

# Guide Series

## TREATY RESEARCH: SOURCES

### I. INTRODUCTION

A [treaty](#) is an agreement between two or more countries or between international agencies. A treaty establishes a legally binding relationship governed by international law. Treaties may be bilateral (between two countries) or multilateral (among several countries). Other terms used to describe a treaty are: an act, accord, agreement, arrangement, concordat, convention, covenant, declaration, modus vivendi, proces-verbal, pact, protocol, or statute.

With respect to treaties to which the U.S. is a party, treaty-making authority lies with the President, subject to consent by the Senate. The treaty process consists of: 1) Negotiation and drafting by the executive branch; 2) Signature by the president; 3) Transmittal to the Senate for consent; 4) Ratification by the president after Senate approval; and 5) Publication. Only after the President ratifies the treaty with the “advice and consent” of the Senate does it become effective.

A great deal of your treaty research can be conducted using the LRC’s subscription databases (**currently registered USD law students and faculty only**):

**Hein-Online:** Provides access to an extensive full-text collection of treaty materials including, but not limited to, UST, TIAS, Bevans, Malloy, Hein’s KAV treaty set, etc. (see below for description of materials). (**contact a Reference Librarian for password**).

**LEXIS (INTLAW, USTRTY) or Westlaw (USTREATIES):** provides access to full-text of ratified and unratified treaties & intn’l agreements, ILM, Senate Treaty Documents (see below for description of materials), etc.

**United Nations Treaty Collection (<http://untreaty.un.org>):** access to UNTS, LNTS, status of treaties submitted to the UN, etc. (**contact a Reference Librarian for password**)

The rest of this guide will help you locate and update treaty information using the LRC print and fiche collections and other online sources. Following are a list of common abbreviations you will run into during your treaty research:

*KAV*: cites to the Hein microfiche set; use the Current Treaty Index or Guide to U.S. Treaties in Force to locate KAV numbers

*UNTS*: United Nations Treaty Series

*CTS*: Consolidated Treaty Series

*LTS*: League of Nations Treaty Series

*UST*: United States Treaties

*TIAS*: Treaties & Other International Agreements

*TS*: Treaty Series

## II. LOCATING TREATIES TO WHICH THE U.S. IS A PARTY

### A. FULL-TEXT SOURCES FOR RATIFIED TREATIES: 1950 TO PRESENT

1. *United States Treaties* (UST). Since 1950, this series has been the official publication of U.S. treaties. Indexes by subject and country. Publication lags behind ratification by 10 or more years.

**Reading Room** KZ 235 U53 or **Westlaw** (USTREATIES) or **LEXIS** (USTRTY)

2. *Treaty Series* (TS). United States treaties from 1913-1945; ended when *TIAS* (see below) began

**Microforms** KZ 235.3 U54

3. *Treaties and Other International Agreements*. (TIAS) Advance sheets to treaties that are eventually printed in UST. Some older issues of TIAS are also available on microfiche.

KZ 235.3 .U55 or **Westlaw** (USTREATIES), **Lexis** (USTRTY) or [Hein-Online](#)

5. *United Nations Treaty Series* (UNTS). Treaties registered with the U.N. Secretariat; publication is slow. Some volumes are available only on microfiche.

**Reading Room** KZ 172 U54 or <http://untreaty.un.org>

### B. FULL-TEXT TREATY SOURCES: PRIOR TO 1950

1. *United States Statutes at Large* (Stat.) Prior to 1949, the texts of U.S. treaties were published in the United States Statutes at Large.

