



1-1-2000

Strategies for Identifying Sources of Foreign Law: An Integrated Approach

Susan Van Syckel

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

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Recommended Citation

Susan Van Syckel, *Strategies for Identifying Sources of Foreign Law: An Integrated Approach*, 13 TRANSNAT'L LAW. 289 (2000).

Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/globe/vol13/iss2/4>

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Strategies for Identifying Sources of Foreign Law: An Integrated Approach

Susan Van Syckel*

Intended for law students and practitioners with little experience in researching foreign law, this guide provides starting points for finding print, online, and person sources of non-U.S. legal materials. Included are strategies for identifying print sources found in most academic law libraries, foreign legal and news databases available on the commercial online services of LEXIS and Westlaw, and Internet portal sites that provide access to databases of foreign law. For those instances when *no* source can be located in the United States or online, the guide suggests strategies for identifying individuals with special expertise or contacts abroad.

The guide summarizes the research strategies recommended by the Librarians at the Gordon D. Schaber Law Library at University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. A regularly updated electronic version is maintained at the Library's web page at the McGeorge Internet site: <<http://www.mcgeorge.edu>>. Internet sites included in this guide were last visited on December 1, 2000.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION: CAVEATS	290
II. PRELIMINARY SOURCES: THE LAY OF THE LAND	293
A. <i>Country-Specific Research Guides</i>	293
B. <i>Multi-jurisdictional Works</i>	296
C. <i>Journal Articles</i>	297
1. <i>Indexes to Legal Periodicals</i>	297
2. <i>LEXIS</i>	298
3. <i>Westlaw</i>	298
4. <i>Internet Links to E-Journals</i>	299
D. <i>Country Studies</i>	299

* Reference Librarian for Foreign and International Law, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, Gordon D. Schaber Law Library. MLIS, University of California, Berkeley; M.A., California State University Sacramento; B.A., California State University Sacramento. With thanks to Reyhaneh Eghbali, Assistant Articles Editor, for recommending that *The Transnational Lawyer* begin publication of a series of research guides. That recommendation included incorporation of this guide.

III. PRIMARY SOURCES: THE GAME IS AFOOT	302
A. <i>Identifying Print Sources: Revisit the Introductory Works</i>	302
1. <i>Country-specific Research Guides</i>	302
2. <i>Multi-jurisdictional Works</i>	303
3. <i>Online Catalogs</i>	303
a. <i>Neighboring Law Libraries</i>	304
b. <i>Sites that List Law Library Catalogs</i>	304
B. <i>Identifying Sources of Foreign Law on the Internet: Let Someone Else Do the Work... Initially</i>	304
1. <i>Print Directories and Newsletters</i>	305
2. <i>Collections of Links to Foreign Law Databases on the Internet</i> ..	305
C. <i>Identifying Sources of Foreign Law on LEXIS</i>	310
D. <i>Identifying Sources of Foreign Law on Westlaw</i>	311
IV. ALTERNATIVE SOURCES	313
A. <i>U.S. Government Sources</i>	313
B. <i>Foreign Government Sources</i>	313
C. <i>Individuals (The Generous Types)</i>	314
D. <i>Discussion Lists</i>	314
1. <i>Discussion Lists</i>	315
2. <i>Lists of Lists</i>	316

I. INTRODUCTION: CAVEATS

One of the most experienced comparative law librarians offers these *caveats* to law students undertaking foreign law research:

1. there may not be published sources of law for the country in which you are interested;
2. if there are, the sources may not be in English;
3. even if sources are available in English, a particular law library may not have them;
4. even if the library has them, the sources may not be current, or the translations may not be accurate.**

We recommend using these caveats as starting points in conducting foreign law research at an academic law library. And we add a caveat of our own: without some grounding in the foreign law that you are researching, it may be difficult to evaluate the reliability of the sources you *do* find. As a preliminary step to your research,

** Bill McCloy, Assistant Librarian for East Asian Law, University of Washington Gallagher Law Library.

consider consulting a secondary source that would provide an introduction to the laws and legal system of the country you are interested in, such as: (1) a journal article; a multi-jurisdictional encyclopedia, (2) a comparative law treatise, (3) a research guide, (4) or a country study. In Part II, "Preliminary Sources," we provide the titles of some of these works, identify pertinent Internet sites, and suggest how to identify additional print and online sources.

Those sources that provide an introduction to the legal systems of foreign jurisdictions may also identify primary sources, which may include: (1) the annotated bibliographies in the research guides, (2) the citations following digests of laws in the multi-jurisdictional works, (3) or links to texts of foreign laws mounted on the Internet. Part III, "Primary Sources," reprises some of these works, identifies Internet portal sites that provide access to databases of foreign laws, and suggests how to identify additional sources. The laws of foreign jurisdictions are published selectively in the databases available on the commercial online services. A strategy for identifying the foreign legal and news databases on LEXIS and Westlaw is also provided.

Success in finding sources of foreign law can often depend on finding the right person, such as a law librarian who is an area specialist, a generous member of a consulate staff, or a knowledgeable staff person at a U.S. Embassy or at the Regional and Country Desks of the U.S. Departments of State and Commerce. For those instances when *no* source can be located in the United States or online, Part IV, "Alternative Sources," suggests strategies for identifying individuals with special expertise or contacts abroad.

Another caveat: the organization of this Guide reflects the integrated approach—use of print and online sources—now essential to competent legal research. The Internet has become a particularly useful resource for those undertaking foreign law research; indeed, we identify a number of multi-jurisdictional web pages. While we have attempted to include the more enduring and respected Internet sites, be aware that researchers should assess the reliability of any online source. In determining the reliability of an Internet site that provides the texts of foreign laws, we consider whether the site identifies:

1. the source for the text (is it an official source? in the official language?);
2. if the text is a translation, the name and ideally the expertise of the translator;
3. if a statute, the date of enactment and whether the text represents current law;
4. the date the Internet site itself was last updated;
5. the corporate entity, public or private, responsible for maintaining the site and the e-mail address of the Webmaster.

A particularly useful and comprehensive guide to evaluating sources of foreign law on the Internet is provided by Mirela Roznovschi in *Evaluating Foreign and International Legal Databases on the Internet* available at LLRX.com at: <<http://www.llrx.com/features/evaluating2.htm>>.

