

United Kingdom

Great Britain crown court
House of Lords Real property Wales
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Halsburys laws of England
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BACKGROUND RESEARCH MATERIALS

The following sources are great places to start when you need to understand an area of law and would like the proper references to primary law.

Halsbury's Laws of England (5th edition)

Halsbury's Laws of England is an encyclopedia providing a comprehensive narrative statement of the law in England and Wales. Subjects of law are arranged alphabetically by broad topic into more than 100 main volumes. Annual and monthly updating services keep the statements and explanations of the law current.

Although almost complete, the 5th edition remains shelved with its 4th edition counterpart while volumes continue to be rewritten. New titles for the 5th edition include, Sports Law, Information Technology Law, Financial Services and Institutions, Judicial Review and Environmental Quality and Public Health.

Over 100 years Halsbury's Laws has established itself as the authority on English law.

The first edition ran from 1907 under the editorship of Lord Halsbury, and took ten years to complete. Since then, new editions have been launched every 20 to 30 years. Traditionally, the role of Editor-in-Chief of Halsbury's Laws is held by a former Lord Chancellor.

The Law Library has retained the earlier edition sets of Halsbury's for historical research purposes.

1st edition: 1907-1917 KD310 .H344
2nd edition: 1931-1942 KD310 .H345
3rd edition: 1952-1964 KD310 .H346
4th edition: 1973- KD310 .H347
5th edition: 2007- KD310 .H348

The Digest: Annotated British, Commonwealth and European Cases

The Digest summarizes case law from the United Kingdom, the European Union, and other Commonwealth countries. Annotations to each case not only outline and classify the subject area but also include subsequent judicial treatment of the case in the English courts. This is a good source to use in order to identify cases and to find proper citations to reporters.

As with *Halsbury's* the Law Library has retained older editions of, what used to be called, the English and Empire digest.

1st edition: 1919-1932 KD296 .D557
Blue Band: 1950-1970 KD296 .D557
Green Band: 1970- KD296 .D557

Stroud's Judicial Dictionary of Words and Phrases

KF156 .S8 2012

Now in its 8th edition, Stroud's dictionary provides judicial definitions of terms or words that have been established in caselaw, statutes, or other legal documents. The three-volume set is regularly updated with supplements. Contents include historic and modern terms as well as the evolution of a term's meaning. Stroud's is useful for understanding legislation and for drafting contract language.

Words and Phrases Legally Defined

KD313 .S388

Another useful "words & phrases" title, this set takes its definitions from Acts of Parliament, Halsbury's Laws of England, and leading texts from the Commonwealth. The two-volume set is updated with supplements.

DATABASES

ICLR Online

The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting is a not for profit organisation that was established in 1865 as the authorised publisher of the official series of *The Law Reports* for the Superior and Appellate Courts of England and Wales.

The dedicated case law platform, ICLR Online, combines law reports with a powerful Citator + index cards to present all the relevant case information in one screen.

As well as the official Law Reports, ICLR publishes the Weekly Law Reports, the Industrial Cases Reports, the Business Law Reports, the Public and Third Sector Law Reports and the Consolidated Index to leading law reports.

Justis

Justis is an online library of UK, Irish, EU and international case law and legislation. Caselaw dates back to 1163 and legislation from 1235.

JustCite is the online legal research platform that helps you find leading authorities and establish the current status of the law. This is your place to start researching UK law and results will link to Justis and ICLR Online. Justcite also indexes case reports from the Canadian publisher, Maritime Law Book.

LexisNexis Quicklaw

LNQ has United Kingdom folders [under Source Directory – Country]. Resources include caselaw, commentary, dictionaries, bulletins, journals, legislation, and a citator. The caselaw folder includes the All England Law Reports (with .pdf of the original), and the Law Reports from the Incorporated Council. Access is restricted to Law faculty, staff and students, who receive a personal password as part of an educational agreement between the Law School and LexisNexis Canada. Western Libraries also subscribes to LexisNexis Academic for non-law users (content may differ).

WestlawNext Canada

The United Kingdom library within WestlawNext includes caselaw, statutes and legislative services, materials by practice area and jurisdiction, and law reviews. The caselaw collection includes The English Reports, which record the law of England from 1220-1865. The library also includes publications from Sweet & Maxwell. Access is restricted to Law faculty, staff and students, who receive a personal password as part of an educational agreement between the Law School and Thomson Reuters. Western Libraries also subscribes to a special version of WestlawNext for non-law users.

BAILII

The British and Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII) provides access to British and Irish primary legal materials. It is hosted in the UK and Ireland by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London and the Law Faculty, University College Cork.

The databases on BAILII are derived from a number of sources such as indirect feeds by relevant courts, government departments and other organisations. BAILII makes its website available on a subscription-free basis for the benefit of the public, including pro bono organisations, neighbourhood law centres, students and users in developing countries.

