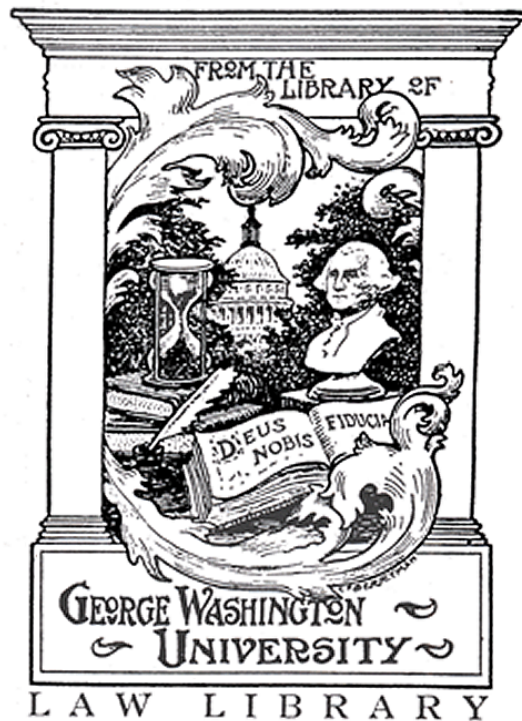




**LEGAL RESEARCH GUIDE SERIES**  
**SPECIALIZED RESEARCH GUIDE # 5**

**A GUIDE TO TREATY RESEARCH**



**THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**  
**LAW SCHOOL**  
**JACOB BURNS LAW LIBRARY**

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# A GUIDE TO TREATY RESEARCH

## INTRODUCTION

This guide describes selected treaty indexes and finding tools as well as sources of treaty texts available in the Jacob Burns Law Library. Included are resources in paper, microfiche, CD-ROM, and online databases.

For additional information, please see the following LibGuide available from the Law Library's website: *Treaties and International Agreements at Burns Law Library* (<http://law.gwu.libguides.com/treaties>).

To determine if a source listed in this guide is available through LexisNexis or Westlaw:

**Lexis.com:** Select the "Find a Source" tab and enter the name of the source in the search box.

**Lexis Advance:** Select "Browse Sources" and enter the name of the source in the "Search Sources" box.

**Westlaw Classic:** Enter the name of the source in the "Search for a database" box.

**WestlawNext:** Enter the name of the source in the search box at the top of the page and select the source from the list.

## I. BASICS OF U.S. TREATY RESEARCH

Article 2(a) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties defines a treaty as an international agreement "governed by international law, whether embodied in a single instrument or in two or more related instruments and whatever its particular designation."<sup>1</sup>

Treaty research is essentially a three step process:

1. Identifying the relevant treaty(ies) for a particular international law question;
2. Verifying the status of the United States (or some other nation) as a party;
3. Locating an official or non-official source containing the text of the treaty in question (and in the case of a multilateral treaty, the relevant reservations, understandings, and declarations)

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<sup>1</sup>Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, May 23, 1969, 1155 *U.N.T.S.* 331, 333.

## **A. Sources for Locating Agreements to which the United States is a Party**

### **1. *Treaties in Force (TIF)***

This index provides references to official U.S. treaty text compilations, such as *Treaties and Other International Acts Series (TIAS)* and *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements (UST)*, as well as the UN-produced *United Nations Treaty Series (UNTS)*. Bilateral and multilateral treaties are covered in separate sections. Subject indexing is provided but is not always adequate, particularly for locating multilateral agreements (see page 9 for more info about this source).

### **2. *Treaties and International Agreements Online (TIARA)***

TIARA provides access to the full text of over 15,000 treaties and international agreements. It includes all treaties and international agreements ratified by the US, major treaties in the process of ratification, and all tax treaties, even those to which the US is not a party. Basic and advanced searching options provide numerous access points to the data. PDF versions of the official texts of many U.S. treaties are included that have been taken from sources such as *Senate Treaty Documents*, *TIAS* and *UST*.

- **Commercial Databases**

Treaties and International Agreements Online (TIARA)

<http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

## **B. Publication Delays**

The most frustrating part of treaty research is the delay in publication of treaty texts in their official format. Publication of new U.S. treaties in the official *TIAS* pamphlets lags by many years. A listing in *Treaties in Force* with the designation “*TIAS*” with no serial number reflects this severe publication delay. In some cases, Senate treaty documents may provide an interim alternative. If not available in this source, one must turn to an unofficial publication.

## **C. Unofficial Sources**

### **1. *International Legal Materials (ILM)***

Published by the American Society of International Law, *ILM* is a bimonthly journal that provides selected texts of documents of interest in the area of international law, including many multilateral and bilateral treaties.

- **Commercial Databases**

- HeinOnline (Treaties and Agreements Library (1962-))  
<http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

- LexisNexis (1962- )

- Westlaw (1980- )

- **Print:** Current issues, RESERVE (1ST FL), K9.N875

2. ***Hein's United States Treaties and Other International Agreements  
Current Service***

This is a commercial compilation of treaty texts on microfiche that may or may not have been indexed in *Treaties in Force* or published in an official U.S. source. Many agreements included in the set do not have a TIAS number assigned to them yet, so the service uses its own KAV accession numbers (e.g. KAV 345) to identify each document. (KAV is an abbreviation of the editor's name, Igor Kavass.

Such KAV numbers are accepted by *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* if citations to official compilations are not available (see Rule 21.4.5 (c)).

The *Guide to the United States Treaties in Force* [**Print:** READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ235.G85] is the corresponding index for this microfiche set. Both the agreements and the *Guide* are also available on Hein Online in the Treaties and Agreements Library in the *KAV Agreements* section.

