LexisLibrary is a database providing access to legal information such as law reports, journal articles, UK legislation, personal injury quantum reports and practitioner texts for some subjects. Key sources for family law include Family Law Reports (FLR), Family Law Journal, Child and Family Law Quarterly, International Family Law Journal and Family Court Practice (Red Book). LexisLibrary is updated throughout the day ensuring that the latest legal information is available. Access via the Library’s Electronic Resources page, which can be found on Moodle Library Links or at the bottom of the Bradford College webpage.

Using Family Law Practice Area

The Family Law practice area includes journals, case reports practitioner texts that will be very useful for your course. To access these, click on the Practice Areas drop down list and select Family.

You will see a list of publications in the My Bookshelf section. Key titles to look at are:

Family Court Practice Book

This gives short, easy to understand introductions to the main statutes such as the Children Act 1989 and the Civil Partnership Act 2004. At the beginning of the act is a summary of the act with reference to related legislation and links to key cases. Key issues are identified, and there is also commentary on some of the important sections. It is good to use if you want a simple explanation and background of a statute. You can also find procedural guides which give practical advice on how to interpret the rules which govern procedure in court, and the legal background to the rules. The Practice book also includes the latest case law on a topic.

Practitioner Texts on a topic.

Our subscription also allows us to access key commentaries on topics such as Civil Partnerships, Domestic Abuse, Cohabitation and Mediation, providing guides to legislation and case law; giving context to the law by discussing parliamentary debates; highlighting areas of difficulty, and giving guidance on procedure. These will be of particular interest to anyone looking at court procedure, or for further research for longer assignments or dissertations.
Finding Cases on Family Law

LexisLibrary provides access to *The Law Reports: Family* which reports on appeals to the Court of Appeal and European Court of justice from the Family Division of the High Court. It also includes the *Family Law Reports* which contain verbatim reports of every important Family Division, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and European court case, and also includes practice directions, covering the whole range of family law, public and private child law.

To find cases, go to the Cases tab in the bar at the top of the screen. This takes you to the Cases search form with different options to search by party names, citation, keywords, court etc., or a combination of these.

You will sometimes find that a case is listed more than once. This is usually where it has been reported in different case report series (listed under the Source heading) and the most authoritative report is listed first.

When you look at the results you can see the date of judgement and the court, which is another way of checking that you have the correct case.

When you click on a result, you will see this screen with the full-text of the case.

Once you click on a case, you can view a PDF of how appeared in the original print volume. This provides the lettered paragraphs which you can use to cite quotations e.g. [2015] Ch 271 at p 275 para d.

The “Find out more” section gives links to related cases, journals and commentary. This is a really good way of finding discussions and explanations of your case.

The decision of the court is clearly highlighted in the ‘held’ boxes after the initial summary of the case.
Finding Journals on Family Law

The home page of LexisLibrary includes a main search box near the top of the screen which you can use to find journal articles. However, for a more guided search, we recommend that you click on the Journals tab along the top menu.

Click here to get the full Journals search screen.

Enter your search terms – use ‘and’ between words. Use quote marks if you are searching for a phrase such as “no-fault divorce”.

You can also use w/s or w/p to search for your terms in the same sentence or paragraph, eg neglect w/p child.

Your search results will be ordered by Relevance. You can see the title of the journal article in blue, and the title of the journal under ‘Source Name’. You can also see the date of publication.

Change the “Sort by” if you would prefer to sort results by publication (source) or date

Use ‘Search within results’ to add more terms to your search.

To edit your search, click on the pencil icon in the top right of the screen to return to your original search

You will see that each journal article is listed with the article title in blue, and then citation details. The journal title is listed in the Source name column, and the publication date is also given.

Click on the journal title to view the article. You will see that your search terms are highlighted, and you can use the arrows at the bottom of the article to jump through to the next term. If an article includes an abstract, this can be a useful way of quickly seeing if the article is relevant.

Saving your results

You will see the following icons at the top of each journal article.

You can add to folders, but this will only save your article for one month. You can also print, download, email your results. You can also set up alerts on your search so that any new articles that match your search terms will be emailed to you. For more information, see the Current Awareness tab on the law library information page library.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/lawhe, ask at the Library Information Desk or email askalibrarian@bradfordcollege.ac.uk