A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN LEGISLATION

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This guide provides some guidance on how to access foreign legislation and international treaties. In contrast with the ‘practical guide to global jurisprudence’, this guide does not focus on the outcome of the judicial process, but on the outcome of the national legislative process and international law making. It provides a short description of – and links to – foreign and international law resources on the Internet.

I. FOREIGN LAW METAPAGES

This section lists the most comprehensive foreign law metapages. Metapages provide a range of legal information ordered by county. They might also allow for a cross-country search around a specific topic. Moreover, they often contain international documents.

Worldlii provides case law and a range of legislation for many countries of the world. It allows for searches by country or by region. It also has rather extensive coverage of international documents and case law. The database is self-explanatory and well organized and is probably the best starting point for researching foreign legislation.

http://www.worldlii.org/catalog/215.html

Global legal information network (library of US Congress) provides one of the most extensive and comprehensive general database on foreign law and judicial decisions. It allows searches of laws, judicial decisions, legislative records or legal literature per country of for multiple countries at once. It also contains international documents.

http://www.glin.gov/search.action

Guide to law online (library of congress) provides an overview of online legal materials for most countries. It orders information per country and often provides links to the country-entry in subject specific databases (see below). It is a good starting point if one is interested in a particular country (rather than in a particular subject area).

Internet Legal Resource Group provides selected legal materials for most countries of the world along a broad range of subject areas.

http://www.ilrg.com/nation_ref.html

Institute for Social Sciences provides a rather extensive overview of electronic legal resources. It provides links to country-specific databases for each country. It also provides an overview of the available resources by subject area- both for international and national laws. It basically is a more extensive version of this document.

http://www.intute.ac.uk/socialsciences/law/
The Swiss Institute for Comparative Law provides an overview of links to legal materials for each country. It generally provides links, information and documents in their original language.

The World Law Guide provides full texts of legislation on a range of subject areas for most countries.
http://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/legis.htm
II. FOREIGN LAW BY SUBJECT AREA
This section will list the most comprehensive subject-specific databases. Please note that these databases do often not only provide the laws of different countries on the specific subject areas, but generally also contain international treaties and other international legal documents on the topic.

Arbitration laws

*Kluwer Arbitration* provides the best source on arbitration. It provides national documents such as national legislation on arbitration, national case law and national organizations. It also provides the text of international conventions and an overview of multi-lateral organizations. Moreover, it provides access to the most important commentaries in the field of arbitration.


Banking laws

*Center for the Study of Central Banks* provides an overview of legislation and constitutional provisions in every country with respect to the central bank and national banks.

[http://www.law.nyu.edu/centralbankscenter/texts/order.html](http://www.law.nyu.edu/centralbankscenter/texts/order.html)

Bar Associations from Around the World

*The Chan Robles Virtual Law Library* provides links to the websites of most bar associations around the world.


Citizenship laws of the World

*US Office of Personnel Management* provides a summary of the citizenship law of most countries in the world. It documents for each country how citizenship can obtained, how it can be lost, if dual citizenship is recognized etc.


Civil Procedure

*New York University Law Library* provides a guide to civil procedure laws and cases for a large number of countries in the world. It provides references to the primary sources of civil procedure in these countries.


International Property Laws

*The World Intellectual Property Organization* provides a rather extensive overview of the international property laws in each country. It provides the texts of copy rights laws,
regulations of marks, trade names, industrial designs and much more. It also provides the text of regional and multilateral treaties.

http://www.wipo.int/clea/en/clea_tree1.jsp

**UNESCO Collection of National Copyright Law** provides the texts of the copyright laws of most countries around the world.


