UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Online Library

Online Library in a Nutshell

Undergraduate Laws
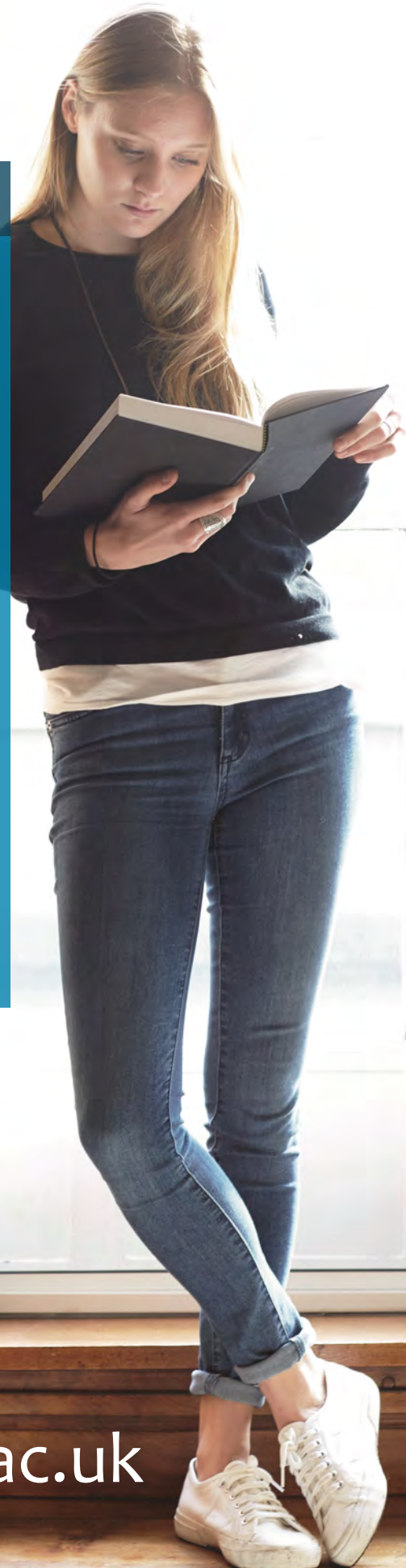
onlinelibrary.london.ac.uk

Contents

What is the Online Library?

The [Online Library](#) is a Library service dedicated to supporting all students of the University of London's distance learning programmes.

The Online Library 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 web.

The Library is managed by a team of professional librarians who are available to provide help and advice.

Why do I need to use the Online Library?

- To access high academic quality legal and multidisciplinary databases.
- Having access to superior academic content can help you obtain superior academic grades.
- Learning to use the library effectively will equip you with the information skills you need to succeed in your studies and in your career. It is also a qualifying law degree requirement.
- The Online Library is also a place to go to for [support](#). The Online Library is managed by a team of professional Librarians (including a Law Librarian), who are available to provide support with using the library via the [Online Library Enquiry Service](#).

Accessing the Online Library

- Access the Online Library website directly at: [onlinelibrary.london.ac.uk/](#)
- Or from the undergraduate Laws **VLE.** Select **Online Library** under **Useful links** on the right side of the home page.
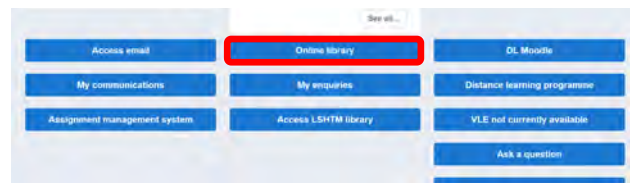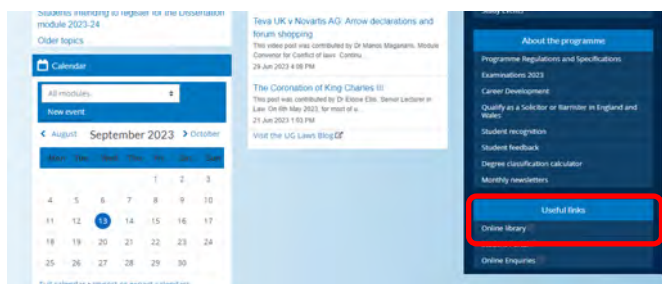
- Or via the **Online Library** link on the [portal homepage.](#)

Library Resources

Databases

The Library contains over 97 million electronic items, including:

- eBooks
- Journal articles
- Cases
- Legislation
- Newspaper articles
- Dissertations
- Statistics

This material is stored in **[databases.](#)**

Databases are collections of scholarly resources which have been carefully selected because they meet the resource needs of your programme. These quality authoritative sources are not freely available from the internet. The databases which are relevant to your programme are listed on the **[Laws (UG) Study Programme gateway](#)**.
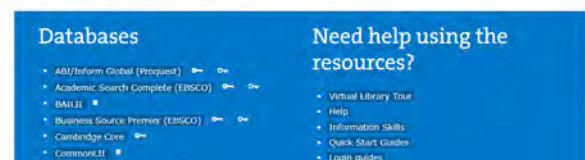
The Study Programme gateway contains the course specific databases, resources, and support materials.

