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Research Sources in International and Commercial Law

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Research Sources in International and Commercial Law

I. Introduction

The researching of international law is, in the minds of many, a confusing maze. Factors contributing to this view undoubtedly include lack of instruction in the use of international sources in many law programs and legal research texts, and the wide variety of materials that encompass the literature of international law. Quite simply, however, there are only two steps to researching any question. The first is framing the question and the second is going to the appropriate source for the answer. This paper concentrates on assisting the researcher in finding the appropriate sources.¹

II. Primary Sources

A. Foreign Law

Most foreign nations, including common law jurisdictions, publish only a fraction of the number of judicial decisions that are published in the United States. Thus, it should come as no surprise that the primary sources of foreign law are constitutions and statutes.

I. Constitutions

The major source for constitutions is Constitutions of the Countries of the World,² and its companion Constitutions of Dependencies and Special Sovereignties.³ Constitutions of the Countries consists of fifteen volumes and a supplement and contains the constitutions of over 160 countries. In addition to the text of the constitutions, the series contains an annotated bibliography and chronology of events leading to the adoption of each constitution. Constitutions of Dependencies is a newer work which is intended to eventually contain the constitutions of all associated states, dependent states and special sovereignties. As these become independent states, their constitutions are transferred to Constitutions of the Countries. Both sets

¹ For assistance in answering the first question see Williams, Research Tips in International Law, 15 J. INT’L L. & ECON. 1 (1981) [In order to provide complete bibliographic descriptions of the works discussed, footnotes may vary from standard citation form].
are updated several times a year, making them the best source for current information.

The only other attempt at a comprehensive collection of constitutions is *Constitutions of Nations*. This work has the same general features as *Constitutions of the Countries* but has the serious disadvantage of being issued in hardback. Updating is done only infrequently through the issuing of revised volumes.

In addition to comprehensive collections, a number of regional collections, such as *Constitutions of African States*, are available. These have the advantage of being more complete than the works mentioned above, but tend to be released infrequently and in hardcover. Thus, they can go out of date rather quickly, making them of little value for current research purposes.

Finally, researchers should be aware that every major state has published at least one treatise or history of its own constitution. These sources are most useful for historical research and, as is true of regional collections, they tend to be released in such a way as to make them not useful for current research.

2. Foreign Statutes

Foreign statutes can be found either by using the official or commercially produced code of a given nation, or by turning to one of many subject compilations of various types. Most often, researchers will be forced to turn to the latter alternative. While most foreign statutory codes are available in English translations, only the largest libraries hold a very complete selection of foreign statutes. One interesting type of service is commercially produced abridgements of foreign codes, such as *Collected Legislation of the USSR and Constituent Union Republics*. This looseleaf multivolume work includes a collection of legislative, executive, departmental and local governmental materials, translated from the original Russian text. It is arranged in a subject matter format and is updated frequently. A similar compilation is *French Law*, an abridgement of the constitution and selected statutes of France.

Subject compilations of foreign statutes are appealing for several

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6 Current bibliographies of these materials appear at the end of the section on each nation in *Constitutions of the Countries of the World*, supra note 2.


reasons. Researchers can choose almost any topic and be confident that there will be a compilation that covers it. Most of these compilations are issued as looseleaf services and will usually be kept current. Finally, it is usually much easier to find a specific statute in a narrow subject compilation than in a large set of volumes comprising the entire statutory code of a nation.

The major source for commercial laws is *Commercial Laws of the World*, a looseleaf service which provides comprehensive materials on the commercial laws of over sixty nations. This series includes materials which are otherwise unavailable, including the law of labor contracts, agency, powers of attorney, and limited partnerships. Another major source is *Commercial, Business and Trade Laws*, a set of looseleaf volumes covering sixty-four nations. This service, parts of which are still in preparation, covers in depth the commercial laws of every important commercial country in the world. Each nation is dealt with in a single volume, allowing the researcher to subscribe only to those volumes covering nations in which the researcher is interested. Another popular source is the *Digest of Commercial Laws of the World*, which consists only of abstracts of commercial laws and does not deal with import and export regulation, exchange rates, taxes and other related matters.

