

# 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. *Ferreira v. Cardenas*)

**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-1luSNUUJLNVxUMjBWU1JCRIBNUFNZVzhCRU4wV1ZKQIY0Ty4u>

## 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:

<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Database</b>	<b>Notes</b>
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	CAIJ (eDoctrine)	
Yvon Blais	La Référence	

➤ [Irwin Law](#)

1. From the CAIJ homepage, click the link for “Bases de données” on the left-hand menu
2. Scroll to the bottom of this page to find the link for vLex

vLex



**Irwin Law Collection**

- Livres électroniques publiés par les éditions Irwin Law et portant sur différents domaines de droit, tels que droit criminel, droit du travail, droit de l'immigration, droit de l'environnement, droit de la propriété intellectuelle et droit bancaire.

**ACCÈS**

En bibliothèque

À distance

Accéder

vLex navigation menu with options: Accueil, Recherche avancée, Index (highlighted with a red arrow).

En vedette dans Canada

Législation

Jurisprudence

Livres & Revues

Initiatives législatives

Books and Law Journals >

Irwin Law

Digests and Other Sources >

Liste complète



Irwin Law Books

Irwin Law Books Archive

➤ Yvon Blais



### Éditions Yvon Blais

Collections doctrinales (Monographies)   
Chroniques et commentaires (Repères)  
Collection Blais (Actes de colloques)  
Points de droit  
Textes de référence en ressources humaines  
Bibliothèque ProView 

(La référence > Collections doctrinales (Monographies) > Contrats et obligations > Baudouin, J.-L. et P.-G. Jobin, **Les obligations**, 7e édition par P.-G. Jobin et N. Vézina, 2013)

#### 5. VLex vs VLex

- McGill's VLex subscription gives everyone access to foreign case law (see Foreign and Comparative Law Guide: <https://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/law-foreign-and-comparative>)
- CAIJ's VLex subscription gives law students access to publications by Irwin Law (via their Base de Données)

#### 6. McGill Cite Guide

AKA The McGill Guide; The Red Book; The Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation

Available online through WestLaw Next Canada (must be signed in with McGill credentials):

Enter search terms, citations, databases, anything ...

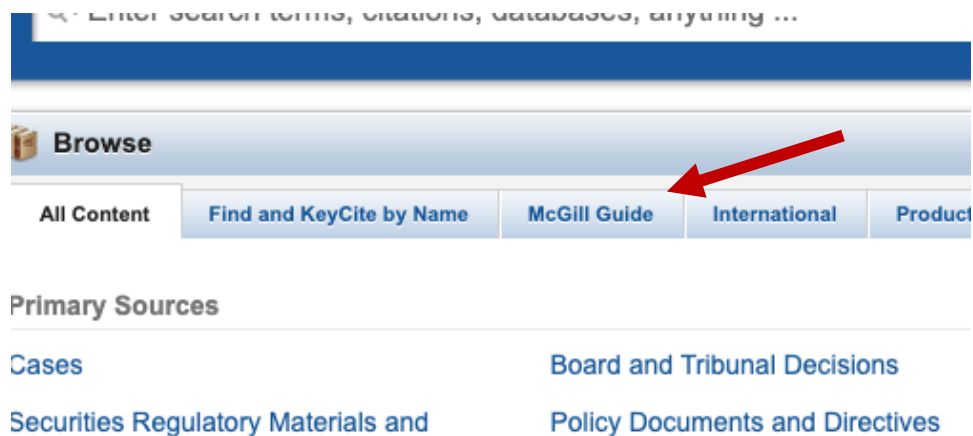
**Browse**

All Content Find and KeyCite by Name McGill Guide International Product

**Primary Sources**

Cases Board and Tribunal Decisions

Securities Regulatory Materials and Policy Documents and Directives



## 7. WestLaw Edge

A newer WestLaw platform that offers more advanced AI technology and research tools, but all the same content. Unlike Westlaw Next, it is only available to law students. If you have registered with Thomson Reuters through the Database Access Consent Form, you can register for WestLaw Edge by following the link under “key resources” on the Law LibGuide.

## 8. Historic Legislative Research

### ➤ Revised vs Annual Statutes

**Annual Statutes of Canada** print updated versions of all Acts amended in the previous year. **Revised Statutes of Canada** are the statutes printed in completion, including all Acts. These were printed periodically (15-20 years) until 1985. They are no longer printed but kept up to date online via the Justice Laws Website: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/>

### ➤ Legislative Backdating

The best database for backdating Canadian legislative is HeinOnline. Here you can find the Annual Statutes of Canada going back until 1792, all versions of the Revised Statutes, and select Provincial Statutes of Canada.

## Browse Databases by Category

### Canadian Content

- ① Acts of the Parliament of Canada (Annual Statutes)
- ① Australian & Canadian Acts of the Parliament
- ① Canada Supreme Court Reports
- ① Provincial Statutes of Canada
- ① Revised Statutes of Canada

Case Law

Current Content Journals