

Research Basics for Your Seminar Paper on
**Comparative Indigenous Minority
Land Disputes**

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Link to this Presentation

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- <http://www.law.umich.edu/library/students/research/Pages/workshopmaterials.aspx>
- Link to our page with research guides on foreign and international law
 - <http://www.law.umich.edu/library/students/research/Pages/researchguides.aspx>

New Website Highlights



Website Highlights – Organization

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- Catalogs tab **includes e-resources**
- Tabs for user groups
 - Navigation changes depending on the tab
 - To get to the tab “home” page, click on the tab again
- Links may be repeated in multiple locations

Website – Law Students Tab

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- Main Law Students tab page
 - ▣ Selected Research Resources
 - “Workshop Materials” like this PowerPoint
 - “Book Lists” (lists of major books and **treatises** by subject)
 - ▣ Ask a Law Librarian
- Navigation on Students tab (on the left)
 - ▣ Ask a Law Librarian
 - ▣ Research: Guides and Info
 - Workshop materials are also found in here
 - ▣ E-Resources (link brings you to e-resources part of Catalogs tab)
 - ▣ Getting Books
 - ▣ **Book Move Info**

Secondary Sources First



Why Start with Secondary Sources?

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- Save time—avoid “reinventing the wheel”
- Learn the basics of your topic by reading introductory materials about it
- Find citations to important primary sources collected in one place
- Benefit from the insights of scholars (and find out what has already been done)

Reference Sources for Background Info

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- [Encyclopedias](#) for background information on specific indigenous minorities (try a keyword search for “encyclopedia” in the UM Law Library Catalog or in Mirlyn)
- [CIA World Factbook](#) for background information on countries
- Almanacs, for example [World Almanac and Book of Facts](#) in the Law Library’s Reference Collection (find others by doing a keyword search for “almanac” in Mirlyn)

Catalogs

- Use library catalogs to find **books** (information at the journal article level is not in library catalogs)
 - [UMich Law Library Catalog](#) (Law Library)
 - [Mirlyn](#) (University Library System)
 - [WorldCat](#) (International Union Catalog)
- All of these are under the “Catalogs” tab on our website (In the “Research” box, click “Search other Catalogs” for the complete list)

Catalogs – Basic Searching

- Same techniques work in all online catalogs
- Use **Keyword searching** first
- Find **Subject Headings** in records for books close to your topic
- Use **Subject searching** to find more books on the same topic
 - ▣ Use multiple different Subject Headings
 - ▣ Remove subcategories of Subject Headings to broaden search
 - Ex: Human rights -- Middle East -- Religious aspects -- Islam – Congresses

Catalogs – UM Law Library Catalog

Example Search

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- Do a keyword search for “indigenous land” (without quotes)
- Look at the 6th result, Indigenous peoples' land rights under international law
- Click on a subject heading from this record:
 - ▣ Indigenous peoples -- Legal status, laws, etc
- Browse the list of subjects, and click on one
- Click the “Limit/Sort Search” button
- Add “land” to the Subject field your search

Catalogs – WorldCat Example Search

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- Keyword search for Chagos
- Limit by date to 2000-2009
- Third result is “Stealing a nation,” a documentary
- View Subject Headings of this item
 - ▣ Refugees -- British Indian Ocean Territory
 - ▣ Chagos Islands = British Indian Ocean Territory (two names for the same British Overseas Territory) – LC Subject Headings will all use BIOT and not Chagos Islands
- Click on this subject to find more titles on the same topic
- See number 6, Island of shame : the secret history of the U.S. military base on Diego Garcia

Catalogs – WorldCat Example Search Continued

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- What do you do when you find a book in WorldCat that you want?
 1. Search in the UM Law Library Catalog
 2. Search in Mirlyn
 3. If it is not available on campus, submit an ILL request (through the Law Library Catalog)

Finding Articles – Indexes

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- Indexes generally do not provide the full text of articles—citations and maybe abstracts only
 - Legaltrac covers about 1980-present
 - Index to Legal Periodicals covers 1908-present
 - Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals covers 1985-present
 - IFLP is also available in paper, and goes back to 1959 in paper
 - International Index to Periodicals (only in paper) covers 1907-1965, and includes

Finding Articles

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- What do I do if I find an article in an index that I want?
 1. Search for the **journal title** (i.e. Harvard Law Review) in the UM Law Library Catalog—you will find a link to any e-version, and info about paper
 2. Search in Mirlyn
 3. If not in Law Library Catalog or Mirlyn, try WorldCat, then submit ILL via Law Library Catalog

Finding Articles Online

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- Databases that may be helpful for finding articles using full text keyword searching:
 - Lexis and Westlaw
 - Try the Westlaw LJI database for coverage of UK journals
 - HeinOnline
 - JSTOR
 - Other resources listed under [“Categories > Full Text Journals”](#) on our E-Resources Page
 - [University Libraries’ “Search Tools”](#) (allows you to search across multiple databases at one time)

