

# Law sources in the Library

This is an outline guide to some categories of U.K. law material in the library. It is not however, a complete list of sources.

Texts of actual legislation and reports of law cases (Sections 1-2) are regarded as **Primary Sources**.

**Secondary Sources** include works such as encyclopaedias, dictionaries, citation indexes and directories (Sections 4-7); sources for finding out what has been published, such as indexing journals and bibliographies (Section 8) and materials for reading and studying at length, such as textbooks, casebooks and journals.

Most law material is shelved in the **Law collection** on Level 2, at the numbers 340 through to 349. These books are held in an area separate from the rest of the book collection. Works on the law making process, 328, and aspects of criminal justice (mainly 360's) are also on Level 2. To find books use Primo. After doing your search, use the limit options on the left. First click on 'Available in the Library' and then click 'Books'. Use the Find It tab to discover how many copies are held and the class mark.

The library also subscribes to legal databases, **iLaw**, **Lexis Library** and **Westlaw**. These can be accessed via the University Portal and the Library, Media & IT home page. On the library home page click on Find Databases at the top of the screen and then the appropriate letter and then on the database title. These databases cover a wide range of case law, legislation and journal articles **BUT** not everything is available in full text (if it isn't in one database, it might be full text in the other!). They allow you to search for information by subject, citation, or by browsing. Use of these databases is essential, especially as they provide access to a wider range of case law than is available in the library.

If you have any difficulty using the law literature, or are unable to find the information you require, please ask a member of the enquiries team for help.

## 1. LEGISLATION AND OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Legislation comprises bills, statutes and subordinate legislation which together with "white papers" etc. are all government publications.

### 1.1 Government Publications

Most, though not all U.K. government publications are issued by the Stationery Office. Any held in the library can be found by searching Primo and using the 'Available in the Library' and 'books' limits.

### 1.2 Bills

Parliamentary bills are drafts of legislation. Bills are only purchased on a very selective basis. Bills before parliament can be found on the World Wide Web:

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/>

### 1.3 Statutes

Bills which have passed through all stages in Parliament and have received Royal Assent become Statutes or Acts of Parliament.

The library subscribes to a major collection of statutes:-

## **Halsbury's Statutes of England and Wales**

Butterworths

(348.42023 HAL) (Reference Use Only)

The basic set contains annotated texts of statutes in force from 1985, arranged under broad subject headings. This is up-dated by annual Continuation Volumes (containing new statutes of the year in question), an annual Cumulative Supplement (notes amendments to and repeals of previous legislation), and a loose-leaf Current Statutes service (containing the most recent statutes and amendments). The basic volumes are also re-issued every few years. You **must** use all of these to get an accurate record of current law.

Individual acts are filed in the current service file until they are superseded by the annual bound volumes. The statutes are arranged in chronological order of receiving Royal Assent i.e. by chapter number (e.g C.17). It is important to remember that when using the annual bound volumes that any subsequent amendments to the Statutes will not be included.

All Acts of Parliament since 1988 are available through the World Wide Web at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk> - these, generally, are *not* updated however if amendments are later made. They have also now added a selection of UK Parliament Public General Acts from 1837 to 1987 in PDF format.

**Halsbury's Statutes** is available electronically in the Lexis Library.

See also:-

### **Current Law Statutes Annotated**

Sweet & Maxwell, 1963 -

(348.42023 CUR) (Reference Use Only)

### **1.4 Subordinate Legislation**

Also called **delegated** or **secondary** legislation, this deals with matters too detailed to be included in statutes, and is made by some lesser authority than Parliament, e.g. a minister or local council. Much of it, though not all, is published by the Stationery Office in the Statutory Instrument (S.I.) series. Titles often contain the word "regulations", "order" or "rules".

A complete set of abridged statutory instruments is held as:

### **Halsbury's Statutory Instruments**

Butterworths.

(348.42025 HAL) (Reference Use Only)

S.Is are also included in many loose-leaf law encyclopaedias (see Section 4).

All Statutory Instruments since 1987 are available through the Internet at [www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/) as well as being available in the legal databases.