- **Commercial Databases**

- HeinOnline (Treaties and Agreements Library) (KAV 0001-9492 (1984-2011))

- <http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

- **Microform:** MICROFICHE (LL1), Fiche 304

## D. *Bluebook* Rules for U.S. Treaty Sources

**Rule 21.4.5(a)(i)** provides the following order of preference for sources when citing to agreements between the U.S. and another party (a bilateral treaty):

1. *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements (U.S.T.)* or *Statutes at Large (Stat.)*; *Treaties and Other International Acts Series (T.I.A.S.)* or *Treaty Series (T.S.)* or *Executive Agreement Series (E.A.S.)* or *United Nations Treaty Series (U.N.T.S.)*
2. *Senate Treaty Documents* or *Senate Executive Documents*;
3. *Department of State Dispatch*; or *Department of State Press Releases*.
4. *International Legal Materials (I.L.M.)*: If the agreement has not appeared in one of the previously listed official sources, cite to an unofficial source. The most common citation is to *I.L.M.*

**Rule 21.4.5(a)(ii)** provides the following order of preference for sources if the agreement is **among three or more parties** (a multilateral treaty) and the **U.S. is a party**:

1. Cite to one of the sources listed in rule 21.4.5(a)(i) above, and additionally, a parallel citation may be added from one source published by an intergovernmental organization (most commonly the *United Nations Treaty Series* (see page 18 for more info);
2. If either of these official citations cannot be obtained, provide a citation to one unofficial treaty source such as *International Legal Materials (I.L.M.)*.

## E. Sources for Locating Worldwide Treaties and Agreements

### 1. **Multilateral Treaties and Agreements** (involve three or more parties)

Bowman and Harris' *Multilateral Treaties: Index and Current Status*

Provides references to the *United Nations Treaty Series (UNTS)* as well as other treaty compilations. Best for historical research.

- **Print:** READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ118.B68 1984

Wiktor's *Multilateral Treaty Calendar = Repertoire des Traites Multilateraux, 1648-1995*

Provides references to the *United Nations Treaty Series (UNTS)* as well as other treaty compilations. Best for historical research.

- **Print:** READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ118.W55 1998



*Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General*

An index for locating and updating over 500 major multilateral treaties.

- **World Wide Web:** <http://treaties.un.org> > *Status of Treaties*
- **Print:** READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ171.M85

*United Nations Treaty Series (UNTS)* database, part of United Nations Treaty Collection Online, is available at this address:

- **World Wide Web:** <http://treaties.un.org>

*Flare Index to Treaties*

- **World Wide Web:** <http://193.62.18.232/dbtw-wpd/textbase/treatysearch.htm>

According to the site, “the Flare Index to Treaties is a searchable database of basic information on over 2,000 of the most significant multilateral treaties and some bilateral treaties concluded between 1353 and the present, with details of where the full text of each treaty may be obtained in paper and, if available, electronic form on the internet.”

**2. Bilateral Treaties and Agreements** (involve two countries)

*United Nations Treaty Series (UNTS)* database, part of United Nations Treaty Collection Online.

- **World Wide Web:** <http://treaties.un.org> > *United Nations Treaty Series (UNTS)*
- **Print:** Bound vols. on SL1; Current issues on RESERVE (1ST FL), KZ172.T74 (vols. 1- 429 (with gaps), 801- )
- **Microform:** MICROFICHE (LL1), U.N. Docs. (vols. 1-890) (**Note:** The print *UNTS* lags by as much as ten years, and the indexes are even more delayed.)

*Treaties and International Agreements Online (TIARA)*

While *TIARA* is primarily a database of U.S. treaties, it also contains over 1800 bilateral tax treaties between 280 countries and international organizations.

- **Commercial Databases**  
*Treaties and International Agreement Online*  
<http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

## **F. Bluebook Rules for Treaty Sources for Worldwide Treaties and Agreements**

**Rule 21.4.5(b)** provides that if the U.S. is not a party to the agreement, cite to:

1. One source published by an international organization if available (such as the *United Nations Treaty Series*).
2. If not available, cite to the official source of one signatory.
3. If the treaty is not found in a signatory's treaty source, cite to an unofficial treaty source (such as *International Legal Materials (ILM)*).

## **G. Further Assistance**

Treaty offices at the U.S. Department of State and the United Nations can provide additional assistance for locating information on current treaties. However, the assistance the offices can provide is limited. They should be consulted only after all other avenues have been exhausted. Reference librarians in the Jacob Burns Law Library can provide assistance in using the resources described in this guide and in recommending additional research strategies for treaty research.

### **Recent agreements to which the U.S. is a party and which are not available elsewhere**

- The Treaty Affairs Staff in the Legal Adviser's Office of the U.S. Department of State
  - Telephone: (202) 647-1345
  - Website: <http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty>
  - Email: [treatyoffice@state.gov](mailto:treatyoffice@state.gov)

### **For current information on treaties regardless of U.S. participation**

- The Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations in New York
  - Telephone: (212) 963-3693
  - Email: <http://treaties.un.org/Pages/Contact.aspx?lang=en>

### **For current information on international trade treaties (e.g., NAFTA or WTO)**

- The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative Public and Media Affairs Office
  - Telephone: (202) 395-3230
  - Website: <http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office>
  - Email: [contactustr@ustr.eop.gov](mailto:contactustr@ustr.eop.gov)

## II. Treaty Indexes and Finding Tools

### A. Most Frequently Used Indexes

1. *Treaties in Force: A List of Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States (TIF)* (Government Printing Office 1956- )

This is the official U.S. Department of State listing of agreements in force. Bilateral treaties are arranged by country and then by topic under each country. Multilateral treaties appear in a separate section and are arranged by subject.

According to the foreword of *Treaties in Force*, it includes “treaties and other international agreements which had not expired by their terms or which had not been denounced by the parties, replaced or superseded by other agreements, or otherwise definitely terminated.”

A new edition of *Treaties in Force* is usually published annually in August of each year, which means the information is from 8 to 20 months old. Citations are given to the official sources of treaty texts, but treaties from recent years may have only a T.I.A.S. designation without a number, indicating that the treaty has not yet been published in an official source. In this case, *Treaties and International Agreements Online (TIARA)* (see below), *International Legal Materials*, *Hein’s United States Treaties and Other International Agreements Current Service*, or official Senate treaty documents are the only options for locating the text of the agreement.