A final caveat: while we provide some Internet portal sites as starting points, the ability to effectively search the Internet—to use search tools—is also essential to competent research. Search tools include subject directories (searchable databases consisting of indexes of Internet sources compiled by editor-reviewers), search engines (searchable databases consisting of indexes of Internet sources generated by software-driven “trolling” of the Internet), and meta-search engines (sites allowing simultaneous search of several search engines using a single query). Here is the caveat: each search tool is unique. Most provide search instructions along with advanced search techniques at their respective help pages. It is most useful to READ these instructions and to utilize several search tools. Meta-search engines are not necessarily the most efficient—one style of query does not fit all.

Two useful discussions of search tools, with links to the tools evaluated, are James Milles’ *Searching the Internet: Internet Directories and Indexes* at: <<http://law.slu.edu/library/SearchingTheNet.html>> and Jian Liu’s *Guide to Meta-Search Engines* at: <<http://www.indiana.edu/~librcsd/search/meta.html>>.

Four search tools are worth mentioning: *NorthernLight* at: <<http://www.northernlight.com>> for its “Power Search” that allows the researcher to establish several search parameters including country, language and subject; *AltaVista* at: <<http://www.altavista.com>> for its international scope and its translation tool; *BabelFish* at: <<http://babelfish.altavista.com>>; Findlaw’s *Law Crawler International* at: <<http://web.lawcrawler.com>> and *Index of Country Pages* at: <<http://www.findlaw.com/12international/countries>> for targeted searching of international and foreign law sites; and the Australasian Legal Information Institute’s *World Law Index/Search* at: <<http://www.austlii.edu.au/links/World>> that is both a directory of legislation-related resources and a search tool for locating additional international and foreign law sites (see its “User’s Guide”).

The Library of Congress provides an annotated, hypertext list of additional *Internet Search Tools* at: <<http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/search.html>>, as does the Asian Studies WWW Virtual Library Web Site in its *Annotated Guide to WWW Search Engines* (edited by Dr. T. Matthew Ciolek) at: <<http://www.ciolek.com/SearchEngines.html>>. The University of Geneva’s collection of *W3 Search Engines* provides access to eight distinct types of search tools at: <<http://cui.unige.ch/meta-index.html>>. The *Librarians’ Index to the Internet*, itself a subject directory, also provides search dialog boxes for nine other search tools at: <<http://infopeople.berkeley.edu:8000/src/srctools.html>> along with a companion chart of advanced search techniques at: <<http://infopeople.berkeley.edu:8000/src/chart.html>>.

II. PRELIMINARY SOURCES: THE LAY OF THE LAND

Obvious starting points for identifying sources that provide grounding in the laws and legal systems of foreign jurisdictions are the research guides and bibliographies for foreign and international law, the multi-jurisdictional encyclopedias and digests, the indexes to legal periodicals, and country studies.

A. *Country-Specific Research Guides*

Country-specific research guides are usually prefaced with an overview of the particular legal system. The series, *Parker School: Studies in Foreign and Comparative Law*, includes guides to the foreign legal materials of Western European countries. Your library should have several of these. Using your library's online catalogue search for the title "Parker School." Research guides for other foreign jurisdictions may be found with subject searches (for example, name of country) of the online catalog. This will also suggest the extent and currency of the library's holdings for a given jurisdiction, which will help determine how much outside research is required. The multi-jurisdictional research guides below name additional country-specific guides.

Danner, Richard A. and Marie-Louise Bernal, eds. *Introduction to Foreign Legal Systems*. New York: Oceana Publications, Inc., 1994.

This guide provides an introduction to the law and legal systems of seven foreign jurisdictions and two geopolitical regions. It includes citations to primary and secondary sources, including research guides. Additional citations to primary sources for roughly sixty five foreign jurisdictions are provided in a separate Appendix, "Sources of English Language Translations of Foreign Laws."

Germain, Claire M. *Germain's Transnational Law Research: A Guide for Attorneys*. Ardsley-on-Hudson, NY: Transnational Publishers, Inc., 1991- .

With an emphasis on Europe and transnational business law, the author provides citations to primary and secondary sources, print and online, for seventeen foreign jurisdictions and the United States. Included are introductory surveys and country-specific research guides, periodicals, English language translations, digests of primary sources, and subject studies.

Guide to International Legal Research: The George Washington University Journal of International Law and Economics, 3d ed. Salem, NH: Butterworth Legal Pubs., 1998 & 2000 Supp.

A guide that provides brief discussions of the legal systems of six geopolitical regions with emphasis on selected jurisdictions in each region: Africa, Asia, the Commonwealth of Independent States, European Union, Islamic countries, and Latin America. Included are the titles of print primary sources in the vernacular and as English translations, along with comprehensive annotated lists of Internet sites and LEXIS and Westlaw databases addressing foreign and international law.

Law Library Resource Xchange (LLRX.com). *International / Foreign Law* at: <<http://www.llrx.com/resources4.htm>>.

This site provides a collection of e-articles providing strategies for researching selected non-U.S. jurisdictions and international law topics.

Rehberg, Jeanne and Radu D. Popa, eds. *Accidental Tourist on the New Frontier: An Introductory Guide to Global Legal Research*. Littleton, CO: F.B. Rothman, 1998.

A comprehensive guide to researching foreign and international law that is included here for Chapter 4, "Finding Foreign Law," Chapter 9, "Research in Transnational Business Law," and Appendix A, "Foreign Legislation Online."

Reynolds, Thomas H. and Arturo A. Flores. *Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World*. Littleton, CO: F.B. Rothman, 1989- .

Almost all the "jurisdictions" of the world are included in this ambitious and thorough guide. For each, the authors provide: a brief essay surveying the political history and legal system (includes references to country-specific research guides/handbooks), citations to *current* primary and some secondary sources (English language translations when available), and multi-jurisdictional works where appropriate and reliable. Titles are arranged by official source and by subject area.

Sheehy, Helen. *Strategies for Locating Foreign Government Information on the Internet*. Pennsylvania State University: Documents/Maps Section at: <<http://www.libraries.psu.edu/crsweb/docs/forgate.htm>>.

This site provides four strategies for finding government pages and sources using "diplomatic home pages," area studies sites, geographically arranged sites and subject searches of the Internet. Links to these sites are included.

Sloan, Barbara. *Researching the European Union*. Delegation of the European Commission to the United States at: <www.eurunion.org/infores/resguide.htm>.

