

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR LAW

1. ACCESS

- The Law Library subscribes to a number of major online legal databases which are available both on- and off-campus. These are professional databases which provide authoritative and quality legal information **WHICH YOU WILL NOT FIND ON THE FREE INTERNET**.
- There are two ways to access the online resources. The main route is via the Library's **eResource webpage**. You can also access many online resources (but not all) directly via the **Athens** homepage.

Whichever route you choose, in most cases you will be required to enter your Athens username and password. Athens is an authentication scheme used by the UK Higher Education sector to authorise entry to a wide range of databases and eJournals paid for by the University Library. As soon as you are registered as a student at the University of Bradford, and have a Bradford e-mail account, you will receive your personal Athens username and password. If you ever lose, or forget, your Athens password, it is easy to have it re-set. Simply fill in your details at: <http://www.brad.ac.uk/lss/athens.php>

Route 1: via the eResources webpage

- You are able to search or browse for online resources, including eJournal and eBook collections, databases, organisational web sites, news services and anything else of quality and relevance to Bradford students and staff via the Library's new **eResources** webpages at: <http://catalogue.brad.ac.uk/search/y>
- From here, go to **Finding eResources by Subject** and use the pull-down menu to select **Law**.
- You will now see a list of databases which you can enter individually. Please note: if you are working off-campus, you will have to type in your Athens username and password to enter these resources.

Route 2: via the Athens homepage

- An easy way to access all Athens protected resources (except for *HeinOnline*) is to go directly via the Athens homepage at: <http://www.athens.ac.uk/>
- Click on: **Log on to / My Athens** and type in your Athens username and password.

- Click on the Resources tab. This brings you to a list showing all the Athens authenticated databases that you can access. Scroll down the list and tick the following to add them to your Athens list of **Favourites**.
 - *Lexis®Library*
 - *Oxford Scholarship Online*
 - *Westlaw UK*
- Now, for example, click on *Westlaw UK* to enter this legal database.

If you have any queries about using the **eResources webpage** or about your **Athens** username and password, please contact the Law Librarian, or go to the Information Desk in the Library.

2. ONLINE LEGAL DATABASES

This section contains a very brief summary of the subscription online legal databases available to you as a student at the University of Bradford. These databases provide professional, up-to-date, and quality-assured legal information, including:

- Primary sources of law: legislation and law reports.
- Secondary sources of law: notably the full text of articles from major (and lesser-known) legal journals.
- Access to UK newspapers; to international law; to the online version of *Halsbury's Laws of England*; to the facility to set up e-mail legal alerts.

From the very start of your Law course you need to know how to use the legal databases because the successful completion of modules and assignments requires you to draw upon a variety of legal sources which these databases hold. Once you know how to use the legal databases effectively, your life as Law student will be much, much easier! Also, knowledge of the legal databases will provide you with skills that are essential to a career in the law.

Westlaw UK

Owned by Sweet & Maxwell. A very powerful database, providing:

- UK and EU cases, including *ICLR Law Reports* (1865 – onwards), *Weekly Law Reports* (1953 – onwards), *Criminal Appeal Reports* (1995 – onwards), and *Common Market Law Reports* (1962 – onwards).
- UK and EU legislation.
- Legal journals index: provides summaries (abstracts) of many thousands of legal journal articles.

- The full text to articles to over 100 legal journals, including major titles such as *Criminal Law Review*, *Law Quarterly Review*, and *Public Law*.
- Access to *Westlaw International*, which allows you to retrieve, for example, international legislation, cases and law reviews from countries such as the United States; Canada; Singapore; United Arab Emirates.
- UK newspapers: articles from the national and provincial press.

Lexis®Library

Owned by LexisNexis. A very powerful database, providing:

- UK and EU cases, including *ICLR Law Reports* (1865 – onwards), *All England Law Reports* (1936 – onwards), and *Times Law Reports* (1988 – onwards).
- UK and EU legislation.
- The full text to articles from almost 100 legal journals, including major titles such as *Journal of Criminal Law*, *Law Society Gazette*, and *New Law Journal*.
- *Halsbury's Laws of England* (the online version of the legal encyclopaedia).
- *Legal Alerts*: allows you to set a schedule for regular e-mail updates providing the latest results on legal topics of interest to you.
- UK newspapers: articles from the national and provincial press

Both *Westlaw UK* and *Lexis®Library* are tailor-made for the UK legal market. Whilst there is some overlap in their content, you must familiarise yourself with **both** databases. For example:

- The journal content on both *Westlaw UK* and *Lexis®Library* is particularly significant. *Westlaw UK* is licensed to hold legal journals that are published by Sweet & Maxwell (e.g. *Law Quarterly Review* and *Public Law*), which you will **not** find on *Lexis®Library*. On the other hand, *Lexis®Library* holds journals such as *Family Law* and *Environmental Law Review* which you will **not** find on *Westlaw UK*.
- *Westlaw UK* has links to international law, via *Westlaw International*, which you will **not** find on *Lexis®Library*.
- *Lexis®Library* holds the online version of *Halsbury's Laws of England*, which you will **not** find on *Westlaw UK*.
- *Lexis®Library* allows you to set up and receive legal alerts by e-mail.