- **World Wide Web:** <http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/tif/index.htm>

- **Commercial Databases**

HeinOnline (Treaties and Agreements Library)  
<http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

LexisNexis (current edition)

Westlaw (current edition)

- **Print:** Earlier eds., SL1; Current ed., READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ235.T74

2. ***Treaties and International Agreements Online (TIARA)***

TIARA provides access to the full text of over 13,000 treaties and international agreements. It includes all treaties and international agreements ratified by the US, major treaties in the process of ratification, and all tax treaties, even those to which the US is not a party. Basic and advanced searching options provide numerous access points to the data. PDF versions of the official texts of many of U.S. treaties are included that have been taken from sources such as *Senate Treaty Documents*, *TIAS* and *UST*.

This service also provides citations to official sets such as *TIAS* and *UST*, U.S. Senate documents, *International Legal Materials* and unofficial KAV accession numbers that are keyed to *Hein's United States Treaties and Other International Agreements Current Service* [**Microform:** MICROFICHE (LL1), Fiche 304] and the *United States Treaty Index* [**Print:** SL1, KZ235.U58].

- **Commercial Databases**

Treaties and International Agreements Online  
<http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

3. **M.J. Bowman & D.J. Harris, *Multilateral Treaties: Index and Current Status*** (Butterworths 1984- )

Citations are given to official and unofficial treaty sources, with detailed information about dates, signatories, status, and parties. Subject and keyword access is provided but is frequently not adequate. Treaties are listed chronologically, so knowing an approximate date may provide access when other approaches fail. The latest cumulative supplement includes new agreements and updates information on agreements listed in the main volume.

- **Print:** READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ118.B68 1984 with Supplement (coverage is 1856-1995)

4. ***Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary General*** (United Nations (1968- )

Published annually. Citations are given to the official *UNTS*, if available. If no *UNTS* citations are available, references are given to relevant United Nations documents.

Subject access by broad categories is provided but is not always adequate. Selected links to *UNTS* are provided. Entries include detailed information about the date of entry into force; a current list of parties; and the texts of reservations, understandings, and declarations to a particular treaty.

- **World Wide Web**

United Nations Treaty Collection (updated daily)

<http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ParticipationStatus.aspx>

- **Print:** Earlier eds., SL1; Current ed., READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ171.M85

5. Christian L. Wiktor, *Multilateral Treaty Calendar = Répertoire des Traités Multilatéraux, 1648-1995* (Martinus Nijhoff 1998)

Provides citations to print treaty compilations for multilateral treaties to which the U.S. may or may not be a party. The *Calendar* contains a detailed subject index and a chronological list of all multilateral treaties concluded between 1648-1995. Information on treaty amendments, modifications, extensions, and terminations is also provided.

- **Print:** READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ118.W55 1998

## B. Additional Finding Tools for Current Treaty Actions

1. **U.S. Department of State, Treaty Actions website**

<http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/c3428.htm>

Provides current information on the status of U.S. treaties (1997-2011). Updated annually.

2. **Igor Kavass, *Kavass's Current Treaty Index*** (William S. Hein, 1982- )

Indexes agreements newly added to the official *TIAS* set as well as to information about agreements not yet published in *TIAS*. For the latter, references are given to "KAV" numbers, which are used for locating texts in *Hein's United States Treaties and Other International Agreements Current Service*. [**Microform:** MICROFICHE (LL1), Fiche 304]. Also available on *Hein Online* in the *Treaties and Agreements Library*. The *Current Treaty Index* also supplements the retrospective *United States Treaty Index, 1776-* [**Print:** SL1, KZ235.U58].

- **Commercial Databases**

HeinOnline (Treaties and Agreements Library)

<http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

- **Print:** SL1, KZ235.U582

3. ***Complete List of the Council of Europe's Treaties***

Provides a complete list of treaties concluded by the Council on Europe. Click on a individual treaty to obtain the text of the treaty or to locate a chart of signatures and ratifications.

- **World Wide Web**

Council of Europe's Treaty Office website

<http://conventions.coe.int> > *Full List*

## C. Other Retrospective Treaty Indexes

### 1. Igor Kavass, *United States Treaty Index, 1776-* (W. S. Hein, 1991)

Provides chronological, country, and subject indexes for U.S. treaties, 1776-1990. For information on treaties from 2006 to date, use the *Current Treaty Index* in Section B above.

- **Print:** SL1, KZ235.U58

### 2. *United Nations Cumulative Treaty Index* (W. S. Hein 1999)

Treaties are indexed numerically, chronologically, by country, and by subject. This index is updated by the *United Nations Master Treaty Index on CD-ROM* (Available for checkout at the Reserve Desk [**Location:** RESERVE (1ST FL), KZ171.U55])

- **Print:** SL1, KZ171.U56 1999 (1946 to about 1991)

### 3. *United Nations Treaty Series - Cumulative Indexes* (U.N. 1946- )

These index volumes are shelved with the main *United Nations Treaty Series* volumes. Each index covers about 50 volumes of the set, but there is no master cumulation. Publication lags by as much as 15 years.

Better tools to research UN treaties would be the *United Nations Treaty Collection* website or the *United Nations Cumulative Treaty Index*.

- **Commercial Databases**

HeinOnline (United Nations Law Collection)

<http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

- **Print:** SL1, KZ172.T74

### 4. *League of Nations Treaty Series - General Index* (League of Nations, 1920-1946).

Each volume covers a span of years between 1920 and 1946. There is no single cumulation. Offers subject, country, and chronological access.

- **Commercial Databases**

HeinOnline (United Nations Law Collection)

<http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

**Print:** SL1, KZ170.5 .T74

5. ***Inter-American Treaties and Conventions*** (Organization of American States (OAS) 1989)

Covers bilateral and multilateral treaties between 1900 and 1980. Detailed indexing by parties and keywords and citations to multiple treaty sources are given, including many national treaty series.

