

How to Use the Cardiff Index

According to the OSCOLA guide, law reports¹ must be abbreviated and it is strongly encouraged that journal titles² also be abbreviated. The Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations database will show you what your journal or law report abbreviation should be.³ These are the steps you need to follow and the guidance to do so can be found in this document:

1. Use the Cardiff Index to find the official abbreviation. If the abbreviation is not listed here, move on to Step 2...
2. Go to the 'About' page on the journal or law report's official website and see if there is an abbreviation listed there. If an abbreviation is not listed, move on to step 3...
3. Write the name of the journal or law report in full.

To start, head over to the **Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations** website:

<https://library.port.ac.uk/subject/page1751.html#t1751>

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¹ James Goudkamp and Elizabeth Wells (eds), *OSCOLA: The Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities* (4th ed, Hart Publishing 2012) 13.

² *ibid* 37.

³ Cardiff University, 'Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations' (*Cardiff University*) <<https://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk>> accessed 23 January 2024.

Search for the Abbreviation

If you have the full name of the journal or law report but you're not sure what the abbreviation is, add it to the **Search by Title** section (and click search).

Search by Title

Enter the title of a Law publication to find the abbreviation

Search Options:

- Exact Words (ALL words, any order)
- Phrase (ALL words in order)
- Keyword (ANY words, any order)

This will show you the full title:

Exact Title Search for "Criminal Law Review"

Total 7 results.

Title	Preferred Abbrev	Alternate Abbrev	Jurisdiction
American Criminal Law Review	Am.Crim.L.Rev.	-	United States
Buffalo Criminal Law Review	-	Buff.Crim.L.R.	United States
Canadian Criminal Law Review	-	Can.Crim.L.Rev. ; Rev.Can.Droit P.	Canada
Criminal Law Review	Crim.L.R.	C.L.R. ; Crim LR ; Crim.L.Rev.	England & Wales
European Criminal Law Review	EuCLR	Eu. C.L.R.	Europe
International Criminal Law Review	-	Int.C.L.R.	International
Te Wharenga - New Zealand Criminal Law Review	NZCLR		New Zealand

Make sure you use the preferred abbreviation and the right jurisdiction. Also remember not to include punctuation in the abbreviation as OSCOLA uses very little punctuation. **Crim.L.R.** would become **Crim LR**.⁴

So your footnote would go from:

Cheryl Thomas, 'The 21st Century Jury: Contempt, Bias and the Impact of Jury Service' [2020] **Criminal Law Review** <<http://tinyurl.com/5mn6ftes>> accessed 23 January 2024.

to

Cheryl Thomas, 'The 21st Century Jury: Contempt, Bias and the Impact of Jury Service' [2020] **Crim LR** <<http://tinyurl.com/5mn6ftes>> accessed 23 January 2024.

⁴ James Goudkamp and Elizabeth Wells (eds), *OSCOLA: The Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities* (4th ed, Hart Publishing 2012) 13.

Search for the Full Title

If you have an abbreviation but you're not sure that the journal or law report is called, add it to the **Search by Abbreviation** section (and click search).

Search by Abbreviation

Enter an abbreviation to find matching Law publication titles

Search Options:

- Exact
 Close

This will show you the full title of the abbreviation:

Exact Abbreviation Search for "Am.J.Comp.L."

Total 1 result.

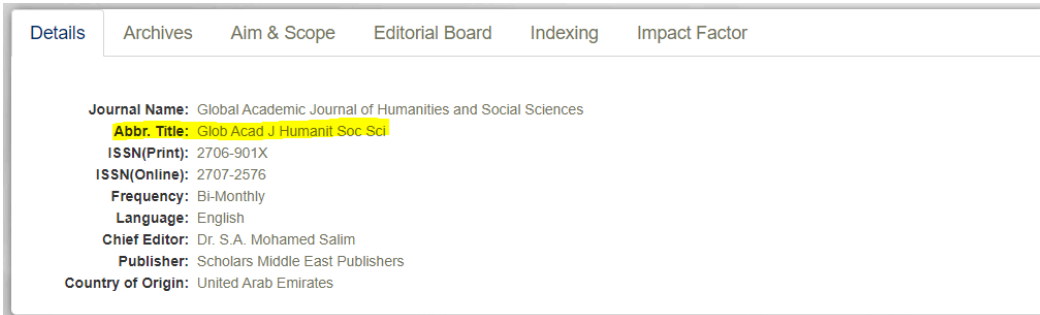
Preferred Abbreviation	Alternate Abbreviations	Title	Jurisdiction
Am.J.Comp.L.	A.J.C.L. ; AJCL ; AJCompL ; Am J Comp L ; Amer.J.Comp.L.	American Journal of Comparative Law	Comparative Law

