

Principles of Legal Research

Week 5: Oct. 6-10

Cecilia Tellis, Law Librarian
Brian Dickson Law Library



Outline

- defining an information need
- searching effectively
- locating scholarly articles
 - Periodical indexes
 - WestlaweCarswell & Quicklaw
- locating e-journals
- interpreting citations to secondary sources
- Visit to the Human Rights Research & Info. Centre, Alan Fleischman, Librarian (FTX 550)



Secondary Legal Resources

- sometimes referred to as “commentary”
- They can be used to:
 - Obtain background information on a new or unfamiliar topic
 - Locate primary authority on a question being researched
 - Be relied on by the court when reaching a decision if there is no primary source governing a legal question or it is unclear how the primary source applies to the question at hand.



What kind of information do I need?

- Overview
- Case comment
- Treatise
- Book
- Dictionary definition
- Law journal/review article
- Government publication
- Case law
- Legislation

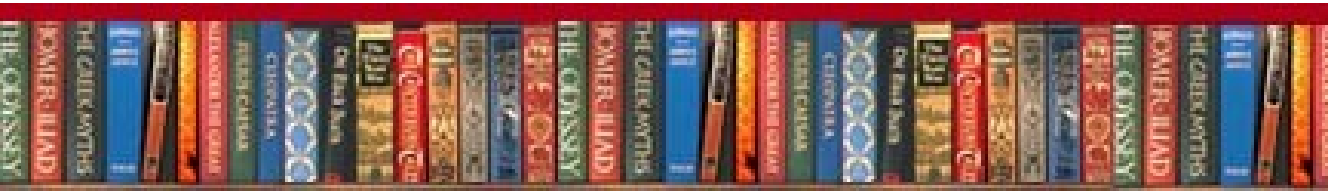
Secondary sources

Primary sources



Effective database searching

- **Research database:** an organized collection of information used to identify credible sources
- Which one should I use?
 - Verify content, coverage, dates



Subject searching vs. Keyword searching

- A subject search involves searching for a pre-defined subject heading in a database.
- A keyword (or word) search retrieves words or phrases from several important fields, usually title, subject and abstract.



Use Boolean operators to combine search terms: **AND, OR, NOT**

- Use **AND** to narrow a search
 - bankruptcy and “corporation”
- Use **OR** to expand a search
 - bankruptcy or insolvency
- Use **NOT** to exclude a term
 - bankruptcy not “European Union”




Search techniques

- **Truncation:** allows you to search for a root form of a word and pick up any ending
 - tax? will retrieve
 - taxes
 - taxation
 - taxing



Search techniques

- **Field-specific searching:** to focus your search in a database
- **Apply limits:** date, language, etc.

Search Law Reports Articles and Journals 

1 Enter your search terms:

Search full text for: [Searching Tips](#)

The results must contain:

Search the following fields:

Title: Citation:

Author: Year:

2 Limit Results (optional)

By Publication:

