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Book Review of Comparative Statutory Sources: U.S., Canadian, Multinational

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This third edition was prepared, in the author’s words, “to sort out the growing number of publications that provide continuing comparisons of the statutes of multiple jurisdictions” (preface). Researchers wishing to compare the statutory laws of several states will find this annotated directory helpful in expediting their research.

The third edition is a significant expansion over the second edition, published in 1978. The number of sources indexed, over one hundred, has more than doubled. Similarly, the four hundred subject headings and seven hundred entries are approximately double those of the second edition. Furthermore, this edition indexes selected materials that compare Canadian provincial legislation, and a number of sources comparing the laws of different nations.

The work is not comprehensive. Only publications revised or supplemented at least annually are indexed. Materials updated less frequently, monographs, and periodical articles comparing the laws of different jurisdictions, by design, have not been indexed.

The author’s helpful “Introduction: How to Use This Book” provides insight and guidance into multijurisdictional statutory research. Schultz generously refers to other helpful materials that may assist the researcher. (He surprisingly fails to mention Eis’s Legal Looseleafs in Print [see ARBA 84, entry 484].) He also has included in this new edition a brief introduction using the Lexis and Westlaw legal databases to conduct comparative statutory research.

Notwithstanding occasional editing errors, the third edition of Comparative Statutory Sources should prove to be even more valuable than its predecessors. This book is recommended for most law libraries.