reaching the text of actual instruments. For many researchers, however, it is hard to tell where a topic falls within the broad groups: for example, intellectual property legislation falls under the heading "Law relating to undertakings."

Another useful tool for locating EU law by topic is the A-Z Index of the European Commission. This convenient index leads you to the pages on the Europa Web site that provide information about a topic as well as the relevant legislation.¹¹³ You can also use the Directorates-General Web sites, which are roughly equivalent to US federal agency sites. To find the relevant Directorate-General for your topic of interest, see the Directorates-General and Services page, which offers an alphabetical list of topics, linked to the appropriate site.¹¹⁴

2. Tracking a Legislative Proposal

Most EU legislation is adopted through a procedure called "codecision." The codecision process gives a role both to the Parliament and to the Council. The European Union has created a Web site, called PreLex, to help researchers track proposals through this process.¹¹⁵ PreLex allows researchers to search by keyword. The results screen has a section called "Events" that shows the status of a proposal.

For example, perhaps you are told that the EU has considered changing the requirements for limited liability companies set out in Council Directive 77/91/EEC. You can search this directive as a keyword in PreLex.

The search retrieves a "Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 77/91/EEC, as regards the formation of public limited liability companies and the maintenance and alteration of their capital." The proposal, "COM" document COM (2004) 730, is linked to the summary page.

The PreLex summary page, under "Events," also indicates that the proposal gained approval of the Council and the Parliament. The summary page provides a link to the final Directive as published in the *Official Journal*.

Because PreLex offers links to related documents through every step of the EU legislative process, PreLex can also be used to find the "legislative history"

¹¹³ http://ec.europa.eu/atoz_en.htm.

¹¹⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/dgs_en.htm.

¹¹⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/prelex/apcnet.cfm?CL=en.

of EU instruments. COM documents contain proposed legislation, along with an explanatory memorandum. They are analogous to the congressional committee reports used for US federal legislative histories. Coverage begins in 1975. Note, however, that the full text of relevant documents dated before 1998 is not available online. For earlier documents, PreLex provides the citations, but you will have to find the actual documents in paper.

3. Finding National Implementing Laws

Because most EU law appears in the form of a directive, which requires member states to enact legislation that complies with the directive, you must often find whether a country has enacted such legislation. For example, to understand the copyright law of France, you must not only find the EU directives on copyright, but you must find France's laws that implement the directives. This part of the research process can be difficult.

One database that can help is LexisNexis's National Provisions Implementing Directives database.¹¹⁶ While this database is neither comprehensive nor up-to-date, it does note some national legislation for directives. For example, searching on the European copyright directive 2001/29 & harmonisation & copyright in this database retrieves citations to the laws of several member countries.

Westlaw also lists the "national measures" by member states at the end of directives, usually in the language of the country (see International/Worldwide Materials > European Union).

The EUR-Lex database also provides similar information to that provided by LexisNexis and Westlaw. None of these databases provide links to the relevant information, but you will be able to identify the name of the law, the number, the source, and the date. With this information you can use the sources outlined in the chapter on researching foreign law (see Chapter 7) to locate the text of the needed legislation.

Other strategies include searching secondary sources, including EU news sources (see below) and national news sources from the country of interest. You can also search in national legislation databases, using the number or title of the directive. Not all countries, however, refer to the title or number of the directive in their implementing legislation.

¹¹⁶ Legal > Legal (excluding U.S.) > European Union > Legislation & Regulations > CELEX EU Law Database: National Provisions Implementing Directives.

If these methods fail, attack the problem like an ordinary problem of finding foreign law (see Chapter 7).

Remember, in searching for national legislation, do not assume that countries will abide by deadlines in the directives. Often, member states fail to enact legislation by the deadline prescribed in a directive. In such cases, the Commission sometimes sues the noncompliant member state in the European Court of Justice.

4. Finding EU Court Decisions by Topic

The European Union makes decisions of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) and the Court of First Instance back to 1997 available online, at the Curia section¹¹⁷ of the Europa site. Most law students prefer to use LexisNexis¹¹⁸ or Westlaw¹¹⁹ to search these decisions because the decisions are easier to search using keywords. Both databases include decisions back to 1954 (the inception of the ECJ).

The *European Union Law Reporter* (2000—) refers to important EU cases, though it is not a comprehensive digest. On the Curia Web site, you will find a digest, but it is available only in French.¹²⁰

One important piece of EU case research that US law students should be aware of is the "Advocate-General opinion." The ECJ relies in part on a lawyer called the Advocate-General, who reads the parties' submissions and writes a recommendation (opinion) for the justices. These opinions are published along with the Court's opinion in the Court's official reports, the *Reports of Cases before the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance* (1990—), but they are not included in LexisNexis's and Westlaw's databases of EU cases. Often, the Advocate-General's opinion is more detailed than the ECJ opinion. EUR-Lex allows you to search only the Advocate-General opinions; choose "case-law" from the Simple Search menu, and you will get a screen offering restrictions such as Advocate General Opinions, Court of First Instance decisions, etc.

¹¹⁷ http://curia.europa.eu.

¹¹⁸ LexisNexis (Legal (excluding U.S.) > European Union > Case Law).

¹¹⁹ EU-CS.

¹²⁰ http://curia.europa.eu/common/recdoc/repertoire_jurisp/bull_home/index.htm.

To find a case by name in either Westlaw or LexisNexis, the most efficient approach is to use a "field" or "segment" search. Using the drop-down menu, select the "title" field on Westlaw or the "name" segment on LexisNexis: for example, on Westlaw, title(microsoft); on LexisNexis, name(microsoft).

F. Other Useful EU Research Sources

- Delegation of the European Commission to the United States.¹²¹ This Web site includes the *European Union—A Guide for Americans*, which provides an overview of the European Union, including its history and institutions.
- Encyclopedia of European Union Law (Neville March Hunnings ed., 1996—).
- Ralph H. Folsom, European Union Law in a Nutshell (2005).
- Ralph H. Folsom, Principles of European Union Law (2005).
- K.P.E. Lasok & D. Lasok, *Law and Institutions of the European Union* (7th ed. 2001).
- Smit & Herzog on the Law of the European Union (2d ed. 2005—).

Publications on the European Union have exploded in the last five years. To locate additional materials in your library, use subject headings:

Law—European Union countries European Union—Law and legislation

G. Guides to EU Research

One of the most useful and thorough guides is New York University Law Library, *European Union Research*.¹²² This guide gives detailed advice on many aspects of EU research, including how to find older materials and EU statistics. Many law students also like Duncan Alford, *European Union Legal Materials: An Infrequent User's Guide*.¹²³ This guide provides key background information for researchers who have not worked with EU documents or who have done so only rarely.

¹²¹ http://www.eurunion.org.

¹²² http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/euguide.html.

¹²³ http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/European_Union.htm.

IV. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

This section discusses a few other intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), describes their documentation, and suggests tools and strategies for research on them.

A. Introduction

The Council of Europe (COE) calls itself "Europe's oldest political organization."¹²⁴ With more members than the European Union, its goals are narrower. One of its key goals is to promote human rights in Europe. This goal led the COE to recognize human rights in various treaties and to create a mechanism to enforce them. The European Court of Human Rights is the most important part of this mechanism. From 1954-1998, the European Commission on Human Rights formed another part, but the COE abolished the Commission in 1998.

The key bodies of the COE include the Council of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly, and European Court of Human Rights. The Committee of Ministers, comprising the Foreign Affairs Ministers of all the member states, is the Council of Europe's decision-making body. The Parliamentary Assembly provides a forum for debate and discussion on the COE's values and programs. Each of these three bodies has its own section on the COE Web site.¹²⁵ A fourth body, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, promotes parliamentary democracy; it also has its own section on the Web site. Like many intergovernmental organizations, the COE also has a secretariat to run its day-to-day operations.

Researchers may sometimes confuse COE bodies with those of the European Union; the names of these bodies are similar. In a useful research guide to the Council of Europe, Anne Burnett provides a convenient table to help differentiate the organs.¹²⁶ For more information on researching the Council of Europe's human rights system, see Chapter 9, Section II.

¹²⁴ http://www.coe.int/T/e/Com/about_coe.

¹²⁵ http://www.coe.int/DefaultEN.asp.

¹²⁶ Anne Burnett, Guide to Researching the Council of Europe (2000), http:// www.llrx.com/features/coe.htm.

Unlike most IGOs, the Council of Europe provides older documents on its Web site. Researchers can find documents back to the creation of the Council of Europe in 1949.

B. Committee of Ministers and Its Documentation

The Committee of Ministers issues several types of documents, including declarations, recommendations, resolutions, and decisions. It also produces various working and informational documents. The most important of the Committee of Ministers' documents are referred to as its "adopted texts." Adopted texts and other documents are available from the Committee of Ministers' section of the COE Web site.¹²⁷

Declarations have no binding force and are used simply to express the opinion of the Committee of Ministers to the world at large. For example, in 2005, the Committee of Ministers adopted a Declaration on Freedom of Expression and Information in the Media in the Context of the Fight against Terrorism. Like many other IGOs, the COE assigns a document symbol: this declaration is Decl-02.03.2005E (2005). As with other document symbols, the cryptic abbreviations and numbers can be translated into useful information. In this case, "Decl." stands for declaration, and the numeric portion represents the date on which the declaration was adopted.

Recommendations, like declarations, have no binding force. They are directed to member states and provide general guidance on issues. A recent example is the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on Research on Biological Materials of Human Origin, Rec(2006)4E / 15 March 2006.

Resolutions may address various subjects. Some address internal administrative matters such as finances. Another common type of resolution involves the Committee of Ministers' responsibility to ensure that European Court of Human Rights judgments are enforced and to pressure member countries to protect human rights. Resolutions of this type are searchable within the HUDOC database.¹²⁸ All other resolutions can be searched at the Committee of Ministers' site by keyword, date, and broad subject matter (e.g., social security, national minorities).¹²⁹

¹²⁷ http://www.coe.int/t/cm/adoptedTexts_en.asp#TopOfPage.

¹²⁸ http://cmiskp.echr.coe.int.

¹²⁹ http://www.coe.int/t/cm/adoptedTexts en.asp.

"Decisions" are Committee of Ministers documents by which other kinds of documents are adopted. Decisions are binding on all entities subject to the Committee of Ministers' authority. Thus, for example, when the Council of Ministers concludes a treaty, agrees on a budget, or makes a recommendation, the underlying item is adopted as a decision.

The Committee of Ministers has spearheaded the drafting and adoption of over 200 treaties on subjects ranging from torture to data protection.¹³⁰ The core human rights treaty in the COE system is the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms; it also includes several protocols. The most convenient way to access COE treaties is through the dedicated section of its Web site;¹³¹ this section provides the full text; status information, including reservations, declarations, and understandings; signing and effective dates; and other useful information. COE treaties are also published in the European Treaty Series (1949—).¹³²

C. Parliamentary Assembly and Its Documentation

The Assembly can adopt three different types of texts: recommendations, resolutions, and opinions. Like the Council of Ministers, it also generates other documents, such as working documents and verbatim records of its debates. Again, the "adopted texts" are the most important ones, and you can find them on the Parliamentary Assembly site back to 1949.¹³³ Recommendations contain proposals addressed to the Committee of Ministers. Resolutions express the views of the Assembly on various questions. Opinions are, for the most part, responses by the Assembly to specific questions posed to it by the Committee of Ministers, on topics such as the admission of new member states to the COE.

D. European Court of Human Rights and Its Documentation

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), created in 1959, has created an extensive body of decisions. While the ECHR does not follow the rule of *stare decisis* (i.e., its past decisions do not bind its future ones)—this body of decisions has nonetheless become an important source of persuasive human rights jurisprudence. Its decisions, and those of the now-defunct European

¹³⁰ http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/ListeTraites.asp?CM=8&CL=ENG.

¹³¹ Id.

¹³² Cited as ETS (1949—).

¹³³ http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/Doc/ATListing_E.asp.

Commission of Human Rights, are available online in the searchable database HUDOC. $^{\rm 134}$

Westlaw and LexisNexis have less complete coverage. Decisions of the ECHR from 1979 and selected decisions of the Commission are available on Westlaw.¹³⁵ LexisNexis offers ECHR decisions from 1960.¹³⁶

ECHR decisions from 1996 are published in *Reports of Judgments and Decisions* (1996—). (Until 1995, the ECHR decisions were published in *Publications of the European Court of Human Rights*, Series A.) Other paper reports of European human rights jurisprudence include:

- European Commission of Human Rights, Decisions and Reports (1975-1998) (cited as D & R).
- *European Human Rights Reports* (1979—) (also available on LexisNexis and Westlaw).
- Human Rights Case Digest (1990—) (also available on HeinOnline,¹³⁷ Ingenta,¹³⁸ and SpringerLink.¹³⁹
- Council of Europe, *Yearbook of the European Convention on Human Rights* (1960—).

The COE also publishes books, pamphlets, reports, and other documents on topics such as human rights, law, health, society, and the environment. A full catalog of its publications for the last ten years is available on its Web site.¹⁴⁰ You can also search library catalogs for publications that have the Council of Europe as their author or publisher.

E. Venice Commission

The Venice Commission, formally known as the European Commission for Democracy through Law, is the Council of Europe's advisory body on constitutional matters. It offers assistance to emerging or reforming states that

- ¹³⁶ International Law > Cases > Human Rights Cases.
- ¹³⁷ http://heinonline.org.
- 138 http://www.ingentaconnect.com.
- ¹³⁹ http://www.springerlink.de.
- ¹⁴⁰ http://book.coe.int/EN (look for a link to "Publications").

¹³⁴ http://cmiskp.echr.coe.int.

¹³⁵ EHR-RPTS database.

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have constitutional drafting problems. The Venice Commission has emerged as a "think tank" on constitutional issues, and has published numerous studies and reports on constitutional law and fundamental rights. One important research tool offered by the Venice Commission is its CODICES database.¹⁴¹ This database contains laws and summaries of court decisions relating to constitutional rights within COE member countries. CODICES has a search engine that permits searching by country, date, index term, and other features.

F. Additional Research Strategies

To find out whether the COE has been concerned with a particular issue, such as human trafficking, check the COE site's extensive A-Z index.¹⁴²

Alternatively, you can use the site's search engine. The search engine provides the option of searching several categories of information; for example, you can search the treaties, or all documents from the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, an organization similar to the UN Committee against Torture. You may also want to consult the COE's annual reports on its own activities, called variously "Activities of the Council of Europe . . . report" or "Council of Europe . . . activity report."

To find outside evaluations of the COE's work, search library catalogs using *Council of Europe* as a subject. Depending on your area of interest, you may want to add keywords, such as *minorities* or *constitutions*.

V. AFRICAN UNION

A. Introduction

The African Union (AU) was launched in 1999 as a successor to the Organization for African Unity (OAU). Dissatisfaction with the OAU, including its perceived lack of democracy and its protection of despotic rulers, sparked the creation of the new organization. In a series of summit conferences beginning in 1999, representatives of member states created the framework for the African Union, launching it in 2002. The African Union promotes the socio-economic

¹⁴¹ http://www.venice.coe.int/site/main/CODICES_E.asp. Some materials in the COD-ICES database are also published in paper as the BULLETIN ON CONSTITUTIONAL CASE-LAW.

¹⁴² http://www.coe.int/T/E/GENERAL/portailEN_indexA-Z.asp.

integration of African states and peoples. In contrast to IGOs such as the Council of Europe, the African Union is a new organization, underfunded and not yet fully developed. Therefore, you will find it much harder to research. The AU's Web site¹⁴³ contains documents pertaining to both the African Union and to its predecessor, the OAU, but the site is sometimes unavailable.

As of 2007, 53 African countries make up the African Union; on the African continent, this excludes only Mauritania and Morocco.

B. Organization

The main organs of the African Union include the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the Executive Council, and the Commission. The African Union has many other organs, including the Permanent Representatives' Committee, the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the Pan-African Parliament, the Economic, Social and Cultural Council, Specialized Technical Committees, and Court of Justice, though not all of these organs are fully operational yet.

The Commission has control over the day-to-day operations of the African Union, but the Assembly is the supreme organ of the African Union. The Executive Council is responsible to the Assembly and is supposed to present the work of the Permanent Representatives' Committee to it.

The Pan-African Parliament, composed of legislators from member states, began operations in 2004. Currently, this parliament has consultative powers only, though eventually it is supposed to have full legislative capacity.

As of early 2007, the Court of Justice has not yet begun operations.

C. Research

The African Union does not publish official documentation of activities at its sessions. Nor does it publish its official documents such as treaties and decisions in any systematic way. Thus, the best way to find official AU documents is on the organization's Web site. The AU site also includes some documents from the OAU. Documents from its 2002 summit are also available at a separate Web site¹⁴⁴ maintained by the South African government. The African Union also has a separate Web site called African Union Net,¹⁴⁵ but

¹⁴³ http://www.africa-union.org.

¹⁴⁴ http://www.au2002.gov.za.

¹⁴⁵ http://www.africanunion.net.

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most of the links at this site direct the researcher back to the official AU site. Neither Westlaw nor LexisNexis offers databases of AU or OAU documents.

Most of the key AU materials on its Web site are found under the "Documents" link. These include treaties (with ratification information), decisions and declarations, and a few reports. As with many organizations that conduct business in more than one language, the different language versions of the site do not contain the same information. For example, in early 2007, on the English side, press releases end in 2004. On the French side, press releases from late 2006 are available.

You will probably need to rely on information sources beyond the African Union's own site. To find news stories about the African Union, you can use Westlaw and LexisNexis; each service offers databases of African newspapers and articles relating to Africa.¹⁴⁶ Your library may also provide access to useful indexes to literature on the African Union, such as the International Index to Black Periodicals (which includes some full-text articles), South African Studies, the World News Connection,¹⁴⁷ and PAIS International.¹⁴⁸ If you don't have access to these subscription databases, you may want to try allAfrica.¹⁴⁹

In library catalogs, use *African Union* as a subject heading to find materials about the organization. You can also search the subject *African Union* in the Index to Legal Periodicals¹⁵⁰ and LegalTrac.¹⁵¹

¹⁵¹ http://www.gale.com.

¹⁴⁶ In Westlaw, choose the AFRNEWS database. In LexisNexis, use News & Business > Country & Region (excluding U.S.) > Middle East & Africa > News > Global News Wire - Middle East & Africa Stories, or use News & Business > Country & Region (excluding U.S.) > Middle East & Africa > News > Middle East/Africa News Information Sources.

¹⁴⁷ http://wnc.fedworld.gov.

¹⁴⁸ http://www.csa.com/factsheets/pais-set-c.php.

¹⁴⁹ http://allafrica.com.

¹⁵⁰ http://lib.law.washington.edu/cilp/cilp.html.

VI. ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

A. Introduction

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is the world's largest regional security organization, with decisions 56 member states. Founded as the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in 1975, it began as a tool to reduce Cold War tensions. Meetings between member states led to the "Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe," also known as the Helsinki Final Act, or Helsinki Accords. This document articulated several principles such as respect for human rights, peaceful dispute resolution, and rights to self-determination. Some organizations used the document as the baseline for monitoring Soviet and Eastern bloc countries' adherence to human rights norms. After the end of the Cold War, the CSCE refocused its efforts on promoting good governance and democratization in Europe, particularly in Eastern Europe. In 1995, its name changed to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Its membership includes Canada and the United States. The OSCE also includes some states with the status of "Partners for Cooperation"—these include Asian and Middle Eastern states.

B. Organization

Negotiating and decision-making bodies include the Summit and Ministerial Council, the Permanent Council, the Forum for Security Cooperation, and the Economic Forum. The day-to-day governance is handled by the Secretariat. The Parliamentary Assembly has the power to issue resolutions, but they are nonbinding.

The OSCE holds periodic "summits" during which members set long-range priorities. Between summits, the Ministerial Council, which meets once a year, officially holds decision-making power. The Permanent Council, however, is the main regular decision-making body of the Organization. It meets weekly at the OSCE's Vienna headquarters to confer and to take action. The Forum for Security Cooperation also meets weekly to discuss and make decisions regarding military aspects of security in the OSCE area. The Economic Forum meets only yearly and focuses on post-Soviet transitions to market economies.

C. Research

1. OSCE Web Site

Like the Council of Europe, the OSCE has a highly developed Web site,¹⁵² with extensive documentation available even back to the 1975 founding of the organization. The Documents Library¹⁵³ section of the site (listed under "Resources") organizes documents primarily by issuing body; for example, the Permanent Council's documents comprise a separate category. Clicking on the name of a body, such as the Permanent Council, leads to a separate search page. This page offers a "Browse for Documents" box with preset topics (antitrafficking, arms control), date ranges, and a choice of document types. Thus, you can search fairly easily for known documents. Full-text keyword searching, however, is not possible from the site. So, for example, if you are trying to pinpoint references to a particular problem, such as human trafficking in Albania, you must sift through all the antitrafficking documents. (Or you can use the Advanced Search; see below.)

Most of the OSCE organs issue "decisions." These decisions usually deal with minor procedural matters, but some of them express OSCE policy and could be used to evidence customary international law. For example, Permanent Council Decision No. 683, Countering the Threat of Radioactive Sources (2005), urges member states to take certain steps with regard to controlling import and export of radioactive sources. This decision has the document symbol PC.DEC/683. Like other IGO documents, this one indicates the body issuing the document (PC for Permanent Council), indicates the document type (DEC for Decision), and provides a number for a unique citation (this is the Permanent Council's 683rd decision). Periodically, the OSCE publishes an Index of Permanent Council Decisions as a PDF document. With this index, and by using a combination of the OSCE-assigned topics and keyword-finding enabled in PDF documents, you can identify all the relevant decisions on a particular topic.

