



## **WorldLII’s International Courts & Tribunals Project – Responding to the fragmentation of international law**

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## **Responding to the fragmentation of international law**

For over half a century, international law arising from the decisions of international Courts and Tribunals was relatively easy to find in the sense that it arose from a only small number of permanent Courts and Tribunals: the Permanent Court of Arbitration (1899), the Central American Court of Justice (1908), and of greatest importance the Permanent Court of International Justice (1919) and its successor the International Court of Justice (1945). Finding the decisions of the numerous ad hoc tribunals created to resolve disputes between States was no doubt always difficult.

Since World War II there has been a proliferation of permanent international Courts and Tribunals, initially in the form of regional Courts (particularly in Europe and Latin America), then human rights tribunals (including those part of the UN), and special tribunals for international trade (both regional and global in the form of the WTO bodies). More recently, international criminal courts both permanent and of limited duration<sup>1</sup>, have swelled the number of sources of international law.

There are now somewhere in excess of thirty significant ongoing sources of international case-law that those concerned with international law may need to consider, plus the decisions of those tribunals (such as the PCIJ and the WWII war crimes tribunals) no longer extant. In some cases, the substance of the same disputes is being litigated before different international bodies, with the possibility of inconsistent outcomes. The whole process has been referred to<sup>2</sup> as the 'Balkanisation'<sup>3</sup> of international law, but in this paper we will simply refer to it as 'fragmentation'.

Today's international Courts and Tribunals have responded well to the opportunity for greater transparency provided by the Internet, in the sense that almost all of them they provide their decisions in some form via the Internet<sup>4</sup>. As summarised in the Table appended to this paper, these decisions are most commonly provided in HTML format, but a quarter provide decisions only in Word or PDF format, with few internal navigation aids such as hyperlinks. In about a third of the Courts and Tribunals the decisions are not searchable from the Court's own site (because they do not have a search engine). The decisions of a third of them are also not searchable via search engines such as Google (perhaps because they are dynamically generated from databases or for other technical reasons), and for some others only some decisions are searchable. Even where they are searchable via Google, it is not practically possible to limit a search to (say) twenty Court sites – extraneous material cannot be filtered out. It is therefore fair to conclude that the decisions of international Courts and Tribunals have remained fragmented, despite the Internet's search capacities, and despite the serious but uncoordinated efforts of the individual Courts and Tribunals.

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<sup>1</sup> There will in due course be separate tribunals arising from the conflicts in Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Sierra Leone and Iraq.

<sup>2</sup> The expression was used by speakers at the abovementioned *Seminar on International Courts and Tribunals for Practitioners from South-East Asia and the South Pacific Regions*, to whom the authors (who do not have expertise in international law) are indebted for information informing the overview in the preceding paragraphs.

<sup>3</sup> "To divide (an area) into small antagonistic States" (Concise Oxford Dictionary, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed 1976); "To divide (a region or territory) into small, often hostile units." (Dictionary.com); "The term generally describes the process of geopolitical fragmentation, and is used to depict any kind of political dissolution across the world. The term has also expanded to connote a varied tableau of scenarios involving disintegration, such as "the balkanization of the Internet. Taking its name from the divisive and conflict-ridden Balkan region of Europe, balkanization has come to refer to any region in the world faced with internal turmoil and schisms." <<http://www.countrywatch.com/>>

<sup>4</sup> This can be checked in the WorldLII Catalog at <<http://www.worldlii.org/catalog/2561.html>>

What can be done about this? This paper is an introduction to the involvement of the free access, non-profit Legal Information Institutes (LIIs) across the world in publishing and making more accessible the decisions of global and regional Courts and Tribunals.

The International Courts and Tribunals Project is one answer, at a technical level, to this process of fragmentation: if the sources of international law are now scattered, they should at least be able to found conveniently from one central search location, presented in a uniform manner, and searchable in as many configurations as users require. The World Legal Information Institute (WorldLII) provides for the first time such a central search facility for the decisions of international Courts and Tribunals. The decisions are located principally in databases on WorldLII, but some are also located on databases on various other LIIs where this is appropriate because of region or language. It is a collaborative decentralised project of the LIIs.

After a year of development, the Project provides search and browse facilities over 20,000 final decisions in full text, from twenty such Courts and Tribunals. In most cases the decisions go back to the start of the Court or Tribunal. Databases and decisions continue to be added, and the collection kept up-to-date. Interlocutory or interim decisions and procedural matters are generally not included, only the final decision(s) in each matter.

WorldLII also provides an extensive Catalog /Websearch of Court and Tribunal websites from around the world, providing convenient browsing access and some search facilities over extensive information going beyond the final decisions of the Courts and Tribunals, and to the work of commentators on the Courts and Tribunals. Taken together, these facilities make up WorldLII's International Courts and Tribunals Project.

## Legal information institutes (LIIs)

For the information of those not familiar with them, Legal Information Institutes (LIIs) have developed since 1994 in various countries around the world, as free-access, non-profit, Internet providers of public legal information. They are usually but not invariably University-based.

The following LIIs jointly provide the content of the World Legal Information Institute (WorldLII) <<http://www.worldlii.org/>> :

- Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII) <<http://www.austlii.edu.au/>>
- British & Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII) <<http://www.bailii.org/>>
- Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII) <<http://www.canlii.org/>>
- Hong Kong Legal Information Institute (HKLII) <<http://www.hklii.org/>>
- Pacific Island Legal Information Institute (PacLII) <<http://www.paclii.org/>>
- Southern African Legal Information Institute (SAFLII) <<http://www.saflii.org/>>
- The Legal Information Institute (Cornell) <<http://www.law.cornell.edu/>>
- Droit Francophone <Easy

They have in November 2004 been joined by the New Zealand Legal Information Institute (NZLII) <<http://www.nzlii.org/>>, and JuriBurkina <<http://www.juriburkina.org/>>.

