

<b>INFORMATION SKILLS</b>	<b>OSCOLA Referencing: Secondary Sources</b>
<i>University Library</i>	

- OSCOLA (Oxford Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities) style is used if you are writing for a qualifying Law degree or for the School of Law.
- OSCOLA uses **footnotes**, which should include the pinpoint reference to a page or paragraph number.
- OSCOLA does **not** require the use of full stops in abbreviations, e.g. All ER not All E.R.
- OSCOLA requires multiple citations in a footnote to be separated by a semi-colon, e.g. *Secretary of State for the Home Department v E* [2007] UKHL 47, [2008] 1 All ER 699 (HL) 702; SJ Fredman, 'Equality: A New Generation?' [2001] ILJ 145, 158.

## Referencing Secondary Sources – Footnotes

### Books

In footnotes give the author's name in the same form as on the publication's title page (but in the bibliography, put the author's family name first). Give the relevant information about edition etc. before the publisher, and give page numbers at the end of the citation, after the brackets. In bibliography omit pinpoint references to pages and paragraphs unless the reference is to the beginning of a discrete chapter of an edited book.

### Examples of footnotes:-

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (first published 1651, Penguin 1985) 268.

Gareth Jones, *Goff and Jones: The Law of Restitution* (1st supp, 7th edn, Sweet & Maxwell 2009) 59.

### Contributions to edited books

Francis Rose, 'The Evolution of the Species' in Andrew Burrows and Alan Rodger (eds), *Mapping the Law: Essays in Memory of Peter Birks* (OUP 2006) 34.

### Encyclopedias

*Halsbury's Laws* (5th edn, 2010) vol 57, para 53.

### Journal articles

Put a comma between the first page of the article and the pinpoint page.

Paul Craig, 'Theory, "Pure Theory" and Values in Public Law' [2005] PL 440, 443.

JAG Griffith, 'The Common Law and the Political Constitution' (2001) 117 LQR 42, 64.

### Online journals

Graham Greenleaf, 'The Global Development of Free Access to Legal Information' (2010) 1(1) EJLT <<http://ejlt.org//article/view/17>> accessed 27 July 2010.

## Command papers and Law Commission reports

Department for International Development, *Eliminating World Poverty: Building our Common Future* (White Paper, Cm 7656, 2009) ch 5.

Law Commission, *Reforming Bribery* (Law Com No 313, 2008) paras 3.12–3.17.

## Websites and blogs

Sarah Cole, 'Virtual Friend Fires Employee' (*Naked Law*, 1 May 2009)  
<<http://www.nakedlaw.com/2009/05/index.html>> accessed 19 November 2009.

## Newspaper articles

Jane Croft, 'Supreme Court Warns on Quality' *Financial Times* (London, 1 July 2010) 3

## Referencing Secondary Sources – Bibliography

In bibliographies, give only the surname followed by the initial(s) of the author, followed by a comma and omit the pinpoint to page or paragraph except where the reference is to a discrete article or chapter in which case give the initial page. **Either** collect all secondary sources in alphabetical order by author's surname (as shown below) or if instructed by your Unit handbook or your Dissertation supervisor, present the same information but grouped by the different formats of the sources. A brief example is found [here](#), and a longer more complex one [here](#).

Cole, S, 'Virtual Friend Fires Employee' (*Naked Law*, 1 May 2009)  
<<http://www.nakedlaw.com/2009/05/index.html>> accessed 19 November 2009  
Craig, P, 'Theory, "Pure Theory" and Values in Public Law' [2005] PL 440  
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Croft, JAG, 'Supreme Court Warns on Quality' *Financial Times* (London, 1 July 2010)  
Greenleaf, G. 'The Global Development of Free Access to Legal Information' (2010) 1(1) EJLT <<http://ejlt.org//article/view/17>> accessed 27 July 2010.  
Griffith, J, 'The Common Law and the Political Constitution' (2001) 117 LQR 42  
*Halsbury's Laws* (5th edn, 2010)  
Hobbes, T, *Leviathan* (first published 1651, Penguin 1985)  
Jones, G, *Goff and Jones: The Law of Restitution* (1st supp, 7th edn, Sweet & Maxwell 2009)  
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Rose, F, 'The Evolution of the Species' in Andrew Burrows and Alan Rodger (eds), *Mapping the Law: Essays in Memory of Peter Birks* (OUP 2006)

## Useful sources of help

You will find links to the main sources of help on the Law Referencing page of the library website, and detailed guidance on individual types of sources in the OSCOLA pages of [Referencing @ Portsmouth](#) accessible from the **r** on the library's homepage. (Always set your style as OSCOLA before starting your search for advice. These include:-

[Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations](#) helps you decipher or create abbreviations in legal references and the University of Cardiff's '[Citing the Law](#)' tutorial will test your skills and give you useful hints and tips.

The [full OSCOLA guide](#) and a shorter [quick guide](#) are found on the University of Oxford website.

In case of difficulty, please check with the Shared Services Support Desk on the Ground Floor, or telephone 023 9284 3228. You can also email [library@port.ac.uk](mailto:library@port.ac.uk)

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