



University of Michigan
Law Library

Finding British Statutes, Bills, and Statutory Instruments

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
LAW LIBRARY**

Reference Department
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STATUTES

HOW TO INTERPRET BRITISH STATUTE CITATIONS

Full British statute citations before 1963 consist of the statute's name (which may include a year), regnal year, chapter, and section. Later statutes omit the regnal year.

Example: Union with Scotland Act, 1706, 6 Anne, c. 11, section 3 (Eng.)

Example: Petroleum Act, 1998, c. 17, section 12 (Eng.)

How to interpret the regnal year:

Regnal years include the session of Parliament covered by the nth year of the monarch's reign, an abbreviation of the monarch's name, and the numerical designation of the monarch in arabic numerals.

Example: "2 Hen. 8" indicates the second year of the reign of Henry VIII.

For a list correlating abbreviations with monarchs' names, see Table T.2 in the *Bluebook*, under "United Kingdom – Statutes."

Note that not all monarchs' names are abbreviated. When a monarch is the first or only monarch to hold a name, there is no numerical designation of the monarch in arabic numerals.

Example: "3 Anne" indicates the third year of the reign of Queen Anne, who is the only Queen Anne to date.

How to calculate the regnal year

The regnal year runs from the date of the monarch's accession and indicates the session of Parliament held during the nth year of the monarch's reign. Pages 328-329 of *Effective Legal Research (Ref Desk)* show the exact dates of monarchs' reigns.

Because Parliamentary sessions (which are often held from November to July) can cover more than one regnal year, you may see a statute that has two regnal years in its citation.

Example: An Act Against Such Persons as Do Make Bankrupts, 34 & 35 Hen. 8, c. 4 (Eng.)

This also means that it may be impossible ascertain from the statute citation alone in which of the two calendar years spanned by the session of Parliament a piece of legislation was passed.

FINDING BRITISH STATUTES IN THE LAW LIBRARY

– SESSION LAWS (Laws arranged by the chronological order in which they were passed)

There are many sources for British session laws, and several of these sources overlap. If you do not find the statute you seek in one source, try the other sources covering the same time period. Also, bear in mind that the "1215" in the coverage dates of some statutory collections may refer to the Magna Charta only. There is sometimes a gap between 1215 and about 1229-1235ish, where the statutes have not been generally recorded.

- ◆ *The Statutes at Large from the Magna Charta, to the End of the Eleventh Parliament of Great Britain (Gt_Brit Stat)* covers 1215 to 1806.

The “call number” part of the MLaw Catalog record shows which volumes cover which regnal years. Monarchs with short reigns won’t necessarily be listed if their reign falls entirely within one volume. A list of the order in which the monarchs reigned is on pp. 328-29 of *Effective Legal Research*. **(Ref Desk)** Use this list to help you figure out who the surrounding monarchs were and choose the correct volume. Note that laws from a few monarchs’ reigns are missing altogether.

Each year’s volume of the *Statutes at Large from the Magna Charta...* contains a chronological index of the laws passed in that year in the front and a subject index to the laws in the back.

- ◆ *The Statutes of the Realm (FOLIO Gt_Brit Stat)* covers 1235 to 1713.

The “contents” section of the MLaw Catalog record (type “m” for “more record”) shows which volumes cover which years. A list of when each monarch reigned is available on pp. 328-29 of *Effective Legal Research*. **(Ref Desk)** There is a subject index in the back of each volume.

- ◆ *The Statutes of Practical Utility (Gt_Brit Stat)* covers 1235 to 1907.

The spine title for this set is *Chitty’s English Statutes*. These statutes are arranged in alphabetical order by title. There is a general subject index to the set in volume 13, which covers the set up to 1894. Volume 13 also contains a popular name index. Volume 14 covers the years 1895-1901, and has its own index in the back of the volume. Volume 15 covers the years 1902-1907 and has its own index in the back of the volume.