As an access hub for the other LII's content, WorldLII at present makes searchable over 440 databases of case law, legislation and secondary materials (law reform reports, law journals etc) from 55 countries. WorldLII also contains its own databases, principally those of the decisions of international Courts and Tribunals described in this paper, but also databases from some countries such as Timor-Leste and Cambodia. AustLII provides the technical operation and coordination of WorldLII. The LIIs have adopted *The Declaration on Free Access to Law* <<http://www.worldlii.org/worldlii/declaration/>> as a statement of their objectives and cooperation.


## The scope of the ICT Project

### Current contents – over 20,000 decisions

To search over the decisions of all international Courts and Tribunals available through WorldLII, a user can go from 'International Decisions' on the front page of WorldLII to the 'International Courts and Tribunals Project' (ICT Project) page shown below.

As can be seen from the extract shown below, at present the decisions of twenty different International Courts and Tribunals can be searched simultaneously from this page. This is not possible anywhere else on the Internet.

[\[Home\]](#) [\[Databases\]](#) [\[Search\]](#) [\[Translate\]](#) [\[Feedback\]](#) [\[Disclaimer\]](#)



## International Courts & Tribunals Project

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You are here: [WorldLII](#) >> **International Courts & Tribunals Project**

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### About the International Courts & Tribunals Project

The International Courts and Tribunals Project (ICT Project) aims to provide a comprehensive search facility for final decisions of all international and multi-national courts and tribunals, whether global or regional. The search facility below allows searches over the decisions of 20 International Courts and Tribunals, comprising over 20,000 decisions. Most databases contain complete backsets and are updated regularly. A few are still being completed.

The ICT Project is a joint project between WorldLII and other Legal Information Institutes (LIIs). Where possible, decisions of regional ICTs are located on a local LII. Databases in English and databases with decisions in multiple languages are located on WorldLII. Where databases are solely in French, or there are parallel databases in French, they are being located on [Droit Francophone](#). Decisions in Spanish are located (for the moment) on WorldLII.

### Browse and Search International Courts & Tribunals Databases

[\[Search Help\]](#)

[\[Advanced Search\]](#)

Full Text  Title Only

Limit your search scope by either:

(1) selecting from the following database groupings:

- All International Courts & Tribunal Databases
- All African Courts & Tribunals Databases
- All European Courts & Tribunals Databases
- All Human Rights Courts & Tribunals Databases
- All Trade Related Courts & Tribunals Databases

*Extract from International Courts & Tribunals Project page on WorldLII*

The Project currently includes the 26 databases as listed below, comprising 20 separate Courts and Tribunals (with the three WTO tribunals counted as one), plus two databases of human rights cases from many jurisdictions collected by Interights, and a database of introductions to each Court and Tribunal from PiCT (Project on International Courts and Tribunals).

The coverage dates listed below shows that for most but not all Courts and Tribunals the coverage extends back to the first decisions available. The total number of decisions included as at November 2004 exceeds 20,000. While this averages over 1,000 decisions per Court or Tribunal, in some cases the numbers are very low (eg ITLOS, NAFTA) but in others comprise quite a few thousands (eg ECHR, ECJ, gTLD domain name decisions).

(2) selecting individual databases:

Clear all Select all

- [Central African Monetary and Economic Community \(CEMAC\) Decisions 1998-](#) (Droit francophone)
- [Central American Court of Justice Decisions 2003-](#) (WorldLII)
- [Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa \(COMESA\) Court of Justice Decisions 2001-](#) (WorldLII)
- [Court of Justice of the Andean Community Decisions 1985-](#) (WorldLII)
- [Court of Justice of the European Communities \(including the Court of First Instance\) Decisions 1954-](#) (BA/LII)
- [Commission of the European Communities Decisions 2003-](#) (WorldLII)
- [European Court of Human Rights Decisions 1960-](#) (WorldLII)
- [Generic Top Level Domain Name \(gTLD\) Decisions 2000-](#) (WorldLII)
- [Inter-American Court of Human Rights Decisions 1981-](#) (Selected) (WorldLII)
- [Interights Commonwealth Human Rights Law 1992-2002](#) (WorldLII)
- [Interights International Human Rights Law 1981-2001](#) (WorldLII)
- [International Court of Justice Decisions 1993-](#) (WorldLII)
- [International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda Decisions 2004-](#) (WorldLII)
- [International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia Decisions 1996-](#) (WorldLII)
- [International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea Decisions 1997-](#) (Selected) (WorldLII)
- [North American Free Trade Area \(NAFTA\) Decisions 2004-](#) (WorldLII)
- [Permanent Court of International Justice Decisions 1922-1946](#) (Selected) (WorldLII)
- [Privy Council Decisions 1982-](#) (BA/LII)
- [Project on International Courts and Tribunals \(PICT\) Resources](#) (WorldLII)
- [West African Economic and Monetary Union \(UEMOA\) Court of Justice Decisions 1996-](#) (Selected) (Droit francophone)
- [World Trade Organization Appellate Body Decisions 1996-](#) (WorldLII)
- [World Trade Organization Arbitrators Decisions 1998-](#) (WorldLII)
- [World Trade Organization Panel Decisions 1998-](#) (WorldLII)
- [United Nations Committee against Torture Decisions 1993-](#) (WorldLII)
- [United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Decisions 1988-](#) (WorldLII)
- [United Nations Human Rights Committee Decisions 1977-](#) (WorldLII)

*The list of available databases from the ICT Project, showing check-boxes*

## PCIJ decisions – images and text

Decisions of the Permanent Court of International Justice (1922-1946) have recently been published on the Internet by the International Court of Justice<sup>5</sup>. These decisions are only provided as PDF images by the ICJ. We have included the PDF images in the ICT Project, so at this stage these decisions are only searchable by the name of the case or WorldLII citation (eg 'Lotus' or [1927] PCIJ 3). We are now capturing the text of the decisions by OCR so that the full text can be searched as part of the ICT Project, but the PDF decisions will still

<sup>5</sup> See <<http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/idecisions/icpij/>>



be presented in search results. Decisions can be displayed by year or by a full list of titles from 'Recent Decisions'<sup>6</sup> on the database home page.

