A GUIDE TO TREATY RESEARCH

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A GUIDE TO TREATY RESEARCH

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I. Introduction

This guide describes selected treaty indexes and finding tools, as well as sources of treaty texts available in the Jacob Burns Law Library. Included are resources in paper, microfiche, CD-ROM, and online databases.

For additional information, please see the following research guide available from the Law Library’s site, Treaties and International Agreements, http://law.gwu.libguides.com/treaties, where you can also access this guide in PDF.

To determine if a source listed in this guide is available in Bloomberg Law, Lexis Advance, or Westlaw Edge, enter the name of the source in the search box at the top of the page and then select the source from the drop-down list. To obtain Bloomberg Law, Lexis Advance, or Westlaw Edge credentials, email electonicsservices@law.gwu.libanswers.com and include your GWid number.

II. Basics of U.S. Treaty Research

Article 2(a) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties defines a treaty as an international agreement “governed by international law, whether embodied in a single instrument or in two or more related instruments and whatever its particular designation.”¹

Treaty research is essentially a three step process:

1. Identifying the relevant treaty or treaties applicable to a particular international law question;

2. Verifying the status of the United States (or some other nation) as a party; and

3. Locating an official or non-official source containing the text of the treaty in question (and in the case of a multilateral treaty, the relevant reservations, understandings, and declarations).

A. Sources for Locating Agreements to which the United States is a Party

1. Treaties in Force (TIF)

This publication provides references to official U.S. treaty text compilations, such as Treaties and Other International Acts Series (TIAS) and United States Treaties and Other International Agreements (UST), as well as the UN-produced United Nations Treaty Series (UNTS). Bilateral and multilateral treaties are covered in separate sections. Subject indexing is provided but is not always adequate, particularly for locating multilateral agreements (see page 6 for more info about this source). The Department of State did not publish a full edition of Treaties in Force for 2014 or 2015. In place of full 2014 and 2015 editions, the Department published an electronic supplement listing treaties and agreements that have entered into force for the United States since January 1, 2013, along with a small number of agreements that entered into force prior to January 1, 2013 but which were inadvertently omitted from the 2013 edition. The Department returned to publishing a full edition of Treaties in Force in 2016. For the latest edition of Treaties in Force go to: https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/282222.pdf

2. HeinOnline: U.S. Treaties and Agreements Library

This HeinOnline collection provides access to all official U.S. Treaty publications including *Treaties and Other International Acts Series (T.I.A.S.), United States Treaties and Other International Agreements (U.S.T.),* and *Treaty Series (T.S.)*. It also offers access to unofficial compilations such as Bevans’ *Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States of America 1776-1949* and Miller’s *Treaties and Other International Acts of the United States of America*. Also included are treaties that have not yet been published in official U.S. treaty publications compiled by Igor Kavass. Each KAV agreement is given a unique “KAV” number for citation purposes as permitted by Table T4.3 of the *Bluebook*. (See section II(C)(2) for more information about this source) A treaty search tool allows for flexible searching of publications in the library.

- **Commercial Database:**
  
  *HeinOnline: U.S. Treaties and Agreements Library*

B. Publication Delays

The most frustrating part of treaty research is the delay in publication of treaty texts in their official format. Publication of new U.S. treaties in the official TIAS pamphlets lags by many years. A listing in Treaties in Force with the designation “TIAS” with no serial number reflects this severe publication delay. In some cases, a Senate treaty document may provide an interim alternative. If not available in this source, one must turn to an unofficial publication such as the aforementioned “KAV” agreements, or a citation to *International Legal Materials (I.L.M.)*.

C. Unofficial Sources

1. International Legal Materials (I.L.M.)

Published by the American Society of International Law, *International Legal Materials (I.L.M.)* is a bimonthly journal that provides selected texts of documents of interest in the area of international law, including many multilateral and bilateral treaties.

- **Commercial Databases:**
  
  *HeinOnline U.S. Treaties and Agreements Library* (1962-2016 (Indexing until 2019))

  *LexisAdvance: International Legal Materials* (1962-)

  *Westlaw: International Legal Materials* (1980-)

- **Print:** Current issues, RESERVE (1ST FL), K9.N875
2. Hein’s United States Treaties and Other International Agreements Current Service

As mentioned in Section II(A)(2), this source is a commercial compilation of treaty texts that may or may not have been indexed in Treaties in Force or published in an official U.S. source. Many agreements included in the set do not have a T.I.A.S. number assigned to them yet, so the service uses its own KAV accession numbers (e.g. KAV 345) to identify each treaty. (KAV is an abbreviation of the editor’s name, Igor Kavass.