- ◆ *The Statutes, from the Twentieth Year of King Henry the Third... (Gt_Brit Stat)* covers 1235 to 1948.

The spine title for this set is *The Statutes Revised, 3rd Ed*. This set is an **abridged** collection of statutes, and is based on the earlier *Statutes of the Realm*. There is a subject index in the back of each volume.

- ◆ *The Statutes of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (Gt_Brit Stat)* covers 1807 to 1868/1869.

The spine title for this set is *Statutes at Large*—the same spine title as the set it continues. The “call number” part of the MLaw Catalog record lists which volumes contain which regnal years. A list of the order in which the monarchs reigned is available on pp. 328-29 of *Effective Legal Research*. **(Ref Desk)** There is a subject index in the back of each volume.

- ◆ *The Public General Acts and General Synod Measures (Gt_Brit Stat)* covers 1866 to the present.

The spine title for most of this set is *Law Reports: Statutes*. It is shelved next to the *Statutes at Large* set. There is a detailed subject index in the front or back of each volume, depending on the year.

- ◆ *Current Law Statutes Annotated (Gt_Brit Stat)*, covers 1968 to the present.

There is a subject index in the back of the last volume for each year. Starting in 1992, there is also an alphabetical table of statutes from 1700-on in the last volume for each year.

- ◆ *Statutes in Force* microfiche set (**Micro-10 S158**), covers 1982-present.

This publication arranges the laws in subject order in groups and subgroups. Our fiche set reflects this ordering, so each group number has its own manila index card separating it from the other groups. To discover in which group your law might appear, go to the fiche that follow the manila index card marked “supplementary” at the end of the entire fiche set. There will be several fiche there whose headers explain that they contain lists of the groups and subgroups under which the laws are categorized. Then go to the part of the fiche set covering your group and subgroup, as marked on the manila index dividers and on the fiche headers. In order to update a law using this set, go back to the manila index card marked “supplementary.” Look for the fiche that say “cumulative supplements” on their headers. The fiche do NOT indicate which groups/subgroups they update on the headers. You will have to hunt around a little to find the correct fiche, but it should not be too difficult to find the correct update fiche, because they are filed in alphabetical order by group name.

SOURCES OF BRITISH STATUTES IN THE LAW LIBRARY **– CODIFICATIONS (Compilations of laws arranged by subject)**

Halsbury's Statutes of England (Gt_Brit Stat) covers **1929 to the present**. The library owns four editions of this set, catalogued variously in the MLaw Catalog:

- ◆ *The Complete Statutes of England, Classified and Annotated...* covers 1929-1948 (1st edition)
- ◆ *Halsbury's Statutes of England* covers 1948-1968 (2nd edition)
- ◆ *Halsbury's Statutes of England* covers 1968-1985 (3rd edition)
- ◆ *Halsbury's Statutes of England and Wales* covers 1985-present (4th edition)

FINDING BRITISH STATUTES ON MICROFILM AND MICROFICHE AT THE GRADUATE LIBRARY

The Graduate Library’s serials/microforms room has film/fiche copies of old books of session laws (statutes arranged in chronological order) and of abridgements of statutes (statutes arranged in subject order.) The Graduate Library owns four main sets that include British statutes on microfilm and microfiche. The Law Library is currently compiling a list of the British statute collections included in these sets. Until that list is complete, the microfilm and microfiche sets listed below can be searched thus:

- ◆ *Early English Books, 1475-1640, Selected from Pollard and Redgrave’s Short-Title Catalogue*
(FILM X3203)

This is the microfilm set that includes the largest number of early English statute collections. There are several ways to search the set.

First, a MIRLYN search for keywords “British” and “statute” will turn up many records that belong to this set (or you can simply do a title search if you know the title of the statute collection). The MIRLYN records will provide you with the reel number and the position on the reel of the item you seek.

