Malaysia

Guide to resources at Lincoln’s Inn Library

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Introduction

This guide covers selected legal materials held by Lincoln’s Inn Library for Malaysia. The guide includes legislation, case law and commentary, as well as online sources.

Lincoln’s Inn Library holds many sources, including historic legislation and old editions of textbooks, which are not covered in this guide. For a comprehensive list of the materials held by Lincoln’s Inn Library, search the online catalogue available at: www.lincolnsinnlibrary.org.uk

There are free guides to the law of Malaysia available online, including:

GlobaLex
https://www.nyulawglobal.org/gobalex/Malaysia1.html

Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS)
https://libguides.ials.sas.ac.uk/malaysia

Library of Congress
https://www.loc.gov/item/guide-to-law-online/malaysia/

University of Sydney
https://libguides.library.usyd.edu.au/asiapacificlaw
Introduction

Malaysia is a federation of 13 states and the three federal territories of Labuan, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya. Most sources of law are federal, but there are also some regional sources: where appropriate, this guide distinguishes between them. The states are as follows:

1. Perlis  
2. Kedah  
3. Perak  
4. Selangor  
5. Negeri Sembilan  
6. Johor  
7. Pahang  
8. Terengganu  
9. Kelantan  
10. Melaka (Malacca)  
11. Pulau Pinang (Penang)  
12. Sabah  
13. Sarawak

Malaysia has a complex jurisdictional history. It was unified in 1963, but its current political boundaries were set in 1965 when Singapore left Malaysia and became self-governing. As a result, some sources in this guide overlap with the research guide for Singapore.
Introduction

Pre-1963 Sources of Law

Malaysia as it was formed in 1963 was preceded by the Federation of Malaya (1948-1963), the Malayan Union (1946-1948) and the Federated Malay States (1896-1946). These were all groupings of various states in what is now Peninsular Malaysia.

These federations were preceded by - and overlap with - the British Colony of the Straits Settlements, which lasted in various iterations until 1946. Unfederated states, such as Sarawak, were at times self-governing / separate colonies and dependencies; their political boundaries changed and they were sometimes known by different names (such as North Borneo).

All these historical federations and states are included in this guide, where relevant. For regional sources, cross-references are given where a current state was part of a now non-existent state or colony.

The Peninsular Federations from 1896 onwards are included in federal sources of law; otherwise, historical states and colonies (including the Straits Settlements) are included in regional sources.

For a detailed legal history of Malaysia, visit one of the free online guides linked earlier in this section.
Most Malaysia material is located in the Commonwealth section of the Cellar. It can be identified with a shelf mark such as this:
COMMONWEALTH - MALAYSIA - TEXTBOOKS

This guide includes only a selection of the Malaysia material held by Lincoln’s Inn Library, but the online catalogue includes virtually all of the Library’s holdings. The catalogue is freely available outside the Library here: [www.lincolnsinnlibrary.org.uk](http://www.lincolnsinnlibrary.org.uk)

The catalogue provides a selection of search fields that can be used in combination to identify and locate potentially relevant material.

Tips for using these fields to find Malaysia material follow.
Catalogue Guide

Textbooks

The catalogue record for textbooks primarily about Malaysian law should include *Malaysia* as a subject, so include this term in the *subject* field.

To search for the latest editions of textbooks, change the *type* field to *Latest edition held*. To search for old editions of textbooks, change the *type* field to *Old edition*.

Legislation

The author of legislation will be the relevant jurisdiction, so include *Malaysia* in the *author* search field.

Change the *type* field to *Legislation*.

Law Reports & Journals

The catalogue record for Malaysian serials (Law Reports & Journals) should include *Malaysia* as a subject, so include this term in the *subject* field.

Change the *type* field to *Journals* or *Law reports* as required, or search for a specific title in the *periodical title* field.

Online Resources

A URL link will be available on catalogue records for Malaysian material available on LexisLibrary. Include *LexisLibrary* in the *words* or *phrases* search field to identify these titles.

N.B. Not all titles available on LexisLibrary will be included on the catalogue.
General Works

The following are held in hard copy:

Key Texts

Halsbury’s Laws of Malaysia (also available via LexisLibrary)
1999 onwards

Malaysian Civil Procedure [The Malaysian White book]
2015

Journals

Malayan Law Journal
Vol. 2, nos. 1 - 4 (Jan. - Apr. 1933); vol. 18 (1952) - vol. 30 (1964);
1965 onwards

Mallal’s Current Law
1997 - 2006

Digests and Citators

Mallal’s Digest of Malaysian, Singaporean, English and Australian Case Law 5th ed.
1808 onwards

Mallal’s monthly digest
June 1991 - December 1994

The Federated Malay States Digest
1907/1935
Textbooks

Lincoln’s Inn Library holds very few recent textbooks on Malaysian law in hard copy. Some additional commentary sources can be accessed via Lexis - see the *LexisLibrary* page in this guide for more information. The Library does hold more old editions and historical textbooks, which can be found on the catalogue.

