

Pål A. Bertnes

# Legal information in Norway

electronic and printed sources

5th edition - updated December 2012



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*Pål A. Bertnes*

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## Foreword

The growing emphasis on international exchanges within research and studies has led to an increase in the number of English speaking students and researchers studying or working at the Faculty of Law in Oslo. This survey in English of where and how to find current Norwegian legal sources and legal literature, is written with the aim of meeting their needs.

This survey was revised and updated to be current per September 2012, it is based on an earlier edition published in Det Juridiske fakultetsbiblioteks skriftserie (The Faculty of Law Library's series) (no 13) 1997.

I am grateful for Academic Law Librarian Bård Sverre Tuseths assistance in proofreading this manuscript, but must stress that all errors or omissions remain the author's own.

Pål A. Bertnes  
Oslo, December 2012

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# 1. Introduction to the Norwegian Legal System

## 1.1 Norwegian Law. Some Main Historical Points

Norway united as one Kingdom at the end of the 9th century. Until then, the country had consisted of several regional kingdoms, each with its own legal system. At that time, the proper administration of justice took place at the Althing, which was a general assembly of representatives from the rural community or the larger community units.

The Lagting was established during the middle of the tenth century and was a National representative organ consisting of regional representatives. The *Lagting* exercised legislative, executive and judiciary power within its section of the realm. Gradually a court, *Lagrett*, developed out of the Lagting. It wielded the judiciary power and was constituted of select Lagting members.

*Written* laws first appeared in the 12th century. The oldest codes of law known date from the 12th and 13th centuries, and are known as *landsskapslovene* (Regional laws).

In 1274 King Magnus Lagabøte (Magnus the Law Maker) compiled and revised the Regional law codifications into a National code, called *Landslov or Magnus Lagabøtes Lov*. The corpus of King Magnus Lagabøte's law remained the governing law for more than 400 years.

The King possessed legislative power prior to the enactment of the Landslov, and he continued to exercise this power during Norway's union with Denmark from 1380. A revised version of the National Code was translated from Old Norse to Danish in 1604 and renamed (King) Christian IV's Norwegian Law. This law incorporated most of the provisions issued by previous kings.

In 1687, a new comprehensive code was provided in Christian V's Norwegian Law, incorporating Danish law to a considerable extent. However, unlike the legislation of many other countries at the time, Danish law was not heavily influenced by Roman law. A few of the provisions of [Christian V's Norwegian law](#) still remain in force.

[The Constitution of 17th of May 1814](#), the Norwegian Constitution, was adopted at Eidsvoll, and was the result of events in continental Europe. At the Treaty of Kiel in 1814, the King of Denmark/Norway was forced to renounce his rights to Norway to the King of Sweden, granting him full sovereign powers. However, § 1 of the Norwegian Constitution provides that "The Kingdom of Norway is a free, independent and indivisible realm". In other words: Norway submitted to a union with Sweden as a sovereign nation. The union with Sweden ended in 1905 when Norway became an independent constitutional monarchy.

The governing ideas behind the Norwegian constitution were largely the result of influence by English and French political philosophers (Locke, Montesquieu and Rousseau), as well as the constitutions of France and the USA. The Norwegian Constitution contains a similar division of power between the executive King/[Government](#), legislative [Storting](#) (Parliament)

and judiciary (the courts, in particular the [Supreme Court](#)) as in the American Constitution. The development in Norway has however been very different from that of the USA. The constitutional situation today, in brief, is that Stortinget passes laws while the Government wields executive power. However, since parliamentary rule evolved as customary constitutional law during the late 19th century, the Government is dependent on support from the Storting.

The main function of the courts is dispute resolution, but in addition, the Supreme Court has constitutional review and, with the system of case law and judicial precedents, is also an important interpreter of statute and customary law.

The Norwegian legal system is based on National roots, correspondent to the other Nordic countries (Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland). The historical development of these countries is similar, particularly within the field of law, but other legal systems have had a substantial influence.

Influence from Anglo-American law is mostly limited to criminal procedure and to criminal remedies. EU law has become an important part of Norwegian law, in particular after EEA (The European Economic Area Agreement) was incorporated into Norwegian law in November 1992. EU directives are now implemented through Acts passed by the Storting or by Government regulations.

## 1.2 The Courts

The historical development of the Norwegian court system is too diverse to be addressed in detail in this presentation. It is, however, important to note that Høyesterett ([The Supreme Court](#) of Norway) was established in 1815, in accordance with the Constitution, having previously been in Copenhagen, Denmark.

There are three ordinary judicial authorities within the Norwegian court system:

[County Courts](#) (District Courts, City Courts) as court of the first instance

[Courts of Appeal](#) (six High Courts or Crown Courts)

[The Supreme Court](#) of Norway as court of the last instance

All cases start in the County Courts. Defendants convicted in criminal cases of a grave nature have an unrestricted right of appeal to the High Courts. The right of appeal in other cases may be dependent of the value of the property in dispute and is in most cases left to the discretion of the High Courts.

In addition, [special courts](#) have the authority to settle specific types of disputes, e.g. land questions ([The Land Consolidation Court of Norway](#)), labour disputes ([Labour Court of Norway](#)), and social security disputes ([National Insurance Court](#)). These are a hybrid between courts and administrative organs, and their decisions can be appealed to the appeals

court level. However, there are very few such courts, and they all have very limited jurisdiction.

The Supreme Court took a freer role from the end of the 19th century onward, exercising constitutional review on statutory law as well as developing custom law.

In 1915 [Domstolsloven](#) ([Act relating to the courts of justice](#) (chapter 9, 11 and 12 in English)) was passed requiring the Supreme Court to publish reports of its decisions, including arguments and how they voted. The decisions are considerably briefer than what is common in many other countries like Germany and USA.

Appeals on procedural matters are in most cases decided by Appeals Selection Committee of the Supreme Court, consisting of three supreme court justices selected at random. The Appeals Selection Committee also decides if other appeals should be allowed to be heard by Supreme Court. Most cases are then heard by five judges.

In especially important cases, it can be decided that the case or a question of law arising from it should be heard by a grand chamber of eleven judges. The decision is based on whether the Supreme Court may divert from an earlier precedent, if the case raises questions of conflicts between laws, provisional statutory instruments or parliamentary decisions and The Constitution or treaties Norway is party to. In very special cases the court may decide that a case or a question of law arising from the case should be heard by all of the justices sitting in plenary session.

### 1.3 The Norwegian Hierarchy of Legal Norms

Norway is a unitary state, as opposed to a federation. Despite the introduction of The EEA Agreement, the Norwegian legal system is still regarded as a uniform and hierarchical unit of norms.

[The Constitution of 17th of May 1814](#) is the apex of Norwegian law.

Statute law is adapted pursuant to the Constitution and is consequently subordinate to the Constitution according to the "Lex Superior" principle. Regulations adapted pursuant to a statute law are subordinate to such law. §17 of the Constitution explicitly give statutory law higher rank than provisional laws.

