

GUIDE SERIES 6 – INTERNATIONAL LAW



Guide #6C – FOREIGN LAW & LEGAL SYSTEMS

There are several terms used to describe the study of law beyond the borders of the United States:

- **Comparative Law:** The comparison of the different legal systems of the world.
- **Foreign Law:** The laws of other nations.
- **International Law:** Laws governing nations or international organizations – such as the United Nations – in their relationships with each other.
- **Private International Law:** the body of conventions, model laws, legal guides, and other documents and instruments that regulate private relationships across national borders.

This guide provides tips for finding information on **foreign law and legal systems**. Our library does not collect the codes of other nations, but we have a number of resources which will direct the student in finding foreign codes. Often the best source for foreign law is on the Internet. International legal resources are quite extensive and their research is complicated; this guide is intended to get you started rather than provide exhaustive sources.

OVERVIEWS OF LAWS

Maddex, Robert L. *Constitutions of the World*. Washington DC: Congressional Quarterly. (Stacks, K3157.E5 M33 1995.)

Reynolds & Flores. *Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World*. (Open Reserve, K38 .R49 1989. Last updated October 2005.) Provides both a history and current overview of the law of each nation, as well as a bibliography of primary sources.

MAJOR INTERNET SITES

Comparative and Foreign Law Guide from LLRX at <http://www.llrx.com/category/1050>

Foreign and International Law from WashLaw Web at <http://www.washlaw.edu/forint/index.html>

Foreign Government Resources on the Web from University of Michigan at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/government-documents-center/explore>

Government Gazettes Online at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/government-documents-center/explore>. A gazette is a common form of publication of laws and legal matters in foreign countries.

Hieros Gamos lists laws of nations by country at <http://www.hg.org/1table.html>.

THE AMERICAS

See the Canadian Legal Institute at <http://www.canlii.org/>. This web site provides links to statutes, regulations and case law from all the provinces.

Law Library of Congress Guide to the laws of Mexico at <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/nations/mexico.php>.

Gall, Gerald L. *The Canadian legal system*. Scarborough, Ont: Carswell, c2004. (Stacks, KE444 .G34 2004)

Zamora, Stephen, et al. *Mexican law*. Oxford ; New York : Oxford University Press, c2004. (Open Reserve, KGF327 .Z36 2004)

ASIA

Asia-Pacific legal development. Edited by Douglas M. Johnston and Gerry Ferguson. Vancouver, B.C. : UBC Press, c1998. (Stacks, KNC79 .A835 1998)

Chinese law / editors, Wang Guiguo and John Mo. Cambridge, MA : Kluwer Law International, c1999. (Stacks, KNQ68 .C43 1999)

Chow, Daniel C.K. *The Legal System of the People's Republic of China in a Nutshell*. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 2003. (Open Reserve, KNQ 68 .C46 2003)

Dean, Meryll. *Japanese legal system*. London: Cavendish, 2002. (Stacks, KNX68 .D42 2002)

Lee, Tahirih V. *Basic concepts of Chinese law / edited with introductions*. NY: Garland Pub., 1997. (Stacks, KNN122 .B37 1997)

Luo, Wei. *Chinese Law and Legal Research*. Buffalo, NY: WS Hein & Co., Inc. 2005. (Stacks, KNO47 .L86 2005)

EUROPEAN UNION

The EU official site: <http://europa.eu/>

Please see the Law Library's list of Internet links to the EU at www.ggu.edu/lawlibrary/virtual/intlegal/eu

Folsom, Ralph H. *European Union Law in a Nutshell, 5th ed.* St. Paul, MN: Thomson/West, 2005. (Open Reserve, KJE 949 .F55 2005)

Kapteyan, P.J.G. & P. VerLoren van Themaat. *Introduction to the law of the European communities: from Maastricht to Amsterdam*. London; Boston: Kluwer Law International, 1998. (Stacks, KJE947 .K3613x 1998)

Mathijssen, P.S.R.F. *A guide to European Union law*. London: Sweet & Maxwell, 2004. (Stacks, KJE947 .M38 2004)

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<http://www.ggu.edu/lawlibrary>