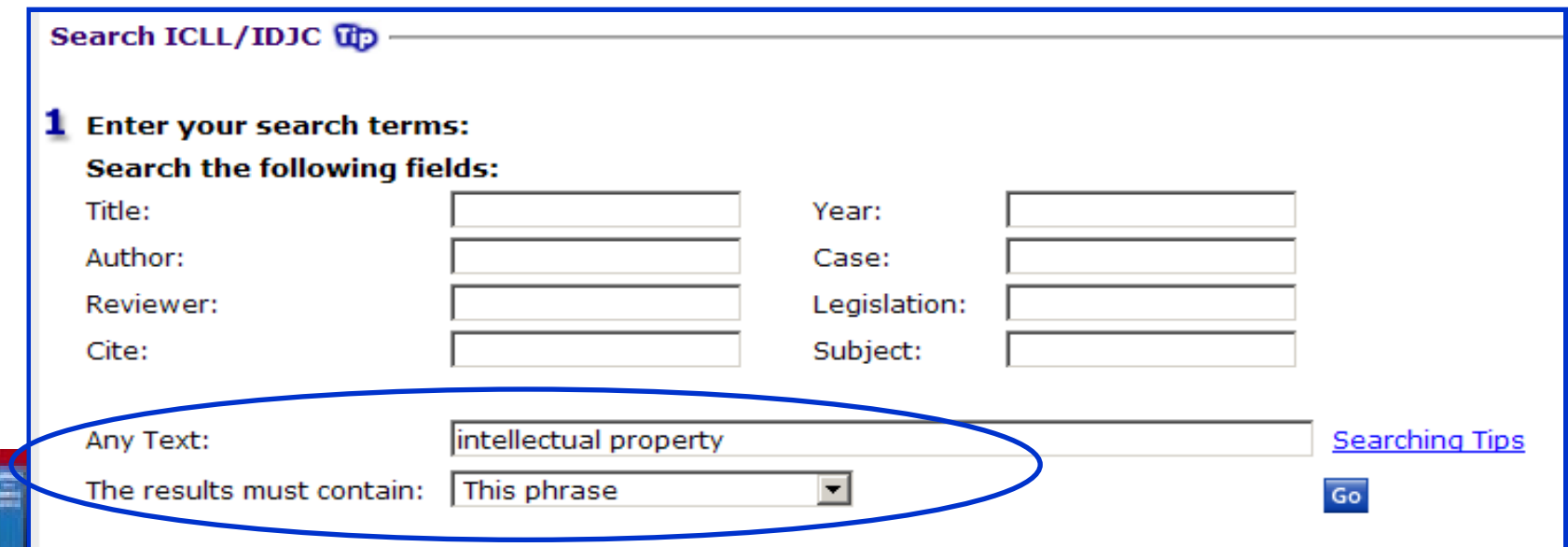
- All Reports and Journals
- Admin. Law Reports
- Alberta Law Reports
- Business Law Reports

By Timeframe:

- Unrestricted
- Year-to-date
- This year and last year
- Most recent 3 years

Search techniques

- **Phrase searching:** will find terms beside each other
- Use “ ” quotations around terms
- Or phrase search option



Search ICLL/IDJC [Tip](#)

1 Enter your search terms:
Search the following fields:

Title:	<input type="text"/>	Year:	<input type="text"/>
Author:	<input type="text"/>	Case:	<input type="text"/>
Reviewer:	<input type="text"/>	Legislation:	<input type="text"/>
Cite:	<input type="text"/>	Subject:	<input type="text"/>

Any Text: [Searching Tips](#)

The results must contain:

Search techniques

- **Nesting**: using parentheses () to ensure that Boolean operations are performed in the sequence you intend

crime **AND** (adolescents **OR** teenagers **OR** youth)

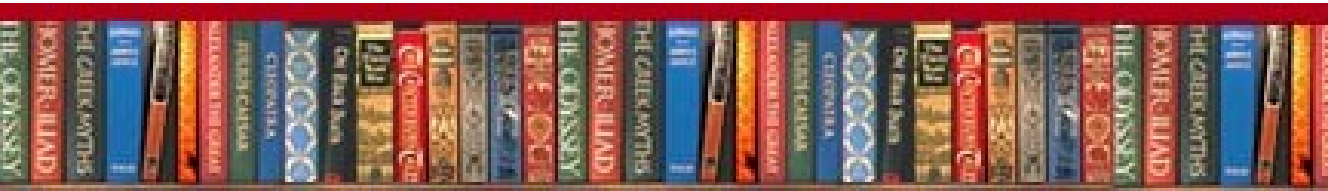
Will retrieve all of the following:

- **Crime** is on the rise amongst **teenagers**.
- **Adolescents** sometimes turn to **crime** when ...
- Petty **crime** has declined amongst the **youth** in this city.



