# International Legal Research



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# INTERNATIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH IN A NUTSHELL

By

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# PREFACE

This *Nutshell* is designed for the international legal research novice. We finished it at the very end of 2007—a transitional point in international legal research. Some people believe that all of international law is now available for free on the Web. Other people believe that the truth of international law lies only in the dusty volumes on a library shelf. We fall somewhere in between. Our goal is to discuss the best sources. We have focused on the print and electronic sources that are the most important, regardless of format. Most of the sources that we discuss are readily available to anyone with access to a law library or the Internet, preferably both. However. this Nutshell will no doubt leave some researchers wanting more or needing more in-depth research assistance. We suggest chatting with a law librarian about your specific research issue or checking out some of the books that we suggest which go into much greater detail. One such book was recently published by Marci Hoffman and Mary Rumsey, International and Foreign Legal Research: A Coursebook (2007).1

As websites change and resources evolve, we will try to keep up with these developments on our companion website, http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/intlnutshell/. From this site, you can access

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See http://www.brill.nl/default.aspx?partid=18&pid=29350.

#### PREFACE

the websites that are cited in this *Nutshell* and learn about new stuff.

Comments and suggestions should be directed to either Bob Berring (rberring@law.berkeley.edu) or Marci Hoffman (mhoffman@law.berkeley.edu). We both read our e-mail.

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**ABA** American Bar Association

ASIL American Society of International

Law

CLEA Collection of Laws for Electronic

Access

**COE** Council of Europe

**C.T.S.** Consolidated Treaty Series

**EC** European Community

**ECHR** European Court of Human Rights

**ECJ** Court of Justice of the European

Union

ECOSOC United Nations Economic and Social

Council

**ECSC** European Coal and Steel Community

**EEC** European Economic Community

**EISIL** Electronic Information System for

International Law

**EU** European Union

**EURATOM** European Atomic Energy Community

**FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization

GATT General Agreement on Trade and

Tariffs

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organi-

zation

ICJ International Court of Justice

ICSID International Center for Settlement

of Investment Disputes

ICTR International Criminal Tribunal for

Rwanda

ICTY International Criminal Tribunal for

the former Yugoslavia

**IGO** intergovernmental organization

ILO International Labor Organization

IMO International Maritime Organization

ITLOS International Tribunal for the Law

of the Sea

LII Legal Information Institute

L.N.T.S. League of Nations Treaty Series

LSN Legal Scholarship Network

NGO nongovernmental organization

**OAS** Organization of American States

OCLC Online Computer Library Center

**ODS** Official Document System of the

**United Nations** 

OECD Organization for Economic Co-oper-

ation and Development

**OHCHR** Office of High Commissioner for

**Human Rights** 

PCA Permanent Court of Arbitration

PCIJ Permanent Court of International

Justice

**RSS** Really Simple Syndication, Rich Site

Service

SSRN Social Science Research Network

**TEU** Treaty on European Union

**T.I.A.S.** Treaties and Other International

Acts Series

**TIF** Treaties in Force

TRIPs Agreement on Trade-Related As-

pects of Intellectual Property Rights

UK United Kingdom

U.N. United Nations

**U.N.T.S.** United Nations Treaty Series

**UNESCO** United Nations Education, Scientific

and Cultural Organization

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees

**UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and

Crime

UPU Universal Postal Union

U.S. United States

U.S.T. United States Treaties and Other

International Agreements

WHO World Health Organization

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organi-

zation

WTO World Trade Organization

		Page	
-	ACE	III	
Ackn	NOWLEDGMENTS	V	
ABBR	EVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	VII	
Cha	pter 1. Introduction and Basic		
	Concepts	1	
1.1	Introduction	1	
1.2	Basic Concepts	3	
	A. Public International Law	3	
	B. Private International Law	4	
	C. Foreign Law	4	
	D. Comparative Law	5	
	E. Transnational Law		
	F. Soft Law		
	G. Supranational Law		
1.3	Sources of Law	9	
1.4	Types of Legal Sources	11	
Cha	apter 2. Some Basics as You Begin	13	
2.1	Introduction		
2.2	Abbreviations	. 14	
2.3	Dictionaries and Encyclopedias		
2.4	Research Guides	20	
2.5	Directories	22	
2.6	Classics	23	

		Page
Chap	oter 3. Foreign and Comparative	
	Law	25
3.1	Introduction	25
3.2	Civil Law Versus Common Law	28
3.3	Types of Sources	31
3.4	Developing a Research Strategy	37
3.5	Looking for Foreign Law	42
3.6	Translated Material	44
3.7	Comparative Law	55
Chaj	pter 4. Treaties and International	
	Agreements	58
4.1	Introduction	58
4.2	Some Basics	59
4.3	Getting Started	60
4.4	U.S. Treaties and Agreements	63
	A. Background Information	63
	1. Full-text Sources	64
	2. Treaty Indexes	66
	3. Other Full-text Sources	69
4.5	Bilateral and Multilateral Treaties and	
	Agreements	71
	A. Bilateral Treaties	
	B. Multilateral Treaties	72
	1. Indexes	72
	2. Full-text Sources	72
4.6	Implementing Legislation	74
4.7	Background Information, Commentary,	
	Treaty Interpretation and "Travaux	
	Préparatoires"	75

