A GUIDE TO UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
LAW SCHOOL
JACOB BURNS LAW LIBRARY
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I. Introduction

The United Nations (U.N.) is according to Article 1 of the U.N. Charter an organization of countries dedicated to “maintaining international peace and security; developing friendly relations among nations; cooperating internationally in solving international economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems and promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these common ends.”


The U.N. consists of six principal bodies: General Assembly; Security Council; Economic and Social Council; the Trusteeship Council; the International Court of Justice; and the Secretariat. In addition, there are 14 specialized agencies working under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in such diverse areas as health, finance, agriculture, civil aviation, and telecommunications.

Information on the history and organization of the U.N. can be found in the following:


To determine if a source listed in this guide is available through LexisNexis or Westlaw:

Lexis Advance: Select “Browse Sources” and enter the name of the source in the “Search Sources” box.

WestlawNext: Enter the name of the source in the search box at the top of the page and select the source from the list.
II. United Nations Resources

A. Types of Publications and Locations

According to Bluebook Rule 21.7, United Nations materials fall into six major categories:

VERBATIM AND SUMMARY RECORDS (Rule 21.7.1): The minutes or full-text transcripts of the sessional meetings of various bodies of the UN can be found here. Complete transcripts of meetings or “verbatim” records as they are called by the Security Council, the General Assembly, and the Trusteeship Council are kept in the Official Records of those organs. The Economic and Social Council and the Trade and Development Board do not maintain verbatim records, but rather just minutes. All citations to verbatim and summary records should be to the Official Records whenever possible. References to the Official Records of these bodies are abbreviated GAOR, SCOR, etc (See Table T.3 in the Bluebook).

Official records also include "Annexes," which republish selected mimeographed documents. "Supplements" are also part of the Official Records. Some supplements also contain annual reports of various commissions and committees submitted to their parent body.


Online:


RESOLUTIONS (Rule 21.7.2): According to the Bluebook, “[t]he final, authorized version of resolutions appear in the Official Records. However, it has become customary to cite the electronic versions found in the Official Document System (ODS) of the United Nations using resolution symbols. Cite resolutions either to the Official Records or using resolution symbols.”

General Assembly resolutions and decisions are compiled into sessional cumulations that have traditionally been published as the final supplement to the Official Records of the General Assembly. However, from the 42nd session (1987-1988) onwards, Supplement No. 49 has been designated to contain the resolutions and decisions of a given regular session.

Security Council resolutions and decisions are compiled into annual cumulations which are issued in the S/INF/- series as part of the Official Records of the Security Council.


Online:

UN Documents: http://www.un.org/documents/

REPORTS (Rule 21.7.3): According to the Bluebook, when citing reports from U.N. committees the citation should include the name of the body and the subcommittee, if any, the title of the report, the document symbol, and the date. Many reports of major bodies of the General Assembly are printed as supplements to the Official Records.

**Microform:** LL1: U.N. microfiche collection

**Online:**


Also check the website of the UN issuing body.

SALES PUBLICATIONS (Rule 21.7.7): Sales publications are important annuals, statistical compendia, individual studies, etc., available for purchase from the U.N.. An example of a sales publication is the Yearbook of the United Nations. Sales publications are assigned unique U.N. Sales Numbers (e.g., E.92.IV.1).

When citing a Sales publication, Bluebook Rule 21.7.7(d) also requires citation to the Sales Number.

**Print:** Search JACOB, the Jacob Burns Law Library’s online catalog to identify Library holdings of individual sales publications at: [http://jacob.law.gwu.edu/](http://jacob.law.gwu.edu/)

MASTHEAD DOCUMENTS (Rule 21.7.4): Also known as "mimeographed documents", these are the first and only published format for many U.N. documents. They include draft documents, the initial publication of important items such as resolutions, as well as many ephemeral items of marginal interest to those outside the organization.

In the 19th edition of the Bluebook, under Rule 21.7.4, citation to masthead documents later published in the Official Record is favored “when possible.” When citing to masthead documents, they should be cited by the name of the institutional author, if any (Rule 21.7.4(a); the title of the document (Rule 21.7.4(b); pinpoint cite, if any; the document symbol (rule 21.7.4(c); and the date of publication.

