I. Procedure

The Rabel Journal publishes original book reviews only, usually written at the Journal’s request.

Reviews are published in German, English or French, provided that they have not simultaneously been offered for publication elsewhere.

To facilitate a swift editorial process, authors of book reviews are kindly requested to comply with the following guidelines. The editorial office reserves the right to revise manuscripts accordingly.

A review copy of the book will be sent to the author by the Rabel Journal editorial office. The review should take place within six months after receipt of the book. In general, if the review has not been written, the book must be returned. There is no remuneration for book reviews.

A document template for book reviews does not exist. Please submit manuscripts as Word documents to: rabelsz@mpipriv.de

II. Text design

Reviews should generally comprise 3–4 printed pages, with each containing approx. 3,500 characters including spaces and footnotes.

Grammar and spelling should be based on a current edition of a standard English dictionary.

The bibliographical details of the book under review are to be placed at the beginning, with the name and place of the reviewer at the end of the text.

Reviews can be structured as follows: I. and 1., and so on; or only 1., 2., and so on. Headings are not to be used.

The formatting should be plain (i.e. no bold print or spaced letters, no underlining, no indented paragraphs). Text markups are produced by the editorial office.

Highlighting for the purposes of accentuation must be in italics. Foreign terms or phrases (i.e. those deviating from the manuscript language) should also be in italics. However, please do not italicize quotations or proper names as such.

References to pages and chapters, etc., of the reviewed book should be placed in the text of the review and in brackets; references to other sources should be placed in footnotes (which should be used sparingly).

Footnotes are automatically counted and they should be indicated by a superscript number after the punctuation mark.

II. Citation format in footnotes

The Rabel Journal is characterized by an international multi-lingual audience, requiring – in view of diverse national academic and legal styles and traditions – maximum readability and accuracy, not least when citing sources. Since there are no uniform international standards, this journal adopts the following citation scheme:

Initial citation. – For every source mentioned for the first time, the full names of all authors and editors must be provided. Only authors’ names should be italicized. The main title of each source must be fully reproduced. All names and titles in non-Latin characters should be provided in the original; in such cases and also for all non-Western languages, English translations must be appended parenthetically. The place of publication is generally requested for pre-1900 books and may also be indicated in other instances to avoid doubts.

When citing literature of any sort, editorships or outline elements (such as text marginal numbers or paragraphs) must be given in the manuscript’s language. Editions are indicated by superscript numbers. The initial citation of contributions in collective volumes and journals must specify the full titles and page ranges. Indefinite pinpoint numbering (“ff.”) is to be avoided. For journals, please use their standard abbreviations and follow their own recommended citation scheme. Archive journals and yearbooks require a volume number.

References with regard to the source, designation, and citation of statutes, legislative materials and court decisions should follow the practice in the country of origin. Common abbreviations of such sources are to be used in their original form. Concerning continental courts, the dates of the decisions must always be indicated.

Internet addresses are to be provided if the underlying source is or was available exclusively online; please indicate the retrieval dates. In other cases, references to printed material are preferred.

Subsequent citation. – All subsequent citations take an abbreviated form, usually accompanied by a cross-reference to the footnote of the initial citation:

As to monographs and contributions in collective volumes and journals, the author’s surname is repeated, along with one or more keywords contained in the title and followed by a reference to the footnote with the initial (full) citation and to the specific passage(s) now being referred to.

Regarding commentaries, encyclopaedias, handbooks etc., their common designation should be used instead of title keywords and placed before the author’s name. If reference is made to a different contribution in or a different edition of a work already cited, this is to be regarded as an initial citation to which reference has to be made in subsequent citations.

In subsequent citations, court decisions are also repeated in abbreviated form directing the reader to the footnote of initial citation.

With statutes and other norms, such cross-reference to the place of first citation is not necessary.

(please see next page for examples)
1. Literature

a) Monographs, textbooks etc.

Konrad Zweigert / Hein Kötz, Einführung in die Rechtsvergleichung auf dem Gebiete des Privatrechts (1996) 73


b) Contributions in collective volumes, Festschriften etc.