Lloyd's Law Reports Online (Informa)

Lloyd's Law Reports, a comprehensive collection of maritime and commercial cases, has been reporting on decisions since 1919. Cases are selected from foreign jurisdictions as well as from English Law. Access is via the library catalogue. Userid and password required.

Family Law Reports (Family Law Online)

The Family Law Reports, published by Jordan Publishing, contain verbatim reports of every important Family Division, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and European courts case, as well as practice directions, covering the whole range of family law, public and private child law.

Proceedings of the Old Bailey

containing 197,745 criminal trials held at London's central criminal court.

JOURNALS & INDEXES

The Law Library subscribes to journals published within the UK such as the main law school journals (Cambridge Law Journal, Oxford Journal of Legal Studies) as well as journals covering many different legal subject areas. When searching the library catalogue, use subject headings and see if the results bring back journal titles.

Legal Trac

LegalTrac on InfoTrac Web provides indexing for more than 1,500 major law reviews, legal newspapers, specialty publications, Bar Association journals and international legal journals, including more than 250 titles in full text. Search results link to available multimedia — images, video and podcasts. 1980-present .

Index to Legal Periodicals and Books

The ILP&B is available through EbscoHost and indexes some 1400 monographs as well as citing articles from more than 850 legal periodicals. Periodical coverage includes law reviews, bar association journals, university publications, yearbooks, institutes, and government publications. Index to Legal Periodicals & Books covers all areas of jurisprudence, including recent court decisions, new legislation, and original scholarship. The periodicals indexed, which regularly publish legal articles of high quality and permanent reference value, include law reviews, bar association journals, and university and government publications from the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand. Online updated daily. 1981-; full-text 1994-present

Earlier coverage is found in the *Index to Legal Periodicals & Books: Retrospective (1908-2007)*

HeinOnline

Contains more than 1,620 law and law-related periodicals. Coverage is from the first issue published for all periodicals and goes through the most-currently published issues allowed based on contracts with publishers. Search by article title, author, subject, state or country published, full text, and narrow by date.

UK CASE LAW

Judicial decisions from the courts of the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) which include the reasons for the decision, are written by the presiding judge(s) and made available through Case Law Reports or electronically through commercial databases or free websites. The following list contains the commonly-known reporter series in print as well as links to electronic sources and special reference materials.

If you are not familiar with researching English case law, you may want to start with secondary sources such as Halsbury's Laws of England, which is organized by legal topic, as well as textbooks found in the library catalogue. These will outline the relevant case law that you should be looking at.

Reporting from 1220-1865

Nominate Reports

Prior to 1865, cases were reported by private reporters. There were literally hundreds of reports series published under their individual names (e.g. Keen, Barnewall and Adolplus, etc.), but unfortunately they varied greatly in quality. Few law libraries possess a complete collection of these reports.

For convenience, these nominate reports have been collected and reprinted in three different series, the most authoritative of which is:

The English Reports, Full Reprint (1220-1865)

KD270 1900.E5

The most authoritative collection of caselaw from the nominate reporters. Law print collection is in storage. Volumes can be retrieved through the library catalogue. Online via HeinOnline

Revised Reports (1785-1865)

KD270 1785.R4

Selected cases only. Law print collection is in storage. Volumes can be retrieved through the library catalogue.

The All England Law Reports Reprint (1558-1935)

KD288.A6A4

Selected cases from the Law Times Reports. This series was published to provide a retrospective archive to The All England Law Reports which began in 1936. It covers cases from 1558-1935.

Available online via LexisNexis Quicklaw

Reporting from 1865 to Present

The Law Reports

In 1865 the English government created a body called the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting. From 1865 on The Law Reports, which were organized by court, were published.

This series remains in place to the present, although the court structure has changed, so some of the titles are different now from what they were in 1865.

Appeal Cases (KD275.4.L3)
Chancery Appeals (KD276.G75)
Equity (KD276.2.G75)

Chancery Division Family Division (KD279.3.G755)
Queen's Bench (KD277.2.G745)
Common Pleas (KD277.4.G75)
Exchequer (KD277.6.G75)
Probate and Divorce (KD279.3.G754)

Available online via ICLR Online. You can also search for cases in JustCite, which will provide a link to ICLR Online.

All England Law Reports

(1936-)

KD288.A64A45

The All England Law Reports is a general law report series of cases from 1936 to date. This series comprises judgments with headnotes and catchwords from the House of Lords, both divisions of the Court of Appeal and all divisions of the High Court.

Law print collection is in storage. Volumes can be retrieved through the library catalogue.

Online via LexisNexis Quicklaw (with pdf copies available from 1996 to date).

The Law Library keeps the All-England Law Reports Annual Review in the reference section. The annual review contains detailed analysis of significant decisions reported during the previous year. It is written by leading academic lawyers.

1982-

KD288 .A645 A4

Case Law Citators

Current Law Case Citator

KD296.C848

Published by Sweet & Maxwell, the citator covers periods of years: 1947-1976; 1977-1997; 1998-2001; annual volumes 2002- ; monthly cumulative digests.