Malaysian Judiciary : a perspective / [editor Justice Zainun Ali]
2011

The Sultan Azlan Shah Law Lectures / editor Visu Sinnadurai
2004-2011

Textbooks with relevant chapters

Ahmed, Salahuddin (Second reprint)
Islamic banking finance and insurance : a global overview
2009

Encyclopedia of International Commercial Litigation
1993 onwards

Munir, Abu Bakar
Internet banking : law and practice
2004

Inner Temple Library holds a substantial collection of textbooks on Malaysian Law. The catalogue can be searched here:

[www.innertemplelibrary.org.uk](http://www.innertemplelibrary.org.uk/)
Legislation (Federal)

Main Series

Acts

Acts: A Series

Acts (*Federation of Malaya*)
1959 - 1963

Ordinances (*Malayan Union*)
1946/48

Enactments (*Federated Malay States*)
1909-1941

Subsidiary Legislation

Federal subsidiary legislation

Subsidiary legislation (*Federation of Malaya*)
1948 - 1963

Ordinances (*Federation of Malaya*)
1948 - 1959

Subsidiary legislation (*Malayan Union*)
1947 - 1948

Subsidiary legislation (*Federated Malay States*)
1910-1941; 1947
Legislation (Federal)

Consolidations and Indexes

Malaysia

Federal statute law referencer and index to state laws
1993

Golden’s Federal Statutes: laws of Malaysia
1986 - 2002

Index to the Rules of the High Court 1980, Malaysia and the Rules of the Supreme Court 1970, Singapore

Malaysian National Language Acts

Selected statutes, as amended 1993-1995

Selected statutes, as revised 1971-1973

Statutes on planning law: (with relevant subsidiary legislation)
2002

Statutes on securities law (with relevant subsidiary legislation)
2000
Legislation (Federal)

Consolidations and Indexes

_Federation of Malaya_

Federation Order-in-Council and state agreements and constitutions, 1948

Malayan legislation 1947-1952 : subject index

General index of Ordinances, Enactments, Proclamations, etc. 1951 - 1957

Index to Enactments 1946/1963

_Federated Malay States_

Subsidiary Legislation [in force 1935]

The Laws of the Federated Malay States 1877-1920

The Laws of the Federated Malay States ... 1934

Supplement to the revised edition of the Laws of the Federated Malay States ... in force 1934 : [Federal legislation to 1940]

Chronological lists of State and Federal laws / ed. H.A. Forrer No. 12 (1877/1932) - no. 13 (1877/1934)
Legislation (Regional)

Johor (Johore)

Enactments

Subsidiary Legislation

Laws in force in the State of Johore: on 31st December, 1960

The Laws of the State of Johore : in force ... 1935

The Laws of Johore revised edition [1926]

Kedah

Enactments

Subsidiary Legislation

The Laws of the State of Kedah [in force 1934]

The Rules, Regulations and Notifications made under the Kedah Enactments in force on 22nd May 1936

Kelantan

Enactments

Subsidiary Legislation
Legislation (Regional)

Melaka (Malacca) *(See also: Straits Settlements)*

Enactments

Subsidiary Legislation

Negeri Sembilan

Enactments

Subsidiary legislation

North Borneo *(See also: Sabah)*

Ordinances
1946 - 1955

Subsidiary legislation
1956-1962

Ordinances and Rules
1915 - 1935; 1937 - 1940

The Laws of North Borneo 1884-1946

The Laws of North Borneo in force 1953

Index to the laws of the colony of North Borneo : in force on the 31st day of December 1952 / compiled by Dominic C. M. Vuh
Legislation (Regional)

Perak

Enactments

Subsidiary Legislation

The Laws of Perak 1877-1903

Pahang

Enactments

Subsidiary legislation

Perlis

Enactments
1908 - 1940; 1948 - 1993

Subsidiary Legislation
1948-1993

Pulau Pinang (Penang)

Enactments

Subsidiary Legislation
Legislation (Regional)

Sabah  (*See also: North Borneo*)

Enactments
1967 - 1997

Subsidiary legislation
1967 onwards

Laws of Sabah annual volumes
1963 - 1966

Sarawak

Ordinances
1947 - 1991

State Orders
1936-1941 ; 1946

Orders
1922-1923

Subsidiary Legislation
1949-1952 ; 1972 onwards

The Laws of Sarawak: revised edition 1958

The Laws of Sarawak 1927-1935
Legislation (Regional)

Selangor

Subsidiary legislation
1900-1909; 1948-1973; 1978 onwards

Enactments
1900 - 1909; 1948 - 1973; 1978 onwards

The Laws of Selangor 1877-1899

Straits Settlements

Ordinances
1867 - 1941

Royal Proclamations, Orders by the King in Council; Proclamations and Orders by the Governor in Council; Rules and Regulations...
1914 - 1915; 1917 - 1940