- **World Wide Web**

- Organization of American States website

- <http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/treaties.html>

- **Print:** SL2, KDZ 10.T74 no. 9

- **Microform:** MICROFICHE (LL1), Fiche 226 (*OAS Treaty Series* 1902-1988)

6. **Peter Rohn, *World Treaty Index*** (2nd ed., ABC-CLIO 1983-1984)

- **Print:** SL1, KZ173.R63 1983

### III. SOURCES OF TREATY TEXTS

#### A. United States Treaty Texts

1. ***Treaties and Other International Acts Series***

*Bluebook* Abbreviation: T.I.A.S.

U.S. treaties are first published as a series of pamphlets entitled *Treaties and Other International Acts Series* or *TIAS*. *TIAS* is the first official publication of U.S. treaties and other international agreements. Each treaty is assigned a unique number (previously, consecutive numbers were used, e.g. *TIAS* 10345. Now, a two digit number designating the year is now used along with a consecutive number, e.g., 13-212). Delays in publication are considerable, often as much as five years. *TIAS* pamphlets are eventually republished in the bound *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements (UST)* set (see next item).

- **World Wide Web**

- U.S. State Department, Office of the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs: <http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/tias>

- **Commercial Databases**

HeinOnline (Treaties and Agreements Library) (TIAS 11060-13-212)

<http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

- **Print:** Bound vols., SL1; Current issues, RESERVE (1ST FL), KZ235.32.U55

## 2. *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements*

*Bluebook* Abbreviation: U.S.T.

Since 1950, this is the official bound version of U.S. treaties and agreements. TIAS pamphlets (see previous item) are republished in *UST*, with the original *TIAS* number retained for each treaty. The *UST* is no longer being published and the last volume was volume 35, issued in 1984. The TIAS pamphlets should be used as a replacement.

- **Commercial Databases**

HeinOnline (Treaties and Agreements Library) Vols. 1-35 (1950-1984)

<http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

- **World Wide Web**

U.S. State Department, Office of the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs: <http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/tias>

- **Print:** SL1, KZ235.3.U55

## 3. *Charles Bevans, Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States of America, 1776-1949* (U.S. Dept. of State, 1968-1976)

*Bluebook* Abbreviation: Bevans

Bevans' set is considered the definitive compilation of U.S. treaties concluded before 1950. It usually eliminates the need to consult *Statutes at Large* for treaty texts, although the texts in the latter are considered authoritative. Multilateral treaty texts are reproduced in volumes 1-4, bilateral treaties in volumes 5-12, and volume 13 is an index.

- **Commercial Databases**

HeinOnline (Treaties and Agreements Library)

<http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>



- **Print:** SL1, KZ236 1968

#### 4. ***Senate Treaty Documents and Senate Treaty Reports***

*Bluebook* Abbreviation: S. Treaty Doc. or S. Exec. Rep.

For U.S. treaties requiring the advice and consent of the Senate, the President submits to the Senate the text of the treaty, along with a letter of submittal by the Secretary of State and a memoranda of understanding. The text of the treaty and the letter of submittal are then issued by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations as a Senate Treaty Document (known before 1981 as a Senate Executive Document).

After the Committee's favorable consideration of the treaty, it is submitted to the full Senate for vote as a Senate Executive Report. The Senate Executive Report contains a resolution of ratification which may include the text of additional reservations, understandings, or declarations. Before 1930, these types of Senate treaty documents were confidential. Between 1930 and 1980, although no longer confidential, they were not included in the *U.S. Serial Set*.

Some international agreements concluded by the President fall within his exclusive executive powers under Article II of the Constitution to conduct foreign and military affairs and need not be submitted to the Senate for advice and consent. Alternative means are needed to find the text of such agreements such as *Treaties and International Agreements Online (TIARA)* or *A Guide to the United States Treaties in Force*.

- **World Wide Web**

- FDSys (PDF, 104th Cong., 1995/1996- )

- <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys> > *Congressional Documents*

- **Commercial Databases**

- ProQuest Congressional

- <http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

- **Print:** SL1, KZ235 .U542 (1981-2004)

- **Microform**

- *CIS Index to Senate Executive Documents and Reports* and *Microfiche Set* [MICROFICHE (LL1), Fiche 99 (1817-1969)]

#### 5. ***Igor Kavass, Hein's United States Treaties and Other International Agreements Current Service*** (W. S. Hein 1990- )

This unofficial compilation is designed to fill the gap left by the long delays in publication of the official *TIAS* and *UST* set.

The *Guide to the United States Treaties in Force* [**Print:** READY REFERENCE, KZ235.G85] (also available on Hein Online) is the corresponding index for this microfiche set. The microfiche set includes the text of treaties requiring the advice and consent of the Senate and executive agreements not submitted to the Senate.

Many agreements included do not have a TIAS number assigned to them yet, so the service uses its own KAV accession numbers (e.g. KAV 345) to identify each document. (KAV is an abbreviation of the editor's name, Igor Kavass. Such KAV numbers are accepted by *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* if citations to official compilations are not available (see Rule 21.4.5(c)) and Table T.4.3 ).

- **Commercial Databases**

- HeinOnline (Treaties and Agreements Library) (Listed as KAV Agreements)

- <http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

- **Microform:** MICROFICHE (LL1), Fiche 304

## 6. LexisNexis

U.S. Treaties on LEXIS

- U.S. treaties and international agreements since 1776
- Sources of treaty texts include:
  - Treaties and agreements released by the US Department of State, not yet in *TIAS*;
  - *Treaties and Other International Acts Series (TIAS)* (1985- );
  - *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements (UST)* (1949-1984);
  - Bevans, *Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States of America, 1776-1949*
- Includes unratified, and older terminated, superseded, or abolished treaties
- Documents include a LexisNexis citation, and where available, citations to Bevans, *UST*, and *US Statutes at Large*

## 7. Westlaw

U.S. Treaties and Other International Agreements

- Coverage of international treaties begins with volume 8 *Statutes at Large* (1778) through volume 64 (1949) when *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements (U.S.T.)* became the official publication.
- Coverage for U.S.T. begins with volume 1 part 1 and continues through volume 35 part IV (*TIAS* 10978, 1984).
- Provides coverage of current international agreements since January 12, 1984 (*TIAS* 10979- )

- Provides *KAV* number for agreements not yet published in *TIAS* (see item directly above)
- Gaps in coverage, particularly for certain multilateral treaties

## 8. *United States Statutes at Large*

*Bluebook* Abbreviation: Stat.

