THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
Library

Using the library to find legal resources

September 2025: Anna Richards & SarahLouise McDonald, Academic Support Librarians

Using the Library to find legal resources

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- Find and access books, journal articles and legal databases
- Undertake a search for known resources
- Search for subject/topic areas
- Filter and limit results
- Understand about accessing and using legal databases
- Find help if you need it

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The Law Library at Old College

Keep up to date with information about our libraries:

Library News and Events

Law Library Location & Opening Times

Finding your way around:

- Virtual tour
- Self-guided tour (available from Helpdesk/Teams)

The Library Helpdesk team are ready & willing to help with any queries you have when in the library on-campus. Remember your student card!

Getting an overview

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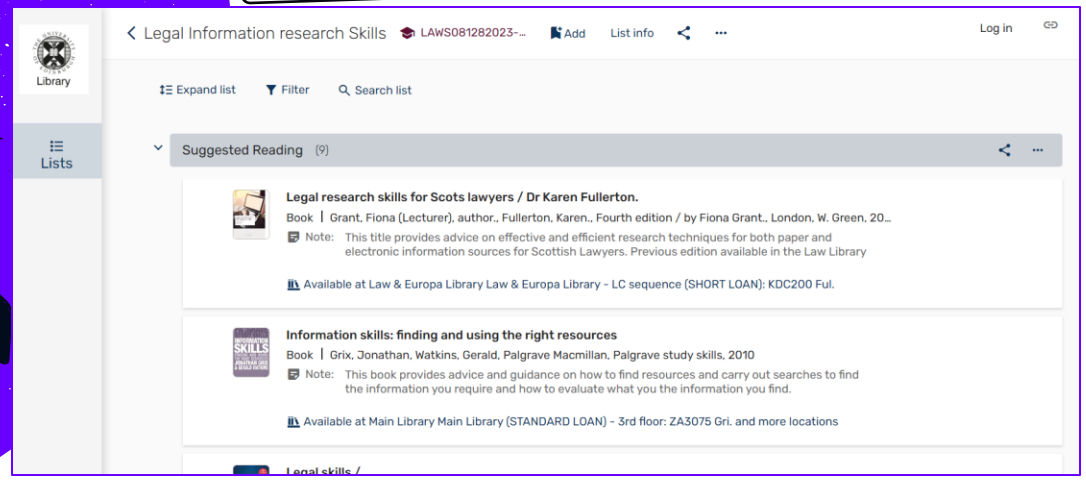
Resource Lists

Resource lists are online reading lists compiled by your course organiser to help you find the resources you need for your assigned reading. Many resource lists are organised into Essential, Recommended and Further Reading. Some course organisers prefer to list the reading week by week to help you keep on track with your seminars.

You can access your Resource List through your Learn pages, or using the Resource List website and searching for your course:

https://edinburgh-uk.libguides.com/resource-lists/students



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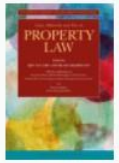
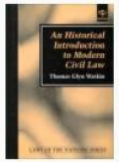
THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH RESOURCE LISTS

Comparative Property Law

LAWS112402021-2SS1SEM1 (2021-22, Semester 1)



E-BOOK Cases, materials and text on national, supranational and international property law / editors Sjef van Erp, Bram Akkermans.
Erp, J. H. M. van.; Akkermans, Bram., Oxford, Hart, 2012
Essential
Available at Law & Europa Library Law Library (RESERVE) : KJE1251 Cas. Check availability >



E-BOOK An historical introduction to modern civil law / Thomas Glyn Watkin.
Thomas Glyn Watkin, Aldershot, Ashgate, 1999
Note: Please read chapter 11, especially pp 219-32 and 250-64
Essential
Check availability >

BOOK International encyclopedia of comparative law / Volume 6 ; [editorial committee, R. David [and others]].

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DiscoverEd

Search the Library's collections and most of the Library's subscription content, but not all.