Heike Schweitzer, Handelsvertreterverträge im europäischen Wettbewerbsrecht, in: Hopt / Tzouganatos (n. 3) 195–219, 203


C) Commentaries, handbooks, encyclopedias etc.


Christian Jung / Wolfgang Deselaers, in: Grabitz / Hilf / Nettesheim, Recht der EU (looseleaf, March 2011) Art. 102 AEUV no. 3

Felix Maulthex, in: Beck-Online, Großkommentar zum Zivilrecht (1 December 2016) Art. 17 Rom II-VO nos. 4, 62

Simon J. Whittaker, in: Chitty on Contracts (11) 2012 no. 1-087

D) Journals, archive journals and yearbooks with volume number


Peter Stein, Elegance in Law, (1961) 77 LQR 242–256, 244

E) Internet sources, newspapers, legislative material etc.


Tanja Schlüter, Spurensuche im Graubereich, SZ 16 February 2011, p. 12

Deutscher Bundestag, Entwurf eines Gesetzes zur Modernisierung des Schuldrechts, BT-Drs. 14/6040 of 14 May 2011, p. 35

3. Court decisions

Germany: BGH 26 March 2009 – I ZR 153/06, BGHZ 180, 344, no. 14

Switzerland: BGer. 4 August 2005, BGE 132 III 18 E. 4.1

France: Cass.civ. 3° 18 March 2009, no. 07-21260, Bull.civ. 2009, III, no. 64

Italy: Cass. 17 September 1997, no. 9260, Foro, I, 1217, 1219

EU: CJEU 13 February 2014 – Case C-466/12 (Nils Svensson a.o.), ECLI:EU:C:2014:76, nos. 39–42


UK: Boulting v. Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, [1963] 2 QB 606 (CA)


4. Statutory law, administrative regulations etc.

Germany: Gesetz über die Eingetragene Lebenspartnerschaft (Lebenspartnerschaftsgesetz – LPartG) of 16 February 2018, BGBl. 2018 I 266

France: Art. 42 Loi n° 2007-308 portant réforme de la protection juridique des majeurs, J.O. no. 56 of 7 March 2007, p. 4325


UK: s. 5 Financial Services and Markets Act (FSMA) 2000 (c. 8)

USA: see. 3 Securities Act of 1933, 15 U.S.C. § 77a

Zweigert / Kötz, Einführung (n. 1) 13–17

Venedikov, New Property Law (n. 2) 34

Hirte, Inspire Art (n. 3) 23–25, 31–38, 42

Schweitzer, Handelsvertreterverträge (n. 4) 204 n. 32 with further references

Wengler, Mythos lex fori (n. 5) 303

MüKo BGB / Loosschelders (n. 6) Art. 14 EGBGB no. 8

Staudinger/Herzog (n. 7) Einl. zu §§ 2353–2370 BGB no. 52

Grabitz / Hilf / Nettesheim / Jung / Deselaers (n. 8) Art. 102 AEUV nos. 7–9

BeckOGK / Maulszch (n. 9) Art. 17 Rom II-VO no. 5

Chitty on Contracts / Whittaker (n. 10) no. 1-127

Dethloff, Familienrecht in Europa (n. 11) 27

Halfmeier, Nachhaltiges Privatrecht (n. 12) 750

Greene, Rights as Trumps? (n. 13) 50

Stein, Elegance (n. 14) 244

Cao, Legal Status (n. 16) 177

Wood, Concept of Security Interest (n. 17) 8

BaFin, Jahresbericht 2014 (n. 18) 15–17

Schult, Spurensuche (n. 19) 12

Deutscher Bundestag, BT-Drs. 14/6040 (n. 20) 79

§§ 2, 3 para. 2 sent. 2 LPartG

Arts. 43, 44 para. 2 subpara. 3 sent. 1 Loi n° 2007-308

Art. 6 para. 3 lit. a Rome II Regulation

ss. 12, 23(1)(a) FSMA 2000

secs. 5, 12(a)(2) Securities Act 1933