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Researching Intellectual Property Law in an International Context

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Introduction

When we speak of the law of intellectual property, we are generally speaking of the law of a particular jurisdiction like the United States, France or China. A practitioner is, in the common case, only concerned with the law of his or her jurisdiction. However, intellectual property is interesting because of the number of multilateral conventions that have been concluded in an effort to harmonize national laws. And increasingly these conventions have had direct effects on national law. With the increases in trade, and now, with the Internet, it has become important to understand not only the law of one's own jurisdiction, but also the law of other jurisdictions and the international conventions that regulate intellectual property by means of bilateral and multilateral commitments. This article will examine (1) the current international intellectual property regimes and (2) the accessibility of foreign laws and bilateral treaties, both in English and the vernacular.

Intellectual Property

First, we should probably define what we mean by intellectual property. Black's Law Dictionary defines "intellectual property" as "(a) category of intangible rights protecting commercially valuable products of the human intellect. The category comprises primarily trademark, copyright, and patent rights, but also includes trade-secret rights, publicity rights, moral rights, and rights against unfair competition." The terminology regarding intellectual property has shifted over time, with the term "industrial property" giving way to the various terms that exist today. You will notice that many of the older agreements, documents and organizations use the term "industrial property". This area of law has also expanded to encompass licensing, biotechnology and other legal or non-legal subject areas that are related to conceptions of property that are abstract in nature. In this article we will only concern ourselves with trademark, copyright and patent rights, however, there are many other areas that fall within the rubric of intellectual property.

International Regimes and Their Documentation

At the conclusion of the last round of trade negotiations under General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade ("GATT"), the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property ("TRIPS") (<http://www.wto.org/wto/eol/e/pdf/27-trips.pdf>) was signed by the participating nations.

"With the ongoing integration of the world economy, and with production becoming more "technology intensive", there was a concern that the absence of a multilateral framework (including rules) for addressing intellectual property issues could create problems, including

tensions in international commercial relations. The TRIPS agreement will be implemented within transition periods generally of one year (developed countries), five years (developing countries and transition economies) or eleven years (least-developed countries). A Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights will be created to monitor the operation of the Agreement and governments' compliance with it." (<http://www.wto.org/wto/legal/nov.wpf>)

This agreement defines standards of intellectual property rights and enforcement mechanisms for individual countries to follow, and incorporates those into the existing Dispute Settlement mechanism of the WTO. It defines these standards by reference to existing agreements concluded under the auspices of the World Intellectual Property Organization (<http://www.wto.org/wto/intellec/intell4.htm>). In some cases nations are required to harmonize their intellectual property laws with these existing agreements. For books about the TRIPS agreement see:

- *Intellectual property and international trade: the TRIPS agreement* (Carlos M. Correa, Abdulqawi A. Yusuf eds., London; Boston: Kluwer Law International, c1998)
- *The TRIPS agreement: drafting history and analysis*, by Daniel Gervais (London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1998).

With TRIPS the internationalization of intellectual property law has reached a new level. It is important that the researcher not only be familiar with the multilateral agreements in place, but also be able to ascertain whether a country has indeed complied with the requirements of TRIPS. As noted above, the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights is charged with ensuring compliance. The documents of that entity may be found at the Document Dissemination Facility of the WTO. You may search this Facility by document symbol with the most important symbols being:

IP/C/W	Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Working Documents
IP/C/M	Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Minutes
IP/D/	Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights - Disputes (Requests for Consultations)
IP/N/	Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights - Notifications
IP/N#/Member	Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights - Notifications by Member
IP/Q/Member	Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights - Questions and Replies by Member to Notifications submitted

The WTO and the World Intellectual Property Organization ("WIPO") are working together. There is an Agreement between the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Trade Organization (<http://www.wto.org/wto/intellec/17-wipo.htm>) where WIPO agrees to facilitate the WTO implement TRIPs.

WIPO was established in 1967 and charged with promoting the protection of intellectual property throughout the world and ensuring administrative cooperation among the various agreements dealing with intellectual property (Art. 3). WIPO is part of the UN system, and has been the sponsoring entity for many of the important conventions in this area. The texts of treaties administered by WIPO can be found at the WIPO website (<http://www.wipo.org/eng/plex/index.htm>). This website also includes ratification information (<http://www.wipo.int/eng/ratific/index.htm>). WIPO is also involved in collecting the intellectual property laws of its member states (more on this below in the section on foreign law). WIPO publishes compilations of laws and treaties:

- *Industrial property laws and treaties*. (Geneva : WIPO, c1978 updated) looseleaf
- *Intellectual property laws and treaties*. (Geneva : WIPO, 1998-current) looseleaf

These two collections of laws and treaties are available from WIPO in CD-ROM format as IP-LEX. There are other sources for the texts of intellectual property conventions:

- [The Spinoza Project](#)

- *International treaties on intellectual property* 2nd ed. (Marshall A. Leaffer, ed., Washington, D.C.: Bureau of National Affairs, c1997)
- *Selected Statutes and International Agreements on Unfair Competition, Trademark, Copyright and Patent* (P. Goldstein et al. eds., Westbury N.Y.: Foundation Press, 1997)
- *Selected Intellectual Property and Unfair Competition Statutes, Regulations and Treaties* (R. Schechter ed., St. Paul Minn.: West Pub. Co., 1999)
- [Lex Mercatoria on Intellectual Property](#)
- Lexis ([COPYRT;TREATY](#)) or ([PATENT;TREATY](#)) or ([TRDMRK;TREATY](#))
- Design Laws and Treaties of the World (Bureau of National Affairs 1960-current)

The documents produced by WIPO in recent years are available at the WIPO website (<http://www.wipo.org/eng/newindex/publctn.htm>). For earlier documents you can contact the Geneva Secretariat (<http://www.wipo.org/eng/newindex/contact.htm>) and they can be quite responsive. WIPO also publishes a monthly bulletin called *Industrial Property and Copyright* (Geneva: WIPO, 1995-current), which continues *Copyright* (Geneva: WIPO, 1965-1994). This publication updates the WIPO sets that include the texts of national intellectual property laws and treaties. The *WIPO Magazine* (Geneva: WIPO, 1998-current) (<http://www.wipo.int/publications/general/121/1999/index.html>) is available on the WIPO website. For WIPO publications, there is now an electronic bookshop to order publications (<http://www.wipo.int/ebookshop/>). The WIPO library system is also online via UNCAPS (<http://uncaps.unsystem.org/>) which is a shared cataloging system for the UN libraries. If you enter this you may select to search just the WIPO library catalog. If you are really at your wits end with regard to a WIPO document you can e-mail the Reference Desk at the WIPO library library.mail@wipo.int.

TRIPS has now made available the WTO Dispute Settlement Process for any disputes relating to TRIPS (<http://www.wto.org/wto/dispute/dispute.htm>). However, WIPO also has its own Arbitration and Mediation Center. This Center was established in 1994 and offers services for the private resolution of disputes involving intellectual property. Documents associated with this Center (<http://www.arbiter.wipo.int/information/publications/index.html>) are available from the website and include rules as well as other information.

There are other international organizations working in the area of intellectual property. UNESCO works with copyright, as well as with cultural property and the protection of the intellectual property of developing nations. UNESCO has sponsored an number of agreements in this area (<http://www.unesco.org/general/eng/legal/convent.html>). UNESCO has a very good database for searching its documents called UNESDOC (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/ulis/>). UNESCO also publishes the *Copyright Bulletin* (Paris: UNESCO, 1967-current). There is also an online catalog of all UNESCO's publications (<http://www.unesco.org/general/eng/publish/upocat-form.html>).

