Westlaw UK

What is Westlaw UK?
Westlaw UK is one of the main specialist law databases that the University of York Library subscribes to. It provides access to both primary sources of law and commentary, including:

- Access to over 350,000 full-text case reports and transcripts with case analysis from all UK decisions from 1865 and the EU from 1954;
- Fully consolidated full-text of Acts since 1267 and Statutory Instruments since 1948, covering England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland;
- Full text articles from over a 100 law journals and abstracts from over 430 law related journals published in the UK and Europe from 1986 onwards via the Legal Journals Index (LJI)

Accessing Westlaw UK
Westlaw UK is accessed via the E-Resources Guide.

1. To open the E-resources Guide, go to: http://subjectguides.york.ac.uk/e-resources
2. When the E-resources Guide has opened select the W tab from the A-Z list at the top of the screen. An alphabetical list of resources is then displayed.
3. Click on Westlaw UK. You may be asked to log in with your IT Services username and password. The resource will now open in a new window.

Case Law

To search for cases select the case search tab from the menu along the top of the screen.

If you click on Advanced search you can further refine your search by entering additional information e.g. court, year, judge

To search the database for a case it is necessary to provide nothing more than the names of the party names.

You can choose to browse Case Analysis Documents or Law Reports and Transcripts. Once you have selected a report series you will be taken to a list of years or volumes. Select a year/volume to access an alphabetical list of cases.

Refine your results using the options in the menu or search within your results.

Hover over the status icon to find out subsequent judicial treatment.

Click on the law report to link through to the full text case report.

The Case Analysis document provides a summary of the case report. It is not a primary source of law, but it will give you an overview of the case and link to useful supporting documents.
To search for Acts and Statutory Instruments select the legislation search tab from the menu along the top of the screen.

If you click on Advanced search you can limit your search to ‘Law in Force’, ‘Historical Law’ or ‘Perspective Law’.

To retrieve either an Act or a SI enter the title and year into the relevant search box.

Search across the legislation database for statutory definitions.

You can choose to browse legislation by jurisdiction and type. Once you have selected a category you can either search within it or continue to browse by year or title.

Results screen

Click on the Arrangement of Act link to view the whole Act. All the provisions within a piece of legislation will be listed, enabling you to link directly to any section, paragraph, etc. and access the Overview functions.

Searching for journal articles

From the homepage, select the Journals link at the top of the screen. Articles can be retrieved by using the Basic, Advanced or Browse search screens.

Basic Search
From the Basic Search screen you can retrieve articles and abstracts by entering information into the Author, Article Title or Free Text fields. Use the Free Text field to look for terms or phrases relating to the subject matter of the articles you want to find.

Advanced Search
The advanced journals search allows you to enter more information to further refine your search. The more information you enter, the more refined your search will be.

Browsing
The Abstracted Articles link gives access to Legal Journals Index (LJI) and Financial Journals Index (FJI). Click on Full Text Articles to see a list of journal titles. Click on the title to search within a particular journal. You have the option to search all of the subscribed years or just within a specific year.
Results List

When you run a search, brief details of articles matching your search terms will be displayed. The Result List will show the article title, its citation and the subject and keywords applied to the abstract/article, and links to either the Full Text article or to the LJI abstract.

If the article is not available in full text on Westlaw UK use the information found from the Legal Journals Abstract to search YorSearch (http://yorsearch.york.ac.uk).

Search Tips

and

Finds your search terms within the same document. For example: “intellectual property” and internet finds the phrase “intellectual property” and the word internet within the same document. A space will also provide the same functionality.

or

Finds either of the terms. For example “intellectual property” or IPR or copyright finds documents with either one or two or all of these terms within them. OR is useful when you are including abbreviations or synonymous terms.

“”

Finds your search terms next to each other in the same order as a phrase for example “freedom of speech”. If you fail to put “” around the terms Westlaw UK will automatically join the terms with and.

!

Truncation symbol replaces any number of characters at the end of the word. You need to put the ! at the end of the stem of the word to retrieve all alternative endings. For example: promot! will retrieve promotes, promotion and promoted.

*

Wildcard symbol can be used to replace a single character at any point in the word. For example: int**net finds internet and intranet. The wildcard symbol cannot be used for the first character of the word.