Each masthead document has a U.N. document symbol (its unique identification number). There is nothing in the document symbol, however, to indicate to the user whether or not something is a mimeo document. Most collections of mimeo documents, whether in paper or microfiche, are arranged by the U.N. document symbols, for example, A/46/468. The Jacob Burns Law Library generally does not have mimeographed documents in their original print format.

**Microform:** LL1: U.N. microfiche collection (1946-2012)

Mimeo documents can be found republished in the *Official Records of the United Nations* or other U.N. publications.
Online:


- Official repository for documents published by UN
- Full text documents (PDF), 1992-. Security Council documents available back to 1946.
- All official languages of the United Nations
- Comprised of two databases, UN Documentation (1992-) and UN Resolutions, includes resolutions of the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council and Trusteeship Council, 1946-


- Catalogue of United Nations documents and publications indexed by the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the Library of the UN Office at Geneva. Also included are commercial publications and other non-UN sources held in the collection of the Hammarskjöld Library. The coverage of UNBISnet is from 1979 onward, however, older documents are being added to the catalogue on a regular basis.

YEARBOOKS AND PERIODICALS (Rule 21.7.8): The U.N. publishes a number of yearbooks and periodicals, such as the Yearbook of the United Nations and the U.N. Chronicle. The Bluebook also provides rules for citation of U.N. Press Releases and Memoranda (Rule 21.7.5), Adjudicatory Bodies Established by the U.N. (Rule 21.7.6), Regional Organization Documents (Rule 21.7.9) and the U.N. Charter (Rule 21.7.10).

Print: JACOB: [http://jacob.law.gwu.edu/](http://jacob.law.gwu.edu/)

Search JACOB to identify the Burns Library’s holdings of yearbooks and periodicals issued by U.N. bodies.

Online:

Hein Online: United Nations Law Collection:


- Provides access to a selection of UN yearbooks such as the Yearbook of the International Law Commission and the United Nations Juridical Yearbook among others.

Note: LEXIS, WESTLAW and BLOOMBERG LAW, as of this writing, provide virtually no access to U.N. documentation save the UN Chronicle.
U.N. publications not available in the Law Library may be located at one of the following libraries:

■ The Gelman Library of the George Washington University
2130 H Street NW, Washington, DC
202-994-6048 (reference desk)


■ Library of Congress, Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room
Room LM-133, Madison Building
1st St. and Independence Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C.
(202) 202-707-5690

The Library of Congress is a United Nations depository and maintains a large collection of documents issued by the U.N.

B. U.N. Affiliated Agencies

Most U.N. indexes and collections do not include publications of the autonomous agencies of the U.N. system. These autonomous agencies include such well-known bodies as the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). These agencies have their own separate publication programs.

Some documents issued by these agencies are available on their web sites. A list of the web sites can be found by using the Official Website Locator for the United Nations: http://www.unsystem.org. Also check JACOB for individual titles that may be held in the Jacob Burns Law Library collection at: http://jacob.law.gwu.edu/.

III. United Nations Document Symbols

A. Basic Pattern of Symbols

Most U.N. documents are identified by an alphanumeric number called a "U.N. document symbol." An example of a document symbol is: E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/23/Rev.1. The letters in the U.N. document symbol system identify the issuing body and that body’s place in the hierarchy of the U.N. organization. In the above symbol:

- **E** = Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); the parent body
- **CN.4** = Commission on Human Rights
- **Sub. 2** = Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities
- **1993** = document year
- **23** = 23rd document
- **Rev.1** = Revision 1 of the document

Slashes (/) separate the various elements of the U.N. document symbol. This distinguishes the symbols from other numbering systems such as U.N. sales numbers (which use periods).
B. Selected Key Symbols

The first letter appearing in the U.N. document symbol denotes the major U.N. organ from which the document originated. The most common symbols and their corresponding U.N. organs are:

A/- General Assembly
E/- Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
S/- Security Council
ST/- Secretariat
T/- Trusteeship Council