Foreign Legal Research



Foreign Legal Research – Language

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- We have legal bi-lingual dictionaries in the reference collection
- Be careful about translating legal language yourself—you may not recognize terminology for specific legal concepts
- Be aware of the source of any translations you find on the web—these are often not official and may not be very accurate
- Reynolds and Flores Foreign Law Guide provides information about translations

Foreign – Foreign law Guide

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- Reynolds and Flores, [Foreign Law Guide](#) (e-resource) – Excellent starting place for any foreign law research
 - [Background on a country's legal system](#) and history and references to more in-depth introductions to the country's legal system
 - [Major legal resources](#) – provides titles and descriptions of major resources like court reports, statutes (including codes and session laws), internet sources, and additional sources arranged by subject

Foreign—Intro to Foreign Legal System

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- Legal Research Guides for your country – law libraries often have country guides on their websites
 - ▣ Try a Google search limited to .edu domains
- Books on the legal system of your country
 - ▣ Find references in Reynolds and Flores
 - ▣ Find others by searching in the UM Law Library Catalog

Foreign—Finding Sources in the Library

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- I have found the title of a primary source—but how do I find it in the library?
 1. Copy the title from the Foreign Law Guide and paste it in the search box of our catalog to do a “Title” search
 2. Also try a keyword search – titles to primary materials may vary
 3. Primary sources may be published in more than one place – ask at the reference desk for help finding an alternate source (gazettes, journals, codifications)
 4. Foreign materials other than journals are in the closed stacks. Request these using “Request Item” or get a closed stacks pass at the circulation desk to visit the closed stacks in person between 8 and 5 on weekdays.

Foreign Legal Research Online

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- Lexis and Westlaw have limited foreign resources, and they each have different foreign resources available
- Foreign Primary Law on the Web
 - ▣ Contains links to primary law on the web from a variety of sources
- Law Library's E-Resources List, arrangement by jurisdiction (or use the map)

International Legal Research



International Legal Research Guide

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- For detailed information on finding international materials, see “Introduction to Sources of International Law in the University of Michigan Law Library” (you have this as a handout, but it is also available on our website under Research Guides)

Treaties – Basic Sources

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- Online: [Hein Online Treaties and Agreements Library](#)
- Online: [UN Treaty Collection](#)
- UN Treaty Series and League of Nations Treaty Series (**JX9 UN.8 V.1**)
- Consolidated Treaty Series (pre-League of Nations, 1648 to 1919) (**JX8 3 C65 1969**)
- See Research Guide for more sources

UN Documents

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- Law Library has UN Documents from 1946 to present on microfiche (Readex Microfiche Collection, **MICRO-10 UN**)
- [Access UN](#) is the online counterpart of the Readex fiche set, but the full text is not complete—very useful as an index to the fiche
 1. Search in Access UN
 2. If you do not get the full text, find the Readex Number in the Access UN result
 3. Submit a Microfiche request form at the circulation desk with the Readex Number
 4. For help with Access UN searching, ask at the reference desk

International Court Decisions

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- Example: European Court of Human Rights
 - Online: [Human Rights Case Digest](#)
 - In Print:
 - Publications, Series A--Judgments and Decisions. 1961- 1996 (**JX9 CE.55 H95pa**)
 - Publications, Series B--Pleadings, Oral Arguments and Documents. 1960-1995 (**JX9 CE.55 H95pb**)
 - Reports of Judgments and Decisions. 1996-1998 (**JX9 CE.55 H95re**)
 - Reports of Judgments and Decisions. 1999- (**JX9 CE.55 H95rep**).
 - Human Rights Case Digest. 1994- (**JX9 CE.6 H918 R57 C33**) (1990-)
- For the details about other International Courts and Arbitration, consult your International Legal Research Guide handout

Online Sources, IGO's and NGO's

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- IGO's (Inter-governmental Organizations)
 - [UM Document Center website](#) contains links to many IGO's
- NGO's (Non-governmental Organizations)
 - [Search engine for NGO websites](#)
 - [UM Document Center website](#) also contains links to NGO websites

Selected Web Resources

On Indigenous Minorities

Indigenous Law Web Resources

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- [WorldLii Indigenous Law Page](#)
- [Australian Indigenous Law Resources](#)
- [NativeWeb Resources for Indigenous Cultures Around the World](#)
- [Research Guide on Researching Indigenous Peoples' Rights Under International Law](#)

Refugee Web Resources

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- [RefWorld](#) (UN Refugee Agency)
- [UM Refugee Caselaw Site](#)
- [Refugees International](#)
- [International Refugee Rights Initiative](#) (Africa)

Library Services



Inter-library Loan

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- Be sure the item is not available on campus
- Verify your citation info before you request an ILL
 - ▣ Use WorldCat to check that the title is correct
 - ▣ Include the ISBN or ISSN in the notes field of the form
- [ILL Forms](#)

Reference Assistance

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- Come to the reference desk in person, staffed 9AM to midnight 7 days a week
- [Ask a Law Librarian](mailto:askalawlibrarian@umich.edu) – Email Reference (askalawlibrarian@umich.edu)
- Call the reference desk: 734-764-9324
- Schedule an **individual research consultation** with a professional librarian (email askalawlibrarian@umich.edu to schedule)

Questions?