Before the *UST* began publication in 1950, *Statutes at Large* included texts of treaties. Treaty texts are found in the following volumes:

- Treaties prior to 1950, *Statutes at Large*
- Indian treaties (vol. 7)
- Treaties, 1776-1845 (vol. 8)
- Executive agreements (vols. 47-64)
- Listing of treaties alphabetically by country found in the *Statutes at Large* (vol. 64, part 3)
- **World Wide Web**  
American Memory, Library of Congress (PDF, 1789-1875)  
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsl.html>
- **Commercial Databases**  
HeinOnline (U.S. Statutes at Large) (PDF, 1789- )  
<http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>
- **Print:** LEGAL REFERENCE (LL1)

## 9. Christian L. Wiktor, *Unperfected Treaties of the United States of America 1776-1976* (Oceana 1976-1981)

The texts of almost 400 multilateral and bilateral treaties “which have been signed on the part of the United States, or have been submitted to the Senate, but which have, for one reason or another, definitely failed to go into force” are included in this multi-volume set.

- **Print:** SL1, KZ236 1976

## B. Worldwide Treaty Texts

### 1. *United Nations Treaty Series* (United Nations 1946- )

*Bluebook* Abbreviation: *U.N.T.S.*

*UNTS* is the primary official set for texts of multilateral and bilateral agreements on a worldwide basis. Although U.N. treaties do have a registration number, these numbers are not used for location and citation purposes in the way *TIAS* numbers are used for U.S. treaties. Citations are made to volume and page number (e.g. 678 *UNTS* 345).

Not all agreements are published in *UNTS*. In addition, there are publication delays of about 10 years. Cumulative print indexes covering a span of volumes are published with about a 15 year delay. There is no master print cumulation of the indexes.

The best finding tool for locating agreements published in *U.N.T.S.* is the *U.N.T.S.* database on the *U.N. Treaty Collection Online*. The *U.N.T.S.* database contains the full text of bilateral and multilateral treaties that are registered with the UN and published in the print *U.N.T.S.*. It can be searched by subject, country and subject, international organization, UN agency, region of the world, popular name, keyword in title, or registration number. Included in the database are many treaties signed prior to 1946. Status information is provided for most treaties and a registration number rather than a *UNTS* volume and page citation are provided for the treaties.

- **World Wide Web**

United Nations Treaty Collection

<http://treaties.un.org> > *United Nations Treaty Series (UNTS)*

- **Commercial Databases**

HeinOnline (United Nations Law Collection) (PDF, 1946- )

<http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

- **Print:** Bound vols., SL1; Current issues, RESERVE (1ST FL), KZ172.T74 (some gaps; vols. 1-532, 801- )

- **Microform:** MICROFICHE (LL1), U.N. Docs. (vols. 1-890)

2. *League of Nations Treaty Series* (League of Nations)

*Bluebook* Abbreviation: *L.N.T.S.*

For the print collection, index volumes are available but there is no cumulative index.

- **World Wide Web**

United Nations Treaty Collection

<http://treaties.un.org/pages/LONOnline.aspx>

- **Commercial Databases**

HeinOnline (*United Nations Law Collection*) (PDF, 1920-1946)

<http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

- **Print:** SL1, KZ170.5.T74 (1920-1945)

- **Microform:** MICROFILM (LL1), Film 120 (*LNTS* is found in the *League of Nations Documents and Publications, 1919-1946* collection)

3. *Clive Parry, Consolidated Treaty Series* (Oceana, 1969-1981)

*Bluebook* Abbreviation: *Consol. T.S.*

This is the major **unofficial** compilation of worldwide treaties prior to the League of Nations and the United Nations treaty sets. There are no subject indexes - only chronological and party indexes. (**Note:** This set is entirely different from the *Consolidated Treaties and International Agreements (CTIA)* set of recent U.S. treaties from the same publisher. The Library does not own *CTIA*.)

- **Print:** SL1, KZ120.P35 (1648-1919)

4. *International Legal Materials* (American Society of Int'l Law 1962- )

*Bluebook* Abbreviation: *I.L.M.*

*ILM*, a bimonthly journal, is one of the most important publications available for research in international law. It should always be considered as a possible source of treaty texts, regardless of whether the U.S. is a party. While multilateral agreements are more likely to appear, bilateral agreements may be included as well. Its particular strength is the timely publication of selected international documents, in contrast to various official sources. In addition to the text of an international document, *ILM* often will include explanatory material.

- **Commercial Databases**

HeinOnline (*Treaties and Agreements Library*) (PDF, 1962- )  
<http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

LexisNexis (1962- )

Westlaw (1980- )

- **Print:** Current issues, RESERVE (1ST FL), K9.N875

5. ***European Treaty Series*** (Council of Europe)

*Bluebook* Abbreviation: *Europ. T.S.*

New agreements are published as separate pamphlets in the official *European Treaty Series* with their own *ETS* number. They are later compiled into the bound *European Conventions and Agreements* volumes.

- **World Wide Web**

Council of Europe: <http://conventions.coe.int> > *Full List*

- **Print:** SL1, KJC39.C682 (1990- )

6. ***European Conventions and Agreements*** (Council of Europe 1971- )

English and French texts of international agreements concluded within the Council of Europe are included in these sets. New agreements are initially published as separate pamphlets in the official *European Treaty Series*, each with its own *ETS* number.

*European Conventions and Agreements* is the bound compilation of *ETS* agreements. Although, according to the Council of Europe, it is the *ETS* pamphlets rather than this bound set that provides the official publication, the bound sets are more convenient to use and preserve the original *ETS* numbering. A separate subject index volume covers only volumes 1 and 2 of the first edition.

