



College of Law

Locating Treaties

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UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF LAW
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Treaty Research

A treaty is defined as an international agreement concluded between two or more nations in written form and governed by international law. In the United States, the term treaty denotes an international agreement signed by the President and ratified by the Senate, in accordance to Article II, section 2 of the Constitution of the United States.

When researching a treaty, there are several questions to begin with. Did the U.S. sign it? Is it bilateral or multilateral? Do you have a citation? Are you trying to determine if a treaty exist? These questions will determine your starting point. If you are unable to provide an answer to these questions, you will need to consult one of the research guides listed below or speak to a reference librarian.

General Research Guides

[ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law: Treaties](#)

[Fundamentals of Treaty Research](#)

[Researching U.S. Treaties and Agreements](#)

[Researching Non-U.S. Treaties and Agreements](#)

Electronic Resources

[Avalon Project at Yale Law School: Documents in Law, History, and Diplomacy.](#)

Full text documents from pre-18th century through 1999. Includes U.S. bilateral treaties from 1778-1929, U.S. multilateral treaties from 1864-1999, and treaties between the U.S. and Native Americans. Collection also contains a variety of international treaties.

[Electronic Information System for International Law.](#)

EISIL has been developed, with the support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, by the American Society of International Law (ASIL), a scholarly association that has been a leader in the analysis, dissemination and development of international law since 1906.

[Lexis: U.S. Treaties on Lexis](#)

U.S. Treaties on LEXIS is a unique electronic compilation of full-text ratified and unratified treaties and international agreements, where the United States is a party or signatory. Includes Treaties and Other International Acts Series (T.I.A.S), US Treaties and Other International Agreements (U.S.T.), and Bevan's Treaties and Other International Agreements 1776-1949.

[The Multilaterals Project](#). Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University.

Provides texts of international multilateral conventions and other instruments. The collection includes treaties in the fields of environmental law, human rights, commerce and trade, laws of war and arms control, and other areas. The vast majority of texts date from the second half of this century, but the collection also includes historical texts, from the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia to the Covenant of the League of Nations.

[Senate Treaty Documents](#).

Available from the Government Printing Office, this site provides access to Senate Treaty Documents from 1995 to 2004. Accompanying messages from the President and the Secretary of State are included with the treaty text.

[Thomas](#)

Available from the Library of Congress, this site provides the full text of treaties submitted to the United States Senate from 1995 to the present. Also provides the status of U.S. treaties from the 94th congress to the current session.

[United Nations Treaty Collection](#).

Includes online versions of the print publications: Multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General, which incorporates the detailed status of over 485 multilateral treaties, and: (United Nations) Treaty series, which contains the texts of over 30,000 bilateral and multilateral treaties in their authentic language(s), along with a translation into English and French, as appropriate, for those treaties registered with the Secretariat. Also provides the status and text of multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General.

Westlaw. **U.S. Treaties and Other International Agreements**

Full text of international and American Indian treaties to which the U.S. government is a party. Coverage begins with 1778 (treaty of alliance with France) and includes international treaty materials published in Statutes at Large from 1778 (vol. 8) through 1949 (vol. 64); United States Treaties and Other International Agreements from 1950 (vol. 1) through 1984 (vol. 35, pt. 4); Treaties and Other International Acts Series beginning with 1984 (T.I.A.S. No. 10979); Senate Treaty Documents beginning with 1993 (S. Treaty Doc. No. 103-21); State Department documents beginning with 1989 (State Dep't No. 90-1); and American Indian treaties published in Statutes at Large from 1797 (vol. 7).

Print Resources

Treaties to which the United States is a Party.

United States Treaties and Other International Agreements (1950- present).

UST provides the full text of U.S. treaties from 1950 to present (publication is approximately 8 years behind schedule).

Treaties and other International Acts Series.

TIAS is the first official publication of U.S. treaties. They appear in this "slip" form and then eventually appear in bound volumes of the UST

United States Statutes At Large (1776-1950).

The text of all U.S. treaties from 1776 through 1950 appear in this set. Volume 8 contains the text of all treaties from 1776 to 1845. From 1846 on, treaties were published in chronological order in the treaties section, which appears following the statutes in each volume. Volume 64 part 3 includes a list of all treaties and agreements in volumes 1-64. The list is arranged by country and then by topic.

Treaties and Other International Agreements of the U.S.A. 1776-1949 (Bevans)

This set contains U.S. treaties from 1776 to 1949 (English only). Volumes 1-4 are multilateral treaties arranged chronologically; volumes 5-12 are bilateral treaties arranged by country; volume 13 indexes the set.

Indexes

Kavass, I. **United States Treaty Index 1776-1990 Consolidation.** Buffalo, N.Y. : W.S. Hein, 1991-

Treaties in Force

Treaties to which the United States is not necessarily a Party.

United Nations Treaty Series. (1946- present)

This comprehensive treaty series began in 1946 and contains the text of all treaties registered with the U.N. Secretariat. Texts are given in their official languages and in English and French.

International Legal Material (1962- present)

Contains the text of many important treaties soon after they appear. Also provides useful background information to the researcher.

League of Nations Treaty Series (1920-1945)

Provides the text of treaties filed with the League's Secretariat. English and French translations accompany reprints of the official texts.

Consolidated Treaty Series (1648 – 1920)

Treaty text is reprinted in the language of one of the signatories and is often accompanied by a French or English translation.

Indexes

Bowman, M. **Multilateral Treaties: Index and Current Status.** London : Butterworths ; St. Paul, Minn. : Mason Pub. Co., 1984.

Index to multilateral treaties. Cambridge, Mass.; [distributed by Oceana Publications, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.] 1965.

United Nations Treaty Index

Edition: 050211