

Resources for EU law

This guide is intended to help you find and use EU law resources. It explains the different categories of EU law and the best way to find resources. Resources covered include print items available in the Oxford Brookes library, items available online via Oxford Brookes library subscriptions, and items freely available online.

This guide will help you to find items you have references for (e.g. on a reading list) and also to research topics for which you do not have any references.

Finally, there is useful advice on referencing EU materials and getting help from the Academic Liaison Librarian for Law.

You can find more support for EU law, including useful videos at <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/law#eu>.

1. Useful sources of EU law

These three sources contain a wealth of EU materials and will be referred to throughout this guide. All three sources are updated every day. EUR-Lex is freely available online. The library has paid for access to the other two.

LexisLibrary	Westlaw	EUR-Lex
<p>The library subscribes to LexisLibrary.</p> <p>Access via the library website and put in your Oxford Brookes username and password when prompted.</p> <p>Agree to the terms and conditions when prompted.</p>	<p>The library subscribes to Westlaw.</p> <p>Access via the library website and put in your Oxford Brookes username and password when prompted.</p> <p>The first time you access Westlaw you'll be prompted for your name and email address.</p> <p>Learn more about EU resources on Westlaw</p>	<p>EUR-Lex is an online service provided by the EU.</p> <p>You do not need to sign in. However, if you create a free account you can access additional features such as saving documents and queries.</p>

2. Primary legislation (treaties)

The TEU (Treaty on the European Union), TFEU (Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) and other EU treaties can all be found in the treaties section of EUR-Lex: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eu-law/treaties/treaties-force.html>

[Westlaw](#) also contains EU treaties. Select *EU* in the top bar. Tick the box marked 'treaties' then use the *parties or title* box at the top to search by a treaty's name.

3. Secondary legislation (regulations, directives and decisions – plus recommendations and opinions)

You can search for [all types of secondary legislation on EUR-Lex](#). You don't have to fill in every search box – the 'text search' is the most useful section. Above the search form is the option to limit your search to only legislation currently in force.

[Westlaw](#) also contains secondary legislation. Select *EU* in the top bar. Tick the box labelled *legislation* then use the *parties or title* to search by name, the *document number*, or use the *free text* box to search for a word or phrase.

You can also access secondary legislation via [LexisLibrary](#). At the top of the screen, select *legislation*, then on the left, then use the drop-down *sources* box to pick which type of EU legislation you want.

The image shows a search interface with the following elements:

- Title:** A text input field.
- Search:** A red button.
- Year enacted:** A text input field.
- Act type:** Radio buttons for Act, SI, Retained EU, and EU.
- Version:** Radio buttons for Current Version and Historical Version.
- Series number:** A text input field with a [Citation help](#) link.
- Provision:** A text input field with the example text "E.g., Enter 1 for Section 1".
- Part or schedule:** A text input field.
- Search terms:** A large text input field with a [Search tips](#) link and [Add topics to search](#) link below it.
- Sources:** A dropdown menu currently showing "*EU Legislation: Directives" with a [More sources](#) link and an information icon.

Secondary legislation is officially published in the legislation volume (L) of the *Official Journal of the European Union* (OJ). If you see a reference to EU legislation on your reading list or in a textbook, it will include a running number and year then also a volume and page number from the OJ. Two examples are below.

Note that the year precedes the running number in citations of directives/decisions but follows it in citations of regulations.

Council Regulation 2037/2000 of 29 June 2000 on substances that deplete the ozone layer [2000] OJ L244/1
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Council Directive 2008/104/EC of 19 November 2008 on temporary agency work [2008] OJ L327/9

The simplest way to find these documents would be to search for the number/year (i.e. 2037/2000 or 2008/104/EC).

4. Case law and law reports

EU case law from the Court of Justice and General Court can be found on Curia (<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/recherche.jsf?language=en>) or on EUR-Lex (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eu-law/eu-case-law.html>).

As you can see, the Curia search screen allows you to search by case number or names of the parties. It gives you lots of search boxes – you don't need to use them all!

Case status	<input type="radio"/> ? All cases <input type="radio"/> Cases closed <input type="radio"/> Cases pending
Court	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ? All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Court of Justice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Court <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil Service Tribunal
Case number	<input type="text"/> ? (ex: C-17/05; 17/05)
Name of the parties	<input type="text"/> ?

The most authoritative source of EU case law is the European Court Reports (ECR). As well as using Curia or EUR-Lex to read case reports in the ECR, you can also find them on Westlaw. Select *EU* in the top bar. Tick the box labelled *cases* before using one or more of the search boxes.

The *Common Market Law Reports* and *All England Law Reports (European Cases)* also publish full reports of some ECJ cases. Often cases are published here quicker than in the official reports. The [Common Market Law Reports](#) can be found on Westlaw. The *All England Law Reports (European Cases)* can be found on LexisLibrary or Westlaw, but do note that publication ceased in 2015.

5. European human rights law

A good source of case law from the European Court of Human Rights is the European Human Rights Reports (EHRR). This can be found on [Westlaw](#): go to *cases* in the dark blue bar across the top, then click on *law reports* then find European Human Rights Reports in the alphabetical list.

[HUDOC](#) is the official site, containing full judgments from the court, which can be accessed freely online.

You can also see [a selection of the most significant judgments and decisions](#).

You can find the text of the European Convention on Human Rights at https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf.

6. Searching EUR-Lex



EUROPA > EUR-Lex home > EU law

A guide to searching EUR-Lex can be found at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/content/help/search/intro.html#help1>.

EUR-Lex uses a controlled vocabulary or thesaurus tool called EUROVOC (<https://eurlex.europa.eu/browse/eurovoc.html>). Because there are lots of different ways of describing the same thing, many databases (including EUR-Lex) use a hierarchy of index words or tags to group documents on the same topic. This can be helpful if you aren't sure what words to use in the search box. EUROVOC fulfils a similar function to the lists of keywords and subjects you can choose from in LexisLibrary and Westlaw.

Try finding a useful topic in EUROVOC. You can use the hierarchy to make the topic as precise as you want. Just click 'search' next to the term you want to search for. You can then refine your results list by date, document type etc. using the options to the left of your results.

You can also access the EUROVOC list from the EUR-Lex search screen by clicking on *advanced search* then looking for the search box labelled 'theme'.

7. Useful journals

In common with all areas of law, journal articles are a crucial resource in EU law. Because journal articles are shorter than books, they are often focused on a more specific topic. Consulting journals is a good way of finding out about current or recent research, as they are published periodically throughout the year.

Some journals you may find useful for EU law include:

Common Market Law Review	This journal is available in print (i.e. hard copy) format in the mobile shelving in the JHB library basement. The journal is indexed on Westlaw, so you can find references to useful articles there, but you will only be able to read the full text of the articles in the print journal.
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European Law Journal	Available online
European Law Review	Available online
Journal of Common Market Studies	Available online

8. Referencing EU materials

Just as with English law, you need to use OSCOLA when referring to EU law resources in law assignments. (If you're using EU sources in a non-EU module, check your module handbook).

The definitive guide is the OSCOLA handbook, which is freely available online as a PDF. Some other useful OSCOLA resources are available on the library website at <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/law#oscola>

Sections of the OSCOLA handbook you may wish to consult include:

- 2.6 European Union legal sources
- 3.2 Books
- 3.3 Articles
- 3.4 Other secondary sources

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>

If you need any help with finding or using library resources for law, please contact Charlie Brampton, the Academic Liaison Librarian for Law:

Email: c.brampton@brookes.ac.uk

Tel: 01865 483077

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