10 tips for legal research

1. Finding known items (items where you know all or part of the title)

The quickest way to find a known case, piece of legislation or journal article is to use the Quick Find Box in LexisLibrary or using the relevant tab in Westlaw UK.

2. Finding full case reports

When research a case you should always read the full case report, if you are in the Case Digest (Lexis Library) or Case Analysis (Westlaw UK) you can find the full case report by clicking on the first citation in the list.
3. Find related items

When looking at a document within LexisLibrary or Westlaw UK you can find links to other useful information such as cases, journals and legislation in the ‘Find Out More’ box (LexisLibrary) and the menu on the left (Westlaw UK).

5. Use Insight in Westlaw UK to get overview information about different areas of law

6. Searching for resources on a specific topic

When searching for resources on a specific topic (e.g. unfair dismissal) you can either use the main search bars (and select the resource types you want) or you can do searches within the individual resource tabs.

7. Phrase searching

Use speech marks to search for specific phrases to help refine your search results e.g. “formation of a contract”. The search engine will then search for those exact words in that order – this works in most other search engines too including Summon.
8. **Summon**

Remember to search Summon for resources as well as LexisLibrary and Westlaw UK as that is where you will find other secondary sources such as textbooks. There are journal articles on Summon that are not in LexisLibrary or Westlaw UK so you need to search there too. Remember your reading lists which are accessible via UniLearn are often a great place to start your legal research as your lecturers will give you links to core resources for each module, your reading lists are also linked directly with Summon.

9. **JustCite**

Use the ‘Precedent Maps’ feature on JustCite to find links to cases related to the case you are researching.

The left hand side are the cases that the central case referred to and the cases on the right are the ones that have subsequently referred to the central case. The lines are coloured coded so you know how the case has been treated e.g. applied or reversed. The cases with the larger circles have more in common with the central case.

10. **Help available**

Help is available on the Law Subject Guide [https://hud.libguides.com/law](https://hud.libguides.com/law), where you will find full user guides, quick tips and video tutorial for all the legal resources.

Blerina Berisha is a student at the university but is also the LexisLibrary Student Associate, and she will be running drop-in sessions throughout the year which she will advertise via email and UniLearn, you can also contact her via u1253483@unimail.hud.ac.uk.

You can always get help at the Help Centre on floor 4, when the desk is staffed there is always a librarian on duty who can help you with your legal research, you can also contact the Subject Librarian (Penelope Dunn) via the Law Subject Guide or via email: library@hud.ac.uk

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