Unfortunately, the index is not easy to find. Use the site's Advanced Search feature to look for documents containing the exact phrase *Index of Permanent Council Decisions*. Select sorting by date (descending order) because you will retrieve several versions, and you will presumably want the most recent one. The OSCE publishes its decisions in a print series called (not surprisingly)

¹⁵² http://www.osce.org.

¹⁵³ http://www.osce.org/documents.

OSCE Decisions (1995—), though not many US libraries subscribe to this title.

Some of the OSCE organs also issue journal documents, which are procedural documents regarding the agenda for, and outcomes of, organizations' meetings. These journal documents often reference underlying documents of more importance, such as reports and decisions. They are useful for tracking OSCE activities. The site's Advanced Search provides several useful options for finding documents.

2. Beyond the Web Site

As with other IGOs, you can find the OSCE's publications by using its name as an author or publisher search in your library catalog. To find materials *about* the OSCE, use its name as a Library of Congress subject heading. The Index to Legal Periodicals¹⁵⁴ and LegalTrac¹⁵⁵ also recognize *Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe* as a subject or index heading. You can combine this subject heading with keywords to retrieve materials on your area of interest.

Some large libraries subscribe to the OSCE Yearbook, *Yearbook on the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe* (1996—), which is an excellent resource for tracking the OSCE's activities.

A few NGOs monitor the OSCE itself. Perhaps the best known of these NGOs is the Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC).¹⁵⁶ In addition to publishing the quarterly journal *Helsinki Monitor*,¹⁵⁷ which reports on the OSCE and its activities, the NHC engages in research and monitoring projects related to human rights in the OSCE area. A few years' worth of *Helsinki Monitor* issues are freely available at the NHC's Web site, but most are available only by subscription.

Another useful Web site, which is published and maintained by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, is called Legislation-

¹⁵⁴ http://lib.law.washington.edu/cilp/cilp.html.

¹⁵⁵ http://www.gale.com.

¹⁵⁶ http://www.nhc.nl/index.php.

¹⁵⁷ (Brill Academic Publishers, 1991—) (issues from before 2004 published by other publishers).

line.¹⁵⁸ You can access domestic legislation and international standards on human rights and related issues at this site.

VII. ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

A. Introduction

The Organization of American States (OAS) was founded in 1948 with the adoption of its charter.¹⁵⁹ The OAS now includes all 35 independent countries of the Americas, although Cuba's participation has been suspended since 1962. The OAS cooperates on democratic values, defends common interests, and confronts problems such as poverty, terrorism, illegal drugs, and corruption. There is also a related process, called the Summit of the Americas process, that brings together heads of countries in the Americas to set goals and discuss common issues.¹⁶⁰ While the Summit process began as an alternative forum to the OAS, the OAS now takes a lead role in organizing these periodic forums.

B. Organization

The OAS General Assembly, which comprises member countries' ministers of foreign affairs, meets annually to set major policies and goals. The Permanent Council, which is made up of ambassadors from each member state, provides ongoing guidance. As with many IGOs, the organization's secretariat carries out the day-to-day functions.

Two important human rights bodies, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, apply Inter-American law on human rights. These two bodies report directly to the Secretary-General of the OAS.

C. Research

As usual when researching an IGO, you can search your library catalog using the name of the organization as a keyword, author, or subject search. Some recent works on the OAS include:

¹⁵⁸ http://www.legislationline.org.

¹⁵⁹ http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/charter.html.

¹⁶⁰ http://www.summit-americas.org.

- Andrew Fenton Cooper & Thomas F. Legler, Intervention without Intervening?: The OAS Defense and Promotion of Democracy in the Americas (2006).
- Klaas Dykmann, *Philanthropic Endeavors or the Exploitation of an Ideal?: The Human Rights Policy of the Organization of American States in Latin America* (1970-1991) (2004).
- Carolyn M. Shaw, Cooperation, Conflict, and Consensus in the Organization of American States (2004).
- Christopher R. Thomas & Juliana T. Magloire, *Regionalism versus* Multilateralism: The Organization of American States in a Global Changing Environment (2000).

Key OAS documents can be found on the OAS Web site; select "Documents" from the home page.¹⁶¹ Several types of documents are available from the Documents page; a few of the more important ones are discussed below.

1. Resolutions and Declarations

Resolutions and declarations of the various OAS organs are organized according to the body that produced them. The Web site does not yet have these documents back to the beginning of the OAS; coverage varies depending on the body. These documents are available at some US libraries as "Proceedings," or as "Documentos oficiales de la OEA."

Although the resolutions and declarations are not searchable, the OAS Department of International Legal Affairs has identified resolutions on a few topics for easier reference.¹⁶² Thus, if you are searching for evidence of international legal norms on topics such as cyber crime, humanitarian law, penitentiary and prison policies, you can quickly find related resolutions.

2. Treaties

The OAS site has a collection of treaties and agreements.¹⁶³ The collection is split into bilateral and multilateral agreements, although some treaties are only listed, with no text available at the site. A separate page, "Recent actions

¹⁶¹ http://www.oas.org/main/english.

¹⁶² http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/regeneas.html.

¹⁶³ http://www.oas.org/DIL/treaties_and_agreements.htm.

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regarding multilateral treaties," is a good source for brief information on recent treaty actions.

You can look for multilateral treaties by year or by subject, but bilateral treaties are arranged only alphabetically by the name of state parties or other entity (e.g., African Telecommunications Union). Note that in the bilateral index, countries are listed by their Spanish names, so while there is no listing for "Germany," treaties with Germany are listed under "Alemania."

The OAS site also provides separate status information, in a section called "Signatories and Ratifications." This information is organized the same way as the multilateral treaties (i.e., by subject and year). Where available, the text is linked to the status information.

The OAS also has a sporadically published treaty series, entitled *Inter-American Treaties and Conventions: Signatures, Ratifications, and Deposits with Explanatory Notes* (1954—).¹⁶⁴ Generally, it is easier to use other sources, such as the OAS Web site, for these treaties.

3. Documents of Inter-American Court of Human Rights and Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

Materials from the OAS human rights bodies can be difficult to find online or on paper. Furthermore, decisions are often available in Spanish before they are available in English. To find materials in your library, search *Inter-American Commission* and the *Inter-American Court* as authors and as keywords and subjects.

a. Inter-American Court of Human Rights

The Court's decisions are available on its Web site,¹⁶⁵ and on the University of Minnesota Human Rights Web site.¹⁶⁶ Paper versions are published in *Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Series A: Judgments and Opinions* (1982—), *Series B: Pleadings, Oral Arguments and Documents* (1983—), and *Series C: Decisions and Judgments* (1987—).

 $^{^{164}}$ Inter-American Treaties and Conventions: Signatures, Ratifications, and Deposits with Explanatory Notes (1954—).

¹⁶⁵ http://www.corteidh.or.cr.

¹⁶⁶ http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/iachr/iachr.html.

For summaries of the Court's activity, see *Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Annual Report* (1981—). Annual reports from 1998 onwards are available on the Court's Web site.

The Inter-American Human Rights Digest Project at American University offers an index to the Court's jurisprudence from 1980-1997, but this index is in Spanish only.¹⁶⁷

b. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

Like the Court, the Commission's work is summarized in the *In-ter-American Commission on Human Rights Annual Report* (1977—). Many annual reports are available on the Commission's Web site. The annual reports contain reports of decisions of the Commission. Documents from the annual reports are also available on Westlaw¹⁶⁸ and on the University of Minnesota Human Rights Library Web site.¹⁶⁹

The Inter-American Human Rights Database at American University provides online access to Commission documents from its inception, but it has not been updated since 1998.

c. Inter-American Human Rights System Generally

Inter-American Yearbook on Human Rights (1968—) provides background information, key instruments, documents, and a discussion of human rights practices in selected OAS countries. Several books are available that explore various human rights issues as well as the Inter-American system. Some of these books include:

- Jo M. Pasqualucci, *The Practice and Procedure of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights* (2003).
- The Inter-American System of Human Rights (David J. Harris & Stephen Livingstone eds., 1998).
- Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón & Claudia Martin, *The Prohibition of Torture and Ill-treatment in the Inter-American Human Rights System: A Handbook for Victims and their Advocates* (2006).

¹⁶⁷ https://www.wcl.american.edu/humright/repertorio/indice.cfm.

¹⁶⁸ IACHR-OAS database.

¹⁶⁹ http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/cases/commissn.htm.

4. Other Documents

The OAS site contains numerous other documents, such as documents relating to the organization and its functioning. These organizational documents, such as the rules of procedure for the General Assembly, are easily accessed from the Department of Legal Services page.¹⁷⁰

If you need documents on a particular topic, or from a particular division of the OAS, it is often worthwhile to select the "Reference Documents" link.¹⁷¹ The Reference Documents page has a table of contents listing many of the OAS subsidiary bodies, and a few topics (e.g., freedom of expression).

¹⁷⁰ http://www.oas.org/legal/intro.htm.

¹⁷¹ http://scm.oas.org/Reference/english/english.htm.

Chapter 9 International Topics

I. RESEARCHING INTERNATIONAL TOPICS OUTLINE

A. Introduction

Research in international and foreign law usually involves researching a particular topic or issue. As you can imagine, these topics are varied: human rights, taxation, environmental law, criminal law, litigation, trade, etc.

When researching an international law topic, you are usually looking for several bodies of law and sources of information:

- public or private international law (usually treaties and documents);
- foreign law (national laws or case law);
- uniform laws, guidelines or principles (materials from intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)); and
- commentary, explanatory materials, or forms.

A savvy international legal researcher will consult materials in other related disciplines, such as political science, public policy, health, economics, etc. (see Chapter 4 for more information). Since many international issues cross over into other fields, useful materials can be found in law-related resources.

While you will not necessarily research all topics in the same manner, there are some common approaches when you start researching an unfamiliar topic. The steps outlined below provide some general guidance and will vary depending on your topic, the amount of time you have to research the topic, and what resources are available to you.

B. Research Steps

1. Start with a research guide. Use chapters in this book to identify relevant guides, both print and electronic, or search the Internet for a research guide (e.g., try searching researching law of the sea [or other search terms], "research guide" law sea, or pathfinder law sea). Two useful collections of online legal

research guides are the LLRX site¹ and GlobaLex.² Another source for guides is the Electronic Information System for International Law (EISIL) database;³ choose your topic from the hierarchical listings, then look under Research Resources.

Example: In EISIL, the path Home > International Economic Law > GATT/WTO System leads to a section on "Research Resources" that includes two excellent guides and a bibliography.

2. Use secondary sources for an overview or introduction to the subject and for citations to primary law and other sources. Look for books, articles, working papers, documents, etc. Use library catalogs and research guides to identify the tools that will aid you in locating relevant materials. See Chapter 4 for more help with searching for sources.

Example: If you were researching international sports law, you might start by looking for a research guide. The Google search *researching 'international sports law''* retrieves as its first result this guide: Amy Burchfield, *International Sports Law* (2006).⁴ This guide includes a *''References''* section that lists several useful treatises on international sports law. You could then search for these titles in your library catalog.

3. *Identify any terms of art, keywords or phrases.* Use dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc., to help define words and phrases. Consult Chapter 3 to help identify such items.

Example: In disputes that involve transnational shipping, you may encounter terms such as "air waybill," "clean bill of lading," and "ocean bill of lading." While *Black's Law Dictionary* provides brief definitions of these terms, you may also want to consult more specialized sources, such as Edward G. Hinkelman, *Dictionary of international Trade: Handbook of the Global Trade Community* (6th ed. 2005) or John J. Capela & Stephen W. Hartman, *Dictionary of International Business Terms* (3d ed. 2004).

¹ http://www.llrx.com/category/1050.

² http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/index.html.

³ http://eisil.org.

⁴ http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/International_Sports_Law.htm.

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4. Locate the relevant law: international treaties and agreements, international decisions (includes jurisprudence and other dispute resolution decisions), international soft law, national legislation, and national case law. Consult individual chapters of this book, such as Researching Public International Law (Chapter 6) and Researching Foreign and Comparative Law (Chapter 7), in order to locate relevant law. Secondary sources, such as those mentioned in the previous section (see Section I.A), will usually identify relevant sources of law.

Example: You are asked to research the international framework governing transboundary movement of waste. One approach is to start with a secondary source such as Philippe Sands, *Principles of International Environmental Law* (2d ed. 2003). The chapter on "Waste" lets you quickly identify relevant treaties, and points to some of the relevant cases.

If you want to find national laws governing transport of waste, you might start with Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo A. Flores, *Foreign Law Guide: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World* (1987—). The electronic version is called *Foreign Law Guide*, available by subscription only.⁵ National laws relating to waste are listed under "Environmental Protection."

Example: To find relevant soft law on internally displaced persons, one effective approach is to search Westlaw or LexisNexis databases of law review articles, putting the phrase "soft law" in the same paragraph as "internally displaced persons"—"soft law" w/p "internally displaced persons." This search retrieves articles referring to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, among other instruments.

Example: To find national case law on international criminal law, one approach is to browse the subscription database International Law in Domestic Courts.⁶ Browsing the topic of international criminal law uncovers several cases, including one that deals with national prosecution under general international law.⁷

5. Locate relevant practice materials, such as forms, commentary on procedures, etc. The topical chapters outline some of these materials. You can

⁵ http://www.foreignlawguide.com.

⁶ http://www.oup.com/online/ildc.

⁷ Bouterse (Appeal in cassation in the interests of the law), nr. HR 00749/01 CW 2323 LJN: AB1471, NJ 2002, 559 (Sept. 18, 2001).

also search library catalogs using subject terms for your topic combined with keywords such as *procedure* or *practice*.

Example: The subject *International business enterprises*, combined with the keyword *practice*, retrieves sources such as *Negotiating and Structuring International Commercial Transactions* (Mark R. Sandstrom & David N. Goldsweig eds., 2d ed. 2003).

Example: The subject *maritime law*, combined with the keyword *practice*, retrieves sources such as Colin M. De la Rue & Charles B. Anderson, *Shipping and the Environment: Law and Practice* (1998).

6. Locate relevant IGO and NGO documentation. See Chapter 8 on international organizations and this chapter on international topics. Or, once you have identified a relevant international organization, search its Web site or your library catalog to find documents that address your topic.

Example: You probably already know that the UN Security Council makes international law on the use of force. By going to the Security Council's Web site, you can review various types of documentation, such as Security Council Resolutions, Mission Reports, Letters to the President of the Security Council, etc. If you're looking for documents on a particular topic, searching the Press Releases helps you identify relevant documents back to 1995. For example, you can search "Darfur" in the Press Releases search box. Press releases provide citations (and sometimes links) to key documents on this topic.

Example: If you're researching space law, you might start at the EISIL site. After the section on primary documents, the EISIL page on Space Law has a list of Web sites, including the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. You can click the link to that site and begin reviewing key instruments in the law of space.

7. Consider books and articles from other disciplines. Consult periodical indexes and databases from other disciplines to locate journal articles, working papers, chapters in books, reports from think tanks, and much more. Many of these tools are highlighted in this chapter and in Chapter 3.

Example: For a human rights project, you are researching the law relating to grave desecration. To understand the burial practices and beliefs of various cultures, you should consult anthropology and sociology literature. Most college and university libraries subscribe to indexes such as Anthropology Plus and CSA Sociological Abstracts. In CSA Sociological Abstracts, an initial keyword search for *burial*

practices pulls up some relevant documents and also shows that the best index terms are probably *death rituals* and *burials*. Searching again using these index terms brings up more useful abstracts, with links to full-text articles.

Example: While researching international copyright law, you may want to look at policy arguments about what kind of regulation promotes innovation. Searching the terms *international copyright* in the EconLIT⁸ database pulls up an abstract of a highly relevant article by a law professor.⁹ Because the article appeared in an economics journal, it would not be indexed in legal periodical indexes, nor would it be available in LexisNexis or Westlaw's databases of law reviews.

C. Specific Topics

The sections that follow focus on researching just a few of the many topics available: human rights, intellectual property, international environmental law, international trade law, and private international law. As you review these chapters, some similar strategies and sources should emerge and be applicable when researching other international topics.

II. HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Introduction

International human rights law is part of public international law. It deals with the protection of individuals and groups against violations of their rights under international law. Generally, it excludes "humanitarian law"—that is, the law of human rights during war—though the two fields are obviously related. It also excludes international criminal law, though, again, the two fields overlap somewhat.

The main sources of human rights law are international treaties. These treaties may be universal, such as the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, or they may be regional, such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Some treaties focus on a relatively narrow topic, such as torture

⁸ http://www.econlitor/index.html.

⁹ Graeme B. Dinwoodie, *Private Ordering and the Creation of International Copyright Norms: The Role of Public Structuring*, 160 J. INST. & THEOR. ECON. 161 (2004).

(Convention against Torture); others cover a broad spectrum of rights (e.g., International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)).

In addition to treaties, however, sources of international human rights law include many types of "soft law"—UN resolutions, decisions of human rights bodies, national laws and court decisions, etc. Some of these instruments have risen to the status of customary international law. For example, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, though not an international agreement, is considered to be a part of customary international law.

The variety of sources used in human rights law can make this a tough area to research. Moreover, you will find a lack of commercial publications (case reporters, digests) of the type you have used for US research. Language barriers and the lack of documentation on human rights violations in some areas can present other problems for the researcher.

B. Starting Points: Secondary Sources

Before starting your human rights research, you should carefully define your topic, country or region, time period, and group of interest (e.g., children or a particular ethnic group). Because it can be so hard to identify primary sources of law, you should start with secondary sources.

1. Library Catalogs

Among secondary sources, a good treatise on your topic will be the best resource. For example, if you need to research the legality of detention at Guantanamo Bay, you might start with Sir Nigel Rodley's book, *The Treatment of Prisoners under International Law* (2d ed. 1994). Of course, you probably won't know of a useful book at the outset. Start by checking your library catalog. Use keywords for your initial search until you find a relevant item. Then, look at the item's Library of Congress subject headings. Most catalogs will let you click on these headings to locate similar materials.

For example, starting with the keywords *child carpet India* retrieves books on children working in the carpet industry in India. Looking at the subject headings assigned to the book, you can see the heading: *Child Labor—India*. Clicking on this heading will retrieve other titles on your topic.

Sometimes you may want to start by searching Library of Congress subject headings, rather than keywords. For general or comparative books on human rights, use the subject headings: human rights civil rights civil rights (international law)

(Some books on human rights cataloged before 1987 may be found under the subject heading *civil rights.*)

You can add a geographic limitation to the subject headings above if you need information on human rights in a particular country or region:

human rights—france human rights—indonesia—timor

You can also search by topic or by group:

asylum, right of women's rights indians of south america—brazil—civil rights

As you can see, however, it is not always easy to guess what Library of Congress subject headings are used; that's why starting with keywords may work better for you. If your library doesn't have any items on your topic, you may want to search other libraries' catalogs. One efficient way to search many library catalogs at the same time is to use WorldCat.¹⁰ This database combines the records of over 17,000 libraries, including some law firm, government, and foreign libraries. If you find a useful book at another library, your own library should be able to borrow it for you. For more information on using library catalogs, see Chapter 4, Section II.

Here is an example of how you might use a book to start your human rights research. Suppose you want to research women's right to be protected from domestic violence, and your country of interest is Mexico. You enter a keyword search in your library catalog: *human rights women violence*.

Among the first items you see is this book: Sally Engle Merry, *Human Rights and Gender Violence: Translating International Law into Local Justice* (2006). The book identifies the main treaty on protection of women's human rights: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Having found the most relevant treaty, you now need to know whether Mexico is a party to it. Checking *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General* (1982—) (either the paper version or

¹⁰ http://www.worldcat.org.

the online database¹¹), you find that Mexico signed the treaty in 1980 and became a party in 1981.

Moreover, this source shows that although some states parties attached reservations, understandings, or declarations to their ratification, Mexico did not. Your next step might be to determine what body enforces CEDAW. You could learn more about CEDAW enforcement from the book you already found, or you could also look at a research guide to CEDAW.

2. Research Guides

Research guides are another good tool to use at the beginning of human rights research. You can often find a useful research guide by searching the Web with terms like "research" or "guide," combined with your topic of interest (e.g., torture, women's rights, children's rights). A quick Web search turns up this useful guide: Bora Laskin Law Library, *International Women's Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.*¹² The guide tells you what body enforces CEDAW, and what documents that body produces. In addition, the guide lists some Inter-American conventions on women's rights that might be helpful.

Research guides on human rights range from comprehensive surveys (e.g., American Society of International Law, *Electronic Resources Guide*¹³) to narrow topical approaches (e.g., the right to food and water¹⁴). Some, like the *Electronic Resources Guide*, include only those resources available electronically; others cover both paper and electronic sources. Some guides contain a lot of textual explanations, while others provide only a list of links. Thus, the usefulness of research guides can vary, but finding one will usually save you time and effort.

3. Periodical Databases and Indexes

You may find yourself researching a human rights issue that isn't covered by a book or research guide. In many cases, you can find a journal article discussing your topic. As noted in Chapter 4, Section III, journal articles will usually point to relevant sources of law, key concepts, and legal developments. When researching human rights, journal indexes can be of particular use.

