Law Guide: explanatory notes on the use of legal databases

https://libguides.eur.nl/law/

Home > Library catalogues
Praktizijnsbibliotheek (Library of the Praktizijns-Sociëteit)
The Praktizijnsbibliotheek is regarded as one of the most fully equipped legal libraries in the Netherlands. You can easily follow the development of Dutch law since the Napoleonic era in its collection of manuals, theses and professional journals, and the library still purchases relevant literature relating to all legal areas. In addition, the library has devoted attention to devising a modern search system that can be used on mobile telephones as well. This is not a full-text system.

Home > Legal Search Tools
Legal Intelligence and Rechtsorde

We advise you to use both systems. Although there is considerable overlap between the two, Legal Intelligence (LI) and Rechtsorde do not cover precisely the same sources. It is important to be aware that using the same search terms does not a priori guarantee the same search results. The algorithms maintained are different in each system, which causes differences in search results. Legal Intelligence is a component of Wolters Kluwer, while Rechtsorde forms part of SDU. Wolters Kluwer originally focused on sources relating to private law and SDU concentrated on sources relating to public law. These original features still persist today in the priority accorded to the search results.

Kluwer Navigator
Go to Kluwer Navigator and select ‘Login voor WO/HBO’. You can use this portal to search for professional literature, information on legal practice, models, legislation, regulations, comments and jurisprudence in all fields of Dutch law. The sources are linked up to one another wherever relevant. Period covered by the legislation: May 1992 to the present day.

Kluwer Law Online
This contains articles in legal journals published by Kluwer Law International; it also enables you to access encyclopaedias on international law.

OpMaat
This database provides access to:
• Dutch Laws & Legislation (Wet- en Regelgeving)
  o Consolidated texts of Acts (Wetten), including Kingdom Acts (Rijkswetten); Royal Decrees (KB’s), including Orders in Council (AMvB’s) and Orders in Council for the Kingdom (RijksKB’s): from 01-04-1996 to the present day
  o Consolidated texts of Ministerial Regulations: from 01-05-2003 to the present day
  o Consolidated texts of Policy Regulations, Circulars, Permanent Professional Development Regulations Public Bodies for Enterprise and Profession (PBO’s), Non-Departmental Public Bodies Regulations (ZBO’s): from 01-05-2005 to the present day
• Treaties (Verdragen): from 1971 to the present day
• Jurisprudence, including a selection from the Rechtspraak.nl website
• Commentary
• Literature
• Journals
• News
• Tools

OpMaat is an SDU product. SDU has a strong natural orientation towards government and administration, and is preferable to Kluwer Navigator in respect of matters pertaining to administrative law. Kluwer, on the other hand, is strongly oriented towards private law and commercial law.

Tools
Leidraad voor juridische auteurs
The Leidraad is the most frequently used reference style for Dutch legal study programmes. This reference style is compiled by Kluwer publishers in Deventer, and may be obtained free of charge by clicking on the link Leidraad voor juridische auteurs. The Leidraad contains six reference systems.

Legal and Economic Lexicon
This lexicon may be purchased online in three versions: Dutch-English, English-Dutch and Dutch-German. The Dutch-English version is available in book form as well.

This online lexicon ensures accuracy when interpreting and compiling legal and economic texts. The Legal and Economic Lexicon provides you with a complete, reliable and up-to-date online professional dictionary.

General Law
This page contains the sources for legislation and case law as these have been included in Kluwer Navigator, Kluwer Law Online, Nederlandse Jurisprudentie, NJ Feitenrechtspraak, Praktijkgids, Rechtspraak van de Week and Kluwer ‘Lexplicaties’ for each legal field.

You will also find references to legal publications insofar as these have been included in the EUR repository.

The E-book collections section contains the e-books published by HeinOnline and Oxford Scholarship Online. However, please be aware that you can also find e-books on Kluwer Navigator, Kluwer Law Online and Beck Online. You can also go to Westlaw Next and Westlaw UK.
The Journals section contains journals of a more general nature such as Ars Aequi or the Nederlands Juristenblad, and journals which are not of a positive law nature such as the Netherlands Journal of Legal Philosophy, Recht der Werkelijkheid, Tijdschrift over Cultuur en Criminaliteit, Computerrecht, Tijdschrift voor Internetrecht and the Tijdschrift voor Rechtsgeschiedenis (=Revue d'Histoire du Droit / The Legal History Review).

**Fields of Law**

The sources for the major legal fields below may be found under the various legal areas: Civil Law, Criminal Law, European Law, Foreign and International Law, Labour and Social Law, Public Law and Tax Law; these have been subdivided into specific legal areas wherever possible. This provides you with a *road map* for law.

**Civil Law**

The General section includes major reference works in the field of private law, such as the Asser series and the Groene series. These reference works are a good starting point for keeping yourself informed on the tenets and doctrines in this field. The authors are legal specialists at top-quality academic level. The major general private-law journals are included under this heading.

The Arbitration Law/Mediation section contains the major Kluwer Arbitration database and the relevant journals in this field.

The Banking/Commercial Law section contains a relevant database entitled OpMaat Onderneming en Recht. However, you may also use the Kluwer Navigator to continue searching. The relevant literature (articles in journals and e-books) in this legal field may be found using Kluwer Navigator. SDU OpMaat and Kluwer Navigator complement each other here as well.

One relevant source in the section Civil Procedure Law is Tekst en Commentaar Burgerlijke Rechtsvordering. In any event, the entire Kluwer Tekst en Commentaar Series is extremely useful.

Essential sources are mentioned in the Company Law section. All these sources from various publishers (Kluwer, SDU, Boom Juridisch) complement one another and provide you in their entirety with a satisfactory overview of legislation, jurisprudence and literature in this field. You should not restrict yourself to one source only.