Such KAV numbers are permitted by the Bluebook if citations to official compilations are not available (See Rule 21.4.5(c) and Table T4.3).

The Guide to the United States Treaties in Force [Print: READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ235.G85] is the corresponding index for this microfiche set. Both the agreements and the Guide are also available on Hein Online in the U.S. Treaties and Agreements Library in the KAV Agreements section.

• Commercial Database:

HeinOnline, U.S. Treaties and Agreements Library (KAV 0001-9883) (1987-2016)

• Microform: MICROFICHE (LL1), Fiche 304

D. Bluebook Rules for U.S. Treaty Sources

Rule 21.4.5(a)(i) of the 20th edition of the Bluebook provides the following order of preference for sources when citing to agreements between the U.S. and another party (a bilateral treaty):


2. Senate Treaty Documents or Senate Executive Documents;

3. Department of State Dispatch; or Department of State Press Releases.

4. If the agreement has not appeared in one of the previously listed official sources, cite to an unofficial source. The most common citation is to International Legal Materials (I.L.M.).

Rule 21.4.5(a)(ii) provides the following order of preference for sources if the agreement is among three or more parties (a multilateral treaty) and the U.S. is a party:

1. Cite to one of the sources listed in rule 21.4.5(a)(i) above, and additionally, a parallel citation may be added from one source published by an intergovernmental organization (most commonly the United Nations Treaty Series (U.N.T.S.) (see page 13 for more info);

2. If either of these official citations cannot be obtained, provide a citation to one unofficial treaty source such as International Legal Materials (I.L.M.).
E. Sources for Locating Worldwide Treaties and Agreements

1. Multilateral Treaties and Agreements (involve three or more parties)

_Multilateral Treaties: Index and Current Status_
Provides references to the United Nations Treaty Series (UNTS) as well as other treaty compilations. This index covers the period 1856-1995 and is best for historical research.

- **Print:** READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ118.B68 1984

_Multilateral Treaty Calendar = Repertoire des Traites Multilateraux, 1648-1995_
Provides references to the United Nations Treaty Series (UNTS) as well as other treaty compilations. It is also a good choice for historical treaty research.

- **Print:** READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ118.W55 1998

_Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General_
An index for locating and updating over 500 major multilateral treaties.

- **Website:** [http://treaties.un.org](http://treaties.un.org) (Click Status of Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General) link on the left hand side of the home page.

- **Print:** READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ171.M85

United Nations Treaty Series (UNTS) database, part of United Nations Treaty Collection on HeinOnline is available at this address:

- **Website:** United Nations Treaty Series

_HeinOnline, World Treaty Library_

The World Treaty Library is a collection of important treaty compilations. In addition to the U.S. and United Nations treaty series, it also includes other historical treaty collections such as Dumont, Bevans, and Martens, in addition to the League of Nations Treaty series.

_Flare Index to Treaties_

According to the site, “the Flare Index to Treaties is a searchable database of basic information on over 2,000 of the most significant multilateral treaties and some bilateral treaties concluded between 1353 and the present, with details of where the full text of each treaty may be obtained in paper and, if available, electronic form on the internet.”

- **Website:** [https://ials.sas.ac.uk/flare-index-to-treaties/search](https://ials.sas.ac.uk/flare-index-to-treaties/search)

2. Bilateral Treaties and Agreements (involving two countries)


F. Bluebook Rules for Treaty Sources for Worldwide Treaties and Agreements

Rule 21.4.5(b) provides that if the U.S. is not a party to the agreement, cite to:

1. One source published by an international organization if available (such as the United Nations Treaty Series). See Table T4.2 in the Bluebook for other intergovernmental treaty sources.

2. If not available, cite to the official source of one signatory.

3. If the treaty is not found in a signatory’s treaty source, cite to an unofficial treaty source (such as International Legal Materials (ILM)).

G. Further Assistance

Treaty offices at the U.S. Department of State and the United Nations can provide additional assistance with locating information on the status of current treaties. However, the assistance the offices can provide is limited. They should be consulted only after all other avenues have been exhausted. Reference librarians at the Jacob Burns Law Library can provide assistance in using the resources described in this guide and in recommending additional research strategies for treaty research. Contact us at 202-994-6647 or email ask@law.gwu.libanswers.com.