**Competition Laws**

The **International Bar Association Global Competition Forum** provides a brief history of competition regulation in each country, the texts of the laws currently in force in that country and the regulations of the national competition authority.

http://www.globalcompetitionforum.org/#%27

**Constitutional Law**

The **Richmond Constitution Finder** provides the constitutional texts of most countries of the world. It often provides the texts in multiple languages and also provides the texts of constitutional amendments and earlier versions of the constitutions.

http://confinder.richmond.edu/

**International Constitutional Law Project** provides the constitutional texts of most countries of the world. It also rather extensively documents the various constitutional amendments, although generally does not provide the full text of those.

http://www.servat.unibe.ch/law/icl/index.html

**Criminal Law**

**Buffalo Criminal Law Center** provides an overview of the criminal codes of many countries of the world.

http://wings.buffalo.edu/law/bclc/resource.htm

**Corpus Jures** provides the text of the criminal codes and related codes of the EU candidate countries.

http://www.era.int/domains/corpus-juris/public/texts/legal_text.htm

**Mc Connel International Cybercrimes** provides an overview of countries that have laws that allow for the prosecution of cyber crimes.

http://www.mcconnellinternational.com/services/Updatedlaws.htm

**UNODC legal crime library** provides an overview of regulations of drug control, international criminal cooperation and criminal laws for most of the countries of the world.

http://www.unodc.org/enl/browse_countries.jsp
The Crime of Genocide in Domestic Laws and Penal Codes provides an overview of the status of the crime of genocide in domestic law for most countries of the world. 
http://preventgenocide.org/law/domestic/ 

E-commerce Law Resources

Baker and McKenzie Global E-commerce Law provides an overview of the e-commerce laws of many countries of the world and includes e-transactions law (including e-signatures), privacy and data protection and information security law. 
http://www.bakernet.com/ecommerce/ 

Election Laws and democracy

Project on Political Transformation provides the texts of the election laws of Eastern European and CIS countries. 
http://www2.essex.ac.uk/elect/legi_index.htm

OSCE legislation online provides legal information per country on topics related to democracy and human rights. It provides terrorism laws, gender law, migration laws, election laws etc for the OSCE countries. 
http://www.legislationline.org/?topic=0&subtopic=0&subsubtopic=0&intst=0&eu=0&country=0 

Georgetown University Political Database of the Americas provides information on the regulation of democracy, political parties, elections, local governance for Latin American countries. 
http://pdba.georgetown.edu/ (also in French)

Environmental Law

Ecolex provides a database of national environmental laws, judicial decisions on environmental law, international environmental treaties and environmental law literature. The search engines allows for the ordering of the laws of a particular country along a range of environmental law subjects. 
http://www.ecolex.org/index.php (also in French)

Equal Employment Law

The ILO Legal Framework for Equal Employment Opportunities provides for each country the relevant international instruments, the texts of national equal employment legislation, constitutional provisions and case law. It moreover provides a rich source of background information in the field of equal employment law. 

Food, agriculture and renewable resources regulations
Faolex database by the Food and Agricultural Organization provides the food, agriculture and renewable resource regulation for every country in the world.
http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/

**Labor and Social Security Laws**

The ILO NATLEX database provides abstracts of national labor, social security and related human rights legislation for most countries in the world.
http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home

The ILO Occupational Health and Safety Information Centre provides national Occupational Health and Safety Laws for most countries in the world.

**Tobacco laws**

The WHO National Tobacco Information Online System provides tobacco regulation for every country.
http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/nations/nations/Country_Specific_indicators.asp
III. AFRICAN RESOURCES

Francophone Africa: general
Droit Francophone provides jurisprudence, legislation and a range of other legal materials for francophone countries. Database is provided in French
http://portail.droit.francophonie.org/pdf-web/

Africa: human rights
Minnesota human rights library provides links to Africa’s most important human rights documents
http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/links/africalinks.html

South Africa: general
The Southern African Legal Information Institute publishes case law, legislation and other legal materials from Southern African countries.
http://www.saflii.org/

East Africa: general
Law Africa provides rather extensive coverage of laws and judicial decisions from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania as well as some coverage of legal materials from other East African countries. Yet, this database can only be accessed by subscription
https://www.lawafrica.com/index.asp
IV. INTERNATIONAL LAW
In many cases, the subject-specific databases and the foreign law metapages listed in the previous sections also contain international documents. In addition to those, the ASIL guide provides a good starting point for researching international law specifically. In addition, the OHCHR website provides a comprehensive overview of human rights treaties, their status of ratification and the decisions and comments of the different treaty committees.

http://www.asil.org/resource/ergintrl.htm

Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights. This website provides the text of the most important UN Human Rights Treaties, the status of ratification and reservations as well as links to their respective commissions.
V. COUNTRY SPECIFIC RESOURCES

In addition to the legal materials in the foreign law metapages or the subject-specific databases, individual countries may have rather extensive country-specific databases. In the following section, these databases are briefly described. Note however that if a country is not listed in this section, this does not mean that no legal information is available for this country. In fact, many of the databases- or metapages- described above may provide information on this country. Non-listing in this section merely implies that no separate country specific database is available. In general, the metapages are probably the best starting point for foreign law research- particularly Droit Francophone for West Africa and Worldlii for the rest of the world.

