South African law report series: background

- Most SA law report series are published commercially by Juta and LexisNexis (formerly Butterworths)
- Prior to 1947, law reports were published separately by provincial division and/or name of judge resulting in a large range of law report series all with different citation styles
- In 1947 these numerous series were consolidated into one main series known as the South African Law Reports with a standardized citation format
- Several minor series of law reports also existed
- Since the early 1990’s several specialist law report series such as the South African Criminal Reports, Labour Law reports and Constitutional Law reports have been created
- The Law libraries contain printed sets of the pre- and post-1947 SALR and most other major series. Increasingly, many law report series have been made available electronically.
- All the law report series are well indexed providing access to law reports over cumulative time periods by citation, subject, case history – cases that have been cited subsequently (case annotations or noter up) – by statute, words and phrases and court rules.
- Titles of law report series are usually represented by acronyms eg BCLR.

Use the List of SA law report series given at the end of this guide for a complete list of all law report series, their dates of existence and title acronyms.

Finding South African electronic law reports

- The publishers Juta and LexisNexis (South Africa) only provide access to their own publications (LexisNexis also has the rights to provide access to the All England Law Reports (AER)). There is no single database for all South African law report series
- The Library provides access to the Juta and LexisNexis electronic law report series
- For access, click on the above highlighted links, or, go to the Library’s website: http://library.ukzn.ac.za; from the Electronic resources link click on Databases A-Z and click on the desired database.

The company LexisNexis also provides a British product called Lexis Library UK. Be careful to choose the right option.
LexisNexis electronic law report series

Butterworths Arbitration Award Reports (BAAR): 1998+
Butterworths Constitutional Law Reports (BCLR): 1994+
Competition Law Reports (Comp LR): 1999+
Judgments Online (JOL) (electronic only): 1997+
Pensions Law Reports (PLR): 1999+
South African Tax Cases Reports (SATC): 1921+

Because of its international connections, LexisNexis also provides access to the English set of law reports called the All England Law Reports (All ER)

Juta electronic law report series

1) Access via Juta e publications from the Library’s databases list
   South African Appellate Division Reports: 1910+
   South African Criminal Reports (SACR): 1990+
   South African Law Reports (SA or SALR): 1947+

2) Juta’s Unreported Judgments series is an internet service so needs to be accessed separately from the above collection. Click on the highlighted link above, or, from UKZN Library’s website: http://library.ukzn.ac.za – from the Electronic Resources option click on Databases A-Z – select Juta’s Unreported Judgments and click on this link. (A user ID and password are required at the moment – ask Law Library staff).

Juta e Publications

- From the Library’s website, select the Databases option and Click on Jutastat e publications
- The first page of Jutastat is divided into 2 columns, with the contents listed in the left hand side column. The right hand section displays search results and documents
• + signs next to the contents items mean more layers of information about the particular items.

There are 3 ways of finding any publications on Jutastat:

A. Choose the required law report series from the left hand side contents column of the first screen and select further options for searching by clicking on the + signs.

The printed indexes are available electronically

OR

B. From the right hand side of the page, click on the drop down arrow next to ‘Choose search form’ and click on the option titled ‘law reports search’. A search form allows you to find a case by entering the case name, citation, court or judge or keywords and phrases from the flynotes and headnotes.

Below is an example of the search form for a case search.
Click on the arrow to the right of ‘Choose search form’ and click on the ‘Advanced search’ option from the drop down menu. ‘Advanced search’ particularly caters for keyword and topic searching and, as indicated in the screen below, blank boxes appear next to the contents items so you can choose to search either a single or multiple publications simultaneously. Click in the boxes to mark publications to search in.

Choose publications to search by ticking in the relevant boxes

Put in keywords, topics or case names etc

Advanced Search

NOTE: Select the publications you wish to search by checking the boxes

If you do not select a publication/s, searching will occur

Ranked or Unranked Results

When you perform a rank query, search results can be sorted by rank order. The highest rank is the first match. When you perform an unrank query, the search results are ordered by relevance.

Search for documents...

containing all these words:

children

and not containing any of these words:

and containing one or more of these words:

and containing this exact phrase:

corporal punishment

and containing these words near each other:
The results screen will indicate the number of items, what they are and in which publication within the database they are to be found. Click on a needed item to retrieve the full text.

Number and title of items retrieved

Location within specific Juta e publications

Click on an item to retrieve the full text. Any document can be printed, exported and “block and pasted” into Word.
LexisNexis electronic publications

- From the Library's website, choose databases and click on the LexisNexis Butterworths (South Africa) option.
- The first page of LexisNexis Butterworths is divided into 2 columns, with the contents listed in the left hand side column.
- There are 3 ways of finding cases:
  A. Choose the required law report series from the contents column by clicking on the + sign next to the Law Reports option.
  B. Click on the downwards arrow to the right of the 'Choose Search Form' option and select 'Focus Search' OR click on the 'Focus Search' option on the bottom right hand side of the screen.

The focus search screen allows you to search in particular publications. Choose Law reports.

- When using the Focus Search route, a screen is presented with a search form that allows you to search for cases by name, citation, date, and by topic or keyword.
On the right hand side of the screen, all available law report series on LexisNexis Butterworths (South Africa) are given. All are ticked. To choose a particular law report series, or several, click in the first law report series box to clear the ticks and then tick in the required boxes.

The results list provides the title and citation of each case; its location in terms of the law report series and then excerpts from the case, to provide the context for your search terms.

All links are presented in Green; click on a green option in order to obtain the full text.

Like, Juta e publications, cases can be printed, 'blocked and pasted' into Word, as well as emailed.

