Finding Law materials
In today’s session

Aim: to help you find materials for your projects

• Recap on introductory session last year
• Finding and using e-books
• Finding the full text of a journal article when you only have a reference or an abstract
• Finding case reports, legislation and journal articles
• Finding material that LSBU doesn’t hold
• Visiting other libraries
• Help and support
Law LibGuide

https://libguides.lsbu.ac.uk/law

• Library catalogues
• Databases
• Training materials
• Contact details
• Current awareness
E-books

Benefits

• Can access from home
• Some collections will allow you to search across multiple books in one search
• No fines!
Using **Law Trove** to find e-books

Full-text access to 165 full-text books published by Oxford University Press

Individual books accessible via Library catalogue
How to find a journal article

Author: J Bell
Title of article: ‘The Basis of Vicarious Liability’
Year of Publication: (2013)
Volume: 72
Journal: CLJ
Page: 17
Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations

Free resource that tells you
What an abbreviation stands for
What the best abbreviation is for a law report series or journal title

Can link from the Library’s law resources page or from
http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/

What does MLR stand for?
Modern Law Review
What is the preferred abbreviation for Common Market Law Review?
CML Rev
Halsbury’s Laws of England

• Multi-volume legal encyclopaedia (roughly 100 volumes)
• Covers all areas of English law
• Helps you find most important cases, legislation and commentary in an area of English law
• Topics are arranged by subject
• Usually 1-2 pages long
Finding information on your research topic

What is your topic?

Identify **keywords**
  • synonyms (similar/identical meanings)
  • alternative spellings

Keep a note of every search you do
  • adjust key words as you go along
Focussing and broadening your search

• Use **AND** to focus your search (this will give you fewer results)
  • eg liability **AND** negligence
  • not needed in Westlaw

• Use **OR** to broaden your search (this will give you more results)
  • eg damages **OR** compensation **OR** reparation

• Use **NOT** to exclude a topic (this will give you fewer results)
  • eg euthanasia **NOT** ethics
Truncation and phrase searching

**Truncation in Westlaw/Lexis Library**
Use ! to find different possible endings to a word
  - eg: legislat! would find legislate, legislation, legislative, legislature etc

**Truncation in journal databases**
Use * to find different possible endings to a word
  - eg: organi* would find organisation, organization, organised, organise, organising etc

**Phrase searching in Westlaw and journal databases**
Use “” [quotation marks] to search for a phrase
  - eg “judicial review” OR “civil justice” OR “common law”
  - not needed in Lexis Library
Proximity searching in Westlaw/Lexis Library

Use proximity searching to find keywords in an article or case
• in the same sentence
• paragraph
• within a certain number of words of each other

**Westlaw**
eg causation /s negligen!
eg “freedom of expression” /p “social media”
eg lawyer /8 training

**Lexis Library**
eg causation w/s negligen!
eg freedom of expression w/p social media
eg lawyer w/8 training
Practice time

https://libguides.lsbu.ac.uk/law/legalresources

Use **Westlaw** and **Lexis Library** to find cases and journal articles on a subject relating to your assignment or an area of law you are interested in.
Academic journals

Huge, searchable collections of journal articles
Good for the academic perspective on legal issues

- Download/email/print off as many articles as you like
- Types of journals
  - Academic/peer-reviewed
  - Trade/practitioner
- Full text not always available; may just see abstract

https://libguides.lsbu.ac.uk/law/journals
Academic Search Complete

Wide subject base
Academic journal articles
Sage Premier

Wide subject base
Academic and non-academic fulltext journal articles
Practice time

https://libguides.lsbu.ac.uk/law/journals

Use **at least one academic journal database** to find cases and journal articles on a subject relating to your assignment or an area of law you are interested in.
Accessing other libraries

- Interlibrary loans
  - Up to 20 requests per year

- SCONUL Access
  - Access other university libraries around the UK
  - May have borrowing rights
  - Generally access to print resources only
  - Eduroam allows laptop Internet access at some institutions

Library Services LibGuide
https://libguides.lsbu.ac.uk/library
OSCOLA Referencing

• Used only for Law
• Footnotes
• Abbreviations

• OSCOLA bible

• Citing the Law
  https://ilrb.cf.ac.uk/citingreferences/oscola/tutorial/index.html
1:1 support

Book a 1:1 with an Information Skills Librarian
[go.lsbu.ac.uk/askalibrarian](go.lsbu.ac.uk/askalibrarian)
- Database Searching e.g. Journal articles
- Referencing
- Using RefWorks

Email queries: [askalibrarian@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:askalibrarian@lsbu.ac.uk)

Research Helpdesk
3 Bridge
Mon-Fri 12.00-4pm
Any questions?