

e-RG

Electronic Resource Guide

**Researching Public
International Law**

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**American Society
of International Law**

This electronic resource guide, often called the ERG, has been published online by the American Society of International Law (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. The ERG also serves as a ready-made teaching tool at graduate and undergraduate levels.

The narrative format of the ERG is complemented and augmented by EISIL (Electronic Information System for International Law), a free online database that organizes and provides links to, and useful information on, web resources from the full spectrum of international law. EISIL's subject-organized format and expert-provided content also enhances its potential as teaching tool.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Public international law is traditionally defined as the law between sovereign nation-states, hereinafter, states, especially within the context of the laws of war, peace and security, and protection of territories. While these concerns of international law remain paramount among states today, the classic definition of public international law has expanded to include a more diverse group of subjects and a broader scope of activities.

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In addition to states as subjects of international law, other participants engaged in international law activities and its development include private entities, individuals, and international organizations. Treaty instruments associated with different actors or subjects of international law include the following:

- [Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/intam03.asp), December 26, 1933, (http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/intam03.asp). Article I of the Convention reads, “The state as a person of international law should possess the following qualifications: a) a permanent population; (b) a defined territory; (c) government; and (d) capacity to enter into relations with other states.”
- [Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field. Geneva](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/geneva04.asp), August 22, 1864 (http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/geneva04.asp). The [International Committee of the Red Cross](https://www.icrc.org/eng) (ICRC) (<https://www.icrc.org/eng>), is a private, independent entity created in 1863 to promote international humanitarian laws under the Geneva Conventions.
- [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/Introduction.aspx), December 10, 1948 (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/Introduction.aspx>). The Universal Declaration on Human Rights allows actions invoking international law by individuals other than representatives of a State.
- [Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or Between International Organizations](http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/vcltsio/vcltsio.html), March 21, 1986 (<http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/vcltsio/vcltsio.html>). This instrument recognizes international organizations as achieving subject status to enter into treaties.

The traditional definition of international law has also broadened in scope to include additional topics or branches of international law. As illustrated in the dates of the instruments listed above, the body of human rights law did not formally develop until after World War II. Recognition of international organizations having ‘legal personality’ and capacity to enter into treaties is reflected in the 1986 instrument.

Newer and emerging areas of international law often involve an intersection between two or more branches of international law, for example, international humanitarian law impacts the protection of cultural property and environmental law. For detailed research guidance on individual topics of public and private international law, see other chapters of the [Guide](http://www.asil.org/erg/) (<http://www.asil.org/erg/>).

The focus of the present chapter of the ASIL Electronic Research Guide is on researching public international law through its documentation, literature, and other resources.

II. RESEARCH APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

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Several unique features distinguish international law research from researching law of domestic legal systems. These features relate to non-hierarchical legal authority, the interaction of international and national law, and language considerations.

Non-Hierarchical Authority – Legislative and Judicial

The absence of a central legislative body and hierarchical judicial authority is unique to international law. The largest international organization is the [United Nations](#) (UN) which currently has 193 member states (<https://www.un.org/en/>). Resolutions and declarations of the UN and other international organizations are non-legally binding instruments and do not create legal obligations for States. Additional information about the role of “soft law” instruments in international law development is provided in [section III. F](#) of this chapter.

The jurisprudence of international law consists of case law from a variety of international courts and tribunals. With the exception of courts like the World Trade Organization (WTO) arbitral chamber and appellate courts or, the appellate character that may exist in courts of regional institutions like the European Union (EU), there is no high court in international law. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the judicial organ of the United Nations, is named the World Court; however, it is not a hierarchical or appellate court. The decisions of the ICJ are only binding on the states that have agreed to its jurisdiction. Still, ICJ decisions, like decisions of other international and national courts, may be consulted or referenced as persuasive authority.

International Law and National Law

A unique dimension of researching international law relates to the way in which national legal systems incorporate, implement, or apply international law in their domestic or municipal law. Thus, in addition to researching resources of international law, research in national law materials such as legislative acts and judicial decisions may be necessary. For further information on researching national law, see [Section III.B. Customary International Law](#) in this chapter.

Multilateral Perspectives for Multilateral Instruments

Given the multilateral participation of member states in international law, resources and documents may be available in selected languages only. In the event the researcher is met by language limitations in accessing certain materials, translations and works from different legal systems and perspectives must be identified, if available and affordable. Information regarding translations is [provided in section VII.](#) of this chapter.

French has historically been the dominant language used in international relations and diplomacy and also, documents of international law. Since WWII, English language versions or translations became more commonplace. Translations for multilateral instruments deposited with the UN are available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

Initial Search Strategy

One general note that applies to researchers new to a particular area of international law is the role of secondary resources in the research process. Even in an increasingly internet-dominant research environment, consulting authoritative texts and other secondary resources continues to be an important and time saving step for several reasons. Secondary resources: 1) provide a solid, foundational understanding of the subject, 2) identify the principal instruments, significant court decisions, and other relevant documents in the topic area along with corresponding citation information, 3) provide discussion and analysis of known customary law, legal principles, and norms, 4) introduce and define important terms and concepts, and, 5) allow the researcher to perform online searches more effectively by constructing searches using known terms of art and alternate search terms.

Information on commentary and secondary texts is provided in [sections III.D. Writings of Publicists](#) and [IV. Texts and Journals](#).

A general note applicable to the research process is the importance of understanding the scope of a particular work, dates of coverage, and unique features. A quick review of the explanation of the resource remains a key part of the research process. For electronic resources consult the “about” pages for this information.

III. SOURCES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Among the objectives member states of the UN outlined in the [preamble](#) of the [UN Charter](#) (<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>), was “to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained.” The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the judicial body of the UN, identifies the sources of international law in the (ICJ) Statute, Article 38 (<http://www.icj-cij.org/documents/>). The statute reads as follows:

“The Court, whose function is to decide in accordance with international law such disputes as are submitted to it, shall apply:

- a. international conventions, whether general or particular, establishing rules expressly recognized by the contesting states;
- b. international custom, as evidence of a general practice accepted as law;
- c. the general principles of law recognized by civilized nations;
- d. subject to the provisions of Article 59, 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.”

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Although the ICJ statute speaks to the sources applied specifically by the World Court and not necessarily applied by other international courts or arbitral bodies, ICJ Article 38 sources are commonly referred to when discussing the ‘sources of international law.’

Since the time the ICJ statute was concluded and entered into force in 1945, there has been a dramatic growth in the development of international organizations and nongovernmental organizations. In 1948, there were 40 nongovernmental organizations having consultative status with the [United Nations Economic and Social Affairs](http://esa.un.org/coordination/ngo/new/index.asp?page=table2007) as compared to over 4,000 in recent years (<http://esa.un.org/coordination/ngo/new/index.asp?page=table2007>).

Scholarship provides newer views and perspectives on the sources of international law, for examples see, [Why State Consent Still Matters - Non-State Actors, Treaties, and the Changing Sources of International Law](http://www.heinonline.org), in Berkeley Journal of International Law, Vol. 23, pp. 137-174 (2005) (<http://www.heinonline.org>). Additional views regarding this topic may be further researched using the resources identified in [section IV, Texts and Journals](#) in this chapter.

Supplemented with the practice of international organizations, the sources of law identified in ICJ Article 38 provide a useful framework for identifying and describing the resources used in researching international law. Discussion of the representative resources associated with the sources of international law follows the table below.