Europe

The European Union (or Community or EC, as it is also know) has been active in passing legislation on intellectual property. The *Directory of Community Legislation in Force*, now available on the web, has a listing of all Community legislation on intellectual property (http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/lif/reg/en_register_1720.html) - with links to the full-text of some legislation. The administration of Community law is the responsibility of the Directorates General ("DG") of the Commission. The DG handling intellectual property is DG XV, the DG for the Internal Market (<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg15/en/intprop/>). This website includes legislation and pending legislation relating to intellectual property. The intellectual property related legislation of the European Union is found in the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) under European Community. The Legal Advisory Office website (<http://www2.echo.lu/legal/en/ipr/ipr.html>) has news about current developments among EU countries with regard to intellectual property, as well as links to legal documents. Other documents relating to intellectual property include regulations (<http://oami.eu.int/en/aspects/reg.htm>) from the Trademark and Design Section of the Office for Harmonization of the Internal Market, as well as decisions (<http://oami.eu.int/en/aspects/decis.htm>) from its Board of Appeals.

The European Communities publishes *Industrial Property Rights* (London: Kogan Page, 1997). Another good sources of EU laws is *Sweet & Maxwell's EC Intellectual Property Materials* (A. Booy & A. Horton, eds. Andover: Sweet & Maxwell, 1994). WIPO also puts out *European Intellectual Property Review* (Oxford: WIPO, 1978-current) which is also on Westlaw ([EIPR](#)). There is also *Enforcement of intellectual property in European and international law* by Christopher Wadlow. (London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1998) There are other sources for lists of European Union IP laws: the Spinoza Project

(<http://www.rulimburg.nl/~spinoza/eumeasur.htm>). For a discussion of the European Patent Convention see the section of Patent Law below.

Several members of the the Federation of Independent States and their neighbors have established the European Patent Organization (<http://www.eopa.org/english/docs/htm>) by becoming signatories to the Eurasian Patent Convention (<http://www.eapo.org/english/docs/konvenci.htm>). The Convention and accompanying regulations can also be found on the CLEA database (see the CLEA database, <http://clea.wipo.int/>).

NGOs, Institutes and Associations

There are other organizations that are interested in international intellectual property law. For example, the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Patent, Copyright and Competition Law (<http://www.intellecprop.mpg.de/>). This organization publishes *International Review of Industrial Property and Copyright Law* (Weinheim, Germany: 1970-current). For ordering information see the website (<http://www.intellecprop.mpg.de/Enhanced/English/Veroeffentlichungen/IIC.HTM>). The Max Planck Institute also publishes *ICC Studies* on different topics within intellectual property. It also has a database (<http://www.intellecprop.mpg.de/Enhanced/English/externeLinks/auslande.htm>) of intellectual property related links organized by subject and country which is very useful. The Institute has also begun putting up on-line publications (<http://www.intellecprop.mpg.de/Online-Publikationen/Online-Publications.HTM>). The Institute Library (<http://www.intellecprop.mpg.de/Enhanced/English/Bibliothek/BIBLIOE.htm>), which no doubt has a large collection, can be searched on-line.

The International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property (<http://www.aippi.org/>) is an NGO that works on policy issues relating to international intellectual property. The website provides access to the recent documents of various committees (<http://www.aippi.org/committees.html>) as well as reports (<http://www.aippi.org/services.html>).

The International Intellectual Property Alliance is an NGO composed of U.S. copyright based industries (<http://www.iipa.com/>). This organization produces reports on various countries for section 301 purposes (http://www.iipa.com/html/reports_by_country.html). These are useful because they describe the state of the legal protections of intellectual property in various countries.

There are some resources that are more practice related. The International Federation of Industrial Property Attorneys (<http://www.ficpi.org/ficpi/aboutframe.html>) has a newsletter it posts on its website (<http://www.ficpi.org/ficpi/publframe.html>), along with information about the organization. Hieros Gamos (<http://www.hg.org/intell.html>) provides information and news about the practice of intellectual property law internationally. The ABA has a section that is concerned with intellectual property, and the section is interested in international developments, in part because they are affecting national law so directly. The Section on Intellectual Property Law has little of substance at its website (<http://www.abanet.org/intelprop>) but it does have information about committees involved in international intellectual property matters. Lexis provides information from Section committee meetings ([PATENT;PTCLAW](#)).

Secondary Sources

There are a number of secondary source materials that are useful. Most of these are topic specific and so are discussed below in the sections on copyrights, patents or trademarks. However, there are general books on international intellectual property:

- *Intellectual property in the global marketplace* 2nd ed. (M. Simensky et. al. eds., New York: J. Wiley, c1999)
- *The international intellectual property system : commentary and materials*, by Frederick Abbott, Thomas Cottier & Francis Gurry. (The Hague; Boston: Kluwer Law International, c1999)
- *World intellectual property rights and remedies* (D. Campbell, ed., Dobbs Ferry, NY: Oceana, c1999-)
- *International intellectual property law* (A. D'Amato and D.E. Long. eds., London; Boston: Kluwer Law International, 1997).
- *Introduction to intellectual property : theory and practice* (World Intellectual Property Organization. London; Boston: Kluwer Law International, 1997).
- *The New role of intellectual property in commercial transactions : recent trends in the valuation,*

exploitation and protection of intellectual property (M. Simensky, L. G. Bryer eds., New York: John Wiley & Sons, c1994).

- *International Protection of Intellectual Property: Current Issues and Directions* (New York: Prentice Hall Law & Business, 1990-current) annual
- L. Melville, *Forms and Agreements on Intellectual Property and International Licensing* 3rd ed. (New York, N.Y.: C. Boardman Co., 1979-current)
- *Modern Intellectual Property 2d* ([MODIP](#)) on Westlaw
- *Eckstrom's Licensing in Foreign and Domestic Operations* ([ECKLINC](#)).

There are several periodicals and newsletters, both in print and online. In print, there is *The Journal of World Intellectual Property*. (Geneva: Werner, c1998-current) and the *World Intellectual Property Report* (London: BNA International, 1987-current). BNA also publishes its *Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law Daily* on Lexis ([COPYRT:BNAPTD](#)) and Westlaw ([BNA-PTD](#)) and *Patent, Trademark & Copyright Journal* (Washington, D.C. : Bureau of National Affairs) on Lexis ([COPYRT:PTCJNL](#)) and Westlaw ([BNA-PTCJ](#)). And BNA puts out *World Licensing Law Report* (London: BNA International, 1999-current). There is also *IDEA* (Washington, D.C. : Patent, Trademark, and Copyright Research Institute of the George Washington University, c1964-current).

Current awareness tools include:

- *IP Worldwide* (New York, N.Y.: American Lawyer Media, 1996-current) which is also a databases on Lexis ([COPYRT:IPWW](#)) and has a website (<http://www.ipww.com/>) with some current articles available for free
- *Intellectual Property News* (London, New York: Linklaters & Alliance, 1998-current)
- *Managing Intellectual Property* (London: Euromoney Publications, 1990-current)
- *World Intellectual Property Directory* (Washington, D.C.: Arrowhead World Regulatory Directories, 1997-current) semiannual.
- Baker McKenzie has an IP Newsletter which can be found going to "Publications" on their website (<http://www.bakerinfo.com/>)
- World Intellectual Property Private Law Agency (<http://www.wipla.com/uksubscription.html>)

Copyrights, Patents and Trademarks

There are resources specific to each of these major areas of intellectual property law. Many of the underlying agreements and concepts are discussed in the resources mentioned above, so do not rely solely on the discussion of the particular area in which you are interested.

