A Guide to Finding Legal Cases Online
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A Guide to Finding Legal Cases Online.

Where can I find Cases?

**Databases**
The Library provides online access to Cases using a number of databases. The two main subscription services are [Lexis Library](https://www.lexislibrary.com) and [Westlaw UK](https://www.westlaw.co.uk); these can be used on and off-campus. In addition, [iSinoLaw](http://www.isinolaw.com) is a bilingual Chinese legal database which is available on-campus.

**Websites**
There are a variety of websites which provide free access to case materials. These include [BAILII](https://www.bAILII.org.uk), the British and Irish Legal Information Institute, which provides access to most British and Irish primary legal materials; the [International Court of Justice](https://www.icj-cij.org), which provides access to the full-text of all cases decided by the International Court of Justice in the Hague; the [European Court of Justice](https://curia.europa.eu), contains the full-text of every case brought before the Europe Court of Justice, the Court of First Instance, and the Civil Service Tribunal; the [European Court of Human Rights](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int) website provides access to case law from the European Court of Human Rights, the European Commission of Human Rights, and the Committee of Ministers, via the HUDOC database; and the [Permanent Court of Arbitration](https://www.pca-cpa.org) website provides international case reports; there is an ongoing project to make all historical documents available on the site, and currently case reports are available from 1902-1928, then from 1998 to the current date; pending case materials also made available.

**Accessing Databases and Websites**

- From the [University of Dundee Library homepage](https://www.dundee.ac.uk/library) click **Resources for your subject**.
- Click **F-L** on the A-Z subject list, or scroll down to **L**.
- Click **Law** to access the resources page for Law.
- Links are available to all the Databases referred to in this guide.
- Some of the websites can be accessed from the Resources for your subject page, where they are not, the address will be given in this guide.
- If you need a password to access a service, you will be taken to the University of Dundee log-in page. Enter your University of Dundee username and password, and click **login**.
• For the majority of databases, once you’ve entered your University of Dundee account details, you will be taken to the database homepage.

**Searching Databases for cases**

Databases vary in how they allow you to search, and in the ease with which you can find information. They also vary in terms of what additional information you can link to, and what publications they make available.

The following instructions should assist you searching for cases using [Lexis Library](#), [Westlaw UK](#), and [iSinoLaw](#).

Instructions for searching a number of named websites will follow those on databases.
Lexis Library

Case Coverage

There are almost 3000 sources of cases within Lexis Library, with a broad international coverage.

Searching from the main search page

You can search for cases from the homepage of Lexis Library:

Use the Quick Find search to find cases by names. Enter either or both case names in the Case Name search boxes; entering both will give you fewer results. Click Find. Select the appropriate case from the results.

In the event that there are too many results to choose from, you can limit these results by entering keywords, subjects, etc. into the Search within results box at the top right of the results page, underneath the red Results tab.

Using the Case Search page

From the Lexis Library homepage click the Cases tab under Search to open the case search page, (this tab is located beneath the Lexis Library logo on the top left of the page); this will limit the searches you carry out to case law only.

To search by case name

Enter one or both case names into the Case Name boxes. If you have any other information – such as keywords, subject, date of judgement, etc. enter this in the appropriate fields to limit your results.

To search by subject

In the Search Terms box, enter the terms of your search. There are a number of connector which you can use to combine or exclude terms, etc. Click Search tips to see a full list; these will help ensure the results of your search meet your requirements and don’t produce too many results. There is also a subject directory available to choose pre-selected topics. Click Add topics to search to access a hierarchy of subject headings. When you have found the topic you want tick the box next to it, and click OK – Add to search. There will now be a Topics box beneath the Search terms box.
**To search by case citation**

Your citation will look like this:

[2006] 2 All ER 16

[2006]=Year  2=Volume/part  All ER=abbreviation of title  16=Page number

Enter the citation into the Citation field as follows (using above example):

- 2006 2 All ER 16

Click Search.