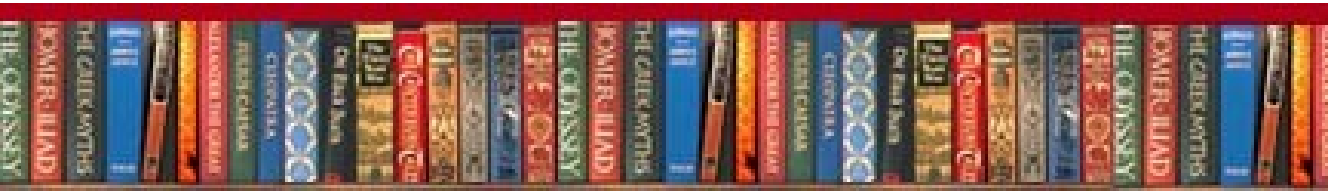
Tips

- Search the footnotes & bibliography to find other sources
- Think of QL and WL as databases composed of multiple databases – you need to narrow in on the most relevant one
- Look out for the Help icons in databases if you need a bit of guidance
- Look before you type or click! Is there a more specific field in which you can search?



Using Periodical Indexes to locate Commentary

- **Periodical Index:** a type of database that includes a listing of citations to periodical articles in a specific field or discipline, often arranged by subject and author
 - When do you use a periodical index?
 - Which one do I use?
- **Important tip!** The library catalogue will **not** identify articles found in journals and magazines.



How to access them

The screenshot shows the University of Ottawa Library website. At the top, the uOttawa logo and navigation links are visible. Below, the 'uOttawa Library » Brian Dickson Law Library' header is present. A sidebar on the left contains links: Search, Borrow, Services, How to..., Libraries, and About Us. The main content area features a portrait of a man in a red and white robe and a text block about the library's naming. Below this, a 'Search' section lists links: Catalogue, Law Databases (highlighted with a red box), E-Journals, and Irwin. A large blue arrow points from the 'Law Databases' link to a detailed sidebar on the right.

uOttawa University of Ottawa • Canada's university

About U of O Prospective Students Students Services Academics Rese

uOttawa Library »
Brian Dickson Law Library

Search »
Borrow »
Services »
How to... »
Libraries »
About Us »

The Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa is proud to nam
library the Brian Dickson Law Library and grateful to Mrs. Barb:
her family and friends for supporting the construction of the be
[Dickson Reading Room](#) to honour the late [Chief Justice Brian Di](#)

Search

- [Catalogue](#)
- [Law Databases](#)
- [E-Jou \(Z\)](#)
- [Irwin](#) E-book collection

Brian Dickson Reading Room

Law

Subject Specialist

Margo Jeske
(613) 562-5845
Margo.Jeske@uottawa.ca

[Return to Subject page](#)



Browse by subject

[Key Databases](#) | [Related Databases](#) | [Multidisciplinary Databases](#)

Listed in alpha order...

Periodical indexes: full-text, citation or both

http://sfx.scholarsportal.info - SFX by Ex Libris Inc. - Mozilla Firefox

 uOttawa Réseau de bibliothèques
Library Network  *afficher!*
get it!

Title: And they're off!
Source: Business law review [0143-6295] Flint yr:2004 vol:25 iss:8 pg:204

⤴ **Basic**

Full Text

Full text available from **E-Journals - Scholars Portal** **GO**

Full text available via **EBSCOHOST Business Source Complete**

Year: Volume: Issue: Start Page: **GO**

Full text available via **GaleGroup LegalTrac**

Year: Volume: Issue: Start Page: **GO**

Full text available via **Kluwer Law International**


Year: Volume: Issue: Start Page: **GO**

⤵ **Advanced**

on
t it!



Examples of Online Indexes: LegalTrac



Preferences | Change Databases | Logout

Bookmark | Dictionary | Title List | Help

Basic Search | Subject Guide Search | Publication Search | Advanced Search

Powered by InfoTrac®

Advanced Search

Currently searching **LegalTrac** with 1,337,179 articles updated as recently as October 15, 2007

Advanced Search
Select index to search, then enter search term.

