



## **HOW TO FIND A TREATY OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES MAY NOT BE A PARTY**

The Law Library holds three large official compilations of texts of treaties and other international agreements to which the United States may be but is not necessarily a party. They are indicated in the table below.

<u>Title of Series</u>	<u>Volumes Held</u>	<u>Years Covered</u>	<u>Location</u>
Consolidated Treaty Series (also known as Parry's Consolidated Treaty Series)	1-243	1648-1919	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor JX170 C65
League of Nations Treaty Series	1-46; 101-197; 202-205	1920-1926; 1930- 1937; 1940-1946	5 <sup>th</sup> Floor KZ172 T7
United Nations Treaty Series	1-700 (microfilm) 701- current	1946/47-1969; 1969-current	4 <sup>th</sup> Fl. Micro. Cab. 41 5 <sup>th</sup> Fl. KZ170.5 T74

### Locating By Citation

Treaties in these sets are cited as *Consol. T.S.*, *L.N.T.S.*, or *U.N.T.S.* They can be located with the designated volume and page number in the appropriate set.

### Locating By Subject or Party

Each of these three compilations has its own series of index volumes shelved at the end of the set. If you know the date a treaty was signed, one or both parties to a bilateral treaty or that it is a multilateral treaty, or its subject, you can use the index volumes for these sets to locate the text. If the date of the treaty or even a general date range is known, you can go directly to the index volumes for the appropriate set since they do not overlap chronologically. If no date information is available, you may have to look in the index volumes for more than one set.

### United Nations Treaty Series Online

The printed United Nations Treaty Series is not very up-to-date. The Law Library also has a subscription to the online United Nations Treaty Series which is more current, although there is still lag time between the time a treaty is signed and when it can be found on the United Nations web site. This

database does not contain all the treaties that are in the print U.N.T.S. volumes, but it does have texts of many of the major multilateral treaties entered into since the end of World War II. If the treaty or other international agreement that you wish to find is a relatively recent one or it is a very well known treaty entered into after 1946, you may find its text in this database. To access the database, go to <http://www.law.uconn.edu/library/database/untc> and select the United Nations Treaty Series from the drop-down menu. Also on the list of items in the drop-down menu is a more recently updated index than you will find with the print collection as well as other United Nations publications relating to treaties, their interpretation and status.

### Other Official Online Sources

Other online sources for the official text of a treaty or other international agreement are the web sites of the secretariat for the treaty. In many cases the secretariat is the United Nations or a subsidiary body of the United Nations (as is the case with the Convention on the Law of the Sea) or a U.N. member who is a party to the treaty has deposited a copy of it with the United Nations General Secretary, but that is not true in all cases. For instance, the Convention on the Civil Aspect of International Child Abduction is in the print U.N.T.S., but since it was created under the auspices of the Hague Conference on International Private Law it also is available on the Hague Conference web site. A list of major organizational web sites that contain official digitized texts of relevant treaties and conventions follows.

<u>Name of Organization/URL</u>	<u>Includes these Treaties or International Agreements</u>
Hague Conference on Private International Law, <a href="http://www.hcch.net">http://www.hcch.net</a>	Convention on the Civil Aspect of International Child Abduction; Convention on International Access to Justice; Convention on the International Protection of Adults
Organization of American States, <a href="http://www.oas.org">http://www.oas.org</a>	Inter-American Convention Against Corruption; Convention on Territorial Asylum; Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture

World Trade Organization, <a href="http://www.wto.org">http://www.wto.org</a>	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT); Uruguay Round Agreements; Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization; Uruguay Round of Ministerial Decisions and Declarations
International Committee of the Red Cross, <a href="http://www.icrc.org">http://www.icrc.org</a>	The four Geneva Conventions and the Protocols, including: III - The Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, and IV - The Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War
European Union, <a href="http://europa.eu.int">http://europa.eu.int</a>	Treaty Establishing the European Economic Community (1957 Treaty of Rome); Treaty on European Union (1992 Maastricht Treaty); and Treaty of Nice
Mercosur, <a href="http://www.mercosur.org.uy">http://www.mercosur.org.uy</a>	Treaty of Asuncion; Protocol of Our Preto; Protocol of Brasilia; Protocol of Olivos
World Intellectual Property Organization, <a href="http://www.wipo.org">http://www.wipo.org</a>	Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary & Artistic Works; Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property

Some countries also have put the texts of the treaties to which they are party online on official government web sites or other authorized legal web sites. For instance, the Australian Treaty Series and other treaty materials can be found on the Australian Legal Information Institute web site, <http://www.austlii.org>. Argentina has its environmental treaties and agreements at the web site of the ministry of development, <http://www.medioambiente.gov.ar>. Mexican intellectual property agreements can be found at the Mexican Institute of Intellectual Property web site, <http://www.impi.gob.mx>. The Netherlands has the texts of treaties to which it is party on the foreign affairs ministry's web site at <http://www.minbuza.nl/>. Note that treaties and international agreements to which a country is party will

be in one or more of the official languages of that country. A good source of links to web sites with official and unofficial collections of bilateral and multilateral treaties and other international agreements arranged by country and/or subject, together with other treaty materials, is at the World Legal Information Institute website, <http://www.worldlii.org>.

### Unofficial Sources

*International Legal Materials (ILM)*, a monthly publication of the American Society of International Law, is an unofficial source for texts of treaties or other international agreements in English. *ILM* is available in print in the Law Library on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor at KZ 64 .I58 and online in Lexis, Westlaw, and HeinOnline (<http://www.law.uconn.edu/library/database/hein>). *ILM* can be particularly useful for finding the English-language text of an international agreement that is a current hot topic before it is printed elsewhere. Looseleaf publications or treatises on a particular topic also might contain the unofficial text of a treaty. For example, texts of international agreements on commercial arbitration are included in *International Commercial Arbitration* shelved on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor at K 2400 I59.

There are a number of unofficial online collections of treaties and other international agreements that are freely available without a subscription. Many are organized around a certain subject, e.g. the environment, but others are general collections. Among the most notable are:

**Multilaterals Project** at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, <http://www.fletcher.tufts.edu/multilaterals.html>

**Conventions Collection**, International Law Commission, including drafts of proposed treaties, <http://www.un.org/law/ilc/convents.htm>

**Avalon Project** at Yale Law School, including texts of treaties dating from before the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/avalon.htm>

**Human Rights Treaties and Other International Agreements** at the University of Minnesota collection, <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/treaties.htm>

**Lex Mercatoria International Trade and Commercial Law** by the Universities of Tomso and Oslo in Norway, and Pace University in the United States, <http://www.jus.uio.no/lm>

**Environmental Treaties and Resource Indicators (ENTRI)** at Columbia University <http://sedac.ciesin.org/entri/>

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