### **Future inclusions**

Requests have not yet been made to include the decisions of some Courts and Tribunals such as the EFTA Court and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Dili special Court in Timor-Leste has agreed to the inclusion of its decisions, We intend to request the Tribunals in Sierre Leone, Cambodia and Iraq, and the International Criminal Court, for permission to republish their decisions once decisions are available. As resources permit, an attempt may be made to include decisions of other past tribunals (like the PCIJ) such as the Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals. The only Court or Tribunal which has as yet refused to have its decisions included in the Project is the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

No doubt there are other extant and defunct international Courts and Tribunals whose judgments should be included in the Project. Suggestions are welcome.

### **Cooperation between LIIs – A decentralised Project**

The databases in the Project are located on WorldLII, BAILII and Droit Francophone, illustrating how WorldLII is able to integrate the contents of its collaborating LIIs to create new resources not otherwise available. Other LIIs may be involved in future.

The approach we are taking to Projects such as this one is that the preferable home for any database is the LII with which it has the greatest jurisdictional affinity (as is the case with some regional Courts and Tribunals) or alternatively a linguistic affinity where a LII with an appropriate linguistic basis exists. Where there is no appropriate 'local' or language-specific LII, or where the otherwise appropriate LII would prefer not to host the database at present due to reasons of resources or priorities, then the database will be hosted on WorldLII. WorldLII is thus the logical host for databases of global scope (at least those in English), and the default host for any other databases required for the Project in the absence of another appropriate LII host.

For example, the decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Communities are located on BAILII, a European LII, and other European databases such as the ECHR may also be located there in due course once resource and technical issues are resolved. African databases, such as the UEMOA Court of Justice and the CEMAC Decisions are located on Droit Francophone because of their common basis in the French language. There is nothing fixed about this approach to cooperation, and it will no doubt vary with time and circumstances.

Where the complete decisions of a Court or Tribunals are available in multiple languages, the English language database will be located on WorldLII (or an appropriate regional LII), and the French language database located on Droit Francophone, with hypertext links between the different versions of the same decision. For the time being, the Spanish language versions will be located on WorldLII, as will versions in other languages. At this point only the English versions of multi-language databases are included, but broadening the linguistic base is the next stage of the ICT project.

### **Completion, maintenance and sustainability**

Completion of the retrospective coverage of the database, including the multi-language versions of decisions, will take the WorldLII team at least until the end of 2004. We will then

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<sup>6</sup> <<http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/PCIJ/recent-cases.html>>

require the equivalent of one full-time staff member at WorldLII to maintain all databases in the Project and add new databases. If databases are located increasingly on LIIs other than WorldLII, as discussed above, then the maintenance burden at the WorldLII end will be reduced somewhat and shared more between all LIIs.

The historical coverage of any database in the ICT Project is readily apparent from its home page, and the extent to which it is up-to-date can be checked by comparing what is available under the 'Most Recent Document' button with which it available on the Court's own web site (from the link to that site located on the home page). All of these aspects are illustrated in the screen below).



[\[Home\]](#) [\[Databases\]](#) [\[Search\]](#) [\[Feedback\]](#) [\[Help\]](#)

## European Court of Human Rights

WorldLII

**You are here:** [WorldLII](#) >> [Databases](#) >> European Court of Human Rights

[\[Database Search\]](#) [\[Name Search\]](#) [\[Recent Documents\]](#) [\[Help\]](#)

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### European Court of Human Rights

Database last updated: 16 June 2004  
Most recent document: 29 April 2004  
Number of documents: 4308

**Documents beginning with ...**

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

**Documents for the years ...**

[1960](#) [1961](#) [1962](#) [1967](#) [1968](#) [1969](#) [1970](#) [1971](#) [1972](#) [1973](#) [1974](#) [1975](#) [1976](#) [1978](#) [1979](#)  
[1980](#) [1981](#) [1982](#) [1983](#) [1984](#) [1985](#) [1986](#) [1987](#) [1988](#) [1989](#) [1990](#) [1991](#) [1992](#) [1993](#) [1994](#)  
[1995](#) [1996](#) [1997](#) [1998](#) [1999](#) [2000](#) [2001](#) [2002](#) [2003](#) [2004](#)

This database contains decisions of the European Court of Human Rights.

See the website of the [European Court of Human Rights](#) for further information of the decisions included in this database, and other information concerning the European Court of Human Rights.

*Extract from the home page of the ECHR database on WorldLII*

### **Searching the Project's databases**

There are three types of searches possible over the Project's databases:

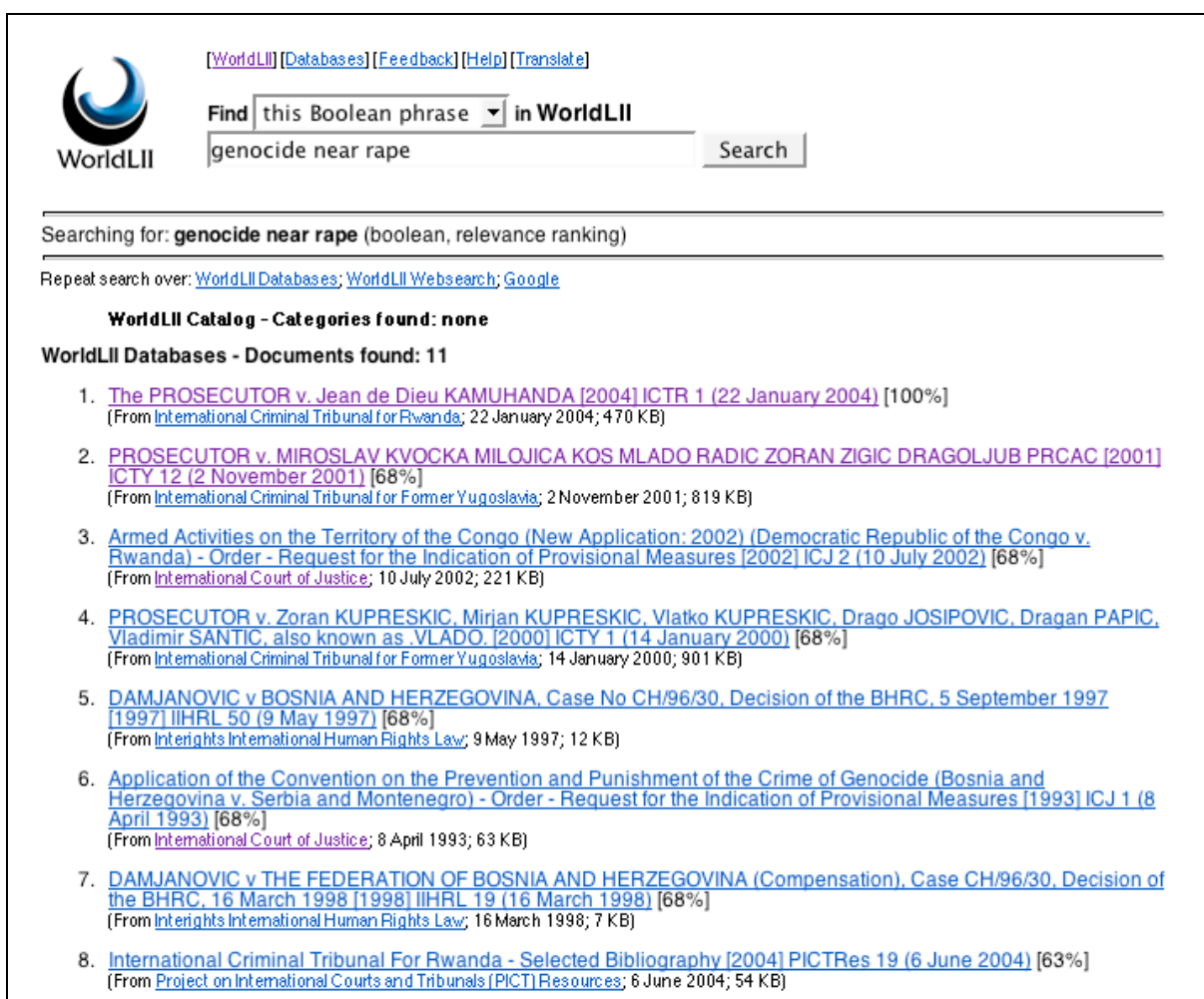
- The default search is to search all databases (just type in search terms on the ICT Project page and press 'Search');
- A selection can be made from a number of pre-defined database groupings: (eg 'All human rights courts and tribunals databases' or 'All European Courts and Tribunals databases'). ; or
- Combinations of individual databases can be selected by checking the boxes next to the name of each database.

The search engine used by the Project (and by all databases on WorldLII or accessible via WorldLII) is AustLII's SINO search engine. The various search operators that can be used, are explained in the [Quick Guide to WorldLII](#).

## Searching the whole of the Project's databases

### Example 1 - Rape in genocide

The search below for cases concerning the relationship between rape and genocide shows the diversity of sources of international criminal law, with the first eight results including decisions from the Rwanda Tribunal, the Yugoslav Tribunal, the International Court of Justice, Interrights, and the PiCT database. This is a typical result from a search over the whole Project, in the sense that decisions from numerous Courts and Tribunals are usually found. This search would be much more time-consuming to carry out in any other way. A further advantage is that the search results are ranked in order of likely relevance, by the relevance ranking algorithm used by SINO.



The screenshot shows the WorldLII search interface. At the top left is the WorldLII logo. To its right are links for [WorldLII], [Databases], [Feedback], [Help], and [Translate]. Below these is a search bar with the text "Find this Boolean phrase in WorldLII" and a dropdown menu. The search term "genocide near rape" is entered in the search bar, and a "Search" button is to its right. Below the search bar, it says "Searching for: genocide near rape (boolean, relevance ranking)". Underneath, it says "Repeat search over: WorldLII Databases; WorldLII Websearch; Google". The results section is titled "WorldLII Catalog - Categories found: none" and "WorldLII Databases - Documents found: 11". There are eight search results listed, each with a title, a relevance percentage, and a source with date and size.

[WorldLII] [Databases] [Feedback] [Help] [Translate]

WorldLII

Find  in WorldLII

---

Searching for: **genocide near rape** (boolean, relevance ranking)

---

Repeat search over: [WorldLII Databases](#); [WorldLII Websearch](#); [Google](#)

**WorldLII Catalog - Categories found: none**

**WorldLII Databases - Documents found: 11**

1. [The PROSECUTOR v. Jean de Dieu KAMUHANDA \[2004\] ICTR 1 \(22 January 2004\)](#) [100%]  
(From [International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda](#); 22 January 2004; 470 KB)
2. [PROSECUTOR v. MIROSLAV KVOCKA MILOJICA KOS MLADO RADIC ZORAN ZIGIC DRAGOLJUB PRCAC \[2001\] ICTY 12 \(2 November 2001\)](#) [68%]  
(From [International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia](#); 2 November 2001; 819 KB)
3. [Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo \(New Application: 2002\) \(Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Rwanda\) - Order - Request for the Indication of Provisional Measures \[2002\] ICJ 2 \(10 July 2002\)](#) [68%]  
(From [International Court of Justice](#); 10 July 2002; 221 KB)
4. [PROSECUTOR v. Zoran KUPRESKIC, Mirjan KUPRESKIC, Vlatko KUPRESKIC, Drago JOSIPOVIC, Dragan PAPIC, Vladimir SANTIC, also known as VLADO. \[2000\] ICTY 1 \(14 January 2000\)](#) [68%]  
(From [International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia](#); 14 January 2000; 901 KB)
5. [DAMJANOVIC v BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, Case No CH/96/30, Decision of the BHRC, 5 September 1997 \[1997\] IJHRL 50 \(9 May 1997\)](#) [68%]  
(From [Interights International Human Rights Law](#); 9 May 1997; 12 KB)
6. [Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide \(Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro\) - Order - Request for the Indication of Provisional Measures \[1993\] ICJ 1 \(8 April 1993\)](#) [68%]  
(From [International Court of Justice](#); 8 April 1993; 63 KB)
7. [DAMJANOVIC v THE FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA \(Compensation\), Case CH/96/30, Decision of the BHRC, 16 March 1998 \[1998\] IJHRL 19 \(16 March 1998\)](#) [68%]  
(From [Interights International Human Rights Law](#); 16 March 1998; 7 KB)
8. [International Criminal Tribunal For Rwanda - Selected Bibliography \[2004\] PICTRes 19 \(6 June 2004\)](#) [63%]  
(From [Project on International Courts and Tribunals \(PICT\) Resources](#); 6 June 2004; 54 KB)

*Extract from search results for 'genocide near rape'*

### Example 2 – Sovereign immunity

The Project screen below shows a search for 'sovereign immunity or state immunity' over all of the databases in the Project. This is the default search option (ie if you change nothing). The first five of 42 search results below show cases from the European Court of Human Rights (2), Privy Council, International Court of Justice and Interights.



