UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Online Library in a nutshell

Postgraduate Laws

onlinelibrary.london.ac.uk

Introduction to the Online Library

What is the Online Library?

The Online Library is a Library service dedicated to supporting the University of London's distance learning community. It provides access to a range of legal resources similar to those available in a physical library. All resources have been carefully selected and purchased because of their high academic quality and as such are more reliable than those freely available on the Internet.

Accessing the Online Library

The content in the Online Library is stored in collections known as **databases**. The databases relevant to Postgraduate Law can be accessed from the **Postgraduate Law Gateway**, which is available at: **onlinelibrary.london.ac.uk/ programme/pg-laws-llm-certdip**

Logging in

The databases are password-protected. You can log in to most databases using the same username and password you use to access the **Student Portal**.

The **Cambridge Core** and **Dawson ebooks** databases require an **Athens** account to log in to them. To get an Athens account, just complete the online form: **onlinelibrary.london.ac.uk/resources/ register-athens**

The **Kluwer Arbitration** database requires a separate password. Just complete the online form at **onlinelibrary.london.ac.uk/about/ contact-us?type=kluwer** to request one. Please remember to include your 9-digit **Student Registration Number**

Each database has a slightly different login procedure. Login Guides for each database can be found at: **onlinelibrary.london.ac.uk/support/ login-guides**

Databases

As mentioned earlier, Library content (e.g. books, articles, case reports and so on) in stored in various databases. The databases that contain content relevant to law can be accessed from the Postgraduate Laws Gateway at: **onlinelibrary.london.ac.uk/ programme/pg-laws-llm-certdip**

Some of the databases shown in the Gateway are specialist legal resources that contain law journals, case reports, legislation and so on. Other databases are multi-disciplinary, covering a broad range of subjects, including law.

Here are some of the key legal databases:

JustisOne
This database is a good starting point when looking for case law and legislation. It indexes cases in a neutral citation format and will show you where cases have been reported—allowing you to link across to the reports if they are available in one of the other Library databases. *JustisOne* also illustrates how cases relate to each other and to legislation. *JustisOne* also contains the Justis database, which contains full-text case reports and transcripts and 'as enacted' legislation.

LexisLibrary
UK cases, legislation, and journals. Extensive US and international materials. Use for *All England Reports* and *New Law Journal*. Includes full text of *Halsbury's Laws of England*.

Westlaw
UK case law & journals, UK civil procedures, EU cases, treaties, and directives, and some material relating to the US. Use for articles from the *Law Quarterly Review* and *Criminal Law* Review from 5320 to date.

HeinOnline
More than 1600 full text law journals. Full archives for several titles. Use for the *Cambridge Law Journal* 1921-2007.

Kluwer Arbitration
Resources relating to commercial arbitration, including conventions, legislation, case law, ebooks and journal articles.

Dawson ebook collection
Although not a legal database, most of the Library's ebooks are stored here. As this is one of the databases that you need an 'Athens' account to log into, we strongly recommend you request an Athens account when you begin your studies using this form: **onlinelibrary.london.ac.uk/resources/ register-athens**

Searching the Online Library

You can log in to databases from the Postgraduate Laws Gateway and search them individually. Each database has a 'Quick Start Guide' that explains how to search it effectively.

There are also some **discovery tools** that search across the various databases.

Discovery tools

A-Z Journals List
This is a list of **journals** and **law report** series available in the Library. If you are looking for an article or case report and you know the name of the journal or report series, you can quickly find out whether it is available in the Library by searching for it in the A-Z List. If an journal or report is available, the List will tell you which database(s) the item is held in, and

allow you to link across to it.
You can access the A-Z Journals List at: **onlinelibrary.london.ac.uk/ resources/journals**

Cardiff Index of Legal Abbreviations
Where a citation refers to a journal or law report series in an abbreviated format, you can look up the full title using the **Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations** at:
www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/

Legal Journals Index
The *Legal Journals Index* (available in the *Westlaw* database) lists articles published in a wide-range of legal journals.

Once you have carried out a search, you can find out whether an particular article listed in the *Legal Journals Index* is available in Library by searching for the **journal title** in the A-Z Journals List.
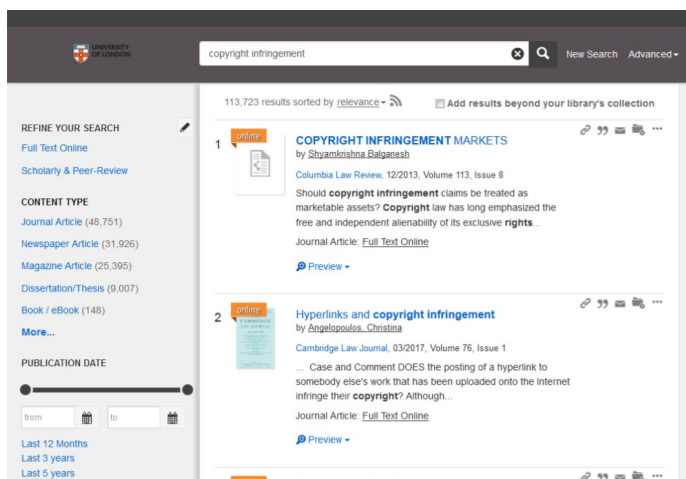
Summon

The *Summon* search engine searches across the Library databases for books and articles (but not case law or legislation). When you find an item (such as a book or journal) in Summon you will be able to link directly across to the database that the item is stored in. Because of this, *Summon* is often a good starting point when looking for articles and books, to be used alongside the *Legal Journals Index*.

Searching for cases

As mentioned earlier, the **JustIsOne** database lists cases and legislation. You can search for cases relating to a particular area of law, and also specific cases. *JustisOne* will tell you where a particular case has been reported, and whether the reports are available in the Online Library, and which database they are stored in. *JustisOne* will also show you how cases relate to each other (through a

'Precedent map') and the relevant legislation. Although not every case report will be listed in *JustisOne*, it is an excellent starting point when searching for case law. If you wish, you can then expand your search to include the other key legal databases: *LexisLibrary* and ***Westlaw.***

Getting help

Online Library Enquiry Service
If you need help using the Library then you can get in touch with the Library team through the Online Library Enquiry Service.

We can help with a wide range of queries. For example: logging in to databases, tracking down specific documents, legal referencing, and the best way of carrying out a search.

You can get in touch in a number of ways:

Ask a Librarian live chat
Use the 'Chat with us' button on our website to chat live with a librarian. (You can leave a message when live chat is unavailable.)

Email: onlinelibrary@shl.lon.ac.uk
So that we can help you as quickly as possible, please provide as much information as possible about your query, and include your Student Registration Number.

Telephone: +44(0)20 7862 8478
Available Monday-Friday, 09:00-17:00, UK time

There is also lots of useful information in the **Student Support** section of the Library website:
onlinelibrary.london.ac.uk/support

For further information about the Online Library please contact us:

Online Library
University of London Worldwide
Stewart House
32 Russell Square
London WC1B 5DN
UNITED KINGDOM
Telephone: +44(0)20 7862 8478
Email: onlinelibrary@shl.lon.ac.uk

onlinelibrary.london.ac.uk