SOURCES AND RESOURCES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

SOURCES	REPRESENTATIVE RESOURCES
Conventions treaty, convention, agreement, instrument, protocol, pact, compact, accord, charter, memorandum of understanding	Basic document collections Treaty collections and compilations Websites of treaty depositary
Customary International Law	Codifications of customary international

<p>State Practice and <i>opinio juris</i></p> <p>Diplomatic notes</p> <p>Foreign policies</p> <p>National implementing legislation</p> <p>Official government statements</p> <p>Opinions of legal advisers</p> <p>Ratification of treaties & declarations</p> <p>Voting behavior of states</p>	<p>law</p> <p>National gazettes</p> <p>National statutes, constitutions, jurisprudence</p> <p>State digests</p> <p>Websites of state ministry offices</p> <p>Yearbooks of international law</p> <p>Websites of International Organizations</p>
<p>General Principles of Law</p> <p>National laws</p> <p>Decisions of national courts</p>	<p>Scholarly writings on legal principles</p> <p>See resources corresponding to other sources, especially Customary International Law</p>
<p>Judicial Decisions</p> <p>Decisions of international courts & tribunals</p> <p>Decisions of national courts</p> <p>Writings of Publicists</p> <p>Scholarly writings</p>	<p>Case reports for international courts and tribunals</p> <p>National and state reports</p> <p>Institut de Droit International</p> <p>International Law Association studies</p> <p>International Law Commission</p> <p>Recueil des Cours</p> <p>Restatement of Law</p> <p>Texts and treatises</p>

*Non Legally Binding Instruments declarations resolutions guidelines recommendations * Source of law not provided under ICJ Art. 38	Documents of International Organizations
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III. A. TREATIES

Treaties are the most familiar source of international law between two or more sovereign states, usually consisting of a formal written and signed document. The [Treaty of Kadesh](http://www.reshafim.org.il/ad/egypt/ramses-hattusili-treaty.htm) or Qadesh 1258 BCE (<http://www.reshafim.org.il/ad/egypt/ramses-hattusili-treaty.htm>) is recognized as one of the first written diplomatic peace accords between two leading military powers in Egypt, Hattusili III of the Hittite Empire and Ramses II of Egypt.

Treaty law making typically proceeds through a series of steps including negotiation, drafting, adoption, signature, and ratification of the instrument. An officially designated representative of the government or ministry who serves as a plenipotentiary or agent for the state usually performs these functions. Article 7 of the [Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties](http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/vclt/vclt.html) (VCLT) (<http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/vclt/vclt.html>) specifies the rules on who can represent a state in the capacity of concluding and adopting a treaty. The [UN Protocol and Liaison Service](http://www.un.int/protocol/) (<http://www.un.int/protocol/>) maintains a list of Heads of State, Government & Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

Treaties are binding only on the parties who have signed and ratified the treaty. Non-signatories may consent to treaty obligations by accession to the treaty. Amendments to treaties are in the form of protocols. Signatories to the original treaty may or may not elect to sign and ratify a later protocol.

Treaty texts consist of numbered articles to define and lay out the obligations of contracting states. The treaty also specifies the number of states required to ratify the treaty before it is entered-into-force (EIF). A preamble, introductory note, or chapeau may precede the treaty text; these are nonbinding elements of the treaty. A codicil and annex may also be appended to the document.

Bilateral Treaties

Bilateral treaties are often contractual agreements between two parties and represent the largest

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number of agreements between States, as compared to the over 500 multilateral treaties deposited with the UN. In addition to peace treaties, other concerns featured in bilateral instruments relate to air transport and Open Skies agreements, bilateral investment treaties (BITs), bilateral tax treaties, and treaties involving mutual assistance in criminal matters.

Treaty finding tools for locating bilateral instruments are limited. In addition to resources containing both bilateral and multilateral treaties listed below, researchers may also look to the foreign ministry website of one of the contracting parties to the treaty. Member states of the UN are required to deposit treaty texts with the UN Office of the Legal Adviser, so the UN Treaty Collection database can also be searched. Topic based treaty collections may also be available. For additional information on researching bilateral treaties, see topic-based [chapters](#) of the Guide (<http://www.asil.org/resources/electronic-resource-guide-erg>).

Multilateral Treaties

Multilateral treaties may establish a new international organization, institution or regime such as the [European Union](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html) (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>) or the

[International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes \(ICSID\) Convention](https://icsid.worldbank.org/ICSID/StaticFiles/basicdoc/basic-en.htm) (<https://icsid.worldbank.org/ICSID/StaticFiles/basicdoc/basic-en.htm>). These instruments may also be referred to as ‘constitutive’ instruments.

Multilateral treaties also demonstrate support of international norms and rules by looking at ratification by member states. Examples of treaties receiving broad multilateral support include the [Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction](http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/cpusptam/cpusptam.html) (<http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/cpusptam/cpusptam.html>) and the [Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations](http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/vcdr/vcdr.html) (<http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/vcdr/vcdr.html>).

Multilateral agreements, a list of signatories, and status information are usually posted on the website of the depositary - the custodian of the treaty text and related documentation. Depositaries are designated by the negotiating states and may be states or international organizations, see [Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties](http://untreaty.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/1_1_1969.pdf) (http://untreaty.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/1_1_1969.pdf). The [UN](#) serves as depositary for over 500 multilateral treaties (<http://treaties.un.org/pages/UNTSONline.aspx?id=1>).

Locating Treaty Texts

Researchers have come to rely on web-based resources for both current and archival documents. This research practice is especially true for finding multilateral treaties. A number of government, commercial, and open access treaty resources are available. Please note specific dates of coverage for each resource.

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Treaty Resources

[League of Nations Treaty Series](http://treaties.un.org/Pages/LONOnline.aspx) (<http://treaties.un.org/Pages/LONOnline.aspx>)

The online League of Nations treaty collection includes treaties registered with the Secretariat of the League of Nations and published in the print League of Nations Treaty Series. Coverage is from 1920 through 1944.

[UN Treaty Series Online Collection](http://treaties.un.org/Pages/UNTSONline.aspx?id=1) (<http://treaties.un.org/Pages/UNTSONline.aspx?id=1>)

The treaty database may be searched by popular name, title, and party. Coverage is from 1946 – present and includes treaties that have entered into force and are registered with the UN Treaty Office. Unavailability of more recent documents may be due to delays in producing the required translated treaty texts. In the event the researcher experiences inconsistent or absent search results, searching alternative government or commercial resources may be necessary to locate the treaty document.

[Monthly Statement of Treaties and International Agreements](http://treaties.un.org/Pages/MSDatabase.aspx)

(<http://treaties.un.org/Pages/MSDatabase.aspx>) The Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat publishes a monthly list of treaties registered or filed and recorded with the UN Secretary-General prior to the publication in the UN Treaty Series.

[Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General](http://treaties.un.org/pages/ParticipationStatus.aspx)

(<http://treaties.un.org/pages/ParticipationStatus.aspx>) A database providing status information of over 500 multilateral treaties organized by topic area. Content may also be searched full text or using the advanced search template. A list of [current treaty texts](http://treaties.un.org/pages/DB.aspx?path=DB/titles/page1_en.xml&menu=MTDSG) (http://treaties.un.org/pages/DB.aspx?path=DB/titles/page1_en.xml&menu=MTDSG) is also available.

[UN Treaty Handbook](https://treaties.un.org/pages/Publications.aspx?pathpub=Publication/TH/Page1_en.xml)

(https://treaties.un.org/pages/Publications.aspx?pathpub=Publication/TH/Page1_en.xml) The Handbook provides an overview to the depositary practice of the Secretary-General and the registration practice of the United Nations Secretariat. The UN site also has a [glossary](#) of treaty terms and information on [key multilateral treaty events](#).

[UN Treaty Reference Guide](https://treaties.un.org/pages/Overview.aspx?path=overview/treatyRef/page1_en.xml)

(https://treaties.un.org/pages/Overview.aspx?path=overview/treatyRef/page1_en.xml) This UN guide, includes a brief overview of terminology used in treaty documents of the United Nations Treaty Collection.

Other Treaty Resources

[Avalon Project](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/default.asp) (<http://avalon.law.yale.edu/default.asp>) This extensive collection includes treaty texts, reports, and other important historical documents organized chronologically by date and event. Coverage of selected texts begins 4000bce.

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[Consolidated Treaty Series](http://www.worldcat.org/title/consolidated-treaty-series/oclc/83656) (<http://www.worldcat.org/title/consolidated-treaty-series/oclc/83656>)

This series includes bilateral and multilateral texts from the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648 through 1918.

[EISIL - Treaty Collections](http://www.eisil.org/index.php?sid=683144210&t=sub_pages&cat=705)

(http://www.eisil.org/index.php?sid=683144210&t=sub_pages&cat=705)

The EISIL portal of multilateral treaties is organized by treaty secretariat, international organization and region. Also see treaties included in specific topic categories in [EISIL](http://www.eisil.org) (<http://www.eisil.org>).

