

# Advanced Constitutional Law Research

Melissa Abernathy  
[mabernathy@sandiego.edu](mailto:mabernathy@sandiego.edu)

# What we will cover

- Searching the Catalogs
  - LRC Online Catalog, Circuit & ILL
- Finding Journal Articles
- Foreign Constitutions
- Foreign Law
- Lexis & Westlaw

# Searching the Catalogs: LRC Online Catalog, Circuit, Interlibrary Loan (ILL)

# LRC Catalog

- The Legal Research Center's online catalog links to materials held at the LRC and the Main Library (Copley)
- The catalog can be used to find not just materials in our print collection, but also to access e-books and electronic databases.
- Access at <http://www.sandiego.edu/law/library/>

# LRC Catalog examples

- Comparative constitutional law in Asia / edited by Tom Ginsburg and Rosalind Dixon  
LRC Reading Room (KNC524 .C636 2014)
- Asia Pacific and human rights : a global political economy perspective / Paul Close and David Askew  
CL Book Stacks (JC599.E18 C56 2004) see all
- Human rights constitutionalism in Japan and Asia [electronic resource] : the writings of Lawrence W. Beer / Lawrence W. Beer  
Copley Internet (KNC524 .B44 2009eb)

# Circuit Catalog

- Because USD is a member of a library consortium called the Circuit, you can borrow materials from any of the member libraries which include SDSU, UCSD and the San Diego County and Public Libraries.
- Circuit does NOT include Thomas Jefferson Law School or California Western School of Law.
- Access at <http://circuit.sdsu.edu>

# WorldCat and Interlibrary Loan

- If you're looking for an item and can't find it in the LRC Catalog or the Circuit, then check [WorldCat](#) to see if we can request it via Interlibrary Loan (ILL) from a participating member of a worldwide network of libraries.
- Check with a reference librarian before submitting an ILL
- Access at <https://www.sandiego.edu/law/library/find-resources/ill/>

# Finding Journal Articles

# Law Journal Articles

- [Westlaw: Journals & Law Reviews](#)
- [Lexis-Nexis: Law Reviews & Journals](#)
- [Google Scholar](#): Click on Settings and add USD to your library links to access all of our subscription databases
- [HeinOnline](#) is a database that contains digital (PDF) images of law reviews from U.S. law schools. Access through the our [Legal Research Databases](#) page.

# Non-Law Articles

- Copley Library Databases (e.g JSTOR, Academic Search Premier, SpringerLink Journals). Available through the [Copley Databases page](#)
- SSRN – Social Sciences Research Network  
<https://www.ssrn.com/en/>
- Google Advanced  
[https://www.google.com/advanced\\_search](https://www.google.com/advanced_search)

# Foreign Constitutions

# World Constitutions Illustrated

- Constitutional law for over 190 countries.
- Current and historical official constitutional texts.
- Scholarly journal articles, books, and other constitutional commentary, organized by country.
- Available in [HeinOnline](#) through the LRC Databases page.

# Constitute

- Constitute offers free access to the world's constitutions that users can systematically compare across over 300 topics.
- Constitute was developed by the Comparative Constitutions Project at the University of Texas at Austin.
- Access at <https://www.constituteproject.org/>

# Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law

- Comparative Constitutional Law essays covering a variety of jurisdictions.
- Citations to seminal foreign cases.
- Access at <https://oxcon-ouplaw-com.sandiego.idm.oclc.org/home/mpeccol>

# WIPOLex

- WIPO Lex provides free access to global legal information, primarily in the area of intellectual property.
- It is NOT an authoritative source for foreign constitutions.

# Foreign Law (statutes and case law)

# Foreign Law Guide

- The Foreign Law Guide is an essential resource in researching the laws of another country.
- For each country, the Foreign Law Guide provides a brief overview to the law of the country, laws arranged by subject, English translations, and scholarly commentary.
- Access through the [LRC Databases page](#)

# LRC Foreign Law (Laws of Other Countries Guide

- Created by the LRC for USD law students including links to subscription and free databases.
- Covers over 100 jurisdictions.
- Access at <https://lawlibguides.sandiego.edu/foreign-law>

# Official Gazettes

Official gazettes in many jurisdictions serve as the primary publication for official notices and announcements, legislation and more.

- [Guide to Finding the Official Gazettes of Foreign Countries](#)
- Government Gazettes Online (University of Michigan), <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~graceyor/doctemp/gazettes/index.htm>

# Foreign Websites

- Use [Google translate](#) and the Google translate widget in Google Chrome
- Directly translate foreign websites instead of using the English 'portal' (usually a pared down version of the full website)
- Generate keywords to search websites or Google in the original language.

# Bluebook Table 2

- Table 2: Foreign Jurisdictions provides citation and research help for over 35 foreign countries.
- Access at <https://www.legalbluebook.com/bluebook/v21/tables/t2-foreign-jurisdictions>

# Lexis and Westlaw

# Lexis

- Secondary Materials > Law Reviews & Journals
- For material from specific countries click on the International Tab. Click on View All Countries to see the full list of available countries.

# Westlaw

- Secondary Sources > Law Reviews & Journals
- To navigate by specific country, click on International Materials, then select one of the main six foreign jurisdictions (Australia, Canada, European Union, Hong Kong, Korea, United Kingdom), or select Other International Jurisdictions.

# LRC Reference Desk

Email: [lrcrefer@san Diego.edu](mailto:lrcrefer@san Diego.edu)

Phone: (619) 260-4612

Chat: [sandiego.edu/law/library](https://www.sandiego.edu/law/library)

These slides are available at

<https://www.sandiego.edu/law/library/research-trainings/upper-division.php>