**Finding a case for a specific country**

To limit your search for case law to a specific country:

- Click the Sources tab along the top of the screen beneath the Lexis Library logo.
- Click the Browse Sources tab.
- In Filter by Area, select the country you want to view cases for. The screen will update to resources relating to the country you have selected.
- Click the Cases folder tab in the Publication Type area, to view the Case Law resources.
- Tick the boxes next to the titles you want to search within, and click the Red OK – Continue button on the right of the page.
- A new search page will open similar to the standard case search screen, but the sources being searched will be the ones you have selected.
- Carry out your search using the methods shown under “Using the Case Search page”.

**Finding a case for a region within a country**

If you want to find cases for a region within a country, e.g. Scotland

- Click the Sources tab along the top of the screen beneath the Lexis Library logo.
- Click the Browse Sources tab.
- In Filter by Area, select the country you want to view cases from, and in next box to the left, select the region you wish to search in. The screen will update to resources relating to the region you have selected.
- Click the Cases folder tab in the Publication Type area, to view the Case Law resources.
NB: you may notice publications from other regions within the country in addition to the region you have selected; this is because you will find case reports for the region you have selected in other regional publications.

- Some resources are browsable, click **Browse** next to the title to view the volumes and parts available.
- To search where there is no browse function, or to search more than one resource tick the boxes next to the titles you want to search within, and click the Red **OK – Continue** button on the right of the page;
- A new search page will open similar to the standard case search screen, but the sources being searched will be the ones you have selected.
- Carry out your search using the methods shown under “Using the Case Search page”.

**Making best use of the Case Search page**

- The **Sources** drop-down menu will allow you to limit your search to a particular case source.
- The **Case Type/Digest** drop-down menu will allow you to limit your search to Law Reports, Transcripts, Digests, or Practice Directions.
- There are numerous options for limiting you search by date using the **Judgement Date** drop-down menu.
- You may also choose to limit your search to a specific court using the **Court** list.
- Where you have the name of the Judge or the Counsel you can enter these into the appropriate fields at the bottom of the page.

The results will display showing the Case name and citation, the court, the date of the judgement and the source of the case report. To open a report, click the title.
Results

On the left of the screen is the Results Group pane, this shows your results according to the type of resource the results come from. On the right of the screen is a list giving the name and citation of the cases; the name of the court making the decision; the date the judgement was made; and the source of the case report.

View the full-text of a case

To view the full-text of a case, click the title of the case.
- Within the full-text of the case there will be links to any legislation referred to in the case.
- There will be a list of cases referred to in the case you have selected. If these are available within Lexis Library there will be links directly to these cases.
- At the top left within the case document there are Find out more options which will provide links to related cases, commentary, and will allow you to check if a report is available within key legal case law resources.

The case citator document

Once you have selected the case you want to view, there may be a link at the top left-hand side of the page to View citator document, if this is available. This document will show you:
- Case history;
- Cases referring to this case;
- Cases considered by this case;
- Catchwords and digests. The catchwords appearing in bold text identify the main areas of law dealt with, and provide the legal context of the primary case or article. The digest component states the legal issues considered and summarises the decision of the court.

Establishing whether a case is still good law

In case documents symbols may be used to identify how a case has subsequently been treated. These symbols will show at the top of the document, next to the title of the case:

⚠️ Negative treatment icon – this indicates that the decision has subsequently been reversed, disapproved or overruled.

⚠️ Cautionary treatment icon – this indicates that the decision has had some doubt cast upon it.

➕ Positive treatment icon – this indicates that the decision has received positive treatment.

🌐 Neutral treatment icon – this indicates that the decision has received neutral or ambivalent treatment.
Westlaw UK

Accessing Westlaw

Click the link to Westlaw UK from the Library: Resources for your Subject - Law page.

Enter your University of Dundee username and password and click “login” to be taken to the Westlaw UK homepage. Westlaw International can be accessed from the Westlaw UK page by clicking the “Services” link at the top of the page, and selecting “Westlaw International”.