Many works are also available for highly specific subject areas. *Investment Laws of the World*, a result of the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of other States, contains the legislative, regulatory and treaty material for over fifty developing nations. Other subject compilations include *Multinational Corporations Law*, *Transport Laws of the World*, and *World Shipping Laws*.

Several journals provide continual review of foreign legislation. These are most valuable for obtaining current information on specific legal problems which are generating discussion. Major titles include *Journal of African Law*, *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, and Amer-

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B. International Law

1. Treaties

Searching treaties can be a frustrating task; in fact, one writer has gone so far as to call the field a jungle. Researchers can make the task somewhat easier, however, by asking two questions in relation to the treaty being searched: 1) Is the United States a signatory, and 2) Is it a current or retrospective treaty?

The best place to look for United States retrospective treaties is Bevins’ Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States of America, 1776-1949 (hereinafter cited as Bevins). Arranged chronologically by date of signature, the first four volumes of the thirteen volume set contain multilateral treaties, volumes five through twelve contain bilateral treaties arranged by country, and volume thirteen is an index to the entire set. All treaties prior to 1950 were officially published in Statutes at Large. An index to all treaties and international agreements appearing in Statutes at Large can be found in part three of volume sixty-four. Researchers should be aware that while Statutes at Large is the official source for pre-1950 treaties, Bevins is actually more complete, and thus is preferable as a searching source.

Beginning in 1950, treaties and international agreements have been published in United States Treaties and Other International Agreements. For each treaty the full text, chronology, and translation into each official language is given. Each volume is indexed by subject and country. The advance sheets to this series are published as Treaties and Other International

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18 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE LAW. Berkeley, California: American Association for the Comparative Study of Law, Inc., Boalt Hall, University of California, Berkeley.
19 CHINESE LAW AND GOVERNMENT. Armonk, New York: M.E. Sharpe, Inc. (quarterly).
20 SOVIET LAW AND GOVERNMENT. Armonk, New York: M.E. Sharpe, Inc. (quarterly).
Acts (TIAS).\textsuperscript{26} The cumulated volumes are arranged according to TIAS number.

Before they are available elsewhere, treaties usually show up in the Department of State Bulletin.\textsuperscript{27} Issued monthly, this official publication of the Department of State contains a "Treaty" section which gives information on the current status of treaties, and occasionally gives the full text of a treaty before it is available in TIAS form. International Legal Materials\textsuperscript{28} will also sometimes publish the text of treaties before they are available elsewhere.

The most comprehensive indexing of United States treaties is in United States Treaties and Other International Agreements Cumulative Index, 1776-1949,\textsuperscript{29} a four volume set compiled by Igor Kavass which indexes treaties by number, date of signature, country and subject. Included in the first volume is an index of Postal Agreements from 1844 to 1949 and a bibliography of relevant treaty collections and indexes. The series has also been published in cumulations for 1950 to 1970 and 1971 to 1975, and includes a current supplement for later treaties.\textsuperscript{30}

To determine whether a treaty of the United States is still in force, consult Treaties in Force: A List of Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States.\textsuperscript{31} This annual publication is produced by the Department of State and is the official source for determining which treaties remain in effect. The Digest of United States Practice in International Law\textsuperscript{32} can be turned to for official interpretations of treaties.

Unperfected Treaties of the United States of America\textsuperscript{33} is a collection of the texts of all treaties since 1776 which have not gone into force. The set currently goes up to the year 1919.

For retrospective treaties to which the United States was not a party consult The Consolidated Treaty Series.\textsuperscript{34} This series begins with the Peace of Westphalia and will eventually include everything up to the beginning of the League of Nations. It attempts to reprint the original text and

\textsuperscript{26} Treaties and Other International Act Series, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of State.
official translations of all international agreements signed since 1648. An
index to the set is being written and currently extends to 1808. For trea-
ties signed after 1920 see The League of Nations Treaty Series: Treaties and
International Engagements Registered with the Secretariat of the League.35 This
series includes all treaties entered into to which a League member was a
party, and includes translations in French and English. A nine volume
general index covers the entire 205 volume series, which extends from
1920 to 1944.

Beginning in 1946, the United Nations started publishing the United
Nations Treaty Series: Treaties and International Agreements Registered or Filed
and Recorded with the Secretariat of the United Nations.36 This series does not
succeed in its expressed purpose of providing access to all treaties entered
into by UN member nations, but is as complete as any set is ever likely to
be. It is indexed by country and very broad subject headings.