Copyright

Copyright has two important international agreements the Universal Copyright Convention (http://www.unesco.org/culture/laws/copyright/html_eng/page1.htm and <http://www.tufts.edu/departments/fletcher/multi/texts/UNTS13444.txt>) and the Berne Convention (<http://www.law.cornell.edu/treaties/berne/overview.html>). The Berne Convention has recently been extended to protect works in digital form.

Primary source documents can be found in the general collections mentioned above, and in the following copyright specific collections:

- *Copyright and Neighboring Rights Laws & Treaties* (Geneva: WIPO, 1987-current) looseleaf
- *Copyright Laws and Treaties of the World* (Washington, D.C.: BNA/UNESCO, 1956-current) looseleaf
- *The complete multilateral copyright and related agreements, conventions, covenants & treaties, 1998* (H. Chartrand, Saskatoon, SK: Compiler Press, 1998)
- *WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) 1996* (Geneva: WIPO, 1998)

The following are some treatises that discuss copyright in an international context:

- *International Copyright and Neighbouring Rights* S.M. Stewart (London: Butterworths, 1989)
- W. Nordemann *International Copyright and Neighboring Rights Law* (Weinheim: Verlagsgesellschaft, 1990)
- M. Nimmer & D. Nimmer *Nimmer on Copyright* (New York: M. Bender, 1978-current) this is also available on Lexis ([COPYRT;NIMMER](#))
- S. Ricketson *The Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works: 1886-1986* (London: Center for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary College; Kluwer, 1987)
- M. Nimmer & P. Geller *International Copyright Law and Practice* (New York: M. Bender, 1988-current)
- *World copyright law* / by J.A.L. Sterling. (London : Sweet & Maxwell, 1999)
- M. McDonald et. al., *Design and Copyright Protection of Products: World Law & Practice* (London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1998) looseleaf
- S. Cotter, *Copyright Infringement* (London; Boston: Kluwer Law International, 1998)
- K. Garnett, W.A. Copinger, *Copinger and Skone James on Copyright: including international copyright* 14th ed (London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1998)

Periodicals that have discussions of international copyright issues include: *Journal of the Copyright Society of the USA* (New York, N.Y.: New York University Law Center, c1981-current), this journal is also on Westlaw ([JCPS](#)). There is also the *Revue Internationale du Droit d'Auteur* (Geneva: WIPO, 1962-current). There are also a number of Practising Law Institute publications (<http://www.pli.edu/>) which can be found at the PLI website by searching for "copyright."

Patent

The major agreements regarding patents are:

- NATO Agreement for the Mutual Safeguarding of Secrecy of Inventions Relating to Defense and for Which Applications for Patents have been Made (citation);
- Patent Co-operation Treaty ("PCT") (<http://www.wipo.org/eng/pct/texts/page/wopct001.htm>);
- Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification (http://www.OMPI.org/eng/iplx/wo_ipc0_.htm);
- European Patent Convention (<http://www.european-patent-office.org/epc97/>); and
- Agreement Relating to Community Patents (http://europa.eu.int/lex/en/lif/dat/1989/en_489A0695_01.html)

WIPO has documents related to the PCT available at its website (<http://www.wipo.org/eng/newindex/pct.htm>) including the PCT Gazette, news, information about applications, and other information. The International Patent Classification system is new as of 1/1/2000 (http://classifications.wipo.int/fulltext/new_ipc/index.htm). WIPO publishes the *Patent Information and Documentation Handbook* (Geneva: WIPO, 1981-current) looseleaf and *World Directory of Sources of Patent Information* (Geneva: WIPO, 1993-current) looseleaf.

Another source of laws and treaties dealing with patents is *World Patent Law and Practice: Patent Statutes, Regulations and Treaties* (New York: M. Bender, 1974-current) looseleaf. WIPO also publishes its treaties: *Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)* (Geneva: WIPO, 1997)

There are a few secondary sources on patents:

- J.W. Baxter *World Patent Law and Practice* (New York: M. Bender, 1980-current) looseleaf
- Jacobs & N. Morowitz *Patents throughout the World* ((Deerfield, Ill: CBC, 1989-curent) looseleaf
- M. Meller *International Patent Litigation: A Country-by-Country Analysis* (Washington, D.C.: BNA, 1983-current) looseleaf
- H. Wegner, *Patent Harmonization* (London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1993)
- C. Jones, *Patent Cooperation Treaty Handbook* (London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1997-current) looseleaf

Other information available includes periodicals like the *Journal of the Patent and Trademark Office Society* (Arlington, Va.: The Society, c1985-current) which is also on Westlaw ([JPTOS](#)). This publication continues

the *Journal of the Patent Office Society* (Washington, D.C. : The Society, 1918-c1984). There is also *World Patent Information* (Oxford; New York: Pergamon Press, 1979-current). There are also a number of Practising Law Institute publications (<http://www.pli.edu/>) which can be found at the PLI website by searching for "patent."

The other large international system is that associated with the European Patent Convention with its rules and guidelines (<http://www.european-patent-office.org/epc97/index.htm>). The associated European Patent Office (<http://www.european-patent-office.org/index.htm>) provides the Official Journal (<http://www.european-patent-office.org/epo/pubs/oj97/index.htm>) which is also published in paper *Official Journal of the European Patent Office* (Munich: European Patent Office). The EPO Board of Appeals decisions (http://www.european-patent-office.org/dg3/search_dg3.htm) also appear on the EPO website. These decisions are also published as *European Patent Decisions* 5th ed. (Chorleywood: Gaon Publishing, 1996). There is also *European Patent Office Reports* (Oxford: ESC, 1986-current) which is completed by a historical compilation, *European Patent Office Reports, 1974-1985* (Oxford: ESC, 1989). The website also provides annual reports (http://www.european-patent-office.org/epo/an_rep/index.htm) and decisions of the Administrative Council (<http://www.european-patent-office.org/epo/ca/index.htm>). An EPO publication that does not appear to have a direct electronic equivalent is the *European Patent Bulletin* (Munich: European Patent Office).

There are a number of secondary source texts in this area as well:

- *Encyclopedia of U.K. and European Patent Law* (London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1977-current) looseleaf
- Muir et. al., *European Patent Law: Law and Procedure under the EPC and PCT* (Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 1999)
- G. Paterson *European Patent System* (London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1992)
- Chartered Institute of Patent Agents, *European Patents Handbook* 2d (London: Longmans; New York: M. Bender, 1988-current)

Patent searching is not really within the scope of this article; however, there is a good pointer to sources of web-based databases at the Franklin Pierce Intellectual Property Mall (<http://www.ipmall.fplc.edu/ipcorner/bp98/boxell.htm>). The British Library has also put together a good grouping of patent links (<http://www.bl.uk/services/sris/etalmenu.html>). Some of the other recommended websites include IBM Patent Network (<http://www.patents.ibm.com/>) and VRN Patent Page (<http://vagn.dk/patent/patentlaw.html>).

Trademarks

The major agreement in this area is the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Trade Marks. Documents related to the Madrid Agreement can be found at the WIPO website (<http://www.wipo.int/eng/newindex/madrid.htm>) including Madrid Express, which updates the WIPO Gazette of International Marks, and Assembly documents.