Keyword(ke)

And

Keyword(ke)

And

Keyword(ke)

Add a Row

Search

[Hide search options](#) | [CCL Advanced Search](#)

Limit results:
☐ to documents with full text
☐ to peer-reviewed publications
☐ to document with images
by publication date(s) ☒ All Dates ☐ Before ☐ On ☐ After ☐ Between

Any

None

None

 and

Any


None

None

by publication title: [Browse Publication Title](#)

by publication subject: [Browse Publication Subject](#)

Examples of Online Indexes: Index to Legal Periodicals Full-Text



Advanced Search

Exit Program

Advanced Search

Basic Search

Browse

Search History

Thesaurus

Print Email Save

Exporting/Citing

Create Alerts

Help

Journal Directory

Close Database Selection Area

Database Descriptions

Unmark Selected Databases

☐ Art Full Text ☒ Legal Periodicals Full Text ☐ Library Lit & Inf Full Text

☐ Education Full Text ☐ Legal Periodicals Retro

FIND

and

and

Sort By: Relevance

as:

All - Smart Search

All - Smart Search

All - Smart Search

Start

Limit Dates to:

☒ Any Year

☐ Within last 12 months

☐ From Year:

To Year:

Limit to:

☐ Full Text Articles

☐ Page Image (PDF)

☐ Peer Reviewed

Expand: ☐ Also search within the full text of the articles, for extra results

Document Type:

All

Physical Description:


All

Customize Display

Clear

Start

Examples of Online Indexes: Index to Legal Periodicals Retrospective



Advanced Search

Exit Program

Advanced Search

Basic Search

Browse

Search History

Thesaurus

Print Email Save

Exporting/Citing

Create Alerts

Help

Journal Directory

Close Database Selection Area

Database Descriptions

Unmark Selected Databases

☐ Art Full Text ☐ Legal Periodicals Full Text ☐ Library Lit & Inf Full Text

☐ Education Full Text ☒ Legal Periodicals Retro

FIND

and

and

Sort By:

Relevance

Limit Dates to:

☒ Any Year

☐ Within last 12 months

☐ From Year:

To Year:

Document Type:

All

Physical Description:

All

as:

All - Smart Search

All - Smart Search

All - Smart Search


Start

Customize Display

Clear

Start

Examples of Online Indexes: Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals

Search | Database Guide | Help | Logout

Searching database: **Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals 1985-2007/06** [Change Database\(s\)](#)

[Search](#) [Advanced](#) [Thesaurus](#) [Index](#) [Find Citation](#) [Search History](#) How do I ...? ▾

Type up to three terms, select where to look, then click **Search**.

☒ AND ☐ OR ☐ NOT

Terms:
in: (Terms anywhere) ▾

Terms:
in: (Terms anywhere) ▾



Terms:
in: (Terms anywhere) ▾

[Search](#)

Limit Search To:

☐ Published after 2001

[More](#) [Clear](#)

 [Change Display](#) 

WebSPIRS Search Hints

Which Search?

- Use **Search** for a search as simple or complex as you like.
- Use **Advanced** to combine search terms and specific fields.
- Use the **Index** to locate specific terms within a database.

If available with the databases you are searching:

- Use **Suggest** (on the **Search** page) to get suggested alternatives to your search terms.
- Use the **Thesaurus** to search using the database's controlled vocabulary.

Tips
Pressing **Enter** is like clicking the main action button (such as **Search**, **Go to Term**, or **Print**).
Full Text Options next to a record means it has links to easy ways to see the full text

Examples of Online Indexes: Index to Canadian Legal Literature via WestlawCarswell

Westlaw.CARSWELL

FIND KEYCITECANADA DIRECTORY SITE MAP

HELP SIGN OFF

Preferences Alert Centre Research Trail

LawSourceCriminalSourceFamilySourceInsolvencySrcSecuritiesSrcWestlawAdd/Remove Tabs

Search

Selected DatabasesChange Database(s) | Tips

Index to Canadian Legal Literature (ICLL) ⓘ

Terms and Connectors

Natural Language

Search:

SearchThesaurusTerm Frequency

Recent Searches & Locates


Dates:

Fields:

Add Connectors or ExpandersHelp

&	AND	/s	In same sentence
space	OR	+s	Preceding within sentence
" "	Phrase	/p	In same paragraph
%	But not	+p	Preceding within paragraph
 	Root expander	/n	Within n terms of
*	Universal character	+n	Preceding within n terms of

Examples of Online Indexes: Index to Canadian Legal Literature via Quicklaw

Start | Client: ctellis | Preferences | Sign Out | Contact Us | Help


SearchSource DirectoryHistory & Alerts

General | Court Cases | Tribunal Cases | Legislation | Commentary | Services | Journals | News & Companies

SearchBrowseCommentary

Make This My Start Page | ?