The best index to all treaties is the World Treaty Index,37 which pro-
vides access to League of Nations and United Nations treaty series, as
well as to several thousand other treaties in national collections. Cur-
rently, the set covers treaties from 1920 to 1972, with supplements being
planned.

To determine whether a foreign treaty is in force, consult Multina-
tional Treaties in Respect of which the Secretary-General Performs Depository Func-
tions: List of Signators, Ratifications, Accessions, Etc.38 This source closely
resembles Treaties in Force. It is arranged in twenty-four broad subject
categories as well as by date of signature, and includes signatories as well
as accompanying declarations or reservations. This work is supple-
mented by Statement of Treaties & International Agreements Registered or Filed
with the Secretariat of the United Nations,39 which has no index.

In addition to the collections discussed above, there are many re-
regional and national treaty collections.40 It is beyond the scope of this
paper to discuss these sources at length.

35 THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS TREATY SERIES: TREATIES AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGE-
MENTS REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LEAGUE. Printed for the League of Na-
tions by Imprimeries Reunies S.A., Lausanne (Switzerland).
36 UNITED NATIONS TREATY SERIES: TREATIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS
REGISTERED OR FILED AND RECORDED WITH THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS.
37 P. ROHN, WORLD TREATY INDEX. Santa Barbara, California: American Bibliographi-
cal Center-Clio Press, 1974.
38 MULTINATIONAL TREATIES IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PER-
FORMS DEPOSITORY FUNCTIONS: LIST OF SIGNATORS, RATIFICATIONS, ACCESSIONS, ETC.
39 STATEMENT OF TREATIES & INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS REGISTERED OR FILED
Affairs.
40 For a good bibliography of these, see Williams, supra note 1, at 51.
2. *International Tribunal Decisions*41

The first major international court was the Permanent Court of International Justice. While it was in existence, its documentation was published in six series. Series A, which contains judgments, and Series B, which contains advisory opinions, were consolidated into one series in 1931. Series C contains pleadings, oral statements and documents; Series D contains rules and regulations; Series E served as the annual report of the Court; and Series F is an index to Series A, B, and C. The index is based primarily on names (of individuals, countries and so forth) and nomenclatures (judgments, opinions and treaties), with a few broad subject headings. *World Court Reports*42 is a four volume set which includes the decisions of the Permanent Court of International Justice. This series’ biggest drawback is its lack of an index.

The International Court of Justice has published *Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders*43 since 1947. This series is indexed by volume and is available in English and French. Since 1949, the Court has also published *Pleadings, Oral Arguments & Documents*, which contains materials similar to briefs used in the United States courts.

*Case Law of the International Court*44 is similar to a digest for decisions of the International Court of Justice. Arranged by subject, it contains extracts from the decisions along with references to the decisions. *A Digest of Decisions of the International Court*45 is in two volumes. The first is composed of summaries of cases brought before the Permanent Court of International Justice, and the second performs the same function for the International Court of Justice.

*International Law Reports*46 covers international law as dealt with in national courts worldwide. This series also contains decisions of several of the international courts.

The decisions of American federal and state courts involving public international law are collected in *American International Law Cases*.47 To date, this series extends from 1793 to 1978.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities officially publishes its decisions in seven languages. Since Great Britain joined the European Communities this series has been officially published in Eng-

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43 *Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders*. The Hague, the Netherlands: International Court of Justice, 1947—.
lish as *Reports of Cases before the Court*. Several commercial firms also publish these reports and they are also available online through LEXIS.

No comprehensive set of arbitration awards has ever been published. In 1948 the United Nations began publishing *Reports of International Arbitration Awards*, but this series is limited to cases which involve states as parties. This area is one in which researchers simply must spend a lot of time searching a wide variety of sources.