Case Coverage

Westlaw UK covers cases from the UK and Europe. Coverage of Scottish Case Reports is greater than with Lexis Library.

Searching from the Westlaw UK main search page

You can search for cases directly from the Westlaw UK homepage.

- Enter case names into the search box; there is no need to include “v” or “and”.
- Deselect all the ticked boxes except the Cases tick box.
- Select Document title and click search.

You can also use the search home page if you have a case citation or subject, however the results list will be long. In the case of citations, the results will show the citation not only for the report you are looking for, but also for any other report of a case which has cited the case report you are looking for, and in chronological order, with the most recent first, meaning you’ll need to scroll through all the results to find the case you are looking for. Similarly for subject searches you will end up with a long list of results, as you are unable to limit these searches by e.g. legislation, dates, courts, etc. For Citation or Subject searches you need to use the Cases search options, as follows.

Westlaw UK Cases Search Pages

To access the Cases section of Westlaw UK click the Cases tab at the top of the page along from the Westlaw UK logo.

You can choose between a basic search, and an advanced search, or you can choose to Browse.

Basic Search

This is the default Cases Search page, from here you can search:

- Party names: enter the names of one or both parties. There is no need to include “v” or “and” in your search. You can also use part
of each of the party names, although the more information you include the fewer results you will need to look through.

- **Citation**: enter the citation you have. You do not need to enter the punctuation from the citation. Your citation will look like this

[1999] 2 Lloyd’s Rep 724 (see the LexisNexis Butterworth’s pages for an explanation of what the different parts of a citation represent)

Enter this into the citation field as 1999 2 Lloyd’s Rep 724.

- **Free Text**: allows you to search by subject terms, names in the cases, etc. This search will be carried out throughout the text of case reports, so may result in a long list of cases to look through. It is possible to combine searches in this box. Use “"” to search for a phrase. You do not need to use “and” to combine terms as this is done automatically. To see a full list of the connectors used on Westlaw UK click the link **List of Connectors** at the right of the page.

**Advanced Search**

To access the Advanced Search screen click the **Advanced Search** link on the Basic Search page.

The Advanced Search page provides a variety of different search options. It is particularly useful if you do not have the full details of the case, such as the citation or name of the parties. Details of the searches you can use include;

- **Free text** – allows you to search with any information you have. This search is carried out throughout the text of case reports.
- **Party Names** – allows you to search by one of more party names. There is no need to include “v” or “and” in your search. You can also use part of each of the party names.
- **Citation** – enter the citation, without the punctuation.
- **Subject/keyword** – allows you to search for cases on any subject area you are interested in.
- **Legislation Title** – use this field if you want to find cases which cite a given piece of legislation; you can further limit this to a provision with the legislation by selecting the type and number of the provision in the **Legislation Provision No.** boxes.
- **Cases Cited** – these fields allow you to search for any cases which cite a specific case; search either by party names, or citation.
- **Court** – allows you to search for cases from a given court
- **Judge** – allows you to search for cases presided over by any given judge
- **Date** – allows you to restrict your search to a your chosen timescale
You can use any combination of the search fields on the Advanced Search page. You can also enter more than one term into a field by using **terms and connectors**, click the link to **Terms and Connectors** to see how these can be used. The more information you provide, the more relevant your results will be.

**Searching within a jurisdiction**

To conduct a search of cases related to a specific country or region on Westlaw UK, enter the country or the region into the Keyword field in addition to any other Keywords you want to search by. This will find cases relative to that country or region.

**Results**

Once you have submitted your search the results will display in chronological order, the most recent first. To the left of the title of the case report there is a numbered tick-box which you tick if you want to print, save or email a record. In the main part of the page you will see the title of the case report; the subject Westlaw UK have assigned it; any keywords; details of where the case has been reported; and links to the sources of the case reports.

The **Case Analysis** document provides all the information you need in the first instance. It will tell you the name of the case; the subject; provide a summary of the case; state any cases cited in this case, and any other cases where this case has been cited; any legislation cited, etc. Where these documents are available within Westlaw UK there will be links.