Following the first slash in the U.N. document number are acronyms denoting other parent bodies:

/CCPR/- Human Rights Committee
/CERD/- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
/TD/- U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
/UNEP/- U.N. Environment Programme

Following the second slash, letter abbreviations refer to a specific type of organization:

/AC.- Ad-Hoc Committee
/C.- Standing or permanent committee
/CN.- Commission
/CONF.- Conference
/SC.- Sub-committee
/Sub.- Sub-commission
/WG.- Working Group

After the third slash, the type of document is indicated by the following letters:

/PV/- Verbatim records of meetings (procès verbaux)
/RES./ - Resolution
/SR.- Summary record of meeting
/WP.- Working Paper

A modification of the text is indicated after the fourth slash:

/Add./ - Addendum (Indicates an addition of text to the main document)
/Amend./- Amendment (Alteration, by decision of a competent authority, of a portion of an adopted formal text.)
/Corr.- Corrigendum (Indicates modification of any specific part of an existing document to correct errors, revise wording, or reorganize text.)
/Rev.- Revision (Indicates a new text which supersedes and replaces that of a previously issued document)
Following the fourth slash, letters denoting distribution status are listed:

/L._ Limited (documents for which wide circulation is not desired because of their temporary nature (draft resolutions, draft reports, preliminary action documents.)
/R._ Restricted (Applies to documents whose confidential contents require that they be withheld from public circulation. Note: these documents are usually unavailable)

C. Guides to Documents Symbols

UN Research Guides: UN Document Symbols
http://research.un.org/content.php?pid=320836&sid=2626142


Assists with locating document symbols and sales numbers of U.N. documents, 1946-. Documents included are of a recurrent nature, such as annual or periodic reports, yearbooks, journals, reports of major conferences, etc.


This publication provides a list of U.N. symbols. Subject/title indexes are useful starting points for identifying specific bodies whose work concerns particular topics. Document symbols created after 1996 can be identified by using the UN-I-QUE database mentioned above.


This guide is helpful for its overview of UN publications. It includes an excellent explanation of how to decipher the document numbering system used by the U.N.

IV. Indexes for United Nations Documents


UNBISnet contains a catalogue of UN publications and documentation that has been indexed by the United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the Library of the UN Office at Geneva. Also included are non-UN publications held in the collection of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library.
V. Selected Yearbooks and Compilations

Yearbooks and subject compilations of U.N. documents are valuable sources to use to identify documents as well as obtain selected reprints of key documents and summaries and discussions of issues.


The Yearbook, arranged by broad subject areas such as human rights, disarmament, refugees, etc., is an excellent source for reviewing U.N. activities. A detailed subject index is included. The Yearbook, while "based on official sources, is not an official record." It contains numerous references to primary documents. Often the texts of resolutions and decisions made during a particular year are included. If the text is not reprinted, sometimes there will be a summary of the document. A separate "Index of Resolutions and Decisions" lists where a text, summary or discussion of a document may be found.


The International Law Commission's work is of key importance to developing areas of international law. Their Yearbook is issued in two volumes:

- **Volume 1:** Provides summary records of the Commission's meetings during the session.
- **Volume 2:** Includes special reports and other documents issued during a session.

The publication delay is about 4 to 5 years. Reports on draft international agreements (e.g. Draft Code of Crimes Against the Peace and Security of Mankind, draft articles on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses) are regularly published in the *Yearbook*. The Law Library has a complete set of the Yearbook in paper. It is also available at the ILC's website at: [http://legal.un.org/ilc/publications/yearbooks/yearbooks.htm](http://legal.un.org/ilc/publications/yearbooks/yearbooks.htm).

The *United Nations Law Collection* on Hein Online also includes the Yearbook for the years 1949-2006. [http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=unyear&collection=unl](http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=unyear&collection=unl)


The United Nations Juridical Yearbook contains legislative texts and treaty provisions promulgated each year relating to the legal status of the United Nations and related intergovernmental organizations. It includes a general review of the Organization’s legal activities; highlights of decisions of international and national tribunals relating to the legal status of the various organizations of the U.N. and a bibliography of relevant publications issued during a particular year. It is also available in the United Nations Law Collection on Hein Online for the years 1968-2012.