- **Print:** SL1, KJC39.C68 1971 & 1993

7. **Louis Sohn & Manley O. Hudson, *International Legislation*** (Carnegie, 1931-1950)

This compilation provides texts of over 600 “multipartite international instruments of general interest.” Arrangement is chronological but subject access is provided. One unique feature of the set is inclusion of agreements that were never brought into force.

- **Print:** SL1, KZ169.I58 (1919-1949)

## C. Selected Subject Compilations of Treaty Texts

### 1. Ian Brownlie, *Basic Documents in International Law* (Oxford University Press 2008)

A convenient one-volume collection of the most frequently cited treaties in international law.

- **Print:** RESERVE (1ST FL), KZ64.B37 2008

### 2. Stephen Zamora & Ronald Brand, *Basic Documents of International Economic Law (BDIEL)* (CCH 1990)

Texts of documents considered basic to the study of international economic law are reproduced in this two-volume compilation. Many of these documents are treaties and conventions related to international finance and trade, regional organizations, international litigation, etc. Additional explanatory material and a bibliography are included for each document. Another useful feature is the chapter, "Treaty Research for Practitioners in the United States." *BDIEL* provides a table of contents but there is no subject index.

- **Commercial Databases**

LexisNexis

Westlaw

- **Print:** RESERVE (1ST FL), K3820.A35 B37 1990

### 3. *Copyright and Related Rights Laws and Treaties* (WIPO 1987-2001)

- **World Wide Web**

- WIPO Lex Database, World Intellectual Property Organization  
<http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/index.jsp>

- WIPO Administered Treaties, World Intellectual Property Organization  
<http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en>

- **Print:** HISTORIC (LL2), K1419.C67 v.1-6

4. ***Copyright Laws and Treaties of the World*** (UNESCO & BNA 1956-1997)

This loose-leaf service provides a compilation, in English, of copyright laws and treaties throughout the world. Arrangement is by country, with a separate section for multilateral agreements. This service ceased publication in 1997.

- **World Wide Web**

WIPO Lex Database, World Intellectual Property Organization  
<http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/index.jsp>

WIPO Administered Treaties, World Intellectual Property Organization  
<http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en>

- **Print:** HISTORIC (LL2), K1419.2 1956

5. ***Tax Notes International*** (Tax Analysts 1989- )

Abbreviation: TNI

For income, estate, and gift tax treaties between the U.S. and other countries, *TNI* not only offers the text of the treaty but also other supplementary documents such as Senate Treaty Documents, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Reports, and Treasury News Releases. Selected tax treaties between other countries are also included.

The *Worldwide Tax Treaty Index* (**Print:** SL3, KF6306.U45) is an index to *TNI* (See below for information about Lexis access to this index).

- **Commercial Databases:**

TaxAnalysts Online

<http://www.law.gwu.libguides.com/databases>

- LexisNexis (1992- )

6. ***Tax Analysts Worldwide Tax Treaties Combined Files***

According to the database description, “*Tax Analysts’ Worldwide Tax Treaties* is the most complete collection of international tax treaties available. Besides the more than 4,400 tax treaties, amending protocols, and similar documents, *Worldwide Tax Treaties* features legislative history of U.S. tax treaties, administrative documents, and treaty news and analysis from Tax Analysts’ *Tax Notes International Magazine*.”

- **Commercial Databases:** LexisNexis



7. ***International Environmental Law: Multilateral Treaties***

This title provides the full text or significant extracts of multilateral treaties concerned with environmental issues, including the statutes of international organizations active in the field. Treaties are derived from the *United Nations Treaty Series*, the *Bundesgesetzblatt of the FRG*, the *UK Treaty Series*, *United States Treaty Series* and the documentation of the IUCN (World Conservation Union) Environmental Law Center.

- **Print:** SL2, K3583.I68

8. ***Ian Brownlie, Brownlie's Documents on Human Rights*** (6th ed., Oxford University Press, 2010)

This handbook provides access to the major universal and regional human rights instruments, excluding those dealing with the humanitarian law of war.

- **Print:** RESERVE (1ST FL), K3238.A1 B76 2010

9. ***Human Rights In International Law: Basic Texts*** (3rd ed., Council of Europe 2007)

This is an excellent one volume compilation of human rights instruments prepared within the International Labour Organization, the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

- **Print:** SL2, K3238.H856 2007

10. ***Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments*** (U.N. 2002)

Volume 1 contains universal human rights instruments. Volume 2 contains regional instruments.

- **Print:** REFERENCE (1ST FL), K3238.A1 H845 2002

## IV. SELECTED WEB SITES FOR TREATY INFORMATION AND TEXTS

### A. United States Treaties

#### 1. U.S. Department of State. Office of the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs

<http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty>

- Full text of *Treaties in Force (TIF)* in PDF, updated annually
- Recent treaty action can be found on the “Treaty Actions” section of the Office of the Assistant Legal Adviser’s website at:  
<http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/c3428.htm>
- The Office of the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs has begun efforts to make TIAS available on-line. Treaties for 1996 to 2012 can be found here: <http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/tias>
- Treaties for the period 1982-2013 can also be found on the Department of State’s “Reporting International Agreements to Congress under Case Act” page organized by signing date. It should be noted that these documents are largely unedited and subject to possible correction before their official publication in TIAS. Available at:  
<http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/caseact/index.htm>

#### 2. United States Department of Commerce. Trade Compliance Center. Bilateral Investment Treaties Currently in Force

[http://tcc.export.gov/Trade\\_Agreements/Bilateral\\_Investment\\_Treaties/index.asp](http://tcc.export.gov/Trade_Agreements/Bilateral_Investment_Treaties/index.asp)

- List of all bilateral investment treaties concluded by the U.S.
- Links to the full text of the treaty as it appeared in the Senate Treaty Document.

#### 3. U.S. Senate Treaties webpage

[http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/d\\_three\\_sections\\_with\\_teasers/treaties.htm](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/d_three_sections_with_teasers/treaties.htm)

- Links to the full text of the treaty as it appeared in the Senate Treaty
- Provides current, detailed information regarding actions taken on U.S. treaties **by the current Congress**. The treaties section is divided into four parts:
  - **Treaties Received:** Treaties received from the President as well as the committee referral actions taken.
  - **Treaties Approved:** Treaties approved by the Senate during the current Congress as well as the Committee referral actions taken.

