



Research Guide to United States Treaties

A treaty is an international agreement concluded between recognized States in written form and governed by international law. Treaties may be bilateral (i.e., between two nations) or multilateral (i.e., between more than two nations). This selective guide only covers those resources providing access to treaties or other international agreements to which the United States is or was a signatory party. Please consult a reference librarian if you encounter any difficulties researching treaty information.

1. Official Sources

Treaties and Other International Acts Series (T.I.A.S.). Published by the State Department in advance-sheet, pamphlet form. The series began in 1945 with T.I.A.S. number 1501. T.I.A.S. was preceded by the **Treaty Series (T.S.)**, which covered the period 1778-1945. This series merged with the **Executive Agreement Series (E.A.S.)** to form T.I.A.S. in 1945. Both T.S. and E.A.S. were published 1929-1945, however neither is available at the DuFour Law Library. *The Library owns T.I.A.S. from 1984 – present (10980-). Located on the 4th floor at KZ235.32 U55. Also available on HeinOnline from 1982-1996 (11060-12734)*

United States Treaties and Other International Agreements (U.S.T.). Published by the State Department since 1950, this bound series contains the text of agreements that first appear in T.I.A.S. The major delay in publication can present difficulty in locating recent treaties. *The Library owns vols. 1-35. Located on the 4th floor at KZ235.3 U55. Also available on HeinOnline vols. 1-35 (1950-1984)*

United States Statutes at Large. Essentially an historical source since U.S. treaties were only published in this set during the years 1845-1949 (v.8 – v.64). An index to all the agreements published in the Statutes at Large is available at 64 Stat. B1107. *The Library owns vol. 1 – present. Located in the stacks on the Main Floor. Also available on HeinOnline vols. 7-8 (1848,1867)*

United Nations Treaty Series (U.N.T.S.). Contains the text of treaties entered into by a member state and registered with the U.N. in accordance with the U.N. charter. *The Library owns vol. 1 – present on microfilm, vol. 1099 – present in hardcopy. Located on the 3rd floor in the media center and on the 4th floor at KZ172 T74. Also available electronically at <http://untreaty.un.org/>. A password and user ID are available at the Circulation Desk.*

Treaties In Force. Published by the State Department in hardcopy and now available online at http://www.state.gov/www/global/legal_affairs/tifindex.html. Although this set does not contain the text of treaties or agreements it is an essential tool in locating these documents. In particular it helps to clarify with which countries the U.S. has an agreement, what parties are signatories to a multilateral agreement, and where the text of these documents can be found. *Library has 1980 – present. Located on the 4th floor at KZ235 T74. Also available on HeinOnline (1929-2006).*

2. Commercial Sources

Consolidated Treaties & International Agreements. Since 1990 Oceana Publications has published this series of treaties and agreements that are usually not yet available in the official State Department publications. *Located on the 4th floor at KZ235.5 U55*

Treaties and other international agreements of the United States of America, 1776-1949. This publication is commonly referred to by the name of the compiler of the set, Bevans. This is the standard tool for locating pre-1949 treaties in which the U.S. was a signatory. The set is comprised of 13 volumes arranged by party (multilateral treaties comprise the first four volumes). *Located on the 4th floor at KZ236 1968.*

International Legal Materials (I.L.M.). Published bimonthly by the American Society of International Law. The periodical includes the final text of international agreements, decisions of the International Court of Justice, resolutions of the U.N. and other international bodies. While not considered an official source, I.L.M. is sometimes the only place to locate a hardcopy of a document. *Library owns vol. 1 – present. Located on the Main floor at K9 N862 (recent issues on Reserve). Also available on LexisNexis, Westlaw, and HeinOnline (vo.1 1-vol. 4) can be viewed on HeinOnline*

Treaties, Conventions, International Acts, Protocols, and Agreements between the United States of America and Other Powers. This 4-volume set covers the period 1776-1937. Now used solely as a historical source, this set was originally published as a Senate Document. Also see the 8-volume **Treaties and Other International Acts of the United States** (compiled by Hunter Miller) for additional historical coverage. *Located on the 4th floor at KZ236 1910 & KZ236 1936 respectively.*

United States Treaty Index: 1776-1990 Consolidation. Commonly referred to by the name of the compiler, Igor Kavass. This set provides both numerical and chronological indexing to U.S. treaties. The set is kept up to date by the **Current Treaty Index** (a loose-leaf publication). *Located on the 4th floor at KZ235 U58 1991.*

3. Electronic Resources

Westlaw®. Coverage on this database is from 1778 – present. Westlaw provides full text coverage of international and Native American treaties to which the U.S. is a party. It begins with vol. 8 Statutes at Large (1778) through vol. 64 (1949), and then continues with coverage for U.S.T. (beginning with vol. 1 and continuing through vol. 35 pt. IV, TIAS 10978, 1984). Subsequent treaties published in TIAS (No. 10979-present) are also included. Native American treaties as published in Statutes at Large begin with vol. 7 (1797).

LexisNexis®. Coverage on this database is from 1776 - present. U.S. Treaties on LexisNexis is a compilation of full-text ratified and unratified treaties and international agreements, where the United States is a party or signatory. This includes not only treaties signed by the President with the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate, but also international agreements from the U.S. Government. In addition to treaties that are "in-force," this compilation includes older terminated, superseded, or abolished treaties.

4. Selected Internet Resources

A large number of resources and user guides are available on the Internet, however it is always good policy to check the source of the information and the frequency with which it is updated before relying on information on an Internet site. Among the most useful and authoritative of the treaty sites are the following:

Fletcher-Ginn Multilaterals Project (<http://fletcher.tufts.edu/multilaterals.html>) . Produced by the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, this site makes available the text of international multilateral conventions and other instruments. The focus is on instruments produced since World War II, however there are a number of older, historical documents included on the site.

Researching U.S. Treaties and Agreements (<http://www.llrx.com/features/ustreaty.htm>) by Marci Hoffman of Georgetown University Legal Center. This recently published guide should provide researchers with enough information to assist in locating any treaty to which the U.S. is a party. See also **Fundamentals of Treaty Research: U.S. and Non-U.S.** by Lyonette Louis-Jacques of the University of Chicago School of Law Library (<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/~llou/treaties.html>) for another approach to treaty research.

The American Society of International Law's Guide to Electronic Resources: Treaties (<http://www.asil.org/resource/treaty1.htm>) . This very comprehensive website provides researchers with a wealth of information regarding treaty research (both bilateral and multinational). This site is updated on a regular basis and should be considered a good starting point for treaty research.

State Department : (<http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/>) . This website contains a record of actions taken by states in regard to international agreements. This information is provided by the Office of Treaty Affairs. (from 1997- present). The website includes links to TIAS (1996-1997), links to legal authorities related to treaties and international agreements, links to treaties recently received in the Senate and treaties recently ratified, and a link to Treaties in Force 2006 presented in Adobe PDF format.

The George Washington University Law School's Guide to Treaty Research: (<http://www.law.gwu.edu/NR/rdonlyres/1B5CA0C7-D388-4E06-83CA-029A2FDC6A5B/0/TreatyGuide06.pdf>) . This comprehensive website includes an in-depth explanation of: the basics of treaty research, treaty indexes and finding tools, sources of treaty texts, and selected works on Treaty Law and Practice. Researchers who are new to this area will find it provides a helpful overview.