**WorldLII Databases - Documents found: 42**

Page 1 of: 1 | 2 | >>>

1. [McELHINNEY v. IRELAND \(31253/96\) \[2001\] ECHR 754 \(21 November 2001\)](#) [100%]  
(From [European Court of Human Rights](#); 21 November 2001; 58 KB)
2. [Gairy v. Attorney General of Grenada \(Grenada\) \[2001\] UKPC 30 \(19 June 2001\)](#) [100%]  
(From [Privy Council Decisions](#); 48 KB)
3. [Arrest Warrant of 11 April 2000 \(Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Belgium\) - Judgment - \[2002\] ICJ 1 \(14 February 2002\)](#) [100%]  
(From [International Court of Justice](#); 14 February 2002; 563 KB)
4. [R v Bow Street Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, ex parte Pinochet Ugarte \(Amnesty International & Ors intervening\) \(No 3\) \[1999\] ICHRL 28 \(4 March 1999\)](#) [94%]  
(From [Interights Commonwealth Human Rights Law](#); 4 March 1999; 11 KB)
5. [Harley v. McDonald \(New Zealand\) \[2001\] UKPC 18 \(10 April 2001\)](#) [90%]  
(From [Privy Council Decisions](#); 78 KB)

*Extract from search results for 'sovereign immunity or state immunity'*

### **A uniform method of citing international decisions**

All decisions in the ICT Project have been given citations according to a uniform method. These are parallel citations to the official method of citation used by the Court or Tribunal, and can be thought of as 'WorldLII citations'. The method used is the year of publication in square brackets, followed by the abbreviation for the Court or Tribunal, followed by the number indicating order of publication within that year. As does any other publisher, WorldLII needs a means of citation to enable its users to locate judgments it publishes.

Here are some examples from the screens above, and others:

- *McELHINNEY v. IRELAND (31253/96)* [2001] ECHR 754 - The 754th decision of the European Court of Human Rights in 2001
- *Arrest Warrant of 11 April 2000 (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Belgium) - Judgment* - [2002] ICJ 1 - The 1<sup>st</sup> decision of the International Court of Justice in 2004
- *BOVINE CARCASSES FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (Dumping) - NAFTA Chapter 19 (MEX-USA-00-1904-02)* [2004] NAFTA 2 - The 2<sup>nd</sup> NAFTA decision in 2004
- The "Lotus" case [1927] PCIJ 3 - The 3<sup>rd</sup> case of the Permanent Court of International Justice available from 1927

This approach is based on the 'Court designated' method of citation adopted officially by the Courts of Australia and the United Kingdom, and also used on LIIs such as PacLII. Many Courts now use this LII method of citation when citing cases, at least until they are reported in some series of official reports. It will be interesting to see if this also starts to happen in relation to decisions reported in the ICT Project.

### **Example 3 – Going directly to a case**

Searching WorldLII by use of a WorldLII citation (discussed above) will take you directly to the case concerned – if you happen to know the citation.

It is also very easy to go directly to a case if the names of the parties are known (even if only approximately). It is only necessary to search for one or two significant words in the name of each party separated by 'v'. For example, the search 'Belgium v Congo' produces the following result allowing a choice between the two decisions involving these states as parties:

Searching for: **title(belgium near congo)** (boolean, relevance ranking)

---

Repeat search over: [WorldLII Websearch](#); [Google](#)

**Error WorldLII Databases - Documents found: 2**

1. [Arrest Warrant of 11 April 2000 \(Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Belgium\) - Judgment - \[2002\] ICJ 1 \(14 February 2002\)](#)  
(From [International Court of Justice](#); 14 February 2002; 563 KB)
2. [Arrest Warrant of 11 April 2000 \(Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Belgium\) - Order - Request for the Indication of Provisional Measures \[2000\] ICJ 3 \(8 December 2000\)](#)  
(From [International Court of Justice](#); 8 December 2000; 152 KB)

*Search results for 'Belgium v Congo'*

### Restricting searches to only some Project databases

It is sometimes desirable to search the decisions of only some international Courts and Tribunals, particularly where a general search will produce too many irrelevant search results because of the use of a term in a different context. The Project page provides a small number of the most popular limited search combinations:

- All African Courts and Tribunals
- All European Courts and Tribunals
- All Human Rights Courts and Tribunals
- All Trade Related Courts and Tribunals

More can be added if desirable (for example, 'All South American Courts & Tribunals' is being added).

**(1) selecting from the following database groupings:**

All International Courts & Tribunal Databases

All African Courts & Tribunals Databases

All European Courts & Tribunals Databases

All Human Rights Courts & Tribunals Databases

All Trade Related Courts & Tribunals Databases

**(2) selecting individual databases:**

- [Central African Monetary and Economic Community \(CEMAC\) Decisions 1998-](#) (Droit francophone)
- [Central American Court of Justice Decisions 2003-](#) (WorldLII)
- [Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa \(COMESA\) Court of Justice Decisions 2001-](#) (WorldLII)
- [Court of Justice of the Andean Community Decisions 1985-](#) (WorldLII)
- [Court of Justice of the European Communities \(including the Court of First Instance\) Decisions 1954-](#) (BAILII)
- [Commission of the European Communities Decisions 2003-](#) (WorldLII)
- [European Court of Human Rights Decisions 1960-](#) (WorldLII)
- [Generic Top Level Domain Name \(gTLD\) Decisions 2000-](#) (WorldLII)

*Extract from Project page - limited search selection 'All European Courts & Tribunals'*

Check boxes are also given next to each Court or Tribunal so that they may be individually added to any selection of databases. As shown in the next screen, the choice of 'All European Courts & Tribunals' causes the check-boxes for each of European databases to be marked. If it was considered desirable to add the International Court of Justice to the list of databases to be searched, it would only be necessary to check the box next to the Court, and (in effect) the search 'European Courts + ICJ' would be carried out.

