

Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals (IFLP)

The Index to Foreign and Legal Periodicals is a subject index to selected international and comparative law periodicals and collections of essays produced at the Berkeley Law Library, University of California Berkeley for the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). IFLP indexes more than 550 periodicals¹ and according to the IFLP website,

The Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals is the preeminent multilingual index to articles and book reviews appearing in more than 500 legal journals published worldwide. It provides in-depth coverage of public and private international law, comparative and foreign law, and the law of all jurisdictions other than the United States, the UK, Canada, and Australia. The IFLP also analyzes the contents of about eighty individually published collections of legal essays, Festschriften, Mélanges, and congress reports each year.²

IFLP was previously published by the University of California Press and offered as an online database through an Ovid Platform. IFLP is now published in both print and electronic formats by William S. Hein & Co. The IFLP database currently includes records from 1985 to the present, with plans to add records from 1960 to 1984 in the near future.³ The new format is a noticeable improvement for users. The structure of the IFLP database on HeinOnline helps set an example for the evolution of print indexes in a world of increasing online use.

The look of IFLP on HeinOnline is familiar for users of Hein products. IFLP is an individual “Library” in HeinOnline, which is a benefit because much of the functionality appears to be tailored specifically for this index. A large number of the journals indexed by IFLP are also available in full text on HeinOnline, which makes Hein a perfect match for hosting the online version of the index. One constant throughout the database is the navigation buttons that correspond to each different section of the database. (See figure 1) The buttons include “Search IFLP,” “Subjects,” “Country Subjects,” “Publication Title,” and “Print Edition (1960 -).” These navigation

¹ Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals, periodicals listing, <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/iflp/periodicals.html>

² Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals homepage, <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/iflp/index.html>

³ The print edition of the IFLP from 1960 to the current edition can be accessed on HeinOnline and through the IFLP database.

buttons appear throughout the database making it easy to move between different access points of the database.

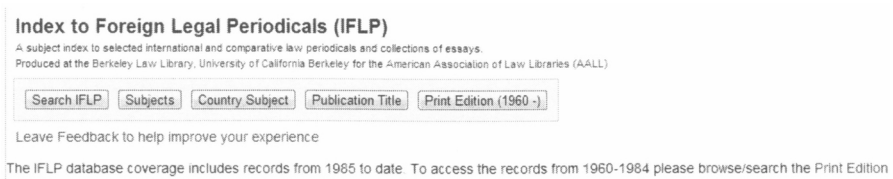


FIG. 1: IFLP NAVIGATION BUTTONS

The landing page for the IFLP database is the same as the “Search IFLP” button. There are notable details on this page that make it obvious that this database offers more than just an online version of a traditional print index. The field search options allow searching using expected fields such as keywords, author, article title, journal title, book title, publication year, ISSN, and ISBN. There are also search options that are more specific to IFLP such as country of publication, subject/country heading, language of article or review, and reviewer. (See figure 2)

One notable feature of the search functions, mentioned in the search tips, is that searching using non-English languages does not require the use of diacritical marks (accent, dot, hyphen, tilde, umlaut, etc.). IFLP contains journals published in many foreign languages, which would make searching difficult in a non-tailored database. Without the need for diacritical marks when searching, researchers will find it easier to locate articles and publications through the IFLP database than most other online offerings.



FIG. 2: IFLP FIELD SEARCH OPTIONS

The “Subjects” button on the landing page is intended for browsing and takes researchers to an alphabetical listing of indexed subjects in IFLP. (See figure 3) This is the only part of the database that feels like the

information was pulled directly from the print version. Researchers can only browse in the “Subjects” section and must search the “Subjects” section from the main landing page using a field search. The overall organization of this section is useful as it is cross-referenced and includes a “Used For” classification to list subtopics. The “Subjects” list also includes an article count for main index terms and lists broader, narrower, and related index terms. One function that makes it feel like a print source is that the links for the main index terms, identifiable by the number of associated articles in parentheses, are the only links that lead into the resource. All other hyperlinks in this section simply move around the “Subjects” list. The indexed terms for each letter of the alphabet are on a single page. A potential problem with this organization is that the lists can grow increasingly long and it requires scrolling or a keyboard shortcut to get back to the top of the page. Once a researcher selects a subject, the index results that can be further refined with the use of the sidebar that appears whenever indexed results are viewed.

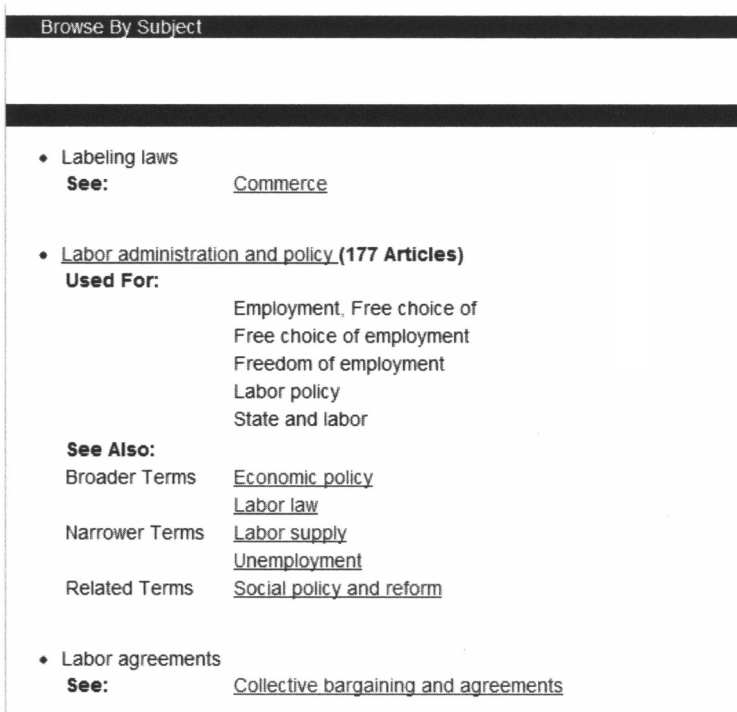


FIG. 3: IFLP SUBJECT LISTING

The “Country Subject” section includes classifications for browsing as there is no search option from this section. The entries found under this section include continents, regions, language-related areas, and other listings.