A thorough guide that considers European Union institutions and treaties, documentation of the legislative process, print and electronic sources for these documents with links and other research tools. A useful Annex organizes these sources by media type.

Wenger, Jean M. *The Nuts and Bolts of European Union Law Research*. Cornell Law Library at: <http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/library/Finding_the_Law/Guides_by_Topic/eu.htm>.

This integrated guide to European Union law identifies print titles, commercial online databases, and Internet links. A separate annotated list of web sites is appended.

Whisner, Mary. *Research in Foreign & Comparative Law*. University of Washington Law School: Gallagher Law Library at: <<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/forcomp.htm>>.

From a seminar on comparative law, this electronic guide provides expert strategies for researching foreign law using both print and online sources.

Yackle, Jeanette & Stephen Wiles. *Guide to European Union Legal Research*. Harvard Law School: International Legal Studies at: <www.law.harvard.edu/library/ref/ils_ref/eu_guide/eu_legal_research.htm>.

An excellent guide for print and online sources for official documents, commentary, and current awareness services. It includes a bibliography of print sources addressing banking and securities, competition law,

environmental law, copyright, statistics as well as general treatises and research guides. A separate section provides links to pertinent Internet sites.

B. Multi-jurisdictional Works

Comparative law treatises (e.g., *Comparative Environmental Law & Regulation, Joint Ventures with International Partners*)¹ and regional subject studies (e.g., *Intellectual Property: Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States, Legal Aspects of Doing Business in Africa*)² often provide introductions to the legal systems of the jurisdictions included. Some of these titles appear in the research guides. To identify additional works, search your library's catalogue by subject and jurisdiction (for example, environmental law—Mexico; intellectual property—Asia). The more comprehensive multi-jurisdictional encyclopedias and digests listed below also provide useful introductions to the legal systems of countries.

International Association of Legal Science. *International Encyclopedia of Comparative Law*. Boston: M. Nijhoff, 1983- .

A three-part multi-volume work that surveys the legal systems of every country of the world, and includes a selected bibliography and some cites to primary sources. It compares these systems by areas of law, and provides commentary on private international law.

Martindale-Hubbell Law Digest. New Providence, NJ: Martindale-Hubbell, 1993- .

Known for its law directories, this publisher here provides brief but useful digests of the laws of several foreign jurisdictions that occasionally include citations to primary law sources. The digests are compiled by practitioners admitted to these bars. The *Law Digest* is available on LEXIS at MARHUB; INTDIG.

1. COMPARATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND REGULATION (Nicholas A. Robinson ed. 1996); JOINT VENTURES WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS (James A. Dobin & Jeffrey A. Burt eds. 1997) [hereinafter JOINT VENTURES].

2. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: EASTERN EUROPE AND COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (David L. Garrison ed. 1995); LEGAL ASPECTS OF DOING BUSINESS IN AFRICA (Dennis Campbell ed., 1991-).

Redden, Kenneth R., ed. *Modern Legal Systems Cyclopedia*. Buffalo, NY: W.S. Hein, 1984- .

The cyclopedia surveys the legal systems and some areas of law for various countries, occasionally providing English language translations and cites to primary sources.

C. Journal Articles

Current law journals are another likely source for introductory works, particularly for articles that survey the legal systems of developing and emerging nations. Indexes to U.S. and foreign legal periodicals should be available in the library and online as LEXIS and Westlaw databases. The full texts of recent journal articles are published in the law review databases on LEXIS and Westlaw, and to a much lesser extent, on the Internet.

1. Indexes to Legal Periodicals

CarlUncover: A Current Awareness & Document Delivery Service
at: <<http://uncweb.carl.org>>.

This site indexes more than 8,800,000 articles published since 1988 in over 18,000 multi-disciplinary journals. Users may search citations and summaries.

Current Law Index. Menlo Park, CA: Information Access Corp., 1980- .

The articles of approximately nine hundred law journals indexed by topic, author/title, name of case, name of statute. Your library may have *LegalTrac*, the online version, which additionally provides abstracts of some articles as well. A companion service, *Legal Resource Index*, is available on Westlaw at LRI and on LEXIS at LAWREV; LGLIND.

European Legal Journals Index. West Yorkshire: Legal Information Resources Ltd., 1993- .

This title indexes articles from journals addressing the law of the European Union and its Member States from 1993- . Access is by subject, author, name of case, or statute.

Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1960- .

An index to articles from approximately four hundred legal periodicals addressing international, comparative, and municipal law of jurisdictions other than the United States and British Commonwealth. Access is by subject, author, and geographical area.

Index to Legal Periodicals and Books. Buffalo, NY: Dennis & Co., 1926- .

An index to articles and books from the United States and the British Commonwealth, organized by topic and author.

2. LEXIS

LEXIS provides the full text of selected articles from a number of international law journals with coverage for most beginning in the 1980s. Researchers should consult the online “guide” available for each database to determine the database’s scope. When accessing LEXIS on the Internet, click on the lower case “i” next to the name of the database as it appears over the query dialog box. The *LEXIS-NEXIS Directory of Online Services* in print form identifies the libraries and files for the individual journals. To see a listing online, at the “Sources” screen drill down through “secondary legal,” “law reviews & journals,” and “individual law reviews & journals.” The complete collection of law review articles is available in LAWREV; ALLREV. Articles that specifically address issues of international and foreign law are found in the ITRADE; LAWREV and INTLAW; INTLR files. A suggestion—if you find a useful journal article, try the “more like this” option to identify similar articles. LEXIS may be accessed on the Internet at: <<http://www.lexis.com>>.

3. Westlaw

Westlaw also provides full texts of selected articles from international law reviews published, for the most part, since 1980. The *Westlaw Database Directory* (available in print) identifies databases for the individual journals. To see a listing online at Westlaw.com, select “View Westlaw Directory” in the left navigation border and drill down through “Law Reviews, Bar Journals & Legal Periodicals” to “Law Reviews & Bar Journals in JLR & TP-ALL.” Online scope notes for individual databases allow researchers to determine exact coverage. To determine coverage, at the query screen, click on “scope” in the left navigation border. The JLR database includes articles from law reviews, CLE materials, and bar journals. The INT-TP database offers full texts of articles selected exclusively from international law reviews, texts and bar journals. Another suggestion—a timely

survey of the topics and "Tables of Contents" of about three hundred law journals are available in the weekly print citation service, the *Current Index to Legal Periodicals*.³ The CILP database provides access to texts of the last eight issues as eight documents. View the "Tables of Contents" in each document or search for specific topics using the TO field. Westlaw may be accessed on the Internet at: <<http://www.westlaw.com>>.