		Page
Cha	pter 5. Customary International	
	Law and General Principles of Law	78
5.1	Introduction	78
5.2	Customary International Law	80
5.3	State Practice	81
5.4	General Principles	89
Cha	pter 6. International Case Law	93
6.1	Introduction	93
6.2	Judicial Decisions of International Tribu-	
	nals	94
	A. Permanent Court of International	
	Justice (PCIJ)	95
	B. International Court of Justice	
	(ICJ)	96
	C. Court of Justice of the European	
	Union (ECJ)	99
	D. European Court of Human Rights	
	(ECHR)	104
	E. Permanent Court of Arbitration	
	(PCA)	109
	F. Other International Courts and	
	Tribunals	110
6.3	Other Useful Websites	112
Cha	pter 7. European Union	117
7.1	Introduction	118
7.2	The Formation of the EU	119
7.3	The EU Today	121
7.4	The Euro	121

		Page		
7.5	The Three Pillars of the EU	122		
7.6	The EU's Organizational Structure	122		
	A. The European Commission	123		
	B. The European Parliament	124		
	C. The Council of the European Un-			
	ion	124		
	D. The European Court of Justice	125		
	E. The Court of Auditors	125		
	F. Additional EU Bodies	126		
7.7	European Union Documents	127		
7.8	Some Basics for Doing EU Legal Re-			
	search	132		
7.9	Legislation	135		
	A. European Union Treaties	135		
	B. Secondary Legislation	135		
7.10	Documentation of EU Institutions	136		
7.11	Finding Directives & Regulations	141		
7.12	Implementing Legislation	151		
7.13	Case Law	159		
7.14	Background Sources	161		
7.15	Other Useful Tools	161		
<b>C1</b>				
	pter 8. United Nations	163		
8.1	Introduction	164		
8.2	The League of Nations: Predecessor to	0.722.0		
0.0	the United Nations	164		
8.3	The Formation of the United Nations	165		
8.4	A Roadmap: The Organizational Struc-			
	ture of the U.N.	167		
	A. The Security Council	167		
	B. The Secretariat	169		
	C. The General Assembly	169		
	D. The Economic and Social Council	170		

		Page
8.4	A Roadmap: The Organizational Struc-	
	ture of the U.N.—Continued	
	E. The Trusteeship Council	171
	F. Specialized Agencies and Other	
	Programs	172
	G. The International Court of Justice	173
8.5	The U.N.'s Impact on Human Rights	
	Law	173
8.6	The U.N.'s Impact on International Law	174
8.7	U.N. Documents and Publications	175
	A. Getting Started	177
	B. Locating Documents	179
	1. Official Records	179
	2. Full-text Documents	179
	3. Document Indexes	185
	C. U.N. Resolutions	186
	D. Treaties	188
8.8	Other Collections	189
8.9	Beyond the Documents: Books and Arti-	
	cles	190
Cha	pter 9. Other International Organi-	
	zations	192
9.1	Introduction	192
9.2	Bibliographies and Research Guides	195
9.3	Background Information	198
9.4	Documents and Publications	199
9.5	LexisNexis and Westlaw	206
9.6	Some Final Thoughts	206
Cha	pter 10. Commentary and Analysis	207
10.1	Introduction	207
10.2	Library Catalogs	209

			Page
10.3	Lega	l Journal Indexes	211
10.4	Law-	-related Journal Indexes	214
10.5	Full-	text Sources for Journal Articles	218
10.6	Worl	king Papers	218
Cha	pter	11. General Research Strate-	
	gies	s	225
11.1	Intro	oduction	225
11.2	The	Steps	227
	1.	Think Before You Begin Your Re-	205
		search	227
	2.	Secondary Sources Are Your Friends	220
	3.		230
	Э.	Primary Sources of Law—The Heart of the Matter	991
	4.	Remember That Non-Legal	231
	4.	Sources May Be Crucial	232
	5.	Make Sure Your Research Is Up-	
		to-Date	233
	6.	The Big Question—How Do I	
		Know When I am Done?	233
	7.	Ask for Help	234
CI.		10 0 0 1 1 1	
Cha		12. Source Collecting and Cite	205
101		ecking	235
12.1		oduction	235
12.2		ne General Sources: Places to Start	236
12.3		Six Steps	
	1.	Review the Sources	238
	2.	Decipher the Abbreviations used in	
		Citations	239

	my ou	Page	
12.3	The Six Steps—Continued		
	3. Locate the International Legal		
	Sources Contained Within the		
	Article	244	
	4. Locate Foreign Legal Sources		
	(Non-U.S. Materials)	251	
	5. Locate Books and Journal Articles	253	
	6. Copying	256	
12.4			
12.5	Some Cite-checking Tips	256	
C1		arrener .	
	pter 13. Staying Ahead of the Curve	257	
	Introduction	257	
	New Developments	258	
13.3	Blogs	260	
13.4	RSS Feeds	265	
13.5	Podcasts	267	
App	endix A. Comprehensive Source List	269	
Appendix B. Web Treaty Collections			
	Appendix C. Websites Containing Trans-		
lated National Law			
	AND A THUIVIEW DAY	303	
INDEX	ζ	309	

XVII