



Research Guide to Law Journal Indexes

The following databases index journal articles located in legal periodicals. Although there is a great deal of overlap between ILP and LegalTrac, these databases do offer some differences in their coverage. Both of these databases are located on the Law Library's [website](#).

Index to Legal Periodicals & Books[®] (including the retrospective collection)

Publication Coverage: Law reviews, bar association journals, university publications, yearbooks, institutes, and government publications. This database also includes law books published since 1993.

Years Indexed: Periodicals from 1918- present. Law books since 1993. Updated monthly.

Print Equivalent: Index to Legal Periodicals & Books (Reference K33 I53).

Search Options: Two types of searching, "Basic" and "Advanced." The database defaults to Advanced.

Boolean operators & Wildcards: **AND, OR, NOT** can be used to form compound requests. "*" is the truncation symbol, while "?" is the wildcard used to represent multiple or single characters.

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' interface of the Wilson Law Journal Index. The top navigation bar includes 'Wilson Law Journal Index' and 'Exit Program'. A yellow banner indicates that 'Legal Periodicals & Books, Legal Periodicals Reto' is selected. The search area contains several input fields and options: 'Search For:' with two empty text boxes and 'and' operators; 'Sort By:' set to 'Relevance'; 'Limit Dates to:' with radio buttons for 'Any Year' and 'Within last 12 months', and 'From Year:' and 'To Year:' text boxes; 'Document Type:' with dropdown menus for 'All', 'Physical', and 'Description'; and 'Expand:' with a checkbox for 'Also search within the full text of the articles, for extra results'. A 'Start' button is located below the search options. The bottom of the interface features 'Customize Display', 'Clear', and 'Start' buttons.

Fields Indexed: Subject, Title, Author, Journal/Source, ISSN/ISBN, Court Cases, Statutes, and a number of other fields.

Results: Search results are returned in summary citation format. Extended citations may be retrieved by clicking on the links for those citations. Results can be sorted by relevance or date.

For more assistance in using Index to Legal Periodicals click on "**Help**" in the top right-hand corner.

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LegalTrac[®]

Publication Coverage: Articles from over 875 publications including all major law reviews, legal newspapers, specialty law publications, bar association journals and thousands of law-related articles from general interest publications. LegalTrac also includes selective full text of certain articles. A complete title list is available by clicking on "Title List" in the left-hand margin.

Years Indexed: 1980- present. Updated daily.

Print Equivalent: Current Law Index (Reference K33 C87).

Search Options: Four methods of searching; "Subject," "Relevance," "Keyword," "Journal," and "Advanced." A "Relevance" search is useful for ranking articles by the number of times a keyword appears. "Keyword" searches rank the articles by date of publication. Note that the database defaults to "Subject" searching and therefore users should select another search option if the initial results appear incomplete.

Boolean Operators & Wildcards: **AND, OR, NOT** may be employed in the advanced and keyword search features. * ? ! are used as wildcards to represent any number of characters, one character, or one or no characters. Proximity operators may also be used (e.g. **W3** means within 3 words) which can help to refine the search by requiring words to appear within a specified distance of each other.

Fields Indexed: Abstract, Author, Date, Journal Name, Subject, and Title.

Example: Locate articles containing the word "Restitution" in the title. Limited to the years 1991-1994.

Results: Results are displayed in a similar manner to Index to Legal Periodicals. In some instances full-text copies of the article can be retrieved. With this sample search the database retrieved far more articles than ILP, however the relevancy of these articles must be weighed against the volume retrieved. For example, articles from the *New York Law Journal* (a daily legal newspaper) appear more often than articles from certain, more scholarly academic law reviews.

For more assistance in using LegalTrac click on the "Help" feature in the left-hand margin.



Research Guide to Law Journal Indexes

The Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals[®]

This database is located on the Law Library's [website](#).

Coverage: legal literature worldwide, covering all forms of foreign (non-Anglo-American) law. This includes comparative law, Islamic law; socialist law; public and private international law; and transnational commercial law. The types of documents covered include journal articles, congress reports, essay collections, yearbooks, and book reviews. The database encompasses all languages. It is important to note that the scope of this database is restricted to non-U.S./U.K. legal periodicals, however it does include articles written about the U.S. and/or U.K. if they appear in a foreign law journal.

