Publication of English Statutory Materials

Publication of Statutory Material in England

Statutes are published chronologically and there is no official codification or official topical arrangement of English statutes; however, there are resources that will direct researchers to the Acts that regulate in topical areas, and there are other tools that will tell a user if an Act, or part of and Act, is still in force.

Sources of Statutes

Historical

- Statutes at Large (1215-1800/1867). There were two major editions published in the late 18th and early 19th centuries started by and colloquially named for Owen Ruffhead (14 volumes) and Danby Pickering (46 volumes). The sets contain the text of the statutes in parallel Latin and modern English with minor annotations. Predecessor editions with the same names were published earlier in the 18th century. Digitized versions can be found at the Internet Archive and Hathi Trust and Morris Call Number: KD 130 1225.

Current

- Justis. Contains all statutes, including repeals, from 1235.
- Legislation.gov.uk. Contains all legislation from 1988 to date as well as most legislation from before 1988.
- Proquest UK Parliamentary Papers (http://search.library.yale.edu/catalog/7134305). Statutes from 1695.
- Lexis Plus. Contains all statutes currently in force.
- Westlaw. Contains all statutes currently in force.

Topical Arrangement of statutes

- Halsbury’s Statutes of England and Wales. Topical arrangement of statutes currently in force. The statutes are annotated. There is a detailed subject Index, cumulative supplements, a current service, and the noter up service (a tool similar to a citator). Morris Call Number: KD135.H3 G74 1985.
Finding Tools and Tools to Determine Whether an Act has been Amended or is Still in Force

- Chronological Table of the Statutes. Lists every statute that has been passed since 1235 and shows whether it is still law. Morris Call Number: KD 142.3.

Bills

- UK Parliament website. Bills from 2001 to date.
- Proquest UK Parliamentary Papers. (http://search.library.yale.edu/catalog/7134305) Bills from as early as 1695. Please note that not every bill is included.

Statutory Instruments

Statutory instruments contain the results of delegated authority. Parliament may delegate authority, usually to a Minister of the Crown, to legislate in a limited area. The results of this grant are published in statutory instruments.

- Lexis Plus. 1786 to present.
- Westlaw. 1948 to present.