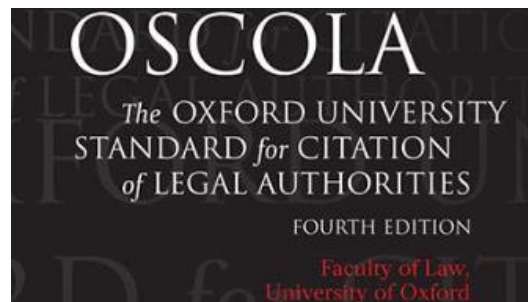# A Law Workshop Guide:

Referencing for Law Students

Referencing is an essential tool for academic writing. It helps you avoid plagiarism as well as demonstrating that you can provide authority for the statements made in your work.

The School of Law uses the **Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities** (OSCOLA), which is widely used by law schools, journals, and book publishers in the UK and beyond.

It is, however, not the only standard for referencing law materials; **always check with your tutor or Moodle first before starting any assessment**.

OSCOLA is used for referencing both primary and secondary sources.

- **Primary Sources** are first-hand reports. These include legislation and cases.
- **Secondary Sources** are those which evaluate primary sources. These include books, articles and online sources including Twitter comments and blog posts.

The guide to OSCOLA is available to download from the OSCOLA website:
https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/research-subject-groups/publications/oscola

Resources included feature a short guide:
https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/oscola_4th_edn_hart_2012quickreferenceguide.pdf

As well as the full text:
https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/oscola_4th_edn_hart_2012.pdf

Other Useful Guides:

Citing the Law Guide
The Citing the Law guide was designed by information services staff at Cardiff University:

Citing the Law A-Z
Examples of referencing using OSCOLA created by a team at Cardiff University

Software

Referencing software is available to help you keep track of your reading, saving your references and bibliographies for your assignments. The earlier you get into the habit of using referencing software, the easier you will find it when it comes to referencing larger and more complex works.

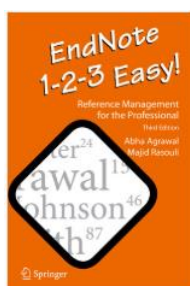There are various referencing software you can use, including **Endnote**, **Refworks** and **Zotero**.

Glasgow University provides software to support **Endnote** and **Endnote Basic**. Follow the link for further details:

https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/library/help/endnote/

OSCOLA is available for Endnote. There is further guidance on the OSCOLA website:

https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/research-subject-groups/publications/oscola-styles-endnote-latek-refworks-and-zotero

The following guide is also available through the library catalogue:

End Note 1-2-3 Easy! Reference Management for the Professional, Agrawal Abha, 2019.