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## **Comparison of the US legal system and research materials with that of Australia**

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The US legal system shares many common features with that of Australia, but is also markedly different in some important ways. While both countries share a system of 'federalism,' the legal relationship between the federal and state governments in each country is very distinct. The US legal system at both the state and federal levels is very 'rights oriented,' with a heavy emphasis on constitutional interpretations. Source materials for legal research are more scattered in the US than in Australia. However, there are some excellent digests that summarize the complexities of US law, such as 'American Jurisprudence' (commonly called 'AmJur') and the 'American Law Reports (the 'ALR').