Recent agreements to which the U.S. is a party and which are not available elsewhere

- The Treaty Affairs Staff in the Legal Adviser’s Office of the U.S. Department of State
  - Telephone: (202) 647-1345
  - Website: http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty
  - Email: treatyoffice@state.gov

For current information on treaties regardless of U.S. participation

- The Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations in New York
  - Telephone: (212) 963-3693
  - Website: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/Contact.aspx?lang=en
For current information on international trade treaties (e.g., NAFTA or WTO)

- The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, WTO and Multilateral Affairs
  - **Telephone:** (202) 202-395-6843
  - **Website:** [https://ustr.gov/about-us/contact-us](https://ustr.gov/about-us/contact-us)
  - **Email:** correspondence@ustr.eop.gov

### III. Treaty Indexes and Finding Tools

#### A. Most Frequently Used Indexes

##### 1. Treaties in Force

*Treaties in Force: A List of Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States (TIF)* (Government Printing Office 1956- )

This is the official U.S. Department of State listing of U.S. treaties and agreements presently in force. Bilateral treaties are arranged by country and then subject under each country. Multilateral treaties appear in a separate section and are also arranged by subject.

According to the foreword of *Treaties in Force*, it includes “treaties and other international agreements which had not expired by their terms or which had not been denounced by the parties, replaced or superseded by other agreements, or otherwise definitely terminated.”

A new edition of *Treaties in Force* is usually published annually in August of each year, which means the information is from 8 to 20 months old. As noted earlier, no editions were published for 2014 and 2015. The State Department resumed publication of annual issues of TIF in 2016.

Citations are given to the official sources of treaty texts, but treaties from recent years may have only a T.I.A.S. designation without a number, indicating that the treaty has not yet been published in an official source. In this case, *International Legal Materials, Hein’s United States Treaties and Other International Agreements Current Service* (KAV agreements), or official Senate treaty documents are the only options for locating the text of the agreement.

- **Website:** [http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/tif/index.htm](http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/tif/index.htm)

- **Commercial Databases:**
  
  *HeinOnline, U.S. Treaties and Agreements Library*


- **Print:** Earlier eds., SL1; Current ed., READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ235 .T74
2. HeinOnline U.S. Treaties and Agreements Library Treaty Search Tool

HeinOnline’s U.S. Treaties and Agreements Library offers a Treaty Search Tool that allows the user to search U.S. treaty publications in that library by a number of different search fields. Users may also limit by date or in force status.

- **Commercial Database:**

HeinOnline [U.S. Treaties and Agreements Library](https://heinonline.org)

3. Multilateral Treaties: Index and Current Status

M.J. Bowman & D.J. Harris, *Multilateral Treaties: Index and Current Status* (Butterworths 1984-)

Citations are given to official and unofficial treaty sources, with detailed information about dates, signatories, status, and parties. Subject and keyword access is provided but is frequently not adequate. Treaties are listed chronologically, so knowing an approximate date may provide access when other approaches fail. The latest cumulative supplement includes new agreements and updates information on agreements listed in the main volume.

- **Print:** READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ118.B68 1984 with Supplement (coverage is 1856-1995)

4. Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary General

*Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary General* (United Nations (1968-)

Published annually. Citations are given to the official UNTS, if available. If no UNTS citations are available, references are given to relevant United Nations documents.

Subject access by broad categories is provided but is not always adequate. Selected links to UNTS are provided. Entries include detailed information about the date of entry into force; a current list of parties; and the texts of reservations, understandings, and declarations to a particular treaty.

- **Website:**

[United Nations Treaty Collection](https://treaties.un.org) (updated daily)

- **Print:** Earlier eds., SL1; Current ed., READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ171.M85

5. Multilateral Treaty Calendar


Provides citations to print treaty compilations for multilateral treaties to which the U.S. may or may not be a party. The Calendar contains a detailed subject index and a chronological list of all multilateral treaties concluded between 1648-1995. Information on treaty amendments, modifications, extensions, and terminations is also provided.
B. Additional Finding Tools for Current Treaty Actions

1. U.S. Department of State, Treaties Pending in the Senate

   **Website:** [http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/pending/index.htm](http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/pending/index.htm)

   Provides current information on the status of treaties pending in the Senate.

2. Kavass’s Current Treaty Index

   Igor Kavass, *Kavass’s Current Treaty Index* (William S. Hein, 1982-

   Indexes agreements newly added to the official TIAS set as well as to information about agreements not yet published in TIAS. For the latter, references are given to “KAV” numbers, which are used for locating texts in Hein’s United States Treaties and Other International Agreements Current Service. [**Microform:** MICROFICHE (LL1), Fiche 304]. Also available on Hein Online in the Treaties and Agreements Library. The Current Treaty Index also supplements the retrospective United States Treaty Index, 1776- [**Print:** SL1, KZ235.U58].