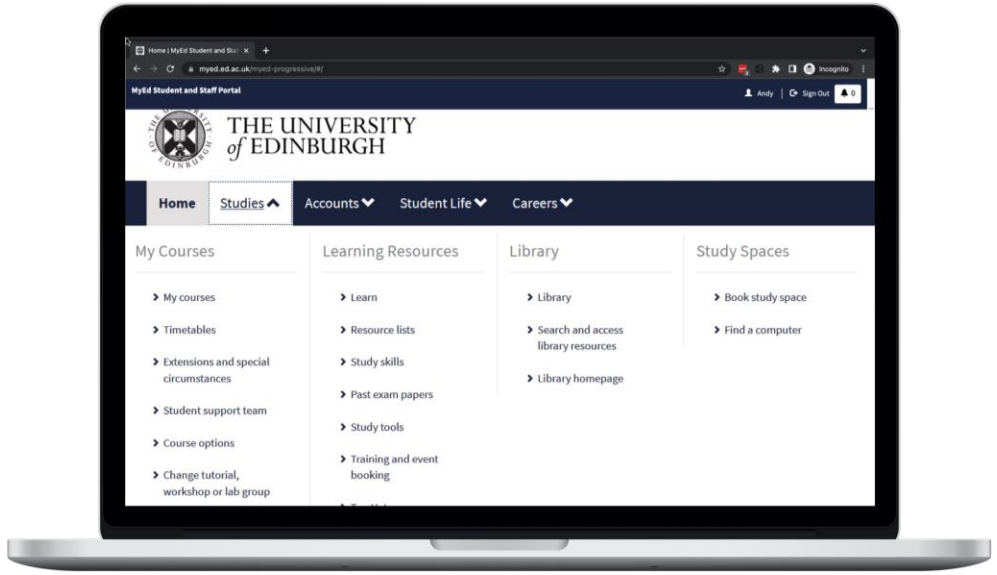
Notable exceptions include some law resources:

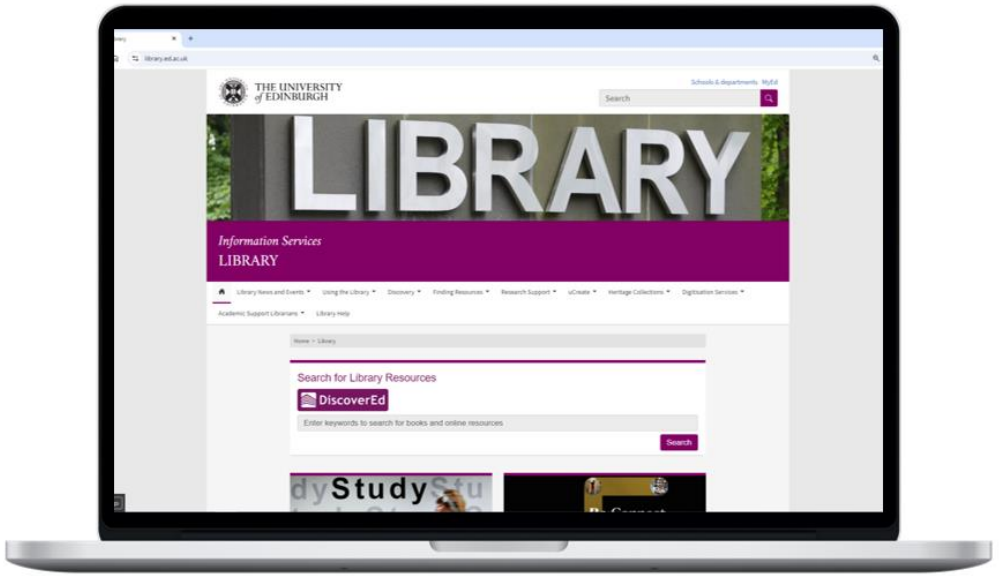
- **Lexis+**
- **Westlaw**

http://discovered.ed.ac.uk

A guide to using DiscoverEd:
https://sway.office.com/L80BfHa4AquyQc0z

MyEd & Library website





Scan

Scan

Access the Library's resources and read about all the services it provides from the MyEd Studies tab or the Library website.

