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Derived from two essential reference collections for historical and more contemporary legal studies - the Nineteenth Century Legal Treatises and Twentieth Century Legal Treatises microfilm collections, published by Gale imprint, Primary Source Microfilm – The Making of Modern Law provides researchers with a logical, interdisciplinary approach to the study of legal history. The collection is a key component to legal research in academic institutions and allows a vast segment of the literature of law to be quickly searched via keyword access by faculty members and students – anywhere, anytime!

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A legal treatise is a monograph or other writing about the law, rather than a transcript of statutes or cases. There is an extensive body of literature of legal treatises from U.S. and British jurisdictions, and the older law libraries have incomplete collections of them. Furthermore, many law schools were established after World War II and, consequently, even if these new schools wished to obtain copies of classic treatises, they were simply unavailable. As a result, newer law libraries were weak in historical material. In the 1970s, interest in U.S. and British legal history increased significantly. Law schools realized this demand and added courses devoted to legal history, but libraries lacked many of the sources necessary to support legal-history instruction and scholarship. The Making of Modern Law: Legal Treatises, 1800-1926 now makes it possible to support this research by organizing important works from the period in one comprehensive collection. Works include casebooks, local practice manuals, form books, works for lay readers, pamphlets, letters and speeches.

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- Covers almost every aspect of American and British law
- Works include casebooks, local practice manuals, form books, works for lay readers, pamphlets, letters and speeches
- Encompasses a range of analytical, theoretical and practical literature for research in United States and British legal history
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