

Law

This guide will show you how to make the most of the library's print and digital resources. It will show you how these resources can help you with your law modules.

1. Just started at Oxford Brookes?

Welcome! If you haven't already, check out the useful information on our [New Starters page](#). That page is aimed at students studying any subject, not just geography. It summarises all the important things you need to know and how to get help and support when you need it.


2. Searching the library's collections

The library homepage is at www.brookes.ac.uk/library and this is always the best place to start. Use the "search the library" box on this page to search for resources available on the library shelves and online. Just select the tab that best describes what you're searching for, type your search words in the search box and click *search*.

Search the library

LibrarySearch Books Journals Databases Reading lists Library website

LibrarySearch

Search 

3. Reading lists

You can find the **reading list** for any module by typing the module number in the "reading list" tab of the search box on [the library homepage](#) (shown above). If you go to one of your modules on Moodle, you will also find its reading list there. Just look under "key resources" in any module.

4. Seeing what books and ebooks you have access to

Use the *Books* search tab in the "search the library" box on [the library homepage](#). The results page will show you if a book is available and give you the **call number** (this shows where it's shelved). You can click on the book title and click "place hold" if you want to request items which are on loan to someone else, or held at another Brookes library.

Ebooks are also shown in the search results. You may need to log in with your Brookes student number and password when prompted. Our ebooks are on a variety of platforms so options for viewing, downloading and printing will vary. Just ask us if you need any help with ebooks.

See our [Finding Law Books and Ebooks](#) guide for more help and ideas.

5. Textbooks on Law Trove

Many of the core textbooks for your modules are available on **Law Trove**. The library has paid for access for Law Trove, so there is no additional cost for you to access textbooks this way. You can find links to Law Trove books on [your module reading lists](#) and in search results on [LibrarySearch](#). You can also go straight to [Law Trove](#) to see what textbooks are available.

See the [Law Trove section of the library website](#) for more help and ideas.

6. Where are the law books in Headington library?

Click on a book's title on a [reading list](#) or [LibrarySearch](#) to see its call number. For law, these are usually in the 340s, for example: 346.02 STO.

Books with call numbers in the 340s are found on level 2 of Headington library. You can [download a library map](#) or pick one up from the Welcome Desk on level 1. On the landing of each floor, you will also see a map of that floor. Books are shelved next to other books on the same or similar topics.

Learn more about finding law books in section 6 of our [Finding Law Books and Ebooks](#) guide.

7. Dictionaries and other reference books

The library holds a wide range of reference works such as specialised law dictionaries and encyclopaedias. These offer a useful starting point for your research. They may be helpful for getting an overview of a subject, looking up unfamiliar terms, or finding details about a specific concept.

This [list of dictionaries and encyclopaedias](#) will show you some useful resources.

8. Journals and journal articles

Journals provide one of the best sources of information on current research and discussion. The library subscribes to a wide range of journals in law and related subjects. [Find out more about why journal articles are so useful in law](#).

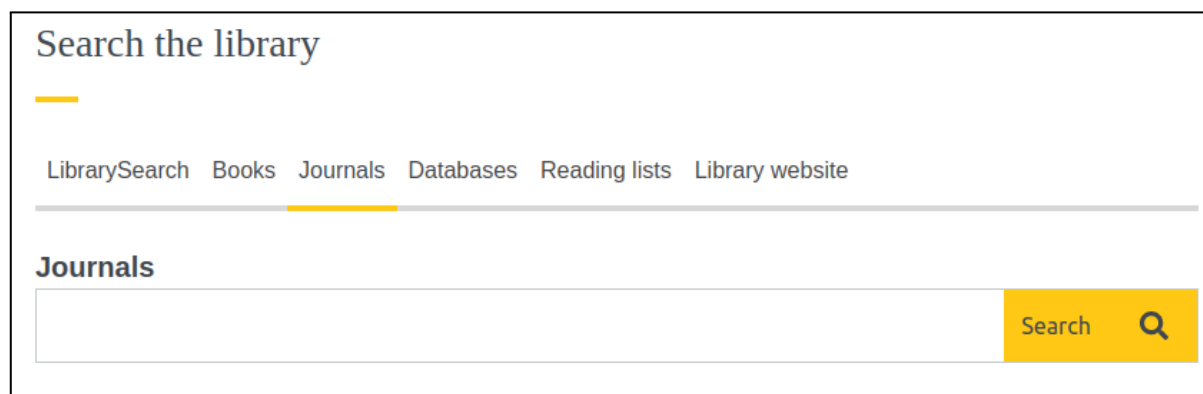
Almost all of the journals that we subscribe to are available digitally. A key exception is the Common Market Law Review, which we buy in print. [Find out more about the Common Market Law Review](#).