Secondary source materials on trademarks include:

- N. Morowitz ed. *Trademarks Throughout the World* 4th ed (Deerfield, Ill: CBC, 1987-current)
- *Worldwide Trademark Transfers* (Deerfield, Ill: CBC, 1992-current)
- Offner, E. *Offner's International Trademark Service* 2d ed. (Washington, D.C.: Fieldston, 1981-current) looseleaf
- *Trademarks Throughout the World* 4th ed. (A. Jacobs ed. New York: Trade Activities, 1989-current) looseleaf also published on Westlaw ([TMWORLD](http://www.westlaw.com/TMWORLD))

In terms of periodicals and current awareness sources, the U.S. Trademark Association publishes a *Bulletin* (New York: U.S. Trademark Association) and the *Trademark Reporter* (New York: U.S. Trademark Association, 1911-current) on Lexis ([TRDMRK;TMR](http://www.lexis.com/TRA/TRA)). International Trademark Association (<http://www.inta.org/>) has a website with trademark information.

The Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market has a Trade Marks and Designs section (<http://oami.eu.int/en/default.htm>). This website links to EU trade mark legislation (<http://oami.eu.int/en/aspects/default.htm>). There are also Community Trade Mark Courts whose decisions are reproduced in *European Trademark Reports* (London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1996-current).

Foreign Laws on Intellectual Property

Intellectual property has been a productive area for translation and publication. Your chance of finding an IP law in English translation is quite high: higher than the likelihood of finding other laws of another jurisdiction in translation. WIPO publishes a fair number of IP laws in translation.

- *Industrial property laws and treaties*. (Geneva : WIPO, c1978 updated) looseleaf
- *Intellectual property laws and treaties*. (Geneva : WIPO, 1998current) looseleaf
- *Copyright and neighboring rights laws and treaties* (Geneva : World Intellectual Property Organization 1987-current)

There is a WIPO project called Collection of Laws for Electronic Access (CLEA) (<http://www.wipo.int/clea>), which includes the full-text laws of a number of countries translated into English. The CLEA database also includes the texts of selected laws in French and Spanish. Another feature of the CLEA database is the availability of bibliographic references to many more pieces of legislation not translated. With the citation it would be possible to request the piece of legislation via Interlibrary Loan or retrieve it from an online legislative database.

One of the most comprehensive sources of full-text legislation is the database of national laws on copyright and neighboring rights in English from UNESCO (<http://www.unesco.org/culture/copy/index.html>). UNESCO also publishes a print collection of laws and treaties: *Copyright laws and treaties of the world* (Paris: UNESCO; Washington, D.C.: Bureau of National Affairs 1956 updated).

As will become clear below, there are a large number of national laws available via the Internet. Just a note on laws and translations of laws on the Internet: mostly these Internet copies of the laws are not official copies, which means they must be relied upon with caution. If they are from an official government website, there is a better chance the text is reliable. You must check to determine what each particular country deems to be official copies of its laws. As for the translations, these are even less likely to be authoritative, although again the versions on official government websites are more likely to be authoritative. It would be prudent to get an official copy of the vernacular of the law and compare it to your translated text.

There are other collections of IP law:

- *Copyright Laws and Treaties of the World* (Washington, D.C.: BNA/UNESCO, 1956-current) looseleaf
- *Intellectual property laws of Europe* (G. Metaxas- Maranghidis ed., Chichester [England]; New York: Wiley, 1995).
- *Intellectual Property Laws of East Asia* (Gutterman and Brown eds., Hong Kong: Sweet & Maxwell Asia, 1997)
- *Intellectual property: Eastern Europe & Commonwealth of Independent States* (D.L. Garrison ed., New York: Oceana, c1995-current)
- *Design Laws and Treaties of the World* (Bureau of National Affairs 1960-current)
- OAS's Foreign Trade Information System (http://www.sice.oas.org/int_prop/ipnale.asp)

There are also descriptions of intellectual property regimes in different countries:

- *International encyclopaedia of laws: Intellectual property* (H. Vanhees ed. The Hague; Boston: Kluwer Law International, 1997-current)
- *The question of copyright : a summary of the copyright laws at present in force in the chief countries of the world* (G.H. Putnam ed., Littleton, Colo. F.B. Rothman, 1996)
- *Major Provisions and Trademark Legislation in Selected Countries in the Form of Summary Tables* (Geneva: WIPO, 1997)
- *Digest of Intellectual Property Laws of the World* (Oceana 1975 supp. 1998)
- *Worldwide Trade Secrets Law* / T. Maclaren (Clark Boardman Callaghan 1993-current)

As for the individual countries, here are those laws, regulations, government entities and national organizations that I have been able to locate. If you have any to add to this list please e-mail [LLRX](mailto:llrx@llrx.com).

Argentina	Australia	Austria	Belarus	Belgium	Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Brazil	Bulgaria	Canada	Chile	Columbia
Croatia	Cuba	Czech Republic	Denmark	Ecuador	England
Finland	France	Georgia	Germany	Greece	Guatemala
Hong Kong	Hungary	Iceland	India	Indonesia	Ireland
Italy	Japan	Korea	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malaysia
Mexico	Netherlands	New Zealand	Norway	Pakistan	Panama
Peru	People's Republic of China	Philippines	Poland	Portugal	Romania
Russia	Singapore	Slovenia	Spain	South Korea	Sweden
Switzerland	Thailand	Taiwan	United Kingdom	United States	Uruguay
Venezuela	Vietnam	Andorra	Cyprus	Israel	Jordan

Andorra

Laws

- Trademark Laws and Regulations (<http://www.omp.ad/angles/legisla/htm>)
- Government Entities: Trademark Office (<http://www.omp.ad/>)

Argentina

Laws

- Patent Law (<http://www.unikey.com.br/users/denis/denis10.htm>) and (<http://www.mecon.gov.ar/inpi/patentes/leypat.htm>) and (<http://www.etccherry.com/argentin.htm>) in Spanish
- Trademark Law (<http://www.mecon.gov.ar/inpi/marcas/leymar.htm>) in Spanish
- Law of Models and Industrial Design (<http://www.mecon.gov.ar/inpi/modelos/leymod.htm>) in Spanish
- Technology Transfer Law (<http://www.mecon.gov.ar/inpi/transftec/leytran.htm>) in Spanish
- IP Laws (http://www.sice.oas.org/int_prop/ipnale.asp#ARG) in Spanish

Government Entities

- Instituto Nacional de la Propiedad Industrial (<http://www.mecon.gov.ar/inpi/default1.htm>)

Other

- Information about IP law from the law firm Etcherry (<http://www.etccherry.com/intellect.htm>)

Australia

Laws

- Patent Act of 1990 (http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/pa1990109/)
- Copyright Act of 1968 (http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/ca1968133/)
- Annotated Copyright Act (http://www.ozemail.com.au/~pxc/iplocus/annotated_act.html)

- Olympic Insignia Protection Act 1987 (http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/oipa1987306/index.html)
- Trademarks Act of 1995 (http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/tma1995121/)
- Designs Act of 1906 (http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/da190691/)
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>)

Regulations

- Copyright (International Protection) Regulations 1968 (http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_reg/cpr506/index.html)
- Copyright Regulations (http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_reg/cr242/index.html)
- Copyright Tribunal (Procedure) Regulations (http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_reg/cr242/index.html)

Case Law

- Intellectual Property Reports Lexis [AUST;AIPR](#)