Second, this set is browsable in web-based MIRLYN by call number: Go to web-based MIRLYN. Check the box for “other call number.” Enter a search in the form “Film x3203.” You will then be able to see a list of what is on each reel of the set and can browse titles until you find one that you want. This method can be quite time-consuming, however, as there are many non-statute entries in this set.

Third, if you know the title of the statute collection you seek, you can look in the indexes to the microfilm set at the Graduate Library’s serials/microforms room. If you know the title of the work you seek, you will first need to go to the serials/microforms room and look up the Short-Title Catalogue (STC) number

from *A Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland & Ireland and of English Books Printed Abroad 1475-1640* (Call no. **Z 2002 .P77** being changed to **Film X3203**; index now shelved at the beginning of microfilm set). Look under the heading “England,” the subheading “statutes,” and one of the sub-subheadings “general collections,” “collections on special subjects,” or “chronological series.” Once you have found the STC number, find the *Cross-Index to Reels 1-1979* (Call no. **Z 2002 .U595** being changed to **Film X3203**; index now shelved at beginning of microfilm set.) Look up the STC number. The cross index will give you the reel of microfilm on which your item is stored, but not its position on the reel.

◆ *Early English Books, 1641-1700* (**FILM X440**)

This set includes several statute collections published between 1641 and 1700. There are several ways to search this set:

First, a MIRLYN search for keywords “British” and “statute” will turn up many records, some of which will belong to this set (or you can simply do a title search if you know the title of the statute collection you seek). The MIRLYN records will provide you with the reel number and the position on the reel of the item you seek.

Second, this set is browsable in web-based MIRLYN by call number: Go to web-based MIRLYN. Check the box for “other call number.” Enter a search in the form “Film x440.” You will then be able to see a list of what is at each position on each reel of the set and can browse titles until you find one that you want. This method is rather time-consuming, however, as there are many, many non-statute entries in this set.

Third, you can search part of this set by using the indexes available for it in the serials/microforms room at the Graduate Library. The early part of this set is searchable by the three cumulative indexes (author, title, and subject) entitled *Accessing Early English Books, 1641-1700: A Cumulative Index to Units 1-32 of the Microfilm Collection* (Call no. **Z 2002 .U63** being changed to **Film X440**; index now shelved with microfilm set). Unfortunately, later parts of this set appear to be still un-indexed. Non-cumulative soft-bound pamphlets list the contents of later reels, in the order they were filmed, but do not index the contents.

◆ *The Eighteenth Century* (**FILM X1493**)

This set contains many British statute collections published between 1701 and 1800. There are several ways to search this set.

First, a MIRLYN search for keywords “British” and “statute” will turn up many records, some of which will belong to this set (or you can simply do a title search if you know the title of the statute collection). The MIRLYN records will provide you with the reel number and the position on the reel of the item you seek.

Second, this set is browsable in web-based MIRLYN by call number: Go to web-based MIRLYN. Check the box for “other call number.” Enter a search in the form “Film x1493.” You will then be able to see a list of what is at each position on each reel of the set and can browse titles until you find one that you want. This method can be quite time-consuming, however, as there are many non-statute entries in this set.

Third, consult *The Eighteenth Century: Title Listing* (Call no. **Z2002 .E34** being changed to **Film X1493**; index now shelved by microfilm set) in the Graduate Library’s Serials/Microforms room. Unfortunately,

this set is not cumulative and is thus rather time-consuming to search. Each volume of the set indexes a discrete part of the set – “units” of the set that were filmed at the same time. Each volume contains a “main-entry” index that lists contents by author and/or title, a separate title index, and a subject index. Most volumes of the set cover legal materials, but some do not. As a quick check, look at the subdivisions of the subject index listed in the table of contents – if “law” is listed, then that volume covers legal materials.

◆ *Early American Imprints (MICRO-F 2112)*

This microfiche set contains a few American printings of individual British laws. There are several ways to search for materials in this set:

First you can do a title or keyword search on MIRLYN. The MIRLYN records will provide you with the microfiche set call number and the item number. The set is stored in order by item number.