   - **Commercial Database:**
     
     *HeinOnline, U.S. Treaties and Agreements Library*

     - **Print:** SL1, KZ235.U58

3. Complete List of the Council of Europe’s Treaties

   Provides a complete list of treaties concluded by the Council on Europe. Click on an individual treaty to obtain the text of the treaty or to locate a chart of signatures and ratifications.

   - **Website:**
     
     *Council of Europe’s Treaty Office website*
     
     [http://conventions.coe.int](http://conventions.coe.int) (Click on the “Full List” link at the top of the page).

C. Other Retrospective Treaty Indexes

1. United States Treaty Index, 1776-


   Provides chronological, country, and subject indexes for U.S. treaties from 1776 to the current revision date (2018). For more recent treaties, use the *Current Treaty Index* in Section B above.

   - **Print:** SL1, KZ235.U58

2. United Nations Cumulative Treaty Index

   *United Nations Cumulative Treaty Index* (W. S. Hein 1999)

   Treaties are indexed numerically, chronologically, by country, and by subject.

   - **Print:** SL1, KZ171.U56 1999 (1946 to about 1991)

*United Nations Treaty Series - Cumulative Indexes* (U.N. 1946-)

Each index covers about 50 volumes of the set, but there is no master cumulation. Publication lags by as much as 15 years. Better tools to research UN treaties would be the United Nations Treaty Collection or searching the *United Nations Treaty Series* on HeinOnline in the United Nations Law Collection.

- **Commercial Database:**
  
  *HeinOnline, United Nations Law Collection, Treaty Publications*

4. League of Nations Treaty Series – General Index


Each volume covers a span of years between 1920 and 1946. There is no single cumulation. Offers subject, country, and chronological access. The *League of Nations Treaty Series* can also be searched on HeinOnline in the United Nations Law Collection. At the link below, look for the Index volumes.

- **Commercial Database:**
  
  *HeinOnline, United Nations Law Collection – Treaty Publications*

- **Print:** SL1, KZ170.5 .T74

5. Inter-American Treaties and Conventions

*Inter-American Treaties and Conventions* (Organization of American States (OAS) 1989)

Covers bilateral and multilateral treaties between 1900 and 1980. Detailed indexing by parties and keywords and citations to multiple treaty sources are given, including many national treaty series. The OAS website below is the most comprehensive collection of treaties from the organization.

- **Website:**
  
  *Organization of American States website* (1941-2018)
  

- **Print:** SL2, KDZ 10.T74 no. 9

- **Microform:** MICROFICHE (LL1), Fiche 226 (OAS Treaty Series 1902-1988)

6. World Treaty Index


Four volume index to treaties from 1900 – 1980. Party and keyword indexes are included.

- **Print:** SL1, KZ173.R63 1983

- **Commercial Database:**
  
  Hein Online, *World Treaty Collection*
IV. Sources of Treaty Texts

A. United States Treaty Texts

1. Treaties and Other International Acts Series

Bluebook Abbreviation: T.I.A.S. (See Rule 21.4.5(a)(i) and (ii); Table T4.1)

U.S. treaties are first published as a series of pamphlets entitled Treaties and Other International Acts Series or TIAS. TIAS is the first official publication of U.S. treaties and other international agreements. Each treaty is assigned a unique number. Previously, consecutive numbers were used, e.g. TIAS 10345. Now, a two digit number designating the year is used along with a consecutive number, e.g., 13-212. Delays in publication are considerable, often as much as five years. TIAS pamphlets were eventually republished in the bound United States Treaties and Other International Agreements (UST) set until 1984 (see next item).

- **Website:**

- **Commercial Database:**
  HeinOnline, U.S. Treaties and Agreements Library (TIAS 11060 - 18-1201)

- **Print:** Bound vols., SL1; Current issues, RESERVE (1ST FL), KZ235.32.U55

2. United States Treaties and Other International Agreements

Bluebook Abbreviation: U.S.T.

Since 1950, this is the official bound version of U.S. treaties and agreements. TIAS pamphlets (see previous item) are republished in UST, with the original TIAS number retained for each treaty. The UST is no longer being published and the last volume was volume 35, issued in 1984. The TIAS pamphlets should be used as a replacement.

- **Commercial Database:**

- **Print:** SL1, KZ235.3.U55


Bluebook Abbreviation: Bevans

Bevans’ set is considered the definitive compilation of U.S. treaties concluded before 1950. It usually eliminates the need to consult Statutes at Large for treaty texts, although the texts in the latter are considered authoritative. Multilateral treaty texts are reproduced in volumes 1-4, bilateral treaties in volumes 5-12, and volume 13 is an index.