The next link is to the **Case Reports**. There may be more than one case report. This will give you access to the **full-text** of the case report, with links within the report to any other documents referred to.

In some cases there will also be a link from the results screen to the **Official Transcript**

**View the full-text of a case**

To view the full-text of a case click the citation link, this will take you into the full-text of the case report.

- Using the icons at the top right of the screen you can print, save or email the report.
- To print, click the print icon; a Print Options screen displays, tick the boxes to show what you want the print-out to include; the document will be prepared and send to the printer.
- To save the document, click the save icon and choose the save it as a Word or PDF document, and select the location you wish to save the document to.
• To email the document, click the email icon and enter your email address and any message, and select the type of file, either Word or PDF.

Navigating the case

On the left of the full-text screen you will see a menu allowing you to view different aspects of the document; these are short cuts to areas within the report. Click the appropriate link to skip to the information you are interested in.

Establishing whether a case is still good law

Westlaw used Status Icons to allow you to determine whether a case is still considered “good law”.

- the case has received judicial consideration. The case in question has either been appealed and affirmed, or the case has been cited somewhere else and applied or followed.

- at least one point of law within the case has been overruled or reversed, the case should therefore no longer be considered as good law.
iSinoLaw

iSinoLaw is a bilingual Chinese Law Database; it is only available on-campus. For the purposes of this guide we will be using the English language version.

Case Coverage

iSinolaw covers law from China. Cases are categorised as Criminal Cases, Civil & Commercial Cases, Administrative Cases, and “Other”. You can Browse or Search for cases.

Accessing the Browse or Search Screen

From the iSinoLaw homepage
  • Click English to access the English language version of the database
  • Click Enter into the Database
  • From this page you can search or browse.

Searching for Cases

From the Search or Browse page you can enter your search term into the search field – this is considered the Basic Search option, and you can only enter keywords. To conduct an Advanced Search:
  • Click Advance to the left of the screen.
  • In Title enter any terms you have from the title of the case
  • The Full Text boxes will allow you to search anywhere within the text of the entire document.
  • There are a number of date search options, enter date as YYYY-MM-DD. Use the date searches in conjunction with other search terms.
  • Document numbers are assigned to each document in the iSinoLaw database, if you know this number you can search for a document, or for any document relating to it, using the Document No. field. You must enter the number exactly as it is shown, including all punctuation. If you want to limit the results according to the status of the document, e.g. if you wanted to know any cases where the decision has been appealed, select this from the drop-down menu to the left of the document no. field.
  • On the left of the screen is a list of resources, click the + box to see more options. If you want to restrict the search to a particular resource, or resources, tick the box next to the resource(s) you want to include, and click Select in the lower box on the right of the screen. To remove a resource from this area, click the resource and click Remove.
  • Click Search at the bottom right of the search page.
• Any results will be listed, showing the date of the decision and the title of the report.
• Click the title of the report to view it.

Browsing for Cases

From the Browse/Search page you can browse for case:
• Scroll down the page to Court Judgements.
• You can select to browse Criminal Cases; Civil & Commercial Cases; Administrative Cases; or “Other”.
• Click the category you want to browse.
• All the cases within that category will be listed, the most recent first.
The list will show:
  o Level of trial
  o Trial institution/Trial Organisation
  o Date of conclusion of hearing / date of decision
  o Title of case
  o Judgement number

Viewing a case

• To access a document click the Title.
• A new window will open; click Full Text to view the report.
• You have the option to download or print the report.

Establishing whether a case is still good law

The aim of iSinoLaw is to provide access to the law as it stands to date; therefore the document you access shouldn’t be out to date. There are no status indicators, or links within the document.
Searching websites for cases

There are numerous websites which are freely available to search for legal information. You need to exercise judgement when searching freely accessible information on the internet, you should ask yourself:

- **WHO** – has written/published the information; are they a trustworthy source; are they trying to persuade, sell, inform or misinform?
- **WHERE** – which country is the information from, where is it held, does the origin of the information affect the slant of the information?
- **WHEN** – When was the information originally produced? It is still useful, up to date, etc.?