To access the Laws (UG) Study Programme gateway select **[Study Programme](#)** from the top navigation menu, then select **[Laws (UG)](#)** from the list of programmes.
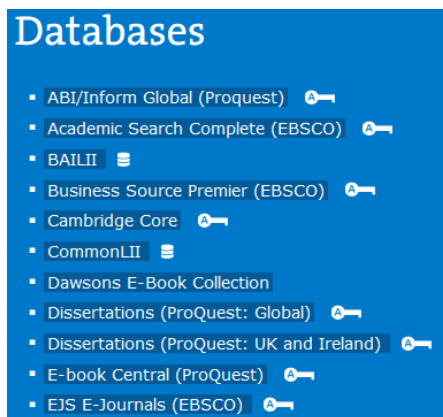
Databases

Accessing the Online Library

All Online Library databases are password protected.

- To log into the Online Library use the same username and password you use for the VLE.
- The exception is **Kluwer Arbitration** which requires an individual password which can be requested by completing the Kluwer Account Request form.

The databases are listed on the left side of the Laws (UG) Study Programme gateway:

Select a **database** to go to the **database page** which contains the login link, login guides, and quick start guides to help you get started searching the database. For example,

1. Select **Login** to log in with your student portal password.
2. A description of the database content.
3. **Login Guides** provide step-by-step login instructions. A list of all login guides is available on our Login Guides page
4. **Quick Start Guides** give guidance on searching the database


For more information about passwords see the password FAQs.

For more information about how to login, see the How do I login? FAQ.

## Database overview

The key Online Library legal databases are:

Lexis+

UK cases, legislation, and journals. Extensive US and international materials. Search Lexis+ for the All England Law Reports and New Law Journal. Includes access to Halsbury's Laws of England.
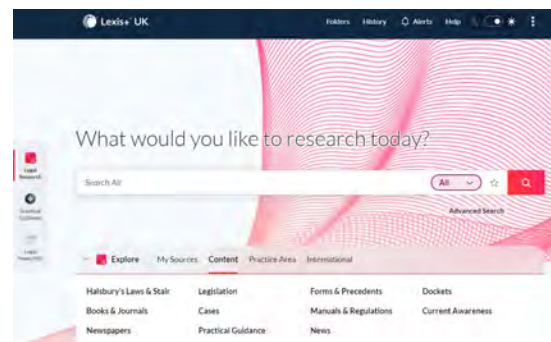
Westlaw

UK cases, consolidated legislation & over 100 full text journals. EU cases, treaties, and directives.
Search Westlaw for articles from the Law Quarterly Review and Criminal Law Review and many others. Westlaw also contains the Legal Journals Index (abstracts of key legal journals) and the Index to Legal Materials (which includes Jowitt's Dictionary of English Law, Stroud's Judicial Dictionary of Words and Phrases and Jowitt's Dictionary of English Law).
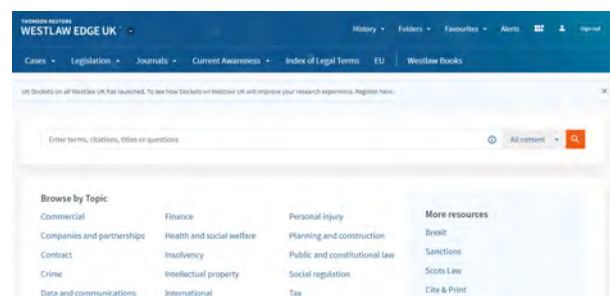
vLex Justis

UK cases and legislation (as enacted). Includes a powerful case citator to help you determine whether as case is good law. vLex Justis indicates where a case has been reported, and links directly to the law report in the Online Library legal databases.

HeinOnline

Full text collections with an American focus, includes the Law Journal Library, which contains over 3000 journals (including older issues), and the Legal Classics Library.

eBooks

eBooks

VLeBooks:

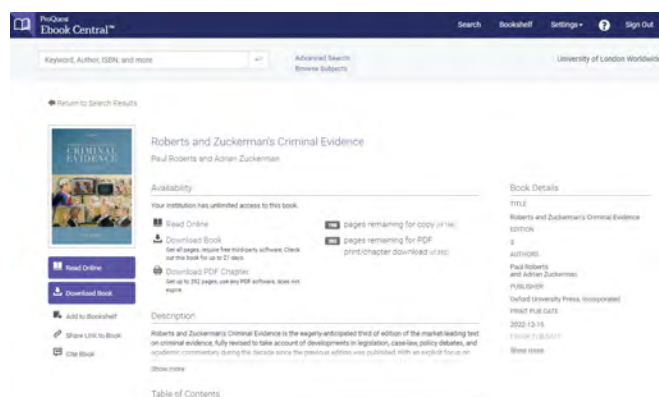VLeBooks is one of the main Online Library eBook databases.