Second, this set is browsable in web-based MIRLYN by call number: Go to web-based MIRLYN. Check the box for “other call number.” Enter a search in the form “MICRO-F 2112.” You will then be able to see a list of what is located at each item number in the set and can browse titles until you find one that you want. This method can be time-consuming, however, as there are very few British laws in this set.

Third, consult *The National Index of American Imprints Through 1800 (Z 1215 .S56*, shelved with fiche). This is not a subject index; look under “Gt. Brit. Laws, Statutes, etc.” to get the item # for an individual act.

Sources of British Statutes on Campus

Note: This table includes only British statutes printed in English. Statutes printed in Law French or in Latin are not included; neither are collections on microfiche/microfilm. Note also that this is not an exhaustive table. Other British statute collections on campus are listed separately in the handout entitled “Source List for British Statutes on the University of Michigan Campus.”

Years Covered	Name of Source	Library	Call Number	Format
1215 to 1806	<i>The Statutes at Large from the Magna Charta, to the End of the Eleventh Parliament of Great Britain</i>	Law	Gt_Brit Stat	Paper
Magna Charta, then 1229 to 1882	<i>The Statutes at Large</i>	Buhr	350.942 G79	Paper
1235 to 1713	<i>The Statutes of the Realm</i>	Law	Gt_Brit Stat	Paper
1509/10 to 1713	<i>The Statutes of the Realm</i> (Buhr is missing volumes 1 and 2 [1235-1508])	Buhr	350.942	Paper
1235 to 1907	<i>The Statutes of Practical Utility</i> (spine title is <i>Chitty’s English Statutes</i>)	Law	Gt_Brit Stat	Paper
1235 to 1948	<i>The Statutes, from the Twentieth Year of King Henry the Third...</i> (spine title is <i>The Statutes Revised, 3rd Ed.</i>)	Law	Gt_Brit Stat	Paper

1485 to circa 1487/88	<i>Statutes of Henry VII : in exact facsimile, from the very rare original printed by Caxton in 1489 / ed. with notes and introduction by John Rae</i>	Grad	SPECIAL COLLECTIONS Z 241 .Z9C2 1489 S7 LIB. (711 GL) (Non-Circulating)	Paper
1807 to 1868/1869	<i>The Statutes of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (spine title is Statutes at Large)</i>	Law	Gt_Brit Stat	Paper
1866 to the present	<i>The Public General Acts and General Synod Measures (spine title is Law Reports: Statutes)</i>	Law	Gt_Brit Stat	Paper
1883-1988 (scattered volumes are missing)	<i>Public General Acts</i>	Buhr	350.942 G79191	Paper
1989	<i>Public General Acts</i>	Grad	350.942 G79191	Paper
1929 to 1948	<i>The Complete Statutes of England, Classified and Annotated... (1st edition)</i>	Law	Gt_Brit Stat	Paper
1948 to 1968	<i>Halsbury's Statutes of England (2nd edition)</i>	Law	Gt_Brit Stat	Paper
1968 to 1985	<i>Halsbury's Statutes of England (3rd edition)</i>	Law	Gt_Brit Stat	Paper
1985 to the present	<i>Halsbury's Statutes of England and Wales (4th edition)</i>	Law	Gt_Brit Stat	Paper
1968 to the present	<i>Current Law Statutes Annotated</i>	Law	Gt_Brit Stat	Paper
1982 to the present	<i>Statutes in Force</i>	Law	Micro-10 S158	Fiche

Note that there are also compendia of statutes on specific subjects (e.g. game laws, railroad laws, banking laws, customs laws, bankruptcy laws, laws concerning women's rights, criminal laws, estate laws, sumptuary laws, labor laws, military laws, admiralty laws, election laws, library laws, sewer laws) that are not included in this table, but which may be found by searching MIRLYN and the MLaw Catalog. Some old statutes may also be in the many editions of *Natura Brevium* ("the nature of writs") and the many editions of *The Boke of Justices of Peace*, neither of which is included in this table, but which may be found by searching MIRLYN and the MLaw Catalog.

