

# Law Library Briefs

Roger Williams University School of Law Library



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## Researching Foreign and International Law on the Internet

As the practice of law is increasingly global in nature, you might need to research an international or foreign law issue sooner than you think. There are many excellent web sites which provide access to primary and secondary materials. On the Law Library's "Research Links" page, there is an annotated listing of web sites under the heading "International and Foreign Materials." Here are a few web sites to get you started:

The web site of The American Society of International Law (<http://www.asil.org>) is a good starting point for research. Two electronic resources of note on the web site are the *ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law* (ERG) and the *Electronic Information System for International Law* (EISIL).

The *ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law* (<http://www.asil.org/resource/home.htm>) is an eleven chapter e-book covering international law research on the Internet. Each chapter describes the scope of the topic, offers tips and caveats on online research and resources, and provides links to quality primary

and secondary materials on the Internet.

The *Electronic Information System for International Law* (<http://www.asil.org/system/eisil.htm>) contains over 1800 records organized into thirteen major topic headings. Each record contains information on, and links to useful and high quality international law instruments, web sites, and online research guides. The database allows users to browse by subject, and/or search by keywords, dates, and resource type.

Created by Lynette Louis Jacques, Foreign and International Law Librarian and Lecturer in Law at the University of Chicago Law School, the web site *Legal Research on International Law Issues Using the Internet* (<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/~llou/forintl.html>) contains extensive links to web sites for international law materials.

The University of Chicago Law School's D'Angelo Law Library also maintains a web page of links for foreign and international law at <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/law/intl.html>. Among the nu-

merous links are those for laws of foreign countries, web sites of international organizations, research guides, and treaties.

The *Guide to Law Online* (<http://www.loc.gov/law/guide/index.html>) prepared by the Library of Congress, Public Services Division provides links to legal materials for individual nations of the world (<http://www.loc.gov/law/guide/nations.html>). Information for each nation includes constitutional, executive, judicial, and legislative materials in addition to legal guides and general sources. The *Guide* also includes multinational and international resources.



### **Electronic Resources of the Rhode Island State Law Library**

If you are working in Rhode Island for an attorney or law firm this summer and do not want to travel to Bristol, check out the State Law Library! The State Law Library is located in the Frank Licht Judicial Complex at 250 Benefit Street in downtown Provi-

dence. In addition to the print materials in its collection, the State Law Library provides to all its library patrons free access to electronic resources such as Westlaw for Patrons, Shepard's citator service, Matthew Bender treatises, and Loislaw. Westlaw for Patrons has cases, statutes, law reviews/journals, *American Jurisprudence 2d*, the *Restatements*, and the *American Law Reports*. If you are using the Shepard's citator service, you can also access the "Get a Document" feature in addition to fully shepardizing a case or a statute. The Matthew Bender treatises are provided via *Lexis.com* with options to browse the tables of contents or conduct keyword searches of the various Matthew Bender treatises. Loislaw provides cases, statutes, agency rules and regulations, and other primary law for all fifty states and federal jurisdictions. In addition to the primary legal materials, Loislaw includes access to treatises focused around practice areas. For access to Loislaw outside of the confines of the State Law Library, you can sign up to use Loislaw at <http://www.loislawschool.com> through the law school. Most importantly, unlike LexisNexis and Westlaw, you can use Loislaw while working for an attorney or a law firm. Contact a librarian for the law school's special access code.

Beyond the electronic resources previously mentioned, the State Law Library has CD-ROMs containing primary legal materials for Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Federal

and general legal materials are available on CD-ROMs or via the Internet. For more details about the electronic resources of the State Law Library, check out its web site at <http://www.courts.state.ri.us/library/defaultlibrary.htm>.



### ***The Rhode Island Bar Journal and the Rhode Island Bar Journal Cumulative Index***

Looking for more than just biographical information about an attorney, consider searching the *Rhode Island Bar Journal* to find out if that attorney has authored an article published in the *Rhode Island Bar Journal*. The Law Library has the complete run of the *Rhode Island Bar Journal* beginning with the first issue published in November, 1952 to the present. It is available in the Westlaw **RIBJ** database (selected coverage begins with Volume 31, 1982) and via LexisNexis (path is **Legal> Secondary Legal> Bar Journals> Rhode Island Bar Journal** (coverage from October, 1995 to present).

A joint project of the Rhode Island Bar Association and the law school library created an index to articles published in the *Rhode Island Bar Journal* from its inception to present. The articles are indexed by author, subject, and title. Also indexed are book reviews and ethics advisory opinions. You can access the *Rhode Island Bar Journal Cumulative Index* from the Law Library's "Research Guides" web page at

<http://law.rwu.edu/Law+Library/Research+Guides.htm>.



### ***Microforms: The Code of Federal Regulations and The Federal Register***

For those of you who are researching federal agency rules and regulations, you might need to use versions of the annually compiled *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) and/or the daily issues of the *Federal Register* (FR) to track regulations from different points in time. While both publications are available in the Law Library's collection in print, a full historical run of both titles is available in microfiche. The *CFR* for the current year is available in the Federal Stacks section of the Law Library and microfiche copies of the *CFR* from 1938 to 2003 are available in the Micrographics Room, Cabinets 2 and 3, against the left wall. The *CFR* microfiche is arranged chronologically by year and numerically by title within the drawers. The previous two years and the current year's issues of the *Federal Register* are also available in the Federal Stacks. Microfiche copies of the *Federal Register* from 1936 to 2004 are available in the Micrographics Room, Cabinets 4 and 5, against the left wall. They are arranged chronologically by date.

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