



02 HOW TO Find Law Reports

Citations and their meanings

Listed below are resources to find out what a citation stands for in full.

- Cardiff Index of Legal Abbreviations www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk
- *Raistrick, Index to legal citations and abbreviations* (located at Bay N).
- *Halsburys Laws of England, 5th ed. Consolidated table of cases* (located at Bay 59).

Case finding tools : how to find where a case is reported

• Westlaw

This online subscription database enables you to search for a case using party name, free text or citation. The advanced search has options to search by legislative provision, court, judge, date and cases cited. The case analysis display will tell you where the case was reported, with a brief summary and links to full text law reports if available. It also lists journal articles and books mentioning the case. It can be accessed in the Law Society Library on the research PCs.

• LexisLibrary

This subscription database contains cases giving basic case information and citations, plus full text reports and transcripts where available. It enables you to search by case name, key words, citation, date, court, judge and counsel. The Appeal Tracker indicates if a case is going to appeal. There is also a Quantum search for personal injury damages. LexisLibrary is available in the Library.

• Knowledge Base : the Law Society Library catalogue

Knowledge Base contains a free English Cases database that indexes cases which have been published in the English national newspapers and selected law reports (All England Reports, the Weekly Law Reports and The Law Reports official series) from the early 1990s to the present. It contains links to free transcripts on www.bailii.org.uk and subscription-only content may be contained within the results. Searchable by party name only.

• JustCite

JustCite is an online subscription case citator that provides cross-references to cases, legislation, articles and EU material. Searchable by party name, court, year, keywords, and citation. It does not have full text law reports, but shows you where you can obtain them. The case information includes where the case was reported, subsequent judicial treatment and references to journal articles discussing the case. JustCite is available in the Library.

• The Digest (previously the English and Empire Digest)

The Consolidated Table of Cases is a three volumes index by party name (located at Bay D). This refers you to the relevant volume number and subject title within the multivolume work. Look in the case index at the front of the appropriate volume for the paragraph number of the case summary. The Digest is useful for older, Commonwealth and Scottish cases. Some case summaries also have subsequent judicial treatment annotations.

• Current Law Case Citator and The Law Reports Indexes

Current Law Citators are printed comprehensive case citators for UK cases after 1946 (located at LIB Bay D). The Law Reports indexes cover the official series of Law Reports and other major series from 1951 onwards (located at LIB A).

• Internet

There are a growing number of cases available free on the internet. BAILII www.bailii.org.uk has the widest coverage of case transcripts although there are many other websites available. LawCite www.lawcite.org is a free database giving citation information for cases.



Finding a case on a particular subject

Westlaw, Justcite and LexisLibrary are useful as described above. If the subject area is known, check individual tables in *The Law Reports* index volumes, specialist law reports or within textbooks, e.g. for company law, check *Butterworths Company Law Cases* and *British Company Cases*. For property cases check *Property and Compensation Law Reports* or the relevant section within the textbook collection. For personal injury quantum use Kemp and Kemp (looseleaf). The main index to *The Digest* is a subject index to cases and is located at LIB D. Alternatively you can scan the contents pages in the Digest volume containing the relevant subject title.

Updating a case : is it still good law?

There are several sources you can use to check the subsequent judicial treatment of a case, i.e. whether a case has been reversed, considered etc. in later cases. On Westlaw and LexisLibrary, this is indicated by icons next to the case name on the list of cases, with more detail in the case analysis/case overview documents. Justcite also indicates subsequent judicial treatment under the name of the case in the list of cases, with more detail if you click on the case to go to the case overview. *The Law Reports* indexes and many other series of law reports contain tables of cases judicially considered, while many entries in *The Digest* contain annotations about subsequent judicial treatment, though this is mainly useful for older cases.

Finding cases on specific legislation

To find cases on a specific section of a statute see *HOW TO Find Public General Acts*. To find cases on a specific provision in a statutory instrument see *HOW TO Find Statutory Instruments*.

Obtaining Transcripts

There are a growing number of transcripts available on the internet. BAILII www.bailii.org.uk has the widest coverage. To find other sources, see *Transcripts of judicial proceedings in England and Wales : a guide to sources* (2011) kept behind the Library enquiry desk. The Law Society Library holds a collection of Court of Appeal transcripts on microfiche for cases heard from 1951 to 1980. They are held in filing cabinet H at the back of the Library.

Useful websites

British and Irish Legal Information Institute
Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations
Knowledge Base
LawCite

www.bailii.org

www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk

wv-tls.hostedbyfdi.net/webview

www.lawcite.org