Subsidiary Legislation revised 1932-1938

The Laws of the Straits Settlements, revised up to 1935
[Revised editions are also held for 1919 and 1925]

Merchant Shipping Laws of the Straits Settlements
1941

Terengganu (Trengganu)

Enactments

Subsidiary Legislation
1939; 1966 - 1973; 1978 onwards
Law Reports (Federal)

The Library holds the following federal series in hard copy:

All Malaysia Reports
1993 vol. 1; 1994 vol. 1, weeks 1-8; 1995 vol. 1; 1995 vol. 2, weeks 18-29

Malayan Cases

Malayan Law Journal
Vol. 2, nos. 1 - 4 (Jan. - Apr. 1933); vol. 18 (1952) - vol. 30 (1964); 1965 onwards

Supreme Court reports [Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei]
1988 - 1996

Law reports of the Federation of Malaya

Law Reports of the Federated Malay States
Vol. 1 (1906/1919) - vol. 7 (1925/1931); 1931/1932 - 1941

The Law Reports of the Malayan Union
1946/1947
Law Reports (Regional)

The Library holds the following series in hard copy:

Borneo High Court Reports
1963/1994

Kyshe’s Reports
Vols. 1 - 3 (1808/1884); vol. 4 (1885/1890)

Law Reports of the State of Johore
1915/1937 - 1938/1940

Supreme Court Reports [Sarawak]
1928/1941; 1946/1951 - 1960/1963

Straits Settlements Law Reports
Vol. 1 (1893) - vol. 15 (1915/1923); 1926/1927 - 1940

Straits Law Reports : being a report of cases decided in the Supreme Court of the Straits Settlements, Penang, Singapore and Malacca / by Stephen Leicester
1827/1877

Woods’ Oriental Cases
1869
The Library has access to Malaysian legal materials via a LexisLibrary subscription, which includes federal and regional legislation, case law, and commentary. LexisLibrary can only be accessed from within the Library. This is a selection of the resources subscribed to. For a full index, visit the “International Content” page on Lexis.

**Legislation**
- Annotated Statutes of Malaysia
- Unannotated Statutes of Malaysia - Amendments, Bills, Pre-1967 Ordinances, Principal Acts, Subsidiary Legislation

**Law Reports**
- Industrial Law Journal (Reports)
- Malayan Law Journal (Reports)
- Sharia Law Reports

**Journals**
- Sharia Law Reports (Articles)
- Malayan Law Journal
- Industrial Law Journal

**Commentary**
- Atkin’s Court Forms Malaysia
- Halsbury’s Laws Malaysia
- Malaysian Conveyancing
- Malaysian Court Practice (Appellate and Trial Courts)
- Malaysian Precedents and Forms Service
Free Online Resources

Inner Temple Library have created and maintain AccessToLaw, a gateway site providing annotated links to selected UK, Commonwealth and worldwide free legal web sites. A selection of these are provided below, but for more free online legal resources visit:

https://www.accesstolaw.com/commonwealth/malaysia/

Attorney-General’s Chamber of Malaysia

This official site provides the Laws of Malaysia in PDF format, with full text in both English and Malay. All principal laws enacted after 1969, and pre-1969 laws as revised, are included. There is a link to e-Federal Gazette, which contains PDFs of federal legislation.

https://www.agc.gov.my/

CommonLII (Malaysia)

The Malaysia portal on the CommonLII database contains full text judgments for federal and some regional courts, and primary and subsidiary legislation. Other resources include some issues of the Journal of Malaysian and Comparative Law.

http://www.commonlili.org/resources/235.html

Office of the Chief Registrar, Federal Court of Malaysia

This web site provides information on the Federal Court, the Court of Appeal and the High Court, and includes cause lists, court rules, and practice directions, with links to subordinate courts in the Malaysian states. Much of the content of these is in Malay only.

https://www.kehakiman.gov.my/en
Other Libraries with Malaysian Legal Materials

Inner Temple Library
Responsibility for the various Commonwealth jurisdictions is divided between Inner Temple and Lincoln’s Inn Libraries.
Lincoln’s Inn Library is the Inn library with primary responsibility for Malaysian legal materials, but Inner Temple Library also hold a substantial collection.
www.innertemplelibrary.org.uk

Institute of Advanced Legal Studies
The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) Library has an extensive collection of Malaysian legal materials.
http://libguides.ials.sas.ac.uk/australia

FLAG Foreign Law Guide
The FLAG database provides a gateway to foreign, international and comparative law collections held within UK university and national libraries, and within major practitioners’ law libraries. The database is searchable in several ways and includes descriptions of each collection and links to the web catalogues of contributing libraries.
http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/flag/flag.htm
Lincoln’s Inn Library
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Tel: 020 7242 4371
Fax: 020 7404 1864
Email: library@lincolnsinn.org.uk
Catalogue: www.lincolnsinnlibrary.org.uk
See also the Library pages on the Inn’s website: www.lincolnsinn.org.uk