[FLARE Index to Treaties](http://ials.sas.ac.uk/treatyindex.htm) (<http://ials.sas.ac.uk/treatyindex.htm>) Developed by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, FLARE is a searchable database of citation and other information on selected significant multilateral (1353 to the present) and bilateral treaties (1353-1815). Information for each treaty includes the print or Internet source where the full text treaty document is available, official languages used for the treaty text, and the name of the state or international organization acting as depositary.

[HeinOnline's United Nations Law Collection](http://www.heinonline.org) (www.heinonline.org) The UNTS and League of Nations treaties are fully searchable by keyword, popular name, registration number, citation, place of signature, and other search options. Search results include links to other UN materials available on HeinOnline.

[International Legal Materials \(ILM\)](http://www.asil.org/) (www.asil.org/) ILM includes selected bilateral and multilateral treaty texts including those that have been concluded but not yet entered into force. Coverage is from 1962 – present. This title is also available on [HeinOnline](http://www.heinonline.org) (www.heinonline.org) and [JSTOR](http://www.jstor.org) (www.jstor.org).

[Multilateral Treaty Calendar, Répertoire des Traités Multilatéraux, 1648-1995](http://www.worldcat.org/title/multilateral-treaty-calendar-repertoire-des-traites-multilateraux-1648-1995/oclc/38566310&referer=brief_results), by Christian Wiktor, The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1998 (http://www.worldcat.org/title/multilateral-treaty-calendar-repertoire-des-traites-multilateraux-1648-1995/oclc/38566310&referer=brief_results). Provides a chronological listing of treaties with citation to official and authoritative treaty resources.

[World Treaty Index](http://worldtreatyindex.com) (<http://worldtreatyindex.com>) Coverage includes citation information for bilateral and multilateral treaties signed between 1945 and 1999. Searches may be completed using state party name, organization, keyword, and topic.

For a list of frequently cited treaties with corresponding citation information and links to full-text treaty documents, see [Frequently Cited Treaties and Other International Instruments](http://library.law.umn.edu/researchguides/most-cited.html) (<http://library.law.umn.edu/researchguides/most-cited.html>).

See other chapters of the [Guide](http://www.asil.org/erghome.cfm) for treaty collections related to specific topic areas of international law (<http://www.asil.org/erghome.cfm>).

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Codification Projects

[International Law Commission](http://www.un.org/law/ilc/) (ILC) (<http://www.un.org/law/ilc/>). The International Law Commission, established by [Statute](#) in 1947, is a subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly concerned with the ‘promotion of the progressive development of international law and its codification.’ The Commission is comprised of members from 34 states to identify areas of international law that have or have not yet fully developed from state practice. For topics selected, the Commission prepares draft conventions or codifications (<http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/silc/silc.html>).

[UN Diplomatic Conferences](http://www.un.org/law/diplomaticconferences/) (<http://www.un.org/law/diplomaticconferences/>) Topics selected for codification include Law of the Sea, Law of Treaties with Respect of International Organizations, and the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations, Consular Relations, and Succession of States Respecting Treaties. The convention texts are available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

[Texts, Instruments, and Final Reports](http://untreaty.un.org/ilc/texts/texts.htm) (<http://untreaty.un.org/ilc/texts/texts.htm>) Provides access to draft codifications organized by topics, examples include the Law of Treaties, Law of International Relations, and many other areas. A [Research Guide](http://legal.un.org/ilc/research.htm) (<http://legal.un.org/ilc/research.htm>) provides an alternative way to locate ILC documents and materials.

[Harvard Law School, Research in International Law](http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/9312904&referer=brief_results)

(http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/9312904&referer=brief_results) This work is an example of a pre-ILC codification project. The papers produced from this project spanning 1929-1939 were used by the International Law Commission in developing the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations and Consular Relations. This work is also available on HeinOnline.

For additional background on the ILC and earlier codification projects see [Introduction to the ILC Statute](http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ha/silc/silc.html) (<http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ha/silc/silc.html>) and [Historical Survey of Development of International Law and its Codification by International Conferences](http://untreaty.un.org/ilc/documentation/english/ASIL_1947_study.pdf) (http://untreaty.un.org/ilc/documentation/english/ASIL_1947_study.pdf). A [listing](http://www.un.org/law/lindex.htm) of UN committees and bodies involved in drafting instruments or codification includes links to committee materials and publications (<http://www.un.org/law/lindex.htm>).

Secondary texts on codification projects are also available, see especially, James Crawford, International Law Commission’s Articles on State Responsibility: introduction, text, and commentaries (http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/48249066&referer=brief_results).

Commentaries and Travaux Préparatoires

The working papers prepared during the drafting and negotiation of treaty instruments for selected UN instruments may be identified using [UN-I-QUE: United Nations Info Quest](http://lib-) ([13](http://lib-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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unique.un.org/DPI/DHL/unique.nsf?Open) or [Official Document System \(ODS\)](#) (<http://www.un.org/en/documents/ods/>). Preparatory documents may also be available on the website of the treaty secretariat or the international organization that sponsored the treaty. [The International Law Commission \(ILC\) Yearbook](#) has documents prepared on the ILC's work in drafting specific conventions (<http://www.un.org/law/ilc/>). See also, [Draft Articles on the Law of Treaties with Commentaries 1966](#) (http://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/1_1.htm).

Published works on drafting history may also be available, for example, see Shabtai Rosenne's, [The Law of Treaties; a Guide to the Legislative History of the Vienna Convention](#) (http://www.worldcat.org/title/law-of-treaties-a-guide-to-the-legislative-history-of-the-vienna-convention/oclc/127734&referer=brief_results).

Treaty Collections - States

Treaty documents and related information are often posted on the treaty section of the state's official website, several examples are provided below.

[Australian Treaties Library](#) (<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/>) The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia maintains full text of bilateral and multilateral treaties from 1901 to present. The Library is fully searchable, includes explanatory material, a flow chart of treaty-making procedures, a list of multilateral treaties under negotiation, a multi-chapter report on [Review of the Treaty-Making Process](#) (http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/reports/review_treaty_making.html), as well as [Australia and International Treaty Making](#) (<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/reports/aitm1.html>).

[Czech Republic](#) (<http://www.mzv.cz/jnp/cz/>) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic features a database of international instruments (http://www.mzv.cz/jnp/cz/zahranicni_vztahy/mezinarodni_smlouvy/index.html). Information on foreign relations, diplomatic missions and other topics is available in both Czech and English. Treaty documents are in Czech.

[France - Conventions et Accords Internationaux](#) (<http://www.senat.fr/dossiers-legislatifs/conventions-accords-internationaux.html>) Provides the text of bilateral and multilateral treaties where France is a party.

[Israel](#) (<http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/treaties/multilateralagreements/>) The website of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a searchable database of multilateral treaties. The original official version of treaty texts is published in "Kitvei Amana," Israel's Official Publication Journal.

[Portugal](#) (<http://www.gddc.pt/siii/tratados.html>) Treaties published in the Official Gazette may be searched by subject, instrument title, or by countries or international organizations. Coverage is from 1960 to present. In Portuguese.

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[South Africa, African Multilateral Organisations, Treaties, Conventions and Declarations](http://www.dfa.gov.za/foreign/Multilateral/africa/index.html),

(<http://www.dfa.gov.za/foreign/Multilateral/africa/index.html>) The South African Department of Foreign Affairs has compiled a collection of treaties, conventions, and declarations related to African multilateral organizations.

[United States](http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/index.htm) (<http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/index.htm>)

The website of the Treaty Affairs office of the US Department of State has information on [Treaties and International Agreements \(TIAS\)](http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/tias/) (<http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/tias/>), Treaty Actions, Treaties in Force, and other resources. Before 1950, US treaties approved by the US Senate were published in the [U.S. Statutes at Large](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsl.html) (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsl.html>). The [Treaties](#) section on the website of the US Senate provides links to several treaty related resources, see especially the Role of the Senate (<http://www.senate.gov/reference/Index/Treaties.htm>). Treaty documents are also available on [Congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov/treaties/about), the official website for U.S. federal legislative information (<https://www.congress.gov/treaties/about>). Researchers may still access [Thomas](#) for documents that have not yet been added to Congress.gov. The [HeinOnline Treaties and International Agreements Library](http://www.heinonline.org) (www.heinonline.org) features an extensive collection of digitized materials related to treaties where the US is a party. Materials include treaty reporters and compilations, historical diplomatic papers, secondary texts, and US Department of State publications. Subscription is required.

