Haward Soper is an Associate Professor at the University of Leicester’s Law School. His research and teaching is informed by his 30 years in industry, in a career that spanned multiple global markets and sectors.

Haward Soper has held senior commercial contracting and legal roles at Alstom, Siemens, Rolls-Royce (NEI) and Shell, where was responsible for Australasia, Far East and Middle East. As an expert in contract law contract management and commercial and practice, Haward’s work particularly focuses on the management of commercial contracts. He also undertakes consultancy and training assignments for a range of clients keen to benefit from his expertise, particularly around best practice in contract management.

Haward has used services from Lloyd’s List Intelligence throughout his time at University of Leicester. He regularly accesses both Law Reports and Lloyd’s Maritime and Commercial Law Quarterly (LMCLQ), which are available as one of the resources provided to the Law School via the University’s library.

For Haward, having access to cases and Judgments in commercial contract law is essential, forming a basis on which he conducts analysis and develops his research. The sheer volume of cases worldwide can make identifying and accessing the most relevant information a time-consuming and challenging process. So being able to identify access the required cases and judgements quickly and efficiently is highly valued, as is the ability to spot new, real-world cases (from the thousands taking place each year) that have a bearing on his work.

“There is so much published these days, and so much of it is very lengthy and wordy, it’s hard to see the wood for the trees. So I appreciate the focus and directness you get from Lloyds List Intelligence. There’s nothing peripheral and superfluous that wastes your time and stops you getting to what you really need.”
What are the most important features and capabilities of Lloyd’s List Intelligence services for your work?

Search is a key tool for a researcher like Haward, enabling him to identify quickly the cases and judgements he needs to access and scrutinize. Research into the law can become bogged down in detail and the sheer volume of literature and cases, but an effective search engine enables the user to cut through the noise to what they need to include in their analysis.

With his background in industry, Haward is a strong believer in academic research influencing and contributing to contract management practices in real-world situations. So Haward appreciates the concise and pragmatic way information is presented in the Lloyd’s List Intelligence services, as well as the focus on practical, commercial applications. This contrasts with a lot of legal journals and academic texts, which tend to be less direct and more focused on theory than practice.

“The distilling of information as provided by iLaw is invaluable, as is the ability to access via search terms and search by category. The search is superior to most of the information and journals you come across in the legal sector.”

“I’m not a maritime specialist but the focus is useful, and maritime as a very interesting area to me as a researcher from a contracts perspective.”

How would you describe the impact on your work of these services?

Using services from Lloyd’s List intelligence, Haward is able to keep up to date with the latest developments that are relevant to his work and to access reference cases and judgements quickly. This helps his work stay current and relevant, reflecting the real-world practice of contract law and its implications for managers in industry.

“More people in Academia should use these tools. They get you closer to the actual practice of the law in the commercial world than other law journals and information sources, and they do it in a way that is very accessible and very applicable in a practical sense.”

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