## 2. Introductory Works on the Legal System and Legal Research

The major introductory work is [Knophs oversikt over Norges rett](#) (*Knophs overview of Norwegian Law*) (Knoph 2009). This is a comprehensive book with several contributing writers, and it contains brief introductions to the various legal subjects. Erik Boe has written [Innføring i juss; juridisk tenkning og rettskildelære](#) (Boe 2010), which contains study methods, legal theory and a summary of certain areas of law. Johs. Andenæs' [Innføring i rettsstudiet](#) (Andenæs 2002), Mads Henry Andenæs' [Rettskildelære](#) (Andenæs 2009), Torstein Eckhoff's [Rettskildelære](#) (Eckhoff 2001) and Carl August Fleischer's [Rettskilder og juridisk metode](#) (Fleischer 1998), are all theoretical works covering methodical issues in Norwegian law.

Praktisk rettskildelære, en håndbok for rettsstudiet, ([Practical Textbook on Sources of Legal Information. Legal Information Retrieval in Norway](#)) is written by Pål A. Bertnes and [Halvor Kongshavn](#) in 1997. An abbreviated and nearly a jour electronic version is available on the [Internet](#). In 2005 a new version of the book was published with the title "[Praktisk rettskildelære. Juridisk informasjonssøking](#)" (Bertnes/Kongshavn 2005) and in 2012 "[Praktisk rettskildelære – juridisk informasjonssøking](#)" (Bertnes/Kongshavn and Trygstad 2012). The publication refers to legal literature and sources of law, and also provides guidance on how to do legal research, both manually and online. Birger Stuevold Lassen has written A Presentation of Works of Jurisprudence in Norwegian ([Presentasjon av rettsvitenskapelige arbeider på norsk](#)) (Lassen 1993).

All the above mentioned titles are published in Norwegian only. Only a few minor publications and articles about Norwegian law have been published in English:

One article describing the central issues of the Norwegian legal system is Bertnes: an article on Norway, published in [Information sources in law](#) (1997), edited by Winterton and Moys. Hagelien/Vonen has written: [The Norwegian Legal System. An introductory guide](#) (1994), also published in *EFTA Legal System* (Hagelien 1993). The Ministry of Justice has formerly published [Administration of justice](#) in Norway (1980). There is also an article in the Modern Legal System Encyclopaedia, Volume 4B, pp 4.100.3 - 4.100.61 called "*The Legal System of Norway*". In addition, several projects are in progress in order to meet the demands for law literature in English required by foreign students at The Faculty of Law, UiO. [Kirsti Lothe Jacobsen](#), Academic Librarian – [Law Library](#) University of Bergen Library, has compiled [Norwegian law in foreign languages](#), a bibliography. Susan Thorpe has written "Online Legal Information in Denmark, Norway and Sweden", published in [International Journal of Legal Information](#) (no 1/ 2001).

### 3. Basic Texts, Legislation, Codes and Commentaries

#### 3.1 Acts or Statutes

There are two *public* periodic publications of statute law:

According to special statute, [Norsk Lovtidende](#) (Legal Gazette) must include new statutory laws and resolutions informing when laws come into force, their abolition and their scope. *Norsk Lovtidende* is published twice a month and is fully up to date on statutory law, regulations, tax resolutions and so forth. *Norsk Lovtidende* is divided into two parts: [Part 1](#) contains statutory law and central regulations, while [part 2](#) contains regional and local regulations. Cumulative quarterly indexes are published in addition to the annual indexes. Subscriptions are made at [Lovdata](#).

The most comprehensive Norwegian code of law is *Norges Lover*, which is published privately by The Faculty of Law in Oslo. It is issued in one volume, and contains both a systematic and an alphabetic index. The code contains [The Constitution of 1814](#), and presents statutory laws arranged chronologically according to their date of adoption. *Norges Lover* was up to 2008 published biennially but has since then come out once a year. It is used by lawyers and judges, as well as other people who are interested in Norwegian law.

Amendments to statutory laws and provisions are adopted in new editions of *Norges Lover*. They are incorporated in the existing statute with a footnote referring to the amendment. *Norges Lover* also contains indexes of regulations authorized under each statutory provision.

The annotated edition of *Norges Lover*, produced by [Gyldendal Rettsdata](#), was previously called Karnov, but is now known as Norsk kommentert lovsamling. It was first issued in 1994 and the paper edition was published as [Norsk Lovkommentar](#). It consists of three volumes and contains two indexes: a chronological index of all statutes, and an alphabetical index, based on the abbreviated titles of the statutes. It also points to the standardized abbreviations of the separate statutes. The latest paper edition was published in 2008. *Norsk Lovkommentar* is available on [Internet](#) (by subscription on Gyldendal Rettsdata). The electronic version is updated continually.

Updated booklets for single laws are issued when amendments require it. A selection of prominent Norwegian authors, researchers, solicitors, judges and lawyers have all contributed to this project. The Norwegian edition is modelled on the Danish Karnov commentary issue, which has been published since the 1930's. The commentary edition is published biennially and like *Norges lover* it is also arranged chronologically, based on the resolution dates of the statutes.

The text in *Norges Lover* and *Norsk Lovkommentar*, is supplied by [Lovdata](#), a non-profit foundation that runs a semi-official, legal information database. By agreement with the

authorities, Lovdata receives the statutes as soon as they have been enacted. Consequently, Lovdata always provides an updated electronic version of Norwegian laws. Institutions and individuals may obtain access to Lovdata by subscription. Lovdata also provides an internet version [free of charge](#), but this is limited to [statutes, regulations in force](#) and [recent Court decisions](#).

Norwegian laws are referred to by title and date. Up until 1969, if more than one law was passed on a specific date, the law is also given a number. E.g.: *Lov om arv m.m. av 3. mars 1972 nr 5* (Law of inheritance of March 3 1972 no 5). Since 1969 this numbering has been continual for the entire year. The Law on inheritance was therefore the fifth statute passed in 1972. Sometimes an abbreviated title is used, with or without the date number, e.g. *Arveloven av 3. mars 1972 nr 5*, (The inheritance law of March 3rd, 1972 no 5), or just *Arveloven*. In literature authors often refer to laws using additional abbreviations. *Arveloven* would then be referred to just as *al*. The authors usually include a list of abbreviations in the book. To trace an abbreviation, also use the index to *Norsk lovkommentar* or to [Lassen 1993](#).

Translations of Norwegian legislation:

Very few acts of Stortinget have been officially translated into other languages. An older collection of translated legislation is found in the book [Norwegian laws etc. : selected for The Foreign Service](#) (1980).

The Constitution of May 17th 1814, with amendments and commentaries, exists in English as a title of its own (Andenæs/Wilberg 1987) ([The Constitution of Norway : a Commentary / by Mads T. Andenæs and Ingeborg Wilberg \(1987\)](#)).

Over the years a number of statutes have been translated into English; some by The Foreign Office's department of translations, some by other public offices, and a few by private organizations. These translations do not have status as authoritative, and they are seldom published.

In recent years The [Law Library, University of Oslo](#) has experienced an increasing demand for translations of Norwegian legislation. Documents of this kind have been difficult to obtain and there has been no public agency responsible for maintaining a current collection of available translations. The Law Library has therefore undertaken the task of maintaining a database, [Translated Norwegian legislation](#), where translations of Norwegian legislation (acts and/or regulations) are made accessible to the public.

