Using Current Law to find legal information

What is Current Law?
Current Law is a legal publication covering all case and statutory developments from 1947 to date. It contains both primary and secondary material and is the best print resource for finding cases and checking judicial history. It can also be used for current awareness.

There are five parts to Current Law:
1. Monthly Digest
2. Case Citators
3. Yearbooks
4. Legislation Citators
5. Statutes Annotated

How do I access it?
Current Law is located in the Law Library on the third floor of the University Library. It is in the ‘Law Reports and Journals’ section (arranged in alphabetical order of title).

How do I use it?
How you use Current Law depends on the type of information that you are looking for:

Case Law
Finding a case (by party names)
Look for the party names in the relevant Case Citator (arranged in alphabetical order of party name). If you do not know the date of the case you will need to look in all of the Case Citators. If the case was heard in the current year you will need to look in the Monthly Digests.

When you find the case you will be given information similar to the example below:

…Digested, 89/2939: Distinguished, 92/3449

- A list of citations - information on where that case has been reported | published. It is important to note that there is a recognised hierarchy of law reports, and the citation will always list the most authoritative first.
• ‘Digested’ information - a reference to the Current Law Yearbook (1989) and paragraph number (2939) so that you can find a summary of the facts and decision of that case.

• Judicial History - if applicable, reference(s) to where the case has been referred to in other cases (applied, considered, distinguished etc.).

Finding a case (by subject area)

Look for the subject area in the relevant Yearbook or Monthly Digest (for cases from the current year). Both the Yearbooks and the Monthly Digest are arranged by subject heading.

The judicial history of a case

The Case Citators provide the judicial history of a case. When you have found the case in a Case Citator, check all subsequent Citators for an entry as there may be history to that case since the Case Citator that you are looking in was published. If there is an entry it will tell you whether the case has been considered, referred to, overruled etc. along with a reference to the case that has considered, referred to it etc. See example above.

Legislation

Look for the Statute or Statutory Instrument (SI) in the relevant Statute Citator. If the Statute or SI was passed in the current year you will need to look in the Monthly Digests. The Statute Citators are arranged in chronological order however, there is an alphabetical list of Statutes and SIs in each citator so, if you are unsure of the year the Statute or SI was passed, consult this first. The Statute Citator provides information on any developments to the Statute or SI:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example of an entry in Statute Citator</th>
<th>Explanatory Notes</th>
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  *Commencement Orders: SI 2002/228 Art.2; SI 2002/1279 Art.2; SI 2002/1558 Art.2*  
  
  *see A v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2002] H.R.L.R. 45*  
  
  referred to: 2003 c.43 Sch.4 para.119  
  
  s.2, repealed (in part): SI 2003/435 Sch.5  
  
  s.9, amended: 2002 c.8 s.2 |  
  
  Chapter number, short title of Act and year  
  
  Commencement orders bringing provisions into force  
  
  Case where the Act has been cited  
  
  Legislation where the Act has been referred to (paragraph 119 of Schedule 4 of chapter 43 of 2003)  
  
  s.2 repealed (in part) by Schedule 5 of SI number 435 of 2003  
  
  s.9 amended by Act (s.2 of chapter 8 of 2002) |