Algeria
Lex Algeria provides the texts of the most important Algerian codes such as the civil code, the penal code, the family code, the civil procedure code, the penal procedure code, the insurance code and more. Lex Algeria is provided in French.
http://www.lexalgeria.net

Andorra
Representacio de S.E. Coprincep Frances provides civil, administrative and immigration codes and the constitution in French.
http://www.coprincep-fr.ad/france/textes.htm

Argentina
Info leg database by the Ministry of Economic Affairs includes constitution, laws, codes and other legal information in searchable database for Argentina in Spanish. Can be searched by number of legislation (norma) and official bulletin number.
http://infoleg.mecon.gov.ar/

National Law database provides the texts of a broad range of legal documents and allows for advanced searches. In spanish.

Australia
Austlii database provides a rather extensive overview of legislation and case law in Australia, both at the state and at the federal level.
http://www.austlii.edu.au/

Austria
Rechtsinformationsystem des Bundes is a German language site providing links to federal, state and municipal laws and draft bills; Federal Law and State Law Gazettes; and full-text case law from the: Constitutional Court (1980-), Administrative Court (1990-), Supreme Court, Independent Administrative Tribunals (1991-), Independent
http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/

Bahamas
Lex Bahamas provides a comprehensive listing of legislation from the Bahamas, including some full-text.
http://www.lexbahamas.com/

Belarus
National Centre of Legal Information provides Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus in English and in Russian. The Russian version of this database contains a complete set of acts. This site also includes the National Register of Legal Acts, an index of laws by date.
http://ncpi.gov.by/eng/legal/list.htm

Belgium
Ministry of Justice Legislation Coordonée allows searching for full-text of codified laws by date, number and keyword. (in French)
http://www.cass.be/cgi_loi/legislation.pl

Belize
Laws of Belize Revised Edition 2000. This is a searchable database with an efficient search engine. The search results are full-text pdf versions of the statutes contained in the most recent revision for Belize. (In English)
http://www.belizelaw.org/lawadmin/index2.html

Benin
Textes Juridiques - Bénin. This website provides a list of laws arranged by subject matter. The site provides citations to the law including the law or ordinance number. An email address is provided where pdf versions can be obtained on request. Costs are not clear from the site. (in french)
http://www.afrikinfo.com/lois/

Bermuda
Bermuda Laws Online. This is a database of full-text Bermuda laws in English on a variety of subjects.
http://www.fortknox.bm/NXT/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm

Bolivia
National Congress (from the NC) includes recent legislation, important laws by subject area, and a database of abstracts for laws from 1979 to 2005, as well as information about the congressional system.
http://www.congreso.gov.bo/indice.asp
Unidad de Modernización Judicial de la Comisión Andina de Juristas contains various laws and codes full-text in Spanish.  
http://www.cajpe.org.pe/rij/bases/legisla/bolivia/legibopr.htm

Brazil  
**Senate Federal Legislation** database searchable by type or number. (in Portuguese)  
http://wwwwt.senado.gov.br/legbras/

**Office of the president** provides laws, including Leis Ordinarias organized by date, Leis Complementares, Leis Delegadas, and legislation by subject. Also includes list of ministries and their authorization. (in Portuguese)  
http://www.planalto.gov.br/CCIVIL/Leis/principal_ano.htm

Bulgaria  
**Online Bulgarian Legislation** (from the Bulgarian Institute for Legal Development): legislation in the vernacular searchable by section number and full-text.  
http://www.bild.net/temida/index.html

Cambodia  
**iFrance database** provides the full text of laws and regulations of Cambodia in English and French arranged chronologically and by subject.  
http://cambodialaw.ifrance.com/

**Council of Jurist Laws and Regulations of Cambodia** contains legal documents in English and/or French. There is also a chronological index.  