[National Treaty Law and Practice](#), edited by Duncan B. Hollis, Merritt R. Blakeslee and L.

Benjamin Ederington (http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/57750117&referer=brief_results).

Government legal advisers and treaty experts from 15 nations convened to explore treaties from a national perspective, that is, “who states authorize to negotiate them, what roles various state branches of government had in their formation, and what steps states took under their domestic law to implement them.” Also see the essay, A Comparative Approach to Treaty Law and Practice (http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=790926).

[Sources of State Practice in International Law](#), 2nd Revised Edition, edited by Ralph F. Gaebler and

Allison A. Shea (<https://www.worldcat.org/title/sources-of-state-practice-in-international-law/oclc/884588256?referer=di&ht=edition>).

Provides information related to treaty implementation and diplomatic activities of jurisdictions around the world.

III. B. CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW

Customary international law includes both state practice and *opinio juris*, a practice followed by a state’s belief in its legal obligation to act in ways consistent with the rule of law.

Resources available for researching and identifying evidence of state practice and general principles of law include compilations of state practice collected by country or subject area, and national law materials. Due to the variety of publication practices among states in making documents and laws

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available, an ad hoc research approach is usually required and may involve consulting both print and electronic, and official and unofficial resources.

Digests and Yearbooks of International Law

Digests and yearbooks consist of a collection of documents, decisions, and legislative developments related to international law for a particular country or topic. Societies of international law may produce a journal that functions, in part, as a yearbook or digest of international law developments. These titles may be released on yearly or more frequent basis. Representative examples of yearbooks by states, international organizations, and topic are below.

[African Yearbook of International Law](#)

(<https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/461318163?ht=edition&referer=di>)

[British Digest of International Law](#) (http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1575679&referer=brief_results)

[German Yearbook of International Law](#) (<http://www.gyil.org/>)

[Netherlands Yearbook of International Law](#)

(<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=NYL>)

[Polish Yearbook of International Law](#) (<http://www.inp.pan.pl/pyil/>)

[Palestine Yearbook of International Law](#) (<http://www.brill.com/publications/palestine-yearbook-international-law>)

[Revue Hellénique de Droit international](#) (http://www.hiifl.gr/?page_id=691&lang=en)

[Digest of United States Practice in International Law](#) (<http://www.state.gov/s/l/c8183.htm>)

Yearbooks of International Organizations [UN Juridical Yearbook](#)

(<http://www.un.org/law/UNJuridicalYearbook/index.htm>). Includes documentation concerning legal developments of the UN and related intergovernmental organizations.

[Yearbook of International Co-operation on Environment and Development](#) (YBICED)

(<http://www.fni.no/projects/ybiced.html>)

[Yearbook of the United Nations](#) (<http://unyearbook.un.org/>)

[Yearbook of Commercial Arbitration](#) (www.kluwarbitration.com/). Includes reporting on arbitral awards and court decisions applying the leading arbitration conventions.

Selected digest and yearbook titles are also available on [HeinOnline](#) (www.heinonline.org).

Additional titles may be identified using [OCLC WorldCat](#) (www.worldcat.org/advancedsearch).

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Compilations of State Practice - Topic

Resources collecting state practice on specific subject areas are increasingly available. Examples of some of the many excellent web-based resources that identify and collect national laws on specific topics are provided below.

[Food Agricultural \(FAOLEX\)](http://faolex.fao.org) (<http://faolex.fao.org>) FAO is a database of national laws and regulations on food, agriculture and renewable natural resources.

[International Committee of the Red Cross \(ICRC\), National Implementation Database](https://www.icrc.org/ihl-nat) (<https://www.icrc.org/ihl-nat>). Documents include constitutions, statutes, and case law of states implementing international humanitarian law. Documents may be located by state and keyword. English is used throughout the database, but some documents are in French and Spanish.

[Sustainable Knowledge Platform](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates.html) (<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates.html>) Member States to the Commission on Sustainable Development submit country profiles and national assessment reports.

[NATLEX](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home) (http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home) The International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s database provides access to national labor and social security legislation for 196 states.

[World Intellectual Property Organization \(WIPO\) Lex](http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/index.jsp) (<http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/index.jsp>) WIPOLex provides access to national laws, treaties, and other information on intellectual property.

For research guidance on topic-based resources see the [specialized chapters](#) of the Guide (<http://www.asil.org/resource/home.cfm>).

Other National Law Resources

Researching national legal materials is necessary to identify implementing treaty legislation as well as domestic judicial decisions concerning international law. Below are some initial resources for researching common law and civil legal systems.

[Foreign Law Guide](http://www.foreignlawguide.com/) (<http://www.foreignlawguide.com/>) Edited by Marci Hoffman, this subscription-based resource identifies legal sources of codes, constitutions, and other legal materials for other 170 jurisdictions.

[Foreign Ministries](http://botw.org/top/Society/Government/Foreign_Ministries/) (http://botw.org/top/Society/Government/Foreign_Ministries/) Documentation of official state pronouncements, diplomatic notes and foreign policy, and coverage of developments in international law and relations are often posted on the websites of government foreign affairs offices. Links to selected foreign ministry sites is available at this 'Best of the Web' listing.

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Global Legal Information Network (GLIN)

As of mid-2014, GLIN is no longer available. Access to primary sources and other content may be available through the Law Library of Congress, [Guide to Law Online](#).

[Globalex](http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/index.html) (<http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/index.html>) Hosted by the Hauser Global Law School Program at NYU School of Law, GlobaLex has research guides identifying primary and secondary resources on legal systems from around the world.

[Government Gazettes Online](http://www-personal.umich.edu/~graceyor/doctemp/gazettes/index.htm) (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~graceyor/doctemp/gazettes/index.htm>) This resource from the University of Michigan School of Information Science provides information on and links to official gazettes from countries throughout the world.

[N-Lex](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/n-lex/pri/pri_en.htm) (http://eur-lex.europa.eu/n-lex/pri/pri_en.htm) N-Lex is a searchable database of national laws of the member states of the European Union.

[Oxford Constitutions of the World](http://oxcon.ouplaw.com/home/OCW) (<http://oxcon.ouplaw.com/home/OCW>) Formerly part of the Oceana Law Online platform, this resource provides access to full-text national constitutions. English-language translations and commentary from leading scholars is also provided.

[World Legal Information Institute](http://www.worldlii.org/) (WLII) (<http://www.worldlii.org/>) Provides access to legal materials from many jurisdictions and regions including Africa, Asia, Australia, and the United States.

[World Legal Systems](http://www.juriglobe.ca/eng/index.php) (University of Ottawa) (<http://www.juriglobe.ca/eng/index.php>) Provides a good overview of legal systems throughout the world including civil law, common law, Muslim law, and mixed legal systems. The site is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

One approach to quickly identifying resources by jurisdiction is to consult one of the [Citation Guides](#) referenced in this chapter of the Guide.

III. C. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF LAW

General principles of law derive from state practice and possess a less definable character as compared to other sources of international law. Classic examples of principles are equity, comity, fairness, and good faith. Like customary international law, general principles develop over time and their “identification, appraisal, content, ranking, enforceability, and applicability are the subject of different scholarly and judicial perceptions,” see, Cherif Bassiouni, A Functional Approach to General Principles of International Law, Michigan Journal of International Law, Vol. 1, pgs. 768-818 (1989-1990). As characterized in 1963 by Marjorie Whiteman, a former US legal advisor:

“While international law is comparatively clear and definite in many of its aspects, in others it is

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unclear and uncertain. It may be that a particular norm or principle, far from being its zenith, may be either in its ascendancy or in its descendancy as international law. Further, the degree of acceptance of a particular practice may vary within a particular period. “ See Whiteman, [Digest of International Law, Vol. 1, Preface III](#) (1963) (http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/4041817&referer=brief_results).

Given the evolving nature of general principles and customary international law, there is a less discrete set of resources associated with researching this source of international law. Researchers may look to some of the same resources used to research customary international law, i.e., official government pronouncements and foreign policies, and ratification of multilateral treaties and declarations. Scholarly writings on general principles are also an important resource, several titles appear below.

