How to… use Westlaw International

Why use Westlaw International?
Westlaw International is a collection of databases that you can use to find case law and legislation from other countries. It also includes key journals such as the Harvard Law Review and Sydney Law Review. It is a US database and includes legal information for the United States, Australia, Canada, Korea and Hong Kong. You can also find EU information such as cases heard in the European Court of Justice or General Court (Court of First Instance).

Accessing Westlaw International.
Go to the A-Z list of databases and click on the link to Westlaw International. If you are off campus, you will have to log in to Westlaw UK, click on the Services tab at the top of the screen, and select International Materials.

Westlaw International can be difficult to navigate. To find sources from other countries, click on the link for the country you require. For US material, click on the Thomson Reuters Westlaw link. You should also keep an eye on the breadcrumb trail which is useful when you want to go back a step.

Searching across all International Materials
If you access the database from any library link, it will open at the International Materials page. This includes information on Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, and Korea plus the EU. If you know the citation of a case or journal article, just use the main search box and enter the citation. For example, to find Halpen v Toronto (City), 225 D.L.R. (4th) 529, type in 225 dir (4th) 529. You can also search across all content from here. This will bring back a lot of results so it is advisable only to use it when you have a very specific search planned. Use connectors (AND, OR, NOT) to connect your keywords, or click on the Advanced search for a more structured search. However, it is advisable to decide which jurisdiction you wish to search in, and follow the instructions below.

Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, and Korea
Clicking on the country that you are researching, and then choose the type of information you need, usually cases, legislation, or journals. The search box at the top of the screen will default to the database that you are within - you will notice that the text within the search box will change depending on your selection. In the example below, you will limit your search to Australian Cases.

Enter your search terms in the box. The amount of results will show in the left hand column, and the actual results will display in the main screen. To make your results more specific, use quotation marks around phrases such as “Medical Negligence”, use AND between keywords, use technical or legal terms, or restrict by date. It is also advisable to use the Advanced search which allows you to search within fields such as citation, title, and also exclude terms. You can also set the frequency that your terms appear in an article.

KEY TIP: To find cases, it is suggested that you search for encyclopedia on your topic and use the cases discussed in the article. For Canada, this is the Canadian Encyclopedic Digest which is in the Canadian Treatise section. Find your topic, or search in the box.

http://bradfordcollege.ac.uk/library
United States
To find material from the US, click on the Westlaw logo. There is a search box at the top of the screen which you can use to run searches using citation, party names, or keywords. This is probably only worth using if you have a very focused search, for example for a particular case or law (eg “Stand your Ground”). You can narrow your results by clicking on one of the options in the left hand column (eg Secondary Sources). To find results from a particular type of publication, such as American Jurisprudence, scroll down the left hand column, select the publication type or publication name, and scroll down to click on the Apply Filters button.

You can also browse materials by clicking on the options below the search box. You can also browse materials at the Federal or State level.

Journals
Click on Secondary Sources and then in the Narrow Publications By column, click on Law Reviews & Journals. Then click on the Apply Filters button. You can further narrow down to a particular journal such as Harvard Law Review, by clicking on the Select a Publication Name link, finding your journal, clicking on Continue and then Apply Filter. You can also just search the full collection - type your terms in the search box to view your results.

Encyclopedia
For US, the main reference guide is called American Law Reports which can be found in the Secondary Sources section, and then listed under Publication Type. Click in the box and click on Apply Filters. You can then browse to find your topic, or enter your search terms in the search box. For a more basic encyclopedia, click on Jurisprudence & Encyclopedias and scroll up to Apply Filters. Then select American Jurisprudence 2d. Again you can browse your topic or search.

Cases
To find cases, click on Cases and enter your search terms which can be the party names, citation, or a topic. It is best to click on Advanced Search in order to narrow your search – you can then enter the citation, party names or topics. You may need to experiment to find the correct terms, for example, medical negligence may also be called "medical malpractice". You can also browse by court, circuit or state.

Print, Email
The usual options of printing, emailing and downloading are in the dropdown list in the top right of the results screen. For any questions on using WestlawNext, please feel free to get in touch.
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