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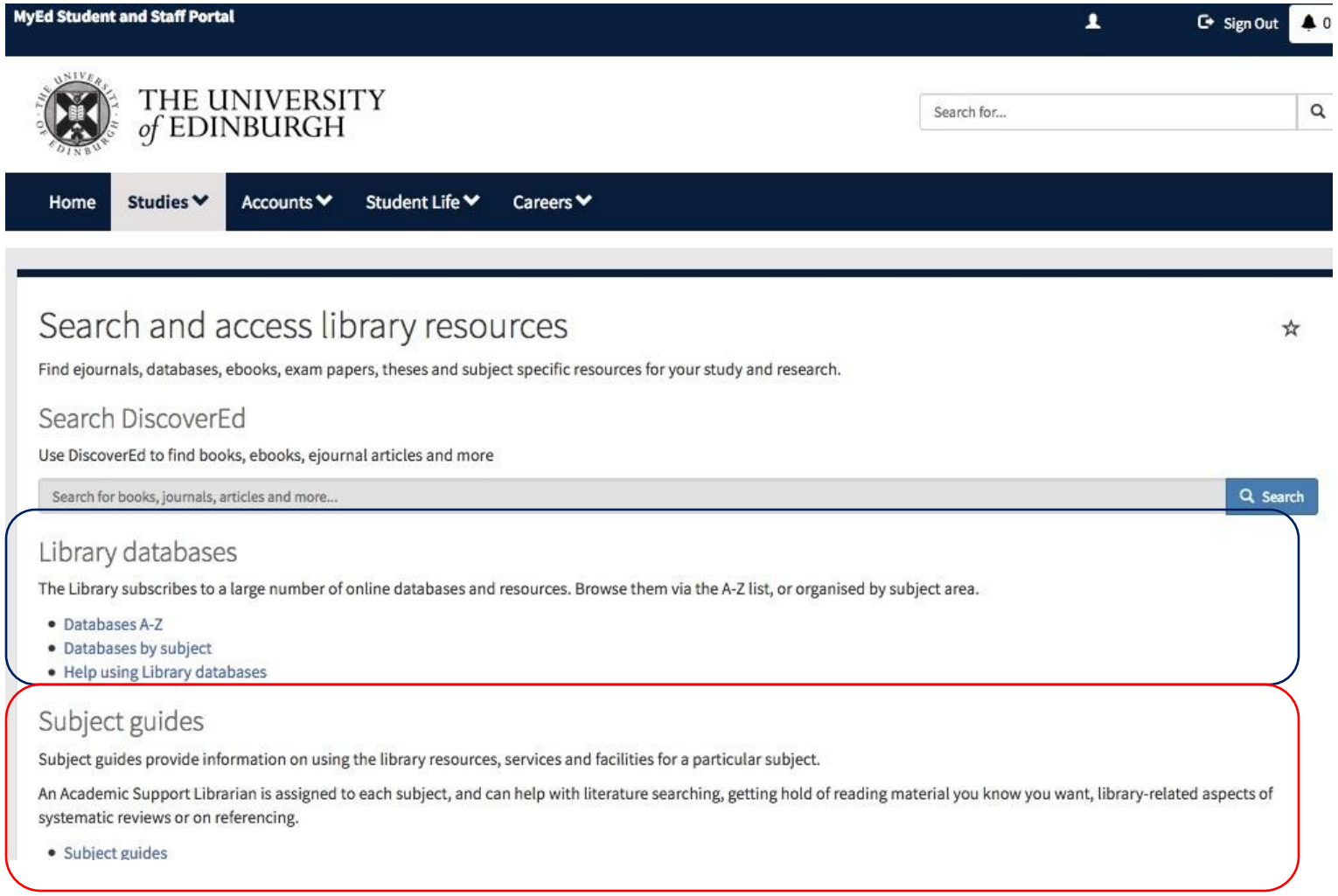

VPN

To access some library resources from off-campus you need to use the University's VPN (Virtual Private Network). More information is available here:

https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/computing/desktop-personal/vpn