## **Extending searches over other databases and resources**

### **Repeating searches over all WorldLII databases**

Having completed a search over the Project's databases of international decisions, you may wish to see what results the same search would give if carried out over all of the databases on WorldLII (ie national Courts, legislation, and secondary materials such as law journals). This may be done by simply selecting the 'Repeat search over ... WorldLII' option from the top of your page of search results from the Project databases.

Searching for: **sovereign immunity or state immunity** (auto)

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Repeat search over: [AustLII Databases](#), [WorldLII Websearch](#); [Google](#)

**WorldLII Catalog - Categories found: none**

**AustLII Databases - Documents found: 10372**    [\[View by Database\]](#)

Page 1 of: 1 | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#) | [5](#) | [6](#) | [7](#) | [8](#) | [9](#) | [10](#) | [11](#) | [12](#) | [13](#) | [14](#) | [15](#) | [16](#) | [17](#) | [18](#) | [19](#) | [20](#) | [>>>](#)

1. [Convention and Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict \[0\]](#) [100%]  
(From [WorldLII Databases](#); 51 KB)
2. [Wentworth v Wentworth & Ors \[2000\] NSWCA 350 \(15 December 2000\) \[0\]](#) [100%]  
(From [Supreme Court of New South Wales - Court of Appeal](#); 15 December 2000; 257 KB)
3. [Brodie v Singleton Shire Council \[2001\] HCA 29 \(31 May 2001\) \[0\]](#) [100%]  
(From [High Court of Australia](#); 31 May 2001; 452 KB)
4. [Adams v. D.P.P. \[2000\] IEHC 45; \[2001\] 2 ILRM 401 \(12th April, 2000\) \[0\]](#) [100%]  
(From [High Court of Ireland Decisions](#); 40 KB)
5. [Brodie v Singleton Shire Council \[2001\] HCA 29 \(31 May 2001\) \[0\]](#) [100%]  
(From [High Court of Australia](#); 31 May 2001; 451 KB)
6. [Law of Limitation of Actions arising from Non-Sexual Abuse of Children, Consultation Paper on the \(LRC CP16-2000\) \(September, 2000\) \[0\]](#) [100%]  
(From [Irish Law Reform Commission Papers and Reports](#); 232 KB)
7. [J S Hall & Co v Simons \[1998\] EWCA Civ 1943 \(14 December 1998\) \[0\]](#) [100%]  
(From [England and Wales Court of Appeal \(Civil Division\) Decisions](#); 166 KB)

*Extract from search over all WorldLII databases for 'sovereign immunity or state immunity'*

The first seven results shown give cases from the Supreme Court of New South Wales, High Court of Ireland, High Court of Australia, and UK Court of Appeal, plus a treaty and an Irish law reform report.

Two further searches may also be carried out to extend your search results outside the Project database: a WorldLII Websearch; and a Law on Google search. These are discussed in the next part of this paper, but will be illustrated here to show the results from repeating the search 'sovereign immunity or state immunity'.

### **Repeating searches over WorldLII websearch**

If the 'Repeat search over: ... WorldLII Websearch' option is chosen, the following search results are provided. The relevant pages of the WorldLI Catalog are listed first, and then the full text pages on sites in the Catalog which have been indexed by WorldLII's web spider are listed.

Searching for: **sovereign immunity or state immunity** (auto, relevance ranking)

Repeat search over: [WorldLII](#); [Google](#)

**WorldLII Catalog - Categories found: 726**

- [WorldLII-Categories-Countries-Australia-Education-Conferences](#)
- [WorldLII-Categories-International-International Criminal Law-Terrorism-Commentaries](#)
- [WorldLII-Categories-Subjects-Insolvency & Bankruptcy-Commentary](#)
- [More WorldLII Categories...](#)

**WorldLII Websearch - Webpages found: 17420**

Page 1 of: 1 | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#) | [5](#) | [6](#) | [7](#) | [8](#) | [9](#) | [10](#) | [11](#) | [12](#) | [13](#) | [14](#) | [15](#) | [16](#) | [17](#) | [18](#) | [19](#) | [20](#) | [>>>](#)

- [Volume 9 : Article 10](#) [100%]  
(From [www.dundee.ac.uk](#); 26 KB)
- [Constitution](#) [100%]  
(From [www.poland.pl](#); 21 KB)
- [Re Canada Labour Code](#) [100%]  
(From [www.canlii.org](#); 137 KB)
- [1999 Major Topic Index - SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY](#) [100%]  
(From [www.state.nd.us](#); 2 KB)

Extract from WorldLII Catalog and Websearch for 'sovereign immunity or state immunity'

## Repeating searches over law on Google

Web [Images](#) [Groups](#) [News](#) [Froogle](#) [more »](#)

Google™ "sovereign immunity" OR "state immunity" (law OR legal OR legislation OR regulation OR

Web Results 1 - 10 of about 88,000 for "sovereign immunity" OR "state immunity" (law OR legal OR legislation OR regulation OR