Most entries have links to the acts in full text, either as html, word-files or in PDF-format. Electronic versions are not available for all acts. For some printed versions there are links to bibliographic records in [BIBSYS](#).

In addition, many codes cover specific legal areas aimed at special professions or particular educational purposes.

## 3.2 Regulations

Forskrifter (regulations) are rules issued by the central administration under powers given to them in Acts of Parliament. They are published continuously by [Lovdata](#) in [Norsk](#)



[Lovtidende](#), which contains several comprehensive indexes. [Lovdata](#) is always up to date on all regulations in force, but availability depends on user access. The latest publications of *Norsk Lovtidende* are available on the [Lovdata](#) home page. A regulation is referred to by title and date of enactment.

### 3.3 Circulars

Circulars are instructions from higher administrative agencies to their subordinates. They may contain directives and guidelines on the interpretation of statutes and the use of public discretion. The web pages of the government ministries contain circulars and LOVDATA has collected most of them in their database.

### 3.4 Codes and Commentaries

Acts of law are organized according to their date of enactment, not when they entered into force. The main provisions are often old, but amendments are usually integrated in the existing statutes. The Storting only passes completely new Acts abolishing the old law when comprehensive and fundamental changes are made.

Some important acts:

Civil procedure:

[Act relating to mediation and procedure in civil disputes](#) [The Dispute Act] ([Tvisteloven av 17. Juni 2005 nr. 90](#)).

The Enforcement Code ([Tvangsfullbyrdelsesloven av 26. juni 1992 nr 86](#)).

The Courts Code ([Domstolloven av 13. august 1915 nr 5](#)).

Criminal law:

[The General Civil Penal Code](#) (With amendments of July 1st 1994. Norwegian Ministry of Justice) ([Straffeloven av 22. mai 1902 nr 10](#)).

[The Criminal Procedure Act](#) ([Straffeprosessloven av 22. mai 1981 Nr 25](#)).

Other important statute laws:

[The Sale of Goods Act](#) ([Kjøpsloven av 13. mai 1988 Nr 27](#))

[Act relating to conclusion of agreements](#) in Norwegian laws etc. selected for the Foreign Service ([Avtaleloven av 31. mai 1918 Nr 4](#))

[The Code of Administrative Procedure](#) ([Forvaltningsloven av 10. februar 1967](#))

The Taxation Act ([Skatteloven av 26. Mars 1999 nr. 14](#)).

A link from the English title indicates that an English version exists and where to find it. For the Norwegian version, click the Norwegian title.

For other translated statutes and regulations, please make a search from the website [Translated Norwegian legislation](#).

Within some areas of law, separate committees are constantly working on law revision efforts. In other areas, special committees are appointed to prepare propositions for specific amendments. [The Legislation Department](#) at [The Ministry of Justice and Public Security](#) administers the law revision.

Special commentary editions on important acts are published. These special editions are often more in detail than *Norsk Lovkommentar*. A substantial financial effort is required to produce such a thorough commentary edition, not at least since Norway is a small country, and grants are often necessary for their funding. Renowned judges and legal scholars usually contribute to these commentary editions, and they are normally very important within their field, in particular since competing editions seldom exist. For less important statutes and acts concerning trade, competing commentary editions are published. These are often tailor-made for a certain line of business. No annotated editions have as of yet been translated into English.

In the late years, we have got the netbased [Norsk Lovkommentar](#) as a part of [Gyldendal Rettsdata](#), which contains all Norwegian laws with commentaries. 230 renowned judges and legal scholars are contributors. You can here get printed versions of the whole or a special selected law with commentaries.

### 3.5 Treaties

*Norges traktater* (Norwegian treaties) (1967-88) is a source of International treaties ratified by Norway. It is published in five volumes, the last volume containing the ever important index. The collection contains most of the treaty texts organised chronologically in both Norwegian and language of origin, whether English, German or French.

*Overenskomster med fremmede stater* (Treaties with foreign governments) (1883) is a continuous publication of the International treaties and sets of rules Norway participate in. In [Lovdata](#) you find [Utenriksdepartementets traktatregister](#) (Treaties from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

[Global and Regional treaties](#), ed by Ole Kristian Fauchald and Bård Sverre Tuseth, is a collection of fundamental treaties of practical application. [The Treaty Database](#) they have developed gives selected basic treaties from different areas of law so that the database will be relevant for law students throughout their law studies and for a broad range of professionals.

Important treaties are occasionally collected and issued, e.g. for students' purposes: [Folkerettslige tekster](#): samling med opplysninger til studiebruk (1995) (Texts pertaining to International law: a collection of information for use during studies) by Erik Møse is such a collection.



## 4. Law Reports, Judgments

### 4.1 Law Reports

Case law is an important source in Norwegian law. Particularly judgments of [Høyesterett](#) (The Supreme Court) which are published in [Norsk Retstidende](#), 1836-. This collection is considered the official minutes of The Norwegian Supreme Court. Most of the court decisions are reported in full, and in the case of dissenting votes, the arguments of the minority are also published.

Furthermore, the report contains extracts of decisions made by the Supreme Court's Committee on Appeals. [The Norwegian Bar Association](#) edits *Norsk Retstidende* (abbr. Rt) in cooperation with the Supreme Court which also contains head note summaries, as well as annual and 5 year indexes. (The editor makes a head note summary for each published verdict and is responsible for making annual and 5 year indexes to the collection of reports.) These contain keywords, systematic and alphabetic indexes with references to the headings, a list of statutes and a list of names for civil law cases. Decisions are referred to by year of publication and the designated page number: e.g.: Rt 1994 s. 1063 (s is abbr. for "page").

Each decision is assigned a reference number (to the above mentioned decision: HR-2010-1533-A, (sak nr. 2010/486)), and these numbers are used only until a reference to Norsk Retstidende is available (even by the Supreme Court itself).

A selection of decisions by subordinate courts; the District Courts, City Courts and High Courts, is published in [Rettens Gang](#) (1933 -), (abbr. RG) and published by [The Norwegian Bar Association](#). The Editor decides which cases have sufficiently broad and fundamental interest to be included in the collection, and writes headers and indexes (as described above). A reference to RG may look like this: *RG 1994 s. 334*. In literature, the name of the court, is often mentioned, alternatively its abbreviation, in addition to the reference to RG year and page.

The two law reports mentioned are both published in instalments approximately twice a month. For unpublished legal decisions, the relevant Court may be contacted with the date and case number or sufficient information to identify the decision. A copy of the decision will be issued against a small fee.

The Reference Book on Law ([Juridisk oppslagsbok](#)) (Bertnes et al. 1997) contains relevant key words to find references to various sources, including reference to decisions published in Rt and RG.

[Lov og Dom](#), published in three volumes, is a separate reference tool for references to reported decisions. To search, look up a current statute provision and see which decisions refer to it. The references to Rt. and RG are given.

Legal literature usually contains a separate index of decisions. It is possible to look up various aspects of the legal decisions in law literature with the help of separate indexes of decisions at the back of the books.

