How to find law journal articles

A guide to finding journal articles using the BPP libraries and the Online Library services.

To locate a specific journal title, please use the Search Journal section of the Online Library.

To search by subject or topic, or to find a specific journal article, please use one of the online resources e.g. LexisLibrary, Westlaw.

There is no single source which contains the full text of all law journals.

How to find out if a specific journal is available from the library

The library has a range of printed and online journals. To find out where you can access the full text of any particular journal search for its title by going to the Online Library page and use the Find a Journal search box.

Abbreviations and citations

Journal articles are often referred to as an abbreviated citation:

Enrichment M.L.R. 2004, 67 (6), 1012-1031

For an explanation of legal abbreviations, go to: [http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/](http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/).

The Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations allows you to search for the meaning of abbreviations for titles of English language legal publications. It mainly covers law reports and law periodicals (journals), but also some legislative publications and major textbooks.

Raistrick, Donald. *Index to legal citations and abbreviations* is an alternative printed source which lists legal abbreviations and their meaning.
Searching for articles on a subject

Although each journal usually has its own index, it is more efficient to search all journals at once. To do this you need to use an indexing or abstracting service. Westlaw, LexisLibrary and HeinOnline all index legal journal articles. Westlaw and LexisLibrary have a large selection.

Journals on Westlaw
1. Go to the Online Resources section of the Online Library
2. Select Westlaw then log on with your Athens username and password. Enter BPP if asked for a client reference.
3. Go to the Journals page and enter your Search terms or use the Browse function to drill down to a specific Journal and article.

Westlaw provides abstracts of articles from over 400 UK legal journals and has the full text articles for over a 100 of these.

Use More Options to search for articles by legislation or cases cited.
4. To search for articles on a particular subject use the free text box.
5. Enter your search term(s).
6. If you enter two or more words, Westlaw will assume there is an AND between them. To search for a phrase, use inverted commas, e.g. “human rights”.
7. Click on search.
8. A search summary list appears. Click on the link to view the abstract of the article.
9. Where the full text is available, a further link will be provided to view the article.
10. Return to the list to edit your search.
11. On the left there are further search options, filters including an option to filter by those articles available in the full text.
12. Click on Edit Search to change search terms, or start a new one
13. If the full text is not available on Westlaw, use the Find a Journal section of the Online Library to check the availability of the journal in one of the BPP libraries or other online resources.

Journals on HeinOnline
HeinOnline provides access to an extensive range of law and law-related journals from the UK and also has international coverage. Mainly backruns with coverage from the first issue published through to the most recent available to HeinOnline. It doesn’t always cover the most recent issues due to contractual arrangements with individual publishers.
1. Go to the Online Resources section of the Online Library
2. Select HeinOnline then log on with your Athens username and password.
4. Choose Search to enter key terms or use the Advanced Search option to narrow down by specific article or journal titles, or even by citation if you already know the
For further information please contact your library issue desk or email library@bpp.com
Sept 19-20 [LIS/JS]