Government Entities

- Copyright Council (<http://www.copyright.org.au/>)
- Copyright Tribunal Decisions (<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/ACopyT/>)
- Design Office Cases (<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/ADO/>)
- Patent Office Cases (<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/APO/>)
- Trademark Office Cases (<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/ATMO/>)

Other

- Australian Intellectual Property Law Locus (<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~pxc/iplocus/index.html>)
- IP Australia (<http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/>)
- IP Guide from Baker McKenzie (http://www.bakerinfo.com/Publications/Documents/1069_tx.htm) from 1997

Austria

Laws

- Copyright Law (<http://www.jusline.at/juslineat/639118/urhga.html>) in German
- Trade Marks Law (<http://www.jusline.at/juslineat/668491/GMGa.html>) in German
- Trade Mark Protection Law (<http://www.jusline.at/juslineat/618409/MaSchGa.html>) in German
- Patent Law (<http://www.jusline.at/juslineat/960531/PatGa.html>) in German
- Design Protection Law (<http://www.jusline.at/juslineat/374338/MuSchGa.html>) in German
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>)

You can update by searching the Austrian Bundesgesetzblatt (<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/plweb/info/help/searchbgbl.html>) for the word "urheberrecht" (copyright) or "gebrauchsmuster" (design model) or "patent" (patent) in the "suchworte" field and entering the date of the last amendment of the copyright law after which you want to search. For example, some of the amendment to the patent law that come up are from [BGBl. I Nr. 175/1998](#) and from [BGBl.Nr. 181/1996](#)

Government Entities

- Austrian Patent Office (<http://www.patent.bmwa.gv.at/>)

Other

- IP Helpdesk Austria (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_en/p/at/p_001_en.asp)

Belarus

Laws

- The National Center for Legal Information of the Republic of Belarus (<http://ncpi.gov.by/>) provides laws in Russian.
- Law on Trademarks and Service Marks (http://www.belarus.net/softinfo/catal_la/100039.htm)

Belgium

Laws

- Copyright Law 1994 (<http://www.ufsia.ac.be/~estorme/auteurswet.html>) in Flemish
- Copyright and Patent Laws (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_fr/p/be/p_051_fr.asp) in French
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities

- Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industrial Property Office (http://mineco.fgov.be/organization_market/intellectual_property/patents/home_en.htm)
- Benelux Trademark Office (<http://www.bmb-bbm.org/>) and the Benelux Design Office (<http://www.bbtm-bbdm.org/>) and Jurisprudent (<http://www.bmb-bbm.org/fr/pages/arresten.html>) an overview of Jurisprudence of Benelux offices

Other

- IP Helpdesk Belgium (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_fr/p/be/p_001_fr.asp)

Bolivia

Laws

- IP Laws (http://www.sice.oas.org/int_prop/ipnale.asp#BOL) in English and Spanish

Bosnia and Herzogovina

Other

- Institute for Standardization, Metrology and Patents (http://www.bih.net.ba/~zsmp/welcome_e.htm) has information about some of the IP laws.

Brazil

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (<http://www.inpi.gov.br/>) in Portuguese
- Authorial Rights (<http://www.ecad.com.br/legislacao.htm>) in Portuguese
- IP Laws (http://www.sice.oas.org/int_prop/ipnale.asp#BRA) in Portuguese

Government Entities

- Instituto Nacional da Propriedade Industrial (<http://www.inpi.gov.br/>)

Other

- Intellectual Property in Brazil (<http://www.unikey.com.br/users/denis/>)

Bulgaria

Government Entities

- Bulgarian Patent Office (<http://www.online.bg/bpo/engl/Mainm.htm>) has extracts from the Bulgarian Patent Law (<http://www.online.bg/bpo/engl/extract.htm>) in English.

Canada

Laws

- IP Treaties Canada is a signatory to (<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/ip01076e.html>)
- Federal Laws in IP (<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/ip01077e.html>)
- Legislation: Cultural Development (includes copyright) (<http://www.pch.gc.ca/culture/legislation/english.htm>)
- Copyright Act (<http://insight.mcmaster.ca/org/efc/pages/law/canada/copyright.html>) and (<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/STABLE/EN/Laws/Chap/C/C-42.html>)
- Patent Act (<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/STABLE/EN/Laws/Chap/P/P-4.html>)
- Trademarks Act (<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/STABLE/EN/Laws/Chap/T/T-13.html>)
- Industrial Design Act (<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/STABLE/EN/Laws/Chap/I/I-9.html>)
- IP Laws (http://www.sice.oas.org/int_prop/ipnale.asp#CAN) in English and French
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Regulations

- Copyright Act Regulations (<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/FTP/EN/Regs/Chap/C/C-42/index.html>) and (http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_mrksv/cipo/cp/cp_reg-e.html)
- Patent Act Regulations (<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/FTP/EN/Regs/Chap/P/P-4/index.html>) and (http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_mrksv/cipo/patents/pat-rule.pdf)
- Trademarks Act Regulations (<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/FTP/EN/Regs/Chap/T/T-13/index.html>)
- Industrial Design Act Regulations (<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/FTP/EN/Regs/Chap/I/I-9/index.html>)

Government Entities

- Canadian Intellectual Property Office (<http://opic.gc.ca/>)
- Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency (<http://www.cancopy.com/>)
- Public Lending Right Commission (<http://www.canadacouncil.ca/archival/plr-dpp/page.htm>)

Other

- Patent Database (<http://patents1.ic.gc.ca/intro-e.html>)
- Trademark Database (http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_cons/trade-marks/engdoc/cover.html)
- Aspects of Public Policy Regarding Crown Copyright in the Digital Age (<http://www.droit.umontreal.ca/crdp/en/equipes/technologie/conferences/dac/stanbury/stanbury.html>)

Chile

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (http://www.sice.oas.org/int_prop/ipnale.asp#CHL) in Spanish

Columbia

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (http://www.sice.oas.org/int_prop/ipnale.asp#COL) in English and Spanish

Croatia

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (<http://jagor.srce.hr/patent/eng/nn/index.html>) in English

Government Entities

- State Intellectual Property Office (<http://jagor.srce.hr/patent/>). There is also a list of those bilateral and multilateral treaties to which Croatia is a party.

Cuba

Government Entities

- Centro Nacional de Derecho de Autor (<http://www.cult.cu/cenda/indice.html>)
- Oficina Cubana de la Propiedad Industrial (<http://www3.cuba.cu/OCPI/>)

Cyprus

Laws

- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Czech Republic

Laws

- Laws and decrees (<http://www.upv.cz/english/e-prvnp.htm>) related to Intellectual Property in English.
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities

- Czech Republic (<http://www.upv.cz/english/index.html>) has an Industrial Property Office (but searching is in Czech).

