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William & Mary Law Library
I. General Reference

The library's general reference materials for international and foreign law are pretty extensive. To name a few, the library holds Encyclopedias (e.g., Modern Legal Systems Cyclopedia, and Encyclopedia of Public and International Law); Digests (e.g., European Current Law: Monthly Digest, and Martindale-Hubbell International Law Digest); Dictionaries (e.g., The International Law Dictionary, and Dictionary of International and Comparative Law); Yearbooks (e.g., The Europa World Year Book, and Yearbook of the United Nations); Indexes (e.g., World Treaty Index, and Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals); Directories (e.g., Martindale-Hubbell International Law Directory, and International Organizations: A Dictionary and Directory); and Handbooks and guides (e.g., Germain's Transnational Legal Research, and Guide to International Legal Research). These reference sources will be helpful for various research purposes.

II. Jurisdictional Materials

In addition to the reference collection, the library possesses a significant collection of materials for certain jurisdictions. The following description is a brief account of what is available regarding specific countries.

(a) United States: There is a wide range of information and materials on international practice of the U.S. government. For treaty sources, the library has a number of treaty series, in hardcopy or microform, which contain the international obligations of the U.S. For example, the library holds United States Treaties and Other International Agreements...
IV. Ten Sources You Should Know

There are a small number of sources which I use often and would recommend to you. These are just to get you started, and you surely will develop your own list of most favorite sources later on.

(1) International Legal Materials. This bimonthly journal reprints the text of international treaties and conventions, court decisions, United Nations documents, and much more. A wonderful source of information for international and foreign law research, particularly for those hard-to-find materials. Available on LEXIS.

(2) Multilateral Treaties: Index and Current Status. A list of major multilateral treaties and agreements with indication of their initial date of entry, names of parties, current status, and bibliographic citation.

(3) Treaties in Force: A List of Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States in Force as of January 1, 199 - . A master index to U.S. treaties and agreements effective as of January 1 of any particular year. Especially valuable for checking the status of treaties and agreements to which the U.S. is a party.

(4) CCH's Congressional Index. An index to congressional activities including those concerning U.S. treaties and foreign nominations. Particularly useful for tracking treaties pending before Congress.

(5) Dictionary of International & Comparative Law. Explains legal terms frequently used in international and comparative studies. Also provides citations to many international treaties, agreements, and cases included in the publication.
(6) **Martindale-Hubbell International Law Digest.** Provides a digest of the legal system of about seventy countries in the world, with information broken down by subject. A good source for a brief introduction to a foreign legal system in a hurry. *(REF/KF190.M321995)*

(7) **LEXIS/NEXIS.** There is a tremendous amount of international and foreign law information, both primary and secondary authority, on LEXIS/NEXIS. In particular, the International Law Library (INTLAW) is a gold mine of information and materials. Check the LEXIS-NEXIS Directory of Online Services for specific databases available.

(8) **WESTLAW.** A lot of information, including primary and secondary authority, is available from WESTLAW. What is special about WESTLAW is that it has the database which contains all decisions by the International Court of Justice since the Court’s inception. Look at the WESTLAW Database List for particular databases of interest.

(9) **Internet.** More and more international and foreign law information (both primary and secondary materials) is available on the Internet. Internet web pages are particularly helpful because they often are the only place where you can find the hard-to-track or most up-to-date information. A favorite site of mine is The Electronic Embassy (it’s address is http://www.embassy.org). This site offers detailed information and contacts for all foreign embassies in Washington, DC, and provides Internet links to other places where information associated with a given country can be found. To access information on the Internet, you can use Netscape, a web browser software, available from the CD-Rom network stations in the Reference Room.

(10) **Your Librarians.** Remember that the librarians are your best resource for international and foreign law information, as well as for any other information, and that you should always ask them for assistance if necessary.

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**REFERENCE RESOURCE REVIEW**

The Oxford Dictionary of American Legal Quotations, by Fred R. Shapiro

*REF/KF159.S53 1993*

Despite the thousands of dull and poorly written decisions from the courts of the United States, American law does contain some colorful prose and witty rhetoric. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Benjamin Cardozo, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, and John Marshall are among the most quoted citizens who shaped American legal history.

The Oxford Dictionary of American Legal Quotations is a comprehensive volume containing over 3500 quotations. The editor defines an "American legal quotation" as a quotation by Americans about law or by a foreigner about American law. Sources of quotations are judicial opinions, legal treatises, law review articles, arguments before courts, constitutions, statutes, legislative materials, ethics rules, presidential documents, and speeches. Nonlegal sources range from fiction to folklore to film.

All quotations were verified from their original source or if necessary, from a reliable secondary source. Precise citations in legal citation form follow each quotation. This feature (not found in most quotation books) adds to the research value of this collection of quotations. The volume is organized alphabetically by topic from "Abortion" to "Yale Law School." An author index, a keyword index and cross references provide additional access to the quotations.

Representative examples under the heading "Words" include:

A word is not a crystal, transparent and unchanged, it is the skin of a living thought and may vary greatly in color and content according to the circumstances and the time in which it is used. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., *Towne v. Eisner*, 245 U.S. 418, 425 (1918).
Weasel words will not avail to defeat the triumph of intention when once the words are read in the setting of the whole transaction. Benjamin N. Cardozo, Holyoke Water Power Co. v. American Writing Paper Co., 300 U.S. 324, 336 (1937).

Words are chameleons, which reflect the color of their environment. Learned Hand, Commissioner v. National Carbide Corp., 167 F.2d 304, 306 (2d Cir. 1948).

So if you want to add some color to your paper or brief, consult American Legal Quotations. A well-chosen quotation may help ensure that your writing will not be described as "one of those rare creatures, like the rat and the cockroach, that would attract little sympathy even as an endangered species." Richard Hyland, "A Defense of Legal Writing," 134 University of Pennsylvania Law Review 599, 600 (1986).

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