Intute have an Internet Tutorial on assessing websites for lawyers

http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/he/tutorial/lawyers

The following resources have been evaluated and judged to be valuable resources for case reports, etc.

- **BAILII** - British and Irish Legal Information Institute
  This site can be accessed via the Resources for your subject webpage, the web address is [http://www.bailii.org/](http://www.bailii.org/)

- **The International Court of Justice**

- **The European Court of Justice**

- **The European Court of Human Rights**
  [http://www.echr.coe.int/echr/](http://www.echr.coe.int/echr/)

- **The Permanent Court of Arbitration**
The BAILII website provides access to freely available British and Irish Legal Information, including case law and legislation from Britain, Ireland and the European Union.

**Basic Search**

From the BAILII homepage:
- Enter your search term in the search box.
- You can limit your search to any jurisdiction by selecting the jurisdiction from the drop-down menu which has **All Databases** as the pre-selected option.
- Click **search**.

The basic search will find **any** documents which contain **all** your search terms.

**Case Law Search**

From the BAILII homepage:
- Click the **Case Law Search** link which is in the middle area of the screen.
- To search by citation enter your citation into the first search field, you do not need to include punctuation.
- To search by case names enter one or both party names into the **Case name** field. Where you are entering both names use a “v” between the names. NB: Where a name contains an apostrophe, e.g. O’Neill, remove the apostrophe and replace it with a space, i.e. enter O Neill.
- If you want to use the **All of these words** search enter the words you want your search to find, the results will show any document containing all the words in your search in any order and any part of the document.
- To search by phrase enter your phrase into the **Exact phrase** search
- Use the **Any of these words** search when you want to use a variety of similar words which you think may be used within the area of law you are searching.
- The **Advanced query** will allow you to search for words with common roots, plurals, use Boolean searching, and proximity connectors. To find out how to use these click the **Help** link beneath **Advanced Query**.
- You have the option to limit your search within a date range.
- You can choose to sort your results by Date, Jurisdiction, Title or Relevance.
- You can choose to have any terms in your search highlighted in the results.
• You can limit your search to a particular jurisdiction, or to a number of specific courts or tribunals.
• Once you have entered your search information click the **Search** button at the top left of the search page.

**A-Z Case Name Index**

You can use the A-Z case name index to find a specific case where you know the name of the case. The link to the A-Z Case Name Index is on the left hand side of the screen, two-thirds of the way down the home page.

- Click A-Z Case Name Index.
- Select the jurisdiction you want to choose.
- Click the letter from the A-Z listing you want to browse in.
- Each letter is then further divided; click the appropriate range to access a full list of cases.
- From the list click the title of the case to view the full-text of the case.
- Details of where this case report has been taken for will be shown at the top of the page, next to the BAILII icon.

**Other BAILII Case Resources**

The BAILII website contains a number of case resources:

- **Recent Decisions Lists** contains links to case reports of the 20 most recently rendered court judgements from each of the court/tribunal databases, in reverse chronological order.
- **Recent Additions List** contains decisions that have recently been added to BAILII (both recent decisions and older material that has newly come into BAILII's possession). These are arranged by jurisdiction and by court. On the right of the page are links to specific jurisdictions.
- **New Cases of Interest** contains cases that have been uploaded very recently and may not yet be accessible via the normal search functions within BAILII.
- **Leading Case Law by Subject** will take you to a list of subject areas where BAILII seek to highlight leading cases from the past arranged into subject areas. This area continues to be developed and BAILII are seeking suggestions as to new subjects to be added, and cases to be included.
The International Court of Justice

http://www.icj-cij.org/

The International Court of Justice website provides free access to a wide-range of information pertaining to the court including general information about the court; documents such as the charter, statute, and rules of the court; as well as documents resulting from cases referred to the court. All decisions are available from the first case in 1947 to the most recent. Documents relating to pending decisions are also available. Other documents which cases may refer you to, such as Rules of the Court, are available under the link, on the left of the page, to Basic Documents.