[766.28- Florida Statutes - Government Sovereign Immunity Law](#)  
... relied on without reviewing your legal situation with ... or subdivisions, hereby waives sovereign immunity for liability ... Actions at law against the state or any ...  
[www.floridamalpractice.com/stat766.28.htm](#) - 35k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[Sovereign Immunity - Legal Law & Court Definitions](#)  
**Sovereign Immunity:** ... The Legal Dictionary has taken steps to ensure that all legal, law, and court terms contained in our legal dictionary are correct. ...  
[www.thelegaldictionary.com/legal-term-details/Sovereign-Immunity](#) - 11k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[Legal Definition of Sovereign Immunity](#)  
... can be no legal right against the authority that makes the law on which the right depends." 205 US 349, 353. "[S]tatutes waiving the sovereign immunity of the ...  
[www.lectlaw.com/def2/s103.htm](#) - 6k - 25 Jun 2004 - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[SB271 - Changes to Sovereign Immunity Law](#)  
SB 0271, Changes to **Sovereign Immunity Law**. Sponsor: Schneider. LR Number: S1119.02P, Fiscal Note: 1119-02. Committee: Judiciary. Last ...  
[www.senate.state.mo.us/97info/bills/SB271.htm](#) - 4k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[SB973 - Clarifies Sovereign Immunity Law](#)  
SB 0973, Clarifies **Sovereign Immunity Law**. Sponsor: SCHNEIDER. ... SB 973 - This act clarifies the **sovereign immunity law** with regard to proprietary functions. ...  
[www.senate.state.mo.us/96info/bills/SB973.htm](#) - 3k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)  
[ [More results from www.senate.state.mo.us](#) ]

Extract from 'Law on Google' search for 'sovereign immunity or state immunity'

If the 'Repeat search over ... Google' option is chosen, the following search results are provided. The SINO search 'sovereign immunity or state immunity' is first translated automatically into its equivalent in Google's syntax "sovereign immunity" OR "state immunity", and then a list of terms, '(law OR legal OR legislation OR regulation OR

judgment OR treaty)' is automatically appended to the search to limit the results to legally-related materials.

### ***The Catalog/Websearch pages for international decisions***

The Project also includes two catalogs of links to web pages concerning international Courts and Tribunals, accessible from the bottom of the Project page. These are located on WorldLII (in English) and on Droit Francophone (in French). Only the former is described here.

#### **Catalogs and Websearch**

- [WorldLII](#) >> [Categories](#) >> [Courts & Case-Law](#) >> [International Courts & Tribunals](#)
- [Droit francophone](#) - [Ressources internationales](#) - [Tribunaux et jurisprudence](#)

The *WorldLII Catalog* >> *International Courts & Tribunals* pages is an extensive catalog (or index) of websites from around the world providing links to websites concerning each international Court and Tribunal, both from the Court or Tribunal and from websites about it (such as PiCT's website, or other locations of the Court or Tribunal's decisions). The first page of this part of the Catalog is shown below.

**[WorldLII](#) >> [Categories](#) >> [Courts & Case-Law](#) >> [International Courts & Tribunals](#)**

Find  [\[World Law Help\]](#) [\[Boolean Operators\]](#)

Search:  All WorldLII Catalog  
 Only WorldLII Catalog >> International Courts & Tribunals  
 All WorldLII Databases  
 Law on Google

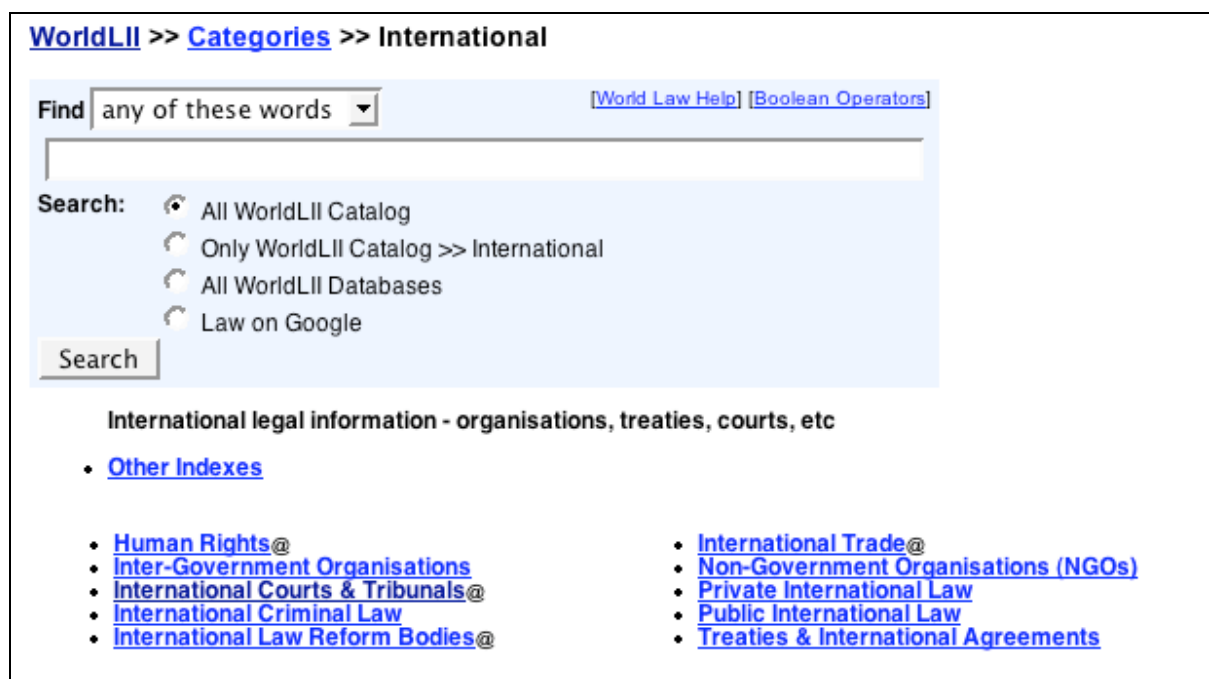
- [European Courts@](#)
- [Human Rights Courts & Tribunals@](#)
- [Other Indexes](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights@</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Benelux Court of Justice</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Caribbean Court of Justice</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Central American Court of Justice</a></li><li>• <a href="#">COMESA Court of Justice</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Court of First Instance of the European Communities</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Court of Justice of the Andean Community</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Court of Justice of the European Communities</a></li><li>• <a href="#">East African Court of Justice</a></li><li>• <a href="#">European Court of Human Rights@</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">European Free Trade Agreement Court</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Inter-American Court of Human Rights@</a></li><li>• <a href="#">International Court of Justice</a></li><li>• <a href="#">International Criminal Court</a></li><li>• <a href="#">International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda</a></li><li>• <a href="#">International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia</a></li><li>• <a href="#">International Military Tribunal (Nuremberg)@</a></li><li>• <a href="#">International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea</a></li><li>• <a href="#">NAFTA Dispute Settlement Panels</a></li><li>• <a href="#">OHADA Common Court of Justice and Arbitration</a></li><li>• <a href="#">WTO Dispute Settlement Body &amp; Appellate Body</a></li></ul>
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*Front page of WorldLII >>Courts & Case Law>>International Courts & Tribunals*

The WorldLII Catalog also contains an extensive set of pages concerning all aspects of international law, of which the International Courts & Tribunal pages are a part. The opening screen below illustrates the diversity of information available.