Years Indexed: 1985-present.

The screenshot shows the ERL WebSPIRS search interface. At the top, it says "ERL WebSPIRS 5" and "Search | Database Guide | Help | Logout". Below that, it says "Searching databases: Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals 1985-2005 09". There are tabs for "Search", "Advanced", "Thesaurus", "Index", "Find Citation", and "Search History". A search box contains "cat" and a "Search" button. Below the search box are three "Terms:" input fields, each with a dropdown menu set to "In: (Terms anywhere)". There are also Boolean operator options: "AND", "OR", and "NOT". A "Limit Search To:" section has a checkbox for "Published after 1997" and "More" and "Clear" buttons. At the bottom, there are "Search Examples" showing how to search for "cat" in any field, "travel or tourism" in any field, and "2000 Olympics" in internet and sales.

Print Equivalent: Current Law Index (Reference K33 I38).

Search Options: Searches may be limited by place of publication, year and type of material. The "Search Examples" feature at the bottom of the screen is useful for guiding the user through the use of field limits and Boolean searching.

Boolean Operators & Wildcards: **ADJ**, **AND**, **NEAR**, **NOT**, **OR**, **WITH** can be used to help focus or broaden the search. The truncation symbol ***** can be used in place of one or a string of characters. The wildcard symbol **?** can be used in place of one or zero characters.

Fields Indexed: Citation, Title, Author, Reviewer, Source, Descriptor, Journal Name, Source, Collection Name, and Special Collection.

Example: Locate articles containing the word "Restitution" in the title. Limited to the years 1991-1994.

Results: The default presentation of results is in short citation format; however the "Change Display Options" feature allows the user to customize the presentation. Complete references can be viewed by clicking on the appropriate link. This particular search yielded 77 records in this database.

For more assistance in using Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals click on "**Help**" in the top right-hand corner.

19th Century Masterfile[®]

Publication Coverage: The Masterfile is actually two retrospective indices spanning periodicals of the late eighteenth through the early twentieth century. Over 1 million citations are covered by **Index to Legal Periodicals, 1786-1922** (commonly referred to as the "Jones-Chipman Index") and **Poole's Index to Periodical Literature, 1802-1907**. The Masterfile is accessible through the "**Index to Legal Periodical Literature (Jones-Chipman)**" link on the Library's [website](#).

Years Indexed: 1786-1922.

Print Equivalent: Early volumes of the Index to Legal Periodicals (Reference K33 I53).

Search Options: Three methods of searching; "Title," "Keyword," and "Author." In addition searchers can limit their search to just a particular index (e.g. just searching Poole's) or they may select all of the indexes to be searched at the same time. Queries can be qualified by limiting or expanding the word parameters, restricting by date, and limiting the search results.

Boolean Operators & Wildcards: **AND, OR, NOT** are not employed in the Masterfile, nor are wildcards used to represent any number of characters. Instead the indices automatically default to singular and plural versions of search terms, and allow the searcher to limit or expand by requesting all of the words or any of the words be located in the document.

Fields Indexed: Author, Date, Journal Name, Subject, and Title.

PARATEXT
Electronic Reference Publishing

19th Century Masterfile™

About Help News Title List

Search Term(s): Search

Search As:

singular and plural forms
 exact phrase
 exact words

Limit by Date: to

Search Citations Containing:
 all of the words (and)
 any of the words (or)

Your First Stop for 19th Century Studies--and Beyond

Done Internet

Example: Locate articles containing the keyword "Restitution" anywhere in the record. Limit to the years 1850-1900.

Results: The results of this search (27 articles) are first presented in the brief format, which provides a short list of matching records with 20 items per display page. The title of the item, its publication date, author, and other information (if available) is displayed and the results are presented in relevance order as determined by the search engine. A link on each result provides more bibliographic information.

For more assistance in using the 19th Century Masterfile click on the "**Help Searching**" feature on the bottom of the main search page.