- **Treaty Actions:** Treaties that have had Senate floor status actions (other than simply actions pertaining to treaties received and referred) during the current Congress. The date and a brief description of each floor action is provided. The most recent floor action for each treaty is listed first, with additional actions listed in reverse chronological order.
- **Treaties Reported on the Executive Calendar:** Treaties reported out by the Foreign Relations committee, placed on the Executive Calendar with a sequentially assigned calendar number, and ready for Senate floor consideration.

4. **FDSys, Congressional Documents Database**

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/advanced/advsearchpage.action>

- From the *Advanced Search* screen above, select the *Congressional Documents* collection.
- Full text of Senate Executive Reports and Senate Treaty Documents in PDF (104<sup>th</sup> Congress (1995/96)- )

5. **Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Income Tax Treaties**

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/international/article/0,,id=96739,00.html>

Full text of income tax treaties concluded with over 50 countries, in PDF. Many include a technical explanation.

6. **Social Security Administration, U.S. International Social Security Agreements:**

[http://www.ssa.gov/international/agreements\\_overview.html](http://www.ssa.gov/international/agreements_overview.html)

Provides the full text of bilateral agreements concluded by the U.S. to coordinate Social Security protection across national boundaries.

**B. United Nations Treaties**

1. **United Nations Treaty Collection**

<http://treaties.un.org>

- **United Nations Treaty Series** database contains bilateral and multilateral treaties in PDF format published in the print *UNTS*.  
The database can be searched by subject, country and subject, international organization, UN agency, region of the world, popular name, keyword in title, or registration number. Included in the database are many treaties signed prior to 1946. Status information is provided for most treaties and a registration number rather than a *UNTS* volume and page citation are provided for the treaties.
- **Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General** is a current, online equivalent of the print index of the same title. The database can be searched by subject or by table of contents and is updated daily.

- **Texts of Recently Deposited Multilateral Treaties** contains multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General not yet published in UNTS.

### C. **European Union Treaties**

#### **European Union, Eur-Lex (Treaties)**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/treaties/index.htm>

This website provides access to the basic legal texts on which the European Union and the European Communities are founded: the founding Treaties (original versions and later updatings), the amending Treaties, the Accession Treaties for each of the five enlargements, plus other essential documents such as the Constitution.

### D. **International Environmental Law Treaties**

#### **Environmental Treaties and Resource Indicators (ENTRI)**

(Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN))

<http://sedac.ciesin.org/entri>

- Texts of more than 169 environmental agreements
- Information concerning entry into force and states party to the treaty
- Arrangement is chronological, alphabetical and by subject
- Free text searching of treaty files also available.

### E. **Council of Europe Treaties**

<http://conventions.coe.int> > *Treaties of the Council of Europe > Full List*

- Texts of selected European conventions and agreements deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe
- English and French texts of European treaties reproduce originals of the European conventions and agreements deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe, however, they are not considered an official publication; the official treaty text is published in the *European Treaty Series (ETS)*
- Accessible by subject
- Information on signatories and ratifications of treaties provided

### F. **Organization of American States Treaties**

#### **Organization of American States, Secretariat for Legal Affairs**

<http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/treaties.html>

- Full text of selected Inter-American treaties
- As of this writing, searchable by year or subject
- Information on signatories and ratifications

## G. Other Web Sites for Treaty Texts

### Tufts University, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy Multilaterals Project:

<http://www.thecre.com/fedlaw/legal20/multilaterals.htm>

- Began in 1992 as a web project to make available texts of multilateral treaties and other agreements
- Accessible by topic and date
- Includes some historical treaties

## H. American Society for International Law (ASIL), ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law: Treaties

<http://www.asil.org/erg/?page=treaties>

- Good online introduction to treaty research
- Comprehensive list of treaty resources available on the web
- The complete *ASIL Electronic Resource Guide* (<http://www.asil.org/erghome.cfm>) provides research information on other subjects such as human rights and international environmental law

## I. American Society for International Law (ASIL), Electronic Information System for International Law (EISIL)

<http://www.eisil.org>

- Links to primary legal materials in 13 broad topics of international law
- “Basic Resources” under each topic or sub-topic links treaties

## V. SELECTED WORKS ON TREATY LAW AND PRACTICE

The following works provide analysis of treaty law and practice for various jurisdictions around the world, including information concerning the capacity to make treaties, adoption and authentication, and reservations. Additional titles can be located using JACOB, the Law Library’s online catalog at: <http://jacob.law.gwu.edu>.

Anthony Aust, *Modern Treaty Law and Practice* (2nd ed., Cambridge U. Press 2007)

- **Print:** RESERVE (1ST FL), KZ1301 .A93 2007

Sandra L. Bunn-Livingstone, *Juricultural Pluralism Vis-a-vis Treaty Law: State Practice and Attitudes* (Martinus Nijhoff 2002)

- **Print:** SL1, KZ1304.B86 2002

*Developments of International Law in Treaty Making* (Rüdiger Wolfrum & Röben, Volker eds., Springer 2005)

- **Print:** SL1, KZ1301.M359 2005

M. Fitzmaurice, *Contemporary Issues in the Law of Treaties* (Eleven International Publishing 2005)

- **Print:** SL1, KZ1301.F58 2005

*40 years of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties* (Alexander Orakhelashvili and Sarah Williams eds., British Institute of International and Comparative Law 2010).

- **Print:** SL1, KZ1298.31969.A15 2010

*The Law of Treaties Beyond the Vienna Convention*. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2011.

- **Print:** SL1, KZ1298.31969 .L39 2011

Richard K. Gardiner, *Treaty Interpretation* (Oxford University Press 2008)

- **Print:** RESERVE (1ST FL), KZ1304.G37 2008

D. W. Greig, *Invalidity and the Law of Treaties* (British Institute of International and Comparative Law 2006)

- **Print:** SL1, KZ1302.5.G74 2006

Glen S. Krutz, *Treaty Politics and the Rise of Executive Agreements: International Commitments in a System of Shared Powers* (University of Michigan Press 2009).