4. Internet Links to E-Journals

FINDLAW: Academic Journals & Law Reviews: International Law Journals at: <<http://lawschools.findlaw.com/journals/international.html>>.

Findlaw provides a collection of links to the Web Pages of roughly forty international and comparative law journals. Most provide either abstracts or full texts of articles. There is site search capability.

University of Southern California Law Library: Foreign Law Journals at: <<http://www.usc.edu/dept/law-lib/legal/journals.html#foreign>>.

This site offers a list of links to the Web Pages of some twenty foreign law journals. Entries are coded to indicate whether full text, abstract, or tables of contents available. This list is a subset of a comprehensive list of law review Web Pages.

D. Country Studies

While they do not focus on the legal system of a country per se, the country studies/area handbooks compiled by staff at the Library of Congress do provide a capsule discussion of the legal system and foreign relations of some foreign jurisdictions. Check your library's catalog for specific titles and call numbers. The Library of Congress has mounted some of its country studies on the Internet at: <<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>>.

Area studies and international affairs Internet sites also provide country background information, usually addressing culture and demographics, political and economic climates, foreign policy and protection of human rights, and government and law. The URLs for a representative sampling of the more comprehensive sites are provided below. To identify additional sites, try searching the Internet for "background" or "country information" for a given jurisdiction or region. See, for

3. CURRENT INDEX TO LEGAL PERIODICALS (U. of Wash. L. School Marian Gould Gallagher Law Library ed. 1968-).

example, the Asia Business Network's *Background Information on Singapore* at: <<http://www.abisnet.com/singapore.htm>> found with an AltaVista search using + Singapore + background.

Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF): Gunmar Anzinger: *Governments on the WWW* at: <<http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en>>.

This comprehensive collection of links to government pages is organized by region, by government institution, and by topic. It provides the date that each database (individual jurisdiction) was last updated.

George Washington University: Gary Price: *Congressional Research Service WWW Accessible Reports* at: <<http://gwis.2circ.gwu.edu/~gprice/crs.htm>>.

Compiled by Librarian Gary Price, this site is a Clearinghouse to CRS Reports on the Web that includes links to some foreign legislative research organizations.

GODORT International Documents Task Force (American Library Association) and Northwestern University Library: *Foreign Governments* at: <<http://www.library.nwu.edu/govpub/resource/internat/foreign.html>>.

Links to government pages, and statistical and news sources worldwide are available at this site.

Hieros Gamos: *Doing Business Guides* at: <<http://www.hg.org/guides.html>>.

Practitioners at Lex Mundi, a global association of 152 law firms, provide guides to doing business in their respective jurisdictions. These include background on the legal system, political and economic climates, international sales and foreign relations, labor, and investment. Links to other foreign law sites are included.

JURIST: The Legal Education Network: *World Law* at:

<<http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/world/index.htm>>.

A site that provides reports of legal developments and links to legal resources and news for selected jurisdictions along with links to official sites of international organizations and tribunals.

Pennsylvania State University Libraries Documents/Maps Section:

Strategies for Locating Foreign Government Information on the

***Internet* at: <<http://www.libraries.psu.edu/crsweb/docs/forgate.htm>>.**

Within the context of a research guide, this site provides links to diplomatic home pages, area studies sites, and geographically organized sites. The Documents Section hosts a separate list of *Foreign Government Pages* at: <<http://www.libraries.psu.edu/crsweb/docs/forlist/main.htm>>.

TeleDiplomacy, Inc., Washington D.C.: *Electronic Embassy* at:

<<http://www.embassy.org>>.

A directory of foreign embassies in Washington D.C. with links to established Embassy Web Pages, which often provide country background.

United States Central Intelligence Agency: *World Factbooks* at:

<<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>>.

For each jurisdiction considered, this site provides country data, discussions of political system, economy, infrastructure, military, and international relations.

United States Department of State: *Country Commercial Guides* at:

<http://www.state.gov/www/about_state/business/com_guides/index.html>.

The site provides country data and commentary about economic and market trends, political and investment climates, trade regulations, and finance.

University of Michigan Documents Center: *Foreign*

***Governments/Country Backgrounds* at:**

<<http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/forcoun.html>>.

The Documents Center provides an annotated list of links to country studies, subject specific background reports, foreign government policy sites, officials' biographies, news, and statistical sources. This site is a link from the Center's larger *Foreign Government Resources on the Web* site at: <<http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/foreign.html>>.

The WWW Virtual Library: University of Pittsburgh & the International Affairs Network: *IAN Web: International Affairs Resources* at: <<http://www.etown.edu/vl/>>.

A site that provides annotated links to national government pages, academic institutions' area studies sites, country background reports, and news sources.

The World Bank Group: *Regions and Countries* at: <<http://www.worldbank.org/html/extdr/regions.htm>>.

The WBG offers links to regional and country background reports and commentary.

III. PRIMARY SOURCES: THE GAME IS AFOOT

Those sources that provide an introduction to the legal systems of foreign jurisdictions may also identify primary sources: (1) in the annotated bibliographies in the research guides, (2) in the citations following digests of laws in the multi-jurisdictional works, and (3) in the links to foreign laws on the Internet. Texts of foreign laws are published selectively in the legal and news databases available on LEXIS and Westlaw as well.

A. *Identifying Print Sources: Revisit the Introductory Works*

1. *Country-specific Research Guides*

Country-specific research guides provide the most complete access to the citations of primary and secondary sources. Try a subject search (for example, name of country) of your library's catalog to identify the guides available. The multi-jurisdictional research guides listed above will name additional country-specific guides. A number of law libraries are now mounting their publications on the Internet. These include country-specific research guides. Try searching the Internet for a "bibliography," "guide," "research guide," or "pathfinder" for a given jurisdiction. Try a similar search in the title fields of the online periodical indexes and law journal databases available in LEXIS and Westlaw. See, for example, *How*

to Find the Law of the People's Republic of China: A Research Guide and Selective Annotated Bibliography by Washington University School of Law Librarian Wei Luo,⁴ found by searching the LEXIS combined journals database, LAWREV; ALLREV using the query <title(research guide and china)> and restricting the date to the last four years.