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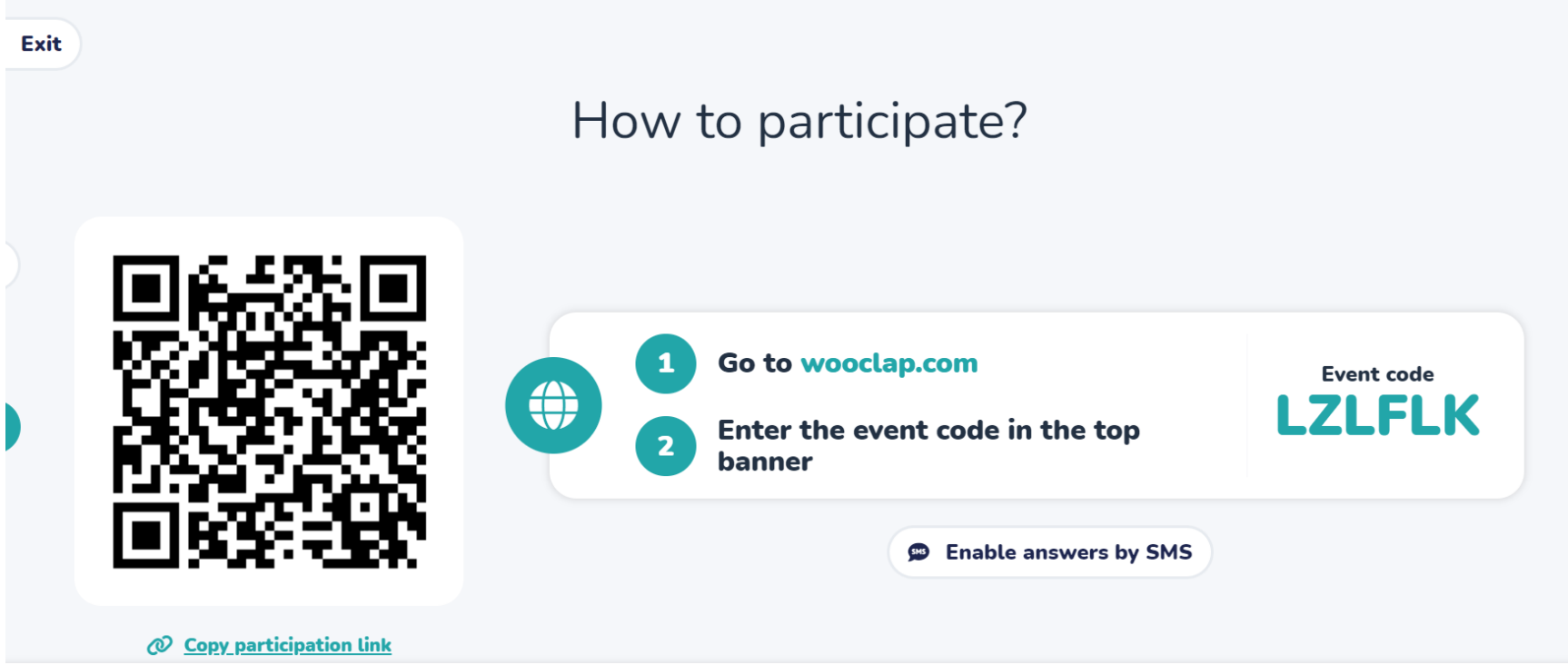
What’s the best way to find a book in the library?



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DiscoverEd

property law

ADVANCED SEARCH

All items | that contain my keywords | anywhere in the record

Library Chat

Sign in to get complete results, to request items and to access My Account | Sign in | DISMISS

Refine My Results

Expand results beyond Library Collections

Search in Full Text

Sort by Relevance

Show Only

Full Text Online

Peer-reviewed Journals

Open Access

0 selected PAGE 1 1-10 of 917,869 Results

Personalise your search results

1

BOOK

2 versions/editions of this title exist. See all editions/versions

Property law

Smith, Roger J. (Roger John), 1948- author.

Harlow, England : Pearson; 2020

Online access

2

BOOK

Property law

Alexander, Gregory S., editor.; Edward Elgar Publishing, publisher.