The electronic database [Lovdata](#) contains Supreme Court rulings in full text as well as headings of the lower court decisions published in RG. Decisions made by courts of first instance after 1989 are also available in full text through this database, but only recent decisions are available on the free Internet edition of [Lovdata](#).

The electronic database [Gyldendal Rettsdata](#) is the other Norwegian law database. It offers different options for finding decisions from the Supreme Court and select decisions from subordinate courts. This is a subscription service.

Some special court reports are also published, among these are:

[Dommer og kjennelser av arbeidsretten](#) (Decisions and rulings of The Labour Court) (1916-) New [decisions](#) at a webpage under [Arbeidsretten](#), older is to be found in Lovdata.

[Dommer, uttalelser m.v. i skattesaker og skattespørsmål](#) (Decisions and rulings etc. in tax issues) (1922 -).

[Nordisk Domssamling](#) (Nordic Court Report) (1958-) contains selected decisions from the Nordic countries. Decisions and rulings are now being published together with Tidsskrift for rettsvitenskap and after 2001 accessible in the periodical database Idunn.

[Nordiske domme i sjøfartsanliggender](#) (Nordic decisions in maritime matters) (1900- ) contains Nordic decisions on maritime law. It exists as a printed version and after a year as a part of Lovdata.

All of these collections have annual and cumulative indexes. Many publishers also edit case books of selected decisions within limited legal areas, partly to be used for educational purposes at the universities, partly intended for practitioners. These reports are all in Norwegian only.

Norwegian legal journals and reports often refer to, mention and quote specific legal decisions. For additional information, see the section "Current Information Sources".

## 4.2 Administrative Practice

The practice of public administrative agencies is often referred to and relied on by the Courts. This applies especially to tax legislation, and Decisions and rulings etc in tax issues ([Dommer, uttalelser m.v. i skattesaker og skattespørsmål](#)) (1922-) is an important collection. [The Parliamentary Ombudsman's annual report](#) is another publication on public administrative practice. It appears annually as Document no 4 in volume 5 of *Stortingsforhandlingene*.

[Juridisk nettviser](#), the gateway to law, contains links to several bodies exercising administrative practice.

[The Legislation Department](#) at [The Ministry of Justice and Public Security](#) publishes several types of documents:

[Draft resolutions and bills](#) (Prop.) are documents presented to the Storting.

[White papers](#) (Meld.St.) are drawn up when the Government wishes to present matters to the Storting that do not require a decision.

[Laws and rules](#) include laws, regulations, guidelines, etc. related to the Ministry's areas of responsibility.

Circulars, information from the Ministry to affected parties about interpretations of laws and regulations will you find in Lovdata.

Hearings, proposals that the Ministry send to affected parties (public and private institutions, organizations and other ministries). The purpose is to evaluate economic and administrative consequences of public measures.

Norwegian Official Reports are made by committees and work groups appointed by the Ministry. [Reports and plans](#) are usually made by external researchers or a committee, and include reports, analysis and surveys delivered to the Ministry.

An annual collection of legal interpretations from: [Lovavdelingens Uttalelser](#).

### 4.3 Usage

The custom of private parties is of less importance than in earlier times. Usage is, however, still an important source of law within certain areas, including commercial law other than contract law, and in relation to common land (usufruct). Some of the private conflict-solving bodies publish their decisions. Among these are [Finansklagenemnda \(FinKN\)](#), Complaint Board for insurance, bank, finance and securities since 1th of July 2010. It was earlier Forsikringsklagekontoret, (FKK) (The Norwegian Bureau for Insurance Disputes – NBI) which is the secretary for Forsikringsklagenemnda (FKN) (The Insurance Complaints Board (ICB) and "Bankklagenemnda" (The Board of complaints for consumers in banking and finance matters). Decisions made by these committees are published electronically by [Lovdata](#), as reports by several other organizations.

## 5. Computer-Based Systems of Basic Legal Texts

### 5.1 Lovdata (Lawdata)

[Lovdata](#) is an independent foundation cooperating with the public authorities in making a Norwegian legal information system available and up to date. The free based edition of [Lovdata](#) contains several online information systems.

Lovdata's main activities are:

The operation of the Web-site with legal information.

The operation of an online Legal information service.

Publication of The Legal Gazette (Norsk Lovtidend) and the production of the text for Norwegian statutes in force, Norway Treaty Series and many other publications containing laws and regulations.

Development of software in connection with maintaining and running large databases.

Consultant in informatics.

About 5 000 law articles earlier published in different law journals in fulltext.

Lovdata is also the publisher of two periodicals.

### 5.2 Gyldendal Rettsdata

[Gyldendal Rettsdata](#), a part of Gyldendal Norsk Forlag, is the other comprehensive legal information systems in Norway. Here you get access to:

Norsk Lovkommentar (Norwegian laws with commentaries).

11 Spesialfag (special subjects).

Praktisk Juss (practical law).

Different sources of law, electronic books (ca. 60) and six law journals.

About 300 renowned judges and legal scholars are contributors to different databases.

### 5.3 Juridisk Nettviser (Gateway to Law)

Law librarians at the law faculties in Oslo, Bergen, and Tromsø have created and developed Juridisk Nettviser, an Internet gateway to online legal information. This tool, available at [juridisk.net/](http://juridisk.net/), facilitates access to Norwegian, foreign, and international legal sources that are available on the Internet. From 2011 The Law Library at The University of Oslo is responsible for operating and development of the system, now in a new computer programme.

Juridisk nettviser is a subject gateway for law on Internet and has as ambition to be the main gateway for Norwegian lawyers, researchers, law students and others who search for legal information on Internet.

Examples of selected main topics: Jurisdiction, Legal subject, Sources of law, International law (here: EU- and EEA-law, Law on human rights)

### 5.4 Preparatory Work and other Background Material

When interpreting a law, its history and background is often useful. Preparatory works have particular importance when interpreting new laws or areas of law where there is limited legal practice. Relevant preparatory works often consist of public documents made in connection with the making of the law.

The different ministries file the notes and documents used in preparing regulations, but these are rarely of any legal importance.

The history of statutory law is usually more elaborate and may give useful guidance to interpretation.

Usually the legislative process is initiated either by the Government or one of the political parties represented in Parliament. If an important law, a committee is appointed to consider its necessity and to make suggestions to its contents. Committee reports are usually published as [NOUs](#) in the publication series [Norges offentlige utredninger](#) (1972 - ). [Innstillinger og betenkninger](#) (1935-72) was made prior to the [NOU](#) series.

The next stage is the hearing; the committee report is circulated among relevant national bodies and institutions that submit their opinions on the matter. Then the responsible ministry prepares a bill, which the Government submits before 1. Oct. 2009 to the Odelsting, now as a proposition to Stortinget. This was called Odelstingsproposisjon (proposition to the Odelsting, abbr: Ot.prp.), now [Proposition to the Storting](#) (law) ( abbr.: Prop. L) which is the basis for debates in the Storting. After the discussion, it a Proposition to Stortinget (law and decision from the Storting). The propositions and the documents containing the minutes of Storting debates are published in [Stortingsforhandlinger](#), a comprehensive parliamentary series issued in 9 volumes. It also contains white papers and government documents.