Enter Search Terms

 Search


A space between words searches an exact phrase. Show the relation of terms with connectors, e.g., age & discrimination, age or race, trade /5 act. [View Connectors...](#)

[Refine search by area\(s\) of law](#)

Search Term Equivalents

☒ Singular and Plural ☒ Masculine and Feminine

Select Sources

*Index to Canadian Legal Literature - Journals an... 

+ View Combined Sources

Search within a Specific Segment of a Document

[\[+\] Show Document Segments](#)

Find Related Sources...

[Back to Top](#) | [Save This Search](#) | [Clear Form](#)

Commentary Search Forms

[Commentary](#)

- > Canadian Legal Words and Phrases
- > International Commentary

Related Links

History & Alerts

> Recent Searches

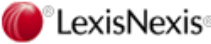
How do I...?

> Find a particular article by title?

> Look for articles by a certain author?

> Find articles on a particular topic or issue?

[View Tutorials](#)



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Quicklaw – Commentary tab

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Start | Client: ctellis | Preferences | Sign Out | Contact Us | Help

Search Source Directory History & Alerts

General | Court Cases | Tribunal Cases | Legislation | **Commentary** | Services | Journals | News & Companies

Search Browse Commentary

Enter Search Terms

Search

A space between words searches an exact phrase. Show the relation of terms with connectors, e.g., age & discrimination, age or race, trade /5 act. [View Connectors...](#)

[Refine search by area\(s\) of law](#)

Search Term Equivalents

☒ Singular and Plural ☒ Masculine and Feminine

Select Sources

*Immigration Law Commentary - Topical [Find Related Sources...](#)

+ View Combined Sources

Search within a Specific Segment of a Document

[+] [Show Document Segments](#)

[Back to Top](#) | [Save This Search](#) | [Clear Form](#)

Commentary Search Forms

- ◀ **Commentary**
- > Canadian Legal Words and Phrases
- > International Commentary

Related Links

History & Alerts


- > Recent Searches

How do I...?

- > Find a particular article by title?
- > Look for articles by a certain author?
- > Find articles on a particular topic or issue?

[View Tutorials](#)

Quicklaw – Journals tab

Start | Client: ctellis | Preferences | Sign Out | Contact Us | Help


Search | Source Directory | History & Alerts

General | Court Cases | Tribunal Cases | Legislation | Commentary | Services | **Journals** | News & Companies

Search | Browse | Journals

Make This My Start Page | ?

Enter Search Terms

 **Search**



A space between words searches an exact phrase. Show the relation of terms with connectors, e.g., age & discrimination, age or race, trade /5 act. [View Connectors...](#)

[Refine search by area\(s\) of law](#)

Search Term Equivalents

☒ Singular and Plural ☒ Masculine and Feminine

Select Sources

  [Find Related Sources...](#)

+ View Combined Sources

Search within a Specific Segment of a Document


[\[+\] Show Document Segments](#)

Article Title

Author

**Title of Journal
Doctrine/Revue**

Year



Article Citation

[Citation Help](#)

[Back to Top](#) | [Save This Search](#) | [Clear Form](#)

Journals Search Forms

[◀ Journals](#)
[> International Journals](#)

Related Links

History & Alerts
[> Recent Searches](#)

[View Tutorials](#)