- **Commercial Database:**
  HeinOnline, U.S. Treaties and Agreements Library
4. Senate Treaty Documents and Senate Treaty Reports


For U.S. treaties requiring the advice and consent of the Senate, the President submits to the Senate the text of the treaty, along with a letter of submittal by the Secretary of State and a memoranda of understanding. The text of the treaty and the letter of submittal are then issued by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations as a Senate Treaty Document (known before 1981 as a Senate Executive Document).

After the Committee’s favorable consideration of the treaty, it is submitted to the full Senate for vote as a Senate Executive Report. The Senate Executive Report contains a resolution of ratification which may include the text of additional reservations, understandings, or declarations. Before 1930, these types of Senate treaty documents were confidential. Between 1930 and 1980, although no longer confidential, they were not included in the U.S. Serial Set.

Some international agreements concluded by the President fall within his exclusive executive powers under Article II of the Constitution to conduct foreign and military affairs and need not be submitted to the Senate for advice and consent. Alternative means are needed to find the text of such agreements such as Treaties in Force or A Guide to the United States Treaties in Force.

- **Websites:**
  
  Congress.gov (81st Congress (1949/50-))
  
  [https://www.congress.gov/treaties](https://www.congress.gov/treaties)

  FDsys (PDF, 104th Cong., 1995/1996-)
  

- **Commercial Database:**
  
  ProQuest Congressional
  
  Select “Congressional Publications” at the top of the page, and from the pulldown menu, select “Search by Number” if you know the report or document number. Otherwise, search by keyword or title and limit to House and Senate documents or reports.

  HeinOnline, U.S. Treaties and Agreements Library (Senate Treaty Documents 97-1 – 114-2)

- **Microform:**
  
  CIS Index to Senate Executive Documents and Reports and Microfiche Set [MICROFICHE (LL1), Fiche 99 (1817-1969)]

5. Igor Kavass, Hein’s United States Treaties and Other International Agreements Current Service (W. S. Hein 1990-)

This unofficial compilation is designed to fill the gap left by the long delays in publication of the official TIAS and UST set.

The Guide to the United States Treaties in Force [Print: READY REFERENCE, KZ235.G85] (also available on HeinOnline) is the corresponding index for this microfiche set. The microfiche set includes the text of treaties requiring the advice and consent of the Senate and executive agreements not submitted to the Senate.
Many agreements included do not have a TIAS number assigned to them yet, so the service uses its own KAV accession numbers (e.g. KAV 345) to identify each document. (KAV is an abbreviation of the editor’s name, Igor Kavass. Such KAV numbers are accepted by *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* if citations to official compilations are not available (see Rule 21.4.5(c)) and Table T.4.3).

- **Commercial Database:**
  HeinOnline, *U.S. Treaties and Agreements Library* (Listed as KAV Agreements)

- **Microform:**
  MICROFICHE (LL1), Fiche 304

6. **Lexis Advance**

   *U.S. Treaties on Lexis*

   - U.S. treaties and international agreements since 1776
   - Sources of treaty texts include:
     - Unratified, and older terminated, superseded, or abolished treaties
     - Documents include a LexisNexis citation, and where available, citations to Bevans, *UST*, and *US Statutes at Large*

7. **Westlaw**

   *US. Treaties and Other International Agreements*

   - Coverage of international treaties begins with volume 8 *Statutes at Large* (1778) through volume 64 (1949) when *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements (U.S.T.*) became the official publication.
   - Coverage for *U.S.T.* begins with volume 1 part 1 and continues through volume 35 part IV (TIAS 10978, 1984).
   - Provides coverage of current international agreements since January 12, 1984 (TIAS 10979-)
   - Provides KAV number for agreements not yet published in TIAS (see item directly above)
   - Gaps in coverage, particularly for certain multilateral treaties

8. **United States Statutes at Large**

   *Bluebook* Abbreviation: Stat.

   Prior to the publication of *UST* beginning in 1950, *Statutes at Large* included the texts of treaties. Historical treaty texts are found in the following volumes:

   - Treaties prior to 1950, *Statutes at Large*
   - Indian treaties (vol. 7)
   - Treaties, 1776-1845 (vol. 8)
   - Executive agreements (vols. 47-64)
   - Listing of treaties alphabetically by country can be found in *Statutes at Large* (vol. 64, part 3)


The texts of almost 400 multilateral and bilateral treaties “which have been signed on the part of the United States, or have been submitted to the Senate, but which have, for one reason or another, definitely failed to go into force” are included in this multi-volume set.

- **Print:** SL1, KZ236 1976

B. Worldwide Treaty Texts


*Bluebook* Abbreviation: U.N.T.S.