Start by looking at [your module reading list](#) as that will show you any journal articles that the module leader recommends. You can click on 'type' at the top of the list then 'article' to just see journal articles. Click on the 'view online' button next to any article to go straight to it.

a) Browsing a journal

You may know the name of a recommended journal in an area of law, but not have a particular article in mind. You can browse that journal to see what articles are in there and what's been most recently published.

Go to the "search the library" box on [the library homepage](#), select the "journals" tab and type in the name of the journal.



Once in a journal you can browse through all the available articles, see the most recent articles and also search for specific words.

You can also use [BrowZine](#) to browse through journals, either via their website or using the BrowZine app. [Learn more about BrowZine and how it works.](#)

b) Finding a specific article

You may have a reference to a specific article, perhaps from the references at the end of a textbook chapter, e.g.

Maayan Niezna and Guy Davidov, 'Consent in Contracts of Employment' (2023) 86 Modern Law Review 1134.

Firstly, go to the "LibrarySearch" tab of the search box on [the library homepage](#) and type in the title of the article. In this example the title is "Consent in Contracts of Employment". Double check that the authors and journal title in any result match what you're looking for. If so, click on the 'view full text' or 'view PDF' button.

If you can't find it this way, try using the "journals" tab of the library search box to look for the name of the journal. In this example, the name of the journal is "Modern Law Review." Once in the journal, you can browse to the right year or search for the article title.

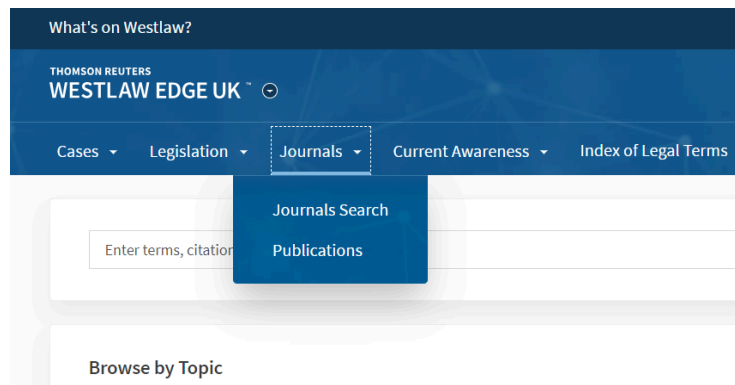
Sometimes the name of the journal is abbreviated, like in this example:

James Lee, 'Different Views of Nuisance' (2023) 139 LQR 535.

It can be difficult to search for a journal by its name when it's not clear what its full name is. [The Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations](#) is a useful tool for deciphering abbreviated titles. Using this tool, we can see that LQR is short for "Law Quarterly Review".

c) Westlaw

You have access to hundreds of journals via [Westlaw](#). These journals won't always show up when you search on LibrarySearch. In addition to searching for journals on LibrarySearch, you can also go directly to Westlaw and use their "journals search" tool. From this page you can search for an article by its title or search for a topic. You can even search for the name of a case to find articles that refer to it.