- **Print:** SL3, KF5055 .K78 2009

Jeffrey S. Lantis, *The Life and Death of International Treaties: Double-edged Diplomacy and the Politics of Ratification in Comparative Perspective* (Oxford University Press 2009)

- **Print:** SL1, KZ1302.3.L36 2009

*The Law of Treaties Beyond the Vienna Convention* (Enzo Cannizzaro ed., Oxford University Press, 2011)

- **Print:** SL1, KZ1298.31969 .L39 2011

*The Law of Treaties in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States: Text and Commentary* (W.E. Butler ed., Cambridge University Press 2002)

- **Print:** SL1, KLB2400.A28 2002

Ulf Linderfalk, *On the Interpretation of Treaties: the Modern International Law as Expressed in the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties* (Spring 2007)

- **Print:** SL1, KZ1304.L56 2007

Mertsch, Anneliese Quast, *Provisionally Applied Treaties : Their Binding Force and Legal Nature* Leiden : Brill, 2012

- **Print:** SL1, KZ1302.8 .M47 2012

*The Oxford Guide to Treaties* Oxford, U.K. : Oxford University Press, 2012.

- **Print:** SL1, KZ1301 .O94 2012

John Norton Moore, *Treaty Interpretation, the Constitution, and the Rule of Law* (Oceana Publications 2001)

- **Print:** SL1, KZ1304.M66 2001

*National Treaty Law and Practice* (Duncan B. Hollis et al. eds., Martinus Nijhoff 2005)

- **Print:** RESERVE (1ST FL), K3342.N384 2005

*National Treaty Law and Practice : Austria, Chile, Colombia, Japan, the Netherlands, United States* (Monroe Leigh et al. eds., American Society of International Law 1999)

- **Print:** SL2, K3342 .N382 1999

*National Treaty Law and Practice : France, Germany, India, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom* (Monroe Leigh and Merritt R. Blakeslee eds., ASIL 1995)

- **Print:** SL2: K3342 .N37 1995

*National Treaty Powers and Implementation : Reports and Comparative Summary on : Argentina, Australia, Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, the Republic of Poland, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom* (The Law Library of Congress 2004)

- **Print:** SL2, K3342 .N28 2004

Ali Sadat-Akhavi, *Methods of Resolving Conflicts Between Treaties* (Martinus Nijhoff 2003?)

- **Print:** SL1, KZ1301.S23 2003

*State Responsibility and the Law of Treaties* The Hague : Eleven International Publishing, 2010.

- **Print:** SL1, KZ4080 .S73 2010

*Treaty Interpretation and the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties: 30 Years On* (Malgosia Fitzmaurice et al. eds., Martinus Nijhoff 2010)

- **Print:** SL1, KZ1301.T743 2010

*Treaty Making: Expression of Consent by States to be Bound by a Treaty* (Kluwer Law International 2001)

- **Print:** SL1, KJC5397.T73 T74 2001

Cong. Research Serv., Comm. on Foreign Relations U.S. Senate, 106th Cong., *Treaties and Other International Agreements: The Role of the United States Senate* (Comm. Print 2001)

- **World Wide Web:** <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CPRT-106SPRT66922/pdf/CPRT-106SPRT66922.pdf>

*Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties : a Commentary* (Oliver Dörr and Kirsten Schmalenbach, eds., Springer, 2012)

- **Print:** RESERVE, KZ1298.3 1969 .V54 2012

*The Vienna Conventions on the Law of Treaties : a Commentary* Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2011)

- **Print:** RESERVE, KZ1301 .V54 2011 v. 1-2

Mark Eugen Villiger, *Commentary on the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties* (Martinus Nijhoff 2009)

- **Print:** RESERVE (1ST FL), KZ1298.31969.V55 2009

Christian L. Wiktor, *Treaties Submitted to the United States Senate: Legislative History, 1989-2004* (Martinus Nijhoff 2006)

- **Print:** READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), KF4989.W55 2006

## VI. FURTHER READING ON TREATY RESEARCH

Steven M. Barkan, *Fundamentals of Legal Research* (9th ed., Foundation Press 2009)  
Chapter 21, "International Law," sets out the basic elements of treaty research.

- **Print:** RESERVE (1ST FL), KF240.J3 2009

The George Washington International Law Review, *Treaties in Guide to International Legal Research* (Butterworths Legal Publishers 2012).

Section 2.01[1][b] of this guide provides a comprehensive list of print and online indexes and full text sources for bilateral and multilateral treaties.

- **Commercial Databases:** LexisNexis
- **Print:** Bound vols., SL1; Current ed., RESERVE (1ST FL), KZ1234.G85 [year]]

**J. Paul Lomio, *Legal Research Methods in a Modern World: a Coursebook***  
*Copenhagen : DJØF Publishing, 2011*

- **Print:** RESERVE (1ST FL), K85 .L66 2011  
See Chapter 11 for public international law resources.

Jonathan Pratter, *Treaty Research Basics* in 89 *Law Library Journal* 407-413 (1997).

This article provides a clear summary of how and where to look for treaties, regardless of whether the United States is a signatory, and of the difficulties in determining proper citation format.

Marci Hoffman, *International and Foreign Legal Research: A Coursebook* (Martinus Nijhoff 2012)

Much of Chapter 6 is devoted to researching treaties and international agreements.

- **Print:** RESERVE (1ST FL), K85.H64 2012



***Encyclopedia of Historical Treaties & Alliances*** (2nd ed., Facts On File 2006)

This two volume encyclopedia provides a survey of the major international agreements throughout history. The set provides extensive excerpts to more than 220 treaties and international agreements.

- **Print:** REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ1160.P48 2006

***Treaties and Alliances of the World*** (8th ed., Thomson Gale 2007)

- **Print:** REFERENCE (1ST FL), KZ1301.T74 2007