VI. General Assembly Resolutions

A. Numbering

Beginning in 1975, with its 31st annual session, the General Assembly began numbering its resolutions in the format A/RES/31/1. Resolutions are numbered sequentially each session.

(A)=General Assembly

RES=resolution

31=31st session

1=first resolution of that session

Prior to 1975, the General Assembly numbered its resolutions in the pattern A/RES/2904 (XXVII):

2904=specific resolution number (with numbers continuing incrementally from session to session instead of starting over each year)

(XXVII)=the session number in which the resolution was passed.

B. Publication

1. Mimeographed (Masthead) Version

A General Assembly resolution is first issued individually as a mimeographed document and contains a U.N. document symbol (e.g. A/RES/48/320). The Law Library does not subscribe to U.N. mimeographed documents. To obtain a resolution at this stage:

Online:


• 1st session (1946-) in PDF format.

- 1st session, 1946-

- Final official record version of all resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council. The sessional compilation can be found by searching by UN document symbol using the symbol A/[session number]/49 for the 42nd session (1987-1988) onwards.

- Before the official record version is available, individual resolutions and decision compilations from 1993 can be found at the UN Documentation website listed above.

*International Legal Materials (I.L.M.)* (journal published by the American Society of International Law (ASIL))

- Selected General Assembly resolutions

- General Assembly resolutions less likely to be published in ILM than Security Council Resolutions, which are binding on member states.

- *Hein Online: Law Journal Library*
  

- *LEXIS* (1962-)

- *WESTLAW* (1980-)

2. Compilations of General Assembly Resolutions

Once General Assembly resolutions appear in published compilations, the texts are arranged first by the originating U.N. committee, then by number. This is usually the practice in both the U.N.'s own compilations as well as commercial publications. Checking indexes or tables of contents will easily solve any difficulties raised by this unique arrangement.

a. Official Compilations:

*General Assembly Official Records (GAOR) Supplements*: The official compilation of General Assembly resolutions appears as the last numbered supplement (usually in 2 volumes) which is issued yearly at the end of a session. As noted previously, from the 42nd session (1987-1988) onwards, Supplement No. 49 has been designated to contain the resolutions and decisions of a given regular session.

Print: (47th session, 1992-):


*Resolutions and Decisions Adopted by the General Assembly during its ... Special Session.* New York: United Nations, Dept. of Public Information. [Location: SL1: KZ 5006.2 .U545]

Microform (1946-):

[Note: GAOR supplements are easy to locate in the U.N. microfiche collection. They are noted as such on the guide cards. For individual resolutions, the U.N. microfiche headers prominently display the designation A/RES and "resolutions." They are filed near the beginning of the GAOR microfiche set.]


Starting with the 37th Session (1982), this microfiche collection of UN Official Records also includes documents issued by the various U.N. Human Rights bodies as well as other organizations within the U.N. system such as the International Court of Justice, the International Seabed Authority, and the International Criminal Court.


The official records of the major bodies (Economic and Social Council, General Assembly, Security Council, Trusteeship Council), as well as documents from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) are reproduced. An understanding of the structure of the official records and familiarity with U.N. document symbols is necessary in order to locate documents within this set. A particularly useful feature of the set is the inclusion of resolution texts, which are filed at the beginning of each body's documentation and are clearly marked on the microfiche headers as containing resolutions.

b. **Unofficial Retrospective Compilations**

Locating General Assembly resolution texts and voting information is greatly simplified by the following publications:


While this is an unofficial commercial reproduction, these volumes contain direct reproductions of the official version as they appear in the General Assembly Official Records (GAOR) Supplements described above. Original pagination and text layout, along with all U.N. document symbols, are preserved. Thus, the set may suffice even when citation to official sources is required. This set covers the period 1946-1986.
VII. Security Council Resolutions

A. Numbering

Security Council resolutions are numbered in the format S/RES/795. Unlike the current practice of the General Assembly, the Security Council does not renumber its resolutions with each new year. Thus, a Security Council Resolution number “Security Council Resolution 795” does identify a unique resolution, although for citation purposes other information is also needed. Later, when official compilations are published, resolutions appear in the S/INF/ series.