SOURCES FOR SECONDARY RESEARCH ON BRITISH STATUTES

Halsbury's Laws of England (**Gt_Brit Stat**) is an important secondary source for legal research on statutory law, analogous to an American encyclopedic digest like *American Jurisprudence, 2nd* or *Corpus Juris Secundum*. It contains a statement of the law at the time each edition of the set was published, along with copious footnotes to relevant case law, statutes, and court rules. The different editions of this set are catalogued variously as *Halsbury's Laws of England* or as *The Laws of England: being a complete statement of the whole law of England...* Do not confuse this source with the primary source, *Halsbury's Statutes of England*.

UPDATING BRITISH STATUTES

To see if a statute is still in force, use *Is It in Force?* (**Gt_Brit Stat 2000**). This volume is shelved near the end of the most current edition of *Halsbury's Statutes*.

BILLS

FINDING BRITISH BILLS IN THE LAW LIBRARY

From 1980-present, House of Commons bills (**Micro-10 S73**) are catalogued in the Law Library under the title "Bill [microform]" and the under the author "Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons." This set covers the 48th Parliament through the present Parliament.

The Library owns House of Commons bills from 1969-1981 in paper (**Gt_Brit Stat Parl.**) under the title "Bill[s]" and under the author "Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons." Our paper set covers the fourth session of the 44th Parliament (1969-1970) through the second session of the 48th Parliament (1980-1981). These bills are shelved on the higher shelves to the left of the *Statutes at Large* set, immediately as you exit the elevator.

House of Commons bills for most other years since 1731 are available at the Graduate Library (see following table).

The Library owns House of Lords bills from 1969-1979 in paper (**Gt_Brit Stat Parl.**) under the title "[Papers and bills]" and under the author "Great Britain. Parliament. House of Lords." Our paper set covers from the fourth session of the 44th Parliament (1969-1970) through the first session of the 47th Parliament (1975-1976). These bills are shelved on the lower shelves to the left of the *Statutes at Large* set, immediately as you exit the elevator.

With some significant gaps, the Graduate Library has House of Lords bills for many years since 1514 in various sources. See table below.

The bills for select years are indexed in *Select List of British Parliamentary papers, 1833-1899* (**Documents Center J 301 .M3 1953**), and in *Select List of British Parliamentary papers, 1955-64* (**Documents Center Z2009 .F611 1970**).

Sources of British Bills on Campus

House of Parliament	Years Covered	Name of Source	Library	Call number	Format
Commons	1731-1945, 1985/1986-present	<i>Parliamentary Papers</i>	Grad	MICRO-F X455	Fiche
Commons	1834	<i>Sessional Papers</i>	Buhr	J 301 .K6	Paper
Commons	1836, 1837, 1840, 1846, 1847, 1847-1848, 1856, 1864, 1868-1869, 1870, 1874-1882, 1886, 1888-1890, 1893/1894-1895, 1897, 1899-1904, 1906-1982/1983	<i>Sessional Papers</i>	Grad	J 301 .K6	Paper
Commons	1900-1902	<i>Sessional Papers</i>	Buhr	J 301 .K6	Paper
Commons	1969-1981	<i>Bill[s]</i>	Law	Gt_Brit Stat Parl.	Paper
Commons	1980-present	<i>Bill</i> [microform]	Law	Micro-10 S73	Fiche
Lords	1514-1718 (Regular vols I-X and XII cover 1693-1718); vol. XI has addenda 1514-1714)	<i>Manuscripts of the House of Lords</i>	Grad	J301 .J8	Paper
Lords	1678-1691 (almost nothing for 1686-1687)	<i>Manuscripts of the House of Lords</i>	Grad	MICRO-F X479	Fiche
Lords	1788-1835	<i>Sessional Papers</i>	Grad	FILM X2140	Film
Lords	1900-1974/1975 “scattered issues”	<i>Sessional Papers</i>	Grad	J301 .J6	Paper
Lords	1969-1979	[<i>Papers and Bills</i>]	Law	Gt_Brit Stat Parl.	Paper
Lords	1985/1986-	<i>Sessional Papers</i>	Grad	MICRO-F X421	Fiche

There are also specialized compendia of sessional papers (including bills) on particular topics (e.g. the West Indian slave trade, the American colonies, etc.)