Denmark

Laws

- Trademark Act (http://www.ipb.dk/US/Trademarks/danish_trademark_act.htm) in English

- Online Legislation from the Ministry of Culture (http://www.kum.dk/kum.asp?lang=2&color=3&file=./uk/3_STD_706.asp) in English
- Government Retsinformation (<http://www.retsinfo.dk/>) includes Lovtidende A (session laws and regulations) for 1995-present. If you select any year an Index appears: go to "Immaterialret" (which covers IP law) and you will find a list of laws which links to the full-text, that have to do with IP. This is a very well organized website, but you must know Danish.
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Caselaw

- Summaries of trademark decisions of Danish Supreme Court (http://www.ipb.dk/US/Trademarks/danish_trademark_decisions.htm) last amended in May 23, 1997

Government Entities

- Patent Office (<http://www.dkpto.dk/>)
- Ministry of Culture

Other

- IP Helpdesk Denmark (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_en/p/dk/p_001_en.asp)

Ecuador

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (http://www.sice.oas.org/int_prop/ipnale.asp#ECU) in English and Spanish

England

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_en/p/uk/p_051_en.asp)
- English Statutes are available on Lexis (ENGGEN:STAT) and Westlaw
- Trade Marks Act 1938 (<http://members.tripod.com/~EECO/tmact38.htm>)
- Trade Marks Act 1994 (<http://members.tripod.com/~EECO/menu.htm>) and (<http://members.tripod.com/~EECO/tmrule94.htm>)
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Regulations

- Statutory Instruments, or the equivalent of regulations, are available on Lexis (ENGGEN:SI) and Westlaw
- Can search the Statutory Instruments for the last few years (<http://www.hmso.gov.uk/stat.htm>) for the words "patents", "trade marks" and "copyright" with results. Search at bottom of the page.

Caselaw

- Patents Court (<http://www.courtservice.gov.uk/patprdir.htm>)
- Legal decisions from the Patent Office (<http://www.patent.gov.uk/decisions/index.html>)
- English Cases on Lexis and Westlaw

Government Entities

- Patent Office (<http://www.patent.gov.uk/>) has databases (<http://www.patent.gov.uk/dbservices/index.html>) and other information like a list of copyright legislation (<http://www.patent.gov.uk/dpolicy/prinlegi.html>)

Other

- IP Helpdesk England (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_en/p/uk/p_001_en.asp)

Finland

Laws

- Patent Act (<http://www.prh.fi/pa/patact.html>) and Patents Decree (<http://www.prh.fi/pa/patdecre.html>) and the Utility Model Act (<http://www.prh.fi/hm/hmlakien.html>) and Utility Model Decree (<http://www.prh.fi/hm/hmlakien.html>) all in English
- Intellectual Property Laws(http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_en/p/fi/p_051_en.asp) in English
- Patent Decree (and updating legislation) (<http://finlex.edita.fi/cgi-bin/kortti/19800669000+>) in Finnish
- Law on Collective Marks (<http://finlex.edita.fi/cgi-bin/kortti/19800795000+>) in Finnish
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entity

- National Board of Patents and Registration (<http://www.prh.fi/>)
- Ministry of Education (<http://www.minedu.fi/minedu/copyright/index.html>)

France

Laws

- The Institute of Intellectual Property Research has the Code of Intellectual Property, regulations and a history of modifications (<http://www.ccip.fr/irpi/code-propriete/index.html>) in French. There are other sources for the Code of Intellectual Property (<http://www.celog.fr/cpi/>) and (<http://www.rabenou.org/cpil.html>) in French. The Code is also available at the official Legifrance website (<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/citoyen/index.ow>): go to codes and then to "Code de la Propriete Intellectuelle" for legislation and regulations.
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Caselaw

- Database of French Patent law decisions (<http://ballot-schmit.com/jpfrance/pagepre.htm>)

Government Entities

- National Institute of Industrial Property (<http://www.inpi.fr/>)
- Ministry of Culture (<http://www.culture.gouv.fr/>)

Other

- IP Helpdesk France (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_fr/p/fr/p_001_fr.asp)

Georgia

Government Entities

- Industrial Property Organization (<http://www.global-erty.net/saqpatenti/>)

Germany

Laws

- Germany Copyright Law (<http://iecl.iuscomp.org/gla/statutes/UrhG.htm>) in English
- German Patent Law (<http://www.patentgesetz.de/>) in German
- German Copyright Law (<http://www.compuserve.de/recht/gesetze/urhg/index.html>) in German
- German IP laws (<http://transpatent.com/gesetze/volltext.htm>) in German
- German Trademark Law (<http://www.netlaw.de/gesetze/marken.htm>) in German
- Intellectual Property Laws (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_en/p/de/p_051_en.asp) in German
- German industrial property, copyright, and antitrust laws: legal texts with introduction /Friedrich-Karl Beier, Gerhard Schrickler, and Wolfgang Fikentscher. 3rd rev. (Weinheim ;New York :VCH,c1996-)
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities

- German Patent and Trademark Office (<http://www.deutsches-patentamt.de/>)

Greece

Laws

- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities

- Hellenic Industrial Property Organization (<http://www.obi.gr/mainen.htm>)

Other

- IP Helpdesk Greece (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_en/p/gr/p_001_en.asp)

Guatemala

Other

- General Framework of Intellectual Property Law in Guatemala (<http://www.natlaw.com/guatemala/spguip1.htm>)

Hong Kong (see [People's Republic of China](#))

Hungary

Laws

- Industrial Property Legislation (<http://www.hpo.hu/English/ipjvtv/eindex.html>) in English
- Lexis has English translations of Hungarian Laws (INTLAW:HULAW)
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities

- Patent Office (<http://www.hpo.hu/English/>)

Iceland

Laws

- Industrial property laws (<http://www.els.stjr.is/vefur.nsf/pages/default.html>) in English
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities

- Iceland Patent Office (<http://www.els.stjr.is/vefur.nsf/pages/default.html>) includes

India

Law

- The government has posted a searchable database of laws (<http://caselaw.delhi.nic.in/incodis/>) and you may search for "copyright" which yields the Copyright Act of 1957, search for "patents" for Patent Act of 1970 ("patent" gets nothing), and "trade marks" yields the Trade Marks Act of 1940.

Indonesia

Laws

- Intellectual Property Legislation (<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Ithaca/1955/english.html>) in English

Other

- News, a forum and a bibliography (<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Ithaca/1955/english.html>)
- Indonesian intellectual property law (C. Kaehlig, Jakarta, Indonesia: Tatanusa, 1993-)

Ireland

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_en/p/ie/p_051_en.asp) in English
- Browse the Acts of Oireachtas (<http://www.irlgov.ie/ag/>) using the Alphabetical Table of Statutes for the Copyrights Act 1963, Patents Acts 1964 and 1992, and Trade Marks Act 1996.
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities

- Patent Office (<http://www.european-patent-office.org/ie/index.htm>)

Other

- Intellectual property law in Ireland /by Robert Clark and Shane Smyth. (Dublin :Butterworths,c1997).
- IP Helpdesk Ireland (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_en/p/ie/p_001_en.asp)

Israel

Other

- Information about IP laws from Reinhold Cohn & Partners (<http://www.cohnpatents.co.il/propertylaw.html>)

Italy

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (<http://www.patnet.it/scripts/legislazione.asp>) in Italian
- Copyright Laws (<http://www.math.unipd.it/~derobbio/dd/copyr06.htm>) in Italian
- Copyright Law (<http://www.anti.it/41lex633.htm>) in Italian
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English
- Trade Mark Law (http://www.interpatent.com/tm_e.html) in English

Government Entities

- Italian Patent and Trademark Office (<http://www.european-patent-office.org/it/>)

Other

- IP Helpdesk Italy (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_en/p/it/p_001_en.asp)

Japan

Laws

- Copyright Law (http://www.cric.or.jp/cric_e/ecolj/index.html) in English
- Patent Law (<http://www.jpo-miti.go.jp/shoukaie/patent.htm>) in English
- Utility Model Law (<http://www.jpo-miti.go.jp/shoukaie/utility.htm>) in English
- Design Law (<http://www.jpo-miti.go.jp/shoukaie/design.htm>) in English
- Trade Mark Law (<http://www.jpo-miti.go.jp/shoukaie/shohyo.htm>) in English
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities and Organizations

