

***Research Update:
What vocabulary can and
should we teach
International Law
postgraduates?***

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UNIVERSITY OF
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BALEAP Law SIG June 2022
online event



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***Who should teach
Law vocabulary?***

Example views:

- Only those with a Law background
- Must team teach/collaborate [EAP/EALP + Law experts]
- EAP lecturers can only teach general academic vocabulary



The *DSVC International Law Corpus*

12 domains:

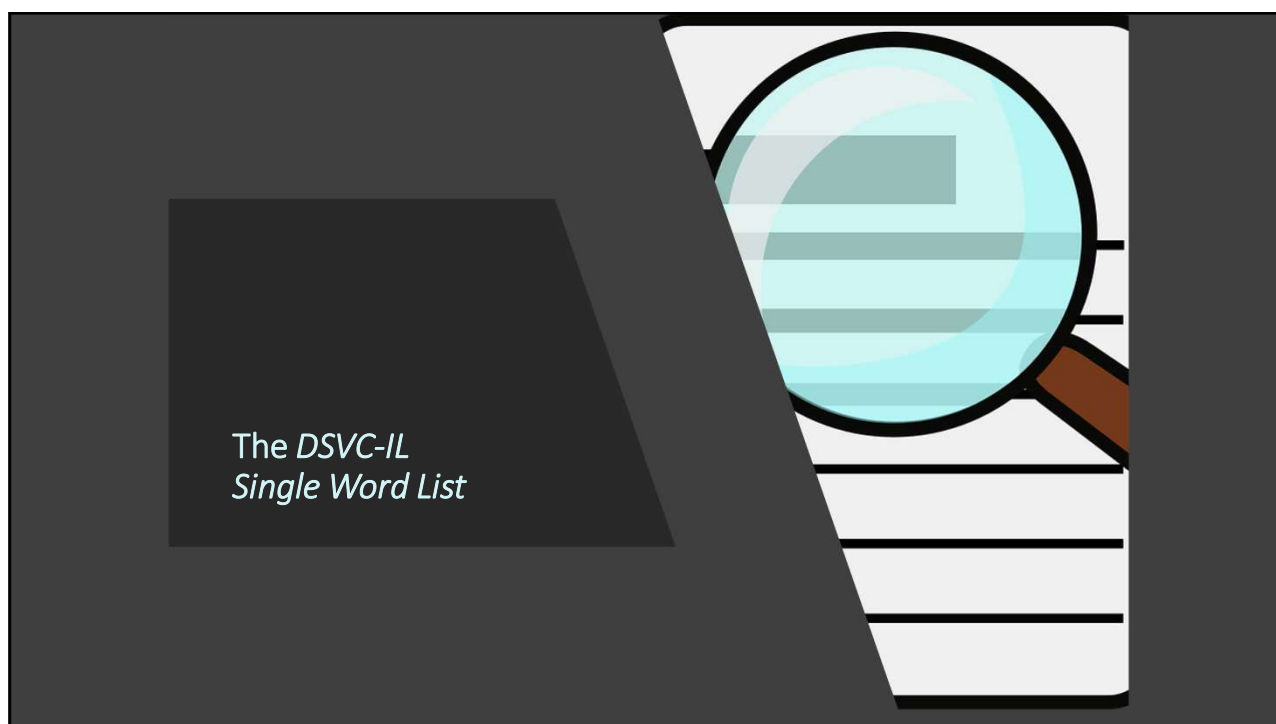
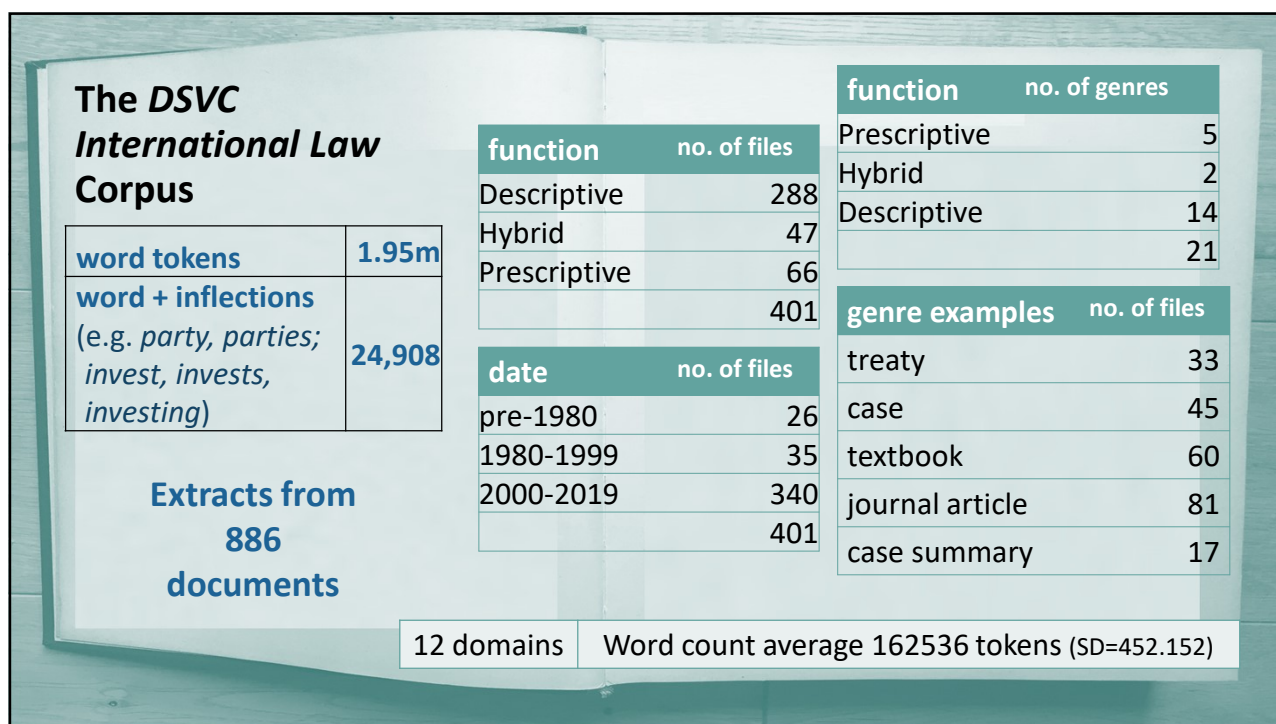
1. Company Law
2. Intellectual Property & Internet Law
3. Civil & Commercial ADR
4. Sale & Carriage of Goods, Marine Insurance, & Shipping
5. World Trade and Investment
6. Banking & Finance
7. Conflict of Laws
8. EU Constitutional & Administrative Law
9. EU Substantive Law
10. Public International Law
11. Armed Conflict & International Criminal Justice
12. International Human Rights Law