LOCAL AND PERSONAL STATUTES AND BILLS

Terminology

Not all bills and laws passed by Parliament apply to the United Kingdom as a whole; just as in the United States, lawmakers sometimes consider bills and pass statutes that apply only to private individuals or only to a particular locality. If such a bill is introduced by a member of the public rather than by a Member of Parliament (MP), these bills of individual or local application are called “private bills.” [If an MP introduces a bill about a particular locality, the bill is technically a public bill, and any resulting statute is

technically a public general act.] If private bills introduced by a member of the public pass, the resulting statutes are called either “local and personal acts” or “private acts.”

Sources

Before 1922, not every private act was officially printed – some were only published privately. The Law Library has collections of these acts in the following sets:

- ◆ 1845-1923, *Local and Personal Laws*, (**Gt_Brit Stat**). Spine title changes in 1895 to *Local and Private Acts*.
- ◆ 1924-1964, *The Local and Personal Acts of [sic]* (Spine title: *Local and Private acts*) (**Gt_Brit Stat**). Spine title changes in 1950 to *Local and Personal Acts*.
- ◆ 1965. The Law Library owns some unbound, individually-printed acts from 1965 shelved before the indexes listed in the “Finding Aids” section below.
- ◆ 1966-1991. The Law Library does not appear to own private acts for these years.
- ◆ 1992-present, *Current Law Statutes Annotated* (**Gt_Brit Stat**). Includes private acts in the last volume for each year.

Finding Aids

- ◆ *Chronological Table of Local Legislation*, Volume 1: 1797-1860; Volume 2: 1861-1890; Volume 3: 1891-1910; Volume 4: 1911-1994 (**Gt_Brit Stat**).
- ◆ *Index to Local Acts, consisting of classified lists of the local and personal and private acts from 41 Geo. III. (1801) to 62-3 Vict. (1899) (both inclusive)* (**Gt Brit Stat**).
- ◆ *Index to Local and Personal Acts, consisting of classified lists of the local and personal and private acts and special orders and special procedure orders, 1801-1947* (**Gt Brit Stat**).
- ◆ *Index to the Local and Personal Acts, 1850-1995* (**Gt_Brit Stat**).
- ◆ *Supplementary Index to the Local and Personal Acts, 1948-1966* (**Gt Brit Stat c.2**)

For More Information

For more information on finding and updating local and personal acts and bills see §§ 3.121 to 3.134 in *Butterworths Legal Research Guide* (**Ref Coll Bibliog Holborn**).

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Statutory instruments are British administrative regulations. These are analogous to the regulations codified in the *United States Code of Federal Regulations*. Not all statutory instruments are published, however. Pre-1890 statutory instruments were published only on an ad hoc basis, and statutory instruments with only local, private, or temporary applications were generally not published. Statutory instruments are often published arranged by subject.

INTERPRETING STATUTORY INSTRUMENT CITATIONS

Statutory instrument numbers indicate the year in which the instruments were passed and the order in which they were passed:

“SI 1992/751” indicates that this is the 751st statutory instrument passed in the year 1992.

Consult table T.2 of the *Bluebook* under “United Kingdom – Administrative Materials” for further citation information.

INDEXES TO STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Statutory Instruments (prior title: *Statutory Rules and Orders*) is published annually in three parts. Each part may consist of more than one volume. The last volume of each part contains an index.