- Japanese Patent Office (<http://www.jpo-miti.go.jp/>)
- Japanese Patent Information Organization (<http://www.japio.or.jp/welcome2.html>)
- Copyright Research and Information Center (http://www.cric.or.jp/cric_e/)

Other

- IP Guide from Baker McKensie (http://www.bakerinfo.com/Publications/Documents/191_tx.htm) 1997
- IP links in Japan (<http://www.law.tohoku.ac.jp/intproplaw.html#JIP>)
- Japanese IP Resources (<http://okuyama.com/resources.html>)

Jordan

Laws

- Trade Mark Law (http://www.mit.gov.jo/tms_lawe.htm) in English
- Patent and Design Law (http://www.mit.gov.jo/pai_lawe.htm) in English

Government Entities

- Ministry of Trade and Industry (http://wwwmit.gov.jo/index_e.htm)

Korea (See [South Korea](#))

Lichtenstein

Law

- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Lithuania

Laws

- Patent laws and regulations (<http://www.is.lt/vpb/engl/>) in English

Government Entities

- State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania (<http://www.is.lt/vpb/engl/>)

Luxembourg

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_fr/p/lu/p_051_fr.asp) in French
- Intellectual Property Laws (<http://www.etat.lu/ECO/spi/legis/main.htm>) in French
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities

- Service de la Propriete Intellectuelle (<http://www.etat.lu/ECO/spi/index.htm>)
- Benelux Trademark Office (<http://www.bmb-bbm.org/>) and the Benelux Design Office (<http://www.bbtm-bbdm.org/>) and Jurisprudent (<http://www.bmb-bbm.org/fr/pages/arresten.html>) jurisprudence of Benelux Offices.

Macedonia

Laws

- Selected IP laws (<http://www.ippo.gov.mk/download.html>) in English

Government Entities

- Intellectual Property Protection Office (<http://www.ippo.gov.mk/>)

Malaysia

Laws

- Copyright (Amendment) Act of 1997 (<http://www.geocities.com/Tokyo/9239/copyrgt.html>)

Caselaw

- Malayan Law Journal ([MALAY;MALLJ](#)) and Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei Cases ([MALAY;SMBCAS](#)) on Lexis includes cases on the IP laws of Malaysia.

Government Entities

- Intellectual Property Division of the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs

Middle East

- Trademark Laws of the Middle East (description: (<http://www.geocities.com/CapitalHill/8009/trademenu.htm>))

Mexico

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (http://www.sice.oas.org/int_prop/ipnale.asp#MEX) in Spanish
- La Ley del Derecho de Autor (<http://www.cddhcu.gob.mx/leyinfo/127/index.htm>) in Spanish
- Ley de la Propiedad Industrial (<http://www.cddhcu.gob.mx/leyinfo/54/index.htm>) in Spanish

Government Entities

- Instituto Mexicano de la Propiedad Industrial (<http://www.impi.gob.mx/fingle.htm>)

Netherlands

Laws

- Copyright Law 1912 (<http://www.buma.nl/algemeen/auteurswet.htm>) in Dutch
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities

- Netherlands Industrial Property Office (<http://www.bie.nl/engels/index.htm>)
- Benelux Trademark Office (<http://www.bmb-bbm.org/>) and the Benelux Design Office (<http://www.bbtm-bbdm.org/>) and Jurisprudent (<http://www.bmb-bbm.org/fr/pages/arresten.html>)

Other

- IP Helpdesk Netherlands (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_en/p/nl/p_001_en.asp)

New Zealand

Laws

- Copyright Act of 1962 (<http://rangi.knowledge-basket.co.nz/gpacts/reprint/text/1962/an/033.html>)
- Copyright Act of 1994 (<http://rangi.knowledge-basket.co.nz/gpacts/public/text/1994/an/143.html>)
- There are also various amendments to the Copyright Acts at (http://rangi.knowledge-basket.co.nz/gpacts/maps/acts_c.html)

- Patents Act of 1953 (<http://rangi.knowledge-basket.co.nz/gpacts/reprint/text/1953/an/064.html>)
- There are also various amendments to the Patents Act at (http://rangi.knowledge-basket.co.nz/gpacts/maps/acts_p.html)
- Trade Marks Act 1953 (<http://rangi.knowledge-basket.co.nz/gpacts/reprint/text/1953/an/066.html>)
- There are various amendments to the Trade Marks Act (http://rangi.knowledge-basket.co.nz/gpacts/maps/acts_t.html)
- Lexis contains the Laws of New Zealand (Legal Encyclopedia) (NZ:LONTOC or LONZ)
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities

- Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (<http://www.iponz.govt.nz/search/cad/dbssiten.main>) has databases for patents and trademarks

Norway

Laws

- Copyright Law (<http://www.lovddata.no/all/nl-19610512-002.html>) in Norwegian
- Copyright Law (<http://www.ub.uio.no/ujur/ulovdata/lov-19610512-002-eng.doc>) in English
- Patent Law (<http://www.lovddata.no/all/nl-19671215-009.html>) in Norwegian
- Trade Mark Law (<http://www.lovddata.no/all/nl-19610303-005.html>) in Norwegian
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Pakistan

Laws

- Patent and Trademarks Acts (<http://www.fplc.edu/ipmall/pakintro.htm>)

Panama

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (http://www.sice.oas.org/int_prop/ipnale.asp#PAN) in Spanish

Peru

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (http://www.sice.oas.org/int_prop/ipnale.asp#PER) in English and Spanish

Government Entities

- Instituto Nacional de Defensa de la Competencia y de la Protección de la Propiedad Intelectual (<http://www.indecopi.gob.pe/>)

People's Republic of China

Laws

- Patent, Trademark and Copyright Laws (<http://www.cpo.cn.net/pe3.htm>) in English
- Trademark Law (<http://www.chinatoday.com/law/a02.htm>)

- Copyright Laws in Chinese (http://www.enstar.net/china/law/legal_reference.htm)
- Intellectual Property Laws (<http://www.cpo.cn.net/english/law.htm>) in English (scroll down to "Intellectual Property Laws" and click on link)
- PRC Laws on Lexis ([ASIAPC;CHINAL](#))

For Hong Kong go to the Bilingual Legal System (<http://www.justice.gov.hk/Home.htm>) and you will find a Trade Marks Ordinance Chap 43, a Copyright Ordinance Chap 528, and a Patent Ordinance Chap. 514.