Access VLeBooks from your Study Programme Gateway, or from the eBooks page.

Search VLeBooks directly by author and title, or search Summon to search across all eBook databases at once.

**E-book Central (ProQuest):**

E-book Central is another key eBook database.

Log in from the E-book Central database page, or search Summon to discover the eBooks available.

If a book in E-book Central is not owned by the Online Library you can view a 5 minute preview after which you can suggest it for purchase by selecting the Request button and filling in the request form.

Cambridge Core:

Cambridge Core contains a growing selection of law eBooks.

Top Tip: When searching Summon, if you retrieve too many results and do not see the book you are looking for, select the Content Type **Book / eBook** from the filter menu on the left side of the results page, to filter your results to eBooks only. This greatly reduces your results and makes it easier to find what you are looking for.
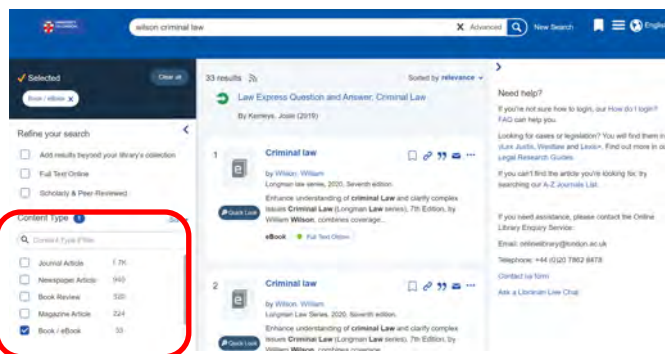
Top Tip: If Summon retrieves multiple editions of a book, you can sort your results to show the newest first. By default Summon displays results by relevance. Select the **sorted by:** drop down and change it to **Date (newest first)** to display the most recent editions first.
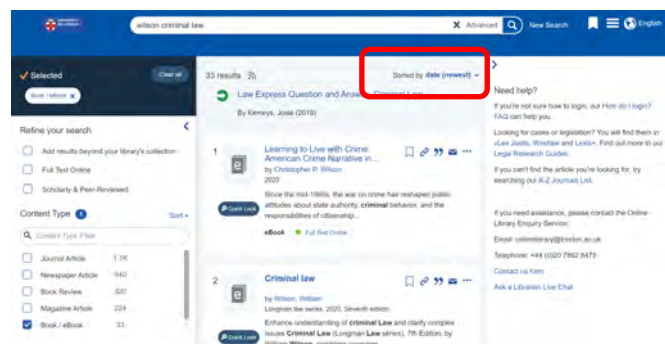
Reading eBooks

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When you download a book this is similar to borrowing it from a physical library. The download will expire after a set period, after which you can download it again as many times as you wish.

Some titles have a limit to the number of users who can access it at a time. In VLeBooks, if the book is being read by another user, you can join a 'queue', and you will receive an email when it is your turn to access the book.

Find out more about eBooks on the eBooks page.

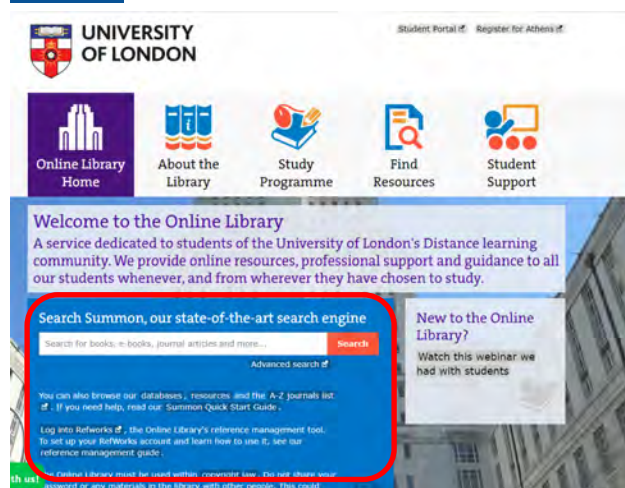# Searching the Online Library

Searching the Online Library

Access the databases from the [Laws (UG) Study Programme Gateway](#) and search them individually.

However, if you access the databases individually, you will only be searching the contents of that particular database. So, the Online Library provides search tools to help you to search across your databases and quickly locate your resources.

Library Search Tools

The Online Library provides access to a number of resource discovery, or library search tools.