B. Publication

1. Mimeographed (Masthead) Version

A Security Council resolution is first issued as a paper mimeographed (masthead) document under its U.N. document symbol. The Library does not hold a print collection of U.N. mimeographed documents. To obtain a resolution in mimeograph format:

Use the same steps and sources described in this guide under "VI. General Assembly Resolutions - Publication - Mimeographed Version." As noted above official compilations of resolutions appear under the S/INF/ symbol (ie., S/INF/45 is the sessional compilation of resolutions and decisions of the Security Council for its 44th session.)

[Note: International Legal Materials (I.L.M.) includes a higher percentage of Security Council Resolutions than General Assembly Resolutions because of their binding force on member states.]

2. Official Compilations


INF=“information”, designating the document as an official version

27=year of Security Council Session (number used and actual year of session may differ slightly (e.g., SCOR for 27th year appears in S/INF/28)
A useful checklist for earlier sessions (with includes the proper S/INF/ number in many cases) and subject index to older Security Council resolutions is:


**Online (1946-):**


**Microform (1946-):**

[Note: The official compilation of UN security resolutions is found in the U.N. microfiche collection]:

*United Nations Documents and Publications: Law Library Collection* (37th session, 1982-).
[Location: LL1: Microfiche, following UN Official Records 1946-1981 microfiche]

This microfiche collection of UN Official Records includes documents issued by the UN Security Council. The official annual compilation of resolutions is found in the collection, filed under its U.N. Document symbol (e.g. S/INF/no.


The official records of the major bodies, including the Security Council are reproduced. The microfiche headers contain the designation S/RES/ followed by the resolution numbers covered.

### 3. Unofficial Retrospective Compilations

*Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council; Résolutions et Décisions du Conseil de Sécurité.*

The task of locating the texts of Security Council resolutions and voting records is greatly simplified by this set. Although slow to be published, the volumes contain reproductions of the official Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council volumes in the S/INF/ series of the Security Council Official Records (SCOR). Since the original page numbers, text layout, and all U.N. numbering is preserved, these reproductions may suffice even when a citation to the official U.N. sources is required.

**Print:** SL1: KZ 5036 .U55


Security Council Resolutions are arranged by subject, with introductory notes. A chronological list by resolution number appears as an annex. Unlike the Djonovich set described above, this compilation is not a direct reproduction of the official version issued by the Security Council and does not contain all of the information usually necessary for proper citation.

**Print:** SL1: JZ 5006.7 .R47 2001
4. Other Useful Security Council Reference Sources

a. Sources for Security Council Practice

*Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council.*


VIII. United Nations Charter

The text of the Charter of the United Nations is available in numerous document compilations.

Online:


Print:


Note: The *Yearbook* and other sources will provide accurate texts, but even the Yearbook, while “based on official sources, is not an official record.”

The *Yearbook of the United Nations* is also available online at: [http://unyearbook.un.org/](http://unyearbook.un.org/)
Official sources for the original text and interpretive information about the Charter are:


Numerous treatises and journal articles have been published which discuss the U.N. Charter. Use JACOB, the Library’s online catalog, to locate books in the Library discussing the U.N. Charter. Clicking on "Subject," then typing "United Nations Charter" will produce a list of titles. Two noteworthy secondary sources discussing the U.N. charter are:


IX. Documents of the Founding Conference of the United Nations


This 15 volume set compiles over 5,000 documents of the founding conference and includes a separate index volume. The texts of the draft and final versions of the United Nations Charter and the Statute of the International Court of Justice are reprinted in the set.

X. United Nations Treaty Information

A. Treaty Texts

Texts of Recently Deposited Multilateral Treaties:

http://treaties.un.org/Pages/DB.aspx?path=DB/titles/page1_en.xml&menu=MTDSG

Because of delays in publication, the UNTS is of limited use for locating recently concluded treaties. This site provides the texts of selected multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General that have not yet been published in the UNTS.