¹¹ http://untreaty.un.org/English/access.asp.

¹² http://www.law-lib.utoronto.ca/resguide/women2.htm.

¹³ http://www.asil.org/resource/humrts1.htm.

¹⁴ http://www.hrea.org/learn/guides/food.html.

Useful indexes include:

- *Current Law Index.* Also available on LexisNexis and on Westlaw in the LRI database; and as the Legaltrac¹⁵ database, available at many law libraries.
- *Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals.*¹⁶ This index adds English-language index terms to articles in foreign languages (and some English language articles published in foreign law journals).
- Index to Legal Periodicals.¹⁷
- *PAIS International.*¹⁸ This database is available at many college and university libraries and includes articles on international, legal, and political issues.
- *Social Science Index.*¹⁹ The index is available at many college and university libraries or through WESTLAW (SOCSCISRCH database).
- Max Planck Institute for Public International Law also has an index that includes some human rights topics.²⁰
- The RAVE site²¹ indexes articles and decisions on public international law, including some human rights issues.

Another approach is to start by finding a relevant journal. You can find numerous periodicals on international human rights law. To find the titles of these periodicals, search your library catalog with subject headings such as:

minorities—legal status, laws, etc.—periodicals human rights—periodicals civil rights—periodicals human rights—[region or country]—periodicals civil rights—[region or country]—periodicals women's rights—periodicals

¹⁵ http://www.gale.com.

¹⁶ http://www.ovid.com/site/catalog/DataBase/104.jsp?top=2&mid=3&bottom=7& subsection=10.

- ¹⁷ http://lib.law.washington.edu/cilp/cilp.html.
- ¹⁸ http://www.csa.com/factsheets/pais-set-c.php.
- ¹⁹ http://www.hwwilson.com/NewDDs/wo.htm.
- ²⁰ http://www.mpil.de/ww/en/pub/news.cfm.

²¹ http://www.jura.uni-duesseldorf.de/rave/e/englhome.asp (Note that this source has not been updated recently).

Once you identify a relevant periodical, look for an index either specific to the publication, such as an annual end-of-the-year index, or a broader periodical index that covers the periodical you need. Your library catalog does not contain article titles.

You may also need to search nonlegal periodical indexes. For example, a human rights researcher looking for information on grave desecration might look at sociological or anthropological literature to make a case for the severity of such an offense in particular cultures.

For more information about searching periodical indexes, see Chapter 4, Section III.A.

4. Nongovernmental Organization Web Sites

Another starting point for research might be the Web site of a nongovernmental organization (NGO) that works on your topic. For example, if you are asked to represent a woman seeking asylum on the grounds of domestic violence, a good starting point would be the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies at UC-Hastings.²² This site provides well-organized information about relevant laws, country conditions, asylum decisions, and other useful topics.

To find an NGO on your topic, use Web searches with combinations of the terms *human rights, advocates, NGO*, and *nongovernmental organization*, along with terms related to your topic. Or check the Minnesota Human Rights Library's list of human rights organizations.²³ You can also use the HuriSearch search engine²⁴ to search over 3,000 human rights Web sites.

Most NGOs, however, have Web sites designed to inform and mobilize the general public. Unlike the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, they are not intended mainly for lawyers. Thus, an NGO site is not usually as efficient as a good book, article, or research guide.

C. Treaties and Other Human Rights Instruments

If you know the name of a treaty, you can usually find a copy on the Internet with a simple search. If you are not sure, and want to look at collections of human rights treaties, there are several good sites on the Internet.

²² http://cgrs.uchastings.edu.

²³ http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/links/ngolinks.html.

²⁴ http://www.hurisearch.org.

1. Compilations of Human Rights Instruments

UN human rights treaties are located at the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) Web site.²⁵ For a list that links to full-text versions, click on "International Law" from the OHCHR homepage. This list does not include regional human rights instruments. If you think that your country of interest belongs to a regional organization, such as the Council of Europe (COE) or the Organization of American States (OAS), check those organizations' Web sites for human rights treaties.²⁶ (Of course, you should also check whether your country of interest is currently a member of the organization!)

Other useful collections of human rights treaties include the University of Minnesota Human Rights Library,²⁷ the Multilaterals Project at Tufts University,²⁸ and the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM), Human Rights Treaties.²⁹ The EISIL database³⁰ also links to selected human rights treaties, and provides citations and other useful information.

Other treaty databases require a subscription and may be available at your law school. The United Nations Treaty Database³¹ is among the most comprehensive, but its coverage lags behind alternative Web sources. Lexis-Nexis has a database of international treaties,³² as does Westlaw.³³ Westlaw and LexisNexis also have *International Legal Materials* (I.L.M.) as a database;

- ²⁷ http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts.
- ²⁸ http://fletcher.tufts.edu/multilaterals.html.

²⁹ http://sim.law.uu.nl/SIM/Library/HRinstruments.nsf/(organization)?OpenView. english/instruments/22884main.html.

- ³⁰ http://www.eisil.org.
- ³¹ http://untreaty.un.org (home page, but subscription is required for access).
- ³² International Law > Treaties & International Agreements > U.S. Treaties on LEXIS
- ³³ (CMB-TREATIES).

²⁵ http://www.ohchr.org/english.

²⁶ For Council of Europe treaties, see http://conventions.coe.int; for OAS treaties, see http://www.oas.org/main/main.asp?sLang=E&sLink=http://www.oas.org/DIL/treaties_and_agreements.htm.

I.L.M. contains selected treaties. HeinOnline³⁴ offers a Treaties and Agreements Library containing US treaties, and also offers I.L.M.

Paper collections of human rights instruments have become less important because of Web access. For example, the United Nations publishes a collection called *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments* (2002—), but you can find these instruments on the Internet.³⁵ Coursebooks on human rights often include a supplement containing selected human rights instruments.

For more information on searching for treaties, see Chapter 6, Sections I through III.

2. Status Information

Before you can argue that a country has treaty obligations to protect or promote human rights, you must ascertain that the country is a party to the treaty in question. For major human rights treaties, the best free source is the OHCHR Web site. When you click on the name of a treaty (on the International Law page), you will see a page devoted to that treaty. For most treaties, the left-hand side of the page has a link to "Status of ratification." This information appears in a table. Footnotes by a country name, if any, lead to the text of reservations, declarations, and understandings (RUDs). Note, however, that RUDs added during the ratification process do not always appear in this table. For example, the United States attached significant RUDs to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights when the Senate gave its advice and consent to the treaties.³⁶ Those RUDs do not appear on the OHCHR page. Cross-check the information with the "Ratifications and Reservations" information available from the Treaty Body Database.³⁷

Similar information to that on the OHCHR site appears in the United Nations Treaty Collection,³⁸ in the section called "Status of Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General." This part of the database corresponds to a print publication of the same name. Chapter 4 (online and in the paper version) provides status information on human rights treaties. It is important to note that

³⁴ http://heinonline.org.

³⁵ http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/index.htm.

³⁶ http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/usdocs/civilres.html.

³⁷ http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf.

³⁸ http://untreaty.un.org.

the list of countries contained in the print and electronic version of the *United Nations Treaty Series* (U.N.T.S.) is not an up-to-date list of ratifications.

Regional human rights bodies' Web sites usually contain status information as well. For example, on the OAS site, each treaty contains a link to "Signatories and Ratifications" at the end of the treaty text. To update this information, however, you should also check the page entitled "Recent actions regarding multilateral treaties."³⁹

The African Commission on Human and People's Rights has a separate section for "Ratification," available from the home page as a link under "Documentation." Unfortunately, this information is not always current; for example, in November 2006, the information was current through 2003. You may need to look at a country's own Web site, or search news sources, to learn whether it has become a party.

For more information on researching treaty status information, see Chapter 6, Sections II.F and III.D.

3. Reservations, Declarations, and Understandings

As mentioned above, countries may employ RUDs that affect, or purport to affect, their treaty obligations. Often, information about these provisions appears along with status information. For example, many of them appear in the UN Treaties Collection,⁴⁰ in "Status of Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General." Secondary sources will often mention significant reservations; for example, you can find several law review articles discussing the US reservations to the ICCPR.⁴¹ For major treaties, cross-check the information with the "Ratifications and Reservations" information available from the UN's OHCHR Web site.⁴² You may also need to check with the embassy or foreign ministry for your country of interest.

³⁹ http://www.oas.org/main/main.asp?sLang=E&sLink=http://www.oas.org/DIL/ treaties_and_agreements.htm.

⁴⁰ http://untreaty.un.org.

⁴¹ E.g., William A. Schabas, *Invalid Reservations to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Is the United States Still a Party?*, 21 BROOK. J. INT'L L. 277 (1995).

⁴² http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf.

D. Jurisprudence

In the human rights context, decisions of international and national tribunals can be used as persuasive authority. International tribunals range from court-like bodies, such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), to international bodies responsible for enforcing treaty rights, such as the Human Rights Committee (HRC), which responds to complaints under the ICCPR, and the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, one of the bodies that responds to complaints under OAS human rights instruments such as the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man. National court decisions, including lower court and administrative decisions, may also be used.

1. Jurisprudence of International Bodies

The wide range of possible sources of law means that you can't search them all in one place. You will need to use a variety of tools to find relevant jurisprudence. Again, secondary sources can point you to key decisions. Start with them if possible. For example, if you need to look at the jurisprudence of the Human Rights Committee (HRC), try Sarah Joseph et al., *The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Cases, Materials, and Commentary* (2d ed. 2004). This book arranges references to selected HRC decisions under the various rights to which they pertain.

In addition to secondary sources, look at compilations of decisions of the body entrusted with enforcing the treaty or treaties you are relying on. So, for example, if you are making an asylum claim for a Peruvian man, based on the Convention against Torture, look at the jurisprudence of the Committee against Torture. These decisions are available on the OHCHR Web site. From the OCHCR homepage, click on the link to Human Rights Bodies. Next, click on the link "Search the Treaty Body Database." On the left-hand side of the screen, click again on "Search the Database." You can then enter a search in the box.

Example: Search *convention against torture & peru & communication.* In the resulting list of documents, those documents that are headed "Communication" refer to individual complaints.

Case reporters that cover international bodies, as well as some regional bodies, include the following:

• International Human Rights Reports (I.H.R.R.) (1994—). This reporter reproduces cases from the UN Human Rights Committee, the UN

Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda War Crimes Tribunals, and the Bosnian Human Rights Chamber.

- *International Legal Materials* (I.L.M.) (1962—). This is also available on HeinOnline,⁴³ LexisNexis and Westlaw. It reprints a few selected cases from international courts and tribunals.
- *Human Rights Law Journal* (H.R.L.J.) (1980—). This journal reprints selected cases from various international human rights courts and bodies.
- *International Law Reports* (I.L.R.) (1919—). This reprints, in English, selected decisions from the highest national courts as well as international courts and tribunals.

Useful Internet sites include:

- International Court of Justice (ICJ).⁴⁴
- Cornell ICJ mirror site.45
- World Court Digest, a compendium of the jurisdiction of the ICJ.46
- International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.47
- Topical Digest of the Case Law (Human Rights Watch).⁴⁸
- International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.⁴⁹
- International Criminal Court.⁵⁰
- Special Court for Sierra Leone.⁵¹

⁴³ http://heinonline.org.

- ⁴⁴ http://www.icj-cij.org (under "Decisions").
- ⁴⁵ http://library.lawschool.cornell.edu/International_Resources/icj.htm.

⁴⁶ http://www.mpil.de/ww/en/pub/research/details/publications/institute/wcd.cfm (Max Planck Institute).

- ⁴⁷ http://www.un.org/icty (under "Cases and Judgments").
- ⁴⁸ http://hrw.org/reports/2004/ij (especially the "Topical Digest").
- 49 http://69.94.11.53/default.htm ("Cases" link at left).
- ⁵⁰ http://www.icc-cpi.int ("Cases" tab).
- ⁵¹ http://www.sc-sl.org.

- Commonwealth and International Human Rights Case Law Databases (Interights).⁵²
- Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM) Case Law Database.53
- The United Nations Human Rights Treaties.⁵⁴
- WorldLII, International Courts Tribunals Project.55

2. Jurisprudence of Regional Bodies

a. African System

You may have trouble getting documents from the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in paper or online. The Commission's Web site is not yet stable; it is often unavailable, and its contents are limited. Some materials are located under "Activity Reports," under the "Documentation" link. The University of Minnesota Human Rights Library also has some of the Commission's decisions.⁵⁶

To look for other Commission materials, try searching your library catalog using "African Commission on Human and People's Rights" as author, keyword, or subject. Dr. Rachel Murray has also written extensively on human rights in the African system; search by author to find her works. Periodical articles may also refer to or even reprint key documents.

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights is still under development, and it does not yet have a Web site.

One of the better sources for jurisprudence is the *African Human Rights Law Reports* (2000—). These contains selected national decisions as well as decisions from the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the UN treaty bodies, dealing with African countries. The reports from 2000 to 2003 are available on the Web.⁵⁷

55 http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases.

⁵⁷ http://www.chr.up.ac.za/centre publications/ahrlr/ahrlr.html.

⁵² http://www.interights.org/searchdatabases.php?dir=databases.

⁵³ http://sim.law.uu.nl/SIM/Dochome.nsf?Open (scroll down to "Case law").

⁵⁴ http://www.bayefsky.com.

⁵⁶ http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/africa/comcases/comcases.html.

b. European System

The jurisprudence of the European system is extensive and well documented. Decisions of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), and selected decisions from the now-defunct European Commission on Human Rights, are available on Westlaw⁵⁸ and on LexisNexis.⁵⁹

Author searches and subject searches are useful for finding decisions and information issued by the European Commission, the European Court, and the Council of Europe.

Paper reports of European human rights jurisprudence include:

- European Commission of Human Rights, *Decisions and Reports* (1975-1998).
- European Human Rights Reports (1979—). This is also available on LexisNexis and Westlaw.
- Human Rights Case Digest (1990-).
- Council of Europe, *Yearbook of the European Convention on Human Rights* (1960—).
- European Court of Human Rights, *Publications of the European Court of Human Rights*. Series A (1961-1996), Series B (1960-1995). Series A contains the official judgments and decisions and Series B contains pleadings, oral arguments, and documents. It is continued by European Court of Human Rights, *Recueil Des Arrêts et Décisions—Reports of Judgments and Decisions* (1996—).

For most researchers, it is more convenient to access the ECHR jurisprudence through its Web site, HUDOC.⁶⁰ The HUDOC database provides access to ECHR decisions as well as decisions from the former European Commission on Human Rights. You can search by keyword, title, date, and type of document (e.g., decisions on admissibility of complaints, judgments, etc.).

European Union. Some of the decisions of the European Union's Court of Justice (the ECJ) involve human rights issues. Keep in mind that the Council of Europe human rights system, described above, is separate from the European Union system.

⁵⁸ EHR-RPTS database.

⁵⁹ International Law > Cases > Human Rights Cases (only a handful of Commission cases are included).

⁶⁰ http://cmiskp.echr.coe.int.

 Court of Justice of the European Communities, Reports of Cases before the Court of Justice and the Court of the First Instance (1954—). Some decisions are also available on the Court's Web site. Westlaw (EU-CS) and LexisNexis (Legal > Global Legal > European Union > Case Law > EUR-Lex European Union Cases) also have databases of these cases.

c. Inter-American System

Materials from the Organization of American States (OAS) can be difficult to find online or on paper. Furthermore, decisions are often available in Spanish before they are available in English. To find materials in your library, search *Inter-American Commission* and the *Inter-American Court* as authors and as keywords and subjects.

Inter-American Court on Human Rights

- The Court's decisions are available on its Web site,⁶¹ and on the University of Minnesota Human Rights Web site.⁶² Paper versions are published in *Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Series A: Judgments and Opinions, Series B: Pleadings, Oral Arguments and Documents, and Series C: Decisions and Judgments.*
- For summaries of the Court's activity, see *Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Annual Report* (1981—). Annual reports from 1998 onwards are available on the Court's Web site.
- The Inter-American Human Rights Digest Project at American University offers an index to the Court's jurisprudence from 1980-1997, but this index is in Spanish only.⁶³

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

 Annual Report (1977—). Many annual reports are available on the Commission's Web site. The annual reports contain reports of decisions of the Commission. Documents from the annual reports are also available on Westlaw⁶⁴ and on the University of Minnesota Human Rights Library Web site.⁶⁵

⁶¹ http://www.corteidh.or.cr.

⁶² http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/iachr/iachr.html.

⁶³ https://www.wcl.american.edu/humright/repertorio/indice.cfm.

⁶⁴ IACHR-OAS.

• The Inter-American Human Rights Database at American University provides online access to Commission documents from its inception, but has not been updated since 1998.⁶⁶

The Inter-American System Generally

• Inter-American Yearbook on Human Rights (1968—). The Yearbook provides background information, key instruments, documents, and a discussion of human rights practices in selected OAS countries.

3. National Jurisprudence

Some reporters include both international and national cases.

- Butterworths Human Rights Cases (1997—).⁶⁷ This covers selected decisions from international, European, and English courts and tribunals.
- Commonwealth Human Rights Law Digest (1996—). The Commonwealth and International Human Rights Case Law Databases are available on the Interights Web site.⁶⁸ It includes over 2,000 summaries of significant human rights decisions, from both domestic Commonwealth courts and from tribunals applying international human rights law, such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the European Court of Human Rights.
- *International Law Reports* (I.L.R.) (1919—). This reprints, in English, selected decisions from the highest national courts as well as international courts and tribunals.
- International Law in Domestic Courts.⁶⁹ This online database is available through a small number of law libraries. It includes selected national court decisions that address international law; some of the cases involve human rights issues.
- University of Michigan Law School, Refugee Caselaw Site.⁷⁰ This site contains selected asylum decisions from national courts.

⁶⁵ http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/cases/commissn.htm.

⁶⁶ http://www.wcl.american.edu/pub/humright/digest/Inter-American.

⁶⁷ Also on LexisNexis, 1996 to present, International Law > Cases.

⁶⁸ http://www.interights.org/searchdatabases.php?dir=databases.

⁶⁹ http://ildc.oxfordlawreports.com.

⁷⁰ http://www.refugeecaselaw.org.

Finally, many journals reprint cases from various jurisdictions as well as international tribunals. Using a periodical index can sometimes help you identify reprinted cases.

E. Country Reports

In human rights work, "country reports" is a term of art. It refers to documents produced by governmental, intergovernmental, and nongovernmental organizations, describing the human rights situation in a particular country. Human rights lawyers use these reports in proceedings such as asylum hearings. For example, if an asylum claimant fears persecution if she is returned to her country of origin, her lawyer may introduce various country reports on that country to document that her fear is well founded.

Some country reports focus only on one issue. For instance, the US Department of State prepares a report each year called the *Annual Report to Congress on International Religious Freedom*.⁷¹ This report describes protection of and threats to religious freedom in countries around the world.

Other country reports summarize a whole range of human rights issues. The US Department of State produces country reports on human rights practices, which address the state of human rights in various countries. US administrative law judges use the Department of State country reports as their starting point for asylum claims. However, attorneys for asylum-seekers often introduce country reports from major human rights organizations such as Amnesty International (AI)⁷² and Human Rights Watch (HRW).⁷³

Some Web sites are designed specifically for researching country conditions. One such site is the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board.⁷⁴ Under "National Documentation Packages," you will find links to the most current major country conditions reports (e.g., HRW, AI) and to many other useful documents.

Other useful sites for researching country conditions include:

⁷¹ http://www.state.gov/g/drl/irf/rpt.

⁷² http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aireport/index.html.

⁷³ http://hrw.org/countries.html.

⁷⁴ http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/index_e.htm.

- Asylumlaw.org.⁷⁵ The "Case support" section has a drop-down menu with country names. After choosing a country, you'll see available documents (e.g., UNHCR information on rates of recognition). If you register (without charge) at the site, you can obtain names of experts and even documents (e.g., for Kenya, there is one legal brief).
- Center for Gender and Refugee Studies.⁷⁶ Use the drop-down menu to search by nationality (country). You can also search by issue.
- United Kingdom Home Office.⁷⁷ This site has an alphabetical list of country information for the UK's top 20 asylum countries.

Many of the research guides noted above include sections on locating country reports.

F. News Sources

Human rights research often requires searching news stories. While you may want to start by searching US newspaper databases such as the *New York Times*, you may also need to search foreign newspapers.

Both LexisNexis and Westlaw offer databases focused on specific countries or regions. In LexisNexis, choose the News & Business tab. Scroll down and select Country & Region (excluding US). Next, select a region. You can also select a country from the list below the list of regions; however, for some countries (e.g., Kenya), LexisNexis does not offer a separate database.

For news stories, the best search approach is usually one that uses "proximity connectors"—connectors that specify your search terms must be within a certain number of words from each other. It is also helpful to specify that your terms must appear in the "headline/lead" segment of the database (i.e., within the headline or the lead paragraph).

Example: *hlead(Kenya*)* & *Kenya* w/15 hiv OR aids.*

In Westlaw, choose the Business & News tab, then "Global News." The next screen shows a list of databases by region and a search screen. As in LexisNexis, the best search approach is to use "proximity connectors."

⁷⁵ http://www.asylumlaw.org.

⁷⁶ http://cgrs.uchastings.edu/country.

⁷⁷ http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html#countries.

Example: kenya* w/15 aids hiv w/15 discriminat! prejudic! stigma! persecut!