Indexes to statutory instruments were published every few years from 1891 to 1991. The library has several of these indexes, but does not have editions 1 through 9, 11, 12, or 17 of this set. The title of the set has changed several times. *Index to the Statutory Rules and Orders in Force* (1891-1946) was continued by *Index to Statutory Rules & Orders and Statutory Instruments in Force* (1949), *Guide to Government Orders* (1951-1960), and *Index to Government Orders* (1961-1991). If the year you seek is missing, remember that you can always go to the indexes in the back of that year’s *Statutory Instruments* (prior title: *Statutory Rules and Orders*).

Sources of British Statutory Instruments on Campus

Years covered	Title	Library	Call number	Format
1890-present	<i>Statutory Instruments</i> Prior title, 1890-1947: <i>Statutory Rules and Orders</i>	Law	Gt_Brit Stat	Paper
1903 edition	<i>Statutory Rules and Orders Revised</i>	Law	Gt_Brit Stat	Paper
1948 edition	<i>Statutory Rules and Orders Revised</i>	Law	Gt_Brit Stat	Paper
Current	<i>Halsbury's Statutory Instruments</i> (This set is continually being updated by replacement volumes.)	Law	Gt_Brit Stat Shelved after Halsbury’s Statutes of England.	Paper

The Graduate Library contains a few collections of statutory instruments covering aspects of transportation (e.g., roads, air navigation, and railways). The Graduate Library also has a *List of Emergency Acts and Statutory Rules and Orders* from 1939-1940.

INTERNET ACCESS TO STATUTES, BILLS, AND STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Statutes: Westlaw has a LEGISLOC database, a locator for statutory materials “Including company[,] commercial, intellectual property, property, tax, personal injury, litigation, and county court rules....” The locator covers statutes from 1267 and statutory instruments from 1948-present. UK-LIF contains company commercial statutes (and statutory instruments); UK-ST contains company and commercial

statutes; UK-LIF-HIST contains historic versions of the company and commercial statutes (and statutory instruments); UK-ST-HIST contains historic versions of the company and commercial statutes.

Lexis has a STATIS file (cannot access at this time) that contains statutes and statutory instruments of England and Wales. STAT file has statutes of England and Wales.

Parliament provides the full text of public acts from 1988 to the present online at <<http://www.uk-legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts.htm>> Local acts since 1988 are available at the same web-site address.

Bills: Lexis has information about British bills available on-line, but does **not** have the full texts of the bills themselves available. The BILLS file in the UKCURR library contains names and brief summaries of new bills, names of bills progressing through Parliament, and names of bills that have received the royal assent. Westlaw does not have information about British bills available on-line. Parliament provides full text (and legislative history) of some current bills online at <<http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/pabills.htm>>

Statutory Instruments: The statutory instruments are available in three Westlaw databases: UK-SI contains company and commercial statutory instruments; UK-LIF contains company and commercial statutory instruments (and statutes); UK-SI-HIST contains historic and commercial statutory instruments; UK-LIF-HIST contains historic statutory instruments (and statutes).

Lexis has a STATIS file, accessible through ENGEN and UK libraries, for statutes and statutory instruments of England and Wales. The file provides *current* General Public Acts and Statutory Instruments of England and Wales.

Lexis' SI file, accessible through UK library, contains statutory instruments of England and Wales.

Statutory Instruments from 1987 – present are online at <www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/stat.htm>

FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE

For further assistance, please consult the Reference Desk staff on S-1C of the Law Library and the following publications:

General Sources:

Guy Holborn, *Butterworths Legal Research Guide*, London, Butterworths, 1993 (**Ref Coll Bibliog Holborn**).

Jean Dane & Philip A. Thomas, *How to Use a Law Library: An Introduction to Legal Skills*, London, Sweet & Maxwell, 3d. ed., 1996 (**Ref Coll Bibliog Thomas**).

Suzanne Warren, *Legal Research in England and Wales*, Rev. ed., Hebden Bridge, Legal Information Resources Ltd., 1996 (**Ref Coll Bibliog Warren**).