This is the official set for texts of multilateral and bilateral agreements on a worldwide basis for the years 1946 forward. Texts are provided in multiple languages. Citations to the set follow standard legal citation format to volume and page (e.g., 679 UNTS 378). "Cumulated Index" volumes are part of the set, but these are not truly cumulative. Each index volume covers 50 volumes of the set (earlier volumes cover 100 volumes). The publication delays for the index are 10 years or more.


Print: SL1: KZ 172 .T74: volumes 1-400; 801-

Microform: LL1: Microfiche: volumes 1-890


The predecessor of the UNTS is the League of Nations Treaty Series (LNTS). This is a collection of treaties and subsequent treaty actions registered with and published by the Secretariat of the League of Nations pursuant to Article 18 of its Covenant and it covers the period 1920-1944. Before 1920, there was no international organization publishing a comparable set.


Print: SL1: KZ170.5 .T74


B. Indexes to UN Treaties

Status of Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary General; Status as at 31 December.... New York: United Nations, 1968-. Annual.

This is an indispensable index for locating multilateral treaties (two or more parties) deposited with the U.N. Citations are provided to the UNTS set, if available. Otherwise, references are to other U.N. documents that contain the text. Texts of the treaties are never reproduced, but the texts of reservations, understandings, and declarations are reprinted. Detailed information about date of entry into force, signatories, and ratifications is also given.
One can further update the information in this source by telephoning the U.N. Treaty Section office in New York City at 212-963-2523 or send email to treaty@un.org

**Online:** [http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ParticipationStatus.aspx](http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ParticipationStatus.aspx)

Hein Online: United Nations Law Collection, Treaty Publications:


Coverage is 1648-1995. This book is an excellent source for locating multilateral treaties around the world. Multilateral treaties are listed chronologically and citations are provided to treaty texts in official and unofficial sources. Information regarding amendments, modifications, extensions and terminations to a treaty is also included.

**Print:** Ready Reference: KZ 118 .W55 1998


Coverage is 1856-1983. This index is useful for locating earlier multilateral treaties. Citations are given to official and unofficial treaty sources. Information about dates, signatories, status, and parties is also provided. Subject and keyword access is provided but is often inadequate. Treaties are listed chronologically, so knowing an approximate date may provide access when other approaches fail. Use the latest cumulative supplement to find new agreements and to update information on earlier agreements listed in the main volume.

**Print:** Ready Reference: KZ 118 .B68 1984 & Suppl.


**Print:** SL1: KZ 171 .U56 1999

**XI. International Court of Justice (ICJ)**

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), sometimes popularly known as the World Court, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. The ICJ has its own publications program separate from the U.N., which means that many of the indexes and finding tools that focus on the U.N. do not include coverage of ICJ materials. ICJ publications are identified by their own unique sales numbers and do not use U.N. document symbols.
The ICJ's first case was submitted in 1947. Prior to that time, for the period 1920 to 1946 the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ), under the sponsorship of the League of Nations, was the predecessor court to the ICJ.

The Court has both advisory and contentious jurisdiction. Under Article 96 of the U.N. Charter the "General Assembly or the Security Council may request the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on any legal question." (Art. 96(1), U.N. Charter) In addition, "other organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies, which may at any time be so authorized by the General Assembly, may also request advisory opinions of the Court on legal questions arising within the scope of their activities." (Art. 96(2), UN Charter).

A. Sources of ICJ Documents:

Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders/Recueil des Arrets, Avis Consultatifs, et Ordonnances. The Hague: International Court of Justice, 1947-

This is the official set of the Court's judgments, advisory opinions, and orders. Issued within a few months of a decision, these documents first appear as paperbound slip opinions. These paperbound versions contain the permanent pagination found in the bound volumes for each year. Indexes are published after a three or four year delay. All material is bilingual, with English and French on facing pages.