III. Secondary Sources

A. Sources for International Agencies

1. League of Nations

The League of Nations published several price lists and bibliographies of materials available for sale, but many researchers found these materials bulky and somewhat difficult to use. After the demise of the League, these price lists were combined into a single *Consolidated Catalog of League of Nations Publications Offered for Sale*, which arranges all material made available by the League into subject categories, and chronologically. The index to these materials is far superior to the indexing of the original price lists. *A Repertoire of League of Nations Serial Documents, 1919-1947* does not list individual publications; rather, it is a listing of all known series of League of Nations documents. The introduction to the work provides an explanation of the classification system of the documents and the rest of the volume is arranged by subject. For each series, the classification symbol is given along with the title of the series, the period of time during which it was published and the number of documents in that series.

Research Publications has produced a microform collection of the documents of the League of Nations and, to accompany this collection, has produced a subject index entitled *League of Nations Documents, 1919-1946*. This index can be of value apart from the microform collection.

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48 *Reports of Cases before the Court*. Luxembourg: Court of Justice of the European Communities, 1973-.
49 See infra notes 68 & 69 and accompanying text.
50 LEXIS is an online database system composed of "libraries" of federal, state, international, and specialized materials. The European Communities "library" contains cases decided from 1954 to the present and decisions of the European Commission on Competition Policy from 1972 to the present. LEXIS is owned and operated by Mead Data Central, Dayton, Ohio.
in locating a specific League document.

2. United Nations

The documentation of the United Nations has never enjoyed great bibliographic control; consequently, it can be very frustrating to research. Researchers can benefit greatly, however, from several UN series, especially the major yearbooks. The United Nations Statistical Yearbook contains comparative international data on population, social statistics, construction, manufacturing, and so forth. The Yearbook of International Trade Statistics provides annual data for value of imports and exports, trade in gold, currency conversion factors and other trade data. The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics keeps up to date economic developments for over seventy subjects by country.

The United Nations has gone through a series of attempts to produce a suitable index to its documentation, beginning with the Checklist of United Nations Documents, 1946-1949. This work was divided by organ and then arranged by UN symbol. A fairly good subject index provided the only access to the material if the UN symbol was not known. This series was replaced by the United Nations Documents Index (UNDI), which lasted from 1950 to 1973. UNDI was issued monthly in two parts. Part One was a subject index, while Part Two was a checklist by symbol. UNDI was cumulated annually, and in 1962 the Cumulated Index to United Nations Documents Index, 1950-1962 collected these annual cumulations into one author and subject sequence. In 1970, UNDI was replaced by the computer-produced UNDEX. This index was arranged in three series: Series A by subject; Series B by country; and Series C, a checklist of documents arranged by UN symbol number.

The latest UN index is UNDOC: Current Index, which began in 1979. This is issued ten times per year and is cumulated annually. It provides access by author, subject and title, and is the finest UN index to date. Unfortunately, none of these indexes have ever been cumulated,

nor has the superior *UNDOC* index been published retroactively. Therefore, researchers dealing with UN documentation must go through several indexes in order to be sure they have everything on the topic in question.

3. *European Communities*\(^{65}\)

Special problems are associated with European Communities publications, stemming in part from the fact that the European Communities is composed of several different organs, each of which is engaged in extensive publishing on its own. Major publications of the European Communities include the *Official Journal*,\(^{66}\) which is divided into two parts. The first part is "Legislation," which contains both Acts which are, and Acts which are not, mandated by the treaties establishing the European Communities. The second part of the *Journal* is "Information and Notices," which contains the minutes of the meetings of the European Parliament, and includes as an annex the full text of the debates of the Parliament. The *Official Journal* is indexed monthly and cumulated annually.

In addition to their publication in the European Communities' official reporters\(^ {67}\) European Communities decisions can be found in a number of unofficial reporters. *Common Market Law Reports*\(^ {68}\) contains selected decisions of the Commissioner, selected Community Legislation, and decisions of the national courts. The *Common Market Reporter*\(^ {69}\) includes English translations of the Communities' treaties, selected regulations, court decisions and bibliographies. Volume three of this set is a summary of national legislation of European countries in business related matters.

The *Encyclopedia of European Community Law*\(^ {70}\) is a multivolume work divided into three sections. Section one deals with United Kingdom Sources, section two contains European Community Treaties, and section three contains Community secondary legislation. The purpose of this set is to broadly present the legislative bases of the European Communities. Judicial decisions are noted only to the extent that they are important to statutory interpretation.