Cameroon  
**Government Portal** provides numerous legislative rules and regulations for Cameroon in French. Also provides a search engine. Coverage goes back to 1981 but is not comprehensive.  

Canada  
**The Canlii database** provides extensive coverage of Canadian legislation and case law in both French and English  
http://www.canlii.org/

Chile  
**Library of Congress Legal Database** provides a searchable database of laws with access by number or free-text. Also provides links to constitution, codes and other legal information.  
http://websolon.congreso.cl/basiscidocs/consulta2.html
Colombia
Novedades Legislativas (Ministry of Justice Library): Includes recent laws full-text organized by subject. There is also a database with bibliographic information about older legislation.
http://www.minjusticia.gov.co/biblioteca/nl59re.htm

Juriscol (Banco de la Republica): Includes the Constitution, laws on constitutional reform, laws and decrees from 1990 and resolutions of the "Junta Directiva del Banco" and "Junta Monetaria."
http://juriscol.banrep.gov.co:8080/

Costa Rica
Gaceta (National Press) provides laws (leyes) and decrees (decretos) for each day. There does not appear to be an archive although issues from December 1996 to July 1998 are available at another website.
http://imprenal.go.cr/

Ecuador
Unidad de Modernización Judicial de la Comisión Andina de Juristas includes the full-text of various laws and codes in Spanish.

El Salvador
Las Leyes de la Republica (Asamblea Legislativa): provides selected laws from 1962 through 1998 in Spanish
http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/leyes/indexl.htm

Estonia
Estonian Legal Translation Center this state agency provides translations of Estonian legislation into English for selected laws
http://www.legaltext.ee/indexen.htm

France
Lexis Nexis JurisClasseur extensive coverage of French codes and judicial decisions in French. Requires a subscription.
http://www.lexisnexis.com/fr/droit/home/home.do?rand=0.47948903221484074

Georgia
Institutional Reform and the Informal Sector database provides a wide range of codes and laws in English and Georgian.
http://www.iris.ge/en/resources.html

Germany
The Ius Comp website provides a range of German statutes and laws in English.
http://www.iuscomp.org/gla/statutes/statutes.htm
Bundesgesetzblatt BGBl (Makrolog): Provides the most comprehensive overview of German law from 1949 to present in German. Allows for searches
http://bgbl.makrolog.de/

Guatemala
Ministry of Finance provides a limited collection of laws from different subject areas. (in Spanish)
http://www.minfin.gob.gt/swf/leyes/

Hungary
Lexis Nexis provides an overview of selected Hungarian laws in force in English. Requires a subscription.
www.lexisnexis.com

Iceland
Ministry of Justice selected legislation in English.
http://brunnur.stjr.is/interpro/dkm/dkm.nsf/pages/english

India
Ministry of Law and Justice India code database Allows for searching by Short Title/Act Year /Act No./Full Text and includes a Chronological table for Status of an Act. It also contains section on Parliamentary Bills and Legislative Bills.
http://indiacode.nic.in/

Indonesia
Badan Koordinasi Penanaman Modal contains selected laws, regulations and decrees in a variety of areas in English.

Ireland
Lexis Nexis provide comprehensive coverage of the laws from Ireland in English. Requires a subscription.
www.lexisnexis.com

Israel
Minister of Foreign Affairs website contains selected laws in English
http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Law/Selected%20legislation/Selected%20Laws%20of%20the%20State%20of%20Israel

Jamaica
The Supreme Court website provides selected laws in English
http://www.sc.gov.jm/LOJ/index.htm

Japan
English Translations of Japanese Law provides a compilation of links to online sources of Japanese law in English
http://homepage2.nifty.com/paper/lawcollection.htm

Korea, Democratic Republic (North)
http://www.novexcn.com/north_korea_contents_main.html

Korea, Republic of (South)
Comprehensive Legal Information Service System from the Ministry of Legislation provides an on-line database of legislative information and court cases. Contains a variety of Acts, regulations, court cases, and books on jurisprudence. Information is searchable by word/phrase, subject term, amendment number, title, case number and more. (in Korean and English)
http://www.moleg.go.kr/