## **2. LAW REPORTS**

Law reports are published accounts of cases, usually heard in the superior courts. There are a number of published series held in the library. More reports are available as full text in the legal databases, particularly Lexis or Westlaw, than can be found on the shelves in the library. In order to find a particular report you will need to understand how cases are cited. There are variations, but a typical citation looks like this: **Doak v. Bedford (1964) 2 W.L.R. 545, QBD**

This can be broken down into:

**Doak v. Bedford** - Surnames of the two parties involved.

**(1964)** - Year of publication of the report.

**2** - Volume number. Most modern report series have two or more bound volumes a year, so this refers to the second of the three 1964 volumes.

**W.L.R** - Standard abbreviation for the Weekly Law Reports. A list of standard abbreviations for all the law reports held by the library can be obtained from the front of the Current Law Case Citators (348.42028 CUR), or they can be located online at [www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk](http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk).

**545** - Page number on which the report begins

**Q.B.D.** - Abbreviation for the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court i.e. the court in which the case was heard. (Citations do not always include this.)

The library subscribes to a number of series of law reports, of which the two major ones are:

**Weekly Law Reports, 1953 -**

Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales  
(348.42022 WEE) (Reference Use Only)

Published in weekly parts, bound annually into three volumes.

**All England Law Reports, 1936 -**

Butterworths  
(348.42022 ALL) (Reference Use Only)

Also published weekly and now bound annually into four volumes. The standard abbreviation is All E.R., but you will also see A.E.R and All Eng.

The main source for earlier cases is:

**English Reports Reprint 1220 - 1865**

Stevens, 1900 - 32. 178 vols. Repr. Abingdon Professional Books, 1974.  
(348.42022 ENG) (Reference Use Only)

The library also subscribes to a number of more specialised reports e.g.

**Lloyd's Law Reports, 1919 -**

(Title pre 1968 was Lloyd's List Law Reports)

Lloyd's of London Press

(348.42022 LLO) (Reference Use Only)

Standard abbreviation is Lloyd's Rep., but you will find variations.

## **Law Reports Index, 1951-**

Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales  
(348.42028 LAW) (Reference Use Only)

Indexes all cases reported in the Law Reports; the Weekly Law Reports; the Industrial Cases Reports as well as containing references to cases reported in other major reports series.

Law reports held by the library are shelved in alphabetical order by title at 348.42022, immediately next to the books in the Law Section on Level 2 of the Library. Cases are also reported in some journals e.g. Criminal Law Review (JOU 345 CRI), Estates Gazette (JOU 333 EST) and the Times (access via the Newspapers tab in Lexis Library). A few journals are held in print and can also be found in the Law area. Increasingly, however, access is provided electronically either as a direct subscription (search for the journal title using Primo or the E-journals A-Z search at the top of the Primo home page) or through the legal databases.

### **3. COMPILATION OF STATUTES, CASES ETC.**

Falling somewhere between primary and secondary sources are the annotated compilations of statutes and other material on particular subjects, issued by commercial law publishers. The most useful of these are continually up-dated loose-leaf volumes containing statutes, statutory instruments, government memoranda and circulars, and sometimes a selection of relevant cases. These are shelved with the law books on that subject, and are generally for use in the library only.

e.g.

**Encyclopedia of European Community Law**  
Sweet & Maxwell  
(341.242 ENC) (Reference Use Only)

There are also some bound collections, usually just of statutes, but remember that these are probably not as up to date as the loose-leaf variety.

### **4. ENCYCLOPAEDIAS**

Encyclopaedias in the proper sense are not simply compilations of original documents (see Section 3), but a digest of whole subject areas, usually arranged under alphabetical topic headings. They vary greatly in size, scope and depth of treatment.

There are specialised legal encyclopaedias, e.g.:

#### **Halsbury's Laws of England**

5th ed., Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone  
Butterworths, 1973 -  
(348.42023 HAL) (Reference Use Only)

This is the major encyclopaedia of U.K. law. It contains lengthy digests of statute and case law arranged alphabetically by broad subject.

It is kept up to date by the annual Cumulative Supplement and the loose-leaf Current Service. There is also an Annual Abridgement which summarises all the changes in the law in that year.

**Halsbury's Laws** is available electronically in the Lexis Library

Walker, David M.

**Oxford Companion to Law**

Clarendon Press, 1980

(340.03 WAL) (Reference Use Only)

A single volume alphabetical encyclopaedia of topics, terms and people connected with law.