Journals which deal with the European Communities include *Common Market Law Review*\(^ {71}\) and *Commercial Laws of Europe*.\(^ {72}\) The latter

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\(^{66}\) *EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, OFFICIAL JOURNAL*. Luxemborg: European Communities.

\(^{67}\) See supra note 48 and accompanying text.

\(^{68}\) *COMMON MARKET LAW REPORTS*. London: European Law Centre, Ltd.

\(^{69}\) *COMMON MARKET REPORTER*. Chicago: Commerce Clearing House.


\(^{71}\) *COMMON MARKET LAW REVIEW*. Alphen aan den Rijn, the Netherlands: Sijthoff Noordhoff (quarterly).

\(^{72}\) *COMMERCIAL LAWS OF EUROPE*. London: European Law Centre, Ltd.
source deals with commercial law in Europe both in terms of national law, such as French and German law, and in terms of international law, such as the law of the EEC or GATT.

B. General Finding Aids

1. Bibliographies

Bibliographies are the pride of many in the information business; consequently, there is no lack of bibliographies in the field of international law. These helpful guides range from one page introductions to materials in a journal to multivolume works published by a university or government. While space does not permit even a cursory survey of this area, three sources deserve mention. *The Catalogue of International Law and Relations* is a multivolume author, title, and subject bibliography which contains over 80,000 international books and documents located within the law library of Harvard Law School. This catalog is considered one of the most complete international bibliographies available. *International Bibliography* is a quarterly publication which contains the publications of international organizations arranged by broad subject headings, with a title and subject index. This bibliography includes complete ordering information for the documents which it lists. Finally, researchers should be aware of the *Subject Bibliography* series published by the United States Government Printing Office (GPO). This series is a collection of bibliographies which lists only United States public documents produced by GPO in over 200 subject areas, many of which are of interest to international researchers. Each item listed on the *Subject Bibliography* is available for sale from GPO, and an order form is included with the *Bibliography* to facilitate ordering.

2. Indexes

The *Monthly Catalog of United States Publications* is the primary source for searching United States government publications. This publication began as a mere checklist of publications produced for the benefit of GPO and has become one of the more elaborate indexes available in any field. Each *Monthly Catalog* lists, by agency, all publications received by GPO during that month, and provides complete bibliographic de-

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76 See, e.g., SB-123, Foreign Trade and Tariff; SB-185, Digest of United States Practice in International Law and Digest of International Law; SB-275, Foreign Investments.
scriptions, including the Superintendent of Documents classification number (SUDOCS number) for each item. These bibliographic entries are made accessible by an author, title, subject, classification and series number index. These indexes are cumulated semiannually and annually. Before 1976, however, none of this elaborate indexing existed. Therefore, when searching pre-1976 documents, the researcher must resort to one of several commercially produced indexes to gain easy access to United States documents.  

Congressional publications can also be accessed through *Congressional Information Service Index*. This index, published by Congressional Information Service, Inc. (CIS), abstracts and indexes all Congressional hearings, committee prints, and other publications of Congress. The first index was produced in 1970, but a massive retrospective project has resulted in the indexing of all Congressional papers (with the exception of the *Congressional Record*) from the earliest available records to the present. In addition to indexing Congressional documents, CIS also makes these documents available in a microfiche collection which is arranged according to CIS accession number. CIS also produces *American Statistical Index*, which indexes all statistical publications printed by GPO, and makes them available on microfiche. *Statistical Reference Index* indexes statistical publications produced by private and state organizations. The *Index to International Statistics*, which is arranged by international agency, indexes statistical publications which have, up until now, been fairly inaccessible because of the poor bibliographic control of most international documentation. Though this index has only been published for a little over a year, it promises to be outstanding. The latest venture of CIS is the *CIS Federal Register Index*. This weekly service indexes the Federal Register by subject, names, Code of Federal Regulations section numbers, and federal agency docket number. As with the other indexes CIS produces, all items indexed are made available in a microfiche format. These microfiche may be bought as a complete set, or may be ordered individually.

Standard indexes for current periodicals and books include the *Index
to Legal Periodicals and Current Law Index. The latter source is available online in an expanded version, as Legal Resources Index. Indexes which deal specifically with foreign materials are Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals and Index to Canadian Legal Periodical Literature.

