Finding legal information in the UP Law Library

Please begin with the Law Library Quick links webpage, which is shown above - http://www.library.up.ac.za/law/quick.htm

Law Library Quick Links:

The links on this page are the most used databases (e.g. Jutastat; LexisNexis Butterworths, Sabinet, etc.).

Opening the Information Resources, from the list on the left, will give access to many more databases and websites. In this case one should choose a webpage – Case Law; Legislation, etc.

In general one should start with books and then move to legislation, case law (judgments) and lastly, journal articles. In this document we therefore take this 4 Step approach.
Finding legal information in a law library

Step 1.

Take a legal topic, for example: “domestic partnerships” or “unmarried fathers” and follow this 4 step approach

Step 1. First find books that deal with this topic

Step 2. Check the Acts – called Legislation or Statutes for your topic

Step 3. Consult the case law – reported judgements from the courts

Step 4. Find journal articles dealing with the topic

See Screenshots: 1.1 etc, below. Use: Keywords e.g. “domestic partnerships” 1.1 - 1.3; Finding books by using Titles and Author. Take note of dates and publishers. Also take note of “Editions and Formats” - use example of Author search: “Frans Viljoen”. 1.4 -1.5

Find these either in the Library catalogue or from the Jutastat and LexisNexis internet material. Screenshots below - 1.6 and 1.7

Examples: Family Law Service; Commentary on the Children’s Act; Henochsberg; SAICA Handbook; Civil Procedure in the Magistrate’s Court; Silke on SA Income Tax, etc.

Use the Catalogue to find textbooks and e-books. Go to “Advanced search”

Use looseleaf books – either hardcopy versions or the online version

Find the Call number in the library record. Use this to find the book on the shelf.

Search for ‘domestic partnerships’

Use LAWSA – Law of South Africa - set of encyclopedias. The contents cover all topics.

Use either the encyclopedia books on the shelves or the online material in LexisNexis Reference Works. NB - Tick both Current Law and Law of South Africa. Screenshots below - 1.8
Screenshot 1.1 Catalogue – Advanced search - Search for the phrase “domestic partnerships”
1.2 Results of the above search for “domestic partnerships”:

245 results
1.3 Details of the first book from the list above. Note that you need to open “Description”. See the Call number: 346.150968 South. Use the Call number to find the book on the shelf.
1.4 Example of an **Author** search using “Frans Viljoen”
1.5 Results of the Author (Frans Viljoen) search. One should open Editions and Formats to find the latest edition of this book.
1.6 LexisNexis - Looseleaf and other books available in fulltext. Open up the subject areas as shown below. *Henochsberg on the Companies Act 71 of 2008* is the example displayed. Over 70 books available through this website.
1.7 Jutastat – examples of looseleaf and other books available fulltext online here. The example displayed is the *Commentary on the Children’s Act*. 

Example of a fulltext book: Workplace Law
1.8 LexisNexis: LAWSA Encyclopedia (Law of South Africa) Available online in fulltext. See below:

Tick "Law of South Africa" and also tick "Current Law" – which updates LAWSA

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LAWSA Vol 4(1) on Companies