If you lack access to Westlaw or LexisNexis, general Internet searching may retrieve relevant news items. You may need to search newspaper archives, however, which regular search engines cannot always access. The Web offers a couple of sources for such archives:

- International News Archives on the Web.⁷⁸ This site includes an alphabetical list of countries, with links to foreign newspapers and archives (where available).
- Onlinenewspapers.com.⁷⁹ This site collects links to foreign newspapers, first by region, then with drop-down menus of countries.

G. Blogs

Particularly if you work with human rights issues, you may want to subscribe to blogs that focus on human rights. Chapter 5, Section IV, describes blogs and how to find them, but some useful blogs on human rights topics include the ones listed below.

- Amnesty International (AI) has blogs on specific topics; for example, you can subscribe to one on torture⁸⁰ or one on violence against women.⁸¹ AI's list of blogs is available in a drop-down menu from any of its blog pages.
- The Human Rights Blog.⁸² Unlike some blogs, this one offers an index to postings on the right side of its homepage and a search box to look for specific topics. The blog editors collect human rights news from several sources, which are listed on the homepage.
- Human Rights Headlines.⁸³ This blog offers a wide range of news on human rights, from Human Rights Education Associates (HREA).
- Human Rights Watch.⁸⁴ This provides news from HRW, a major human rights non-governmental organizations.

- ⁸⁰ http://blogs.amnestyusa.org/denounce-torture.
- ⁸¹ http://blogs.amnestyusa.org/svaw.
- 82 http://www.humanrightsblog.org.
- ⁸³ http://ushrnetwork.typepad.com/ushrn_news.
- 84 http://www.hrw.org/doc/?t=news.

⁷⁸ http://www.ibiblio.org/slanews/Internet/intarchives.htm.

⁷⁹ http://www.onlinenewspapers.com.

 Jurist World Legal News.⁸⁵ This covers many human rights and international criminal law developments.

III. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

A. Introduction

The traditional areas of intellectual property (IP) law are patents (referred to as "design and utility"), copyright, trade secrets, and trademark. Technological advances have added issues such as domain names, trademarks as Web site "meta-tags," and digital rights management; biotechnology has added another dimension to patent law. Globalization has greatly increased the number of companies selling products and services in other countries, which makes protection of IP rights more important than ever. The number of firms and lawyers practicing IP law, including foreign work, has greatly increased over the last 15 years. You will probably find yourself researching this area at some point.

Due partly to the amount of money at stake, tools for international IP research are fairly good. Also, you will find that this is the area of international and foreign law most integrated into US legal materials. For example, major IP treatises such as *Nimmer on Copyright* (1963—) cover international issues. LexisNexis and Westlaw offer useful foreign and international IP databases, which will be discussed throughout the chapter.

This section will explore the main areas of IP law, with emphasis on useful tools and search strategies.

1. Legal Framework and Basic Sources

For the most part, IP law is still "national"—although international treaties affect the content of national laws, the researcher ordinarily looks first to those national laws. The main intergovernmental organization in this area, WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization), has no tribunal or other body empowered to enforce IP rights. (Although WIPO now offers arbitration, its arbitration procedures are voluntary.) Enforcement of IP rights occurs at the national level.

⁸⁵ http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/worldlatest.

a. National Laws

Most countries have enacted laws or codes dealing separately with copyright, trademark, and patent law. The same changes that have sparked legal interest in these areas have also prompted amendments to these laws. For example, many countries have amended old laws or added new ones to comply with the TRIPs Agreement.⁸⁶ To achieve TRIP compliance, China amended almost 150 laws.⁸⁷ Many countries have also enacted separate laws in response to new technologies; for example, laws regulating the patenting of genetically modified organisms. Because IP is a volatile area, you should pay special attention to the dates of laws, searching news stories and government Web sites for references to new legislation. For example, to check whether a particular Chinese IP law has been amended, you should check the Chinese patent office site;⁸⁸ news sources on Chinese law, such as the databases of Chinese newspapers and wire services on Westlaw and LexisNexis; and miscellaneous Web sources via some general searches.

With that caveat in mind, researchers can find the text of IP laws relatively easily. Many countries make these laws available on the Web sites of their patent office, copyright office, or department of trade. An Internet search for *patent office [country name]* usually retrieves the correct site; for example, entering *patent office japan* into Google retrieves the Japanese Patent Office as the first search result. If not, check the WIPO Directory of National and Regional Industrial Property Offices.⁸⁹

WIPO also offers a large database of national IP legislation, called the Collection of Laws for Electronic Access (CLEA).⁹⁰ CLEA's "Legislative Texts" system is arranged by country. By clicking on the plus sign to the left of each country name, you can see a list of the laws. For some entries, CLEA has only a citation for the law. But in most cases, CLEA offers the text of the law in

⁹⁰ http://www.wipo.int/clea/en.

⁸⁶ Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, Apr. 15, 1994, Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, Annex 1C, 1869 U.N.T.S. 299, *reprinted in* 33 I.L.M. 1197 (1994).

⁸⁷ Ruth Taplin, *Managing Intellectual Property in the Far East: China*, KNOWLED-GELINK NEWSLETTER, Apr. 2005, http://scientific.thomson.com/news/newsletter/2005-04/ 8272848.

⁸⁸ http://www.sipo.gov.cn/sipo_English.

⁸⁹ http://www.wipo.int/news/en/links/addresses/ip/index.htm.

English. Often CLEA includes more than one "consolidation"—that is, a document that integrates amendments to the laws. In those cases, make sure to choose the latest available consolidation. Then, check the dates of other laws to see whether they affect that consolidation (i.e., whether they came later). CLEA's information about each law attempts to describe its relationship to other laws, but you will probably need to work it out for yourself.

If you cannot find the law you need in CLEA, several other sources may help. UNESCO maintains its own smaller database of copyright laws,⁹¹ which includes some laws that CLEA doesn't have (e.g., Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Djibouti). For some countries, it has more up-to-date laws than does CLEA; for example, in January 2007, UNESCO had Kenya's 2001 copyright law, while CLEA had only a 1995 version.

UNESCO's collection is divided by region. Laws from Asian, Western European, and Eastern European countries usually appear in English. Laws from French-speaking African countries and Spanish-speaking Latin American countries often appear only in the vernacular. When using copyright laws from UNESCO, always compare its coverage with that of CLEA. As noted above, UNESCO is sometimes more current; however, sometimes CLEA has more recent laws. For example, in January 2007, CLEA had Morocco's copyright law through a 2006 amendment, while UNESCO had only a 2000 version.

Another useful Internet source is WorldLII,⁹² which has a subject collection of national laws on IP. At this site, you can look for IP laws by country, find national and regional IP offices, and find links to a small number of major IP treaties.

Major subject collections of IP laws are also available in print and include some laws unavailable on the Internet. First, WIPO published print collections of copyright and patent laws until 2001. These collections appear under various titles: *Intellectual Property Laws and Treaties*; *Copyright and Related Rights Laws and Treaties*; *Industrial Property Laws and Treaties*. Not all of the laws in these paper collections appear in the CLEA database.

• World Intellectual Property Rights and Remedies (Dennis Campbell ed., 1999—) contains laws and some commentary.

⁹¹ Collection of National Copyright Laws, http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=14076&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html.

⁹² http://www.worldlii.org/catalog/315.html.

- Patent laws are reprinted in World Patent Law and Practice (2001-).
- Trademark laws appear in Ethan Horwitz, *World Trademark Law and Practice* (1982—).
- Intellectual Property: Eastern Europe & Commonwealth of Independent States (David L. Garrison comp. & ed., 1995—) has laws for Eastern European countries and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). It contains fewer laws than CLEA, but has some laws not included in that database (for example, Lithuania Law on Firm Names).

National IP laws are sometimes available on the WTO site. Start at the WTO TRIPs gateway.⁹³ Scrolling down, you will see the heading "TRIPS Work in the WTO." Below this heading, choose the link called "Review of Members' Implementing Legislation." This link leads to a page with a specialized search function. The page allows you to specify the country and the type of IP (e.g., copyright) in which you are interested. You will retrieve a list of relevant documents. Usually, documents entitled "Review of Legislation—[Name of country]" contain summaries and explanations of the subject country's IP laws. These Reviews of Legislation often quote sections of laws, though not the full text, and provide the name of the law and relevant dates.

Finding foreign IP cases, as opposed to foreign IP laws, is difficult. European Patent Office (EPO) decisions are published in *European Patent Office Reports* (available on Westlaw),⁹⁴ on the EPO Web site, and in *European Patent Decisions. European Trade Mark Reports* (also on Westlaw)⁹⁵ include selected trademark cases from the European Court of Justice and various European countries. *Fleet Street Reports* (also on Westlaw)⁹⁶ also picks up a few IP cases from European countries. If money is no object, search in the combined Westlaw database IP-RPTS-ALL, which combines selected United Kingdom and European decisions from Sweet & Maxwell's Entertainment and Media Law Reports, European Trade Mark Reports, Fleet Street Reports, Reports of Patent Cases, and European Patent Office Reports.

- ⁹⁵ ETR-RPTS database.
- ⁹⁶ FLEET-RPTS.

⁹³ http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e.htm.

⁹⁴ ENP-RPTS database.

b. International Treaties

International agreements on IP fall into three or four groups. The first is the intellectual property protection treaties, which define internationally agreed-upon basic standards of IP protection in each country. Examples include the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works⁹⁷ and the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.⁹⁸

The second general group is the global protection system treaties. These treaties ensure that one international registration or filing will have effect in any of the relevant signatory states. The Patent Cooperation Treaty,⁹⁹ which allows inventors to get protection in over 100 countries with a single filing, exemplifies this type of treaty.

The third general group is the classification treaties. These treaties establish classification systems that organize information about inventions, trademarks, and industrial designs into standard patterns for easy retrieval. One example is the Nice Agreement,¹⁰⁰ which classifies goods and services for the purposes of registering trademarks and service marks. This system makes it much easier to identify and avoid conflicting or confusing marks.

A fourth type of treaty has become important in international IP work. Trade agreements, such as the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) (see Section III.A.1.a), now require parties to meet certain standards of IP protection. The TRIPs agreement incorporates all of the Paris Convention and Berne Convention provisions, except for the Berne's "moral rights" clause. If member countries do not comply with those provisions, other countries can invoke the World Trade Organization's dispute resolution procedures.

⁹⁷ Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, Sept. 9, 1886, as revised at Stockholm on July 14, 1967, 828 U.N.T.S. 222.

⁹⁸ Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as last revised at the Stockholm Revision Conference, July 14, 1967, 21 U.S.T. 1583, 828 U.N.T.S. 303.

⁹⁹ Patent Cooperation Treaty, June 19, 1970, 28 U.S.T. 7645, 1160 U.N.T.S. 231, *reprinted in* 9 I.L.M. 978 (1970).

¹⁰⁰ Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks, June 15, 1957, 23 U.S.T. 1336, 550 U.N.T.S. 45.

The United States has also incorporated IP provisions into several bilateral free trade agreements. These agreements often require signatory countries to meet a higher standard of IP protection than that required by TRIPs (sometimes referred to as "TRIPS-plus"). As with other IP treaties, implementation is by national legislation and regulation.

Finding multilateral IP treaties on the Internet is easy. Useful sites include the collections of treaties at the WIPO¹⁰¹ Web site. Bilateral treaties can be more difficult. Try IPRsonline.¹⁰² This site can be difficult to search; you may get better results using Google's "search this site" feature than by using the site map or its own search engine. (For more information on Internet searching, see Chapter 5. For more help finding treaties, see Chapter 6.)

2. Commentary and Guides

General works on international intellectual property can be retrieved by using the following Library of Congress subject headings in library catalogs:

industrial property (international law) intellectual property (international law)

More specific subject headings are listed below.

Useful guides to international and foreign IP research include ASIL's *Electronic Resource Guide for International Laws*, "Intellectual Property Law,"¹⁰³ by Jonathan Franklin; and Stefanie Weigman's *Update to Researching Intellectual Property Law in an International Context*,¹⁰⁴ which is somewhat dated, but very thorough.

Periodical articles can also fill in gaps left by general works on intellectual property. You can find useful articles in the main legal periodical indexes—LegalTrac,¹⁰⁵ Index to Legal Periodicals,¹⁰⁶ and Index to Foreign Legal

¹⁰¹ http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/.

¹⁰² http://www.iprsonline.org/legalinstruments/bilateral.htm.

¹⁰³ http://www.asil.org/resource/ip1.htm.

¹⁰⁴ http://www.llrx.com/features/iplaw2.htm.

¹⁰⁵ http://www.gale.com.

¹⁰⁶ http://lib.law.washington.edu/cilp/cilp.html.

Periodicals.¹⁰⁷ (For more information on searching periodicals, see Chapter 4, Section III.)

Key periodicals on international IP law include:

- IIC, International Review of Industrial Property and Copyright Law (1970-2003).
- IIC, International Review of Intellectual Property and Competition Law (2004—).
- *World Intellectual Property Report* (1987—). Available as part of BNA's Intellectual Property Library,¹⁰⁸ a subscription-based service.
- WIPO Magazine (1998—). Short articles with an international focus.
- WIPO electronic newsletters. WIPO provides free news updates on various IP topics.¹⁰⁹

Other sources for articles on international IP law include the Global IP Network (GIN) collection¹¹⁰ of the Franklin IP Mall. Working papers such as those posted on the Social Science Research Network (SSRN)¹¹¹ are also worth checking. For more information about searching these resources, see Chapter 4.

B. Major Areas of IP Law

1. Trademark

Formerly nation-by-nation, now trademark law is more international. The Madrid Agreement¹¹² was the first important international trademark agreement. It was followed by the Madrid Protocol,¹¹³ its successor agreement—but both treaties are still in force. Signatories to either instrument belong to the Madrid Union. This organization enables "one-stop" registration of marks within these countries. However, the scope of protection achieved this way is limited to what

¹¹³ S. Treaty Doc. No. 106-41 (June 27, 1989).

¹⁰⁷ http://www.ovid.com/site/catalog/DataBase/104.jsp?top=2&mid=3&bottom=7&subsection=10.

¹⁰⁸ http://www.bnai.com/templates/products.aspx?cat=10&obj=125&country=1.

¹⁰⁹ http://www.wipo.int/tools/en/mailing-lists.

¹¹⁰ http://www.ipmall.info/hosted_resources/gin_index.asp.

¹¹¹ http://www.ssrn.com.

¹¹² 175 Parry 57 (Apr. 14, 1891).

the filer's "home" country provides, so for some countries where filing is cheap and protection is broad, a trademark holder might still want to file a separate national application. The Madrid system doesn't include an enforcement system; enforcement is still national.

a. Researching International Trademark Law

Generally, US researchers should start with treatises like J. Thomas McCarthy, *McCarthy on Trademarks and Unfair Competition* (1996—) which addresses international protection (see chapter 29 in particular). Useful overviews also appear at the WIPO site, and many individual country sites (patent and trademark offices) also provide explanations of national systems. Depending on the research scenario, you may want to look at foreign laws next. As noted earlier in this chapter, many laws are available in English in WIPO's CLEA.¹¹⁴ Many of them also appear in Ethan Horwitz, *World Trademark Law and Practice* (1982—) (also on LexisNexis).¹¹⁵

Another useful source is *World Intellectual Property Rights and Remedies* (1999—). This source summarizes patent, trademark, copyright and other IP law in over 100 countries and the European Union, though coverage of patent and trademark law is better than for copyright. It also includes the full translated text of many foreign IP laws. For more commentary, though not translated legislation, check *International Encyclopaedia of Laws: Intellectual Property* (1997—).

Use Library of Congress subject headings to find other books and electronic resources in your library:

trade-marks trade-marks (international law) intellectual property (international law) competition, unfair trademarks—law and legislation—[jurisdiction] trademark infringement—[jurisdiction] madrid agreement concerning the international registration of marks (1891)

¹¹⁴ http://www.wipo.int/clea/en/index.jsp.

¹¹⁵ Legal > Area of Law - By Topic > Trademarks > Treatises & Analytical Materials > Matthew Bender(\mathbf{R}) > World Trademark Law and Practice.

b. Internet Domain Names

Internet domain names have become an important legal issue, and one that is often covered in trademark treatises. A domain name is the alphanumeric address of a group of computers run by a separate entity, like a business or a university. For example, the Microsoft Web servers, together, have the domain name "microsoft.com." An organization called ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) controls assignment of names in the United States and to some extent, beyond the United States.

Trademark lawyers generally recommend that all businesses, including their international subsidiaries, should register as a domain name any company name, mark, or product name that might be useful for marketing now or in the future.

Internet domain names present new challenges for trademark law because many similar trademarks exist for the same word or acronym. Trademark law has traditionally allowed similar trademarks within different trademark classes or for different types of businesses (e.g., United Airlines, United Van Lines). This system worked well when use of the trademark was unambiguous, but disputes have erupted over trademarks as domain names (e.g., who gets "united.com")?

Similarly, trademark protection has historically been within defined (mostly national) boundaries. Obviously, the Internet breaks down national boundaries; an Internet domain can be "visited" from nearly every country. The lack of national territories for domain names means more conflicts between trademark holders.

c. Researching Domain Name Issues

Again, starting with US trademark sources, especially treatises, is probably best for US researchers. For background, WIPO's domain names page¹¹⁶ can be quite helpful, particularly the FAQ and the Overview of WIPO Panel Views on Selected UDRP Questions. Depending on your research scenario, you may want to look at foreign laws next. Most countries treat domain names under their trademark or unfair competition laws. As such, they are included in WIPO's CLEA database.

WIPO handles many domain name disputes and makes its decisions available on the WIPO Web site. To search these, use the Index of WIPO UDRP

¹¹⁶ http://arbiter.wipo.int/domains.

Panel Decisions.¹¹⁷ Click on the "Legal index to WIPO panel decisions" link for a detailed outline of topics. ICANN also has a collection of decisions on domain-name disputes.¹¹⁸

Useful treatises include Ethan Horwitz, *World Trademark Law and Practice* (1982—) (also on LexisNexis),¹¹⁹ which covers trademark and Internet domain law for a large number of countries. Also look for treatises on "cyberlaw," "Internet law," and "e-commerce"—many newer titles on these topics address domain names.

Find additional treatises and other sources with Library of Congress subject headings such as:

internet domain names internet domain names—law and legislation—[jurisdiction] internet—law and legislation. internet domain names—law and legislation trademarks—law and legislation—[jurisdiction] trademark infringement trademark infringement—[jurisdiction] trademark infringement—cases

Remember, because this topic is relatively new, you should make a special effort to try keyword searches (e.g., *cyber-squatting* and *cybersquatting*, *e-commerce*, and *ecommerce*) in addition to subject heading searches. Your searches may pick up titles that the subject searches miss.

2. Copyright

At the international level, basic protection starts with the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works ("Berne Convention").¹²⁰ This convention, which was first adopted in 1886, has been revised several times to reflect the impact of new technology on the level of protection that it provides.

¹¹⁷ http://arbiter.wipo.int/cgi-bin/domains/search/legalindex?lang=eng.

¹¹⁸ http://www.icann.org/udrp/udrpdec.htm.

 $^{^{119}}$ Legal > Area of Law - By Topic > Trademarks > Treatises & Analytical Materials > Matthew Bender(R) > World Trademark Law and Practice.

¹²⁰ Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, Sept. 9, 1886, as revised at Paris on July 24, 1971, and amended in 1979, S. Treaty Doc. No. 99-27 (1986).

WIPO administers the treaty, but there is no international copyright registration system. Works are considered protected by copyright as soon as they are created. Generally, the Berne Convention provides protection to copyright-holders by mandating "national treatment" among parties to the Convention. In other words, a state must offer the same protection for works by citizens of parties to the Convention as it provides for the works of its own citizens.

Two recent treaties, sometimes called the "WIPO Internet treaties," are intended to bring copyright law into the digital age. These two treaties are the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT)¹²¹ and WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT).¹²²

Foreign copyright law can be quite different from US law. The most notable difference is the European doctrine of "moral rights." This doctrine creates somewhat indefinite, vague, perpetual rights that are "human rights" rather than the "property rights" of US law. These rights may mean, for example, that no one can present a version of *Waiting for Godot* with a female cast, or that no one can make or show a colorized version of a black and white movie within countries that recognize these rights. Civil law systems also tend to separate copyright from "neighboring rights"—rights of publishers, broadcasters, or producers, as opposed to the "moral rights" of a work's creator.

a. Researching Foreign/International Copyright

You may want to start with US secondary sources, such as *Nimmer on Copyright* (1963—). Volume 4, chapter 17 contains an introduction to foreign and international copyright law for the American practitioner. Other US sources such as CCH's *Copyright Law Reporter* (1978—) also address international copyright issues. One readily available source that explains copyright laws of several countries (mostly European or Westernized ones) is *International Copyright Law and Practice* (Melville B. Nimmer & Paul Geller eds., 1988—) (also available on LexisNexis as *International Copyright Law and Practices* [sic]).¹²³

¹²¹ WIPO Copyright Treaty, Dec. 20, 1996, S. Treaty Doc. No. 105-17 (1997), *reprinted in* 36 I.L.M. 65 (1997).

¹²² WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty, Dec. 20, 1996, S. Treaty Doc. No. 105-17 (1997), *reprinted in* 36 I.L.M. 76 (1997).

 $^{^{123}}$ Legal > Area of Law - By Topic > Copyright Law > Treatises & Analytical Materials > Matthew Bender(R) > International Copyright Law and Practices.