The preparatory documents of Norwegian acts are assembled in [Forarbeid til lovene](#). This publication contains all Storting documents about the Bill at the time of its enactment, up to 2009 [Odelstingsproposisjoner](#) (Ot.prp.), recommendations to the *Odelsting*, debates of the

*Odelsting* and *Lagting*, in addition to previous preparatory work which today mainly consists of [NOUs](#). After 1<sup>st</sup> october 2009 it contains [Proposisjoner](#) (proposition to the Storting) (Prop. L) and (Prop. LS)

On [GOVERNMENT.NO](#) you can find information from the Government and Ministries, different documents in English:

[Propositions and reports](#) documents presented to the Storting (Draft resolutions, bills and white papers)

*Acts and regulations*. Government.no does not publish a complete overview of valid acts and regulations. For a complete overview (in Norwegian), [check Lovdata](#). Norwegian laws in English: The Law Library database, [Translated Norwegian legislation](#),

[Circular](#) Information from the ministry to affected parties about interpretations of laws and regulations.

[Official Norwegian Reports](#) (NOU) made by committees and work groups appointed by the Ministry.

[Reports and plans](#) overview of selected reports and plans from The Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministries.

[Guidelines and brochures](#) inform about the Ministry's politics and policies, and target a wider audience.

When a statute is published in [Norsk Lovtidend](#), references are made to relevant preparatory work.

## 5.5 Reference Work

Unlike many other countries, no collective work of Norwegian legal sources exists. The most comprehensive work is [Norsk lovkommentar](#) described above. It contains statute laws with annotations, in addition to links to referred case law.

## 5.6 Directories

[The Norwegian Bar Association](#) has about 6 500 members, and more than 90 per cent of the attorneys in Norway are members of the association.

[Juridisk nettviser](#) contains links to several similar directories.

Information about the [Ministries](#) is available in English online and includes information on the separate government ministries, their departments and individuals in charge, with telephone numbers and the addresses of the separate offices.

## 5.7 Bibliographies

### 5.7.1 General Bibliographies

[Guide to Nordic Bibliography](#) (Munch-Petersen 1984-1988) is a descriptive guide in English covering the Nordic countries.

[Norwegian National Bibliography](#) (*Norsk bokfortegnelse*), is the most comprehensive bibliographic tool (Universitetsbiblioteket i Oslo, 1870-1997, Nasjonalbiblioteket 1997 - ) from 1814 onwards. The databases of the Norwegian National Bibliography ([Norbok](#)), contain references to Norwegian books, journals, maps, dissertations, audio, sheet music, online and offline resources. The databases cover various periods from 1921 onwards. CD-ROM is available for the period 1941-1999.

The database [Norwegian List of Serials \(Norper\)](#) contains references to journals, microforms, newspapers mainly from 1970 onwards.

The database [Norwegian and Nordic Index to Periodical Articles \(Norart\)](#) covers references to articles from about 450 Norwegian periodicals and yearbooks, mainly from 1980 onwards.

[Biblioteksøk](#) containing references to books, theses, audio, video and online resources held in app. 350 Norwegian libraries. About one half of the included material is printed after 1983. Contains 4.420.000 records.

[Norwegian Union Catalogue of serials \(Samper\)](#) (Norsk samkatalog for periodika) containing references to periodical subscriptions in approx. 350 Norwegian libraries.

BIBSYS Library and Information Systems offers services to all Norwegian University Libraries, the National Library, all college libraries and a number of research libraries.

[The BIBSYS Library Database](#) is the union catalogue of the above-mentioned libraries and contains bibliographic information of their holding: books, periodicals, maps, music as well as electronic resources such as e-journals and e-books (totally about 5,76 million unique titles, 17,57 million copies).

[BIBSYS Ask](#) is the open access catalogue that allows users to search for documents in the following databases:

The [BIBSYS Library Database](#)- all holdings or holdings of one of the libraries, i.g. UB. [Juridisk bibliotek](#) ([the Law library of the University of Oslo](#))

[Cristin](#) (Current Research Information System in Norway) is an organisation for research information and documentation. The system consists of research results, researchers, projects and research units and is open for everyone. Approximately 190 scientific institutions are using Cristin.



## 5.7.2 Law Bibliographies

Among the many International law bibliographies covering Nordic law, the following need to be mentioned:

Kirsten Lothe Jacobsen: [\*Norwegian law in foreign languages, a bibliography\*](#). It was first published in 2004.

[\*The Scandinavian Legal Bibliography\*](#) (Juul et al. 1961) contains references to older literature.

Only one general Norwegian law bibliography exists, but it only covers the period 1962-1966: Haukaas, Kaare (1967) [\*Norsk juridisk Litteratur\*](#) 1962-1966. Oslo, Universitetsforlaget. As frequent users of Nordic law literature we have always envied Sweden, Finland and especially Denmark their bibliographic publications within the field of law. However, some smaller special bibliographies exist: [\*Norwegian legal publications in English, French and German up to 1965\*](#), (Haukaas 1966) with a supplementary volume for the period [\*1966 -1977\*](#) (Haukaas 1977).

[\*International journal of legal information\*](#) is a bibliography of Nordic legal literature written in English, German, French and Italian languages 1982 – 1992 (Haider 1993) and it is available online for member libraries.

[Halvor Kongshavn](#) has prepared a bibliography on the contents of Norwegian festschriften (Kongshavn 1991, with an addition in 1994). He has also published *A bibliography of articles in non Scandinavian languages 1963-1993 in Norwegian legal festschriften* (1994). Hanne Strømø and Halvor Kongshavn have published [\*Nordisk juridisk festskriftbibliografi\*](#) (Ad Notam Gyldendal, 1998) and [\*Nordic legal festschriften\*](#) (Juridisk fakultetsbibliotek, 1999). In 2003 Halvor Kongshavn published [\*Nordisk juridisk festskriftbibliografi : innholdet i juridiske festskrift fra Danmark, Finland, Island, Norge og Sverige : 1998-2002\*](#) (Gyldendal, 2003)

Bibliographies on individual works, which may be found in Festschriften, may provide an easy access to relevant literature. From the universities in Oslo, Bergen and Tromsø, you can search via net in BibJure, which contains references to articles in Nordic legal festschriften.

In most festschriften, one finds a bibliography of the person to whom the festschrift is dedicated. Because most festschriften are dedicated to well known legal researchers, and the festschriften are published at the end of their career, these books are often important access to legal literature.

Kjersti Selberg has published [\*Eldre norske rettskilder – en oversikt\*](#), Det juridiske fakultetsbiblioteks skriftserie nr. 20, 2009, Norwegian netversion.

Kirsten Al-Araki: [\*Nordisk sjørettsbibliografi 1880-1998\*](#) ( Al-Araki, 2000) (Nordic Bibliography of the Law at Sea 1880-1998).

Kjersti Selberg has published an extensive bibliography on tax laws covering the period after 1945: [\*Norsk skatterett 1945-1988\*](#) (Selberg 1990).



