

# International Legal Research Online

With examples of practical application

Matthias C. Kettemann, Modified by Reinmar Nindler  
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University of Graz

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## ***I. Introduction***

### ***I.1. Who offers international legal resources online?***

- public entities (governments, parliaments, courts, IOs ...)
- academia (universities, related research institutions, their libraries)
- media (from journals to scientific publications)
- companies
- non-commercial organisations (NGOs, parties ...)
- private entities, institutions, professors ...

### ***1.2. What can I use the internet for?***

- general research („first acquaintance with the topic“)
- research for primary literature (treaties, laws ...)
- research for secondary literature (books, journals ...)
- topical developments (news, blogs ...)

### ***1.3. How to start my research?***

- search engines (e.g. yahoo, google, google scholar)
- meta search engines (e.g. [www.surfwax.com](http://www.surfwax.com),  
[www.copernic.com](http://www.copernic.com), Google Custom Search Engines (CSEs))
- databases
- newsgroups, discussion fora
- social networking sites (e.g. StudiVz, Facebook)

#### 1.4. The research „musts“

- Know where to look!
- Clearly define your research topic!
- Know the research operators (Boolean operators: ( (x and x), NEAR, NOT, AND), proximity, \* (wildcard))!
- Don't get lost following obscure links („Wikipedia“ illness)!
- Organize your results (using bookmarks etc.)!
- Contact researches directly

#### 1.5. Citation

- Usual citation rules with the URL

z.B.: Maarten van Dijk, „Discussing Definitions of Organised Crime: Word Play in Academic and Political Discourse“, HUMSEC Journal 1 (2008), 65-90,  
[http://www.etc-graz.at/cms/fileadmin/user\\_upload/humsec/Journal/van\\_Dijk\\_OC\\_Definitions.pdf](http://www.etc-graz.at/cms/fileadmin/user_upload/humsec/Journal/van_Dijk_OC_Definitions.pdf) (10 October 2010)

*Hint:* Turn long URLs into short ones by using, e.g.,  
<http://www.tinyurl.com>: <http://tinyurl.com/2vlu6l2>

- Add the date of last visit (or of last control visit)
- Use the website title  
UN, Working Groups Assumed by the Human Rights Council,  
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/workinggroups.htm> (20.4.2009)
- Save essential and non-permanent looking websites locally

### ***1.5. Citation (2)***

- Never, ever, ever, ever, ever plagiarize
- Plagiarism is an insult against your own intelligence, your colleagues and the principle of academic honesty
- Teachers use the Internet, too
- University of Graz has introduced an anti-plagiarism software
- In some countries you may be expelled (!)

## ***II. Your entry point to the e-world: search engines***

## ***II.1. Non-specific search engines***

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

- well-chosen research terms
- similar words
- avoid spelling mistakes
- „human security“ „international law“  
(and while you ‘re at it: check your own Google© profile)

<http://books.google.com>

- digitalisation of ‚real‘ books
- full-text search
- example „human security“

## ***II.1. Non-specific search engines (2)***

<http://scholar.google.at>

- research in scientific literature

## ***II.2. Commercial „search engines“***

<http://www.amazon.com>

- „Search Inside!“-function  
e.g.: „human security“ „international law“  
Searches within the text are possible.

## ***III. Examples of practical application***

### III.1. How to use Google more effectively

- You are looking for a certain article, but do not remember the exact title?
- Let's have a look at an example!

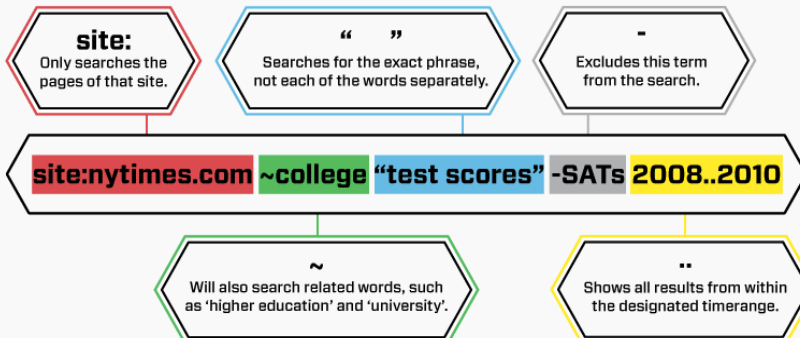


## What You Want

NYTimes **articles** about test scores in college, but not the SATs, written between 2008 and 2010.



## How To Google It



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# How To Google It



**Don't ask Google questions.** Think about how an answer would be phrased, and search for that (ie, never search for 'What is the air speed velocity...').

**filetype:**  
Searches only results of the file type you designate. Can use for pdf, doc, jpg, etc.

**intitle:**  
Only shows results with that word in the title (in this case, 'velocity').

**filetype:pdf air speed intitle:velocity of \*swallow**

**\***  
Replaces itself with common terms in your search (in this case, Red Rumped swallow and Lesser Striped swallow will both be searched, along with many others).