Finding Cases

- From the International Court of Justice homepage click English to access the English language version of the site
- There are quick links in the centre of the page under Latest decisions. To open the full-text of these decisions click the date; a PDF of the decision will open.
- You cannot “Search” for cases, but you can browse:
  - On the left of the screen click Cases
  - Under Pending Cases you can see documents relating to cases which have yet to be decided. Cases which are currently being heard are listed first, followed by all other pending cases, arranged in order of the date they were introduced.
  - Click Contentious Cases to view a full-list of decisions on cases between States. The default is to list these cases by the date they were introduced. You can also choose to list them by date of culmination, or by State, by clicking these options above the list of cases.
  - Click more, beneath the title of the case, to see the documents available; the main part of the page gives you access to the most recent information on a case. At the top of the screen are links to other documents such as the Application, Written Proceedings, Oral Proceedings, Orders, Judgements etc., click these links to open the documentation you want to view, followed by the PDF link to the document.
  - Click Advisory Proceedings to view documents relating to matters referred to the court for advice by organisations relating to the UN. These cases are arranged in a similar way to Contentious Cases
  - Click List of all Cases to see a chronological list of all cases available.
  - To open a document, click the Date link; a PDF document will open which you can save or print.
The European Court of Justice

http://curia.europa.eu/

The European Court of Justice Website provides access to case law from the Court of Justice, from 1953 to present; from the Court of First Instance from 1989 to present; and from the Civil Service Tribunal from 2005. These court decisions are available free of charge, but are subject to amendment. Definitive version of the final decisions can be found in the Official Journal of the European Communities which can be found in the Law Library, or via EUR-Lex http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm; full judgements are available from European Court Reports which can also be found in the Law Library.

Finding Cases

From the European Court of Justice Website, click en to access the English language pages. On the left is a table containing a link to Case-law, you have the options of Numerical access to case law and Search form. Please note that the other options (Digest, Alphabetical table of subjects, and Annotation of Judgements) are only available in French. The information shown on this website is made available via two databases; Case documents up to and including 1997 are available via the EUR-Lex database, to view these documents you click the case number link which will open the relevant link in the EUR-Lex database, most documents will be available in HTML, to open this click HTML at the EN link to open up the English language version. Very early reports may only be available entirely in upper case. Case documents from 1998 onwards are held within the European Court of Justice Website, and are accessed by clicking the case number link.

Please note that not all judgements are available in English. Some cases which are not available in English via the European Court of Justice website, may be available in Westlaw UK via the Common Market Law Reports. (See pages 7-10 of this guide)

Numerical Access to Case Law

The Numerical Access to Case Law option will give you access to all cases brought before the Court of Justice, the Court of First Instance, and the Civil Service Tribunal. To access a case:

- Select the appropriate date range from those listed under the three court headings
- A list of cases will display showing their numerical listing (e.g. 1/53, 2/53 – i.e. record 1st case from 1953, etc.) and the title of the document. Documents which have been removed will still be listed, to show the numerical sequence, but there will be no link to the documents.
• Open the document by clicking on the case number.
  ➢ Pre-1998 cases will open in the EUR-Lex database. The full text is available to view, or you can click the html link under EN. Within the page are links to specific parts of the document.
  ➢ 1998 onwards – click the document number and select the document from the results shown – these may include the Judgement, a summary, and the application.

**Search by Party Names**

You can search by party names in a case from within the **Numerical Access to Case Law** page using “Cntl” and “F” keys on your keyboard. A search box will appear on your screen where you can enter party names.

**Search Form**

If you want to search for case law from 1998 onwards you can use the Search Form option.