A bibliography of publications made by academic staff at the Faculty of Law, University of Bergen, was prepared in connection with the Faculty's 25th anniversary in 1994 (Jacobsen 1994).

[Juridisk oppslagsbok](#) (1997) (The Reference book on Law) contains references to books and articles.

[Praktisk rettskildelære. Juridisk informasjonssøking.](#) (Last edition: Bertnes/Kongshavn/ Trygstad 2012) (Textbook on Sources of Legal Information in Norway) contains a survey and evaluation of printed and electronic sources of legal information. The textbook gives directions on how to find statutes, case law and law literature, both in paper and online.

[Praktisk rettskildelære is on internet](#) in a short but interactive version.

[BibJure](#) is an electronic library system developed especially for Norwegian Lawyers by Diagnostica. It contains a database of law literature with more than 20 000 systematized bibliographic records, mainly Norwegian and Nordic titles, in addition to references to Norwegian legal articles in periodicals and references to articles in Nordic legal festschriften. Pål A. Bertnes has developed the legal part of the database; containing a detailed index with a keyword register to the index. It follows the same system as in Norges Lover and Norsk Retstidende. Because of its retrieval possibilities, BibJure is an effective tool when searching for legal literature. Norwegian courts and law firms have adopted the system.

## 6. Indexing and Abstracting Services

[The National Library](#) was affiliated with the University of Oslo Library until 1995. It has a selection of Norwegian periodicals, including the most important legal periodicals. The periodicals are indexed, and the database ([Norart](#)) is today free of charge. [Lovdata](#) has the last years collected more than 5 000 law periodical articles in full text. [BibJure](#) analyses legal periodicals seeking to cover all legal articles in Norwegian periodicals, festschrifts and anthologies.

All of the Norwegian legal publications issue annual indexes. The most important publications also issue general indexes, which are cumulated over long periods (see below). As to the collections of case law in Rt and RG, cumulated 5 year indexes have been issued besides the annual ones. The Faculty of Law Library is involved in several bibliographic projects.

### 6.1 Dictionaries

#### 6.1.1 Legal Dictionaries in Norwegian

[Juridisk nettviser](#) contains links to dictionaries available on the Internet.

Important published Norwegian law dictionaries are:

[Jusleksikon](#) - Jon Gisle et.al (2010) (printed and electronic via Ordnett.no)

[Juridisk leksikon](#) - Egil Gulbransen (Gulbransen 1994)

[Norges Domstoler. Judicial dictionary](#) (an Internet dictionary from the National Courts Administration)

[Juridisk ordliste](#) from [ju\\$torget.no](#) (an Internet dictionary)

[Juridisk ordbok](#) from Legalis AS (an Internet dictionary)

#### 6.1.2 Legal Dictionaries in Foreign Languages

A special dictionary exists in Dictionary of International Agreements with Norwegian, English and French Terminology ([Leksikon om internasjonale kontrakter: med norsk, engelsk og fransk terminologi](#)) (Rigault 1992).

A few dictionaries exist that can help foreign lawyers understand Norwegian legal terms.

## English:

[Stor norsk-engelsk juridisk ordbok: med engelsk-norsk register](#) (Norwegian-English law dictionary: with English-Norwegian register) (Craig 1999).

[Engelsk-norsk økonomisk juridisk ordbok](#) (English-Norwegian economic law dictionary) (Hansen/Lind 2008)

[Norsk-engelsk økonomisk-juridisk ordbok](#) (Norwegian-English economic law dictionary) (Hansen/Lind 2010)

[Engelsk-norsk juridisk ordbok](#) (English-Norwegian law dictionary) (Lind 2007)

[Norsk-engelsk juridisk ordbok](#) (Norwegian-English dictionary of law) (Lind 2009)

[Forsikringsordbok: Norsk-engelsk/Engelsk-norsk](#) (Lind 1989) (Insurance dictionary: Norwegian-English/English-Norwegian)

[Norsk-engelsk strafferettslig ordbok](#) (Norwegian-English criminal law dictionary) (Walford 2007)

## French:

[Fransk-norsk juridisk oppslagsbok = Lexique juridique Franco-Norvégien](#) (Fife 1991),

[Franske fagtermer: fransk-norsk/norsk-fransk ordbok over vanlig brukte ord og uttrykk i samfunnslivet](#) (Schlyter/Nordli/Hustad 1987)

## German:

[Deutsch-Norwegisches Juristisches Wörterbuch](#) (Simonnæs 1992)

[Norsk-tysk juridisk ordbok](#) (Norwegian-German legal dictionary) (Simonnæs 1994)

A collection of links to dictionaries are found in [Juridisk nettviser: dictionaries](#). Lately, some dictionaries have been issued to assist Norwegian lawyers translate into other languages.

These may also be of interest to foreigners:

[Norsk-engelsk juridisk ordbok: kontraktsrett: med engelsk-norsk register.](#) (Norwegian-English law dictionary: with English-Norwegian index) (Craig 1992)

[Norsk-engelsk, engelsk-norsk ordliste for kriminalomsorgen](#) (Bø 2007), dealing with terminology relating to prison service, probation service and Criminal Court system.

[Norsk-engelsk juridisk ordbok:](#) strafferett, straffeprosess og andre juridiske termer. (Norwegian-English law dictionary: criminal law and procedure and other legal terms: with English-Norwegian index) (Chaffey/Walford 1997)

[Engelsk økonomisk blå ordbok](#) (English-Norwegian/Norwegian-English) (Aagenæs 2002)

[Norsk-Engelsk økonomisk ordbok](#) (Norwegian-English economic dictionary) (Aagenæs 1993)

[Norsk-engelsk administrativ ordbok](#) (Norwegian-English administrative glossary) (Chaffey 1988)

[Anglo- Scandinavian Law Dictionary of Legal Terms Used in Professional and Commercial Practice](#) (Anderson 1977) is an older publication in English

## 7. Current Information Sources

### 7.1 Journals, Research Reports, News, Information

[The Norwegian Bar Association](#) publishes *Advokatbladet* with information about lawyers and short articles about recent legislation and case law. It also contains a separate section of news about legal sources.

The other important association of Norwegian lawyers, [Norges Juristforbund](#) (Norwegian Association of Lawyers), publishes *Juristkontakt* and is available *online* from 2001. In addition to information about the association itself, the journal also consists of relatively short scholarly articles. Both publications are issued monthly.

Law journals (printed versions and the mentioned also in full text in [Idunn](#) and Gyldendal Rettsdata, subscription databases):

*Arbeidsrett* articles in labour law. In Idunn

*Artic review on law and politics*. A scientific journal with the goal to publish articles in the field of law and politics. In Gyldendal Rettsdata.

*Jussens venner* different subjects of special interest for law students. In Idunn.

*Lov og rett* (LoR) publishes articles within all fields of law. The authors are mostly jurists in academic positions, lawyers or judges. In Idunn.

*Nordisk domssamling* selected supreme court decisions from Nordic countries. In Idunn.

*Nordisk tidsskrift for menneskerettigheter* (earlier: *Mennesker og rettigheter*) contains articles on human rights. In Idunn.

