

Index to Legal Periodicals & Books

“Cheat Sheet”

This is an overview of the features of *Index to Legal Periodicals*. To learn about features not discussed here, and for help and advice specific to your research, call 415.422-6773 or contact a research librarian via <http://legalresearch.usfca.edu/~lejResearchHelp>.

Coverage and Content

Index to Legal Periodicals (“ILP”) on the web covers 1908 to the present. Full text is available for selected recent articles. For periods before 1908, use *Index to Legal Periodicals* in print (K 33 .I54 LAW REFERENCE).

ILP contains citations to articles in law journals and other legal periodicals, and to some books. It also has or links to the full text of selected recent articles.

Access

Index to Legal Periodicals is available to researchers using USF campus libraries, and to current USF students, faculty and staff on campus or using remote logins.

Log-in

- ◆ Go to: <https://www.usfca.edu/library/legalperiodicals> and select the “Connect to this Database” link.

Search Options

There are two search options—Basic, and Advanced. Advanced Search is the default.

The “Help” link leads to detailed documentation on search options and techniques.

Basic Search allows natural language and “Boolean” (terms and connectors) searching.

The Advanced Search template offers various flexible and precise search methods.

By default, ILP searches articles from 1908 to the present. Use the “Publication Date” option (under “Limit your results”) to filter your results to a given range of dates.

Options for filtering your search results will appear to the left of the list of your results.

ILP’s “Search History” lists of all your searches, and links to results. You can use the Search History to return to and even combine previous search results.

If you create a free “My EBSCOhost” account, you can use the “Alert/Save/Share” feature to set up regular updates of new results from your searches. (The “Sign-In” link at the top of the screen lets you create and sign into your “My EBSCOhost” account.)

Display of Results

By default, ILP displays results 20 citations at a time. You can use “Page Options” to display up to 50 citations at a time. “Page Options” also lets you choose among the four display modes: Standard, Brief, Title Only, and Detailed.

Printing, E-mailing, Saving & Exporting

You can save items to “Folders” for later printing, e-mailing, saving, or exporting. If you’ve created and signed on to a free “My EBSCOhost” account, you can save items in folders between sessions.

Specific Searches Useful for Legal Research or Preemption Checking

These examples assume that you are using the Advanced Search mode.

Key Word Search

In the top search box, enter any key words, *e.g.*, **euthanasia** — or — **"trade dress"** — or — **internet and jurisdiction**. Then, leave "Select a Field (optional)" in the adjacent pull-down menu.

You may use "Boolean" operators (**AND**, **OR**, **NOT**) and the "proximity connectors" **NEAR** and **WITHIN**.

Use **N** (the "NEAR" operator) to find words in proximity, *in any order* (*e.g.*, **trademark* N20 confus***).

Use **W** (the "WITHIN" operator) to find words in proximity, *in the order you entered them* (*e.g.*, **unlawful W5 combatant***).

Use **?** to retrieve plurals (*e.g.*, **lawyer?**). Use ***** to retrieve all forms of a word (*e.g.*, **discrim***).

Subject Search

In the top search box, enter a valid ILP subject heading, *e.g.*, **right to die**, then select "SU Subject Terms" from the adjacent pull-down menu.

(To find valid subjects, select either these options from the "Subjects" pull-down option at the top left-hand side of the screen: "Index to Legal Periodicals and Books Full Text — Thesaurus" *or* the "Index to Legal Periodicals Retrospective: 1908-1981 — Thesaurus..")

Author Search

In the top search box, enter the author's name, last name first, *e.g.*, **wildman, stephanie**, then select "AU Author" from the adjacent pull-down menu.

Case Name Search

In the top search box, enter, *e.g.*,

oncale [for one party's name]

cruzan W5 director [for two parties' names]

"compassion in dying" [for multiple-word parties' names]

Then, leave "Select a Field (optional)" as the choice in the adjacent pull-down menu.

Statute Name Search

In the top search box, enter, *e.g.*, **"americans with disabilities"**

Then, leave "Select a Field (optional)" as the choice in the adjacent pull-down menu.

Using Your Results to Find Other Similar Articles

If any of your searches finds useful citations, you can look for articles on similar topics by building *new* searches using the terms listed under "Subject" filter to the left of your search results, or you can click on the subject links in any individual record.

Limiting by Jurisdiction — For Articles About Case Law or Statutory Issues

First, enter in the top search box key words or search terms related to your issue or topic. Then, do the following to restrict your search to articles dealing with a particular jurisdiction. (Jurisdiction limits are most effective at retrieving articles dealing heavily with individual statutes or cases.)

- ♦ When **statutes** are involved, enter the jurisdiction name (*e.g.*, **California** — or — **"United States"** — or — **China**) in the second search text box. Then, leave "Select a Field (optional)" as the choice in the adjacent pull-down menu.
- ♦ When **case law** is involved, enter the recognized *Bluebook* abbreviation for the state or court or reporter (*e.g.*, **Cal.** — or — **"N.D. Cal."** — or — **"9th Cir."**) in the second search text box. (Use **"S. Ct."** for the Supreme Court.) Leave "Select a Field (optional)" as the choice in the adjacent pull-down menu.