2. Multi-jurisdictional Works

Regional subject studies (for example, *Legal Aspects of Doing Business in Asia*)⁵ and comparative law treatises (for example, *Joint Ventures with International Partners*)⁶ often provide English translations of laws or digests of laws with citations to primary sources. These studies and treatises are cited in the research guides. Search your library's online catalog by subject or jurisdiction (intellectual property—Asia; Latin America—cultural property protection) to identify additional works. Try a similar search in the subject fields of the online periodical indexes, including those available in LEXIS and Westlaw. Citations to primary sources may be found as well in the above-mentioned multi-jurisdictional encyclopedias and digests.

More difficult to identify but invaluable are the annual and periodic surveys of current law. These works include national and regional yearbooks (for example, *Yearbook of European Law*),⁷ documentary collections that include texts of laws (for example, *International Legal Materials*, *Journal of African Law*),⁸ and current awareness services (for example, *Bulletin of Legal Developments*, *East Asian Executive Reports*).⁹ These survey works are identified in the research guides named above. Check the indexes or "Tables of Contents" for "introductory surveys." Librarians can provide assistance in finding these titles as well.

3. Online Catalogs

To identify additional titles, search the online catalogs of other academic law libraries. A particularly rich resource are the catalogs of satellite libraries that maintain special collections (for example, the Indo-China Studies Center at U.C. Berkeley). Provided below are the URLs for the online catalogs of Northern

4. Wei Luo, *How to Find the Law of the People's Republic of China: A Research Guide and Selective Annotated Bibliography*, 88 LAW LIB. J. 402 (1996).

5. LEGAL ASPECTS OF DOING BUSINESS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (Dennis Campbell ed. 1991-).

6. JOINT VENTURES, *supra* note 1.

7. YEARBOOK OF EUROPEAN LAW (F.G. Jacobs ed. 1982-).

8. INTERNATIONAL LEGAL MATERIALS (Am. Soc'y of Int'l L. ed. 1980-); JOURNAL OF AFRICAN LAW (U. of London School of Oriental and African Studies ed. 1980-).

9. BULLETIN OF LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS (British Inst. Of Int'l & Comparative L. ed. 1966-); EAST ASIAN EXECUTIVE REPORTS (International Executive Reports, Ltd., 1979-). EAST ASIAN EXECUTIVE REPORTS are also available online via ProQuest's ABI/INFORM Global in some libraries.

2000 / Strategies for Identifying Sources of Foreign Law

California law libraries and for collections of online law library catalogs in the United States. Works available at other academic libraries may be secured through interlibrary loan. *Caveat*: interlibrary loan items can take two to four weeks to arrive. Therefore, allow plenty of time.

a. Neighboring Law Libraries

Santa Clara University Law School Heafey Law Library Access *OSCAR*
(online catalog) at: <<http://sculib.scu.edu>>.

Stanford Law Library: Access *SOCRATES II* (online catalog) at:
<<http://sucat.stanford.edu>>.

University of California Law Libraries Collections: Access *MELVYL*
(online catalogs) at: <<http://melvyl.ucop.edu>>.

University of San Francisco Law School Library: Access *IGNACIO*
(online catalog) at: <<http://ignacio.usfca.edu>>.

b. Sites that List Law Library Catalogs

The Library of Congress: Other Libraries' Online Catalogs at:
<<http://www.loc.gov/z3950/>>.

Washlaw Web: Law Library Catalogs; at:
<<http://www.washlaw.edu/lawcat/lawcat.html>>.

webCATS: Library Catalogs on the World Wide Web at:
<<http://www.lights.com/webcats>>.

B. Identifying Sources of Foreign Law on the Internet: Let Someone Else Do the Work . . . Initially

Librarians and legal publishers are already compiling lists of print sources on foreign law sites on the Internet or are maintaining Web pages that link to such sites. Below is a list of three timely print sources for current law-related Internet sites that include foreign law sources along with the URLs of the more comprehensive and respected international and foreign law sites—useful starting points themselves. To identify additional sites, try searching the Internet for “law” or a specific area of law (for example, “environmental law” or “patent law”) for a given jurisdiction or region. See, for example, the University of Maryland School of Law’s *Chinalaw Web* at: <<http://www.qis.net/chinalaw>> found with a Lycos search using China + law + guide.

A format for citing Internet sources is provided at Rule 18.2 of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, 17th ed.¹⁰ Researchers are reminded that before relying on the texts of foreign laws published on the Internet, they should consider, as they do with print sources, the academic integrity of the corporate host or authority of the source of the law, and whether the text represents current law.

1. Print Directories and Newsletters

Guide to International Legal Research: The George Washington University Journal of International Law and Economics, 3d ed. Charlottesville, VA: Lexis Law Publishing, 1998 & 2000 Supp.

An annotated guide with more than one hundred pages of Internet sites for foreign and international law, organized by jurisdiction and by areas of law. Also provides a comprehensive listing of international legal databases available on LEXIS and Westlaw.

The Internet Lawyer. Gainesville, FL: GoAhead Productions, 1995- .

This newsletter is useful for the law firm web pages that it identifies. Some of these firms have international practices and mount the texts of laws from foreign jurisdictions. This newsletter also regularly lists new web sites for "international resources."

The Internet Newsletter: Legal & Business Aspects. New York: Leader Pubs., 1995- .

While it only occasionally provides the URLs for foreign and international law sites on the web, this newsletter tends to report the best sites. These include law firm web pages, search tools, and the more comprehensive law-related sites.

2. Collections of Links to Foreign Law Databases on the Internet

Australasian Legal Information Institute. *World Law Index / Search* at: <<http://www.austlii.edu.au/links/World>>.

This comprehensive collection of links to foreign law sites is organized by jurisdiction and topic, and includes links to other indexes and search

10. THE BLUEBOOK: A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF CITATION (Columbia Law Review Ass'n et al. eds., 17th ed. 2000).

2000 / Strategies for Identifying Sources of Foreign Law

engines, international law sources, publishers, law e-journals, and research guides.

Cornell Law Library: *Foreign and International Law Resources on the Internet: Annotated*: <http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/library/International_Resources/foreign.htm>.