*Skatterett* (Tax law) specifically concentrates on the legal aspects of taxation. In Idunn.

*Tidsskrift for erstatningsrett forsikringsrett og velferdsrett* articles on different themes round damages. In Gyldendal Rettsdata.

*Tidsskrift for familierett, arverett og barnevernrettslige spørsmål* (FAB) (Family law). In Gyldendal Rettsdata.

*Tidsskrift for eiendomsrett* (Law on property). In Gyldendal Rettsdata.

*Tidsskrift for forretningsjus* contains especially articles on contract law and company law. In Gyldendal Rettsdata.

*Tidsskrift for rettsvitenskap* (abbr. TfR, a Nordic publication issued in Norway) is considered to have more academic merit than the other journals. TfR contains longer scholarly theses as well as reviews of Nordic legal literature. In Idunn.

*Tidsskrift for strafferett* contains articles and reports on sentences from criminal law. In Gyldendal Rettsdata.

The Faculties of Law at the universities of Oslo, Bergen and Tromsø all issue separate monograph series.

Many issues of the series *Marius* issued by [The Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law](#) and *Complex* from [Norwegian Research Centre for Computers and Law](#), both The Faculty of Law in Oslo, are written in English.

*Eurorett* is a guide to new EC and EEA rules and legal decisions of importance to Norway. It is issued every fortnight by [Lovdata](#), in cooperation with [Centre for European Law](#) at the University of Oslo.

## 7.2 Statistics

The main supplier of statistics in Norway is the public institution [Statistics Norway](#), which publishes weekly, monthly and annual statistics within most areas of society, including law and legal institutions, education, trade and business. The statistics are available in both Norwegian and English. The institution also publishes the annual series [Statistical Yearbook of Norway](#) containing updated information about the Norwegian society. Both contents and detailed index are available in English and Norwegian. (The institution publishes statistics by topic, you will find statistics on legal matters under Social conditions, [welfare and crime](#).) All public institutions are required to supply Statistics Norway with statistics.

## 8. The Law Library of the University of Oslo

[The Law Library of the University of Oslo](#) (Juridisk bibliotek. UiO) is a section of the [University of Oslo Library](#) (UBO) and consists of [The Main Library](#), [the Learning Centre](#) and seven [Institute Libraries](#). It is the largest of the three Norwegian University Law Libraries. Students and external users who need to use the collections of the Institute Libraries must contact the Main Library. The Library has a permanent [staff](#) of 24, of which 20 are librarians. Four of the librarians hold a law degree. In addition to the permanent staff, the library engages around 10 law students part time.

### 8.1 The Library Collections

The collections of all the libraries are regarded as one, in spite of decentralized collections. Responsibility for the acquisition of literature is split between the Institute Libraries and the Main Library.

The Library aims to have a complete collection of all Norwegian and important Scandinavian legal literature as well as relevant legal literature from other European countries, EU and USA. The Library also procures literature from related fields such as legal history, philosophy of law, sociology of law, political science and criminology.

Library holdings:

Printed volumes approximately 300 000

Journals, printed and electronic editions: approximately 3 500 subscriptions

Legal databases: approximately 75

The law books (monographs) are shelved systematically, by subject. The classification scheme used is called the [L-scheme](#). It is a numerical system, each number representing a subject area. The most general subjects are given the lowest classification numbers, e.g. jurisprudence is classified from 1 to 107, while private law has numbers from 108 to 637, public law from 638 to 1127 and so forth. The L-scheme serves the purpose of classifying and shelving documents according to subject.

The collections are registered in the [BIBSYS](#) Library database (Union catalogue for Norwegian university libraries, the National library, all college libraries and a number of research libraries). The titles belonging to the Law library in Oslo are placed under the heading: UIO, Universitetsbiblioteket. Juridisk bibliotek.

## 8.2 Circulation

All the libraries have lending collections in addition to reference collections. Books published prior to 1850 do not circulate. Journals do not circulate, except for a small collection in the Main library.

The lending period in the Main library:

Students and external users: 4 weeks

Libraries: 4 weeks

University staff: 12 weeks.

Renewals: Items without a waiting list may be renewed. Patrons are asked to renew their loans themselves through the database [BIBSYS](#).

## 8.3 Databases

The Law library subscribes to a number of databases, some are open access databases, and others are accessible from faculty or university workstations. Most of them are also available to walk-in users.

The database collection is available in the library's gateway, [X-port](#). The database selection covers many European National catalogues, all the Scandinavian, British, German and American union catalogues, their article catalogues and catalogues of legal sources, in addition to a number of International databases within special fields such as law, criminology and social sciences.

[X-port search service](#) is a gateway to electronic sources offered at the University of Oslo. These services are databases, e-journals, e-books, reference works and encyclopedias within all subject areas.

[Juridisk nettviser](#) (Norwegian law gateway). The three university law libraries in Norway have for several years been cooperating with developing the Norwegian law gateway Juridisk nettviser. It contains a comprehensive listing of links to law related resources on the Internet, national as well as international; legal sources, institutions, databases, electronic journals, starting points etc. The Norwegian version of the gateway has received new software in September 2011, and work is underway to complete an English edition. The editors continuously adjust the gateway to the changes in the resources it indexes.

## 8.4 The Main Library at the University of Oslo

[The Main Law Library](#) is situated in [Domus Bibliotheca](#), the west wing building of Universitetsplassen, and is the largest part of the law library. The collections aim to serve students and external users as well as faculty members. Emphasis is therefore placed on:



Course literature

Basic legal literature

Main foreign sources of law

General international law journals

Bibliographies

The law library holds different library training sessions every year in English.

Visitors may contact the circulation desk if they need a course in English on how to use the library or find legal sources.

## 8.5 The Learning Centre

[The Learning Centre](#) is situated in [Domus Nova](#). The Centre [offers](#) ordinary reading room facilities, computer work stations and well equipped group rooms. There is a collection for circulation as well as a reference collection of course books, important Norwegian periodicals and court decisions. The circulation collection is primarily aimed at first and second year law students.

## 8.6 The Department Libraries

The Department Libraries are located at the different departments at the Faculty of Law. These libraries aim at representing in depth coverage of the legal fields of the institute, and are primarily available for researchers. Students and external users should make inquiries at the [Main Library](#).

[Centre for European Law and Petroleum Law. The Library](#)

[Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law. The Library](#) (DN)

[Norwegian Research Center for Computers and Law. The Library](#) (DN)

[Department of Public and International Law. The Library](#) (DB)

[Department of Private Law. The Library](#)

[Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law. The Library](#)

[Petroleum and European Law. The Library](#)

[Norwegian Centre for Human Rights. The Library](#)

## 9. The Law Library at the University of Bergen

The primary goal of the [Law Library](#) and its staff is to provide library services to the students and the staff of the Faculty of Law. The library service also extends to attorneys and other law professionals in the Bergen and West Coast area - along with foreign guests and visitors. The library is situated in the middle of the faculty building and is easy to reach. The library staff consists of lawyers, librarians, clerks and law students.

The Law Library, including the European Documentation Centre, has a collection of close to 100.000 volumes and subscribes to more than 850 different law journals and law reports - national, Scandinavian and international.