Search the Publisher Page

Do a Google search using quotation marks to find the publisher's website. For example,

“Global Academic Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences”

Will take you to this page⁵, where you will find the abbreviation:

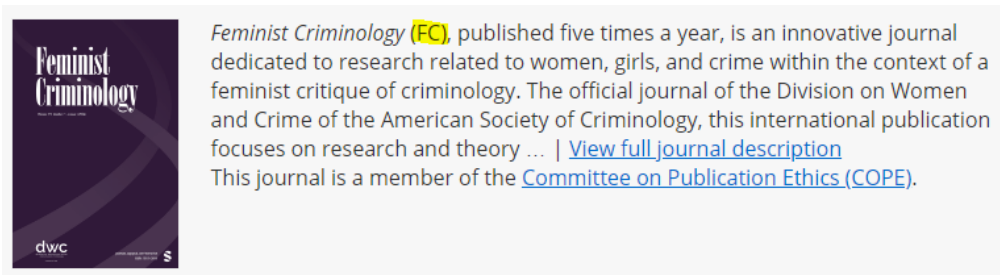


The screenshot shows a website interface with a navigation bar containing 'Details', 'Archives', 'Aim & Scope', 'Editorial Board', 'Indexing', and 'Impact Factor'. The 'Details' tab is active. Below the navigation bar, the following information is displayed:

- Journal Name: Global Academic Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Abbr. Title: Glob Acad J Humanit Soc Sci
- ISSN(Print): 2706-901X
- ISSN(Online): 2707-2576
- Frequency: Bi-Monthly
- Language: English
- Chief Editor: Dr. S.A. Mohamed Salim
- Publisher: Scholars Middle East Publishers
- Country of Origin: United Arab Emirates

“Feminist Criminology”

Will take you to this page⁶, where you will find the abbreviation:



The screenshot shows the cover of the journal 'Feminist Criminology' on the left. To the right, the following text is displayed:

Feminist Criminology (FC), published five times a year, is an innovative journal dedicated to research related to women, girls, and crime within the context of a feminist critique of criminology. The official journal of the Division on Women and Crime of the American Society of Criminology, this international publication focuses on research and theory ... | [View full journal description](#)
This journal is a member of the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#).

“Emergency Medicine Journal”

Will take you to this page⁷, where you will find the abbreviation:

Emergency Medicine Journal



Improve healthcare quality at your institution

Emergency Medicine Journal (EMJ) is a leading international journal of developments and advances in emergency medicine and acute care. It has relevance to all specialties involved in the management of emergencies in the hospital and prehospital environment.

Content includes original research, evidence-based reviews, and commentaries on topics ranging from resuscitation, trauma and disaster preparedness, to response, toxicology and pediatric emergencies.

EMJ is co-owned by the [Royal College of Emergency Medicine](#) and [BMJ](#). EMJ is written for doctors, nurses, paramedics and ambulance staff.

⁵ Global Academic Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, 'Details' (*Global Academic Journals and Research Consortium*) <<https://www.gajrc.com/journal/gajhss/home>> accessed 23 January 2024.

⁶ Sage Journals, 'Feminist Criminology' (*Sage Journals*) <<https://journals.sagepub.com/home/fcx>> accessed 23 January 2024.

⁷ Royal College of Emergency Medicine and British Medical Journal, 'Emergency Medicine Journal' (*BMJ*) <<http://tinyurl.com/ke37t843>> accessed 19 November 2009.