This venerable site provides an annotated list of links to texts of laws and court decisions, international documents, directories, trade information, statistics, discussion groups, and some online references. The collection of links is well organized by region, by jurisdiction within regions, and by area of law.

Emory Law Library: Electronic Reference Desk: *Law by Country: Other Countries* at: <<http://www.law.emory.edu/LAW/refdesk/country/foreign>>.

This topical site links to government servers and sources of foreign law for roughly sixty countries.

Findlaw: *Foreign and International Resources* at: <<http://guide.lp.findlaw.com/12international>>.

A pioneer site that, through the use of various search engines, provides collected links to the law, background studies and commentary, and news of foreign jurisdictions. It includes country and regional indexes, international law journals, and archived discussion lists' postings (Legal Minds). Also useful is the *Index of Country Pages* at: <<http://www.findlaw.com/12international/countriesl>>.

GODORT International Documents Task Force (American Library Association) and Northwestern University Library: *Foreign Governments* at: <<http://www.library.nwu.edu/govpub/resource/internat/foreign.html>>.

An alphabetical index allows access to the government servers linked to this site. Links to statistical and news sources worldwide are also provided.

Harvard Law School Library. *Foreign & International Law Resources: An Annotated Guide to Web Sites Around the World* at:
<http://www.law.harvard.edu/library/ref/ils_ref/ils_web_sites.htm>.

This site provides annotated links to multi- and regional collections of foreign law links, sites for individual foreign jurisdictions, international law sites by topic, and sites of international organizations.

Hieros Gamos: *All Governments of the World* at: <<http://www.hg.org/govt.html>>.

Practitioners provide a collection of links to foreign law sources and foreign government pages on the Internet, organized by jurisdiction, plus links to statistics, news sources, search engines, and other collected links. See also the Hieros Gamos *Guides to Doing Business* for several countries at: <<http://www.hg.org/guides.html>>.

J.W. Long Law Library at Willamette University: *Foreign and International Law* at:
<<http://www.willamette.edu/law/longlib/forint.htm>>.

This site provides an annotated list of established international and foreign law sites. It is included here for its "collected foreign law and government sites," with some regional sites, its "foreign constitutions and constitutional courts," and its "foreign and international law discussion lists." Also provided is information about study abroad and links to a collection of search engines.

Law Library Resource Xchange (LLRX.com): *International/Foreign Law* at: <<http://www.llrx.com/resources4.htm>>.

Provided here are links to sources of foreign and international law, selected international law e-journals, LLRX articles with strategies for researching the law of selected non-U.S. jurisdictions, and international law topics.

New York University School of Law Library. *Guide to Foreign and International Legal Databases* at: <http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/foreign_intl>.

This site provides annotated links to foreign law sites by jurisdiction and by topic (for example, comparative law sites), links to other collections of foreign law sites, and to sites of international

organizations. It includes commentary on evaluating Internet sites and on citing electronic information.

O'Quinn Law Library, University of Houston Law Center: *Foreign Primary Law on the Web* at:
<<http://www.law.uh.edu/librarians/tmulligan/foreignlaw.html>>.

A unique and comprehensive "work in progress" by International Law Librarian Timothy Mulligan. This site provides links to sites that offer "foreign primary law, either in the original languages or in translation," free and fee-based. It identifies LEXIS databases, and provides a list of "foreign law gateways"—general, regional, topical.

United States Library of Congress: *Global Legal Information Network (GLIN)* at: <<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/law/GLINv1/GLIN.html>>.

This unique database allows access to the official texts of foreign laws and regulations in the official language of the country of origin. It includes English-language abstracts of these documents, with links to the full texts, and thesauri in several languages.

United States Library of Congress: *Guide to Law Online: Nations of the World* at: <<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/glin/x-nation.html>>.

This annotated hypertext list of WWW servers provides free access to legal information and/or information on the governmental systems of several nations. A country index allows access.

University of Chicago D'Angelo Law Library: *Foreign Law: Legal Research Resources On the Internet* at: <<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/~llou/foreignlaw.html>>.

Compiled by Law Librarian Lyonette Louis-Jacques, this ambitious "work in progress" catalogs web sites by topic, by jurisdiction, by type of source. It includes discussion lists, publishers' sites, and multi-jurisdictional sources. See also her *Finding Foreign Law Online When Going Global* at: <<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/~llou/global.html>> that provides sources for citations of foreign law, for full texts of foreign law, and for foreign law in English translation.

University of Georgia Law Library: Internet Legal Resources: *Foreign Law, Government and Business Information* at:
<<http://www.lawsch.uga.edu/legalwww/forlaw.html>>.

These links to foreign law sources for forty eight countries, indexed by country, and include some English translations. Some links to foreign law sites are included in the larger "topical list."

University of Michigan Documents Center: *Foreign Government Resources on the Web* at:
<<http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/foreign.html>>.

This site provides annotated links to sources of foreign law, statistics, background reports and commentary, news sources, and discussion lists. Links are organized by jurisdiction, region, or type of document. Also provided is a separate annotated list of foreign government sites.

Washburn University School of Law Library: *Foreign and International Law Web* at: <<http://www.washlaw.edu/forint>>.

This collection of links to foreign law sites is organized by topic and jurisdiction. It provides, where available, links to texts of laws, law firms, law schools, studying abroad programs, news sources, and related discussion lists for each jurisdiction. It includes links to journals, sites of international organizations, and discussion list archives.

World List: *Non-U.S. Law-Related Resources for the Internet Users* at:
<<http://www.law.osaka-u.ac.jp/legal-info/worldlist/worldlst.html>>.

Provided here is a collection of links to laws or legal sites for over seventy countries—primarily government and academic servers—indexed by country. Edited by Dr. Makoto Ibusuki, Associate Professor of Law, Kagoshima University.

World Wide Web Virtual Library: *Law: Foreign and International Law* at:
<<http://www.law.indiana.edu/v-lib>>.

Site search capability facilitates use of this annotated alphabetical list of international and foreign law sources that includes government pages, law firms, international law journals, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions.

Farislaw: Supreme Court International Bulletin at:

<<http://www.farislaw.com>>.

This non-fee subscription service provides ("every few weeks") the texts of the judgments of the highest courts of fifteen countries.

Project on International Courts and Tribunals at:

<<http://www.pict-pcti.org>>.

