

Searching for cases

You can search for cases by the names of the parties (e.g. *Harriman v Martin*, *R. v Smith*)

You can search by citation (e.g. [1962] 1 W.L.R. 739)

You can also search for cases on particular areas of law

The best way to search for cases is to use the *Case Search* facility on Westlaw or Lexis Library. These will give you the full judgement, links to other relevant cases and legislation, and journal articles about the case

Why not just use Google?

Unfortunately there is no guarantee that what you are reading is the actual judgement as published in the Law Reports – it is often either incomplete or someone else's thoughts about the case, and you could fail your assignment by using the information contained there.

Searching via Lexis Library

From the library catalogue select Online resources, then search for Lexis Library. Click on the link in the red box to log into Lexis Library. You will then be asked for your London Met username and password.

Once you submit these, the Lexis Library Welcome page should appear.

Simple search for a case using party names

If you are just searching for a single case and you already have the names of the parties, you can submit your search using the search box on the Welcome page. For best coverage, select "All subscribed cases" from the options below the party name boxes.

Lexis Library will then search for the original judgement(s) on your case, any subsequent cases where your case has been cited. The information will be displayed with the Case name and citation in the left column and the source/ law report series in the right column.

If the full text of a case is not given, make a note of the citation and look for it either in print format or via another online legal information supplier such as Westlaw or BAILLI.

Printing and saving your search results

You can print, save or email your search results to yourself using the icons at the top right of the text.

Advanced search for cases on Lexis Library

From the Welcome screen, select the red **Cases** search tab. Here you can search by:

- parties
- citation
- free text (use if you are searching for cases on a topic or if you could not find the case by doing a simple parties search).

If you are not sure which search terms to use, or if you want to combine several different ones, use the **Search Tips** option for the best ways of doing this. You can also view a mini-tutorial on how to construct your search.

When your results are listed, some will have a link to full text. If this is not given, make a note of the citation or journal details and look for it either in print format or via another online legal information supplier such as Westlaw or BAILLI.

If it is a journal article, do a Journals search on the catalogue for the journal title to check whether we have either a print subscription or another online route to it.

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