**Volume 7:** tribal treaties entered into from 1778-1842.

**Volume 8:** treaties entered into between the U.S. and foreign nations from 1778-1845.

**Volume 18:** Part 3 (1873-75) compiles treaties in force from 1846 to 1873.

**Volume 64:** Part 3 (1950-51) includes a list of all U.S. treaties (excepting tribal treaties)

**Reading Room** KF 50 .U52 or (Vol. 1-18) at: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsl.html>

2. *Treaties and other International Agreements of the United States of America 1776-1949* (Bevans)

**Reading Room** KZ 235 U535 1975 or [Hein-Online](#) or **LEXIS** (USTRTY)

3. *Treaties, Conventions, International Acts, Protocols, and Agreements Between the United States of America and Other Powers* (Malloy's Treaties) U.S. Treaties from 1776-1937

**Reading Room** KZ 236 1910 or [Hein-Online](#).

*Treaties and Other International Acts of the United States of America*. (Miller, Hunter) U.S. treaties from the years 1776-1863

**Reading Room** KZ 236 1931 or [Hein-Online](#).

### C. FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT TREATIES PENDING RATIFICATION

1. *Congressional Index*: this source will show you the status of treaties submitted to the Senate for advice and consent. Look under "Treaties-Nominations" in the Senate volume.

current vols. at **Ref. Index** KF 49 .C6 (earlier volumes in Reading Room).

2. *CIS Microfiche Library*: look under "treaties and conventions" to identify a particular treaty and look it up in the fiche collection

**Ref. Index** KF 49 C62 and fiche collection at **Microfiche** KF 49 C62

3. *Senate Foreign Relations Committee Executive Reports*: contains draft texts of treaties. Search "under the heading Senate Committees, Foreign Relations, Exec. Rpts. & Exec. Docs." (S384 & S385) in the CIS Abstracts volume.

**Microforms** KF49 .C62 (CIS Abstracts vols. in index at Ref. Index KF 49 C62)

4. *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*: contains the texts of treaties accompanied by presidential messages as they are received by the Senate.

Current issues GPOAccess at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html> (1993-present) or

[Hein-Online](#). (1965-2004) Back issues **Reading Room** J80 A284 (1965-2000).

5. *Hein's United States Treaties and Other International Agreements* provides access to text of treaties & agreements not yet published by the Dept. of State, as well as to slip treaties.

Microforms KZ 236 1950 or [Hein-Online](#)

6. *International Legal Materials* is a good source for the texts of new treaties of major significance and frequently includes the draft versions of important treaties.

Reading Room KZ 64 .158 or Lexis & Westlaw (ILM) or [Hein-Online](#)

7. As treaties are submitted to the Senate, they are numbered and printed as part of the Senate Treaty Documents Series. The **Senate Executive Documents and Reports** microfiche collection reproduces Senate executive documents and reports printed from 1817-1969. Since 1970, Senate executive documents, treaty documents, and executive reports are published in the *CIS Microfiche Library*

a. *Senate Executive Documents & Reports*

Microforms KF 40 C58 1987 (Index in reference area)

b. *CIS Microfiche Library*

Microforms KF49 C62 (Index in Reference area) or online (1995

to present) at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/serialset/creports/index.html>

c. *Senate Treaty Documents (1993-present)* via Westlaw (USTREATIES)

8. The following provide status information for treaties:

a. *Department of State Bulletin* (1939-1989)

Mezzanine Level 2 or [Hein-online](#) (1939-1989)

b. *Dispatch* (1990-1999)

Mezzanine Level 2 or online via Lexis (DSTATE)

c. *The Department of State Treaty Actions* (1997-present)

Online at the U.S. Dept. of State site at <http://www.state.gov/s/l/c3428.htm>

**D. FINDING AIDS & INDEXES TO RATIFIED TREATIES:** use the following sources to identify the citations for treaties by country, subject, popular name or numerical cite (e.g., TIAS 100, KAV 100, UNTS 93). Citations will be to one of the sources listed below under "Full-text treaty sources for ratified treaties".

1. **Treaties in Force (TIF):** provides citations to bilateral & multilateral treaties in force as of January of the current year.

Reading Room KZ 235 T74 or online via LEXIS (U.S. Treaties in Force), Westlaw (USTIF), the U.S. Dept. of State site (<http://www.state.gov/s/l/c8455.htm>) or [Hein-Online](#)

2. **Guide to United States Treaties in Force:** indexes currently operative bilateral and multilateral agreements of the U.S. Updated annually.