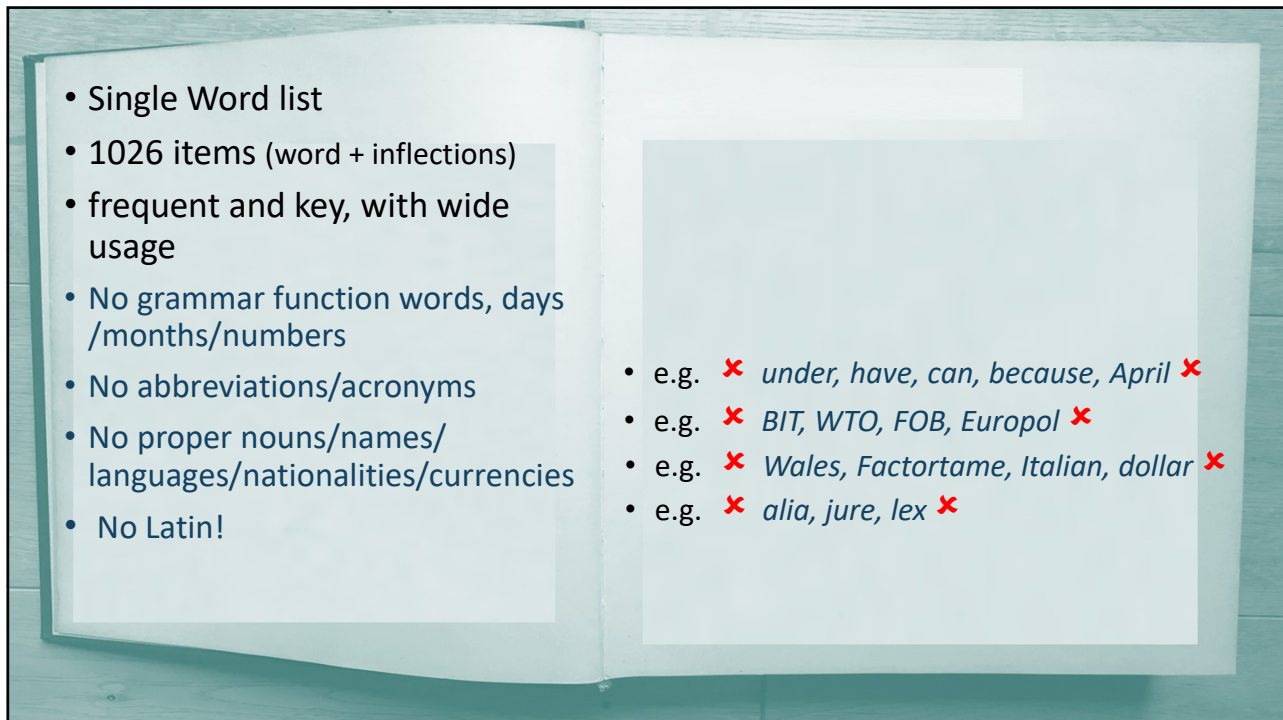


Evaluation:

expert judgments
on corpus content







1. Split half analysis

2. Coverage

3. Expert judgements

Evaluation

How do I know the list represents the language of the domain of PG International Law?

1. Split half analysis

Evaluation

2. Coverage

3. Expert judgements

The proportion of the total word count that is comprised of words from the list.

In the corpus: **26.37%** of all words

Outside the corpus: **23.87%** of words

1. Split half analysis

Evaluation

2. Coverage

3. Expert judgements

Survey:

- 300 words
- 68 responses from 8+ institutions
- 2 follow-up interviews

- *Is this a Law word?*
- *Would you gloss or discuss this word or term in class?*
- *Do your students need help with this word?*

Is this a Law word?

- **Yes**, this is word has a legal meaning and/or usage (alone or in a phrase).
- **No**, this is a general word.
- **Sometimes** – one or more uses of this word are technical or Law specific.

arbitral
binding
customary
freedom
harmonization
implement
intervention
judicial
provision
ratify

Is this a Law word?

- **Yes or sometimes: 66%**
- **No: 27%**
- **Undecided: 7%**

Would you gloss or discuss this word or term in class?

- **Yes**, I would gloss and/or discuss this word (with an example and/or definition), or check students have understood its meaning and usage.
- **No**, I expect students to know this word.
- **Perhaps** - I may gloss and/or discuss this word, or check students have understood its meaning and usage.

arbitral
binding
customary
freedom
harmonization
implement
intervention
judicial
provision
ratify

Would you gloss or discuss this word or term in class?

- **Yes or sometimes: 25%**
- **No: 57%**
- **Undecided: 18%**

Because these words are not likely to be glossed by the content teacher their subtechnical meanings are clearly the domain of the ESP teacher. Flowerdew (1993: 236)

What vocabulary can and should we teach International Law postgraduates?

Thank you very much.
So thank you for coming to my talk today
I'd just like to say thank you once again for giving me the opportunity to speak today
Thank you. We just have time for one more slide.

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Join me on