BRIEF OVERVIEW OF SOURCES OF PUBLISHED LEGAL INFORMATION

A. **Subscription collections**: (under Electronic Resources option then Databases A-Z on the Library’s website – see end of this sheet. OR, click on the Libguides option for the new look law support page)

**South Africa**

(Sabinet; Sabinet online all legal products; LexisNexis; Juta e publications; Juta’s unreported judgments)

i) **Journals and theses**

**Sabinet**: *ISAP* (index only, 1987+) and *SA e Publications* (full text, 2001+)

Sabinet provides access to a wide range of SA publications, it is not just for law journals.

**UCTD** – index to SA masters and PhD theses since 1918.

(Most institutions are now digitising theses – see the tab ResearchSapce for UKZN theses. Theses for the last 10 years are available. Theses that are published as books will most likely not be available due to copyright. Google a thesis or go to the relevant institution’s library website and look for a digital theses link.)

ii) **Law reports and statutes** (full text)

**LexisNexis** and **Juta e publications** (Jutastat) and **Juta’s unreported judgments**

LexisNexis also includes textbooks, the encyclopedia LAWSA and a couple of journals

Juta also includes textbooks, a couple of journals, Juta’s quarterly and annual review.

They provide access to the most recent versions of statutes. Some regulations also available on Juta from 1990 but incomplete.

**Juta’s unreported judgments** are online. Click on the link under Databases A-Z and username is: UNIVKZN; password AHR575.

**Saflii** supplies access to many law reports, published and unpublished – those with the law report acronym ZASCA

Note that Lexis and Juta are updated every 2 months. For up to the minute info you can go to: [www.mylexisnexis.co.za](http://www.mylexisnexis.co.za); first name: suren; second name: moodley; email: moodleysu@ukzn.ac.za

iii) **Government gazette**

**Sabinet online all legal products**

Contains Gov gazettes full text: 1994 – 2012; Retrospective gazettes: 1910 – 1993; provincial gazettes; also bills

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**International**

(Heinonline; Legal Source (via Ebscohost); LexisNexis UK; Westlaw; ejournals)

i) **Journals and theses**

**Heinonline**

Primary and secondary sources; our interest is *Law Journal library* which has fairly good international coverage eg Australian and even some South African journals. Hein’s focus is pdfs of earlier journal articles, preferably from the beginning of journal runs –
includes some SA ones. Many are current. Hein pops up often on Google Scholar. The SA journals full text included are:

Annual Survey (AS) (1947-2008)
Cape Law Times / SA Law Journal (CLT or SALJ) (1884-2010)
Comparative & International Law Journal of SA (CILSA) (1968-2010)
Journal of SA Law (J SA L) (1976-2010)
Law Democracy and Development (1997-2011)
Stellenbosch Law Review (Stell LR) (1990-2010)

**Legal source & Index to legal periodicals retrospective (1908-1981)**
Largely American but good coverage of a wide range of topics. About 800 journals of which 400 are full text.

**LexisNexis (UK)**
Although it appears that we have access to all features, we have only subscribed to the journals. A small collection of UK journals

**Westlaw**
Predominantly USA although claims to be international. Much is full text.

**GoogleScholar** – indexes articles, reports, theses, books etc. More flexible in terms of search construction. No automatic full text. Where UKZN subscribes to a journal click on the title or link to get to the full text.

Note that a number of databases other than the above supply access to some law journals eg Wiley, Sage, Taylor and Francis – most annoying this lack of cohesion.

**E journals**
This option differs from the ones above in that it is an alphabetical list of all journals that UKZN has some sort of e access to; obviously you need to know the name of the journal you are looking for. You can search by journal title, article as well as for journals in a subject area. Very useful option once one has references if you don’t want a walk to the library.
Theses: **Proquest** provides an index to international theses, most are not full text, just the first 24 pages. Google would indicate full text availability.

iii) **Law reports and statutes**

**Westlaw** – largely USA, Canada, EU, Hong Kong, UK. Most countries make statutes available freely on their government websites or Google. Also check **World Legal Information Institute**.

B. **Freebies**

**World Legal Information Institute**: [www.worldlii.org](http://www.worldlii.org)

The aim is to make available as much material freely as possible for as many countries as possible, particularly cases, statutes, journals etc. Lots of useful links (many links don’t work on Saflii re other countries unfortunately). Also contains law commission reports. Search facility not very sophisticated.

South Africa is part of this: [www.saflii.org.za](http://www.saflii.org.za). The Saflii site provides access to other countries in Southern Africa as well.

**SA Law Reform Commission**: salawreform.justice.gov.za/

C. **Core non law databases**

With a PhD it is probably necessary to trawl royalty depending on your subject area - a couple of multidisciplinary databases. These include

**Science Direct** – this is a collection of the Elsevier journals and the sciences dominate so good for environmental and medical topics but a range of journals in the commerce and social sciences disciplines are also included. Unfortunately only the last 10 years are available full text for those journals we subscribe to.

**Web of Science** – this contains 3 collections: science, social science and arts and humanities. The added feature of this database is its citation option. Not only can you topic search but you can also put in the details of an article and see who has cited it subsequently. GoogleScholar offers a crude version of this. Gives some idea of the importance of a paper. The database indexes materials back to 1948.

**Academic search complete** – via Ebscohost. Probably the 2nd most heavily used collection after ScienceDirect.
Some notes

- **Off campus access** is possible if you are a registered student (see home page above)
- Databases are geared for topic searching when the titles of journals are not known. If you have the details about a particular journal or a reference to an article, the E journals option enables you to determine if online access is available or not
- The iLink catalogue mainly indicates print books and journals available at UKZN + theses
- For resources not available at UKZN, the Interlibrary Loan facility may be able to help. Many institutions scan journal article and email – there may be a charge. There is no charge for borrowing a book.

**Subject Librarian**: Rose Kuhn: Kuhn@ukzn.ac.za; 033 260 5904 (Pmb campus)
Omesh Jagarnath jagarnat@ukzn.ac.za; 033 260 1387 (HC campus)