(See figure 4) Each index term has the number of associated articles in parentheses to give the researcher an idea of how large the results are for each Country Subject. When a Country Subject is selected, the indexed results are displayed with options to refine the selection along the sidebar. This section has taken advantage of the print version's Geographical Index and Periodicals Indexed by Country and merged them into a single indexing point, highlighting another advantage of the online database over the print version.



Browse By Country Subject	
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W Y Z ALL	
Afghanistan	(81 Articles)
Africa	(1006 Articles)
Africa, Anglophone	(30 Articles)
Africa, Central	(54 Articles)
Africa, East	(48 Articles)
Africa, Francophone	(609 Articles)
Africa, North	(44 Articles)
Africa, Southern	(445 Articles)
Africa, West	(64 Articles)
Albania	(70 Articles)
Algeria	(383 Articles)
Amazon River Region	(5 Articles)

FIG. 4: IFLP COUNTRY SUBJECT LISTING

The “Publication Title” button leads to a listing of indexed periodicals for browsing. (See figure 5) Clicking on a periodical link displays a list of the articles indexed in that periodical. This section is where it is immediately obvious that HeinOnline was a smart match for this database. A note on the page reads: “** indicates it’s in HeinOnline.” This makes it clear which publications will have full text availability and which ones will need to be located elsewhere. For the periodicals available in HeinOnline, a researcher can access the article by clicking the article name to get to the IFLP listing and clicking the “View Article in HeinOnline” link. Alternatively, a researcher can click the “Available in HeinOnline” link directly from the search results. This section also includes the sidebar for refining the displayed results. One inconvenience is when the researcher clicks on a publication title, the articles are listed and the publication title is only shown in the indexed article results and is not displayed in any other obvious location. It would be a benefit to researchers to have the publication title displayed in a more obvious way for the times when research is interrupted.

(** indicates it's in HeinOnline)

Baltic Yearbook of International Law **
Banka ve Ticaret Hukuku Dergisi
Berkeley Journal of International Law (continuation of International Tax and Business Lawyer) **
Berkeley Journal of Middle Eastern Islamic Law **
BFAI/Rechts-information

FIG. 5: IFLP PUBLICATION TITLE LISTING

The screenshot shows a search interface with a sidebar on the left and search results on the right. The sidebar includes filters for 'Dates' (2005 to date, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2000 to 2005, 1990 to 1999, 1990 to 1989), 'Subjects' (Economic planning and integration, Human rights, Constitutional law, International trade), and 'Authors' (Fis-Zamudio, H., Carpizo, J., Correa, C.M., Carro, A.M.). The search results list five items, including 'Los abogados americanos de la monarquía española', 'Acciones populares y acciones para la tutela de los intereses colectivos', 'Accords pour la protection de l'environnement et la région côtière du Pacifique sud-est', 'Accountability for past abuses', and 'Acerca de la regulación de la producción agropecuaria en el derecho indiano'.

FIG. 6: IFLP RESULTS WITH SIDEBAR EXAMPLE

The “Print Edition (1960 -)” button links to the print edition in HeinOnline. The print edition does not have the benefit of the functionality of the full database, but it is useful to have access to the print version for editions that are not yet covered in the database. The researcher still has the advantage of the well-organized index and the potential content available in HeinOnline for indexed articles. Using the print editions offers a reminder of the added value of this database. The records for each indexed article in the database are clean and easy to understand. For articles available in HeinOnline, there is a direct link to the full-text of the article. The online entry also provides hyperlinks to any other categorizations for finding similar items within the database matching items by author, source, and subject headings. A feature

that was mentioned on the HeinOnline Blog is the ability to add a link to Boalt Express for indexed entries in IFLP.⁴ This provides the opportunity to get a copy of every article indexed in IFLP that is not available in HeinOnline. Boalt Express is described as “a non-profit fee based information delivery service operated as part of the UC Berkeley School of Law Library.”⁵ This service charges fees for copying, research, and delivery services.



FIG. 7: IFLP INDEXED ARTICLE

The new IFLP platform is an exciting and reassuring change for an online version of a print index. Print indexes have value that has not been adequately replicated in any other format. The IFLP database shows that print indexes can be improved through a tailored approach to online conversion.

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Research Handbook on International Criminal Law. Edited by Bartram S. Brown. Cheltenham, UK; Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, 2011. Pp. xv, 517. ISBN 978-1-84720-278-9. UK£145.00; US \$245.00

International criminal law is a relative newcomer to the legal arena. Although there had been hints of its emergence as far back as the 15th century, the concept did not gain much traction until the establishment of institutions such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the

⁴ Miranda Rosati, *HeinOnline Blog*, <http://home.heinonline.org/blog/2012/11/boalt-express-links-added-to-heinonline-branding-options/> (Nov. 28, 2012)

⁵ About Boalt Express, <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/bex.html>