

# Free Trade Agreements Research

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# What we will cover

- Searching the Catalogs
  - LRC Online Catalog, Circuit & ILL
- Finding Journal Articles
- Finding Free Trade Agreements
- Resources by Region or Country
- 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

- Bilateral and regional trade agreements : case studies  
Available at LRC Reading Room (K4600 .B483 2015)
- Rethinking free trade, economic integration and human rights in the Americas / María Belén Olmos Giupponi  
Available at CL Book Stacks (KDZ574 .O43 2017)
- Regional cooperation and free trade agreements in Asia  
/ edited by Jiaxiang Hu, Matthias Vanhullebusch  
E-BOOK | 2014 Copley Internet

# 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)

# Finding Free Trade Agreements

# USMCA

- Official text
  - Because the United States-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) is so recent, it is not yet in an official treaty series, can refer to the [Office of the USTR's](#) website.
- Negotiating history
  - USMCA – A negotiation history timeline can be found in this [CRS report](#) as well as this page from the [Organization of American States \(SICE\)](#)
- Secondary sources
  - [NAFTA to USMCA : what is gained?](#)
  - As a more recent agreement, journal articles and [CRS reports](#) would be great place to start.

# RCEP

- Official text of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)
  - Signed November 15, 2020, entered into force January 1, 2022.  
<https://rcepsec.org/legal-text/>
- Negotiating History
  - Joint Leaders' Statement on The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) – via [ASEAN Summit](#)
  - [Bilaterals website](#)
- Secondary Sources
  - [ASEAN law in the new regional economic order : global trends and shifting paradigms](#) (print book)
  - [Principles of free trade agreements, from GATT 1947 through NAFTA Re-Negotiated 2018](#)

# Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

- Official text
  - [Signed July 17, 2018, entered into force February 1, 2019](#)
- Negotiating History
  - [Bilaterals](#) website
- Secondary Sources
  - [EU-Japan FTA : Implications for U.S. Trade Policy, CRS In Focus](#)
  - [In Focus: EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement](#)

# General Resources

- [Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#)
  - Responsible for developing and coordinating U.S. international trade and investment policy, and overseeing negotiations.
- [Sice](#)
  - Sistema de Informacion al Comercio Exterior is the information arm of the Organization of American States (OAS).
- [Bilaterals](#)
  - Open publishing website for bilateral trade and investment agreements
- [International Trade Reporter](#)
  - News related to various trade agreements

# Foreign Law and Foreign Websites



# 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
- Westlaw has a few treatises helpful for international trade and trade agreements:
  - NAFTA Handbook
  - NAFTA: Legal Text & Interpretive Materials
- 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@sandiego.edu](mailto:lrcrefer@sandiego.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>