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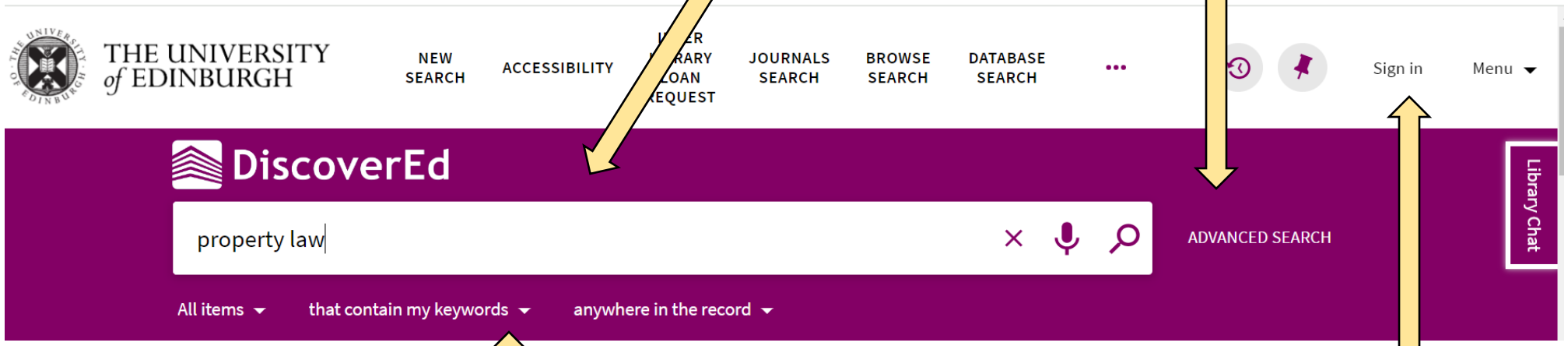
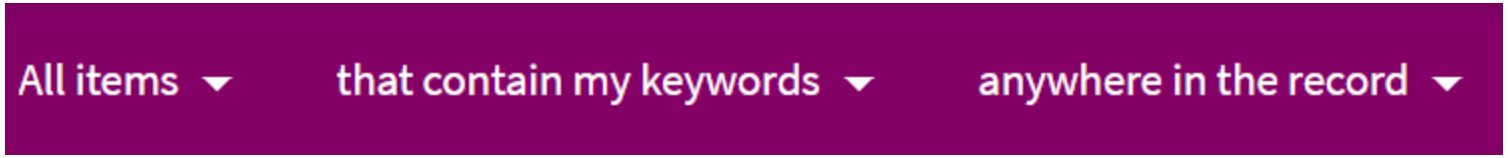
Simple Search

Advanced Search





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Title and item details:
click for full record

Refine My Results

Expand results beyond Library Collections

Search in Full Text

Sort by Relevance

Show Only

Full Text Online

Peer-reviewed Journals

Open Access

Physical Items

Special Collections

Special Collections (249)

Resource Type

Articles (582,397)

0 selected PAGE 1 1-10 of 917,869 Results Personalise your search results

1 BOOK
2 versions/editions of this title exist. See all editions/versions
Property law
Smith, Roger J. (Roger John), 1948- author.
Harlow, England : Pearson; 2020
Online access

2 BOOK
Property law
Alexander, Gregory S., editor.; Edward Elgar Publishing, publisher.
Northampton : Edward Elgar Publishing; 2020
Online access

