Current Index to Legal Periodicals (CILP) on Westlaw
“Cheat Sheet”

This is an overview of using the *Current Index to Legal Periodicals* (CILP) on Westlaw. To learn about features not discussed here, and for help and advice specific to your research, call the research desk at 415.422.6773 or contact a research librarian via [http://legalresearch.usfca.edu/ZiefResearchHelp](http://legalresearch.usfca.edu/ZiefResearchHelp).

**Coverage and Content**

The *Current Index to Legal Periodicals* (CILP) is a weekly topical list that notifies researchers of recently-published law review articles, often before those articles appear in “full-text” law review sources on Lexis and Westlaw or in other law review search tools such as *Index to Legal Periodicals* or Legal Resource Index/LegalTrac. Westlaw’s “Current Index to Legal Periodicals” (CILP) database has the most recent 8 weeks of CILP. The Zief Law Library has CILP in print for the past 12 months, at call number K 33 .C85 LAW REFERENCE.

**Access**

Westlaw’s version of CILP is available only to researchers who have individual Westlaw passwords. At USF, Westlaw access is limited to law students, law faculty, and law staff.

**Log-in**

Log on to Westlaw in the usual way. Then, type “Current Index to Legal Periodicals” in the search box, and select “Current Index to Legal Periodicals” from the “Looking for this?” choices.

**Searching & Display of Results**

Once you’ve connected to CILP, you’ll see a citation list of the 8 most recent issues of CILP. To run your own search in CILP on Westlaw, enter your search in the search box. You can use natural language or “advanced” (“terms and connectors”) searches. For search tips, see the next page.

**Printing, Saving and E-mailing**

You may print, save, or e-mail functions your CILP results — but be aware that you’ll be printing, saving, or emailing entire weekly issues of CILP, and not just the references to the articles that interest you.

**Setting Up an Alert**

You can use Westlaw’s “Alerts” feature to set up a CILP search that will run automatically. First, run your search. Then, to begin setting up an alert, use the bell icon at the top of your results list to select “Create WestClip Alert.” At the next screen, let Westlaw prompt you through the steps of creating the alert.

**Specific Searches Useful for Legal Research**

See the next page for examples of typical CILP searches.
**Specific Searches Useful for Legal Research, cont.**

Note: In CILP, terms and connectors (“advanced”) searches usually work best. You can also use natural language searching on Westlaw. These examples all use “advanced” (“terms and connectors”) searches.

**Subject/Topic Searching**

To see cites to recent articles under a particular CILP subject/topic heading, use a search such as:

- `adv: topic(corporations)` — or —
- `adv: topic("military war and peace")`

There’s a list of CILP subject/topic headings at: [http://lib.law.washington.edu/cilp/revsub.html](http://lib.law.washington.edu/cilp/revsub.html).

**Keyword Searching and Case-Name Searching**

To search by keyword, enter a single word, a phrase, or multiple words using “proximity operators”, e.g.,

- `adv: mortgage` — or —
- `adv: "title ix"` — or —
- `adv: custom! /25 "international law"`

For case name searching, enter the parties’ names (or distinctive parts of the parties’ names) and use the `+n` proximity connector, e.g.,

- `adv: obergefell +3 hodes` — or —
- `adv: cardona +3 "chiquita brands"

**Author Searching**

To find cites to recent articles by a particular author, use a search such as:

- `adv: ontiveros /2 maria`

**Law Review / Journal Title**

To see a list of all recent articles from particular law reviews/journals, use a search that incorporates words from the journal’s title. For example:

- `adv: topic(harvard)` — or —
- `adv: topic("human rights quarterly")`

There’s a list of law reviews “indexed” by CILP at: [http://lib.law.washington.edu/cilp/period.html](http://lib.law.washington.edu/cilp/period.html).