## 5. DICTIONARIES

Dictionaries provide definitions of words. As well as general English dictionaries (which can be found at 423), there are specialised legal dictionaries.

Jowitt, W.A. & Welsh, C.

**Jowitt's Dictionary of English Law**

2nd ed., by J.Burke. Sweet & Maxwell, 1977.

3 vols plus supplement.

(340.03 JOW) (Reference Use Only)

The major English legal dictionary. As well as defining terms, both modern and obsolete, it provides concise digests of law on individual topics and is almost a small encyclopaedia. (Available electronically in Westlaw)

Martin, E.A.

**A Dictionary of Law**

6th ed. OUP, 2006

(340.03 DIC)

One of several small dictionaries at this shelf mark.

Stroud, F.

**Stroud's Judicial Dictionary of Words and Phrases**

5th ed., by J.S. James. Sweet & Maxwell, 1986. 5 vols plus supplement.

(340.03 STR) (Reference Use Only)

An important interpreting dictionary i.e. it defines both legal and non-legal words and phrases in the context in which they have been used in the courts and in legislation. (Available electronically in Westlaw)

## 6. CITATION INDEXES

These are dictionaries of abbreviations of law reports, legal periodicals, law courts etc.

Raistrick, D.

**Index to legal Citations and Abbreviations**

(340.02 RAI) (Reference Use Only)

## 7. DIRECTORIES

Directories are basically lists of names and addresses of people and/or organisations. New editions are usually published annually. Directories are usually Reference only.

e.g.

## **Butterworth's Law Directory**

Butterworths  
(340.02541 BUT)

### **8. INDEXING JOURNALS**

Indexing journals enable you to keep up to date. The most important current awareness tool for U.K. law is:-

#### **Current Law. 1953-**

Sweet & Maxwell  
(348.42026 CUR) (Reference Use Only)

This is published monthly, with annual cumulated volume called Current Law Yearbook. This service aims to list all published sources of law - bills, statutes, S.I.s, government publications, cases, books and journal articles - under broad alphabetical subject headings. Each monthly issue has an index which is cumulative for the year and each yearbook cumulates a number of years. Each issue also includes a cumulative case citator section, which updates the Current Law Case Citator (348.42028 CUR). This is invaluable if you need to find out where a case has been reported.

#### **Lexis Library database**

Access via 'Find Databases' link at the top of the Primo homepage. Has full text articles from 79 UK legal journal titles. Can be searched by free text, keyword, author, case or legislative section. Journal contents can also be browsed.

#### **Westlaw database**

Also access via 'Find Databases' link at the top of the Primo homepage. Covers 83 full text journal titles (many different to Lexis). Can be searched by free text, keyword, author, case or legislative section. Journal contents can also be browsed.

### **9. STUDY GUIDES**

You might find the following guides helpful in developing your legal study and researching skills:-

Clinch, Peter

#### **Using a Law Library - A Student's Guide to Legal Research Skills**

2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Blackstone Press, 2001  
(340.07 CLI)

Askey, Simon

#### **Studying Law**

3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Palgrave Macmillan, 2011  
(340.711 ASK)

Kenny, Phillip H.

#### **Studying Law**

5th ed. Butterworths, 2002  
(340.07 KEN)

Bradney, Anthony [et al.]

#### **How to Study Law**

6th ed. Sweet & Maxwell, 2010  
(340.0711 HOW)

Holborn, G  
**Butterworths Legal Research Guide**  
2nd ed. Butterworths, 2001  
(340.072 HOL)

Watt, Robert & Johns, Francis  
**Concise Legal Research**  
6<sup>th</sup> ed. Federation, 2009  
(340.072 WAT) and (LPC 340.072 WAT)

#### **10. Information Specialist**

Technology and Information Services provides an Information Specialist to lead for law. This person is available to assist you in accessing and utilising the resources that the University provides. Please email [subjectlibrarians@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:subjectlibrarians@plymouth.ac.uk) if you require any help or assistance.

#### **11. Subject Pages**

Information to help you access and use the library and Primo can be found on the Law subject pages at <http://plymouth.libguides.com/>

#### **Alternative Format**

**If you require this publication in larger print, or an alternative format please contact:**

**Library Special Support Services:**  
**Tel: (01752 5) 87215**  
**Email: [libspecialsupport@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:libspecialsupport@plymouth.ac.uk)**