3 BOOK
Property law
Spiers, Duncan.
Dundee : Dundee University Press; 2008

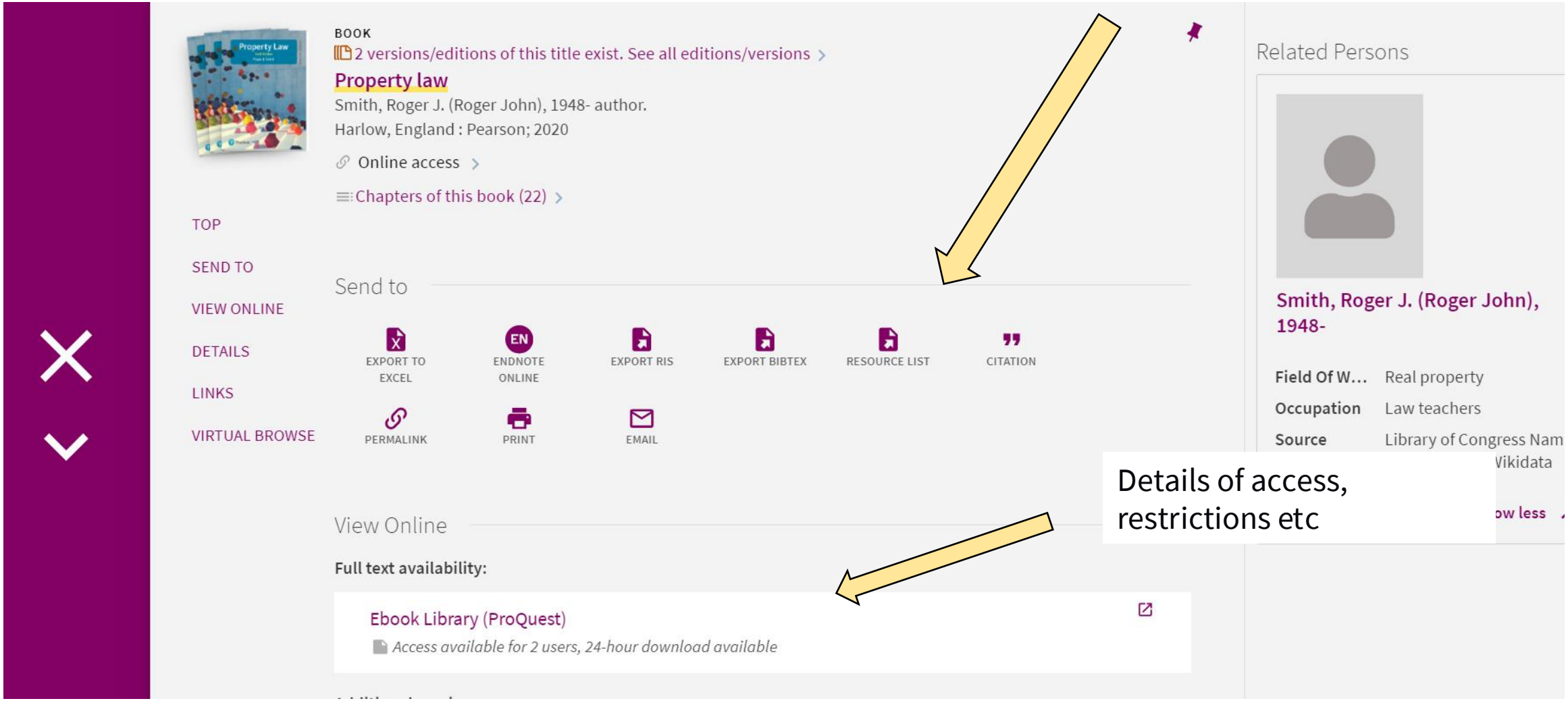
Filters

Format:
Book or journal article etc

Availability:
Online or print copy in a library

Options including:
- Citation
- Email
- Favourite

Options for saving, exporting, citing



Details of access, restrictions etc

Digging deeper into a topic

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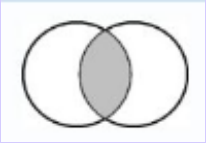
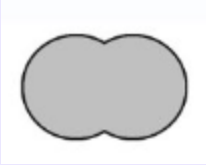
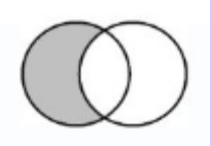
Finding journal articles

1. If you're searching for an article you know of, search using the article title not the whole reference
2. Be specific – think about the important concepts that would make an article relevant and include search terms for them
3. Search Law specific databases as well as DiscoverEd
    1. Westlaw UK
    2. Lexis+
    3. HeinOnline
4. Use advanced search techniques

Boolean operator	Examples	Retrieves
AND (must include all your search terms – narrows the search)	Cats AND kittens	
OR (must include at least one of the terms – widens the search)	Cats OR kittens	
NOT (excludes a specific term)	Cats NOT kittens	