Cheng, Bin, [General Principles of Law Applied by International Courts and Tribunals](#) (<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/22678749?referer=di&ht=edition>)

Schacter, Oscar, [Theory and Practice of International Law](#) (http://www.worldcat.org/title/international-law-in-theoryandpractice/oclc/22494153&referer=brief_results)

Dolzer, Rudolf and Christoph Schreuer, [Principles of International Investment Law](#) (http://www.worldcat.org/title/principles-of-international-investment-law/oclc/190843484&referer=brief_results)

Additional discussion of principles is available in resources listed in [sections IV. Texts and Journals](#) of this chapter. For guidance on researching topic-based areas of international law, consult the [specialized chapters](#) of the ERG (<http://www.asil.org/resource/home.cfm>).

III. D. WRITINGS OF PUBLICISTS

The scope of the ICJ source of international law, “writings of publicists” includes authoritative writings by well-regarded scholars and jurists. In addition to the examples presented below, authors of some of the classic texts identified in [section IV, Text and Treatises](#) of this chapter may be considered ‘publicists.’ Such writings may continue to be referenced in recent works for how well the writer embraces a topic and decodes complex and nuanced themes in international law.

[Institute of International Law, Institut de Droit International](#) (<http://www.idi-iil.org/>) Founded in Belgium in 1873, the Institute is a private, independent organization dedicated to the development of international law. Information about its members, commissions, and adopted resolutions and declarations is available. The website is available in English and French; some of the earlier resolutions are available in French only.

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[International Law Association](http://www.ila-hq.org/) (http://www.ila-hq.org/) Founded in Brussels in 1873, the International Law Association (ILA) is an international organization devoted to the study and development of public and private international law. ILA branches are located throughout the world. Information about events including the biennial meeting is available from this website. ILA also makes available the ILA Conference Reports and works of current and former [Committees](http://www.ila-hq.org/en/committees/index.cfm) (http://www.ila-hq.org/en/committees/index.cfm) and [study groups](http://www.ila-hq.org/en/committees/study_groups.cfm) (http://www.ila-hq.org/en/committees/study_groups.cfm).

[Recueil des Cours, Collected Courses of the Academy of International Law](http://www.hagueacademy.nl) (http://www.hagueacademy.nl) Published since 1923, the Recueil des Cours or Collected Courses of the Hague Academy of International Law contain the lectures presented by international legal scholars and practitioners at the Peace Palace in The Hague. The Peace Palace Library has an electronic [index](http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/collection/e-resources/recueil-des-cours/) of the Courses and is searchable by year, title word, author, and keyword (http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/collection/e-resources/recueil-des-cours/). An electronic version of the courses is available from the publisher, [Brill Martinus Nijhoff](http://hagueacademy.brillonline.com/main) (hagueacademy.brillonline.com/main) and is also covered in [HeinOnline](http://www.heinonline.org)'s digital collection (http://www.heinonline.org).

There are also institutes devoted to studying specific areas of national law. Examples of national institute projects with an international law focus are listed below.

[American Law Institute \(ALI\)](http://www.ali.org/) (http://www.ali.org/) The American Law Institute is a scholarly, independent organization in the United States which is most known for its Restatements of US law including, [The Restatement of the Law on Foreign Relations](http://www.ali.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=publications.ppage&node_id=33) (http://www.ali.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=publications.ppage&node_id=33). Tentative drafts are prepared as part of the [drafting cycle](http://www.ali.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=projects.drafting) of restatements (http://www.ali.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=projects.drafting). A cumulative supplement of case citations is released annually. Currently under development is [The Restatement of Law on International Commercial Arbitration](http://www.ali.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=projects.proj_ip&projectid=20) (http://www.ali.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=projects.proj_ip&projectid=20).

[European Law Institute \(ELI\)](http://www.europeanlawinstitute.eu/), (http://www.europeanlawinstitute.eu/) Established in 2011, one of the aims of the European Law Institute is to facilitate research projects on European law involving collaboration between jurists, academia, and practitioners. Council-approved project results and ELI Statements are available on the website.

For additional resources, see [section V. Other Resources](#) in this chapter.

III. E. JUDICIAL DECISIONS

Judicial decisions are a 'subsidiary' source for identifying evidence of customary law under ICJ Statute Art. 38. International courts may be established by treaty or created ad hoc through

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agreement between a government and state to adjudicate specific disputes.

Court websites are a reliable resource for locating full text decisions, rules of court, judicial biographies, current awareness, and other materials. Print reporters may also be available and researchers may need to consult both formats if there are differences in content, i.e., digest or full text versions, access to accompanying maps, or other information. Texts featuring commentary on judicial decisions are also available, for example see, [Landmark Cases in International Law](#) by Eric Heinz and M. Fitzmaurice (<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/22678749?referer=di&ht=edition>).

The World Court

The [International Court of Justice \(ICJ\)](#) (<http://www.icj-cij.org/>), also known as the World Court, is located in The Hague, Netherlands and was established in 1946 to replace the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ). The ICJ is the principal judicial body of the UN and hears contentious cases by states agreeing to its jurisdiction. A majority of the cases involve territorial disputes, though other substantive areas are represented in its jurisprudence. The Court also issues advisory decisions at the request of selected UN bodies.

[World Court Digest](#)

(<http://www.mpil.de/en/pub/research/details/publications/archive/wcd.cfm>)

Provided by The Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, this resource is a searchable digest of judgments, advisory opinions, and orders of the ICJ. Information on jurisdiction, procedure, and individual judges of the ICJ is also provided.

Arbitral Courts, Tribunals and Panels

Among the many arbitral courts is the [Permanent Court of Arbitration \(PCA\)](#) (<http://www.pca-cpa.org/>) established by the [1899 Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes](#). The PCA provides dispute resolution services to states, organizations, and private parties. For guidance on researching arbitration and economic law see chapters on [International Commercial Arbitration](#) (<http://www.asil.org/resource/arb1.htm>) and [International Economic Law](#) (<http://www.asil.org/resource/iel1.htm>) chapters in this Guide.

[International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea \(ITLOS\)](#) (<http://www.itlos.org/>) The ITLOS website contains information about the tribunal established by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Proceedings, judgments, basic texts, documents, and news updates are available from the website. For more detailed research on this topic, see the chapters on the [Law of the Sea](#) (www.asil.org/erg/?page=los) and [International Environmental Law](#) in this Guide (<http://www.asil.org/env1.cfm>).

Criminal Courts and Military Tribunals

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The web sites of temporary courts like the [International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia](http://www.un.org/icty/index.html) (ICTY) (<http://www.un.org/icty/index.html>), the [International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda](http://www.un.org/icttr/) (ICTR) (<http://www.un.org/icttr/>) have basic legal documents, judgments, press releases and information about publications. For more information about international criminal law research see the [International Criminal Law](http://www.asil.org/crim1.cfm) chapter (<http://www.asil.org/crim1.cfm>) and [International Humanitarian Law](http://www.asil.org/ihl1.cfm) (<http://www.asil.org/ihl1.cfm>) chapters of this Guide.

Human Rights Courts

Cases regarding human rights violations are presented before various regional courts and UN bodies including the [European Court of Human Rights](http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=home&c=) (<http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=home&c=>), the Human Rights Committee (<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/index.htm>), and the [Inter-American Court of Human Rights](http://www.cidh.oas.org/DefaultE.htm) (<http://www.cidh.oas.org/DefaultE.htm>). For more detailed information on researching human rights, see the [Human Rights chapter](http://www.asil.org/humrts1.cfm) of this Guide (<http://www.asil.org/humrts1.cfm>).

In addition to individual international court and tribunal web sites, several resources provide coverage of more than one court.

[International Law Reports \(ILR\)](http://www.justis.com/data-coverage/international-law-reports.aspx) (<http://www.justis.com/data-coverage/international-law-reports.aspx>) Prepared at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, the ILR includes English translations of decisions of international courts, arbitral awards, and judgments of national courts. The collection covers boundary disputes, state and diplomatic immunity, refugee law, and other areas of dispute settlement. The Annual Digest and Reports of Public International Law Cases, Vol. 1 (1919-22) through Vol. 16 (1949) is the predecessor series to ILR. Subscription is required.

[Oxford Reports on International Law](http://www.oxfordlawreports.com) (www.oxfordlawreports.com) Coverage includes international law in domestic courts, human rights law, international investment claims, and other topics. The Oxford Law Citator provides links to related reports, full text documents, and commentary. Subscription is required.

