There are three major legal indexes that the law library subscribes to: the Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals or IFLP, the Index to Legal Periodicals, and the ILP and ILP Retrospective.

Although some resources may be available through these indexes in a full text version, the primary function of these indexes is to help you locate citations for resources that might be useful in your research.

Depending on your research topic, one of these indexes may be more useful than the others because of the type of documents and time periods covered is different for each of these indexes.

The Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals includes resources on foreign law, including comparative law and legal systems.

The publications in the IFLP index are not limited by country of publication but by type of publication, so periodicals published in the UK and the US will be included so long as they address foreign law, rather than British or American law.

The types of documents included in this index are: journal articles, congress reports, essay collections, yearbooks, and book reviews. And the index covers from 1985 to the present.
The Index to Legal Periodicals covers legal journals, yearbooks, institutes, bar association organs, law reviews, cites to book reviews and government publications originating in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand. This index covers all areas of law, with publications from 1981 to the present.

Finally, the ILP and ILP Retrospective index actually includes two databases, Legal Periodicals and Books, and Legal Periodicals Retro.

The index of Legal Periodicals and Books includes resources from 1982 until the present.

The Legal Periodical Retro index covers resources from 1908 until 1981.

It indexes legal periodicals including annual surveys of the laws of a jurisdiction, annual surveys of the federal courts, yearbooks, annual institutes, and annual reviews published in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. The Legal Periodical Retro index covers the same topics as the index of legal periodicals and books.

Each of these indexes works the same in that they allow you to search based on a variety of options to find citations to legal resources that will be helpful in your research. However, each index is set up for searching slightly differently. If IFLP is the best index for your research, you can access it from the law library homepage.

First, go to the law library’s homepage and click the link in the E-resources box to IFLP. This link will take you to the IFLP search homepage.

In IFLP you can search using the basic search, advanced search, using the index, by citation. The basic search will search for a word, words
or phrase in the area of the record you indicate via the drop down menu. You can select from: anywhere, subject, title, or author.

There are also useful search examples at the bottom of the page that help you search more accurately.

The advanced search provides more search boxes, which you can use to search for different terms in different areas of the record. The advanced search also allows you to search in more areas, including the browsable author index, citation, collection name, descriptors, ISBN, ISSN, journal name, reviewer, sources and special collections.

The index search allows you to search the index for a term, which you can use to find resources that include your term.
The citation search allows you to search for a citation using one or more of the following criteria: article title, authors last name, initial, publication year, journal name or the ISSN.

Regardless of the search method you use, the results appear at the bottom of the screen. IFLP provides a direct link to a search for each record on article linker.

This allows you to easily locate any electronic or hard copy holdings the library has of that article.

If the Index of Legal Periodicals best suits your research, you can also access it from the Law Library Homepage. To access the Index of Legal Periodicals, click the link in the E-Resources box from the law library’s homepage.
The default of this search is a keyword search, and you can use multiple search terms with the and or and not connectors.

You can also limit your search to a certain publication years, document type, language, and only full text articles.

In the results, if a full text version of the document is available, a small full text icon will appear by the title with a link to the full text in either HTML or PDF format.

Finally, if your research is best suited to the ILP and ILP retrospective index, you can also access it from the law library website. To access the ILP and ILP Retrospective index, click the link in the E-Resources box on the law library’s homepage.
To conduct a search here, you must first select one or both of the index databases. Using this search you can search for a word or phrase in each text box, using the and or, or not connectors.

You can search for each word of phrase in a particular area of the record, which you can select from the dropdown menu next to “as.” The most thorough option is the All-Smart Search, which will search all areas of the record with all forms of your search, so when conducting a smart search there is no need to use truncation symbols or other special characters.

Here you can limit your search by dates, document type, physical description, and peer reviewed or non-peer reviewed resources.

Like IFLP, the ILP and ILP Retrospective results will put a link under each record to the to a search for that record on article linker.

so you can easily find a full text version of that article if the Law Library has access to it.