WIPO's CLEA database¹²⁴ is an excellent source for the text of foreign copyright laws. Many countries have regulations implementing their copyright laws. CLEA includes some of these regulations; they also appear on national patent and copyright office Web sites, though they may not be translated into English.

Useful Library of Congress subject headings will help you find books and other materials:

berne convention for the protection of literary and artistic works (1886) copyright [jurisdiction] copyright—computer programs copyright and electronic data processing [jurisdiction] copyright, international copyright—neighboring rights data protection—law and legislation databases—law and legislation internet—law and legislation piracy (copyright) world intellectual property organization copyright treaty (1996) world intellectual property organization performances and phonograms treaty (1996)

Again, rapid technology changes in this area make keyword searches particularly important. Concepts such as peer-to-peer file-sharing, open-source software, and digital rights management have not become subject headings, but may appear as keywords in book titles or descriptions. Searching by the type of technology in question, such as satellite radio, dvd, or webcasting, may also retrieve useful materials.

3. Patent

The Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property¹²⁵ was the first major international agreement on patent protection. Like the Berne Convention on copyright, the Paris Convention provides for "national treat-

¹²⁴ http://www.wipo.int/clea/en/index.jsp.

¹²⁵ Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as last revised at the Stockholm Revision Conference, July 14, 1967, 21 U.S.T. 1583, 828 U.N.T.S. 303.

ment" (i.e., countries must give foreigners' inventions the same protection as those of their own citizens).

The Patent Cooperation Treaty,¹²⁶ which entered into force in 1987, promotes parallel procedures for patent filings. Applicants can receive protection in many countries by filing one application.

a. Researching International/Foreign Patent Law

As with other IP topics, most researchers should start with secondary sources. US treatises such as *Moy's Walker on Patents* (2003—) (especially chapter 8) and *Chisum on Patents: A Treatise on the Law of Patentability, Validity, and Infringement* (1978—) (especially chapter 14) cover some foreign patent issues. Perhaps the most common issue in foreign patent law is licensing; you can find several treatises dealing with the licensing of intellectual property and of patents in particular. John P. Sinnott, *World Patent Law and Practice* (2001—) includes licensing forms. Another source for forms and commentary is David de Vall & Peter Colley, *Melville: Forms and Agreements on Intellectual Property and International Licensing* (3d ed. 1979—).

The Practising Law Institute (PLI)¹²⁷ publishes several excellent works that cover foreign and international patent law and licensing; many of these can be found either on Westlaw or in practice-oriented law libraries. Foreign and international patent litigation is covered in the BNA looseleaf *International Patent Litigation: A Country-By-Country Analysis* (Michael N. Meller ed., 1983—).

Collections of patent laws include WIPO's CLEA database; John P. Sinnott & William Joseph Cotreau, *World Patent Law and Practice* (1974—); and regional titles such as *Intellectual Property: Eastern Europe & Commonwealth of Independent States* (David L Garrison ed., 1995—). Checking national patent office sites, however, is more likely to get you the current laws and regulations.

Library of Congress subject headings include:

computer programs—patents conflict of laws—patents

¹²⁶ Patent Cooperation Treaty, June 19, 1970, 28 U.S.T. 7645, 1160 U.N.T.S. 231, *reprinted in* 9 I.L.M. 978 (1970).

¹²⁷ http://www.pli.edu/.

foreign licensing agreements industrial property [jurisdiction] patent laws and legislation [jurisdiction] patent licenses patent practice patents patents (international law) plant varieties—protection

IV. INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

A. Introduction

International environmental law (IEL) is a part of public international law. The origin of IEL is relatively recent; most experts date its birth to 1972, with the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. The field has grown to encompass subjects such as climate change, biodiversity and endangered species, nuclear and other hazardous materials, and sustainable development.

The transboundary nature of many kinds of environmental issues has forced states to address these problems through international agreements. While IEL is largely treaty based, some principles of customary international law have also emerged.

B. Sources of Law

1. Treaties

a. Introduction

Despite the short life of international environmental law, states have become parties to more than 200 multilateral treaties.¹²⁸ These treaties constitute the major source of law in IEL. A table showing key treaties by subject matter appears in Heidi F. Kuehl, "Sub-topics for International Environmental Law," *A Basic Guide to International Environmental Legal Research* (2006).¹²⁹

¹²⁸ Alexandre S. Timoshenko, Environmental Negotiator Handbook 1 (2003).

¹²⁹ http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/International_Environmental_Legal_ Research.htm.

In some ways, IEL treaties reflect the underlying subject matter. Generally, the uncertain and changing state of scientific information requires more flexibility than the typical treaty regime permits. Thus, drafters of IEL treaties have tended to create general "framework" treaties, with more specific protocols dictating the implementation of the treaties, and highly technical Annexes listing information that may change rapidly.

To better understand this drafting practice, here is an example: The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985)¹³⁰ commits signatories to work towards protection of the ozone layer. It sets forth general goals such as cooperation, research, and centralized information-sharing. By its terms, it contemplates the addition of protocols to flesh out the agreement. Two years after the Convention was signed, the parties concluded the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.¹³¹ The Protocol includes two annexes listing chemical compounds which the parties have pledged to phase out. Unlike a treaty, the annexes can be amended quickly, to reflect current scientific information.

Another example of this approach to treaty-drafting is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).¹³² This treaty has three appendices, each of which lists plant and animal species. The treaty provides for differing treatment of species depending on the appendix in which they are listed.

Thus, to learn what actions are prohibited or required under IEL, you must examine treaty protocols and annexes carefully. Fortunately, most IEL treaties establish a secretariat to administer the treaty, and the secretariat usually creates a Web site containing the text of key instruments.¹³³ Once you have identified a relevant treaty, look for a corresponding Web site. Generally, you will also find treaty status information, along with reservations, understandings, and declarations, if any, at the site.

¹³⁰ 513 U.N.T.S. 323, reprinted in 26 I.L.M. 1529 (1987).

¹³¹ TIAS No. 11,097, 1513 U.N.T.S. 323, reprinted in 26 I.L.M. 1529 (1987).

¹³² 27 U.S.T. 1087, TIAS 8249, 993 U.N.T.S. 243.

¹³³ Anne Burnett's chapter, "International Environmental Law," *in ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law* contains a long list of such secretariats: see V. A., "Websites," in http://www.asil.org/resource/env1.htm.

Another excellent source for treaty status information is the United Nation Environment Program's ECOLEX database.¹³⁴ Choose the "Treaties" section and enter the title of the treaty you need. You will retrieve a short record about the treaty, including a link to a table of status information.

b. Treaty Collections

- CIESIN (Center for International Earth Science Information Network).¹³⁵ A project of Columbia University, CIESIN offers the full text of almost 200 IEL treaties in its ENTRI (Environmental Treaties and Resource Indicators) database.¹³⁶ ENTRI's search engine offers much more sophisticated searching than the typical free site. Check the "Search Tips" section for options such as grammatical connectors and wildcards. For example, instead of searching only for *pollution*, you can enter the term *pollut%* and retrieve various forms of the word, such as "polluting" or "polluter." The ENTRI system also contains treaty status information.
- EISIL (Electronic Information System for International Law, from the American Society of International Law).¹³⁷ The International Environmental Law¹³⁸ section of the EISIL database offers annotated links to major environmental law treaties. While the full text of the treaties is not searchable through EISIL, you can search the annotations, treaty titles, popular names (e.g., CITES), and other information.
- Treaties/Soft Law Agreements.¹³⁹ Wildlife Committee, American Branch of the International Law Association (ABILA). This site has a smaller collection of treaties, organized by topic (e.g., Animal Welfare, Biological Diversity, Fisheries, etc.).

c. Paper Collections

• Basic Documents on International Law and the Environment (P.W. Birnie & A.E. Boyle eds., 1995).

- 136 http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/entri.
- ¹³⁷ http://www.eisil.org.
- ¹³⁸ http://www.eisil.org/index.php?sid=396221205&t=sub_pages&cat=18.
- ¹³⁹ http://www.internationalwildlifelaw.org/treaties.shtml.

¹³⁴ http://www.ecolex.org/index.php, a joint project between UNEP, IUCN, and FAO.

¹³⁵ http://www.ciesin.org.

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- International Protection of the Environment: Treaties and Related Documents (Bernd Ruster & Bruno Simma, comps. & eds., 1975-1983).
- International Protection of the Environment: Treaties and Related Documents, Second Series (Bernd Ruster & Bruno Simma, comps. & eds., 1990-1994).
- Documents in International Environment Law (Philippe Sands et al. eds., 1994).
- Documents in International Environment Law (Philippe Sands & Paolo Galizzi eds., 2003).
- International, EC, and US Environmental Law: A Comprehensive Selection of Basic Documents (Kurt Deketelaere & Jan Gekiere eds., 2002).
- International Environmental Law: Multilateral Treaties (9 vols., W.E. Burhenne ed.; Robert Muecke comp., 1974—).

d. Other Sources

Of course, IEL treaties also appear in general treaty collections, such as the United Nations Treaty Collection database,¹⁴⁰ and the *United Nations Treaty Series* (1946—) in paper. For more information on treaty research, see Chapter 6, Section III.

2. Customary International Law

In addition to finding relevant treaties, your IEL research may include a search for applicable principles of customary international law. While Chapter 6, Section IV.B gives more in-depth advice on researching customary international law, this section provides some guidance specific to international environmental law.

a. Secondary Sources

As with other searches for customary international law, you will find it easiest to start with secondary sources. To find general treatises and books on IEL, use the Library of Congress subject heading *Environmental law*, *International*. These general works can be helpful if you need to identify an overarching principle of environmental law. Works by a few individual or institutional authors, moreover, may qualify as the writings of the "most highly qualified publicists" in IEL and may be used as evidence of a customary international principle.

¹⁴⁰ http://untreaty.un.org.

Often, in IEL research, your topic will be relatively narrow. Rather than search for international environmental law generally, use keywords such as *hazardous*, *ozone*, or *biodiversity*, depending on your topic, coupled with the terms *international* and *law*, to find relevant works in your library catalog. Then check the subject headings assigned to those items, and run new searches using those subject headings. Examples of specific subject headings include:

hazardous substances—law and legislation waste disposal in the ocean—law and legislation sustainable development—law and legislation biological diversity conservation—international cooperation

One environmental law concept that some scholars claim as customary international law is the "precautionary principle," which is also a Library of Congress subject heading.

Periodical articles can also provide useful descriptions of the state of customary IEL. They often address recent topics in IEL before treatises and other books. Chapter 4, Section III discusses periodicals and periodical indexes in more detail, but this section will focus on their use in IEL research.

One hazard of periodical research in IEL is that your searches often retrieve materials relating only (or primarily) to US law. For example, searching LexisNexis or Westlaw's database of law review articles for topics such as "hazardous waste," "endangered species," or "radioactive materials" will retrieve many articles relating to US state and federal regulation of these topics. Use terms that capture the international nature of your search, such as *international, transpoundary, global*, etc.

If you retrieve too many irrelevant results searching full-text databases, try a periodicals index. Useful periodical indexes include the following:

- *Current Law Index*. Also available on LexisNexis¹⁴¹ and on Westlaw¹⁴² as LRI; and as the Legaltrac database,¹⁴³ available at many law libraries.
- Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals. This index adds English-language index terms to articles in foreign languages (and some English language articles published in foreign law journals).

¹⁴¹ Legal > Secondary Legal > Annotations & Indexes > Legal Resource Index.

¹⁴² LRI database.

¹⁴³ http://www.gale.com.

- Index to Legal Periodicals. Also available on LexisNexis¹⁴⁴ and Westlaw.¹⁴⁵
- *PAIS International.*¹⁴⁶ Available at many college and university libraries, this database includes articles on international, legal, and political issues.
- The Max Planck Institute for Public International Law also has an index¹⁴⁷ that includes some IEL topics (e.g., Environmental Protection and Neighborship, Transboundary Cooperation).

A long list of environmental law periodicals appears in Heidi F. Kuehl's IEL research guide;¹⁴⁸ however, the list is not limited to international environmental law. To locate periodicals in your library, use the Library of Congress subject heading *Environmental law, International—Periodicals*.

b. Primary Sources

If you're lucky, secondary sources will provide citations to primary sources that you can use to show the existence of a principle of customary international law. Likely sources include treaties; resolutions, declarations, voting records, and other documents from intergovernmental organizations; decisions of international tribunals; national laws; national court decisions; diplomatic correspondence; and other documents showing state practice. Other ways to find these sources are discussed in the following sections.

c. Treaties

Some strategies for finding treaties are covered in Section III.B.1, Treaties, above. When trying to document a principle of customary international law, however, you may need to search for specific terms within treaties. For researchers with access to Westlaw or LexisNexis, the most effective way to do that is to search those services' full-text treaty databases. While these treaty databases are limited to those signed by the United States¹⁴⁹ and the European

¹⁴⁸ http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/International_Environmental_Legal_ Research.htm.

 149 Westlaw (CMB-TREATIES database); Lexis (International Law > Treaties & International Agreements > U.S. Treaties on LEXIS).

¹⁴⁴ Legal > Secondary Legal > Annotations & Indexes > Index to Legal Periodicals.

¹⁴⁵ ILP database.

¹⁴⁶ http://www.csa.com/factsheets/pais-set-c.php.

¹⁴⁷ http://www.mpil.de/ww/en/pub/library/catalogues_databases/doc_of_articles/pil. cfm.

Union,¹⁵⁰ the United States and European Union have become parties to many IEL treaties.

For example, if you need support for the proposition that the "polluter pays" principle has risen to the level of customary international law, you can use the sophisticated search capabilities of LexisNexis or Westlaw to find treaties that embody this principle: "polluter pays" OR (polluter OR polluting w/s cost).

d. IGO Documents

The field of international environmental law lacks a centralized authority, but the United Nations and its related bodies have issued many resolutions, declarations, and other documents that may express general environmental law principles While these instruments do not require states to sign and ratify, records of states' votes on these documents can indicate the strength of a principle as well as the commitment of the organization. To search for relevant UN documents, use UNBISnet.¹⁵¹ You can limit your search to types of documents, such as resolutions.

If you find relevant resolutions, you can retrieve their voting records by using the resolution's document symbol as a search term in UNBISnet's Voting Records database. Just remember to remove all the slashes and other punctuation from the document symbol, as instructed at the site.

Another approach to finding relevant IGO documents is to check the Web site of the entity that administers treaties in your area of interest. For example, if you need to research evolving international standards for transboundary shipment of discarded electronic equipment such as computers, you might identify the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal¹⁵² as a relevant treaty. By going to the Web site of the Secretariat for the Basel Convention,¹⁵³ and examining the

¹⁵⁰ Westlaw EU-TREATIES); Lexis (Legal > Global Legal > European Union > Treaties & International Agreements > EUR-Lex EU Law Database: Treaties).

¹⁵¹ http://unbisnet.un.org.

¹⁵² Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, Mar. 22, 1989, 1673 U.N.T.S. 125, *reprinted in* 28 I.L.M. 657 (1989).

¹⁵³ http://www.basel.int/index.html.

"Meeting Documents" posted there, you can find a Note by the Secretariat for the World forum on E-waste "including proposed elements for a declaration or statement on environmentally sound management of E-wastes."

Other sources for identifying useful sources include a collection of documents—*International Environmental Soft Law: Collection of Relevant Instruments* (W.E. Burhenne ed. & Marlene Jahnke comp., 1993—), although this set hasn't been updated since 2003.

Another useful source is the *Yearbook of International Environmental Law* (1991—). Like other international law yearbooks, this one identifies significant annual developments and instruments.

e. Decisions of International Tribunals

No specific body currently exists for resolving international environmental disputes. The most influential tribunal in IEL is the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Its decisions are available on Westlaw¹⁵⁴ and LexisNexis.¹⁵⁵ Decisions are printed in *Recueil des Arrets, Avis Consultatifs et Ordonnances* = *Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders* (1947—), and most of them are also available on the ICJ Web site.¹⁵⁶ The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), established under the United Nations Conveniton of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), has dealt with only 13 cases since its inception. Documents relating to those cases are available on the ITLOS Web site.¹⁵⁷

Other international tribunals whose decisions deal with IEL include the World Trade Organization's (WTO) panels and appellate body, North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) arbitration bodies, and the European Court of Justice (ECJ). WTO ''case law'' is available at the WTO Web site,¹⁵⁸ on LexisNexis¹⁵⁹ and Westlaw,¹⁶⁰ and in print sources. Similarly, NAFTA decisions

¹⁵⁸ http://www.wto.org.

¹⁵⁹ International Trade > Cases > Interpreting Treaties > World Trade Organization Dispute Settlement.

¹⁶⁰ WTO-DEC.

¹⁵⁴ INT-ICJ database.

¹⁵⁵ International Law > Cases > International Court of Justice Decisions, Combined.

¹⁵⁶ http://www.icj-cij.org.

¹⁵⁷ http://www.itlos.org.

appear on the Web site of the NAFTA Secretariat,¹⁶¹ and on LexisNexis¹⁶² and Westlaw.¹⁶³ More information on WTO and NAFTA research is available in Sections V.B and V.C.

The ECJ makes its jurisprudence available on the CURIA Web site.¹⁶⁴ If you have access to Westlaw and LexisNexis, you may find it easier to research ECJ cases on those services.¹⁶⁵ In addition, the EU's environment Web site¹⁶⁶ has a 2005 document¹⁶⁷ entitled "List of the Leading Cases and Judgements of the ECJ on Environment" with summaries and links to full text.

f. Decisions of National Courts

Researchers who need to find national court decisions on environmental law should consult *International Environmental Law Reports* (Cairo A.R. Robb ed., 1999—). Although the series includes only four volumes as of 2006, it offers a look at representative and ground-breaking decisions around the world. The full text of decisions is not always included, but key sections are translated into English.

The subscription database International Law in Domestic Courts¹⁶⁸ does not yet include many decisions on environmental law, but the editors plan to add many decisions each year. Researchers should check whether their library offers access to the database.

The Bureau of National Affairs publishes the *International Environment Reporter* (1978—). This publication, along with its daily update, *International Environment Daily*, summarizes foreign litigation on environmental issues. The

 162 International Trade > Cases > Interpreting U.S. Law > NAFTA Panel Review Decisions.

¹⁶¹ http://www.nafta-sec-alena.org/DefaultSite/index_e.aspx?DetailID=76.

¹⁶³ NAFTA-AWARDS and NAFTA-BIP.

¹⁶⁴ http://curia.europa.eu.

¹⁶⁵ Lexis (Legal > Global Legal > European Union > Case Law > EUR-Lex European Union Cases); Westlaw (EU-CS).

¹⁶⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/index_en.htm.

¹⁶⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/law/cases_judgements.htm.

¹⁶⁸ http://www.oup.com/online/ildc.

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Environmental Law Institute's *Environmental Law Reporter* (E.L.R.),¹⁶⁹ while it deals mostly with US and state law, also follows IEL developments such as foreign litigation.

The UNEP's ECOLEX database¹⁷⁰ contains short summaries of a few national court decisions, though not the full text. The Web site notes that this section is "under development."

g. National Legislation

Principles of customary international law can also be expressed in national laws. While you can research these laws using the same techniques you use to research any foreign laws (see Chapter 7), you should also know some specialized tools.

Westlaw has a database¹⁷¹ comprising foreign environmental laws and regulations from several jurisdictions, in English: Brazil, Canada, the European Union, France, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Spain, and the United Kingdom. You can also search a separate database for each jurisdiction (e.g., for France, search ENFLEX-FR).

The UNEP's ECOLEX¹⁷² database contains the full text of hundreds of foreign environmental laws. Although you can search by English-language topics and keywords, the actual text of the laws is in the vernacular, and it is not searchable.

FAOLEX,¹⁷³ from the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, works much like ECOLEX. You can search using English-language topics and keywords, but the full text of laws is in the vernacular, and it is not searchable. For better results, select the "Advanced Search" function and explore the dropdown menus.

¹⁶⁹ http://www.elistore.org/elr.asp (publication and subscription information).

¹⁷⁰ http://www.ecolex.org.

¹⁷¹ ENFLEX-INT.

¹⁷² http://www.ecolex.org.

¹⁷³ http://faolex.fao.org/faolex.

Similarly, the Library of Congress's GLIN (Global Legal Information Network)¹⁷⁴ database enables English-language searching of abstracts and citations for foreign laws of over 50 countries. You can retrieve full-text versions of some of these laws from GLIN (availability varies by country). Use the Subject Term Index to identify the best search terms; for example, the term "hazardous waste" is not used; instead, use "hazardous substances." If you spend a few minutes checking this index, you can save yourself time by conducting fewer useless searches.

The Sturm College of Law, University of Denver, has a "Countries" page¹⁷⁵ with a drop-down country list. For each country, the site links to available online sources of environmental laws. (Some links are to ECOLEX or FAOLEX documents.)

The Bureau of National Affairs's *International Environment Reporter*, along with its daily update, *International Environment Daily*, monitors foreign legislation on environmental issues. However, full text laws are not included.

C. Other Resources

1. Nongovernment Organizations

Many non-government organizations (NGOs) have a long history of action on IEL. While these NGOs are too numerous to list here, you should keep them in mind as potentially useful information sources. This section will identify a few of the major NGOs active in IEL.