[WorldLII: International Courts & Tribunals Project](http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/) (<http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/>) WorldLII is an open access collection of decisions for over 20 international, regional, and multi-national courts and tribunals. Coverage of decisions for the various courts varies but is usually from the inception of the court and content is updated regularly.

2. National Courts

Resources on the role of judicial decisions may be found in library catalogs under the following subject headings: municipal law, domestic law and national law. For resources that provide information on accessing decisions of domestic courts see the [section III.B., Customary International Law](#) in this chapter of the Guide.

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Representative texts helpful for background on municipal law include the [Role of National Courts in the International Legal Process](#) in Rosalyn Higgins, *International Law and How We Use It*, (http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/28926148&referer=brief_results) and [International Decisions in Domestic Courts](#), by Thomas Frank and Gregory Fox (http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/33407858&referer=brief_results).

Case Reports

[International Law in Domestic Courts \(ILDC\)](#) (<http://ildc.oxfordlawreports.com/about#aboutildc>) ILDC is a searchable database of full-text decisions and commentary for over 65 jurisdictions. Topics include human rights, jurisdiction, the law of treaties, and many others.

Judgments of national courts are also part of the coverage in [International Law Reports \(ILR\)](#) (<http://www.lcil.cam.ac.uk/publications/international-law-reports>). An online version of this title is available on [Justis](#).

III. F. NON-LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENTS

Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have an increasingly visible role in the international law making process. Although the work product of international organizations is not identified as a source of international law within the framework of the ICJ Statute, Article 38, the ICJ's 1949 advisory opinion, [Reparations for Injuries Suffered in the Service of the United Nations](#), is often referred to as establishing international organizations as actors having legal personality status and capacity to bring an international claim (<http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/index.php?p1=3&p2=4&code=isun&case=4&k=41>).

The practice of international organizations may include amicus court briefs, fieldwork reports, and development of non-legally binding documents that may serve as precursor documents leading to treaty instruments. Examples of non-legally binding instruments are provided below.

[The Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space](#), December 13, 1963 ([http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/1962\(XVIII\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/1962(XVIII))) is an example of a soft law instrument that was the basis for the multilateral [Outer Space Treaty](#) (<http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ha/tos/tos.html>).

[The Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, November 7, 1967](#). The declaration served as the basis for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), December 18, 1979. A chronological listing of these and other preparatory documents is available on the UN website (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/history.htm>).

[Helsinki Rules on the Uses of Waters of International Rivers](#), August 1966

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(http://www.internationalwaterlaw.org/documents/intldocs/helsinki_rules.html) The Helsinki Rules on the Uses of International Rivers, adopted by the International Law Association is among the documents contributing to the development of rules for international law policy (<http://www.internationalwaterlaw.org/documents/intldocs/>).

For more detailed research guidance on international organizations see other chapters of the Guide including [International Organizations](http://www.asil.org/intorg1.cfm) (<http://www.asil.org/intorg1.cfm>), [European Union](http://www.asil.org/eu1.cfm), (<http://www.asil.org/eu1.cfm>) and [United Nations](http://www.asil.org/un1.cfm) (<http://www.asil.org/un1.cfm>).

IV. TEXTS AND JOURNALS

Secondary resources are an excellent way to gain a deeper understanding of a particular area or issue in international law. Journal articles provide useful coverage of new and emerging developments in international law.

Depending on the researcher's familiarity with the subject area, texts may be consulted at different times during the research process. For researcher's new to a particular area of international law, texts are especially useful as an initial step in the research process. For experienced practitioners, texts serve as a repeatedly-used reference resource throughout the research process. Examples of both classic and contemporary works are listed below.

General Texts

Brownlie, Ian [Principles of Public International Law](http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/105496365&referer=brief_results)
(http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/105496365&referer=brief_results)

Cassese, Antonio [International Law](http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/46694779&referer=brief_results) (http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/46694779&referer=brief_results)

Dupuy, Pierre Marié, [Droit International Public](http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/17845636&referer=brief_results)
(http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/17845636&referer=brief_results)

Malanczuk, Pieter, [Akehurst's Modern Introduction to International Law](http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/248745018&referer=brief_results)
(http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/248745018&referer=brief_results)

L. Oppenheim, [Oppenheim's International Law](http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/26324923&referer=brief_results)
(http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/26324923&referer=brief_results).

Shaw, Malcolm, [International Law](http://www.worldcat.org/title/international-law/oclc/783441958&referer=brief_results) (http://www.worldcat.org/title/international-law/oclc/783441958&referer=brief_results)

Classic texts of international law include: J.L. Brierly, *The Law of Nations*, Hugo Grotius, *De Jure Belli ac Pacis*, and Louis Henkin, [How Nations Behave](#). There are also some wonderful nutshell-style books that provide the researcher with a brief overview of international law, for example, see David Bederman, [International Law Frameworks](#) and [Public International Law](#) by Thomas Buergenthal

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and Sean Murphy.

For researching historical developments in international law see texts by Nussbaum's, A Concise History of International Law, and Jan Hendrick Willem's, [Verzijl International Law in Historical Perspective](http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/448285&referer=brief_results) (http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/448285&referer=brief_results)

Additional authoritative texts may be found using [OCLC WorldCat](http://www.worldcat.org/advancedsearch) (<http://www.worldcat.org/advancedsearch>). The websites of publisher's specializing in international law content are also important sources for identifying new texts and other resources. A representative list of some of the leading publishers in the field of international law is provided below.

[T.M.C. Asser Press](http://www.asser.nl/) (<http://www.asser.nl/>)

[Brill Martinus Nijhoff](http://www.brill.nl/) (<http://www.brill.nl/>)

[Bruylant](http://www.bruylant.be/) (<http://www.bruylant.be/>)

[Cambridge University Press](http://www.cambridge.org/) (<http://www.cambridge.org/>)

[Editions A. Pedone](http://www.pedone.info/) (<http://www.pedone.info/>)

[Hart Publishing](http://www.hartpub.co.uk/) (<http://www.hartpub.co.uk/>)

[Oxford University Press](http://www.oup.com) (www.oup.com)

[Wolters Kluwer](http://www.kluwerlawonline.com/) (<http://www.kluwerlawonline.com/>)

Digital Collections

Examples of digital collections are listed below.

Gale, [The Making of Modern Law](http://www.gale.com/ModernLaw/) (<http://www.gale.com/ModernLaw/>) The Foreign, Comparative and International Law archive includes full-text English language legal texts from the 19th and 20th century. The collection has casebooks, municipal practice manuals, pamphlets, letters and speeches and other works on international law authored by Grotius, Marten, Vattel, Wharton and many others.

HeinOnline, [Foreign and International Law Resource \(FRILD\)](http://www.heinonline.org/) (<http://www.heinonline.org/>) This collection includes a variety of international law resources such as digests, yearbooks, law reviews, and selected judicial and arbitral reports.

HeinOnline, [Legal Classics Library](http://www.heinonline.org/) (http://www.heinonline.org) Many earlier legal texts have been digitized by Hein including *Classics of International Law*, edited by James Brown Scott.

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[United Nations Audiovisual Library](http://www.un.org/law/avl/) (<http://www.un.org/law/avl/>) In addition to

audiovisual clips of leading scholars presenting on various topics of international law, there is also a research library of articles, documents, and other materials.

Festschriften and Liber Amicorum. A published collection of essays written by various authors to honor a distinguished jurist or memorialize a significant event in international law is referred to as Liber Amicorum or Festschriften. The following resources help provide access to these collections. Please note the scope of content and dates of coverage.

[The Index of Common Law Festschriften](http://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/databases/alt/festschrift/)

(<http://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/databases/alt/festschrift/>) Developed at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, this database provides article level indexing of over 4,500 essays written in honor of a distinguished jurist, legal practitioner or scholar. The collection is limited to English language and selected common law jurisdictions and searchable by subject, essay author or honoree. Coverage is from 1888-2005.

[Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals](http://www.heinonline.org/) (IFLP) is available on [HeinOnline](http://www.heinonline.org/) (<http://www.heinonline.org/>). Festschriften are among the legal publications included in the IFLP. Coverage is from 1960 to present and is updated regularly.