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Operators	Means	Google	Yahoo/Bing
site:	Search only the specified site (X-ray)	✓	✓
intitle:	Search the page titles	✓	✓
inurl:	Search the web addresses (URLs)	✓	
filetype:	Search for certain file types	✓	✓
Special Characters	Means	Google	Yahoo/Bing
<i>almost any</i>		<i>ignored</i>	<i>ignored</i>
plus (+)	Use the word exactly	✓	
minus (-)	NOT	✓	✓
""	Use as a phrase	✓	✓
~	Use synonyms	✓	
*	One or a few words	✓	



Graphic:  
Irina Shamaeva

### III.2. Google Scholar

- Research exclusively academic and scholarly work
- Let's have a look at an example!



### What You Want

**Papers** about photosynthesis by Dr. Ronald L. Green and Dr. Thomas P. Buttz.



### How To Google It

#### author:

This will search for papers by Green rather than papers involving the word 'green.'

“ ”

For more specific results, you can put the authors full name or initials in quotes.

**author:green photosynthesis "tp buttz"**

Just like a normal Google search, this is where the topic you're looking for goes.

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## ***IV. Further internet resources***

### ***IV.1. Libraries***

- How libraries should work
  - UB Graz: <http://www.uni-graz.at/ub>
  - UB Vienna:  
<http://www.ub.univie.ac.at/fb-rewi/kataloge.html>
  - Max-Planck-Gesellschaft: <http://aleph.mpg.de>
  - UNO Bibliothek Genf: <http://www.unog.ch/library>
  - ICJ Peace Palace Library: <http://www.ppl.nl>
- search example: "human security" (in) "international law"

## IV.2. Academia (1)

- American Society of International Law: <http://www.asil.org>  
and its Electronic Research Guide: <http://www.eisil.org>
- European Society of International Law:  
<http://www.esil-sedi.eu>
- International Law Organisation: <http://www.ila-hq.org>
- Max Planck Institut für ausländisches öffentliches Recht und  
Völkerrecht: <http://www.mpil.de>

## IV.2. Academia (2)

all universities and institutes of international law, e.g.

- Institut für Völkerrecht und Internationale Beziehungen der  
Universität Graz: <http://www.uni-graz.at/vrewww>
- Some libraries offer research guides, e.g.  
Harvard Law School Library Research Guide on  
International Courts and Tribunals:  
<http://law.harvard.libguides.com/intlcourttribunals>  
and on International Humanitarian Law:  
<http://law.harvard.libguides.com/ihl>

### ***IV.3. Inter- and supranational organizations***

with extensive research possibilities

- UN: <http://www.un.org>
  - UN Documents Research Guide: <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide>
- EU: <http://europa.eu.int>
- Council of Europe: <http://www.coe.int>
- OECD: <http://www.oecd.org>
- OSCE: <http://www.osce.org>
- WTO: <http://www.wto.org>
- OHCHR: <http://www.ohchr.org>

### ***IV.4. Document collections***

- Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy:  
<http://avalon.law.yale.edu>
- Minnesota Human Rights Library:  
<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts>
- University of Düsseldorf: RAVE database  
[http://www.uni-duesseldorf.de/HHU/fakultaeten/jura/rave/de/srchr\\_sys?sid=1](http://www.uni-duesseldorf.de/HHU/fakultaeten/jura/rave/de/srchr_sys?sid=1)

## ***IV.5. Databases***

### ***General***

- Juris International: [http://www.jurisint.org/pub/page00\\_en.htm](http://www.jurisint.org/pub/page00_en.htm)
- EBSCOHost: <http://search.epnet.com>

## ***IV.5. Databases (2)***

### ***Specialized***

- United Nations Treaty Collection: <http://untreaty.un.org/>
- European Union Law: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>
- WTO Documents:  
[http://www.wto.org/english/docs\\_e/docs\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/docs_e.htm)

#### ***IV.6. Journals and publishers***

- Directory of Open Access Journals:  
<http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=subject&cpid=46>
- Cambridge University Press:  
<http://www.cambridge.org/uk/browse/Default.asp?subjectid=1006971>
- Oxford University Press: <http://www.oup.co.uk>
- SpringerLink: <http://www.kluweronline.com/>

#### ***IV.7. Link collections***

- FINDLAW International Law Index  
<http://www.findlaw.com/01topics/24international/index.html>
- New York University School of Law:  
[http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/foreign\\_intl/](http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/foreign_intl/)
- University of Graz, Institute for International Law:  
<http://www.uni-graz.at/vrewww/deutsch/links/links.html>

## ***V. Questions***

### ***Contact***

**Reinmar Nindler**

Institute of International Law and International Relations  
University of Graz

[reinmar.nindler@uni-graz.at](mailto:reinmar.nindler@uni-graz.at)

T: 0316/380 3425