Developed by the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (London) and the Center on International Cooperation (New York University), this site reports on the activities of the "principal international judicial bodies" and provides access to the case law of these tribunals "to the extent that the information is publicly available."

C. Identifying Sources of Foreign Law on LEXIS

Particularly useful are the foreign law and news sources available in the INTLAW and WORLD Libraries, the Country Libraries (ARGENT, AUST, CANADA, ENGEN, HKCHNA, IRELAND, MALAY, MEXICO, NZ, PHILIPP, SAFRCA, SING and UK) and the Regional Libraries (ASIAPC, EUROPE, EURCOM, NSAMER, MDEAFR). Case law and texts of selected laws of the UK, the EU and some member states, of Central and Eastern European countries, and of some Pacific Rim and Central and South American nations are available in these databases, as are the environmental regulations of several foreign jurisdictions. The news files of these libraries often provide the texts of newly enacted legislation or recently decided cases as do the combined sources of the WORLD Library (WORLD;ALLWLD), the NEWS Library (NEWS;NON-US), and the International Law Update (INTLAW;ILAWUP). The Martindale Hubbell International Law Digest is available in MARHUB; INTDIG.

There are four methods for accessing the foreign law databases on LEXIS (assuming the researcher is accessing LEXIS via the Internet at LEXS.com).

1. At the "All Sources" screen (the initial screen that appears), select "Legal (excluding U.S.)." Select the "Multinational Publications," "Law Digests" to access the "Central & Eastern European Legal Texts;" or select any of the twenty six non-U.S. jurisdictions and drill down to access the case law or texts of legislation available for that country. Click on the lower case "i" next to the database name to obtain scope notes.

2. At the "All Sources" screen, select "Country and Region (excluding U.S.*)" and drill down through the regional and country options to access secondary sources for all jurisdictions and primary sources for some. Note the "World News" databases available here as well.
3. At the "All Sources" screen, select "Area of Law—By Topic." Select "International Law." (Note the secondary sources available here also.) Drill down through "Cases" or "Statutes & Legislative Materials," or "Administrative Materials & Regulations" to access the databases of primary sources for non-U.S. jurisdictions.
4. Check the Index to the print *LEXIS-NEXIS Directory of Online Sources* to identify specific Libraries and Files. To access these databases directly: at the "All Sources" screen, click on the radio button next to "Short Names" (under the FIND dialog box), enter the Library and File names (separated by a semicolon) in the dialog box—EURCOM; ECNEWS.

The *Guide to International Legal Research*¹¹ lists additional international and foreign law databases on Lexis.

Researchers regularly accessing non-U.S. news databases to track pending legislation or recent court decisions should consider establishing an ECLIPSE—a LEXIS current awareness service that will automatically save and rerun designated searches at selected intervals (daily, weekly, or monthly). To set an ECLIPSE from LEXIS.com, run the search you wish to have repeated. Click on "Save as ECLIPSE" at the top of the screen and complete the form. Note that results can be e-mailed to you. In determining the frequency of ECLIPSE searches, consider how often the source database is updated.

Full texts of law review articles that address issues of international and foreign law are available in the INTLAW;INTLR files. The complete collection of law review articles on LEXIS is in LAWREV; ALLREV. Researchers should check the online scope notes of databases to determine source, currency, and content. LEXIS may be accessed through the Internet at: <<http://www.lexis.com>>. LEXIS reference attorneys are available by phone to assist with research strategies at 1-800-455-3947.

D. Identifying Sources of Foreign Law on WESTLAW

Westlaw provides comprehensive coverage of the laws of Mexico (the Mexican Law Library in MEXLAW), the European Union (EU-ALL), the United Kingdom

11. GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH: THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ECONOMICS (Butterworth Legal Publishers 3d ed. 1998 & Supp. 2000).

(a library of databases providing cases, statutes and statutory instruments for England, Scotland, Wales, and N. Ireland), Canada (federal and provincial case law), and Vietnam from January 1996 to June 1997 (VIETNMOG). Currency varies; therefore, researchers should check database scope notes. Also available are the commercial laws of Central and Eastern Europe (INT-EEUROPE), the environmental regulations from several jurisdictions (the ENFLEX databases), and insurance statutes and regulations from selected countries. Trademark registrations and patents issued for a number of jurisdictions are provided as DIALOG databases. An extensive collection of foreign business news databases may report on recent changes in law.

To access these databases (via <<http://www.Westlaw.com>> on the Internet), select "View Westlaw Directory" in the left navigation border. Drill down through "International/Worldwide Materials" to "Databases Listed Alphabetically by Country or Region." Secondary sources that may report on new law, such as business and news databases, are available for almost all jurisdictions. As discussed above, texts of laws are available for selected jurisdictions. To identify additional databases, check the Index to the print *Westlaw Database Directory*, which is organized by jurisdiction, news topic, and practice areas. You can also access additional databases via the IDEN database by entering a country name.

The *Guide to International Legal Research*¹² lists additional international and foreign law databases on Westlaw.

Researchers who repeatedly access the same non-U.S. news databases to find recently enacted legislation should consider establishing a WestClip—a Westlaw clipping service that will repeat a "terms and connectors" query in a designated database at specified frequencies. To set a WestClip from Westlaw.com, click "Tasks" on the toolbar and select "WestClip, Create Entry Wizard" from the menu, and follow the prompts. To set a WestClip *after* conducting a search, at the search results screen, click "Tasks" on the toolbar, select "WestClip, Add Query to WestClip" from the menu, and complete the WestClip Wizard. Consider how often the source database is updated in determining the intervals between searches.

Full texts of articles from international law reviews, texts and bar journals are available in INT-TP. The complete collection of law review articles on Westlaw is provided in the JLR database. Researchers should check the online scope notes available for each database to determine source, content, and currency of the information provided. Westlaw reference attorneys may be reached by phone at 1-800-850-9378.

12. *Id.*

IV. ALTERNATIVE SOURCES

You will likely need to go outside your library to update your research to, for example, obtain the texts of recently decided cases or obtain pending or recently enacted legislation. Occasionally these are found on the news and legal databases available through LEXIS and Westlaw and on the Internet discussed above. More often they are obtained by phone or e-mail from U.S. government agencies, foreign consular offices or embassies, individuals with special expertise, or contacts abroad. For those instances when no source can be located in the United States or online, we recommend the following sources for identifying these well-placed individuals.