Locating eJournals

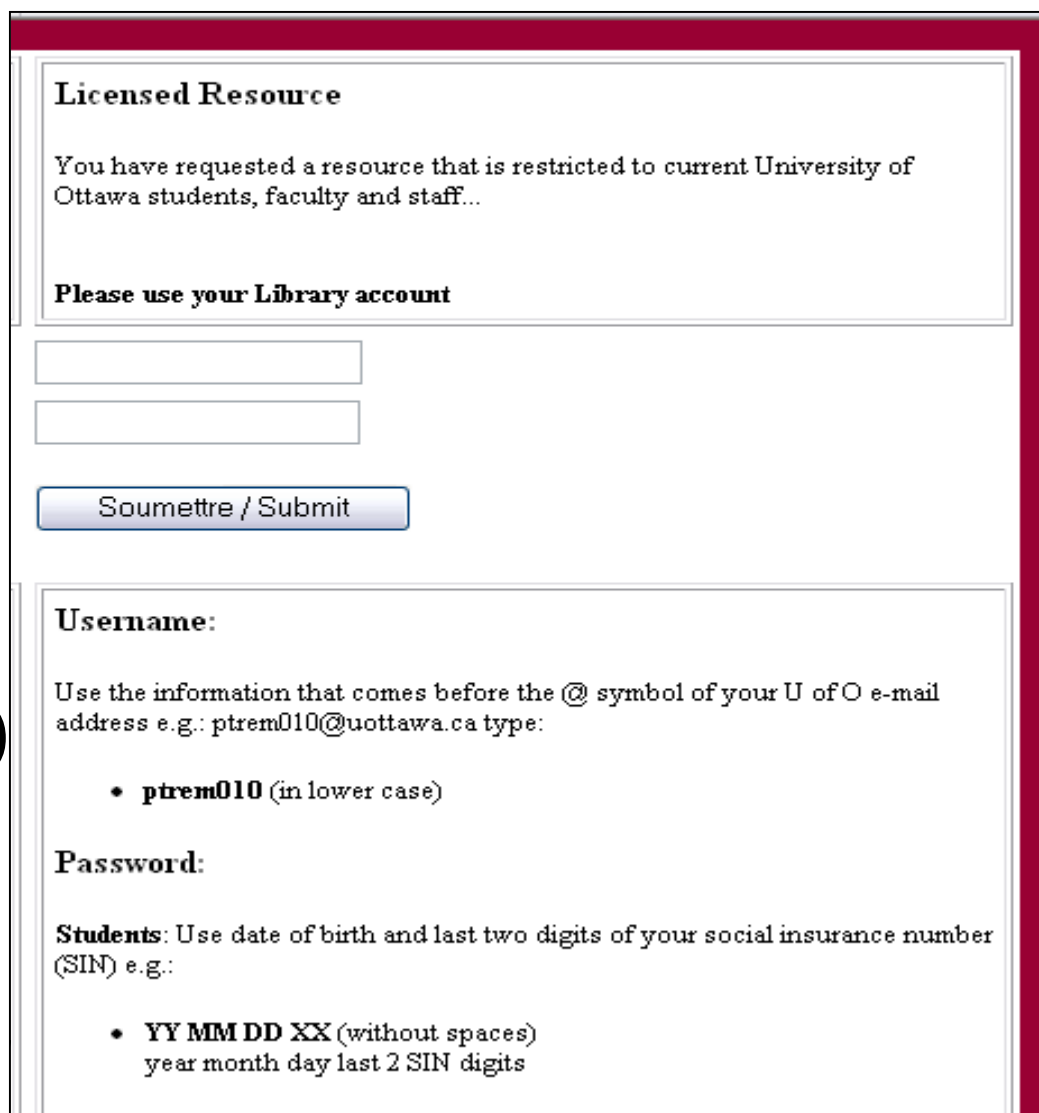
Search the library catalogue

- ▶ Available electronically if you see “[Click for Electronic access](#)”
- ▶ From the E-Journals (A-Z) list on library webpage
- ▶ Some eJournals are not listed in the catalogue and are “hidden” in WestlaweCarswell and Quicklaw
 - ☒ Check University of Toronto’s [webpage](#) listing eJournal titles



Connecting from off-campus

- For eJournals and other library resources to which we subscribe (e.g. HeinOnline)
- Instructions



The screenshot shows a web interface for logging into a library system. It has a maroon header bar. The main content area is divided into two sections. The top section, titled 'Licensed Resource', contains a message about restricted access for University of Ottawa students, faculty, and staff, followed by a prompt to use a library account and two empty input fields. Below these is a 'Soumettre / Submit' button. The bottom section, titled 'Username:', provides instructions on how to format the username based on the user's email address or student status. It includes examples like 'ptrem010@uottawa.ca' and 'YY MM DD XX'.

Licensed Resource

You have requested a resource that is restricted to current University of Ottawa students, faculty and staff...