- CIEL (Center for International Environmental Law).¹⁷⁶ This organization, unlike many NGOs working on environmental issues, focuses on international legal regimes. For various topics, such as persistent organic pollutants (POPs), the CIEL site identifies relevant treaties and monitors developments.
- EarthJustice.¹⁷⁷ While mostly an advocacy organization, EarthJustice produces useful papers and reports on IEL issues. Search the Library section or browse through Issue Areas.

¹⁷⁴ http://www.glin.gov.

¹⁷⁵ http://www.law.du.edu/naturalresources/weblinks/countries.cfm.

¹⁷⁶ http://www.ciel.org.

¹⁷⁷ http://www.earthjustice.org.

- Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide.¹⁷⁸ This NGO's "Resources" section has international and national environmental law instruments by topic or region, though coverage is spotty.
- World Conservation Union (IUCN). This major NGO has a section of its extensive Web site dedicated to its "Environmental Law Programme."¹⁷⁹ This section includes news, policy papers, and other information.

To find other NGOs, particularly those that focus on a topic, check EnviroLink.¹⁸⁰ The homepage has a list of subjects; after clicking on one, look for the link to "Organizations." Another site that compiles links to NGOs by topic is InterEnvironment,¹⁸¹ which has a World Directory of Environmental Organizations. This site identifies key IGOs and NGOs working on various environmental topics; it also includes a search option.

2. Research Guides

- Anne Burnett, "International Environmental Law," *in ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law.*¹⁸² Although limited to online sources, this guide presents a thorough, carefully documented guide to IEL research.
- David Hunter et al., *International Environmental Law & Policy: A Comprehensive Reference Source* (2d ed.).¹⁸³ This source provides an outline of key concepts in IEL, with links to relevant online sources. Topics include IEL history, root causes of environmental problems, IEL lawmaking, specific issues such as air and oceanic pollution, and the relationship of IEL to other legal regimes (e.g., trade, human rights).
- Heidi F. Kuehl, *A Basic Guide to International Environmental Legal Research* (2006).¹⁸⁴ This guide is noteworthy in part because of its long lists

- ¹⁸⁰ http://www.envirolink.org/index.html.
- ¹⁸¹ http://www.interenvironment.org/wd.
- ¹⁸² http://www.asil.org/resource/env1.htm.
- ¹⁸³ http://www.wcl.american.edu/environment/iel.

¹⁷⁸ http://www.elaw.org.

¹⁷⁹ http://www.iucn.org/themes/law.

¹⁸⁴ http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/International_Environmental_Legal_ Research.htm.

of sources (e.g., listings of LexisNexis and Westlaw databases). It also contains a useful list of acronyms used in IEL.

V. INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW

A. Introduction

1. What Is International Trade?

The term "international trade" encompasses a wide range of subjects: imports, exports, foreign investment, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and many other trade arrangements. Moreover, international trade law can affect domestic law on a variety of subjects, including environmental protection, intellectual property, consumer protection, and labor law.

The general legal framework of international trade includes the WTO, with 149 member states; and a web of regional and bilateral trade agreements, such as NAFTA. Trade agreements generally include dispute resolution mechanisms. Moreover, trade obligations in these agreements may affect or even supplant domestic laws.

2. Background Research

Perhaps more than any other area of international law, international trade has a vocabulary of its own. Dumping, antidumping, zeroing, phytosanitary measures, countervailing measures, fast-track, tariff rate quotas, safeguards—once you enter the world of international trade, you will need a way to decipher these terms of art.

Some introductory works on international trade explain these terms and basic concepts you may need to know. Sources include:

- Ralph H. Folsom et al., *International Trade and Economic Relations in a Nutshell* (3d ed. 2004).
- Jan H. Dalhuisen, Dalhuisen on Transnational and Comparative Commercial, Financial, and Trade Law (2007).

Dictionaries focusing on international trade include:

- Walter Goode, Dictionary of Trade Policy Terms (2003).
- Edward G. Hinkelman, *Dictionary of International Trade: Handbook of the Global Trade Community* (2005).

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- Jerry M. Rosenberg, Dictionary of International Trade (1994).
- Merritt R. Blakeslee, The Language of Trade (3d ed. 2000).185

To find trade dictionaries in your library, search your library catalog for the titles above, or try the Library of Congress subject heading *international trade—dictionaries*.

3. International Agreements

Many of the agreements needed for international trade research are noted in other parts of this section. To locate other trade agreements as well as agreements on related topics, like contracts and sales, see the following Web sites:

- Free Trade Agreements (Foreign Trade Information Center, OAS).¹⁸⁶ This is an excellent collection of trade agreements between countries in the Western Hemisphere (both bilateral and multilateral).
- Juris International.¹⁸⁷ This collection provides the full text of many conventions, model laws, as well as standards and customs of international trade.

4. Other Trade Research Resources

a. Tariff Schedules

One important aspect when researching the international trade regime is each country's tariff system. You may need to determine the extent of tariff, if any, imposed on imports. For the United States, the document that provides this information is the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, readily available on the Web.¹⁸⁸ For other countries, see their government's department or ministry of trade. WorldTradeLaw.net also provides links to some countries' tariff schedules.¹⁸⁹

b. Current Awareness

Some of the more useful periodicals covering trade include the following:

¹⁸⁵ Also available at http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS70991.

¹⁸⁶ http://www.sice.oas.org/tradee.asp.

¹⁸⁷ http://www.jurisint.org/pub.

¹⁸⁸ http://www.usitc.gov/tata/hts/bychapter/index.htm.

¹⁸⁹ http://www.worldtradelaw.net/tariffs.htm.

- *Inside U.S. Trade* (1983—). Weekly summaries of trade developments from US perspective. It is also available on the Web¹⁹⁰ and on LexisNexis from October 2005.¹⁹¹
- *Inside U.S.-China Trade* (2001—). Weekly summaries of US trade policies toward China. It is available on the Web¹⁹² and on LexisNexis from Februrary 2006.¹⁹³
- *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest.*¹⁹⁴ Critique of WTO activities from the International Center on Trade and Sustainable Development.
- *International Trade Reporter* (1984—). The "Current Reports" portion of this public is a weekly trade update.
- *Inter-American Trade Report* (1997-2005). This reports on new trade law and developments for the countries in the Inter-American system. It is also available on the Inter-Am Web site.¹⁹⁵
- Focus, the WTO's newsletter¹⁹⁶ (1995—).
- *WTO Reporter* (2000—). Similar to the *International Trade Reporter*, but focuses on the WTO.
- International Economic Law and Policy Blog.¹⁹⁷

5. Foreign Investment

Foreign investment raises some different legal issues from those raised in international trade. Generally, foreign investment law is governed by bilateral agreements. These bilateral investment treaties (BITs) usually provide that investors from one state party shall be treated the same as investors from the other state party. The agreements further establish mechanisms to resolve disputes between the states parties and between investors and states. Often, the mechanism chosen is arbitration by the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Much of the legal work in this area involves representing parties in arbitration before ICSID or other tribunals. A good

- ¹⁹³ News & Business > Individual Publications > I > Inside U.S.-China Trade.
- ¹⁹⁴ http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/index.htm.
- ¹⁹⁵ http://www.natlaw.com/bulletin/report.htm.
- ¹⁹⁶ http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/focus_e/focus_e.htm.
- ¹⁹⁷ http://worldtradelaw.typepad.com/ielpblog.

¹⁹⁰ http://www.insidetrade.com/.

¹⁹¹ News & Business > Individual Publications > I > Inside U.S. Trade.

¹⁹² http://www.insidetrade.com/.

introduction to foreign investment law is M. Sornarajah, *The International Law* on Foreign Investment (2d ed. 2004).

a. Finding Investment Treaties

To determine whether two states have entered into a bilateral investment treaty, check the ICSID's list.¹⁹⁸ Unfortunately, ICSID does not provide the text of the listed treaties, and its list includes only those BITs concluded from 1956 to 1996. The UN agency UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) has a slightly more current list, through 1999.¹⁹⁹ UNCTAD offers a collection of BITs at its Web site.²⁰⁰ Use the drop-down lists of countries to select the states parties you need. However, not all BITs are available at this site. Another collection of BITS appears on the Foreign Trade Information (SICE—from its Spanish acronym—*Sistema de Información al Comercio Exterior*) Web site.²⁰¹ You may also need to check national treaty series (see Chapter 6), check Web sites for the Trade Ministry or other government offices for the country in question, or the ICSID looseleaf publication, *Investment Promotion and Protection Treaties* (1983—). In addition, keep in mind that you may not be able to find a particular BIT in English.

b. Finding National Laws on Foreign Investment

Another piece of researching foreign investment issues is to locate national laws and regulations on foreign investment. Many large law libraries own the looseleaf set *Investment Laws of the World* (1972—). Moreover, to encourage foreign investment, many countries make English translations of these laws available on their government Web sites. For example, to find the foreign investment law of Mexico, you can search the Internet with the terms *foreign investment law mexico*. Your first-ranked results will not include the official Mexican government site; instead, you will retrieve commercial sites offering help to investors. Restricting your search to official Mexican government pages will send the best result to the top of your results: *mexico foreign investment law site:.gob.mx*. This search retrieves an English translation of Mexico's Foreign Investment Law.²⁰²

¹⁹⁸ http://www.worldbank.org/icsid/treaties/treaties.htm.

¹⁹⁹ http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/poiteiiad2.en.pdf.

²⁰⁰ http://www.unctadxi.org/templates/DocSearch_779.aspx.

²⁰¹ http://www.sice.oas.org/bitse.asp.

²⁰² http://www.economia.gob.mx/pics/p/p1195/ley_ing.doc.

If you need a foreign investment law from Latin America, check the Web site of the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade.²⁰³ The Center has laws in the vernacular and some English translations. Some Asian investment laws are located at a Japanese professor's Web site, though the site has not been updated since 2000.²⁰⁴ To find laws of other countries, Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo A. Flores, *Foreign Law Guide: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World* (1987—), is, as usual, another helpful resource. The electronic version is called *Foreign Law Guide,* available by subscription only.²⁰⁵

c. Finding Arbitration Awards

The most difficult task in foreign investment research is finding relevant arbitration awards. With a few exceptions, these awards are not routinely published. (For more on researching arbitration, see Section VI.D.3.) Selected ICSID arbitration decisions appear on the ICSID Web site.²⁰⁶ Unfortunately, these decisions are not searchable. Some libraries subscribe to *ICSID Reports: Reports of Cases Decided under the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States, 1965* (1972—). Other sources contain some awards pertaining to foreign investment; for a comprehensive list, see Jean Wenger, *International Commercial Arbitration: Locating the Resources—Revised.*²⁰⁷ Check your law library catalog using the Library of Congress subject headings:

investments, foreign (international law)—cases arbitration and award (international)—cases

d. Other Resources for Foreign Investment Research

To locate other resources on foreign investment law, use the Library of Congress subject headings:

investments, foreign (international law), foreign trade regulation investments, foreign—law and legislation [country name] international business enterprises—law and legislation

²⁰³ http://www.natlaw.com/index.html.

²⁰⁴ http://homepage3.nifty.com/Prof_K_Iwasaki/lawdb/home-en.html.

²⁰⁵ http://www.foreignlawguide.com.

²⁰⁶ http://www.worldbank.org/icsid/cases/cases.htm.

²⁰⁷ http://www.llrx.com/features/arbitration2.htm.

A few useful works include:

- Christoph H. Schreuer, *The ICSID Convention: A Commentary: A Commentary on the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes Between States and Nationals of Other States* (2001).
- United Nations, International Investment Arrangements: Trends and Emerging Issues (2006).
- United Nations, Investor-State Disputes Arising from Investment Treaties: A Review (2005).
- Rudolf Dolzer & Margrete Stevens, Bilateral Investment Treaties (1995).

B. GATT/WTO System

1. History of the WTO/GATT System

The current World Trade Organization (WTO) system is built on the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), which came into effect in 1948. GATT was designed to cut tariffs (i.e., fees imposed on the import of goods), thereby making markets more accessible across national borders.²⁰⁸ The GATT system included periodic "rounds" of negotiations to achieve further cuts in tariffs, and it had a system for resolving disputes between members. While often referred to as an international organization, the GATT had only a *de facto* role as an international organization before the creation of the WTO.

The GATT system eventually failed to respond to challenges such as the increasing trade in services and the use of nontariff trade barriers. In 1994, after years of negotiations, the WTO was created. The WTO includes many separate agreements; the following are among the most important:

- 1. 1994 GATT Agreement,²⁰⁹ which covers trade in goods. All WTO member States are bound by this agreement.
- Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (Marrakesh or WTO Agreement).²¹⁰ All member States are bound by this agreement.

²⁰⁸ World Trade Organization, *Understanding the WTO*, *at* http://www.wto.org/en-glish/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/fact4_e.htm.

²⁰⁹ General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, Apr. 15, 1994, 1867 U.N.T.S. 187, *reprinted in* 33 I.L.M. 1153 (1994).

²¹⁰ 1867 U.N.T.S. 154, reprinted in 33 I.L.M. 1144 (1994).

- 3. General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS),²¹¹ April 15, 1994. Not all member states have agreed to be bound by this agreement.
- 4. Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs).²¹² All member states are bound, although a few least-developed states have an extended deadline for compliance.
- 5. Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU).²¹³ All member states are bound.

The goals of the WTO are to improve the world economic system by converting all trade barriers (e.g., quotas, subsidies) into tariffs and eventually eliminating them. Tariffs are more transparent and are easier to administer than other kinds of protective measures. The WTO system provides "most-favored-nation" treatment to all members; that is, any trade preference must be extended to all members equally.²¹⁴ The WTO agreements, however, provide several exceptions to this rule, including allowing member states to set up free trade areas among themselves. The European Union and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)²¹⁵ are examples of such free trade areas, as is NAFTA. Another key principle of the WTO system is the principle of "national the same way they treat their own.²¹⁶

2. Structure and Workings of the WTO

The WTO is governed by its General Council, and run by the Secretariat, which comprises the WTO's permanent professional staff. Higher-level direction comes from the Ministerial Body, which meets every two years.

Dispute resolution has become an important aspect of the WTO. A member state initiates the process by filing a request for consultations (roughly

²¹⁴ World Trade Organization, *Principles of the Trading System, at* http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/fact2_e.htm.

²¹⁵ http://www.efta.int.

²¹⁶ World Trade Organization, *Principles of the Trading System, at* http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/fact2_e.htm.

²¹¹ 1869 U.N.T.S. 183, reprinted in 33 I.L.M. 1167 (1994).

²¹² 1869 U.N.T.S. 299, reprinted in 33 I.L.M. 1197 (1994).

²¹³ 1869 U.N.T.S. 401, reprinted in 33 I.L.M. 1226 (1994).

analogous to a complaint). If negotiations fail to resolve the conflict, the WTO sets up a panel and appoints panelists. The panel then issues a report, which can be adopted by the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), or appealed to the DSB.²¹⁷ The DSB is the General Council, acting as the DSB. Appeals are heard by three members of a permanent seven-member Appellate Body established by the DSB. Although the DSB can reject the Appellate Body's final judgments, it can do so only with consensus, so such rejection has been rare.²¹⁸

If a complaint is upheld, the state that has violated WTO law must bring its laws and policies into compliance with that law. A state that fails to do so must enter into negotiations with the complaining state to determine compensation (e.g., specific tariff reductions). If the states cannot reach agreement, the complaining state can impose limited trade sanctions on the losing state.²¹⁹

3. Starting Points for WTO Research

Although the WTO has an extensive Web site with voluminous documentation, it is not a good starting point unless you are merely searching for a known document. Instead, start with a secondary source, such as a treatise or law review article. (The WTO also provides explanations of WTO law on its Web site, but it has an optimistic slant that may not give you the best understanding of its actual workings.)

Useful sources include the following:

- Corporate Counsel's Guide: Laws of International Trade (William H. Hancock ed., 1986).
- Ralph H. Folsom et al., *International Trade and Economic Relations in a Nutshell* (3d ed. 2004).
- Hans van Houtte, The Law of International Trade (2d ed. 2002).
- Harvey Kaye & Christopher A. Dunn, *International Trade Practice* (3d ed. 2004—).
- Mitsuo Matsushita et al., *The World Trade Organization: Law, Practice, and Policy* (2d ed. 2006).
- *The WTO's Core Rules and Disciplines* (Kym Anderson & Bernard Hoekman eds., 2006).

²¹⁷ World Trade Organization, *Settling Disputes, at* http://www.wto.org/english/thew-to_e/whatis_e/tif_e/disp1_e.htm.

²¹⁸ Id.

²¹⁹ Id.

To find other sources, use the following Library of Congress subject headings as subject searches:

international trade free trade foreign trade regulation tariff—law and legislation investments, foreign—law and legislation world trade organization

Also try the keyword WTO in library catalogs.

In both of the major legal periodical indexes, LegalTrac (LRI)²²⁰ and *Index* to Legal Periodicals (ILP),²²¹ world trade organization is a subject heading. For international trade generally, ILP uses the subject heading *international trade*, while LRI uses *international trade regulation*. The indexes also have much more specific subject headings, such as *subsidies*, *most-favored-nation clause*, and *international trade dispute resolution* in the Index to Legal Periodicals. As usual, experiment with keywords to find relevant articles. Once you have found them, use their subject headings to lead you to additional useful articles.

If you prefer to start with an online research guide, one of the best is Jeanne Rehberg, *WTO and GATT Research*²²² (New York University). Another excellent guide is Jean Wenger, *International Economic Law*²²³ (American Society for International Law). Both of these guides identify key sources for WTO research, including sources for agreements, dispute resolution documents, and commentary.

4. Sources for Dispute Resolution Documents

a. Reports

Selected WTO and GATT panel reports are available on LexisNexis.²²⁴ (Generally, GATT reports are from 1948-1994, with WTO decisions from 1995-present.) Westlaw also has selected WTO and GATT panel decisions.²²⁵

²²⁰ http://www.gale.com.

²²¹ http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com.

²²² http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/wtoguide.html.

²²³ http://www.asil.org/resource/iel1.htm.

²²⁴ International Trade > WTO > Gatt Panel and World Trade Decisions.

Free online sources include the WTO Web site²²⁶ and WorldTrade-Law.net,²²⁷ a site that contains some free components and some fee-based ones. Generally, it is easier to download dispute resolution documents from WorldTradeLaw.net rather than from the WTO site.

The WTO Dispute Settlement page²²⁸ provides access to WTO dispute resolution documents including panel reports, Appellate Body reports, and adopted panel reports. (For more information about searching the WTO Web site, see below.) The Foreign Trade Information (SICE—from its Spanish acronym—*Sistema de Información al Comercio Exterior*) Web site, provided by the Organization of American States, has the older GATT framework reports: Adopted Panel Reports Within the Framework of GATT 1947.²²⁹

For published reports, researchers have a variety of sources:

- Dispute Settlement Reports (1996—). This set is not annotated, and is considered the "official" WTO version.
- *WTO Basic Instruments and Selected Documents* (BISD) (2003—). Note, however, that this series publishes only selected reports, generally long after they are issued.
- *International Legal Materials* (I.L.M.) (1962—). This periodical publishes selected, important WTO decisions. You can search the I.L.M. on Westlaw,²³⁰ HeinOnline,²³¹ and LexisNexis.²³²
- International Trade Law Reports (1996—). This series publishes only selected WTO decisions. There is no cumulative index. The best way to search them is to look at the colored tabs that separate documents. These have the name of the matter and the type of document (e.g., *Shrimp/Turtle—Appellate Body Report*).

- ²²⁷ http://www.worldtradelaw.net.
- ²²⁸ http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/dispu_e.htm.
- ²²⁹ http://www.sice.oas.org/DISPUTE/gatdispe.asp.
- ²³⁰ ILM database.
- ²³¹ http://heinonline.org.

 232 International Law > Treaties & International Agreements > International Legal Materials.

²²⁵ WTO-DEC.

²²⁶ http://www.wto.org.

- Law & Practice of the World Trade Organization (1995—). This contains three binders of selected WTO decisions.
- World Trade Organization Dispute Settlement Decisions: Bernan's Annotated Reporter (1998—). Bernan's Annotated Reporter is much more comprehensive than the publications noted above. Coverage starts with 1996 decisions. A comprehensive subject index tells you what volume contains the decision you're looking for. Subjects correspond to the titles or subjects of the WTO documents (e.g., Measures Affecting Textiles is indexed under "Measures Affecting Textiles," rather than "Textiles." "Regime for the Importation, Sale and Distribution of Bananas," however, is indexed under Bananas.) The index does not provide a page number—just a volume number. However, each volume has only a few decisions in it, and they're listed in the table of contents at the front of each volume.

b. Indexes and Digests

To locate relevant WTO decisions, one useful source is the online WTO Analytical Index—Guide to WTO Law and Practice.²³³ This Web page offers an extremely detailed index to WTO law, with citations and links to Appellate Body decisions. It is considered the authoritative guide to the interpretation and application of findings and decisions of WTO panels, the WTO Appellate Body and other WTO bodies.

One of the two indexes within this page is a topical index. When you click a link within the index, you retrieve an entry containing excerpts from relevant decisions. The other index is keyed to provisions to the various treaties involved in the WTO framework.

Example: You are asked to research the meaning of a provision in Article III of the Dispute Settlement Agreement, which states that the dispute settlement system serves to "clarify the existing provisions" of the WTO agreements "in accordance with customary rules of interpretation of public international law."²³⁴ You need to find out how the WTO has defined "the customary rules of interpretation of public international law."

²³³ http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/analytic_index_e/analytic_index _e.htm. This index is also available in print (2003).