For draft legislation (http://info.gov.hk/ipd/new_law.html)

Government Entities

- State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (<http://www.cpo.cn.net/>)
- Hong Kong Intellectual Property Department (<http://info.gov.hk/ipd/>)
- Procedures for Registration of marks (<http://www.enstarsw.co.uk/enstar/china/law/reference/register.htm>)

Other

- Discussion of IP laws of China from Charles D. Paglee (<http://www.qis.net/chinalaw/intel1.htm>)
- Primer on Chinese Patent Law from Robert G. Oake (<http://www.oake.com/primer.htm>)
- About IP Protection (http://pluto.houston.com.hk/hkgipd/ind_stdy.html)

Philippines

Laws

- Intellectual Property Code (<http://www.chanrobles.com/legal7ipcp.htm>)
- Intellectual Property Rules and Regulations (<http://www.chanrobles.com/legal7ipcprules.htm>)
- Intellectual Property Laws and Rules and Regulations (<http://www.dti.gov.ph/ipo/ipolaws.htm>)

Government Entities

- Intellectual Property Office (<http://www.dti.gov.ph>)

Other

- IP Guide from Baker McKenzie (http://www.bakerinfo.com/Publications/Documents/194_tx.htm) 1994
- Chan & Robles Intellectual Property Resources (<http://www.chanrobles.com/legal7.htm>)

Poland

Laws

- Copyright Code (<http://www.direitos.net/coddir/indice.htm>) in Portuguese

Government Entities

- Patent Office (<http://up.ci.uw.edu.pl/eng/00.html>) includes a list of laws in force

Portugal

Laws

- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities

- Instituto do Propriedade Industrial (<http://www.inpi.pt/>)

Other

- IP Helpdesk Portugal (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_en/p/pt/p_001_en.asp)

Romania

Laws

- Laws on industrial property (<http://www.osim.ro/indlegn.htm>) in Italian
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities

- State Office of Inventions and Trademarks (<http://www.osim.ro/>)

Russia

Laws

- Legislation on Trademarks (<http://www.mospatent.ru/laws.htm>) in English

Singapore

Laws

- Singapore Laws on Lexis ([SING;SINGST](http://www.lexis.com/singapore)) in English

Government Entities

- Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (<http://www.gov.sg/molaw/ipos/>) includes trademark decisions (<http://www.gov.sg/molaw/ipos/ld.html>) and a list of legislation on patents (<http://www.gov.sg/molaw/ipos/Patents1.html#2>), trademarks (<http://www.gov.sg/molaw/ipos/TMfaqlegis.html>), and mention of copyright legislation (<http://www.gov.sg/molaw/ipos/Copyright.html#7>)

Other

- Patent law (<http://www.ladas.com:80/singaporenews.html>)
- Patents (<http://www.gov.sg/molaw/rtmp/Patents.html>)
- Trademarks (<http://www.gov.sg/molaw/rtmp/TradeMnew.html>)
- *The trade marks law*/ Goh, Tian Wah (Singapore : Rank Books, 1991)
- Protection of Service Marks as a Trademark (1009 March 1989) (<http://www.hg.org/1009.txt>)

Slovak Republic

Laws

- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Slovenia

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (http://www.sipo.mzt.si/DOK_ENG.htm) in English
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities

- Slovenian Intellectual Property Office (<http://www.sipo.mzt.si/GLAVAGB.htm>)

South Africa

Laws

- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English
- Intellectual Property Amendment Act (<http://www.parliament.gov.za/acts/1997/act38.pdf>)

Spain

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_en/p/es/p_051_en.asp) in English and Spanish
- Industrial Property Legislation (<http://www.oepm.es/internet/legisla.htm>) in Spanish
- Historical Legislation on IP (<http://www.adi.uam.es/~psaiz/normas/normaindex.htm>) in Spanish
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities

- Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (<http://www.oepm.es/>) includes Boletín Oficial de la Propiedad Industrial (<http://www.oepm.es/internet/bopi/bopi.htm>)
- Ministry of Education and Culture (<http://www.mec.es/>)

Other

- IP Helpdesk Spain (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_en/p/es/p_001_en.as)

South Korea

Laws

- Industrial property laws (<http://www.kipo.go.kr/ehtml/eInfIndex08.html>) in English

Government Entities

- Korean Industrial Property Office (<http://www.kipo.go.kr/index.html>)

Sweden

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/t_en/p/se/p_051_en.asp) in English
- Patent Laws in Swedish (http://www.prv.se/patent/content.asp?LoadPage=06_patentlagen.html)
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities

- Patent Office (<http://www.prv.se/>)
- Ministry of Culture (<http://kultur.regeringen.se/index.htm>)

Switzerland

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (<http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/23.html#23>) in German, Italian and French
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Government Entities

- Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property

Thailand

Laws

- Laws and Regulations (<http://www.dbe.moc.go.th/DIP/eng/laws.html>)
- Industrial Product Standards Act (<http://203.152.23.33/law/text/lawpub/er022/text.htm>)

Government Entities

- Department of Intellectual Property (<http://www.dbe.moc.go.th/DIP/index.html>)

Other

- IP Guide Baker McKenzie (http://www.bakerinfo.com/Publications/Documents/197_tx.htm) 1994
- Intellectual Property (1284 October-December 1993) (<http://www.hg.org/1284.txt>)

Taiwan

Laws

- Patent Law (http://www.tiplo.com.tw/elaw_pt.htm) in English
- Trade Mark Law (http://www.tiplo.com.tw/elaw_tmlaw.htm) in English

Government Entities

- Intellectual Property Office (<http://www.moeaipo.gov.tw/>)

Other

- IP Guide Baker McKenzie (http://www.bakerinfo.com/Publications/Documents/196_tx.htm) 1994
- <http://www.moi.gov.tw/W3/outline/english/ec7.htm>

- Intellectual Property Protection in Taiwan (<http://stlc.iii.org.tw/earticles/NBS-R3.htm>)

Turkey

Laws

- IP Laws (<http://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/english.tpi.htm>) in downloadable format

Government Entities

- Turkish Patent Office (<http://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/>)

Ukraine

Government Entities

- State Patent Office of the Ukraine (<http://www.spou.kiev.us:8101/>)
- Overview of Laws (<http://www.spou.kiev.us:8101/eng/emenu2.html>)

United Kingdom (see [England](#))

United States

Laws

- Copyright Law (<http://www.loc.gov/copyright/title17/>)
- Copyright Recent Legislation (<http://www.loc.gov/copyright/legislation/>)
- Patent Law (<http://www.law.cornell.edu/topics/patent.html>)
- Trademark Law (<http://www.law.cornell.edu/topics/trademark.html>)
- Intellectual Property Laws (http://www.sice.oas.org/int_prop/ipnale.asp#USA) in English
- See the CLEA database (<http://clea.wipo.int/>) in English

Regulations

- Copyright Regulations (<http://www.loc.gov/copyright/fedreg/>)
- Federal Register Notices (<http://www.uspto.gov/web/menu/current.html>) from Patent and Trademark Office

Government Entities

- Patent and Trademark Office (<http://www.uspto.gov/>) with decisions of the Patent and Trademark Boards (<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/foia/readroom.htm>)
- Copyright Office (<http://lcweb.loc.gov/copyright/>)

Other

- Special 301 Annual Review (<http://www.ustr.gov/releases/1998/05/98-44.pdf>)
- Contacts for IP related info (<http://www.usia.gov/products/pubs/intelprp/sources.htm>)

Uruguay

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (http://www.sice.oas.org/int_prop/ipnale.asp#URU) in Spanish

Venezuela

Laws

- Intellectual Property Laws (http://www.sice.oas.org/int_prop/ipnale.asp#VEN) in English and Spanish

Vietnam

Laws

- Vietnamese Official Gazette is available on Westlaw ([VIETNMOG](#)) in English and can be searched full-text
- Industrial Property Laws (<http://www.fpt.vn/adv/noip/Chapter-3/Index.htm>) in English
- Industrial Property System (<http://www.fpt.vn/adv/noip/>) in English

Other

- Vietnam Law and Legal Forum on Westlaw ([VIETNMLLF](#))
- Intellectual property & technology transfer in Vietnam (Brahm, Laurence J. Quarry Bay, Hong Kong : Longman, c1994)
- Trademark law in Indochina : practice and procedures in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos New York, N.Y. : International Trademark Association, 1994.

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