Kuwait
Council of Ministers provides selected legislation in English
http://www.fatwa.gov.kw/

Latvia
Translation and Terminology Centre provide selected laws in English
http://www.ttc.lv/new/Lv/EN_tulkojumi.htm

Lithuania
INFOLEX databases provide extensive coverage of laws across different subject areas. Some of the laws are available in English.
http://www.litlex.lt/scripts/sarasas2.dll?Pirmas=1

Malaysia
Parliament of Malaysia provides the full text of selected bills and acts enacted from 1990-2001

Mexico
Legislación Federal Vigente (Camera de Diputados) provides access in Spanish to Mexican legislation and constitution. Also provides full-text codes in HTML or PDF format.
http://www.cddhcu.gob.mx/leyinfo/

Mongolia
Mongolia Law Library University of Indiana contains the most important Mongolian laws in English
http://www.indiana.edu/~mongsoc/mong/lawlib.html
New Zealand
The Knowledge Basket provides browseable full text selected acts in English
http://www.knowledge-basket.co.nz/tkbgp/welcome.html

Nicaragua
http://200.30.50.6/Normaweb.nsf/Normasenweb?Openview

Nigeria
Laws of the Federation of Nigeria provides an overview of laws from 1990 to 2006 that are still in force. Some of these laws are provided full-text.
http://www.nigeria-law.org/LFNMainPage.htm

Pakistan
Pakistan Lawyer database contains numerous important laws in English (some full-text)

Panama
National Assembly Legislation contains approved legislation for the years 1999 to present in Spanish.
http://www.asamblea.gob.pa/legispan/leyes/Leyes.htm

Legalinfo-Panama.com provides assorted codes and laws in Spanish with some translations.
http://www.legalinfo-panama.com/leyes.htm

Peru
Unidad de Modernización Judicial de la Comisión Andina de Juristas provides various full-text laws and codes organized by subject in Spanish.

Philippines
House of Representatives webpage contains full texts of selected bills in English

Portugal
The Documentation and Comparative Law Office provides selected legislation in English and French.
http://www.gddc.pt/legislacao-lingua-estrangeira/english.html (for english)
Sierra Leone
**The laws of Sierra Leone database** provides extensive coverage of legislation, full-text, in English from 1926 to 2006 (including citations)
http://www.sierra-leone.org/laws.html

Singapore
**Singapore Statutes Online** provides a rather extensive range of full-text statutes in English.
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/

South Africa
**The Ministry of Justice Webpage** contains bills, acts, notices, proclamations, regulations and other documents.

Spain
http://www.senado.es/legis7/actividad/index.html

Switzerland
**Federal Authority of the Swiss Confederation** (Recueil systématique du droit fédéral / Systematische Sammlung des Bundesrechts / Raccolta sistematica del dritto federale / Systematic Collection of Federal Law) provides an inclusive database of Swiss federal law organized by subject, including the civil and criminal codes, available in French, German or Italian. Searchable.
http://www.admin.ch/ch/f/rs/rs.html

Trinidad and Tobago
**Website of Parliament** contains the full text of selected acts and pieces of legislation
http://www.ttparliament.org/index2.htm

United Kingdom
**Lexis Nexis** provides almost exhaustive coverage of UK legislation, case law and all sorts of legal documents. Requires a subscription.
www.lexisnexis.com

United States of America
**Lexis Nexis** provides almost exhaustive coverage of USA legislation, case law and all sorts of legal documents. Requires a subscription.
www.lexisnexis.com

Venezuela
**Unidad de Modernización Judicial de la Comisión Andina de Juristas** provides various full-text laws and codes organized by subject in Spanish.
Vietnam
Maison du Droit contains a broad range of laws and codes in French. Well-organized site.
http://www.maisondudroit.org/tablematieres_fr.htm

Zimbabwe
Website of Parliament contains selected Bills and Acts

Zambia
Institute of Human Rights, Intellectual Property and Development Trust provides selected laws of Zambia. Available full-text via pdf. (in English)
http://www.hurid.org.zm/