

FirstPoint

Find it at: www.lib.monash.edu.au/databases/

FirstPoint contains:

- information about Australian cases, reported since 1825 and unreported since 1999
- summaries of Australian cases, sourced from the Australian Digest
- subsequent history and litigation history for Australian cases
- information and links to some journal articles and case notes.

Use FirstPoint to find:

- citation of a case
- links to the full text judgment or law report if available in Lawbook Online e.g. CLR (Commonwealth Law Reports)
- journals article and case notes written about a case
- subsequent cases that have referred to a case, together with how each one has considered the case (e.g. Distinguished, Applied, Considered)
- cases on a legal issue, browsable under a particular subject classification in the Digest
- cases that have considered a particular legislative provision.

Tips:

- If searching using case names, combine using 'and' e.g. osland v queen, enter: osland **and** queen.
- Results can be sorted by **Case title**, **Year** and **Jurisdiction** in a hierarchical order.
- Results contain relevant Digest and Classification information to help determine relevance.
- To find out whether the case is still "good law", look at the **Cases Citing** section and click on individual cases to check whether the case has been Applied, Considered or Overruled. Check the Status Symbol applied to these cases.
- Look for the **Noted in Journal** articles section, if available.
- Look at the Digest and Classification information to determine the legal principles considered in the case and use these for further searching.
- **Help** also contains a **Status Symbols Guide**, and a table of abbreviations used.

Look for similar information in:

- CaseBase Go to www.lib.monash.edu.au/databases/law.html

FirstPoint looks like this:

The screenshot shows the 'Lawbook Online' interface with a search form titled 'FirstPoint'. The search form includes a 'Free Text Search' field, a 'hide search fields' button, and several filter fields: 'Case Name' (containing 'osland'), 'Citation' (with an example 'eg 125 FCR 186'), 'Year' (with an example 'eg 1999 to 2004'), 'Jurisdiction' (dropdown menu), 'Court' (dropdown menu), 'Judge Surname(s)', 'Legislation Judicially Considered', 'Words and Phrases Judicially Considered', 'Case Digest', 'Classification' (dropdown menu), and 'Case Updates' (dropdown menu). At the bottom, there are radio buttons for 'All', 'Reported', and 'Unreported', and a 'results per page' dropdown set to '20', along with 'Search' and 'Reset' buttons.

More help from the Library:

Visit www.lib.monash.edu.au/help/ or

- call +61 3 9905 5054 or 1800 331 194 (toll free outside Melbourne)
- go to ask.monash at ask.monash.edu.au
- ask at the information desk at your nearest library. Check hours and locations: www.lib.monash.edu.au/libraries/
- log in to online chat via the Library's website.