U.N.T.S. is the primary official set for texts of multilateral and bilateral agreements on a worldwide basis. Although U.N. treaties do have a registration number, these numbers are not used for location and citation purposes in the way TIAS numbers are used for U.S. treaties. Citations are made to volume and page number (e.g. 678 UNTS 345).

Not all agreements are published in U.N.T.S.. In addition, there are publication delays of about 10 years. Cumulative print indexes covering a span of volumes are published with about a 15 year delay. The best finding tool for locating agreements published in U.N.T.S. is the *United Nations Law Collection* (see below), where the entire set of volumes is also searchable. Another alternative for locating treaties in this set is the U.N.T.S. database on the *U.N. Treaty Collection* website (see below). The U.N.T.S. database contains the full text of bilateral and multilateral treaties that are registered with the UN and published in the print U.N.T.S.. It can be searched by subject, country and subject, international organization, UN agency, region of the world, popular name, keyword in title, or registration number. Included in the database are many treaties signed prior to 1946. Status information is provided for most treaties and a registration number rather than a UNTS volume and page citation are provided for the treaties.

- **Website:**

  *United Nations Treaty Collection*

• **Commercial Database:**
  HeinOnline, *United Nations Law Collection* (PDF, 1946-)

• **Microform:** MICROFICHE (LL1), U.N. Docs. (vols. 1-890)

2. **League of Nations Treaty Series (League of Nations)**

   Bluebook Abbreviation: L.N.T.S.

   For the print collection, index volumes are available but there is no cumulative index.

   • **Website:**
     *United Nations Treaty Collection*

   • **Commercial Database:**

   • **Print:** SL1, KZ170.5.T74 (1920-1945)

   • **Microform:** MICROFILM (LL1), Film 120 (LNTS is found in the League of Nations Documents and Publications, 1919-1946 collection)

3. **Consolidated Treaty Series**


   *Bluebook* Abbreviation: Consol. T.S.

   This is the major unofficial compilation of worldwide treaties prior to the League of Nations and the United Nations treaty sets. There are no subject indexes - only chronological and party indexes. (Note: This set is entirely different from the Consolidated Treaties and International Agreements (CTIA) set of recent U.S. treaties from the same publisher. The Library does not own CTIA.)

   • **Print:** SL1, KZ120.P35 (1648-1919)

4. **International Legal Materials**

   *International Legal Materials* (American Society of Int’l Law 1962-)

   *Bluebook* Abbreviation: I.L.M.

   ILM, a bimonthly journal, should always be considered as a possible source of treaty texts, regardless of whether the U.S. is a party. While multilateral agreements are more likely to appear, bilateral agreements may be included as well. Its particular strength is the timely publication of selected international documents in contrast to official sources. In addition to the text of an international document, ILM will often include explanatory material.

   • **Commercial Databases:**
     HeinOnline, *U.S. Treaties and Agreements Library* (PDF, 1962-)

     LexisAdvance (1962-)

     Westlaw (1980)
5. European Treaty Series (Council of Europe)

*Bluebook* Abbreviation: Europ. T.S.

New agreements are published as separate pamphlets in the official *European Treaty Series* with their own ETS number. They are later compiled into the bound *European Conventions and Agreements* volumes.

- **Website:**
  - *Council of Europe*: [http://conventions.coe.int](http://conventions.coe.int) (Select “Full List” from menu options at the top)

- **Print:** SL1, KJC39.C682 (1990- )

6. European Conventions and Agreements (Council of Europe)

*European Conventions and Agreements* (Council of Europe 1971- )

English and French texts of international agreements concluded within the Council of Europe are included in these sets. New agreements are initially published as separate pamphlets in the official *European Treaty Series*, each with its own ETS number.

*European Conventions and Agreements* is the bound compilation of ETS agreements. Although, according to the Council of Europe, it is the ETS pamphlets rather than this bound set that provides the official publication, the bound sets are more convenient to use and preserve the original ETS numbering. A separate subject index volume covers only volumes 1 and 2 of the first edition.

- **Print:** SL1, KJC39.C68 1971 & 1993

7. International Legislation


This compilation provides texts of over 600 “multipartite international instruments of general interest.” Arrangement is chronological but subject access is provided. One unique feature of the set is inclusion of agreements that were never brought into force.

- **Print:** SL1, KZ169.I58 (1919-1949)

8. HeinOnline, World Treaty Library

This HeinOnline collection brings together a large number of major treaty collections such as Rohn, Dumont, Bevans, Martens, League of Nations, United States, and United Nations in a fully-searchable format that allows users to search by keyword, title, parties, sign date, or citation. It also offers a wealth of related treaty publications, scholarly articles, and a bibliography of related publications.