3. Journals

The literature of law librarianship can be quite valuable to any legal researcher. The Law Library Journal is one of the better sources for bibliographies, articles on searching techniques and current developments in legal literature. International Journal of Legal Information concentrates solely on international and foreign documentation and literature, and is the first place to look for information that is not readily available in the standard United States legal literature. Government Publications Review also occasionally deals with valuable topics that are left untouched by other journals.

C. Subject Approaches

Instead of using the primary-secondary approach to legal sources, many writers use a subject oriented approach. This approach has some advantages, since researchers will generally be dealing in one subject area and may only be interested in a guide to that area. The biggest disadvantage is the difficulty of defining any given subject area. With that warning, consider some of the following sources of information used in three areas of everyday international business law:

1. Commercial Opportunities and Regulations

The International Trade Administration, a division of the Department of Commerce, is a central source of information for international business. Overseas Business Reports is published about sixty times a year. Each issue covers a particular country and deals with such matters

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86 Legal Resources Index is available online through DIALOG, Lockheed Information Services, Pala Alto, Ca.
87 Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals. London: Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London.
as foreign trade outlook, investment and trade regulations and tax information. Foreign Economic Trends and Their Implications for the United States is a similarly arranged series which is produced annually for many countries. This series concentrates on the economic conditions of the countries covered and their effect on United States trade in that country. To determine the market for a specific industry in a given country, the exporter may turn to Global Market Surveys or to Country Market Surveys.

To identify foreign customers, consult Trade Opportunities Program, which lists foreign buyers and the products they wish to purchase. A producer with a new product available for sale may register that product with the New Product Information Service which, for a nominal fee, will list the new product in Commercial News USA, and will carry announcements of the product on the Voice of America radio broadcast.

In addition to these basic sources, the ITA publishes a number of monographs and booklets which cover a variety of problems encountered by international businesspersons. These may be kept up with by means of Commerce Publications Update, a bi-weekly listing of new publications by the Department of Commerce.

Other important government publications include the weekly Customs Bulletin, which contains regulations, rulings and decisions on customs and related matters; Customs Regulations of the United States, a looseleaf service provided by the Customs Service which contains the current text of regulations for carrying out customs laws; and Tariff Schedules of the U.S., which contains the legal text of United States tariff schedules.

Of all the commercially produced sources for country information, the best known is Price Waterhouse’s Information Guides for Doing Business


100 See, e.g., A GUIDE TO DOING BUSINESS IN THE ASEAN REGION (1981); AN INTRODUCTION TO CONTRACT PROCEDURES IN THE NEAR EAST & NORTH AFRICA (2d ed. 1980); COUNTERTRADE PRACTICES IN EAST EUROPE, THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA: AN INTRODUCTORY GUIDE TO BUSINESS (1980).


This series focuses on the legal aspects of doing business in the country under discussion. The *International Marketing Handbook* gives marketing information on 138 countries and includes information on doing business with eastern bloc countries.

In addition to the various statutory compilations, several compilations of commercial regulations are very useful to businesspersons. *Competition Law in Western Europe and the USA* brings together legislation, case law, and commentaries on competition law in major industrial nations. *International Capital Markets and Securities Regulation* sets forth and interprets securities laws and regulations of major nations. *Doing Business in Mexico* is a practical guide to regulations and procedures in that country. Similarly, *Doing Business in Japan* provides extensive information to the businessperson active in that nation.

Journals which concentrate on international commercial law include the *International Business Lawyer*, the *Journal of Maritime Law and Commerce*, and the *North Carolina Journal of International Law and Commercial Regulation*.