Reading Room KZ 235 G86 or [Hein-Online](#)

3. **United States Treaty Index: 1776-1990 Consolidation & Cumulative Supp.:** indexes treaties by treaty number, country and subject. Updated by supplements and the *Current Treaty Index*

Reading Room KZ 235 U54

4. **Current Treaty Index:** supplements the *U.S. Treaty Index: 1776-1990*

KZ 235 U542 or [Hein-Online](#)

5. **Shepard's Acts & cases by Popular Names: Federal & State:** provides cites to treaties listed by their popular names

Reading Room KF 90 S52

#### **E. UNRATIFIED OR IMPERFECTED TREATIES**

If the United States participated in treaty negotiations but ultimately did not ratify the treaty, the text may be found in *Unperfected Treaties of the United States of America, 1776-1976*. (KZ 236 1976). For unratified treaties after 1981, check LEXIS (USTRTY).

## F. UPDATING TREATIES

1. *Shepard's United States citations: Statutes edition*, Vol.6  
Reading Room KF 68 Z9 S5
2. *International Legal Materials (ILM)*: check the "recent actions" section for updates  
Reading Room KZ 64 I58 or Hein-Online
3. *Dept. of State's Office of the Legal Advisor*: provides a list of treaty actions going back to 1997  
<http://www.state.gov/s/l/c3428.htm>
4. *United States Senate*: provides a list of treaties received, approved, reported and acted upon during the current Congress  
[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)

## III. LOCATING TREATIES TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS NOT A PARTY

### A. FULL-TEXT TREATY SOURCES

- United Nations Treaty Series* (UNTS): treaties registered with the UN Secretariat (1946-present).  
Microform & Reading Room KZ 172 .U54  
Online: <http://untreaty.un.org>
- League of Nations Treaty Series* (LTS): bilateral & multilateral treaties 1920-1946  
Microforms KZ 170.5 .C43 or <http://untreaty.un.org>
- Consolidated Treaty Series* (CTS): bilateral & multilateral treaties (1648-1919)  
Reading Room KZ 120 .P35 1969

**B. TREATY INDEXES:** Use one of the following indexes to locate a UNTS or LTS cite (also try searching SALLY to see if the LRC has any treaty compilations on your subject):

1. *Index to Multilateral Treaties* 1596-1963.  
Reading Room KZ 118 M67 1965
2. *World Treaty Index* indexes treaties registered with the League of Nations, the United Nations, and other treaties from 1900-1980. It also identifies specific country sources.  
Reading Room KZ 173 R64 1974
3. *Multilateral Treaty Calendar 1648-1995*  
Reading Room KZ 118 W55 1998
4. *Multilateral Treaties Index and Current Status* (1856-1994)  
Reading Room KZ 118 B68 1984 (Supp. 1995)

### IV. TREATY SUBJECT COMPILATIONS AT THE LRC

Check SALLY to see if the LRC has any treaty compilations on your subject such as *Indian Affairs: Laws & Treaties*, *Extradition Laws & Treaties, U.S.* (Kavass & Sprudz), or *Tax Treaties* (CCH).

### V. OTHER EXCELLENT ONLINE RESOURCES

*ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law* at: <http://www.asil.org/resource/treaty1.htm>

--links to treaty research guides, full-text treaty sources, library catalogs, etc.

*THOMAS* (<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/treaties/treaties.htm>): covers treaties back to the 94<sup>th</sup> Congress

*University of Minnesota's Human Rights Library* at: <http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/treaties.htm>

--links to human rights related treaties; allows for full-text searching across multiple websites, including the United Nations and the European Court of Human Rights.

*World Intellectual Property Organization* (WIPO): <http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/>

-- provides access to full-text of UN-administered intellectual property-related treaties

**CONTACT A REFERENCE LIBRARIAN FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE**