Legal Research Cheat Sheet

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1. Terminology

Doctrine = secondary sources (Books, Journal articles, case commentaries)

Jurisprudence = Case Law

Jurisdiction = Legal authority over a geographic region or area of law

Precedent = Rules established through previous case law

Common Law = Legal authority that is based on precedent

Civil Law = Legal authority that is based on legislation

Style of cause = The name of a case (eg.

Tort = A wrongful act that breaches another person's civil rights (eg. Negligence, liability, misconduct)

"R" (as in R. v. McGregor) = The Crown (this indicates a criminal case)

Hansard = The transcripts of parliamentary debates in Canada (and many other Commonwealth countries)

2. Legal Database Access

There are a few databases that are only available to law students.

Students need to fill out the following form in order to access:

- SOQUIJ
- CAIJ (for restricted content)
- Practical Law Canada (one feature of WestLaw)

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=cZYxzedSaEqvqfz4-J8J6mefj7qVN-1IuSNUULJNvxUMjBWU1JCRIBNUFNZVzhCRU4wV1ZKQIY0Ty4u

3. Law Library Building Access

Regular hours: Open to everyone

Exam-time hours: first 2 floors are open to everyone, upper 3 floors are only open to law students

4. Ebook Collections

Many key legal texts do not show up in the catalogue. The best way to check if we have online access to a text (before recommending an ILL) is to cmd-F the publisher on our ebooks LibGuide: https://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/law-ebooks

Here's a table of where to look for some of the more common publishers:

| Publisher | Database | Notes |
|------------------|------------------------|--|
| Carswell | WestlawNext | EXTREMELY limited |
| Irwin Law | CAIJ | Requires a CAIJ membership (see database access) |
| LexisNexis | Lexis Advance Quicklaw | Very limited. In some cases, you can contact Ana and she can try and get a PDF of the book from Lexis directly. |
| Wilson & Lafleur | CAIL (Doctrine) | • |

Wilson & Lafleur

CAIJ (eDoctrine)

> Yvon Blais

(La référence > Collections doctrinales (Monographies) > Contrats et obligations > Baudouin, J-