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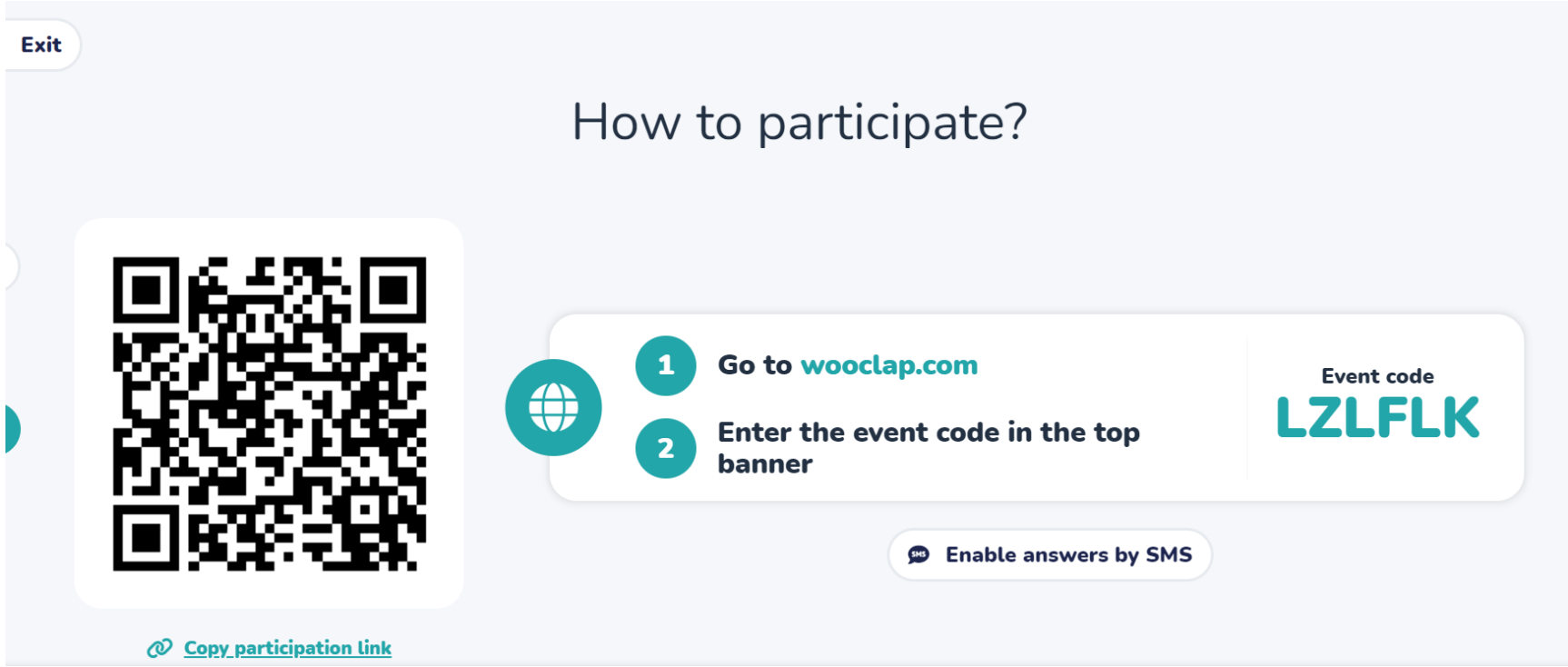
Via which database would you find this journal article?



When we don’t have what you want…

We’ll try to get it for you!

1 | Interlibrary Loan

www.ed.ac.uk/is/ILL

You can request books, articles, reports, conference proceedings, patents, standards as well as other materials from other libraries.

Postgraduates can request 30 items free of charge per year, and additional items can be requested subject to a small administrative fee.

For more details, see the ILL webpage.

2 | Request A Book

www.ed.ac.uk/is/RaB

All students are able to request materials that they think the library should hold for use by all staff and students.

The library has an e-preference policy which means where possible we will try to purchase e-books, though we can also purchase print materials. Make a request using the form linked above for consideration.

3 | SCONUL access scheme

https://www.sconul.ac.uk/sconul-access

SCONUL access is a scheme which allows many university library users to use study spaces or books and journals at other libraries which belong to the scheme. Some library users may be able to borrow print books from other libraries too. To find out more about the scheme, who is eligible, and how it works, click the link above.

Scan & Deliver service

Our free service allows articles and chapters only available in print in our libraries to be scanned and emailed directly to you. We are restricted in what can be scanned by copyright law. This usually means:

- 1 chapter per book, or 10% (whichever is larger)
- 1 article per issue of a report or journal

We do not send books or loans by post.

To find out more visit the Scan & Deliver page:
www.ed.ac.uk/is/scan-and-deliver

Managing your references

Recording references as you go will help you stay organised

Useful links for referencing:

1. **Cite them right online,** a service which helps by clearly laying out individual references in a variety of styles, describing all the component parts needed for different types of resource. The university subscribes to this so all students can use it free of charge.
   https://www.citethemrightonline.com/

2. **ZoteroBib,** a 'quick and dirty' citation machine which allows you to paste in a web address and get a basic reference in return.
   https://zbib.org/

3. **Cite This For Me,** a similarly quick free service which helps create references for Harvard, APA and MLA styles.
   https://www.citethisforme.com/

Reference Managers

A reference manager can help you to collect, organise, annotate & describe your references. They can also generate citations to place directly into your work for many popular citation styles (including Harvard, APA, Chicago and OSCOLA).

There are lots of reference managers available. This comparison table may help you decide which one meets your needs best:
http://www.docs.is.ed.ac.uk/mvm/BiblioManagersTable.pdf

REMEMBER: all reference tools will need checked by the user. They can help construct citations but are often wrong.

Any questions?