

# LAW AND JUSTICE RESEARCH AND WRITING TIPS

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### OVERVIEW

To locate **CASES** refer to LexisNexis (*includes Quicklaw*), LawSource, CANLII (see below for more about these three data bases), Supreme Court of Canada cases <http://csc.lexum.umontreal.ca/en/>, and the Library catalogue for hard copy holdings (e.g. *Supreme Court Reports, Ontario Reports, Canadian Criminal Cases, Reports of Family Law, Canadian Rights Reporter, Canadian Human Rights Reporter, Labour Arbitration Cases, Canadian Labour Law Reports*.)

To locate **LEGISLATION** refer to LexisNexis and CANLII. Federal legislation is also available at: <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/> and Ontario provincial legislation at <http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/>. Current Federal Bills are available at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/> and Ontario Bills at: <http://www.ontla.on.ca/>.

To locate **BOOKS** use the library catalogue and, once you have found a relevant book, from its catalogue entry you can "Browse Call Numbers" – look under the heading "Actions". If you prefer you can with the call number physically browse the shelves

To locate **ARTICLES** in legal journals the best starting point is *Index to Legal Periodicals* (see below under Legal Data Bases). From there you will be linked to electronic sources of the relevant articles available through our library, as well as any print version available in the Library. If it is available on Hein Online or Lexis-Nexis that is usually the easiest to use. If you have an article citation you can find out if an electronic and/or print version is available by searching by periodical title in the alphabetical list of electronic journals at <http://sfx.scholarsportal.info/laurentian/az>. Legal Journals available through LawSource are not indexed here, so you should check its list of titles as well (see below).

Apart from the web sites and data bases specifically listed, Internet material should not be relied on for your academic sources unless your professor directs otherwise. There is other good material out there, but you can waste a lot of time finding it.

Note that American and other sources are useful since precise definition of the current law is usually far less important than academic analysis and critique of the issue. However, be guided by the instructions for your specific assignment and course.

**LIBRARY WORKSHOPS:** If you have not yet done them, you should complete the Laurentian library D2L Core Library Workshop - see: <https://d2l.laurentian.ca/>

### LEGAL RESEARCH GUIDES:

<http://www.legalresearch.org/>  
<http://law.harvard.libguides.com/content.php?pid=114791>  
[http://www.llrx.com/features/ca\\_intro.htm](http://www.llrx.com/features/ca_intro.htm)  
<http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/> (legal abbreviations)

### DOCUMENTING SOURCES – LEGAL CITATION:

<http://library.queensu.ca/law/lederman/legalcit.htm>  
<http://www.lib.uwo.ca/law/legalcitation.html>

### RESEARCH ESSAY WRITING GUIDES, INCLUDING STRATEGIES FOR AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

<http://ontherighttrack.laurentian.ca/intro.html>  
[http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/research\\_essays.htm](http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/research_essays.htm)  
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>  
<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

### ONLINE RESOURCES

#### CanLII: Legislation, Court Judgements – Canadian

**Access:** CanLII is a free, direct access internet resource:

<http://www.canlii.org/>

**Coverage:** CanLII provides to primary Canadian legal material by jurisdiction, federal and provincial, including legislation and judgements as issued by the courts. Similar websites exist for many other countries – see the "Other Countries" link on their webpage.

**Canadian Bar Review:** [http://www.cba.org/CBA/canadian\\_bar\\_review/Main/](http://www.cba.org/CBA/canadian_bar_review/Main/)

### LEGAL DATA BASES:

The four legal databases listed below are accessed directly from the Laurentian Library website. From the library homepage select "Library Databases", then either

"Alphabetical Listing"

<http://laurentian.ca/Laurentian/Home/Departments/Library/Databases/Alphabetical+listing.htm>

or "Law and Justice"

[http://laurentian.ca/Laurentian/Home/Departments/Library/Databases/Law\\_and\\_Justice.htm](http://laurentian.ca/Laurentian/Home/Departments/Library/Databases/Law_and_Justice.htm), then click on the database you want. To access individual journals directly search the alphabetical list of journals available through Laurentian: <http://sfx.scholarsportal.info/laurentian/az>. This list includes journals available in hard copy and electronically (including direct links), but does not include journals available through LawSource.

From on campus computers database access will be seamlessly available.

On off campus computers you must logon using your Novell logon - for instructions see: [http://laurentian.ca/NR/exeres/edf81c-d67d-4f45-9764-f3f5d668d1e9.htm?NRMODE=published&wbc\\_purpose=Basic&WBCMODE=Presentationpublished](http://laurentian.ca/NR/exeres/edf81c-d67d-4f45-9764-f3f5d668d1e9.htm?NRMODE=published&wbc_purpose=Basic&WBCMODE=Presentationpublished)

#### Index to Legal Periodicals: Journal Articles – USA & Canada

**Coverage:** a bibliographic index of an extensive list of legal journals, including Canadian journals. From the results list you can locate available electronic and hard copy sources of the articles through the "Get it at Laurentian" button. *This is the best place to start looking for journal articles.*

**Online Guide:** [http://www.hwwilson.com/dd/ilp\\_in.htm](http://www.hwwilson.com/dd/ilp_in.htm)

#### Hein Online: Journal Articles – American and Canadian

**Coverage:** full text articles from an extensive list of legal journals, both American and Canadian, plus some other material. List of Titles: <http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?collection=journals>.

You may search directly in Hein Online or start with *Index to Legal Periodicals* as stated at the start of this guide.

#### LexisNexis Academic - includes QuickLaw: Cases, Articles and Legislation – American, Canadian and International

##### Coverage

- Canadian Legal Journals
- Canadian Reports and Judgements
- Canadian Legal texts
- Canadian Legislation
- American legal Journals – extensive list

And Much More. For an index of what is available click the "Sources" tab on the main search page.

To search Canadian cases: In the left menu click International Legal – Canadian Cases.

To search journals you may prefer to start with *Index to Legal Periodicals* as stated at the start of this guide. If you wish to search directly in Lexis-Nexis proceed as follows: In the left menu click Sources – Browse Sources

1. Publication Type
2. Filter by All Countries, All Topics
3. Law Reviews and Journals; when you select that another option will appear at the top where you can check Multiple Source Files, then check "All Canadian Legal Journals" or "Law Reviews, Combined" (includes Canadian)

Then click OK Continue at the top right, which brings you to the search page.

##### Online Guides:

Click "Help and Instructions" on the left side of the main search page.

#### LawSource: Cases, Articles, Indexes – Canadian

**Coverage:** for a detailed list see

<http://www.westlawcarswell.com/LawSource/whatsin.htm>

Caselaw: full text of Law Reports published by Carswell, plus a few others.

-Legislation: full text of all Canadian legislation, except Quebec for which there is only selected legislation.

-Journals and Commentary: full text of 24 Canadian journals. In addition, most of the Carswell law reports include academic annotations / case comments that are widely cited. These are not indexed in *Index to Legal Periodicals*.

-Indexes: The Canadian Encyclopedic Digest [case digests by subject]; The Canadian Abridgment [an encyclopaedia-style legal text]; Index to Canadian Legal Literature [links to full text are provided if the material is available in LawSource. Most of the journals indexed here are also indexed in Index to Legal Literature.]

**Online Guides:** <http://www.westlawcarswell.com/support/reference/>