The third option for searching, C, is ‘Advanced Search’. From the ‘Choose Search’ Form option, click on ‘Advanced Search’. This will take you to a search form that allows you to search by topic or keyword in particular. When using the ‘Advanced Search’ option, blank
boxes appear next to each item in the Contents column. This is to allow you to tick in a box or several boxes to search across a range of publications simultaneously. Thus you could search on the topic "unfair dismissal" and choose to search in the statutes; labour law reports and any text books at the same time.
SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REPORT SERIES WITH ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS


Examples of case references:

a) pre 1947:  *Green v Fitzgerald* 1914 AD 88 = (1914 = year; AD = Appellate Div.; 88 = page)
   *R v Masondo* 1941 NPD 373 = (1941 = year; NPD = Natal Prov. Div.; 373 = page)


c) specialist: *S v H* 1993 (2) SACR 541 (C) = (1993 (2) SACR = year and vol no. of SA Criminal Reports)

**AD (1910-1946)**  
Appellate Division

**All SA (1828-1946; 1947-1955; 1996+)**  
All South African Law Reports - Continues Prentice Hall  
Weekly Service: Digests of Reports of all Courts covered by the SA Law Reports and others

**BAAR (1998+)**  
Butterworths Arbitration Awards Reports

**BCLR (1994+)**  
Butterworths Constitutional Law Reports

**BLLR (1994+)**  
Butterworths Labour Law Reports

**Buch (or B) (1868-9; 1873-9)**  
Buchanan’s Reports. Cape Supreme Court Reports  
Buch. A C (or BAC) (1880-6; Buchanan’s Appeal Cases. Cape Appeal Court Reports 1904-9)

**Comp LR (1999+)**  
Competition Law Reports

**CPD (1910-1946)**  
Cape Provincial Division

**CTR (1891-1910)**  
Cape Times Reports. Cape Supreme Court

**ED/EDC (1880-7; 1891-1909)**  
Eastern Districts Courts of the Cape of Good Hope. Vols 1-5: 1880-7; Vol 6-19: 1891-1905

**EDL (1910-1946)**  
Eastern Districts Local Division

**FND (1860-7)**  
Finnemore’s notes and digest of decisions of Natal Supreme Court

**Foord (1880)**  
Foord’s Reports. Cape Supreme Court Reports. 1 vol; bound with Buchanan

**GWL (1910-1946)**  
Griqualand West Local Division Reports

**Gregorowski (1883-7)**  
Gregorowski’s Reports. Orange Free State. 1 vol

**HCG (1882-1910)**  
High Court of Griqualand Reports

**Hertzog (1893)**  
Hertzog’s Reports of the High Court of SA Republic. Sometimes referred to as SAR

**ILJ (1980+)**  
Industrial Law Journal and Cases

**JDR (2002-2008)**  
Juta’s Daily Law Reports (continued by Juta’s unreported judgments)

**JDR (1916-25)**  
Juta’s Daily Reporter. Cape Provincial Division

**JOL (1997)**  
Judgements on line law report service (Lexis’s unreported judgments)
JS (? Pre 1947?) Dept of Justice monthly reports
JUJ (2001+) Juta’s Unreported Judgments (replaces Juta’s Daily Law Reports)
JWD (1927-1949) Juta’s Weekly Digest
JWR (1912-15) Juta’s Weekly Reports. Cape Provincial Division

Kotze (1877-81) Kotze’s Reports. High Court of Transvaal
LLR (1909-10) Leader Law Reports. Transvaal Supreme Court
Menz (1828-9) Menzie’s reports. Cape Supreme Court Reports. 2 vols.

NAC/NHC (1894-1969) Native Appeal/High Court Reports.
NLR (1867-1932) Natal Law Reports
NPD (1933-1946) Natal Provincial Division

OFS (1874-83) Orange Free State High Court
ORC (1903-09) Orange River Colony reports
OPD (1910-1946) Orange Free State Provincial Division
Off. Rep. (OR) (1894-8) Official Reports of the High Court of South Africa

PLR (1999+) Pension Law Reports
PH (1923-1995) Prentice Hall Weekly Legal Service: Digests of Reports from the SA Law
Reports and others. Continued by: All SA Law Reports
Phipson (1858-9) Phipson’s Reports. Natal. 1 bound vol

R & N (1956-64) Rhodesia and Nyasaland Law Reports
Roscoe (1861-1875) Roscoe’s Reports. Cape Supreme Court Reports. 1 vol

SA (1947+) South African Law Reports (all provinces). 4 vols/year
SACR (1990+) South African Criminal Law Reports
SAR (1881-1892) South African High Court Reports. 2 vols
SATC (1921+) South African Tax Cases Reports
SC (1880-1910) Cape Supreme Court Reports
SR (1899; 1911-55) Southern Rhodesian High Court Reports
SWA (1920-1945) South West Africa (Namibia) High Court Reports
Searle (1850-1867) Searle’s Reports. Cape Supreme Court

TH (1902-1909) Witwatersrand (Transvaal) High Court
TPD (1910-1946) Transvaal Provincial Division
TS (1902-1909) Transvaal Supreme Court

Watermeyer (1857) Watermeyer Reports. Cape. Bound in with Searle’s Reports
WLD (1910-1946) Witwatersrand (Transvaal) Local Division

Law report series that are still ongoing

All SA Law Reports
Butterworths Arbitration Awards Reports
Butterworths Constitutional Law Reports
Butterworths Labour Law Reports
Competition Law Reports
Judgments Online
Jutas Unreported Judgments (replaces Juta Daily Law Reports)
Pensions Law Reports
South African Criminal Law Reports
South African Law Reports
South African Tax Cases

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