²³⁴ Dispute Settlement Understanding, art. III, 1869 U.N.T.S. 401, *reprinted in* 33 I.L.M. 1226 (1994).

Starting at the main Analytical Index page,²³⁵ you would click on the abbreviation "DSU" in the Agreement/Article index. This action retrieves a Table of Contents to the DSU,²³⁶ which links to entries for individual articles.

The Analytical Index offers several subpoints under this heading, such as "(v) Principle of effective treaty interpretation." Clicking on that entry retrieves excerpts of relevant decisions, along with citations.

There are several alternatives to the Analytical Index.

- WorldTradeLaw.net's WTO Case Law Index²³⁷ indicates the relevant WTO panel reports, Appellate Body reports, or arbitrations that have interpreted each WTO legal provision or legal term/concept. You can also browse by index term or by agreement. Subject or article-by-article indexes accompany the *World Trade Organization Dispute Settlement Decisions: Bernan's Annotated Reporter*.
- Handbook of WTO/GATT Dispute Settlement (Pierre Pescatore and Stewart & Stewart eds., 1991—). This three-volume looseleaf publication provides summaries of all GATT and WTO dispute settlement decisions. The decisions are indexed by keyword, WTO/GATT Agreement article numbers, participants, and other criteria. The set is updated semi-annually.

Using Westlaw, LexisNexis, or WorldTradeLaw.net, you can use keywords to search GATT and WTO decisions. Keep in mind that these decisions are often extremely long; you may find it more efficient to start with an index or digest rather than a full-text search.

Finally, you may sometimes want to find parties' submissions in WTO disputes. While these are confidential, the parties have the option of making their submissions public, and some choose to do so, usually after the matter is concluded. Many briefs filed by the United States in WTO proceedings are available online.²³⁸ WorldTradeLaw.net also collects links to various countries' submissions in WTO and NAFTA disputes.²³⁹

²³⁵ http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/analytic_index_e/analytic_index_e.htm.

²³⁶ http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/analytic_index_e/dsu_e.htm.

²³⁷ http://www.worldtradelaw.net/dsc/wtoindex.htm.

²³⁸ http://ustr.gov/Trade_Agreements/Monitoring_Enforcement/Dispute_Settlement/ WTO/Dispute_Settlement_Index_-_Concluded.html.

5. Finding Other WTO Documents

Along with WTO dispute resolution documents, you can find most WTO documents on the WTO's Web site.²⁴⁰ The site has two main components: the general section, with reports, news, and statistics; and the Documents Online²⁴¹ section, which provides access to official WTO documents from 1995. In 2006, the General Council decided to make all official GATT documents available from Documents Online.²⁴² This collection is not yet complete, so another source for older documents is the GATT Digital Archive: 1947-1994.²⁴³ The Documents Online database is accessible from the WTO homepage, but it is also linked to various topics throughout the Web site. So, for example, if you select "Intellectual Property" from the list of Trade Topics on the homepage, the TRIPS Gateway you'll retrieve has a link to TRIPS: Disputes Concerning the TRIPS Agreement.

The Trade Topics are a convenient way to locate relevant documents without trying to navigate through the Documents Online database. Each Trade Topic page or gateway has specialized document search forms at the end of the main page. These pages are also very helpful when researching an unfamiliar topic.

The Documents Online database lets you browse or search for documents. Most of the time, you will probably be searching. You can choose between Simple or Advanced Search options; both of them allow you to search the full text of documents using keywords.

The Advanced Search has several advantages over the Simple Search. First, you can search by products, which lets you avoid documents that mention a product but do not really concern that product. You can also search by GATT/WTO treaty article. If you use this feature, you must click on the question mark to the right of the search box to get the list of treaty abbreviations. For example, the General Agreement on Trade in Services is abbreviated as GATS. Clicking on the entry for GATS in the list of abbreviations makes it

²³⁹ http://www.worldtradelaw.net/submissions.htm.

²⁴⁰ http://www.wto.org.

²⁴¹ http://docsonline.wto.org.

²⁴² http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/gattdocs_e.htm.

²⁴³ http://gatt-archive.stanford.edu.

expand to a list of articles, and by clicking on an entry, you can add it to the search form.

The Documents Online Advanced Search also lets you search by an established list of subjects (click on the question mark to the right of the search box to retrieve the list). In addition to these limitations, the Advanced Search offers several other options for narrowing your results. You should take advantage of these options, because looking at your search results in the database is cumbersome. Usually, the document title displayed in the search results does not give you enough information to know whether you want to read the document. You can get an idea of a document's contents by looking at its catalog record; click on the link to the left of the document title. Often, however, this is not enough information. Thus, you will have to open many documents in a typical search.

Like other IGO documentation discussed elsewhere in this book, WTO documents have their own unique numbering system. To understand the symbols used, click on the question mark to the right of the document symbol search box. For example, "WT/DSB/M/" means WTO Dispute Settlement Body, Minutes. The "Help" section of the Documents Online homepage²⁴⁴ has extensive information on WTO document symbols and numbering; look under "Document nomenclature" in the list of Help Contents.

C. North American Free Trade Agreement

1. Introduction

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) built on an earlier trade agreement between the United States and Canada.²⁴⁵ NAFTA's purpose is to create a free trade area comprising Canada, Mexico, and the United States. NAFTA entered into force on January 1, 1994. Liberalization of trade rules between the countries has greatly increased the volume of trade²⁴⁶ and created business for lawyers.

²⁴⁴ http://docsonline.wto.org.

²⁴⁵ United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement, 27 I.L.M. 293 (1988).

²⁴⁶ Between 1994 and 2005, total trade between the US, Mexico and Canada grew by 128 percent, reaching reach \$772 billion, http://www.economia.gob.mx/index.jsp?P= 2113&NLang=en.

If you have not yet become familiar with the NAFTA regime, you may want to start with a book that gives an overview. You can find general works on NAFTA in your library catalog using Library of Congress subject headings such as:

free trade—north america foreign trade regulation—north america north america—economic integration north america—commercial treaties canada. treaties, etc. 1992 Oct. 7

Also try the keyword nafta.

The two major legal periodical indexes, LegalTrac²⁴⁷ and *Index to Legal Periodicals* (ILP),²⁴⁸ each have a specific subject heading for NAFTA. In LegalTrac, use *free trade agreement, 1992, united states-canada-mexico*; in ILP, use *north american free trade agreement*. As always, you can combine a subject heading with more specific terms to focus on your topic (e.g., agriculture, lumber, taxation, etc.).

A useful research guide to NAFTA is Francisco Avalos & Maureen Garmon, *Basic Info and Online Sources for NAFTA and CAFTA Research* (2006).²⁴⁹ (As its title indicates, that guide also provides sources for researching the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).) Another way to get some basic information on NAFTA is to check Ralph H. Folsom, *NAFTA and Free Trade in the Americas in a Nutshell* (2d ed. 2004).

2. Agreements

NAFTA and the two main "side agreements" can be found easily on the Internet.²⁵⁰ The side agreements concern environmental²⁵¹ and labor²⁵² issues.

²⁵⁰ http://www.sice.oas.org/trade/nafta/naftatce.asp.

²⁵² North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation, http://www.sice.oas.org/trade/nafta/naftatce.asp#labor.

²⁴⁷ http://www.gale.com.

²⁴⁸ http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com.

²⁴⁹ http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/NAFTA_CAFTA_Research.htm.

²⁵¹ North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, http://www.sice. oas.org/trade/nafta/naftatce.asp#environ.

Another side agreement concerns "emergency action."²⁵³ You may also need to consult the US implementing legislation, the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act, Pub. L. No. 103-182, 107 Stat. 2057 (1993), 19 U.S.C §§ 3301 et seq.²⁵⁴ Finally, the United States and Mexico entered into a separate agreement relating to abatement of environmental problems along the US-Mexico border. This agreement, the US-Mexico Agreement Concerning the Establishment of a Border Environment Cooperation Commission and a North American Development Bank, is much harder to find on the Internet.²⁵⁵

One of the best sites on which to find the NAFTA Agreements is the Web site of the Foreign Trade Information System (SICE—from its Spanish acronym—*Sistema de Información al Comercio Exterior*).²⁵⁶ SICE is maintained under the aegis of the Organization of American States. The site provides extensive information on trade in the western hemisphere. SICE includes the text of free trade and investment agreements; updates on the progress of treaty negotiations; dispute resolution documents (e.g., panel reports under NAFTA); national laws on trade-related issues, such as intellectual property; articles; reports; and other trade-related materials.

NAFTA created a Free Trade Commission to deal with policy matters related to NAFTA, but this entity does not have a permanent bureaucratic establishment. It is composed of the trade ministers from each country, and they operate from their own country's trade departments. NAFTA also created a Secretariat²⁵⁷ to administer the dispute resolution portions of the main NAFTA Agreement. As is typical of intergovernmental organizations, the Secretariat's Web site offers a lot of useful information on the organization.

²⁵³ Understanding Between the Parties to the North American Free Trade Agreement Concerning Chapter Eight-Emergency Action, http://www.sice.oas.org/trade/nafta/ naftatce.asp (scroll to the end).

²⁵⁴ The analogous Canadian legislation is North American Free Trade Implementation Act of June 23, 1993, 1993 S.C. ch. 44. Mexico assigns implementation to the Executive Branch, rather than to its Legislative Branch, so there is no analogous Mexican law.

²⁵⁵ http://www.nadbank.org/pdfs/Charter_2004_Eng.pdf.

²⁵⁶ http://www.sice.oas.org/DEFAULT.ASP.

²⁵⁷ http://www.nafta-sec-alena.org.

3. Dispute Resolution

NAFTA has spawned a lot of dispute resolution activity, both formal and informal. The NAFTA Agreement provides several dispute resolution mechanisms, with the default provisions laid out under Chapter 20; it also has special provisions for certain types of disputes (e.g., Chapter 11 of the Agreement provides for the resolution of investment disputes). Moreover, the two side agreements on labor and environment provide their own dispute resolution procedures.

The NAFTA framework encourages informal dispute resolution. One of the functions of the Free Trade Commission is to facilitate informal resolution; it provides technical advice, mediators, and other support. The Free Trade Commission can also set up arbitration proceedings if the parties request it.

Westlaw²⁵⁸ and LexisNexis²⁵⁹ provide good coverage of NAFTA binational panel decisions, and they are most easily searchable through those services. Decisions are also online for free at the NAFTA Secretariat's Web site.²⁶⁰ These are also published in *NAFTA Arbitration Reports* (2002—). In addition, the US Department of State provides extensive information about investor-state arbitrations, including parties' submissions, orders, and other key documents, at a section of its Web site.²⁶¹ The Canadian Web site on Foreign Affairs and International Trade also provides information about past and current arbitrations, including parties' documents relating to arbitrations to which Canada is a party.²⁶² The Mexican Ministry of the Economy has documentation also, but it is primarily in Spanish.²⁶³

The best source for NAFTA disputes regarding investor-state dispute settlement is NAFTAClaims.com (a.k.a. NAFTALaw.org), operated by Todd Grierson Weiler.²⁶⁴ The disputes are organized by country and include many of

²⁵⁸ NAFTA-BIP for panel decisions; NAFTA-AWARDS for arbitration awards.

 $^{^{259}}$ International Trade > Cases > Interpreting U.S. Law > NAFTA Panel Review Decisions.

²⁶⁰ http://www.nafta-sec-alena.org/DefaultSite/index_e.aspx?DetailID=5.

²⁶¹ http://www.state.gov/s/l/c3439.htm.

²⁶² http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/gov-en.asp.

²⁶³ http://www.economia.gob.mx/index.jsp?P=2259.

²⁶⁴ http://www.naftaclaims.com/index.html.

the documents filed and issued in a dispute. There is also a collection of legal documents, including NAFTA negotiating texts and other documents. All of the documents are available in PDF.

WorldTradeLaw.net, a subscription-based Web site,²⁶⁵ also provides NAFTA decisions in PDF format. The site offers a search engine specifically for searching the text of NAFTA decisions, but does not include decisions under Chapter 11.

4. Additional Research Resources

The scope of BNA's *International Trade Reporter* (I.T.R.) (1994—) extends beyond NAFTA to encompass WTO and other international trade issues, but it provides good coverage of NAFTA disputes and negotiations related to NAFTA (e.g., expansion of NAFTA's coverage). The I.T.R. is updated weekly. Your library may have this title in paper or online, or both.²⁶⁶ In print or online, check the index under "North American Free Trade Agreement," or see specific topics such as "Wood" or "Rules of Origin." The I.T.R.'s online version is also fully searchable. Although the ITR summarizes actions in pending arbitrations, it does not provide the full text for most decisions.

Another source for developments in international trade generally, but including NAFTA, is the weekly publication *Inside U.S. Trade* (1983—), available electronically²⁶⁷ or in a paper version. *Inside U.S. Trade* is also available on LexisNexis.²⁶⁸ This source has very short news stories about legal and political developments in international trade. It sometimes reprints the text of letters from US officials on trade issues. You may also want to look at a blog on international trade: International Economic Law and Policy Blog,²⁶⁹ which offers contributions from leading experts.

²⁶⁵ http://www.worldtradelaw.net.

²⁶⁶ Also available on LexisNexis and Westlaw under some subscription plans.

²⁶⁷ http://www.insidetrade.com/.

²⁶⁸ International Trade > General News & Information > Inside U.S. Trade.

²⁶⁹ http://worldtradelaw.typepad.com/ielpblog.

VI. PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

A. Introduction

1. What Is Private International Law?

One effect of globalization is that family and commercial situations often cross national borders. Of course, different countries apply different legal rules to these situations, so the question arises: What law should apply? The answer can affect the parties' rights and duties as well as the sources of law you should consider. National laws are the primary sources of private international law. However, private international law is also embodied in treaties and conventions (e.g., the Hague Conventions on Private International Law), model laws, legal guides, and other instruments that regulate transactions.

To resolve differences between legal systems, states have adopted rules called "private international law." This body of law includes procedural rules for deciding whether to apply the law of one country or another. Those rules are often called "choice-of-law" or "conflict of law" rules, particularly in common law systems. In civil law systems, the term "private international law" is used for these rules. But private international law also includes *substantive* rules on which countries have agreed.

Several international organizations work to establish uniform rules. Their work covers many areas, including banking, contracts, and other commercial law; and family law issues such as child protection, marriage, divorce, and spousal support. Another major area involves aspects of international dispute resolution, from service of process to enforcement of judgments and arbitral awards.

2. Codification of Private International Law

During the last century, a few groups tried to codify certain customary norms of private international law. Organizations such as the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) have drafted several multilateral treaties and model laws. For example, the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration has formed the basis of arbitration laws in over 50 jurisdictions.²⁷⁰ The Hague Conference on Private International Law,

²⁷⁰ http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/en/uncitral_texts/arbitration/1985Model_arbitration_status.html.

another organization, focuses on treaties; it has completed 37 of them to date.²⁷¹ While not all of these organizations' initiatives have been widely adopted, their efforts have increased uniformity and predictability in many areas of law.

3. General Research Strategies and Sources

a. Does Any Treaty Apply?

One of the first questions you'll need to answer is whether an existing treaty addresses your topic. For example, if you need to enforce a US court judgment in another country, you should look for a treaty on the uniform recognition of court judgments. Using secondary sources, such as books or articles on transnational litigation, you can determine that while many European countries have signed the multilateral Brussels and Lugano Conventions, which cover enforcement of foreign judgments, the United States has not. Another way you might find this information is by looking at the US Department of State's Web page on this topic.²⁷² You could retrieve this page by a Web search like *state department enforcement foreign judgments*.

Knowing that no treaty controls this area, you would next look at the foreign state's law on enforcement of foreign judgments. The sources you use would depend, as always, on what you have available. One widely used tool is *Martindale Hubbell's International Law Digest* (1993—). This publication provides brief information on the enforceability of foreign judgments in many jurisdictions. Alternatively, you might use sources for foreign law research such as codes, treatises, periodical articles, or Web sites. For more assistance researching the national law of other countries, see Chapter 7.

What if a treaty does apply to your question? Let's say you need to know how to enforce an arbitral award in a foreign country. Again, start by looking for a treaty. Another way to find out whether the United States is a party to any relevant treaty is to look in *Treaties in Force*.²⁷³ You can open the current version as a PDF document, and search for the word "award." This search leads you to the entry for the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards. You can quickly find the text of this treaty online through a variety of sources.

²⁷¹ http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.listing.

²⁷² http://travel.state.gov/law/info/judicial_judicial_691.html.

²⁷³ http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaties.

After reviewing the treaty text, you would follow up on any unanswered questions by using secondary sources, checking national legislation, calling foreign authorities, or any other necessary approach.

b. What If No Treaty Applies?

If your search of treaty and secondary sources tells you that no treaty applies, you will need to find out what other law applies. "In civil law countries, private international law rules are generally set forth as preliminary provisions to the basic codes."²⁷⁴ For example, Article 3 of the French Civil Code²⁷⁵ sets forth some of these rules:

Statutes relating to public policy and safety are binding on all those living on the territory.

Immovables are governed by French law even when owned by aliens. Statutes relating to the status and capacity of persons govern French persons, even those residing in foreign countries.

Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo A. Flores, *Foreign Law Guide: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World* (1987—), provides the applicable foreign laws for many jurisdictions. The electronic version is available by subscription only.²⁷⁶ Look under the heading "Conflict of Laws and Private International Law." Thus, by using a combination of primary and secondary sources, you would determine the conflict of law rules of the foreign jurisdiction involved.

Another part of your research involves looking at the US rules, but that topic is mostly beyond the scope of this book. You will find useful information in the *Restatement of the Law, Second, Conflict of Laws* (1971—).²⁷⁷ Treatises on US civil and criminal procedure, such as Charles Alan Wright et al., *Federal Practice & Procedure* (1969—), cover some aspects of procedure involving

²⁷⁴ Detlev Vagts & Louis F. Del Duca, *Book Review*, 83 AM. J. INT'L L. 444, 444 (1989) (reviewing *Problemi di Riforma del Diritto Internazionale Privato Italiano* (1986)).

²⁷⁵ C. CIV. art. 3 (Georges Rouhette & Anne Rouhette-Berton trans.), Legifrance, *at* http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/html/index.html (2006).

²⁷⁶ http://www.foreignlawguide.com.

²⁷⁷ The Restatements are also available on Lexis (Legal > Secondary Legal > Restatements > Conflict of Laws) and Westlaw (REST-CONFL).

foreign jurisdictions. For example, 4B Fed. Prac. & Proc. Civ. 3d § 1133 is entitled Service on Individuals in Foreign Country—In General.

B. International Business Transactions

Researching international business transactions involves locating national law from various jurisdictions, both legislation and case law; obtaining commentary on how to conduct a particular kind of transaction; locating sample forms or language needed for contracts and agreements; and locating international law sources, including treaties, model rules from international organizations, and case law from international courts and tribunal.

When faced with a particular business transaction, you may not always start your research the same way. There are some standard methods for beginning a project focusing on locating and interpreting national law of another jurisdiction.

Locate some information about the legal system in question. This is done by consulting both research guides and sources that describe the legal system and even the climate for doing business. Let's look at Mexico as an example. There are several print and electronic sources worth consulting.

Using a library catalog, search the subject *law—Mexico* and you will retrieve records for books about the legal system; for example, Stephen Zamora's *Mexican Law* (2004). The catalog record indicates that the table of contents contains the following:

The history of Mexican law—Legal education and the legal profession—Sources of law—Federalism and centrism—Executive and legislative powers—The judicial system—Constitutional guarantees of individual rights—Judicial procedures of enforce the constitution—Administrative law—Civil procedure—Criminal law and procedure—Regulation of the economy and environmental regulation—Labour law, agrarian reform, and social welfare—The civil and commercial codes—Family law and the law of persons—Property law and inheritance law—Contracts and other obligations—Commercial law—Business organizations—Financial institutions—Intellectual property law—Conflicts of law.

Other worthwhile sources include Jorge A. Vargas, *Mexican Legal Dictionary and Desk Reference* (2003). By searching the Web, you can find a guide called *An Electronic Guide to Mexican Law*, by Francisco A. Avalos and

Elisa Donnadieu (Nov. 2005).²⁷⁸ All of these sources will describe the legal system, provide citations to relevant codes and laws, and set a framework for continuing your research.

Typical questions about doing business in a foreign country include: What types of entities can do business there (e.g., corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies? What are the advantages and disadvantages of using each entity? What requirements must an entity fulfill before doing business (e.g., registration, capitalization, designation of an agent)? For Mexico, the chapter on "Business Organizations" in the Zamora book cited above would be an excellent starting point. Good secondary sources provide citations to applicable laws and regulations; for instance, this chapter refers to specific sections of the Civil Code, identifies leading treatises on Mexican corporations law, and provides an overview of business entities.

If you had questions about the applicability of a Mexican Civil Code provision, you might next look for an English translation of that Code. Searching a library catalog with the subject *Mexico* and the title keywords *civil code* will retrieve your local library's translations. You may also want to check WorldCat²⁷⁹ for more recent translations. One such translation is a 2005 version from West, *The Federal Civil Code of Mexico* (2005).

You may have more specific questions depending on the type of business involved. For example, will the business need to trademark its name, acquire a license, or meet health and safety requirements? After checking the more general sources such as the Zamora book, you may want to check the *Foreign Law Guide*²⁸⁰ to identify Mexican legislation on narrower topics. Periodical articles can also provide more specialized information; see Chapter 7.

