An Introduction to African Legal Resources
4:15 p.m., Tuesday, October 4, 2016
Course: L6211: African Law and Development, Professor Francis Ssekandi

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Most questions are based on the research guide, *An Introduction to African Legal Resources*, available from the Arthur W. Diamond Law Library website. Please choose a country that you are interested in for these searches.

**Indexes**
1. Go to **Pegasus**, type “Foreign Law Guide” as a title search and locate the country whose legal system you wish to research. What type of information can you find?

**BOOKS**
2. Use a Schiller call number search in **Pegasus** to find where in the library resources on your country of interest are located (Af. Tun or Af. Con or Af. Nig, etc). (If time permits we will go to the library to see where you can find print resources)

3. Use **Pegasus** and **CLIO** to find secondary and primary sources on your subject. According to your country’s legal system, try to locate a civil or commercial code or a legal reporter. For some countries you may find customary law cases, sharia cases, and court cases.

4. Use WorldCat to find books on your country of interest not held at Columbia.

**JOURNALS**
5. Use the **Africa Wide** to find an article on the role of Sharia in Nigerian constitution law.
   - Can you find the full text of that article?

6. Lexis & Westlaw searches: Can you any law review article of interest?

**Statutes & cases: LEGAL DATABASES**
7. The **World Legal Information Institute** website covers African countries, but many links are dead, or the search produces no results because of “Error Bad luck”. Anyway, see if the link to cases from your country works. Do any of the courts supply opinions in full-text?

8. Go to **Pegasus** and type Jutastat. You will find a few research options. Do you intend to use any of them? If so, let me know so I can log you in and help you get started.

9. **SAFLII** is a useful database. Can you find a 2013 case from Lesotho’s High Court where the parties, married under customary law, divorced and sought custody in the local court? What did the court decide regarding its jurisdiction of the custody claim?

10. Go to Westlaw and Lexis and see if you can find any primary sources from the African country whose legal system you intend to research.