

Legal Journal Articles

1. Types of journals

Journal articles provide current information on legal issues, cases and legislation. They are also a good source for discussions on proposed reforms to the law, commentary on cases and academic debate on legal issues.

There are broadly two types of journals:- **professional titles** for practising lawyers, published by legal organisations such as the Law Society, and **academic titles** for those studying and researching law, sometimes referred to as peer reviewed journals.

2. How to interpret a journal article reference

Perhaps you have been given a reading list with references to articles.

A typical example might be:-

Andrew Ashworth, 'Social control and Anti-social Behaviour' (2004) 120 LQR 263, 276

The key elements to note and to help you find the article are

Author, 'Title of Article' (Year) Volume Number, Journal Abbreviation, Part Number, First Page of article

This style of referencing is called the **OSCOLA** system and is the recommended style for those studying law.

Many journal titles are abbreviated. To find out what an abbreviation stands for look in the reference book:-

"Raistrick's Index to Legal Citations and Abbreviations" – available in the library or look on the University Library web pages at the **Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations**, a searchable database of abbreviations.

3. Is the journal available in the library?

Print or Electronic? From the University Library web pages use Journal finder, to locate print journals and the E-journals search for journal titles available electronically, in full text. Also look in the journals sections of the legal databases, Westlaw and LexisLibrary, for legal journal titles, many of which are available in full text. (See separate guides for databases)

4. Not in the library?

If the journal you need is not in the library, the article may be obtained from another library. Complete an Inter Library Loan Form, available on-line from the University Library website (note your request number). To activate this request, there is a charge of £2, payable at the Reception Desk.

5. Finding journal articles

The best way to find journal articles on a particular subject is to use an index to journal articles which includes journal material on legislation and case reports, official and professional commentary and publications.

Using **Legal Journals Index**, found on the **Westlaw UK** database, gives access to over 400 legal journals published in the United Kingdom and Europe as well as journals covering topics on the laws of the European Community and its Member States, with full text linking to journals from a number of publishers including Sweet and Maxwell and Oxford University Press. You can search for material on a particular topic or by a specific author, and search for commentary on a case or legislation. The **Lawtel** database also has a journal index and specialist article collections on human rights, employment and personal injury.

Westlaw and **LexisLibrary**, have an extensive collection of full text journals, both UK and International, these can be searched individually or in broad subject groupings.

Where to look for journals in Westlaw UK

For **UK Journals**, in **Westlaw UK** under the Journals tab, search using the Free text search box, or use the Browse section to select a specific title.

For **International Journals**, use **Westlaw International** to trace the title you require (via 'Services' at the top of the Westlaw screen).

Where to look for journals in LexisLibrary

For **UK Journals** in **LexisLibrary** go to Journals (top of the screen) and then click the Journals tab (left of the screen). Search, using the search terms box, for full text UK journals. Click on the More Sources option, for further full text titles available.

For the widest coverage, select Journals Index Plus(for full text from 1995), from the drop down list in the Sources box on the main screen.

Select the Browse option for a list of journals available, and International Journals to access a selection of the main international law journals.

International or other jurisdictions

To find other journal material covering international matters or other jurisdictions, use the sources tab at the top of the screen.

Under Sources/FindSources/Keyword (radio button) set the selection box for *Publication type* to Legal journals and *Topics* to All topics (choose a subject area/ select countries if required), click Find Sources. This will produce a list of relevant journals which may be browsed, searched individually or as a group.

Other databases which are useful to law are **ASSIA - Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts** – a social science based database which indexes some legal journals and social science based journals which discuss the legal aspects of issues, Other relevant databases include **BHI - British Humanities Index, JSTOR** and **Web of Knowledge**. **Zetoc** provides tables of contents for all journals held at the British Library, together with conference proceedings.

All databases are listed under **Find database**, within the Digital Library, and may be searched individually. They are grouped in broad subject categories under **AdvancedSearch** within the Digital Library

6. Help

Pilot - Our online information literacy tutorial provides students with the skills and tools to find and manage information effectively.

www.libweb.anglia.ac.uk/pilot/index.html

Skills@Uni - Each semester the library runs a series of study skills drop-in sessions in conjunction with Student Support Services. These cover topics such as essay writing, finding journals and evaluating information. Details of our up-coming sessions can be found at www.libweb.anglia.ac.uk/helpdesk/train.htm.

AskUS - If you need help or advice about using any of our Library services, you can use the online enquiry form, or our new online chat service. It is available on the Library website at www.libweb.anglia.ac.uk/helpdesk/enquiry.htm.

Enquiry Desk - If you are in the library you can visit the Enquiry Desk for information about our services or help using the library resources.

Book a Librarian - If your enquiry is lengthy or detailed you can make an appointment to see a member of the library's law team. Your subject team is:
Cambridge: Thelma May (thelma.may@anglia.ac.uk)
And Karen Ready (karen.ready@anglia.ac.uk);
Chelmsford: Deborah Stebbing (deborah.stebbing@anglia.ac.uk). DS 2/2012