As another example, consider a project to locate Japanese banking laws. Again, a good source to consult is the *Foreign Law Guide*. The section on Japan from this database indicates that there are several relevant laws, and it also points to a few sources for English-language translations, including the EHS *Law Bulletin Series* (1958—) and *Doing Business in Japan* (1980—). Both

²⁷⁸ http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Mexico.htm.

²⁷⁹ http://www.worldcat.org.

²⁸⁰ http://www.foreignlawguide.com. This is the electronic version of Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo A. Flores, *Foreign Law Guide: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World* (1987—).

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of these print sources translate the laws, and *Doing Business in Japan* provides some commentary and explanation. *Foreign Law Guide* also notes that there are a few Web sites worth consulting. Other sources do something similar to *Foreign Law Guide*, but they provide much less detail. One such source is the *Martindale Hubbell International Law Digest* (1993—). This single volume covers 80 jurisdictions and provides some information on areas of law of interest to practicing lawyers. While this is not a comprehensive source, it is available in many law libraries.²⁸¹

Free Internet sources also have a role in locating national law. A good way to locate collections of laws is to consult the "countries" catalog on World-LII.²⁸² Countries are arranged alphabetically. Looking at Singapore, the sites are further divided into categories:

- Courts & Case-Law
- Education
- Government
- Inter-Government Organisations
- Law Journals
- Law Reform
- Lawyers
- Legislation
- Other Indexes
- Parliament
- Treaties & International Agreements.

By selecting the "legislation" category, you will get a fairly long list of potential sites. One that stands out is Singapore Statutes Online, a free resource provided by the Singapore Attorney General's Chambers.²⁸³ This site provides access to laws by chapter number or alphabetically. A search mechanism and a subject index are also available. A "last updated" date is listed on the homepage. All of this makes this a good site for accessing needed legislation.

The same people who work on the WorldLII site are also busy creating "Legal Information Institutes"—these sites provide access to freely available

²⁸¹ It is also available on LexisNexis.

²⁸² http://www.worldlii.org/catalog/215.html.

²⁸³ http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/.

public legal information. Some of the best include AustLII, BAILII, and PacLII, but there are several more.²⁸⁴

There are other important Web sites that are freely available, and they also contain the full-text of laws, sometimes in English, or a good abstract and citation to the relevant laws. These sites are often provided by intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions, learned societies, and even law firms. Many of these are organized by topic. A good example is the database of national labor, social security, and related human rights legislation called NATLEX, produced by the International Labor Organization. NATLEX provides abstracts of legislation and citation information and even provides links to the complete text of the law, if possible. Access is by country or subject, and a search engine is available as well.

Other such Web sites include CLEA for intellectual property laws;²⁸⁵ FAOLEX for laws related to food and agriculture;²⁸⁶ and E-Transactions Law Resources, which focuses on legislation and regulation on e-commerce and related issues.²⁸⁷ To locate more of these valuable Web sites, see WorldLII subject categories²⁸⁸ or An Annotated Guide to Web Sites Around the World.²⁸⁹

To supplement the laws, you will also want some commentary that explains how these laws work and how to conduct or structure certain transactions. Some of these sources will contain citations to laws, and some may even provide the text of the legislation (or portions of it). Many of these sources are referenced in *Foreign Law Guide*. There are some standard tools that make good starting points and reference works too. Some of these tools focus on specific countries and some on specific regions. One category of such tools are the many *Doing*

- ²⁸⁶ http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home?p_lang=en.
- ²⁸⁷ http://www.bakerinfo.com/ecommerce/home-transactions.htm.
- ²⁸⁸ http://www.worldlii.org/catalog/272.html.

²⁸⁴ Australasia (AustLII), UK & Ireland (BAILII), Canada (CanLII), The Commonwealth (CommonLII), Cyprus (CyLaw), Droit Francophone, Hong Kong (HKLII), JuriBurkina, New Zealand (NZLII), Pacific Islands (PacLII), Southern Africa (SAFLII), and USA (LII(Cornell)). Links to these sites are available at http://www.worldlii.org/; see right-hand bottom of the homepage.

²⁸⁵ http://www.wipo.int/clea/en/index.jsp.

²⁸⁹ http://www.law.harvard.edu/library/services/research/guides/international/web_resources/index.php.

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Business in . . . titles, for example Doing Business in Japan (1980—), Doing Business in Mexico (1980—), or Doing Business in Asia (1991—).²⁹⁰ While many of these titles are in looseleaf format, the scope and depth of these sources varies; some contain translated legislation or sample forms; others are more of an outline. Some are even available on subscription databases, as is the case with China Laws for Foreign Business.²⁹¹ Other standards include Business Operations in . . . and Taxes and Investment in²⁹²

Other similar tools are available by topic, like the Web sites by topic noted above. In the area of international business, there are many books and looseleaf services that provide valuable guidance about transactional work. Some of these sources provide sample forms, phone numbers for necessary governmental departments, and other practical information. The topics vary from arbitration to trademarks. For example: *Jurisdiction and Arbitration Agreements and their Enforcement* (2005), a practical guide on how to enforce a foreign judgment and deal with issues of jurisdiction; *Trade Marks, Trade Names and Unfair Competition: World Law and Practice* (1999—), detailed information on regulations and enforcement for many countries; and *Transnational Contracts* (1997—) covering conflicts of laws and applicable contractual language.

C. Family Law

1. Introduction

The area of law known as "domestic relations" has increasingly included transnational twists. Thus, lawyers who practice in the area of marriage dissolution, adoption, and child custody sometimes need to extend their research across national boundaries. Trusts and estates lawyers, too, have seen their practice expand to address foreign law questions. Unfortunately, the availability of good research sources in this area lags behind that of other legal topics, so research requires extra persistence and flexibility.

²⁹² Both of these sources are also available electronically from the vendors.

²⁹⁰ The sets on Japan and Mexico are published by M. Bender and the Asia looseleaf is a CCH Asia publication. See appendix for more information.

²⁹¹ CCH Internet Research Network, http://business.cch.com.

2. Research Strategies and Sources

The Hague Conference on Private International Law²⁹³ has completed numerous conventions in these areas of law. Topics include child abduction, child support, adoption, marriage and divorce, spousal maintenance, forms of wills, estate administration and succession, and trusts. Thus, when faced with a family law or estate question that involves a foreign party or asset, make sure to check whether a treaty may apply.

As usual, the most efficient way to check for treaties is to consult secondary sources. The US State Department Web sites²⁹⁴ can sometimes offer enough information to get you started. Another overview appears in the *International Lawyer's Deskbook* (L. Law et al. eds., 2d ed. 2003), which has chapter on wills, trusts, estates, and on family law. Law review articles and treatises on international family or succession law will highlight relevant international instruments (some of these are noted below).

Family and succession law questions, however, will usually require you to research foreign law as well as treaties. Some of the more readily available sources include the *Martindale-Hubbell International Law Digest* (1993—), the *International Encyclopaedia of Laws: Family & Succession* (Walter Pintens ed., 1997—); Louis Garb, *International Succession* (2004); and *The International Survey of Family Law* (Andrew Bainham ed., 1994—). Unfortunately, these sources often highlight just a few countries. To identify relevant laws from other countries, check Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo A. Flores, *Foreign Law Guide: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World* (1987—)²⁹⁵ under headings such as Adoption, Family, Guardian and Ward, Marriage, Inheritance and Succession, Trusts and Trustees, and Wills.

Example: A US client, divorced from her child's father in Germany, has brought the child to the United States without the father's consent. The father files a Request for Return of Child under the Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of Child Abduction²⁹⁶ with the Central Authority of Germany. In this scenario, you already know that the

²⁹³ http://www.hcch.net.

²⁹⁴ http://travel.state.gov/family_family_1732.html (Children and Family); http://travel. state.gov/law/info/marriage/marriage_644.html (Marriage and Divorce).

²⁹⁵ By subscription at http://www.foreignlawguide.com.

²⁹⁶ http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.text&cid=24.

Hague Convention applies. The Hague Convention lets a petitioning parent recover a child where, among other conditions, the removal was in breach of the parent's custody rights under the law of his or her home country. Thus, to determine each parent's rights, you would have to look at the child custody laws of Germany. One possible source of information is the treatise *Family Law in Europe* (Carolyn Hamilton & Alison Perry eds., 2d ed. 2002).

3. Other Research Sources

To find materials at your library, use the following Library of Congress subject headings:

conflict of laws—inheritance and succession conflict of laws—wills conflict of laws—domestic relations intercountry adoption convention on protection of children and co-operation in respect of intercountry adoption (1993) [or any other treaty that you think is relevant] domestic relations—[country name] marriage law—[country name] inheritance and succession—[country name]

Also try International Academy of Estate and Trust Law (as author or keyword).

D. Transnational Dispute Resolution

1. Introduction

Increasingly, lawyers represent clients whose interests cross national borders, and often those interests lead the client to some form of dispute resolution. Businesses often prefer to arbitrate transnational disputes (see Section VI.D.3), because arbitration provides a faster, more confidential outcome, from a neutral arbiter. Thus, international business contracts often contain provisions indicating that disputes will be settled through arbitration.

Nonetheless, many individuals and other entities find themselves embroiled in transnational litigation.

2. Stages of Litigation

a. Service of Process

An LA lawyer commented that service on foreign defendants is "inherently complicated without being very interesting."²⁹⁷ Generally, when researching this topic, you will be looking for information such as whether you can effect service by mail and whether you must provide translations of all the documents.

The State Department tries to help lawyers figure out the correct procedure, and its Web site on Judicial Assistance is a good starting point.²⁹⁸ One part of the site (Service of Legal Documents Abroad)²⁹⁹ provides general information and will help you become familiar with key treaties and terms (e.g., letters rogatory). Another section of the site, entitled "Country-Specific Information,"³⁰⁰ gives you information tailored to particular countries; unfortunately, many countries are not covered in this section.

Example: A Seventh Circuit case confirmed that a US corporation couldn't serve a Canadian corporation by sending an express package containing a copy of the complaint.³⁰¹ So, rather than try service by FedEx, you could check the State Department site for information about how to accomplish effective service. The country-specific page³⁰² has detailed information on service in Canada, including contact information for the government offices that handle service in each province.

For countries not covered at the State Department's site, or for additional information, consult the *Martindale-Hubbell International Law Digest* (1993—).³⁰³ An EU Web site³⁰⁴ also provides some guidance on this topic, as

 303 Also available on LexisNexis; see International Law > Treatises & Analytical Materials > Martindale-Hubbell(R) International Law Digest.

³⁰⁴ European Judicial Network (EJN), http://ec.europa.eu/civiljustice/index_en.htm.

²⁹⁷ Arin Greenwood, *Idea from the Front: Serving Them Right*, ABA J., June 2005, at 24, 24 (quoting Dan Swanson).

²⁹⁸ http://travel.state.gov/law/info/judicial/judicial 2513.html.

²⁹⁹ http://travel.state.gov/law/info/judicial_judicial_680.html.

³⁰⁰ http://travel.state.gov/law/info/judicial_2510.html.

³⁰¹ Audio Enterprises, Inc. v. B & W Loudspeakers, 957 F.2d 406, 408 (7th Cir. 1992).

³⁰² http://travel.state.gov/law/info/judicial_judicial_682.html.

well as other matters related to civil and commercial matters. For example, if you need to serve documents in Germany, there is an English-language page that outlines the process and cites to relevant German law.

If you need to dig even more deeply, the following sources may be useful.

- *International Encyclopaedia of Laws: Civil Procedure* (Paul Lemmens ed., 1994—).
- Anthony Colman, *Encyclopedia of International Commercial Litigation* (1991—).
- David Epstein et al., International Litigation: A Guide to Jurisdiction, Practice, and Strategy (3d ed. 1998—).
- Lawrence W. Newman & Michael Burrows, *The Practice of International Litigation* (2d ed. 1998—).
- Bruno A. Ristau, International Judicial Assistance: Civil and Commercial (1984—).
- National continuing legal education materials, such as those published by the Practising Law Institute (PLI) or the American Law Institute- American Bar Association (ALI-ABA), cover aspects of transnational litigation. Many of these publications are available on LexisNexis³⁰⁵ and Westlaw,³⁰⁶ or on paper in law school or law firm libraries.
- Major treatises on civil procedure, such as Charles Alan Wright et al., *Federal Practice & Procedure* (1969—), have some discussion of transnational litigation issues (e.g., 4B Fed. Prac. & Proc. Civ. 3d § 1134, Manner of Service in Foreign Country).

To find additional materials, use the following Library of Congress subject headings:

civil procedure international law jurisdiction (international law)—cases judgments, foreign conflict of laws judicial assistance civil procedure (international law) letters rogatory commercial treaties

³⁰⁵ Legal > Secondary Legal > CLE Materials > Combined ALI-ABA Course of Study Materials. Lexis does not have the PLI publications.

³⁰⁶ PLI and ALI-ABA databases.

foreign law pleading and proof of—united states discovery (law) executions (law) foreign law (pleading and proof) jurisdiction (international law)

b. Discovery

Discovery in transnational litigation presents its own set of problems. Generally, foreign jurisdictions have much less liberal discovery rules than does the United States. One source of rules for transnational discovery is the Hague Convention on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters;³⁰⁷ you will often start your research by finding out whether the foreign country in question has become a party to that treaty.

Once again, the State Department's Judicial Assistance Web page³⁰⁸ provides a useful starting point. The State Department circular *Obtaining Evidence Abroad*³⁰⁹ offers an overview of the topic. You should also check the "Country Specific Information" page³¹⁰ to see whether the State Department has created a page specific to your country of interest. In addition, some countries, such as Australia, have created their own Web pages providing information for foreign attorneys.³¹¹ It is worth checking for such pages from whatever country you're researching.

For more in-depth research, check the secondary sources listed in Section VI.D.2.a, Service of Process.

c. Enforcement of Judgments

Currently, no multilateral or bilateral treaty between the United States and other countries allows for the reciprocal enforcement of foreign judgments. Thus, you will have to look closely at the domestic law of the foreign state to determine the enforceability of a US judgment in that jurisdiction. The State

³¹⁰ http://travel.state.gov/law/info/judicial/judicial_2510.html.

³⁰⁷ http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.text&cid=82.

³⁰⁸ http://travel.state.gov/law/info/judicial_2514.html.

³⁰⁹ http://travel.state.gov/law/info/judicial_judicial_688.html.

³¹¹ http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Internationalcivilprocedure_ Privateinternationallaw.

Department's circular on *Enforcement of Judgments*³¹² is once again a good starting point; also check for country-specific information.³¹³ *Martin-dale-Hubbell's International Law Digest* (1993—) also addresses this topic for about 80 countries.

For more in-depth research, check the secondary sources listed in Section VI.D.2.a. In addition, Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo A. Flores, *Foreign Law Guide: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World* (1987—)³¹⁴ identifies relevant legislation under the subject heading "Judgments (Including Foreign Judgments)."

3. International Arbitration

The widespread adoption of the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (1958),³¹⁵ which limits the grounds upon which arbitral awards may be attacked, has made international arbitration a preferred option for many businesses and organizations.

International arbitration is usually controlled much more by contractual arrangement than by foreign legislation. Parties can specify the forum, rules, and governing law that will apply to any arbitration. If the parties designate an existing arbitral institution to handle any ensuing disputes, this is known as "institutional arbitration." If they set up rules for arbitration outside of an existing organization, this is referred to as *ad hoc* arbitration.

In addition to the distinction between institutional and *ad hoc* arbitration, transnational arbitration is often separated into disputes that involve a state as a party and those that do not. Organizations that handle disputes involving states include the Permanent Court of Arbitration,³¹⁶ the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID),³¹⁷ and the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA).³¹⁸

³¹² http://travel.state.gov/law/info/judicial/judicial_691.html.

³¹³ http://travel.state.gov/law/info/judicial_2510.html.

³¹⁴ By subscription at http://www.foreignlawguide.com.

³¹⁵ http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/en/uncitral_texts/arbitration/NYConvention.html.

³¹⁶ http://www.pca-cpa.org.

³¹⁷ http://www.worldbank.org/icsid.

³¹⁸ http://www.lcia-arbitration.com.

Some international organizations specialize in only one type of dispute. For example, WIPO's Arbitration and Mediation Center³¹⁹ handles intellectual property issues, with an overwhelming focus on domain name disputes. The Court of Arbitration for Sport³²⁰ handles commercial and disciplinary matters related to sports. Others, like the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), provide international arbitration services for any kind of international commercial dispute.

Another important institution in arbitration is the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).³²¹ Although it does not handle arbitration disputes, it created a set of arbitration rules and a model law that have been widely adopted. Its Web site has useful resources for arbitration researchers, including reports, bibliographies, links to arbitral organizations, and a database of arbitration abstracts (CLOUT), discussed below.

For researchers, the most frustrating aspect of arbitration is that awards and proceedings are usually confidential. In contrast to the transparency of litigation, documents relating to arbitration are not routinely published electronically or in paper. Because some arbitration awards *do* get published, however, you can't assume these decisions are always unavailable.

The Transnational Law Database³²² from the Center for Transnational Law at the University of Cologne, Germany, offers one way to access arbitral decisions and other legal sources. The core of the database is a digest of *lex mercatoria* principles—*lex mercatoria* refers to transnational commercial law, or the "law merchant." Individual digest topics have various tabs listing references to "doctrine" (scholarly writing), arbitral decisions, and national laws relating to each principle. The entire database is freely available.

One of the best resources for arbitration research is KluwerArbitration.com,³²³ but few law school libraries subscribe to it. KluwerArbitration.com offers a database of summaries and full-text versions of treaties and international instruments, court decisions and awards, national arbitration laws, and commentary. You can search the database or browse by type of materials or country.

³¹⁹ http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/center/index.html.

³²⁰ http://www.tas-cas.org.

³²¹ http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/en/index.html.

³²² http://www.tldb.net.

³²³ http://www.kluwerarbitration.com/arbitration/arb/default.asp.

Two other specialized arbitration databases are available as well. One is a more widely available service is called Arbitration Law Online.³²⁴ This Juris Publishing database includes national laws and arbitration decisions, as well as commentary. The other is Transnational Dispute Management (TDM), a global transnational dispute management portal with a primary focus on international commercial arbitration. The database provides updates on new developments, insights and comments, as well as national legislation and case law.³²⁵

On the free Web, resources are scarce. ICSID provides the full text of selected cases and awards.³²⁶ Abstracts of awards and decisions concerning the UNCITRAL texts are available through the CLOUT database.³²⁷ If you find an abstract on CLOUT that looks useful, you can request the full text from the UNCITRAL Secretariat for a fee.³²⁸

Turning to LexisNexis and Westlaw sources, LexisNexis offers only one publication devoted to international arbitration—*International Arbitration: Mealey's Litigation Report.*³²⁹

Westlaw's international arbitration offerings are much more extensive. First, Westlaw takes ICSID materials (awards, model clauses, arbitration rules) and makes them available in a variety of databases.³³⁰ Westlaw also offers a database of International Chamber of Commerce model clauses and arbitration rules.³³¹ Similarly, Westlaw makes UNCITRAL's arbitration and conciliation rules, and its model laws, available in various databases.³³² Westlaw also has a database called "International Commercial Arbitration cases"³³³ from several

- ³²⁷ http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/en/case_law.html.
- ³²⁸ http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/contact_us.html.

- ³³⁰ ICSID-ALL, ICSID-AWARDS, ICSID-RULES, and ICSID-MODC.
- ³³¹ ICC-RULES, ICC-MODC, and ICC-ALL.
- ³³² UNCITRAL-RULES, UNCITRAL-MODL, and UNCITRAL-ALL.
- ³³³ (ICA-CASES).

³²⁴ http://online.arbitrationlaw.com/online2.

³²⁵ http://www.transnational-dispute-management.com.

³²⁶ http://www.worldbank.org/icsid/cases/cases.htm.

³²⁹ Legal > Area of Law - By Topic > Alternative Dispute Resolution > Legal News > International Arbitration: Mealey's Litigation Report.

English-speaking countries. Most of these, however, are US commercial arbitration cases, without any foreign or international aspects whatsoever.

4. Additional Research Sources for Arbitration

- a. Research Guides
- Gloria Miccioli, ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law: International Commercial Arbitration.³³⁴
- Jean M. Wenger, Update to International Commercial Arbitration: Locating the Resources—Revised (2004).³³⁵

b. Treatises

- Martin Domke, *Domke on Commercial Arbitration: The Law and Practice of Commercial Arbitration* (1990—).
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There are many books on international arbitration. To find additional resources, use the following Library of Congress subject headings:

arbitration and award, international arbitration, international mediation, international pacific settlement of international disputes

And, depending on the institution(s) or treaty you are interested in:

convention on the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards (1958) convention on the settlement of investment disputes between states and nationals of other states (1965) court of arbitration for sport

³³⁴ http://www.asil.org/resource/arb1.htm.

³³⁵ http://www.llrx.com/features/arbitration2.htm.

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ICC rules of arbitration (1998) international centre for settlement of investment disputes international chamber of commerce international chamber of commerce. international court of arbitration permanent court of arbitration united nations commission on international trade law

Appendix

This is a cumulative bibliography of all of the sources cited in all chapters and includes information on print sources, subscription databases, and freely available Web sites. All sources are arranged alphabetically by author or title. Where possible, the abbreviation or acronym of a source is provided in [brackets] following the title. As with any printed list, Web site locations are bound to change or disappear.

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