[Follow this step-by-step guide to learn how to find articles on Westlaw.](#)

9. Researching a topic

A good way to start is to search for your topic in LibrarySearch:

Search the library

[LibrarySearch](#)
[Books](#)
[Journals](#)
[Databases](#)
[Reading lists](#)
[Library website](#)

LibrarySearch

If you want to go further, you should use one of our **databases**. Databases are tools that allow you to research a topic and find good-quality academic materials written about it. Some suggestions are listed below. Follow the links below, or access them all from [the law page of the library website](#).

- [Lexis+](#): A large database of cases, legislation and journal articles
- [Westlaw](#): A large database of cases, legislation and journal articles. It is updated multiple times a day.
- [HeinOnline](#): This includes a large collection of full-text journals, and is particularly useful for international law.

[Watch this video to learn about choosing good search words.](#)

10. Finding cases and legislation

You can use either [Lexis+](#) or [Westlaw](#) to find and read legislation (e.g. Acts) and cases. Sometimes what you want will be on both databases, but sometimes it may only be on one of these. Therefore, try and familiarise yourself with both of them.

[Follow this step-by-step guide to learn how to find a case using Lexis+](#)

[Follow this step-by-step guide to learn how to find legislation using Lexis+](#)

If you get stuck using Lexis+ and Westlaw or can't find what you need, please [ask us and we can help](#).

11. Finding newspaper articles, TV and radio programmes

To find newspaper articles, try using [Lexis+](#) for UK newspapers or [Factiva](#) for international newspapers.

[Follow this step-by-step guide to learn how to find UK newspaper articles using Lexis+](#)

[Learn more about using Factiva](#)

[Box of Broadcasts](#) is a useful collection of UK TV and radio programmes.

12. Government and parliament publications

Sources that you may wish to use include:

- a) **Command papers.** Command papers from 1993–present are available on [the government website](#). Older Command papers can be found on [House of Commons Parliamentary Papers](#). An example of a command paper is [The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry \(Macpherson report\)](#).

[Learn more about what command papers are.](#)

- b) **House of Commons Library reports and briefings.** These reports provide MPs and their staff with background information on a range of topics, so that they are well-informed before debates. [House of Commons Library reports](#) are freely available online. They are a reliable source of background information on a number of contemporary topics. An example of a House of Commons Library report is [Prisoners' Voting Rights](#).

- c) **Law Commission reports.** The Law Commission looks at how the law could be reformed. [Law Commission reports](#) back to 1995 can be found on their website. There is a search box, but it's not easy to find what you want by searching on this site. It may be easier to Google the name of a Law Commission report, and then click on the report in the results list to go directly to that report on the Law Commission site. Older Law Commission reports can be found on [BAILII](#). An example of a Law Commission report is [Updating the Land Registration Act 2002](#).

- d) **Hansard.** Hansard is a verbatim record of what is said in the House of Commons and the House of Lords, including debates about bills. [Hansard](#) is freely available online. An example of content from Hansard is this [debate between MPs about the Criminal Justice Bill before it was enacted](#).

[Learn more about Hansard.](#)

13. OSCOLA referencing

Citing your sources - also called referencing - is an essential part of your academic work, and demonstrates [academic integrity](#). The School of Law requires you to use the OSCOLA referencing system in your coursework.

Look at [the OSCOLA resources on the library website](#) to learn more about using OSCOLA referencing in your coursework.

14. Beyond Brookes

When doing in-depth research, for example for your dissertation, you are likely to come across references to publications which are not held at Oxford Brookes Library. Our [Go Further, Get More](#) page shows you what other options are available.

15. Getting more help and ideas

Maybe you're working on an assignment, but don't know how or where to find the best research materials. Maybe you've had some feedback on your coursework about the sources you've used or your referencing. Maybe you've read through this document but are still unsure how to get started.

Remember, your library team is here to help all law students and staff, and there's [a range of ways to contact us](#).

Getting help and finding out more

More information and support can be found on the law page of the library website:
<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/law>