• From either the European Court of Justice homepage, or from the **Numerical Access** screen click **Search Form**
  • Within the search form you can choose
    ➢ The court(s) to search within
    ➢ The type of document you want to retrieve
    ➢ Documents in the **Official Journal of the European Communities**

• Enter any other information you have into the lower half of the search screen, this can include:
  ➢ The case number – if known. To the left is a **List** button; press this to have a list of all case numbers added to the search box, which you can select from;
  ➢ The date of the judgement, or a range of dates (enter DD/MM/YYYY);
  ➢ The Party Names relevant to the case. To the left is a **List** button; press this to have a list of all the available party names added to the search box, which you can select from;
  ➢ The **Field** search box provides you with a dropdown menu of subjects/legal fields to choose from;
  ➢ The **Words in the text** box allows you to add your own keywords and terms which can be used to search the entire text of a report.

• Click the **Submit** button
• The results of your search will display.
• Click the case number or citation to view the document.
European Court of Human Rights

http://www.echr.coe.int/echr/

The European Court of Human Rights website contains free access to case law of the European Court of Human Rights; the European Commission of Human Rights; and the Committee of Ministers. The judgments; decisions; resolutions; and reports of these bodies can be found via the HUDOC database which is accessed via the website.

(NB: Within the database there are full user guides; to access these click the red Help tab, and select the beginner or advanced manuals.)

Finding Cases

From the European Court of Human Rights website:
- click the Case Law link underneath the English tab;
- click the blue HUDOC icon to gain access to the database.

Collections

To the left of the screen you will see a list of collections. To search a specific collection(s) tick the relevant box(es). To search the entire collection, tick the top box, HUDOC Collection. There are also collections of Case-Law Information Notes; Communicated Cases; and Press releases, these are listed below the main collections, and can be accessed by clicking the link.

Searching

Not all documents are available in both English and French, to be sure you find all the relevant cases you should search in both English and French and then select the most appropriate document within the results.

Documents are ranked according to their importance. You can limit you search accordingly.

- **Importance Level 1** = High Importance. These are judgments which the Court considers make a significant contribution to the development, clarification, or modification of its Case Law, either generally, or in relation to a particular state.
- **Importance Level 2** = Medium Importance. These are judgments which do not make a significant contribution to the case-law, but which do not merely apply existing case-law
- **Importance Level 3** = Low Importance. These are judgments with very little legal interest – those applying existing case-law, friendly settlements, and striking out judgments.

There are a number of ways to search within the database, dependent on the information you have.
Where you know Case Title, and/or the Respondent State, and/or the Application Number, and/or the article, and/or the Keyword; use the relevant search boxes in the middle of the screen.

- For **Case Title**, click the expander button and enter the name, or part of the name of the party in the case in the search area and click **Search**. From the results list click the relevant name – this will be entered into the main search page.
- For **Respondent State**, click the expander button and scroll down to select the relevant state. NB: note that if you enter “U” in the search area only “Ukraine” is listed in the results, this is because United Kingdom is listed as “The United Kingdom”.
- In the **Application Field** you can either enter the full application number into the search box, or click the expander button and enter all or part of the application number into the search area and click **Search**; from the results list click the relevant application number and this will be entered into the main search page.
- In the **Article** field you can either enter the article number into the search box, or click the expander button and enter all or part of the article number into the search area and click **Search**; from the results list click the relevant article number and this will be entered into the main search page.
- The **Keyword** search box allows you to search by a predefined list of keyword which you access by clicking the expander button. Click the ECHR box to open the list of keywords which are arranged into a hierarchy. Click the keyword or phrase you want to use, you will see it highlighted as bold, then click **Ok** – the keyword will now appear on your main search page. To use your own Keyword see the section below on **Text Searches**.

Once you have filled in the relevant fields for your search click the **Search** button

**Text Search**

Use the **Text** search when you want to search for a particular word or phrase. The **Text** search option will allow you to search for words or phrases within specified areas of a document; the dropdown menu between **Text** and **Zone** allows you to limit the part of the document to search within.

Enter your search word(s)/phrase(s) in the following way:

- **Phrase** – enter the phrase within “quotation marks” in the **Text** box
- Combining words – use AND between the words you want to search in the **Text** box
- Alternatives – use OR between the words in the **Text** box.