[Public International Law, Concordance of the Festschriften](http://www.worldcat.org/title/public-international-law-concordance-of-the-festschriften-droit-international-public-concordance-des-melanges-volkerrecht-festschriftenkonkordanz/oclc/898172606?ht=edition&referer=di) by Peter Macalister-Smith and Joachim Schwietzke. This index to festschriften is organized by honoree and subject (<http://www.worldcat.org/title/public-international-law-concordance-of-the-festschriften-droit-international-public-concordance-des-melanges-volkerrecht-festschriftenkonkordanz/oclc/898172606?ht=edition&referer=di>).

Journal Collections

There are several journal collections available for international law content. Note that some journal titles may have embargo periods that limit access to current content.

[HeinOnline](http://heinonline.org/) (<http://heinonline.org/>) HeinOnline has an extensive collection of foreign and international law journal titles. Subscription is required.

[Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals \(IFLP\)](http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/iflp/) (<http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/iflp/>) Produced by the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) and the Berkeley Law Library, University of California, IFLP is a multilingual index to articles and book reviews from journals, yearbooks, and festschriften. Coverage is from 1960 to present and is available on [HeinOnline](http://www.heinonline.org/) (<http://www.heinonline.org/>).

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[JSTOR](http://jstor.org) (<http://jstor.org>) JSTOR hosts a cross-disciplinary collection of scholarly journals in law, humanities, social sciences, and other areas. Subscription is required.

[Lexis](http://www.lexis.com/) (<http://www.lexis.com/>) and [Westlaw](http://westlaw.com) (<http://westlaw.com>) have good collections of general and international law reviews. Subscription is required. The newer platforms for these resources are [LexisAdvance](http://www.lexisnexis.com/en-us/products/lexis-advance.page) (<http://www.lexisnexis.com/en-us/products/lexis-advance.page>) and [WestlawNext](http://legalsolutions.thomsonreuters.com/law-products/westlaw-legal-research) (<http://legalsolutions.thomsonreuters.com/law-products/westlaw-legal-research>), respectively.

[Social Science Research Network](http://www.ssrn.com) (SSRN) (<http://www.ssrn.com>) SSRN features advance publication of scholarly articles. [The Legal Scholarship Network](http://www.ssrn.com/lsn/index.html) is one of several subject-based repositories (<http://www.ssrn.com/lsn/index.html>). Registration is required and some articles may require a downloading fee.

Educational institutions offering coursework in international law may also publish journals in specific topic areas. Washington & Lee University maintains an extensive list of [Law Journals](http://lawlib.wlu.edu/LJ/index.aspx?country=All%20Countries&subject=International+Law) (<http://lawlib.wlu.edu/LJ/index.aspx?country=All%20Countries&subject=International+Law>) from institutions and organizations around the world.

For information on identifying journal titles unique to a particular area of international law see the individual chapters of the [Guide](http://www.asil.org/erghome.cfm) (<http://www.asil.org/erghome.cfm>)

V. INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Several organizations and institutions sponsor activities, publications, and other resources on international law. Papers from lectures and course offerings may also be available. The published proceedings of international conferences and meetings are good resources for discussion of current developments in international law.

[Hague Academy of International Law](http://www.hagueacademy.nl/), (<http://www.hagueacademy.nl/>) In addition to the [Recueil des Cours](#), a series of student papers presented at The Hague Academy is available. See the titles listed under publications [Centre for Studies and Research in International Law and International Relations, Centre d'étude et de recherche de droit international et de relations internationale](#) (<http://www.hagueacademy.nl/?centre-for-studies-and-research-in-international-law-and-international-relations>).

[International Law Students Association](http://www.ilsa.org) (ILSA) (<http://www.ilsa.org>) Information about events including conferences and the [Jessup Competition](#) is available at this web site. ILSA sponsors publication of The ILSA Journal of International and Comparative Law, the International Practitioner's Notebook, and ILSA Quarterly. HeinOnline has a Philip C. Jessup Library that includes the briefs from past year competitions.

[Lauterpacht Centre for International Law](http://www.lcil.cam.ac.uk/) (<http://www.lcil.cam.ac.uk/>) In addition to [publications](#)

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like International Law Reports (ILR) (<http://www.lcil.cam.ac.uk/publications/>), Lauterpacht is well known for its projects on [State Responsibility](http://www.lcil.cam.ac.uk/projects/the_ilcs_work_on_state_responsibility.php) (http://www.lcil.cam.ac.uk/projects/the_ilcs_work_on_state_responsibility.php) and [Customary International Humanitarian Law](http://www.lcil.cam.ac.uk/projects/cihl_project.php) (http://www.lcil.cam.ac.uk/projects/cihl_project.php)

[Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law](http://www.mpil.de/ww/en/pub/research/profile/topics.cfm)

(<http://www.mpil.de/ww/en/pub/research/profile/topics.cfm>)

A variety of electronic offerings are available from the Max Planck Institute located in Hamburg, Germany. See especially, the [Encyclopedia of Public International Law](http://www.mpil.de/ww/en/pub/research/details/publications/institute/epil.cfm) (<http://www.mpil.de/ww/en/pub/research/details/publications/institute/epil.cfm>), The World Court Digest, and a [Bibliography of Public International Law](http://www.mpil.de/ww/en/pub/library/catalogues_databases/doc_of_articles/pil.cfm) (http://www.mpil.de/ww/en/pub/library/catalogues_databases/doc_of_articles/pil.cfm). There is also the [Zeitschrift für ausländisches öffentliches Recht und Völkerrecht \(Heidelberg Journal of International Law\) 1929 -](http://www.hjil.de/) (<http://www.hjil.de/>) and the [Journal of the History of International Law](http://www.mpil.de/ww/en/pub/research/details/publications/institute/jhil.cfm) (<http://www.mpil.de/ww/en/pub/research/details/publications/institute/jhil.cfm>).

[Peace Palace Library, Bibliotheek Vredespaleis](http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/) (<http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/>) Several resources are available from this site which draws from its extensive collection of international law materials located in The Hague, Netherlands. Useful finding tools include select bibliographies, recent acquisitions lists, and [alerts](#). The [Grotius Collection](#), named in honor of 17th century international law scholar Hugo Grotius, is also available. [Research guides](#) provide narrative descriptions of international law topics and link to relevant titles in the Peace Palace library collection.

[Swiss Institute for Comparative and International Law](http://www.isdc.ch/en/institut.asp/4-0-10000-5-4-1/) (<http://www.isdc.ch/en/institut.asp/4-0-10000-5-4-1/>) Publications and other materials are available at this site, searchable in French, German, Italian, and English.

[United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld Library](http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/) (<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/>)

The Library's web site provides links to [UNBISnet](#) (the UN Bibliographic Information System), documents alerts, guides, and special subject resources.

[WorldCat](http://www.worldcatlibraries.org/) (<http://www.worldcatlibraries.org/>)

The Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) in Dublin, Ohio is a nonprofit, membership, library computer service and research organization. Researchers may search the WorldCat online catalog of materials held by OCLC member libraries to identify titles located in a particular geographic area.

Societies of International Law

Scholarly and professional organizations often produce publications and sponsor conferences on international law. Examples include the [American Society of International](http://www.asil.org/) (<http://www.asil.org/>), the [European Society of International Law](http://www.esil-sedi.eu/) (<http://www.esil-sedi.eu/>), and the [Indian Society of](#)

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[International Law](http://www.isil-aca.org/index.htm) (http://www.isil-aca.org/index.htm).

[Swiss Institute for Comparative and International Law](http://www.isdc.ch/en/institut.asp/4-0-10000-5-4-1/) (http://www.isdc.ch/en/institut.asp/4-0-10000-5-4-1/) Publications and other materials are available at this site, searchable in French, German, Italian, and English.

[United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld Library](http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/) (http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/) The Library's web site provides links to [UNBISnet](#) (the UN Bibliographic Information System), documents alerts, guides, and special subject resources.

[WorldCat](http://www.worldcatlibraries.org/) (http://www.worldcatlibraries.org/) The Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) in Dublin, Ohio is a nonprofit, membership, library computer service and research organization. Researchers may search the WorldCat online catalog of materials held by OCLC member libraries to identify titles located in a particular geographic area.

VII. RESEARCH GUIDES

Additional research guides on international law are listed below and are very useful in providing research guidance and identifying specific titles and resources of interest.