2. Tax

The majority of international tax matters are handled by treaty or statute. Many of the treaties can be found in *International Tax Agreements*, which contains comprehensive information on the status of all international tax agreements for avoiding double taxation or fiscal evasion. The information in this work is arranged chronologically by country. *CCH Tax Treaties* is a two volume looseleaf service that lists, by

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106 F. BAIR, INTERNATIONAL MARKETING HANDBOOK. Detroit: Gale Research, 1981.
107 See supra notes 7-15 and accompanying text.
109 H. BLOOMENTHAL, INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS AND SECURITIES REGULATION. New York: Clark Boardman Co., Ltd.
110 S. LEFLER, DOING BUSINESS IN MEXICO. New York: Matthew Bender.
111 Z. KITAGAWA, DOING BUSINESS IN JAPAN. New York: Matthew Bender.
112 INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION, SECTION ON BUSINESS, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LAWYER. London: Sweet & Maxwell.
113 JOURNAL OF MARITIME LAW AND COMMERCE. Cincinnati, Ohio: Jefferson Law Book Co.
country, all tax treaties into which the United States has entered. One of the most comprehensive collections of tax treaties is International Tax Treaties of All Nations.\(^{117}\) This multivolume set provides English translations of all tax treaties in force as of July 1, 1975, and includes both treaties which are and which are not published by the United Nations.

Of particular interest to businesspersons is Tax Havens of the World,\(^{118}\) which surveys over forty of the finest tax havens and provides basic comparative data. One of the best sources of tax information is the Foreign Tax Law Association.\(^{119}\) This organization publishes a variety of services in the areas of commercial and tax law which provide researchers with comprehensive information on foreign tax codes, tax forms, and related regulatory materials. These services are updated irregularly, but are considered to be among the finest available.

### 3. Patents\(^{120}\)

The most complete service available in this area is the Patent Law and Practice Series.\(^{121}\) Within this series the researcher can find application and licensing procedures of over twenty-five nations, and translations of statutes and regulations of over eighty nations. This source is sufficient to meet most needs, but for those few times when additional information is needed, a variety of regional services is available.\(^{122}\)

While the mechanics of searching patent documents is fairly straightforward,\(^{123}\) inexperienced researchers who want to locate United States patent documents are best served by going to one of the patent depository libraries located throughout the country, where trained personnel can assist in performing the search.\(^{124}\) For searching international

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\(^{117}\) W. DIAMOND & D. DIAMOND, INTERNATIONAL TAX TREATIES OF ALL NATIONS. Dobbs Ferry, New York: Oceana Publications.

\(^{118}\) W. DIAMOND & D. DIAMOND. TAX HAVENS OF THE WORLD. New York: Matthew Bender.

\(^{119}\) Foreign Tax Law Association, P.O. Box 340, Alachua, Florida, 32615.

\(^{120}\) A fairly good guide to patent documentation is F. CARR, SEARCHING PATENT DOCUMENTS FOR PATENTABILITY AND INFORMATION. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: Patent Information, Inc. (1982).

\(^{121}\) PATENT LAW AND PRACTICE SERIES. New York: Matthew Bender. The volumes in this series are divided as follows: 1-1A, PATENT LICENSING TRANSACTIONS; 2-2A, WORLD PATENT LAW AND PRACTICE; 2B-2I, WORLD PATENT LAW AND PRACTICE: PATENT STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND TREATIES; 3, PATENT LITIGATION: PROCEDURE & TACTICS; 4-4A, COURT REVIEW OF PATENT OFFICE DECISIONS: COURT OF CUSTOMS & APPEALS.

\(^{122}\) See F. CARR, supra note 120, at 105. See also F. KASE, FOREIGN PATENTS: A GUIDE TO OFFICIAL PATENT LITERATURE. Dobbs Ferry, New York: Oceana Publications, 1972.


\(^{124}\) Currently, Patent Depository Libraries are located at:

- **Alabama**: Birmingham Public Library.
- **California**: Los Angeles Public Library
  - Sacramento: California State Library
  - Sunnyvale Patent Library
- **Colorado**: Denver Public Library
patent documents, Derwent Patent Information Services is probably the best source of information.\textsuperscript{125} Researchers experienced in searching patent documents may do so online through a number of vendors, including IFI/Plenum Data Company, Pergamon International Information Company and LEXIS.\textsuperscript{126}

IV. Conclusion

This is by no means a comprehensive survey of the materials available to the researcher in international law. Rather, it is a guide to the sources which are most commonly used by those dealing in the areas which have been discussed. The continual growth of transnational and international business has made a basic knowledge of international law almost essential to those who practice in the area of commercial law.

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Using the materials discussed in this paper, practitioners should be able to locate the information they need in order to attain that knowledge.

—KEITH MERVIN DUNN