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.

Click on Guide to list of SA law report series 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, 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 an international product called LexisNexis Academic. 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+

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; 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.
C is to click on the arrow to the right of Choose search form and click on the Advanced search option. 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.

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 on all of them)

Ranked or Unranked Results
When you perform a ranked query, search results can be ranked with the highest rank the first match. When you perform an unranked search, that occurs closest to the beginning of a content collection.

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.

Click on an item to retrieve the full text. Any document can be printed, exported and "block and pasted" into Word.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SA v MINISTER OF EDUCATION 1999 (4) SA 1092 (SE) ©

Citation 1999 (4) SA 1092 (SE)

Case No 2000/08

Court South Eastern Cape Local Division &]

Judge Liebenberg J

Heard June 19, 1999

Judgment August 4, 1998

Counsel F G Richings SC (with him D M Ochsehah) for the applicant. E Bertelsmann SC (with him B J Pienaar) for the respondent.

Flynote: Sleutelhoorde

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.