- **Commercial Databases:**
  - HeinOnline, *World Treaty Library*
C. Selected Subject Compilations of Treaty Texts

1. Basic Documents in International Law

Ian Brownlie, *Basic Documents in International Law* (Oxford University Press 2008)

A convenient one-volume collection of the most frequently cited treaties in international law.

- Print: RESERVE (1ST FL), KZ64.B37 2008

2. Basic Documents of International Economic Law


Texts of documents considered basic to the study of international economic law are reproduced in this two-volume compilation. Many of these documents are treaties and conventions related to international finance and trade, regional organizations, international litigation, etc. Additional explanatory material and a bibliography are included for each document. Another useful feature is the chapter, “Treaty Research for Practitioners in the United States.” BDIEL provides a table of contents but there is no subject index.

- Print: RESERVE (1ST FL), K3820.A35 B37 1990

3. Copyright and Related Rights Laws and Treaties

*Copyright and Related Rights Laws and Treaties (WIPO 1987-2001)*

- Websites:
  - [WIPO Lex Database](https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en), World Intellectual Property Organization
  - [WIPO Administered Treaties](https://www.wipo.int/treaties/en), World Intellectual Property Organization

- Print: HISTORIC (LL2), K1419.C67 v.1-6

4. Tax Notes International

*Tax Notes International* (Tax Analysts 1989-

For income, estate, and gift tax treaties between the U.S. and other countries, TNI not only offers the text of the treaty but also other supplementary documents such as Senate Treaty Documents, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Reports, and Treasury News Releases. Selected tax treaties between other countries are also included. Creating a user account is necessary to access the database.

- Commercial Databases:
  - [Tax Notes](https://www.taxnotes.com)

(1992- )
5. International Environmental Law: Multilateral Treaties

This title provides the full text or significant extracts of multilateral treaties concerned with environmental issues, including the statutes of international organizations active in the field. Treaties are derived from the United Nations Treaty Series, the Bundesgesetzblatt of the FRG, the UK Treaty Series, United States Treaty Series and the documentation of the IUCN (World Conservation Union) Environmental Law Center.

- **Print:** SL2, K3583.I68

6. Brownlie’s Documents on Human Rights


This handbook provides access to the major universal and regional human rights instruments, excluding those dealing with the humanitarian law of war.

- **Print:** RESERVE (1ST FL), K3238.A1 B76 2010

7. Human Rights in International Law: Basic Texts


This is an excellent one volume compilation of human rights instruments prepared within the International Labour Organization, the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

- **Print:** SL2, K3238.H856 2007

8. Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments


- **Print:** REFERENCE (1ST FL), K3238.A1 H845 2002

V. Selected Websites for Treaty Information and Texts

A. United States Treaties

1. U.S. Department of State. Office of the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs

   [http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty](http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty)

   - Full text of Treaties in Force (TIF) in PDF, updated annually
• The Office of the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs has begun efforts to make TIAS available on-line. Treaties for 1996 to 2018 with a selection of earlier treaties can be found here: http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/tias

2. Bilateral Investment Treaties Currently in Force

United States Department of Commerce. Trade Compliance Center. Bilateral Investment Treaties Currently in Force

http://tcc.export.gov/Trade_Agreements/Bilateral_Investment_Treaties/index.asp

• List of all bilateral investment treaties concluded by the U.S.
• Links to the full text of the treaty as it appeared in the Senate Treaty Document.

3. Free Trade Agreements Currently in Force

United States Department of Commerce. Trade Compliance Center. Free Trade Agreements Currently in Force

http://tcc.export.gov/Trade_Agreements/Free_Trade_Agreements/index.asp

4. U.S. Senate Treaties webpage

http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/d_three_sections_with_teasers/treaties.htm

• Links to the full text of the treaty as it appeared in the Senate Treaty
• Provides current, detailed information regarding actions taken on U.S. treaties by the current Congress. The treaties section is divided into two parts:

  - Treaties Received: Treaties received from the President as well as the committee referral actions taken.
  - Treaties Approved: Treaties approved by the Senate during the current Congress as well as the Committee referral actions taken.

5. Congress.gov

https://www.congress.gov/treaties

Provides access to Senate treaty documents from the 81st Congress (1949/50) to the present.