The collection is located at one floor level (some minor exceptions). The library procures all relevant Scandinavian legal literature, as well as books, journals and reports in foreign languages from other countries in Europe, from EU, and from the US.

Besides law, the library procures literature from related fields like political science, (legal) philosophy, (legal) history, sociology of law, and criminology. The library encourages acquisition suggestions.

## 10. The Faculty of Law Library at the University of Tromsø

[The University of Tromsø](#) Library is a public funded research library established in 1969. The section for [law](#) is part of the Humanities division of [Tromsø University Library](#) and is [located](#) as a subject library together with psychology under the the name of [PJ-library](#) at the University campus. The main purpose of the library is to serve students and researchers at Tromsø University, but others desiring the services of the library in their personal research, academic studies or related projects may be granted lending cards.

Approx. 12000 titles of law are on display. The Law Library collection is divided into four levels, with the main collection on the 3rd level.

## 11. Useful Addresses

### 11.1 Associations of Lawyers and Judges

[Den Norske Advokatforening](#) (Norwegian Bar Association)

Kristian Augusts gate 9, 0164 Oslo

Phone +47 22 03 50 50

[Den norske dommerforening](#) (Norwegian Association of Judges)

Kristian Augusts gate 9, 0164 Oslo

Phone +47 22 03 50 50

[Norges Juristforbund](#) (Norwegian Association of Lawyers)

Kristian Augusts gate 9, 0164 Oslo

Phone +47 22 03 50 50

### 11.2 Government Organizations

[Justis- og beredskapsdepartementet](#) (Ministry of Justice and Public Security)

Visiting address: Gullhaug Torg 4A , Oslo

Mailing address: P.O.Box 8005 Dep, 0030 Oslo

Phone +47 22 24 90 90, E-mail: [postmottak@jd.dep.no](mailto:postmottak@jd.dep.no)

[Utenriksdepartementet](#) (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Visiting address: 7. juni-plassen/Victoria Terrasse, Oslo

Mailing address: P.O.Box 8114 Dep, 0032 Oslo

Phone +47 23 95 00 00, Fax: 23 95 00 99, E-mail: [post@mfa.no](mailto:post@mfa.no)

[Nærings- og handelsdepartementet](#) (Ministry of Trade and Industry)

Visiting address: Kongens gate 8, Oslo

Mailing address: P.O.Box 8014 Dep, 0030 Oslo

Phone +47 22 24 90 90, E-mail: [postmottak@nhd.dep.no](mailto:postmottak@nhd.dep.no)

[Justis- og beredskapsdepartementet, Lovavdelingen](#)

(Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Legislation Department)

Visiting address: Gullhaug Torg 4A, Nydalen, 0484 Oslo

Mailing address: P.O.Box: 8005 Dep, 0030 Oslo

Phone +47 22 24 53 63/62/98, E-mail: [postmottak@jd.dep.no](mailto:postmottak@jd.dep.no)

## 11.3 The Supreme Court

[Høyesterett](#) (The Supreme Court of Norway)

Visiting address: Høyesteretts plass, Oslo

Mailing address: P.O.Box 8016 Dep, 0030 Oslo

Phone +47 22 03 59 00, Fax +47 22 33 23 55

## 11.4 Law Schools and Research Institutions

[Universitetet i Oslo, Det juridiske fakultet](#) (University of Oslo, The Faculty of Law)

Visiting address: Domus Academica (Urbygningen) Karl Johansgt. 47, 0162 Oslo

Mailing address: P.O.Box 6706, St. Olavs plass 5, 0130 Oslo

Phone +47 22 85 95 00, Fax +47 22 85 96 58, E-mail students: [info@jus.uio.no](mailto:info@jus.uio.no)

[Universitetet i Bergen, Det juridiske fakultet](#) (University of Bergen, Faculty of Law)

Visiting address: Magnus Lagabøtes plass 1, Bergen

Mailing address: P.O.Box 7800, 5020 Bergen

Phone +47 55 58 95 00, Fax +47 55 58 95 71, E-mail: [post@jurfa.uib.no](mailto:post@jurfa.uib.no)

[Universitetet i Tromsø, Juridisk fakultet](#) (University of Tromsø, Faculty of Law)

Visiting and mailing address: Breivika, 9037 Tromsø

Phone +47 77 64 41 97, Fax +47 77 64 47 75, E-mail: [www@jus.uit.no](http://www@jus.uit.no)

## 11.5 Law Libraries and Libraries with Law Literature

[Juridisk bibliotek](#) (Law Library) Oslo

Visiting address: Karl Johans gate 47, 0162 Oslo

Mailing address: P.O.Box 6713 St. Olavs plass, 0130 Oslo

Phone +47 22 85 98 85, Fax +47 22 85 98 80, E-mail: [ujur@ub.uio.no](mailto:ujur@ub.uio.no)

[Bibliotek for juridiske fag](#) (Law Library) Bergen

Visiting address: Dragefjellet, Magnus Lagabøtes pl 1, Bergen

Mailing address: P.O.Box 7808, 5020 Bergen

Phone +47 555 89595, Fax +47 555 89522, E-mail: [ubjur@ub.uib.no](mailto:ubjur@ub.uib.no)

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 Mailing address: P.O.Box 6730 St Olavs Plass, 0130 Oslo  
 Phone + 47 22 03 43 00, E-mail: [akademisk@gyldendal.no](mailto:akademisk@gyldendal.no)

[Akademika](#), Administration and main shop at Blindern

Visiting address: Problemveien 9, 0313 Oslo  
 Mailing address: P.O.Box 84 Blindern, 0314 Oslo  
 Phone + 47 22 85 30 70, Fax + 47 22 85 32 13  
 E-mail: [blindern@akademika.no](mailto:blindern@akademika.no)

[Akademika Jus](#) (Akademika University Bookshop, Law Department)

Visiting and mailing address: St. Olavsplass 5, 0165 Oslo  
 Phone + 47 40 76 13 64, Fax + 47 22 98 02 22  
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[Fagbokforlaget](#)

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### [Diagnostica](#) (Law Library System [Bibjure](#))

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Visiting address: Akersgata 13, 0158 Oslo  
Mailing address: P.O Box 448 Sentrum, 0104 Oslo  
Phone: +47 22 00 25 00

### [Næringslivets Hovedorganisasjon](#) (The Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry)

Visiting address: Næringslivets hus. Middelthuns gate 27, Majorstuen NHO, Oslo  
Mailing address: P.O.Box 5250 Majorstuen 0303 Oslo  
Tlf +47 22 96 50 00, Telefax +47 69 55 93

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Pål A. Bertnes

## Legal information in Norway electronic and printed sources

5th edition - Updated December 2012

The growing emphasis on international exchanges within research and studies has led to an increase in the number of English speaking students and researchers studying or working at the Faculty of Law in Oslo. This survey in English of where and how to find current Norwegian legal sources and legal literature, is written with the aim of meeting their needs.

The survey was revised and updated to be current per September 2012, it is based on an earlier edition published in *Det juridiske fakultetsbiblioteks skriftserie* no 13 1997.

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