You can combine the Text Search with other search options.
Sorting Options

You can choose how your results will be displayed by using the **Sorted by** options on the right of the search page. Click the drop-down menu to view the options:

- **Relevance (ascending)** – when searching for a particular term in the text, this option will display results showing the document with the fewest occurrences of the term first;
- **Relevance (descending)** – this option will display results showing the document with the most occurrences of the term first;
- **Date (Oldest first)** – reversed chronological order
- **Date (Newest first)** – chronological order
- **Title (A-Z)** – alphabetical order by title
- **Title (Z-A)** – reversed alphabetical order by title
- **Respondent State (A-Z)** – alphabetical order by respondent date
- **Respondent State (Z-A)** – reversed alphabetical order by respondent date
- **Application Number (A-Z)** – numerical order by application number
- **Application Number (Z-A)** – reversed numerical order by application number

Results

When you have selected your search criteria and clicked the **Search** button your results will list according to your choices. The results screen will show:

- Number of results found – on the top left of the results list – please note that if there are more than 100 results this will show as **100 +**. At the top right of the results are numbered results pages navigation links.
- A link to the document via the case name. If you click this link the full HTML version will open with links to the **Notice** document, and the **Summary document**. The **Notice** document is a summary of the case, including details of the court, the conclusion, and reference to any relevant cases or laws.
- A link to the MS Word version of a document
- To the right on the results screen there is the option to search for press releases relating to the case document.

Printing or Saving Documents

- **Printing**: Click the case name and click the printer icon at the top right of the screen;
  or
  Click the MS Word icon associated with the document, click **Open** and print as you would any Word document.
- **Saving**: Click the MS Word icon associated with the document; click **Save** and select where you want to save the document to.
Permanent Court of Arbitration

http://www.pca-cpa.org/

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) is an intergovernmental organization established in 1899 to facilitate arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution between states. The PCA provides services for the resolution of disputes involving various combinations of states, state entities, intergovernmental organizations, and private parties. The website allows you to access documentation relating to decisions and pending cases, as well as documentation about how the PCA functions. Historical decisions are being added to the site, so the collection is currently incomplete.

Finding Cases

From the PCA website:

- click Visit the English Website to access the English language version
- click the Cases tab from the selection running along the top of the page

The page that opens allows you to see a linked list to all Pending Decisions, followed by Past Cases.

Pending Decisions

When you click the title of a pending decision the page will give you a brief summary of who the parties are, who the members of the Tribunal are, and who represents the parties. There may be details relating to meetings and how the arbitration is progressing. Depending on how far the Case has progressed there may be addition links to documents relating to the case, this can include:

- Reports submitted to the Arbitration Tribunal
- Documentation submitted relevant to the dispute
- Press Releases
- Progress Reports
- Resolutions passed

To open a document, click the Title link; documents will open in PDF format and can be printed or saved.
Past Decisions

Not all past decisions are available, however work is being undertaken to add more past decisions to the website. The list of available decisions is shown on the main Cases page beneath the Pending Decisions. To see a full-list of the past decisions of the PCA, click the Past Cases link on the right of the page and click the link within a complete list of cases conducted under the auspices of the PCA is, to the extent permitted by confidentiality, is available here. Please note this list will not give you access to the text of past decisions.

To open documents relating to a past decision click the title link. In the case of older decisions (to date 1902-1928) the only document available will be the Award; this will automatically open as a PDF document. More recent decisions (to date 1998 onwards) there are a variety of documents, this may include:

- The Arbitration Agreement
- Rules of Procedure
- Pleadings/response of the parties involved
- Transcripts of meetings and hearings
- Reports created for/requested by the tribunal
- Award
- Interpretation of the Award
- Press Release

To open a document, click the Title link; documents will open in PDF format and can be printed or saved.
Further help...

If you have any questions or would like some help in using any of the Library Services or Resources please contact your Liaison Librarian; contact details can be found on the Resources for Your Subject page on the Library webpage

http://www.dundee.ac.uk/library