SmartNewz Contractenrecht and the aforesaid Kluwer journals are an accurate representation of the sources in the field of Contract Law.

You will also find the relevant sources from various publishers in the field of Family Law, and these complement each other effectively as well. You should not restrict yourself to one source only here either.

In the field of Health Law, Tekst & Commentaar Gezondheidsrecht and GZR Updates Gezondheidsrecht published by Boom Juridisch deserve special attention. Boom Juridisch Publishers also publishes the influential Tijdschrift voor Gezondheidsrecht. The electronic version dates from 1990, although not all judicial decisions were incorporated into it before 2000. It is therefore essential to consult the paper version at all times.
The sources pertaining to Inheritance Law and Insolvency Law also originate from various publishers, and each of these elucidates different aspects. We recommend that you consult all the available sources in order to obtain a complete picture.

In respect of Insurance and Liability Law, we should also refer you to relevant international sources such as Geneva Papers on Risk and Insurance and Journal of European Tort Law in addition to Dutch sources such as Tekst & Commentaar Verzekeringsrecht and Tijdschrift Aansprakelijkheids- en Verzekeringsrecht in de praktijk.

For national and international sources in the field of Intellectual Property Law, we advise you to consult Kluwer sources such as Kluwer Navigator and Kluwer Law International IP Law.

A number of sources pertaining to Maritime and Transport Law have been included. However, since the Sanders Institute Library possesses an extensive collection in this legal field, we advise you to consult this library as well.

In addition, the Kluwer sources are pre-eminently relevant in respect of Property Law, Real Estate and Tenancy Law. Kluwer Navigator is a good source to use in this connection.

**Criminal Law**

The Criminal Law section contains sources including manuals and journals in the field of national and international criminal law and law of criminal procedure. This section also includes a link to the WODC (Wetenschappelijk Onderzoekcentrum van het Ministerie van Justitie en Veiligheid = Research and Documentation Centre, Ministry of Justice and Security). We also recommend you consult the Kluwer Navigator and the SDU OpMaat Criminal Law and Law of Criminal Procedure modules.

**European Law**

The most relevant source for European law is the European Union’s own database: EUR-Lex. This extensive database may be consulted in all the EU’s official languages; it contains all EU legislation, jurisprudence and comments, as well as national legislation and regulations for implementation of EU Directives and Regulations.

For EU competition law, you may consult Kluwer Competition Law. The Common Market Law Review is also an important journal.

**Foreign and International Law**

Some extremely relevant sources in the field of United States federal law are provided here for comparative law studies, such as Westlaw Next and HeinOnline. Westlaw UK focuses on English, Welsh and Scottish law, while Beck Online deals with German law. For Chinese law, you should consult China Law Info. These databases are the equivalents of Kluwer Navigator (in respect of Dutch law) for each of the relevant countries specified above. HeinOnline was originally an extremely comprehensive archive mainly containing articles in legal journals in the United States. Today, however, this database also includes articles published in European and Australian journals.

Oxford Reports on International Law and the Peace Palace library and website are specific sources relevant to International Law. The Oxford Law Reports contain jurisprudence and comments in all the major fields of international law. Look for the ‘Research Guides’ on the Peace Palace website; these are a good starting point for research into the leading issues.
pertaining to international public and private law. These Research Guides provide an overview of relevant books, databases and articles in professional journals.

In respect of International Public Economic Law, the commentary relating to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) are of essential importance. These may be found in the three databases listed, and have been completely harmonised with one another.

**Labour and Social Law**
This section contains legislation, jurisprudence and academic commentary pertaining to the general fields of Labour Law, Administrative Law and Social Security Law; they originate from sources at various publishers. All these sources complement one another. You may consult the above sources if you wish to obtain an accurate picture of all aspects of labour and social legislation. All these sources are equally relevant. You may also consult Kluwer Navigator and SDU OpMaat.

**Public Law**
In the same way as Civil Law, the Public Law section has been subdivided into smaller legal areas. However, the number of sources for each sub-area of Public Law is less extensive than for Civil Law. This is mainly due to the fact that - in contrast to SDU - Kluwer does not focus so much on this particular legal field. Since SDU originated from the Government Printing Office, it is still extremely public law-oriented. SDU provides 'Vind' databases for a number of sub-areas. Contrary to the SDU OpMaat Modules, these databases are very practice-oriented, but not very academically oriented. The 'Vind' databases are mainly intended for use by Municipal and Provincial policy officials. In addition, ESL Public Law students who have graduated/obtained their degree come into contact with these public-law bodies, so they too are obliged to acquaint themselves with cases in practice. This is the reason why it is useful to subscribe to these databases.

**Tax Law**
The sources from various publishers included under this heading provide a complete picture of the national and international tax environment and complement one another satisfactorily in a practical as well as an academic sense. Studying Tax Law without having perused the Vakstudies is almost unthinkable. One other source that must be mentioned here is SDU’s Nederlandse Documentatie Fiscaal Recht (NDFR). This database is also a byword in the taxation world.

The two databases International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD) and Kluwer International Tax Law complement one another satisfactorily in respect of academic comments in the field of international tax law. Kluwer’s The Klaus Vogel commentaries on International Tax Law are particularly appreciated, as are the IBFD’s commentaries.

In addition, EUR trains tax specialists for legal practice. FiscaalTotaal is an important source in this connection. The journals referred to are extremely pertinent to knowledge of Tax Law.

**Conclusion**
These explanatory notes on use of the legal sources may facilitate your choice of a certain source in education and research. However, please remember that you need to be acquainted with the road map for law and with the content of the relevant legal matters before you select the correct source. Student guidance and supervision on the part of lecturers and course lecturers is still essential.