The screenshot shows the WorldLII search interface. At the top, it says "WorldLII >> Categories >> International". Below this is a search box with a dropdown menu set to "any of these words". To the right of the search box are links for "[World Law Help]" and "[Boolean Operators]". Below the search box is a "Search:" section with four radio button options: "All WorldLII Catalog" (selected), "Only WorldLII Catalog >> International", "All WorldLII Databases", and "Law on Google". A "Search" button is located below these options. Below the search options, the text reads "International legal information - organisations, treaties, courts, etc". Underneath this is a list of links: "Other Indexes", "Human Rights@", "Inter-Government Organisations", "International Courts & Tribunals@", "International Criminal Law", "International Law Reform Bodies@", "International Trade@", "Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)", "Private International Law", "Public International Law", and "Treaties & International Agreements".

*The International page in the Catalog - [www.worldlii.org/catalog/2500.htm](http://www.worldlii.org/catalog/2500.htm)*

WorldLII's Catalog is also used to send a web spider to each web site so that we can make searchable the full text of each page of the website that the spider is capable of indexing. As shown in the example above, the search can then be limited merely to the 'International Courts & Tribunals' part of all the websites in the Catalog by selection of the option 'Only WorldLII Catalog>>International Courts & Tribunals'.

The option 'Repeat search over ... Google' will translate the search into Google's search syntax (but not for truncation), and limit it to law-related content on Google (but not necessarily to international decisions). This has been illustrated above in relation to the search 'sovereign immunity or state immunity'.

### ***An invitation to international Courts and Tribunals***

We would like to conclude by encouraging any other international Courts and Tribunals whose decisions are not yet published or republished on a Legal Information Institute to discuss<sup>7</sup> such inclusion with the LII most appropriate to their jurisdiction, or with WorldLII if no other appropriate LII yet exists. Such publication will make these decisions far more widely accessible to both national and international audiences: as part of the general searches of the host LII; as part of WorldLII's International Courts and Tribunals Project, with other international decisions from around the world; and ; as part of the over 440 databases searched with a full search of WorldLII.

<sup>7</sup> The following may be contacted concerning the inclusion of decisions of international Courts and Tribunals on a Legal Information Institute:

- BAILII – Europe – Mr Joe Ury, Co-Director <[Joe.Ury@sas.ac.uk](mailto:Joe.Ury@sas.ac.uk)>
- CanLII – North America – Professor Daniel Poulin, Director, LexUM / CanLII <[daniel.poulin@umontreal.ca](mailto:daniel.poulin@umontreal.ca)>
- Droit Francophone - decisions in French - Pierre-Paul Lemyre, Director <[lemyrep@LEXUM.UMontreal.CA](mailto:lemyrep@LEXUM.UMontreal.CA)>
- PacLII – Pacific Island region – Ms Robynne Blake, Manager <[blake\\_r@VANUATU.USP.AC.FJ](mailto:blake_r@VANUATU.USP.AC.FJ)>
- SAFLII – South Africa – Professor Iain Currie, Director <[currieib@law.wits.ac.za](mailto:currieib@law.wits.ac.za)>
- WorldLII - global Courts and Tribunals, and where no other LII is appropriate or available - Professor Graham Greenleaf, Co-Director <[graham@austlii.edu.au](mailto:graham@austlii.edu.au)> (or for AustLII – Australasia)

**Table – Features of International Courts and Tribunals own web sites**

Int'l Court or Tribunal	File Types	Own Search Engine?	Searchable by Google?
Central African Monetary and Economic Community (CEMAC)	Site is down	?	
Central American Court of Justice	HTML only	No	Yes
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Court of Justice	PDF only	No	No
Court of Justice of the Andean Community	HTML only	Yes	Yes
Court of Justice of the European Communities (including the Court of First Instance)	HTML only	Yes	Yes (not fully indexed)
Commission of the European Communities	PDF only	Yes ( See Note 1)	Yes (not fully indexed)
European Court of Human Rights	HTML, Word	Yes	No
Generic Top Level Domain Name (gTLD)			
gTLD - WIPO	HTML, Word	Yes	Yes
gTLD - Asian Name Dispute Resolution Center	HTML	No	No
gTLD - National Arbitration Forum	HTML	Yes	Yes
gTLD - CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution	HTML but some in PDF only	Yes (HTML only)	Yes
Inter-American Court of Human Rights	Word, PDF	?? (it does not work)	Yes
Interights Commonwealth Human Rights Law	HTML only	Yes	No
Interights International Human Rights Law	HTML only	Yes	No
International Court of Justice	HTML, PDF	Yes	Yes
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda	HTML only	No	Yes
International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia	HTML, PDF	Partial (See Note 2)	Yes
International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea	Word, PDF	Yes	Yes
North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA)	PDF only	Yes (See Note 3)	No
Privy Council	RTF (and PDF – see Note 3)	See Note 4	Yes
West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) Court of Justice	No	No	No
World Trade Organization*	HTMLpreview and Word (full Doc)	Partial – for HTML Preview	Yes
United Nations Committee against Torture	HTML	Yes	Yes
United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	HTML	Yes	Yes
United Nations Human Rights Committee	HTML	Yes	Yes

\* Includes WTO Appellate Body, WTO Arbitrators and WTO Panel.

Note 1. Search engine includes an option for a PDF search of decisions

Note 2. Search is only by case name or number – does not search full text of the decisions

Note 3. Search engine includes an option for a PDF search of decisions

Note 4. Judgments appear to be only listed in RTF but the search option includes PDF format and when searched, results appear from PDF versions of the RTF judgments