DATABASE GUIDE

Westlaw International

Westlaw provides access to primary and secondary legal materials from the US, Canada, European Union, United Kingdom, Hong Kong and other international jurisdictions. It includes full text access to case law, legislation, law journals, reviews, treaties, reference materials and international newspapers.

How to Access Database
To access this database go to http://library.vu.edu.au

1. Click Databases & E-Journals
2. Select W
3. Select Westlaw International
4. Click on Westlaw International or Connect to: Westlaw International
5. Enter your VU ID number and library PIN, click on proceed

Westlaw Databases
To identify what databases are included on Westlaw click Directory, select “All of Westlaw”. Drill down into content to find materials arranged by jurisdiction, topic and practice area. The library does not have access to all content. If you select a database which is not part of our subscription the following message will appear “database is not authorized under your subscription agreement.”

Finding a Database
Finding a relevant database is the key to using Westlaw. If unsure, search the Westlaw Database List (IDEN) for databases that contain the information you need.

1. Type iden in the Search for a Database text box on Westlaw Directory page
2. Search page for IDEN is displayed with a natural language default
3. Type a description of the information you need eg. US patent. Click search
4. A list of the 20 databases most closely matching the description is displayed in left frame
5. Select database, click the database identifier to display the search page for the database eg.
   Database Name: U.S. Patents Full-Text
   Database Identifier: US-PAT

Searching
Westlaw provides two search methods. A natural language search allows you to enter whole phrases or questions into search box, but results can be unpredictable.
A terms and connectors search requires keyword connectors. (See Boolean Operators & Other Tips)
Searching for a Case by Citation
To retrieve a case when you know the correct citation eg. UK case

1. Select the Westlaw UK tab on directory page
2. Use the ‘Find by Citation’ function on the left, select UK as publication country from drop down menu
3. Enter citation eg. 1932 A.C. 562

(If the citation format for a publication is unknown use the FIND tab on the top toolbar, click on ‘Publications List’, and enter name of publication).

Searching by Case Name
To retrieve a case when you know one or more parties names eg. UK case

1. Select the Westlaw UK tab on directory page
2. Use the Case Locators Quick Search template on right (to search UK-CASELOC)
3. Enter party names in text box (click ‘tip’ link if unsure of format) eg. donoghue v stevenson
4. Results display citations to reporters in which the case has been reported; lists of cases and legislation cited in the decision; a history of the case including direct history & negative citing references; citations to the case; & references to secondary sources, such as journals, law reviews, and newspapers eg.

Coca-Cola Co's Applications, Re
Also known as:
COCA COLA Trade Marks
House of Lords
08 May 1986
Case Analysis


Case Digest
Subject: Intellectual property
Keywords: Containers; Registration; Trade marks
Summary: Trade mark; bottle; whether registrable
Abstract: A container or bottle cannot be registered as a trade mark. Coca Cola had been sold...
Judge: Lord Templeman

Appellate History
Court of Appeal (Civil Division) Coca-Cola Co's Applications, Re [1985] F.S.R. 315; (1985) 82 L.S.G. 930
Legislation cited
Copyright Act 1956 (c.74)
Journal Articles
The Coca-Cola bottle; unwarranted extension of trade mark law refused J.B.L. 1986, Jul, 264-266

Searching for Journal Articles
To search a groups of journals

1. Click on World Journals tab on the directory page
2. Select ‘Combined World Journals & Law Reviews (World JLR)
3. Select field option from the drop down menu eg. Author – AU(), Title – TI(), TEXT – TE() etc
4. Enter search terms
To search individual titles

1. Type the title of journal in the ‘Search for a database’ box eg. Harvard law review
   (Or search for a title using the All of Westlaw Directory < Legal Periodicals & Current Awareness tab.)
2. Database search page will open
3. Select field option from drop down menu
4. Enter search terms

Searching for Statutes
There are several methods for retrieving statutes on Westlaw & the method you chose depends on what you know about the statute.

Search for Statute by Citation

1. If citation is known, type into the Find by Citation text box in left frame eg. **28 USC 1603(b) (1994)**
2. Click go

Search for a Statute within Database
The database search page provides links to features such as table of contents, alphabetical index & popular name table. You can also type a terms & connectors or natural language description in the search text box. To find a U.S. Statute by browsing table of contents for example.

1. Select database to search eg. USCA (US Code Annotated)
2. Click on Table of Contents
3. Browse contents by clicking the (+) and (-) symbols
4. You can select a check box next to a title/chapter/part etc & click Expand Sections at bottom of page
5. To retrieve a specific section, click hypertext link

History of a Statute
Click History on the links tab to view the history of a displayed statute. Statute history includes citations to cases affecting the validity of a statute, recent session laws that amend or repeal the statute (also called legislative action or updating documents), proposed legislation, draft bills, reports and related materials, credits and historical & statutory notes.
### Boolean Operators & Other Tips

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>and</strong> (use &amp;)</td>
<td>Returns documents containing both terms</td>
<td>narcotic &amp; warrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>or</strong> (use space)</td>
<td>Returns documents that have either or both terms</td>
<td>lawyer solicitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>but not</strong> (use %)</td>
<td>Excludes a term from a search</td>
<td>Accident % damage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“ “</td>
<td>Use for a phrase search</td>
<td>“loss of earnings”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/p</td>
<td>Returns documents containing search terms that appear within the same paragraph</td>
<td>hearsay /p utterance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/s</td>
<td>Returns documents with search terms in the same sentence</td>
<td>design /s defect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/n</td>
<td>Search terms within n terms of each other (n from 1-255)</td>
<td>personal /3 jurisdiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+s</td>
<td>1st term preceding the 2nd term within the same sentence</td>
<td>animal +s cruelty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+p</td>
<td>1st term preceding 2nd within the same paragraph</td>
<td>“right of way” +p private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!</td>
<td>Use as root expander</td>
<td>obey! (obey, obeys, obeyed etc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>To replace a single character</td>
<td>wom*n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>***</td>
<td>To specify length of term</td>
<td>object*** (returns object, objects, objective etc - but not objectionable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>To turn off plurals / Turn off equivalencies</td>
<td>#damage (will not retrieve damages)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Results

1. **Results List** tab shows hits with keywords in context
2. **Related Info** tab shows history & citing reference (Click **KeyCite** link to check meaning of status flag)
3. **Terms arrows** jump through keywords in the document – eg. Term
4. **Doc Arrows** jump to next document
5. **Locate in Results** searches within results
6. **Edit Search** – add terms or create a new search
7. **Pagination** is shown through the text by * (eg. *111) or select to download the pdf version
8. **Research Trail** shows your search history for this session only

### Printing / Downloading / Emailing

You can print/save/email search results

- Click the icon for the delivery method you want, located on the top of the result document
- Click print, email, download the document etc