Summon:

The Summon search box is available on the Online Library homepage at [onlinelibrary.london.ac.uk](#)

Summon is a good starting point for your Online Library research. Summon searches across most of the Online Library databases for journal articles, eBooks, newspapers and more, from a single search box. Select a Summon result to go directly to the database the item is available in. After logging in, some databases will direct you straight to the full text resource, while others direct you to the journal, where you can then search for an article within in.

Please be aware that Summon **does not** search for cases or legislation.

If you are looking for cases or legislation, you will find them in [vLex Justis](#). [Westlaw](#) and [Lexis+](#). Find out more in the [Legal Research Skills Guides.](#)"

See the [Summon for Law Students FAQ](#) for an overview of using Summon to search the legal databases.
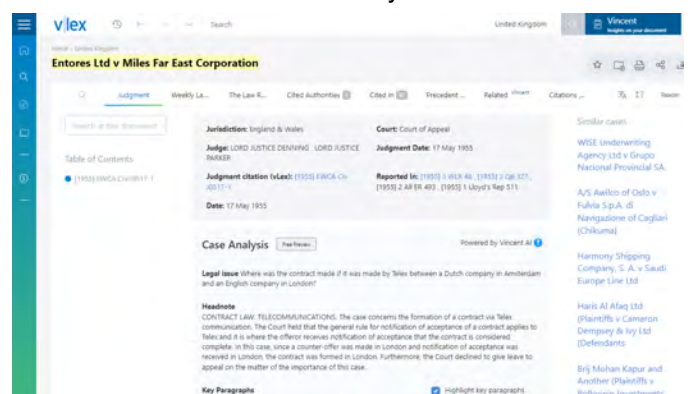
vLex Justis:

vLex Justis is a single point of entry for your legal research.

vLex Justis contains UK legislation from 1235 (as enacted), with links to amending instruments. An extensive collection of reported, and unreported UK judgments and European Union materials.

vLex Justis contains a powerful case citator which cross-references case law, and legislation, helping you to find leading authorities and determine whether a case is good law.

vLex Justis lists the citations, and sources of cases and legislation in major online legal databases, and allows you to link you straight to the full-text where available in the Online Library databases.

Find out more in the [vLex Justis Quick Start Guide](#)

The A-Z Journals List:

Search the A-Z Journals List for the title of a journal, or law report, to find out which database it is in, and the years available.

Access the A-Z Journals List from the [Journals page](#).

Or from the Summon search box on the [Online Library homepage](#).

For example, to search for this journal article:
Gardner, S. (1992) "Trashing with Trollope: a deconstruction of the postal rules", 12 *OJLS* 170

Either search Summon by the author and title of the article **OR;**

Search the A-Z Journals List to find out which database contains the journal.

Journals and law reports are often abbreviated, e.g. *OJLS.* To find out the full title search the [Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations](#).

A search of the **A-Z Journals List** for Oxford Journal of Legal Studies, shows that the 1992 issues are available in [JSTOR](#), and [HeinOnline](#).

Help and Support

Student Support Guides

Support guides are available from the Laws (UG) Study Programme gateway and the Student Support section of the Online Library website.

Watch the Law Induction guide videos.

- Find the answer to the most frequently asked questions in the Law FAQs. These include guides to locating cases, legislation and journal articles.

- Familiarise yourself with the Online Library and the range of legal resources available, interpret legal citations and learn how to find legal information sources such as case law and journal articles in the Legal Information Skills Tutorials.

Take the Law Library Quiz.

The Online Library Enquiry Service

The **Enquiry Service** is staffed by a team of professional librarians including a Law Librarian, who can help with all Online Library related enquiries and more:

- Accessing the Online Library databases.

- Searching the Online Library for cases, legislation, journal articles, eBooks and more...

- Constructing effective search strategies for your legal research.

Contact the Enquiry Service:

Contact the Enquiry Service directly for assistance with all Online Library related enquiries by:

Email at: onlinelibrary@london.ac.uk

By **web form**

By **telephone** (+44) 020 7862 8478.

And **Ask a Librarian live chat**.

When contacting the Enquiry Service, please provide your full name and student number.

Ask a Librarian Live Chat:

Live chat is available on Monday to Friday between 9:30am - 4:30pm London time.

When live chat is available there is a green **"Chat with us"** icon on the bottom left of all Online Library pages. Select this to start chatting with a librarian.

If you close the current browser window or select a link which takes you to a new website, the live chat will close. To ensure you stay on the chat, please open a new browser window to access any other websites.

When the chat icon is orange the service is unavailable, however you can complete the live chat form to send a message to the Online Library team, who will respond by email.

Find out more on our **Ask a Librarian Live Chat page**.

Feedback

We welcome your feedback. Tell us what you think of the Online Library by sending your comments via the **feedback form**.

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