Print: SL1: KZ 214 I58

Online: ICJ web site: http://www.icj-cij.org/

The ICJ web site contains information on the establishment and history of the Court, its rules of procedure, and its judgments, advisory opinions, orders, oral pleadings, and written statements.

LEXIS (1947-)

WESTLAW (1947-)

Hein Online: United Nations Law Collection (1947-2009)

http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=unicj&collection=unl

International Law Reports (Justis.com)


Oxford Reports on International Law: International Courts of General Jurisdiction (selected decisions)

http://opil.ouplaw.com/home/oril

Pleadings, Oral Arguments, Documents/Memoires, Plaidoiries et Documents. The Hague: International Court of Justice, 1947-. 

The Pleadings contains the documentation relating to cases decided by the ICJ, including written pleadings, record of oral proceedings, correspondence, and other materials. Documents are either in English or French, depending on the original language. Because of the length and number of documents relating to a case, there may be several volumes of Pleadings for one case. The publication of the Pleadings volumes is slow and irregular. As of this writing, the set is not available in electronic format.
XII. International Arbitration Awards

International arbitration involves the resolution of disputes between states by means of a tribunal appointed by the parties. Individual tribunals vary greatly in origin and structure. Because there has been no systematic collection of decisions made by the various arbitral tribunals, the U.N. has attempted to fill the gap by publishing the set described below.
Reports of International Arbitral Awards. New York: United Nations, 1948-

This set compiles the texts of international arbitral awards, and it includes retrospective coverage back to 1920. Texts are in either English or French, but the headnotes appear in both languages. Most volumes have an index, but there is no cumulative index. The preface of volume I notes other sources for earlier international arbitral awards.

Print: SL1: KZ 203 .R47

Online: Hein Online: United Nations Law Collection (1948-2013)

http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=alpha/R_unl&collection=unl

XIII. United Nations Information on Bloomberg Law, Lexis, and Westlaw

The newspaper and journal databases on LEXIS and WESTLAW provide the full text of articles discussing and analyzing U.N. activities, but as of this writing, neither service provides comprehensive electronic access to U.N. documentation. Westlaw also has UNCITRAL databases that provide model laws from the U.N. Commission on International Trade Law as well as the texts of arbitration and conciliation rules adopted by the U.N. Commission on International Trade Law, as published in *International Legal Materials (ILM)* and the International Economic Law Documents database. The *U.N. Chronicle* is also available in Westlaw for the years 1984-present.

Both services provide the full text of *International Legal Materials (ILM)* (WESTLAW:1980 to date and LEXIS: 1962 to date). *ILM* selectively republishes documents of importance to international law, and such documents frequently include selected U.N. items, particularly Security Council resolutions.

As of this writing, Bloomberg Law does not provide access to UN materials.

XIV. United Nations Information on the Web

The UN website http://www.un.org/ serves as the starting point for many areas of UN research. In addition, many specialized agencies of the UN such as the FAO and the WHO maintain their own websites.
The Directory of United Nations System Organizations ([http://www.unsceb.org/directory](http://www.unsceb.org/directory)) provides a listing of all United Nations Organizations (UNOs), their acronyms and the location of their headquarters. If a particular organization maintains a website, a link is provided. The following is a selective list of UN websites:

- [http://www.un.org/sg/](http://www.un.org/sg/) The Secretary-General’s Official Site
- [http://www.unhcr.org/](http://www.unhcr.org/) UN High Commissioner for Refugees
- [http://www.iilo.org](http://www.iilo.org) International Labour Organization (ILO)
- [http://www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org) UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- [http://www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org) UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- [http://wwwunctad.org](http://wwwunctad.org) UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
In addition, there are also unofficial sites which contain useful information about the UN:

*University of Minnesota, Human Rights Library*
http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/

The Human Rights Library web site contains a substantive body of international human rights research material for the U.N. Charter and Treaty-based human rights organizations as well as links to other sources of human rights documentation.

*Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS)*
http://www.acuns.org/

The ACUNS is an international association of scholars, teachers, and practitioners who are active in the work and study of international organizations. Their website offers access to their newsletter and publications.

*United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA)*
http://www.unausa.org/

The United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan national organization. Their site includes many links to policy documents and updates on U.S. participation in the United Nations.