[Peace Palace Library Research Guides](http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/research-guides/)
(http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/research-guides/)

[Treaties Research, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies](http://libguides.sais-jhu.edu/content.php?pid=63775&sid=470650)
(libguides.sais-jhu.edu/content.php?pid=63775&sid=470650)

[Researching Customary International Law and Generally Recognized Principles](http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/classes/iflr/customary.html) (University of California – Berkeley) (http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/classes/iflr/customary.html)

[Researching Public International Law](http://library.law.columbia.edu/guides/Researching_Public_International_Law) (Columbia Law School Arthur W. Diamond Library)
(http://library.law.columbia.edu/guides/Researching_Public_International_Law)

[À la Recherche des Travaux Préparatoires: An Approach to Researching the Drafting History of International Agreements](http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Travaux_Preparatoires1.htm) (Globalex)
(http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Travaux_Preparatoires1.htm)

VI. CITATION GUIDES AND DICTIONARIES

The resources listed in this section require periodic revision to reflect new resources in international law. Many of these titles are available in both print and electronic format.

Citation Guides

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In addition to providing guidance on proper citation form for legal writing, these guides also identify primary and secondary resources for a particular legal system or jurisdiction.

[AWLD Guide to Legal Citation](http://www.alwd.org/publications/citation-manual/) (<http://www.alwd.org/publications/citation-manual/>)

This online citation manual is developed by the Association of Legal Writing Directors (AWLD).

[The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation](http://www.legalbluebook.com) (<http://www.legalbluebook.com>)

Prepared by the law review editorial staffs from several academic institutions in the U.S., the Bluebook is the leading citation manual for U.S. law schools. Citation form is available for international materials and jurisdictions throughout the world. An online edition is also available.

[Cardiff's Guide to Legal Abbreviations](http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/) (<http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/>)

This resource provides information on abbreviations for case law reports, periodicals, selected legislative publications and textbooks for over 295 jurisdictions. English and foreign language legal publications are covered as well as many international and comparative law titles.

[Google Book Search](http://books.google.com/advanced_book_search) (http://books.google.com/advanced_book_search)

Google Book Search allows the researcher to confirm citation of short passages found in selected book titles.

[Guide to Foreign and International Legal Citation, New York University School of Law](http://www.worldcat.org/title/guide-to-foreign-and-international-legal-citations/oclc/610769119), (<http://www.worldcat.org/title/guide-to-foreign-and-international-legal-citations/oclc/610769119>)

Formerly known as the International Citation Manual, this guide provides a description of legal systems for selected countries and identifies websites for legislation, courts, texts, articles, and official publications. Sections on international organizations and international courts are also included.

[Oxford Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities](http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/publications/oscola.php) (OSCOLA)

(<http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/publications/oscola.php>)

Citation of international law is included in OSCOLA 2006.

Dictionaries

The following resources also provide extended explanations of terms in international law as applied in historical and current contexts.

Boczek, Boleslaw Adam [International Law Dictionary](http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/56111661?referer=di&ht=edition)

(<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/56111661?referer=di&ht=edition>) In addition to in-depth definitions of international law terms, there is a chronology of international law events, table of cases, glossary and bibliography of resources.

Fox, James R., ed., [Dictionary of International and Comparative Law](http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/52366509&referer=brief_results)

(http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/52366509&referer=brief_results).

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Grant, John P. and J Craig Barker, [Encyclopedic Dictionary of International Law](http://www.worldcat.org/title/encyclopaedic-dictionary-of-international-law/oclc/503579127&referer=brief_results) ((http://www.worldcat.org/title/encyclopaedic-dictionary-of-international-law/oclc/503579127&referer=brief_results). This resource was formerly edited by Clive Parry and John Grant.

VIII. TRANSLATION RESOURCES

To the extent they are accessible and affordable, it is important for the researcher to seek out official or authoritative translations of primary and secondary international law documents and texts. Some publications may include a translated abstract or summary of the document. Another option is to identify compilations of documents available in selected topic areas that may include translations of selected materials.

Many of the pre-World War II texts in international law were available in French and may not have versions available in other languages. Documents of international organizations are often translated into one or more languages. Texts and other resources of the UN are often available in the six languages of the UN: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

For instances when a translated version of a resource is not available, a researcher may consider engaging a translation service to perform the translation, though these services are often costly and very time consuming. Internet-based translation tools provide researchers with a low or no-cost alternative for translating documents. While these tools may not yet be considered completely reliable, especially for lengthy analytical pieces, they can be helpful for understanding brief passages from texts and documents. Some Internet web browsers recognize a web page that is in another language and conveniently prompt the user to access the browser's translation tool. Examples of Internet translation tools include the following:

[Bing Translator](https://www.bing.com/translator/) (<https://www.bing.com/translator/>)

[Google Language Tools](http://www.google.com/language_tools?ht=en) (http://www.google.com/language_tools?ht=en)

[SDL FreeTranslation](http://www.freetranslation.com/) (<http://www.freetranslation.com/>)

[Systran](http://www.systransoft.com/) (<http://www.systransoft.com/>)

[WorldLingo](http://www.worldlingo.com/en/products_services/worldlingo_translator.html) (http://www.worldlingo.com/en/products_services/worldlingo_translator.html)

Examples of fee-based and open access multilingual dictionaries are listed below.

[IATE- Inter-Active Terminology for Europe](http://iate.europa.eu/iatediff) (<http://iate.europa.eu/iatediff>)

Administered by the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union, IATE is a multilingual database of abbreviations and phrases in the languages for member countries of the EU.

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A diverse range of subject areas includes economic policy, international law and relations, and international organizations.

[Oxford Language Dictionaries](http://www.oxfordlanguagedictionaries.com/) (<http://www.oxfordlanguagedictionaries.com/>)

The Oxford two-way bilingual dictionaries provide translations of words and phrases to and from English to several different languages including Chinese, French, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish. Subscription is required.

[Ultralingua](http://www.ultralingua.com/onlinedictionary/dictionary) (<http://www.ultralingua.com/onlinedictionary/dictionary>)

French, German, Latin, Portuguese and Spanish are among the languages available for translation of terms and phrases. Open and subscription-based levels of access are available.

IX. CURRENT AWARENESS RESOURCES

Resources that monitor developments in international law include electronic newsletters, blogs, and other resources. Most international organizations and international court web sites support an electronic alert or RSS feature. [Book reviews in journals](#) of international law are also good resources for information on new scholarship. Below are some of the offerings providing international law content.

[ASIL Insights](http://www.asil.org/insights.cfm) (<http://www.asil.org/insights.cfm>) Current developments in international law are featured in this electronic newsletter provided by the American Society of International Law.

[Council on Foreign Relations](http://www.cfr.org) (<http://www.cfr.org>)

The Council on Foreign Relations provides coverage of new developments in international and foreign relations.

[International Law in Brief](http://www.asil.org/blogs/ilib?blog=81) (ILIB) (<http://www.asil.org/blogs/ilib?blog=81>) Developed by the editors of International Legal Materials, this newsletter includes a brief description of documents associated with new developments in international law. Content includes treaties, resolutions, judicial decisions, legislation, and other documents of interest.

[International Law Reporter](http://ilreports.blogspot.com/) (<http://ilreports.blogspot.com/>) This blog features updates on new publications including law journals, yearbooks and newly released texts.

[Opinio Juris](http://www.opiniojuris.org/) (<http://www.opiniojuris.org/>) This blog features frequent posts on current issues in international law and a searchable archive of prior postings. An extensive list of other international law blogs is also provided.

To explore a topic in greater depth and detail, consult the [specialized chapters](#) of the ERG (<http://www.asil.org/resources/electronic-resource-guide-erg>).

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Kelly's previous positions were Senior Reference Librarian at Dickstein Shapiro and Reference Librarian at Georgetown University Law Center Library. She has designed and taught seminars in legal research methods, the Internet, and participated in "AALL Bridge the Gap" programs to introduce students to practice-oriented research. Through her association with the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) and the Librarians Society of Washington, DC (LLSDC) she has served in various leadership roles and, education and scholarship activities. She received her B.A. degree from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and her M.L.I.S. from Texas Woman's University. Kelly is also a member of International Association of Law Libraries.