

**Library fact sheet**

**Law books**

What types of law books are there? Why should I use them?

<b>Textbooks</b>	Provide detailed descriptions of a particular area of law	Great for learning about an area of law
<b>Casebooks</b>	Include extracts of cases and legislation, as well as detailed descriptions of legal principles	Useful for getting a quick understanding of the major points of a case
<b>Annotated Acts</b>	Provide a great amount of detail about a particular Act or Acts on a legal topic	Great for topics where the area is regulated primarily by legislation
<b>Books of essays</b>	Contain chapters (like articles) which analyse the law or legal issue	Great for research essays
<b>Study books</b>	Contain a brief overview of legal principles	Useful for revising for exams. But beware on relying them too heavily, as the content is quite limited

How do I find books in the Law Library?

Search for books using FindIt@Flinders - this will give you the location number for this book.

Location numbers in the Law Library use the **Moys system** (rather than the Dewey Decimal system).

Each location number starts with a K	K
This is followed by another letter This indicates the broad area of law	KL = General KM = Public law KN = Private law
This is followed by a number This indicates the specific area of law	KL26 = Australian legal system
The last part of the call number is an individual identifier for each book	KL26 M155l

Books are arranged on the shelf...

---

First by the letter	KA will be before KC
Then by the number	KL26 will be before KL155
And then by the last part of the location number	KN30 G221o will be before KN30 L946t.6

Want more info?

Watch the video: [Finding the book you want in the Law Library](#)

## Textbooks

What are Textbooks?

- Usually assigned by topic coordinators and listed in topic handbook or FLO page or the Unibook website.
- May be academic/peer reviewed or scholarly
- May be electronic but usually in print
- We may hold many different editions (versions) of a textbook
- We usually hold multiple copies (see video below for more information)
- We usually have a copy available for 2 hour loan in the Readings Collection of each branch

Why would I use them?

Identifying textbooks in a new area can help you get some basic information and references to get you started with your research

How do I find them?

If searching for the textbook for a topic you are enrolled in use the Readings and library resources link on your FLO topic pages.

If you want to find a textbook to get some background information on a topic search for a broad keyword in FindIt@Flinders e.g. Politics

You could also try a Google search for university text books and a broad keyword e.g. Sociology - then check FindIt@Flinders to see if we hold the book electronically or in hard copy.

## eBooks

What are ebooks?

- Books in electronic format that can be read online
- May be academic, peer reviewed and scholarly.
- Some electronic ebooks require special apps or software to view them.
- The software and APPs are freely available online to download to home computer or device.
- You can't download the software on the university computers but can always read the books online.
- Some providers e.g. EBL only allow you to print or save a chapter or %10 of a book

---

The most common software /APPs required are:

- Adobe Digital Editions: Once installed on a PC it allows you to download eBooks to read and manage offline. Required if you want to download an EBL eBook for a loan period for offline reading, also supports other eBooks in EPUB and PDF formats.
- Bluefire reader: Suitable for Apple and Android devices. It allows you to loan eBooks from EBL that you would otherwise have to download using Adobe Digital Editions, also supports other eBooks in EPUB and PDF formats.
- Calibre: Free open source eBook management software capable of converting eBook formats.
- ebrary: Suitable for Android and Apple devices. App allows you to access and read content from the ebrary platform.

Why do I need to use them?

- Increasingly common way for the library to buy and distribute books.
- Some books only available in this format.
- Convenient because you can access ebooks anywhere at anytime.

How do I find them?

- FindIt@Flinders
- Research databases

Watch the video: [Finding eBooks](#)

<b>Team:</b>	Learning & Teaching Library Services
<b>Subject:</b>	Law
<b>Fact Sheet No.</b>	1 of 1
<b>Last Updated:</b>	1 April 2021