United States Mission to the United Nations (United States Representative to the United Nations)
http://www.usunnewyork.usmission.gov/

The U.S. Mission’s site provides access to speeches and policy documents concerning U.S. participation in the United Nations.

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XV. Locating UN Materials Using JACOB, The Law Library’s Catalog

JACOB DISCOVER or JACOB CLASSIC provide information about materials found in the Law Library’s collection, providing information such as author, title, publisher, date of publication, latest issue of a journal or supplement received, whether the material is on the shelf or checked out, and its location. A JACOB DISCOVER search will also return references to periodical literature and other sources about the United Nations.

Many materials from and about the United Nations or its various sub-bodies can be identified by using either version at: http://jacob.law.gwu.edu/

A. Author or Subject Search

- Search "United Nations" as an author or subject.
- Search under the specific name of the U.N. sub-body, e.g., "United Nations General Assembly," "United Nations General Assembly Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination," "United Nations Human Rights Committee."

- Given the large number of possible author and subject entries, and the intricacies of the U.N. hierarchy, one reasonable approach is to begin by using the general author or subject entry "United Nations" and then scroll through the lists of more specific entries.
Selected independent U.N. institutions that are sufficiently independent can be searched under their own name. For example: to locate materials by the ICJ, click on “author” and type "International Court of Justice."

B. Keyword Search

Keyword searching provides great flexibility in searching when trying to locate a document and only a few words of a title are known.

Connectors ("and", "or" or “and not”) can be used to combine words.

Words separated by a space are searched as a phrase (united nations).

"*" symbol is used at the end of a word to retrieve variable endings. (Treat* will retrieve treaty or treaties)

Example: united nations and treat* will retrieve books, reports and other documents that contain these words in the title, author, subject and note fields of a bibliographic record.

Due to the multilingual nature of U.N. publications, titles whose brief form appears in a language other than English may in fact have an English language title included.

(Example: Recueil des Arrets/Reports of Judgments: A keyword search in JACOB using words in either language would retrieve the title.)

Clicking on the “Advanced Search” link provides greater flexibility in limiting searches to particular fields (ie., author, title, subject, note) or limiting to particular types of materials (ie., journal, book microform, etc.)

XVI. Legal and Non-Legal Periodical Indexes and Full Text Databases

Citations to and/or full text articles discussing the U.N. and its various institutions and activities can be found through the following databases:

Current Index to Legal Periodicals (CILP)

Published by the Marian Gould Gallagher Law Library, University of Washington Law School, this publication indexes articles under broad topics ("International Law," "Constitutional Law," "Administrative Law," etc.) from over 300 legal publications. The index is published weekly.

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/cilp

WESTLAW: (most recent 8 weeks)

LegalTrac (1980-)

http://www.law.gwu.edu/Library/Research > Database Subscriptions

LEXIS

WESTLAW
Index to Legal Periodicals & Books (ILP) (1981-) & Index to Legal Periodicals Retrospective (1918-1981)

ILP provides indexing to articles appearing in over 500 law reviews, journals, yearbooks and government publications.

http://www.law.gwu.edu/Library/Research > Database Subscriptions

LEXIS (1978-)

WESTLAW: (August 1981-)

Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals (1985-)

HeinOnline: http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?collection=iflp&set_as_cursor=clear

Hein Online (Volume 1 to date for many journals)

Provides access to over 200 full text law reviews and journals. Most notably, it provides access to the full run of the American Journal of International Law and International Legal Materials.


ALADIN Research Portal: http://www.gelman.gwu.edu/

Provides access to bibliographic and full text databases on a variety of topics. To access international databases from Gelman Library’s homepage:

● Select “Subject Databases” under search bar in middle of the home page > Select “International Relations” under the “Global Affairs” heading on the “Databases by Subject Area and A-Z” page.

XVII. Recommended Reading

A. International Organizations and the United Nations Generally


**B. Reform and the Future of the United Nations:**


### C. The United Nations and Human Rights


**D. Peacekeeping and Collective Security:**


