

These books are the first two volumes in the Research Handbooks on the WTO series. As of this writing, two additional volumes are planned. The first two volumes start the series on solid scholarly footing and would make good acquisitions for libraries supporting advanced researchers studying international trade, patents, trademarks, and copyright.

With the adoption of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, the WTO became a major forum for negotiating intellectual property rules. The first book’s twenty-one chapters cover a wide range of issues relating to the TRIPS Agreement, including copyright, patents, trademarks, geographical indicators, and semiconductor chip designs. The volume’s scope is impressive and makes it suitable as a reference volume. Many of the chapters are largely descriptive, detailing the history of a treaty’s adoption, the proceedings of a trade dispute, or the provisions of a statute. The contributors offer proposals and interpretations, but the emphasis on description will be valuable to readers simply seeking to gain an understanding of a treaty or case. This is an advanced work and readers just beginning to explore international intellectual property law may want to do some introductory reading to get some grounding in the terms of art and important legal actors.

The second volume, on interpretation and enforcement of intellectual property rules, has a much narrower scope. The ten chapters analyze the interpretive principles adopted by dispute settlement panels. While the WTO
panels do not produce binding precedent, the chapters will help readers understand how trade disputes involving intellectual property are decided and how the decisions are enforced under different countries’ legal systems. Aside from the TRIPS Agreement as the common object of study, there are few characteristics unifying the chapters in either volume. Citation format varies a bit, and some chapters have reference lists, while others use only footnotes. The index for each book is a valuable tool, but the volumes could also benefit from unified bibliographies and glossaries defining all the various acronyms that are liberally sprinkled throughout the chapters. Most of the chapters are original works; a few are noted as being revisions of earlier scholarly articles or reports. These books will be useful sources for advanced scholars of international trade and intellectual property law. Libraries supporting more introductory collections on these topics may not need either volume. Most libraries would probably find the first, broader volume more valuable.

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