6. govinfo, Congressional Documents and Reports

https://www.govinfo.gov/#advanced

• From the Advanced Search screen above, select “Congressional Documents” or “Congressional Reports.”
• Full text of Senate Executive Reports and Senate Treaty Documents in PDF (104th Congress (1995/96)- )

https://www.irs.gov/businesses/international-businesses/united-states-income-tax-treaties-a-to-z

Full text of income tax treaties concluded with over 50 countries, in PDF. Many include a technical explanation.

8. U.S. International Social Security Agreements

http://www.ssa.gov/international/agreements_overview.html

Provides the full text of bilateral agreements concluded by the U.S. to coordinate Social Security protection across national boundaries.

B. United Nations Treaties

1. United Nations Treaty Collection

http://treaties.un.org


- The database can be searched by subject, country and subject, international organization, UN agency, region of the world, popular name, keyword in title, or registration number. Included in the database are many treaties signed prior to 1946. Status information is provided for most treaties and a registration number rather than a UNTS volume and page citation are provided for the treaties.

- *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General* is a current, online equivalent of the print index of the same title. The database can be searched by subject or by table of contents and is updated daily.

- Texts of Recently Deposited Multilateral Treaties contains multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General not yet published in UNTS.

2. International Investment Agreements Navigator

http://investmentpolicyhub.unctad.org/IIA

According to the website “The database of international investment agreements (IIAs) is maintained by UNCTAD’s IIA Section. You can browse through IIAs concluded by a particular country or country grouping, view recently concluded IIAs, or use an Advanced Treaty Search for sophisticated searches tailored to your needs.”
C. European Union Treaties

European Union, *EUR-Lex* (Treaties)


This website provides access to the basic legal texts on which the European Union and the European Communities are founded: the founding Treaties (original versions and later updates), the amending Treaties, the accession treaties for each of the five enlargements, plus other essential foundational documents.

D. International Environmental Law Treaties

Environmental Treaties and Resource Indicators (ENTRI)
(Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN))


- Texts of more than 169 environmental agreements
- Information concerning entry into force and states party to the treaty
- Arrangement is chronological, alphabetical and by subject

E. Council of Europe Treaties

[http://conventions.coe.int](http://conventions.coe.int) > Treaties of the Council of Europe > Full List

- Texts of selected European conventions and agreements deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe
- English and French texts of European treaties reproduce originals of the European conventions and agreements deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe, however, they are not considered an official publication; the official treaty text is published in the European Treaty Series (ETS)
- Accessible by subject
- Information on signatories and ratifications of treaties provided

F. Organization of American States Treaties

Organization of American States, Secretariat for Legal Affairs

- Full text of selected Inter-American treaties
- As of this writing, searchable by year or subject
- Information on signatories and ratifications
G. Other Websites for Treaty Texts

American Society for International Law (ASIL), Electronic Information System for International Law (EISIL)

http://www.eisil.org

- Links to primary legal materials in 14 broad topics of international law
- “Basic Resources” under each topic or sub-topic links to treaties and related websites

VI. Selected Works on Treaty Law and Practice

The following works provide analysis of treaty law and practice for various jurisdictions around the world, including information concerning the capacity to make treaties, adoption and authentication, and reservations. Additional titles can be located using JACOB, the Law Library’s catalog: https://www.law.gwu.edu/library.


National Treaty Law and Practice: Austria, Chile, Colombia, Japan, the Netherlands, United States (Monroe Leigh et al. eds., American Society of International Law 1999). [Location: SL2, K3342.N382 1999]


Ranganathan, Surabhi, *Strategically Created Treaty Conflicts and the Politics of International Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2014). Available online at: [Cambridge Core](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781107126075)


Treaties and Subsequent Practice (Oxford University Press 2013) [Location: SL1: KZ1304 .T74 2013]


Cong. Research Serv., Comm. on Foreign Relations U.S. Senate, 106th Cong., Treaties and Other International Agreements: The Role of the United States Senate (Comm. Print 2001)

- Website:


VII. Further Reading on Treaty Research


Chapter 21, “Public International Law,” sets out the basic elements of treaty research.

Treaties in Guide to International Legal Research (Lexis Nexis 2016).

Section 2.01[2][b] of this guide provides a comprehensive list of print and online indexes and full text sources for bilateral and multilateral treaties.

- Commercial Database: Lexis Advance: Guide to International Legal Research

- Print: Bound vols., SL1; Current ed., READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ1234.G85 [year]


See Chapter 4 for treaties and international agreements.

See Chapter 11 for public international law resources.


Much of Chapter 6 is devoted to researching treaties and international agreements.


This two volume encyclopedia provides a survey of the major international agreements throughout history. The set provides extensive excerpts to more than 220 treaties and international agreements. [Location: REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ1160.P48 2006]