These volumes provide an indexing of cases with subsequent judicial history and treatment. Each entry will also refer to the a digest summary in the **Current Law Yearbooks** (KD296.C82) as well as a list of parallel citations in order of authority (Law Reports first, newspapers last).

Citation

Pre-1865

Cite to the English Reports with a parallel cite to the nominate reporter.

Spencer's Case (1583), 5 Co Rep 16a, 77 ER 72 (KB).

Post-1865

Cite to the Law Reports where possible (newer cases

have neutral citations as well). The citation to the Law Reports is not to the series but to the individual reporter.

Whyte v Pollock (1882), [1882] 7 AC 400 (HL)

Campbell v MGN Ltd, [2004] UKHL 22, [2004] 2 AC 457.

UK LEGISLATION

The laws of the United Kingdom are created in Parliament (plus the Northern Ireland Assembly, Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales).

If you are not familiar with researching English statute law, you may want to start with secondary sources such as Halsbury's Laws of England, which is organized by legal topic, as well as textbooks found in the library catalogue. These will outline the relevant legislation that you should be looking at.

Early English Statutes

Statutes at Large

KD125.G74

The Law Library carries the collection of annual statutes by Danby Pickering, published by Cambridge and covering Magna Carta until 1869. Justis carries the "Ruffhead" edition of the Statutes at Large up to 1866.

Acts and Ordinances of the Interregnum 1642-1660

KD129 1642 .G75

Edited by C H Firth and R S Rait. The full text of legislation passed into law during the Interregnum ("between reigns" when England was under parliamentary rule).

Statutes of the Realm

1225-1713

KD130 1215.G745 1810a

This is a 12-volume set available on Microfilm. Coverage is from the magna carta to the end of the reign of Queen Anne. The text is in English and Latin.

Modern English Statutes

Public General Acts

KD125.G77

II Geo. IV & Will. IV. 1830-

The official version of the UK statutes. They are published in chronological order and are unconsolidated.

Halsbury's Statutes of England and Wales

4th edition, 1985

KD135 .H356

Individual volumes updated by reissues. This is the best place to start with statutory research. It contains the full text of the statutes, annotated with legislative history, judicial consideration, and references to related legislation.

Volumes within Halsbury's

- Table of Statutes - look up statute by name and be directed to volume in main set
- General Index - organized by subject - will direct you to volumes in main set
- Cumulative Supplement - changes for current year
- Noter-up Service - more current than supplement (looseleaf)
- Current Statutes Service (looseleaf) text of statutes not in main set yet
- Destination Table - shows where Acts have been consolidated
- In Force - in force information since Jan. 1, 1972

Halsbury's Statutory Instruments

KD173.H355

Covers Statutory Instruments in force for England and Wales. Selected Statutory Instruments appear in full-text, many are summarised with annotations. Updated monthly by the service files which form the annual supplement at the end of the year: check both of these to ensure the information is up-to-date.

Legislation Citators

Current Law Legislation Citator

KD296 .C852

Published by Sweet & Maxwell, the citator notes all repeals, amendments and commencement dates of legislation as well as listing cases which have applied legislation in court. It is divided into 7 chronological volumes and soft-cover supplements.

Citation

Regnal Years

Prior to 1963, English statutes were cited by name, regnal year (the year of the sovereign's reign spanned by the parliamentary session in which the statute was passed), and chapter

National Services Act, 11 & 12 Geo. 6, c. 64

This method of citation was changed by the Acts of Parliament Numbering and Citation Act, 1962

Now citation is by short name and calendar year

The short name is mentioned in the Act.

Companies Act (U.K.), 1980, c. 22

Legislation Online

British and Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII)

<http://www.bailii.org/>

The British and Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII) provides access to the most comprehensive set of British and Irish primary legal materials that are available for free and in one place on the internet.

Her Majesty's Stationery Office (H.M.S.O.):

Publications of Acts

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>
-Public General Acts as originally passed by the UK Parliament
-New Local Acts as originally passed by the UK Parliament
-Full text of Bills currently before the UK Parliament (via the Uk Parliament Web Site)

Parliamentary website: The Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/commons/>

Parliamentary website: The Weekly Information Bulletin of the House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmwib.htm>
-tracing amendments and bill numbers
-status of bills

Early English Books Online (EEBO)

<http://eebo.chadwyck.com/home>
Early English Books Online (EEBO) is a major research collection providing images of over 100,000 imprints from 1475 to 1700. Publications in English and foreign languages printed in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, British America are included, plus English books printed in other countries from 1641-1700. Subjects range from popular culture, literature, philosophy, politics and science to religion. The database includes titles listed in Pollard & Redgrave's Short-Title Catalogue (1475-1640), Wing's Short-Title Catalogue (1641-1700), and the Thomason Tracts (1640-1661), comprising almanacs, calendars, musical exercises, novels, prayer books, pamphlets, proclamations and other primary sources.

Need Research Help?

Contact us at lawref@uwo.ca