GLIN, WorldLII, and IIJ

GLIN: Global Legal Information Network

Overview
Founded in 1996. Ended due to funding cuts in 2012

Attempt to keep laws of nations in one place.

Archive available at [http://loc.gov/lawweb/servlet/GlinArchive?Brazil](http://loc.gov/lawweb/servlet/GlinArchive?Brazil) (or the LLOC nation page for any country that was in GLIN). Pull-down menu allows changing country once you’re in, so you only need to keep one URL. Includes English summaries prepared by GLIN contributors.

Not affiliated with a particular government, which might have some positive effects on ability to raise funds.

Recently completed a Request for Information from vendors, with a Virginia company responding.

Funding is still uncertain, especially given potential costs of a permanent source of legal materials from around the world. An international standard for legal documents could greatly decrease costs by allowing information to feed directly from primary sources, but that does not exist at present.

WorldLII
[www.worldlii.org](http://www.worldlii.org)

Features
Content by nation and region, plus other groupings (e.g. language, Islamic law, broad global regions)

LawCite: Locate cases and citing references. Did not have good results with test searches.

Can include legal periodicals.

Includes links to related LIIs, many of which are well-maintained and highly functional sites.

Issues
Low and irregular funding.

Continuously updating is a vast task given the scope, resulting in significant date coverage issues. More useful for identifying names of relevant bodies and finding links to research guides.
Alternative sources
Law Library of Congress’ country sections link directly to relevant authorities and can include research guides and other useful links. [http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/nations.php](http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/nations.php)

Foreign Law Guide: Subscription resource. Has no legal content itself, but very useful bibliographic information. Discusses the availability of codifications and English translations.

Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas

Overview
[http://info.juridicas.unam.mx/](http://info.juridicas.unam.mx/)

Through UNAM: National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Institute for Legal Research, separate from the university’s law school.

Includes library catalog and some open access periodicals.

Also includes cases and laws (state and federal).

Sub menus on the left are very difficult to click. Click the main category, then select once the new page opens.

Laws
Leyes = Individual laws.

Legislación = Laws in general; often the tab to click to find a particular law.

Derecho = Literally “right”; law as a concept or field, such as criminal law.

Many are displayed section-by-section. Sometimes the original body or a court web site will have the whole thing in one document.

Usual title format is “Ley de ______”. Codes, such as the civil and commercial codes, are promulgated as a single entire code. Most individual laws are not codified as public laws usually are codified in the US.

Cases
Searchable by type (i.e. constitutional controversy) and theme (broad subject, such as tax law).

Individual court web sites can have other search options, including by party (actor).

Various types of state and federal courts by subject, such as electoral courts.

Supreme Court: [https://www.scjn.gob.mx/Paginas/Inicio.aspx](https://www.scjn.gob.mx/Paginas/Inicio.aspx)
Major publishers
Omeka: [www.omeba.info](http://www.omeba.info). Publishes a large legal encyclopedia, available both in print and CD-ROM. Site has music.

Editor Angel: [www.angeleditor.com](http://www.angeleditor.com) Publishes treatises on several topics and has an online bookstore containing other publishers' titles on a variety of topics. Currently has some character display issues.

Tips for searching in other languages
Take your search in your language, run it through [https://translate.google.com](https://translate.google.com), and paste it into your favorite search engine. This is basically what Google translated search did automatically.

Most search engines are good at finding relevant variations, such as both “ley de minería” and “ley de minas” for “mining law”. Once you can confirm the actual title of the law, rerunning can sometimes help focus the results.

Learn to find relevant government domains, such as `.gob.mx` or `.gov.br`, then use a targeted site search of that domain. Warning: I have seen pages for official bodies of some countries set up as `.org`.

English translations can be infrequent and government entities usually mark their translations as unofficial. In addition to government, some law firms will translate relevant laws, especially if that firm maintains a blog or has a strong practice in the relevant area. Identifying major law firms for a jurisdiction can be useful. International laws occasionally translate major items for their current awareness as well.

When a precise translation matters, hire a professional translation, especially if you need a certified translation.

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