HeinOnline

Owned by William Hein & Co. A huge image-based legal archive, providing:

- Access to the back-files of over 800 legal journals. Although the emphasis is on American titles, many UK titles are included, e.g. *Cambridge Law Journal* and *Modern Law Review*.
- The full text of the *English Reports* (13th century – 1873): these early cases played an important role in formulating the basis of our common law as we know it today.
- Access to the *Legal Classics Library*: contains law-related items from the late 19th and early 20th century.
- Access to *Statutes of the Realm*: English statutes from 1235 to 1713.

Oxford Scholarship Online – Law

This is a vast and expanding eBook law library which offers online access to the full text of scholarly law books published by Oxford University Press (an eBook is an electronic equivalent of a conventional printed book). Once you enter **Oxford Scholarship Online**, click on **Law**. This will take you to the following list of sub-disciplines within the OSO Law collection:

- *Company and Commercial Law*
- *Comparative Law*
- *Competition Law*
- *Constitutional and Administrative Law*
- *Criminal Law and Criminology*
- *EU Law*
- *Employment Law*
- *Environmental and Energy Law*
- *Family Law*
- *Human Rights Law*
- *Intellectual Property, IT, and Media Law*
- *Law of Obligations*
- *Legal History*
- *Legal Profession and Ethics*
- *Medical Law*
- *Philosophy of Law*

- *Private International Law*
- *Public International Law*

Using **Oxford Scholarship Online – Law**, you can cross-search the full text of eBooks within each sub-discipline. You can also browse abstracts and keywords at book and chapter level.

XpertHR professional

Owned by Reed Business Information Ltd and IRS (Industrial Relations Services).

- A very useful source for employment law, including daily updates, case studies, surveys, model policies, and podcasts on topics of current interest.
- From the *XpertHR* homepage, go to the left-hand menu and select: *Employment Law*. You can now select from a variety of sub-menus, including an up-to-date employment law *Reference Manual*, information on *Forthcoming Law*, and a *Legal Timetable* of listing key forthcoming dates.

3. AN IMPORTANT NOTE CONCERNING SOME SPECIFIC ONLINE LAW JOURNALS

- Some law journals are **NOT** available online via the legal databases. This is because some publishers will not license the legal databases to hold their journals. Consequently, the Law Library pays extra subscriptions to enable online access to specific law journals. Titles include:
 - ***Common Market Law Review***
 - ***Criminal Law and Philosophy***
 - ***European Law Journal***
 - ***(IRS) Employment Review***
 - ***Journal of Intellectual Property Law and Practice***
 - ***Journal of Law and Society***
 - ***Law and Humanities***
 - ***Law Teacher***
 - ***Legal Studies***
 - ***Modern Law Review***
 - ***Solicitors Journal***

- **Sport and the Law Journal:** Please note that this journal, published by BASL (the British Association for Sport and Law) is only available online and you must access it directly via the Library catalogue, from which you will be given a specific password.

To gain online access to the above titles, use the Library catalogue at:

<http://www.bradford.ac.uk/library/index.php>

- Under the search box, click on: **Journals**
- Type in the name of the journal you require, e.g. **Journal of Law and Society**
- From the catalogue display, click on the hypertext link to connect to the online version of the journal.

4. “FREE” ONLINE RESOURCES FOR LAW

There is an increasing amount of good legal information available on the free internet. Useful sites include:

For legal abbreviations:

Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations: <http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/>

- Allows you to search for the meaning of all recognised legal abbreviations.

General gateways to legal information:

Delia Venables Legal Resources: <http://www.venables.co.uk/>

- Whilst much of this site is aimed at lawyers and companies, it also provides useful links to resources for students.
- **LawBore:** <http://www.lawbore.net/>
- The legal portal of City University, London. Provides links to a variety of free legal information and includes video-clips, e.g. on mooting techniques.

General gateway for case reports:

BAILII: <http://www.bailii.org/>

- The BAILLI site (of the British and Irish Legal Information Institute) acts as a gateway to the full text of much British and Irish legislation and case law.

Government gateways to statutory and Parliamentary information:

Legislation.gov.uk: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>

- Provides all UK statutes from the Magna Carta to the present day.

United Kingdom Parliament: <http://www.parliament.uk/>

- Provides detailed information about the UK parliament and the UK legislative process.

Official gateways to European and international law:

Eur-Lex: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

- The official portal to EU law. Includes access to the case-law of the Court of Justice, in English and all the other languages of the EU.

HUDOC: <http://www.coe.int/>

- The official portal to the European Court of Human Rights. Provides access to the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and documentation from the European Commission of Human Rights and the Council of Ministers.

UN International Court of Justice: <http://www.icj-cij.org/>

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is where the judicial body of the United Nations sits to settle international legal disputes. It is based in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands and must not be confused with the International Criminal Court.

International Criminal Court: <http://www.icc-cpi.int/>

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) was established in July 2002 to prosecute individuals for crimes against humanity, including war crimes and genocide. Its official seat is in The Hague, Netherlands, but its proceedings may take place elsewhere.

For legal news and gossip:

Roll on Friday: <http://www.rollonfriday.co.uk/>

- Useful for news, views and gossip on various law firms (including what they pay!). You must register first to receive an e-mail each Friday afternoon with the week's top legal stories.

For further help, please contact:

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