

LAW JOURNALS

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW

The two primary sources for English law are legislation and case law. For further information on primary sources, consult the Library guides to **Statutes** and **Law Reports**.

Secondary sources are those which describe, comment upon, or interpret the primary sources of law. Secondary sources include textbooks, legal encyclopaedias, and articles that appear in the law journals. For information concerning legal textbooks and legal encyclopaedias, consult the Library guide to **Law Textbooks**.

Law journals

Why are journals important?

Journals are published much quicker than textbooks and the information they contain is usually more up-to-date than that published in textbooks. Also, the information they contain is often more detailed than that found in textbooks. If, for example, you want very detailed analysis on a piece of legislation, or on a specific case, you are more likely to find this in a journal than in a textbook.

It is in your own interests that you start using the law journals as soon possible as the successful completion of modules and assignments requires you to draw upon a variety of sources and you will find more authoritative opinion in the law journals.

Professional and academic journals

Law journals can be divided into two categories: **professional** titles and **academic** titles. Professional titles are primarily aimed at practicing lawyers. Academic titles are intended more for people studying and researching the law.

Thus, the *Law Society's Gazette* (published weekly), the *Solicitor's Journal* (weekly) and the *New Law Journal* (weekly) are professional titles, whilst journals such as the *Cambridge Law Journal* (published three times a year) and the *International and Comparative Law Quarterly* (four times a year) are academic titles. However, articles in each type of journal will be of interest to students and to practicing lawyers.

You can consult the law journals either in paper copy, or online.

Journals in the Law Library

To support you in your studies, the Law Library subscribes to a variety of law journals in paper copy. You will find the most recent copies in the Law Library, displayed in A-Z sequence on the shelves adjacent to the law textbooks. Each time you use the Law Library, it is a good habit to browse through some of the most recent law journals. Major titles include:

- Cambridge Law Journal
- Common Market Law Review
- Criminal Law Review
- European Law Review
- Gazette (Law Society's Gazette)
- Journal of Criminal Law
- Journal of Law and Society
- Law Quarterly Review
- New Law Journal
- Solicitors' Journal

Back-copies of law journals are shelved in the Group Study area (through the wooden doors opposite the Law Library).

All titles listed above are also available online as eJournals.

Use the Library catalogue to see whether the Library holds specific journal titles, either in print copy or as an eJournal.

E-Journals for law

In addition to paper copies of law journals, you have full-text access to over one thousand legal eJournals. Many, but not all, are accessed using the following legal databases:

- Westlaw UK
- Lexis®Library
- HeinOnline

For further details see the Library guide titled **eResources for law**.

IMPORTANT NOTE concerning specific journals

Some law journals are **NOT** available online via the legal databases, for example via Westlaw UK, Lexis®Library, and HeinOnline. This is because certain publishers will not license these databases to hold their journals. Consequently, the Law Library pays extra subscriptions to enable online access to specific law journals such as:

- Common Market Law Review
- Criminal Law and Philosophy

European Law Journal
 Immigration Case Law Review
 Journal of Law and Society
 Law and Humanities
 Law Teacher
 Legal Studies
 Modern Law Review
 Solicitors Journal

Sport and the Law Journal: **Note:** access to S & LJ requires a unique username and password which is only available directly from the Library catalogue.

To gain online access to the above titles, use the Library catalogue, '**Journal Title Search**' at: <http://catalogue.brad.ac.uk/search/s>.

1. Type in the name of the journal you require, for example '**journal of law and society**'.
2. From the catalogue display, click on the appropriate link to connect to the eJournal.

Other collections of law journals

In addition to the legal databases, Westlaw UK, Lexis®Library, and HeinOnline, the Law Library also subscribes to the following:

Oxford Journals Law Collection

The Law Collection from Oxford University Press is a wide-ranging collection of covering areas such as commercial law, medical law, environmental law, human rights, international law, criminology, policing, etc.

Access the Oxford Journals Law Collection via the Library's eResources webpage at: <http://catalogue.brad.ac.uk/search/y>.

1. Type: '**oxford journals**'.
2. Select: '**Oxford University Press online journals**'.
3. Once you enter Oxford Journals, select: '**LAW**'.

The Library's subscription allows you full-text access to thirty legal journals published by Oxford UP, and not available elsewhere. Major titles include: *Human Rights Law Review*, *Industrial Law Journal*, *Journal of Environmental Law*, *Journal of International Criminal Justice*, *Medical Law Review*, *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, and many more.

Jordan Publishing online journals / Family Law Online

Students studying family law are advised to familiarise themselves with '**Jordan Publishing online journals**', which contains the collection called '**Family Law Online**', dedicated to the practice of family law. Our subscription allows access to the following major journals concerning this area of law:

Family Law Journal

Child and Family Law Quarterly

International Family Law

Access Jordan Publishing online journals via the Library's eResources webpage at:

<http://catalogue.brad.ac.uk/search/y>.

1. Type: '**jordan publishing**'.
2. Once you enter Jordan Publishing online journals, click on: '**FAMILY LAW**' (in the left-hand frame).
3. You will see the family law publications that you can click on to access.

Help

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