A. *U.S. Government Sources*

Federal Yellow Book. Washington, D.C.: Washington Monitor, Inc., 1976- .

This source provides addresses, phone numbers, and names of Officers for the Country Desks at the U.S. Departments of State and Commerce, and staff at the U.S. Trade Representative's Office.

U.S. Department of State Consular Affairs Embassies Links at:
<<http://travel.state.gov/links.html>>.

This site provides access to the web pages of U.S. Embassies abroad. Postal addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses are given.

B. *Foreign Government Sources*

Foreign consular offices or embassies in the United States, and representatives of private trade missions or other foreign interests, are found in the sources below. Embassy Web Pages are also available on the Internet at the *Electronic Embassy* at: <<http://www.embassy.org>>.

Statesman's Yearbook. NY: St. Martin's Press, 1973/74- .

Stirling, Suzanne T. *International Trade Resources Guide*. Sacramento, CA: California Chamber of Commerce.

This directory identifies California public agencies and private organizations that promote international trade, and includes U.S. and foreign diplomatic offices that assist California enterprises doing business abroad.

2000 / Strategies for Identifying Sources of Foreign Law

United States Dept. of State. *Foreign Consular Offices in the United States*. Washington, D.C.: Dept. of State, 1932- .

Washington Representatives. Washington, D.C.: Columbia Books, 1977- .

C. Individuals (The Generous Types)

Danner, Richard A. and Marie-Louise Bernal. *Introduction to Foreign Legal Systems*. New York: Oceana Publications, Inc., 1994. An electronic update is available at: <<http://www.oceanalaw.com>> Access the FCIL-SIS "Sources of Assistance Guide."

A source available in two formats that provides the names and phone numbers of law librarians who are country specialists and available to assist with research in foreign law. Many have contacts abroad.

United States Dept. of State. *Foreign Consular Offices in the United States*. Washington, D.C.: Dept. of State, 1932- .

Staff at these offices can be instrumental in obtaining texts of recently enacted legislation and recently decided cases. Staff at U.S. embassies abroad can be just as helpful. See U.S. Government Sources above.

D. Discussion Lists

Online discussion lists also provide access to individuals with expertise in locating sources of foreign law. Discussion lists are e-mail forums that allow members who subscribe to post individual messages on a specified topic to a designated or list e-mail address. These individual messages are e-mailed to all subscribers, prompting replies, and initiating a "discussion." Most discussion lists are administered or moderated to preclude posting of off-topic messages. Members participate by subscribing at an administrative list e-mail address and posting comments to the discussion list address. Below, we identify five representative lists, and we provide links to "lists" of discussion lists that consider foreign and international law subjects. Researchers are more likely to receive assistance from the members of these lists if, in posing questions, they: (1) identify themselves and why the information is needed, (2) name the print and online sources already consulted, (3) offer to reimburse for any costs incurred in mailing or faxing documents; provide an e-mail address so that members may respond off-list. Messages are archived and these archives may be searched at an archive's address (someone may have already provided the necessary information). *DejaNews* search engine accesses many of these archives at: <<http://www.deja.com/usenet>>.

I. Discussion Lists

American Society of International Law: International Economic Law Interest Group at ASILIELG@chicagokent.kentlaw.edu (post messages to this address).

Promotes academic discussion, research, and publication in subjects broadly related to transnational movement and regulation of goods, services, persons, and capital with emphasis on the support of new practitioners and scholars in the field.

To subscribe, send the following message to istproc@chicagokent.kentlaw.edu

SUBSCRIBE ASILIELG <your name> <position> <institution>

All European Legal Information Exchange at EURO-LEX@listserv.gmd.de (post messages here)

Considers law and economic policy of European Union and member states. To subscribe, send following message to listserv@listserv.gmd.de

Subscribe euro-lex <your name>

FORINTLAW@lists.washlaw.edu (post messages to this address)

Scholars and practitioners consider foreign and international economic law issues. To subscribe, complete the subscription form found at: <<http://lists.washlaw.edu/mailman/listinfo/forintl原因>>.

INT-LAW@listhost.ciesin.org (post messages to this address)

Law librarians, scholars, and practitioners share sources for international and foreign law/documents of international organizations. To subscribe, send following message to majordomo@listhost.ciesin.org

Subscribe int-law

INTL-DOC@listserv.acns.nwu.edu (post messages to this address)

Librarians and scholars share sources for documents of international organizations, governments, and other international players. To subscribe, send the following message to **listproc@listserv.acns.nwu.edu**

Subscribe intl-doc <your name>

2. *Lists of Lists*

American Society of International Law (ASIL) Guide to Electronic Sources for International Law: Lists, Newsgroups and Networks at:
<<http://www.asil.org/resource/Home.htm>>.

An excellent introduction to discussion lists as a tool for foreign and international law research, this site considers subscribing, posting messages, evaluating lists, accessing archived message, and list protocols. It provides a brief "list" of relevant discussion groups, and considers Usenet groups and international networks. Compiled for ASIL by Lyonette Louis-Jacques, Foreign & International Law Librarian at D'Angelo Law Library, University of Chicago Law School. *International Law-Related Lists* at: <<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/~llou/lawlists/international.html>>, also compiled by Ms. Louis-Jacques, provides the names and subscription addresses for roughly one hundred and fifty such lists. Her *Law Lists* at: <<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/~llou/lawlists/info.html>> is an ambitious, annotated list of some twelve hundred online discussion groups on every subject.

American Bar Association/Section of International Law & Practice: Public International Law Division at:
<<http://www.abanet.org/discussions/home.html>>.

The *Division* sponsors nineteen focused discussion groups, addressing all aspects of comparative and international law (for example, international environmental law, investment and development, human rights, international courts). Additional information and instructions for subscribing are at the ABA's online "Discussion Groups Catalog." Look for the "open groups" whose titles begin with INT. ABA membership is not required to participate.

Willamette's Guide to Foreign & International Law: Foreign & International Law Discussion Lists at:

<<http://www.willamette.edu/law/longlib/forint.htm#lists>>.

This useful list of sixteen discussion groups for scholars and practitioners addresses international affairs, foreign law, and international economic law. Also provided are archives and subscription addresses with instructions on how to subscribe.