Please use your Library account

Soumettre / Submit

Username:

Use the information that comes before the @ symbol of your U of O e-mail address e.g.: ptrem010@uottawa.ca type:

- **ptrem010** (in lower case)

Password:

Students: Use date of birth and last two digits of your social insurance number (SIN) e.g.:

- **YY MM DD XX** (without spaces)
year month day last 2 SIN digits

Interpreting citations to secondary sources

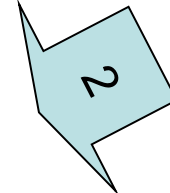
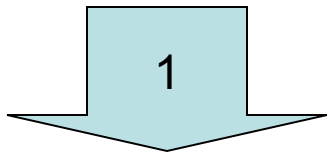
- **Book citation** (see 6.2.1 in McGill Guide)

Margaret Somerville, *Death Talk: The Case against Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001) at 78.

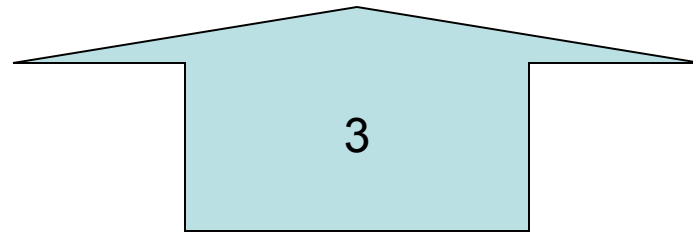
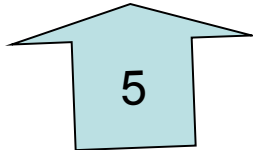
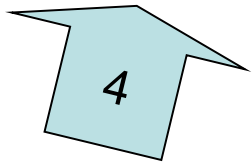


Interpreting citations to secondary sources (cont'd)

- **Journal article** (see 6.1 in McGill Guide)



John Borrows, “Creating an Indigenous Legal Community” (2005) 50 McGill L.J. 153 at 155.



Interpreting citations to secondary sources (cont'd)

- **Magazine article** (see 6.13 in McGill Guide)

Benjamin Phelan, “Buried Truths” *Harper’s Magazine*, 309:1855 (December 2004) 70.



Interpreting citations to secondary sources (cont'd)

- **Government document** (see Ch. 4 in McGill Guide)

1

2

3

Ontario, Legislative Assembly, Standing Committee on regulations and private bills, “Election of Chair” in *Official Report of Debates (Hansard)*, No.T-6 (26 September 2001) at 41.

4

5

6



Interpreting citations to secondary sources (cont'd)

- **Essay in a book** (see 6.3 in McGill Guide)

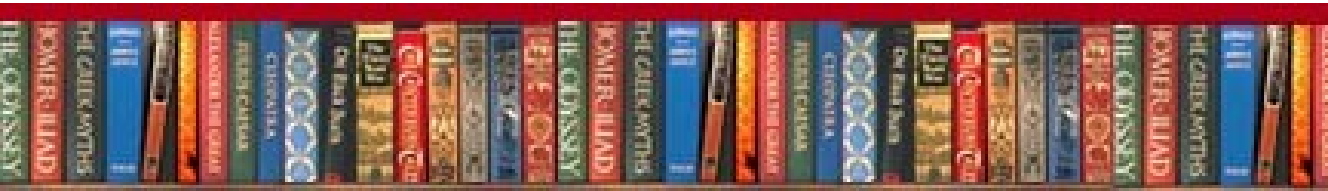
Gabriel J. Chin, “Race, the War on Drugs and Collateral Consequences of Criminal Conviction” in Christopher Mele & Teresa A. Miller, eds., *Civil Penalties, Social Consequences* (New York: Routledge, 2005) 43 at 45.



Interpreting citations to secondary sources (cont'd)

- **Internet site** (see 6.19.3 in McGill Guide)

Henry Samuel, “March for girl set alight after marriage refusal” *The Daily Telegraph* (28 November 2005), online: The Telegraph Group
<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk>>.



Human Rights Documentation Centre

- Comprehensive and specialized domestic and international human rights documentation collections
- Alan Fleischman, Librarian
- On-site consultation only
- Website
- Human Rights Online Catalogue

