Legal Research

The purpose of legal research is to find "authority" that will aid in finding a solution to a legal problem.

**Primary authority**: the rules of law and are binding upon the courts, government, and individuals. Examples are statutes, regulations, court orders, and court decisions, which are generated by legislatures, courts, and administrative agencies.

**Secondary authority**: commentary on the law that does not have binding effect but aids in explaining what the law is or should be. The resources available to find legal authority are vast and complicated leading many law schools to require students to take a class in legal research. See [Legal education](#).

How to begin?

Initially, it may help to turn to tools that provide summaries of a particular area of the law. Some examples are legal encyclopedias, treatises, and the [American Law Reports (ALR)](#). Law reviews and legal periodical articles provide interpretation of the law as well as detailed articles on particular legal topics. These interpretations may be found through indexes such as the [Index to Legal Periodicals](#). Restatements provide detailed summaries of what the law generally is or what the restatement writers believe the law should be. These sources will provide citations to primary authorities such as case law on the subject.

What these guides cover:

- [American Digest System](#)
- [Formbooks and Other Drafting Materials](#)
- [Legal Encyclopedias](#)
- [Legal Periodicals](#)
- [Library of Congress List of Topics](#)
- [Low Cost Legal Research](#)
- [Restatements of the Law](#)
- [Widely Used Legal Resources](#)

**Guide to Using the American Digest System**

Overview:
The American Digest is the master index to all the case law of the U.S. It is effective for identifying and locating reported cases in any federal or state court.

The American Digest consists of the following sets (Library, Upper level, U23)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Digest</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Vols.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Century Digest</td>
<td>1658-1896</td>
<td>50 vols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Decennial</td>
<td>1897-1896</td>
<td>25 vols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Decennial</td>
<td>1916-1926</td>
<td>29 vols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Decennial</td>
<td>1926-1936</td>
<td>34 vols.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Fifth Decennial</td>
<td>1936-1946</td>
<td>49 vols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixth Decennial</td>
<td>1946-1956</td>
<td>36 vols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh Decennial</td>
<td>1956-1966</td>
<td>38 vols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleventh Decennial Part 1</td>
<td>1996-2001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Digest</td>
<td>1991-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Century Digest**

It does not use the same topic and key number system as subsequent Decennial Digest. **To convert a Century Digest Key number to its equivalent key number, use the pink page tables in v. 21 of the First Decennial Digest or the Second Decennial Digest.** With that adjustment, one can locate decisions on a particular topic of law from 1658 to the current year. This set does have a subject index included in the bank of the last volume (v. 50); it does not have a Table of Cases. However, the Table of Cases for the Century Digest is included in the Table of cases for the First Decennial Digest.

**The Decennial Digests**

These contain all headnotes assigned to cases during a ten year period, arranged by topic and key number order. Decennial has its own Descriptive Word Index except for the First and Second (which share an index) and the Third and Fourth Decennials (which also share a Descriptive Word Index). Every Decennial has its own Table of Cases but only in plaintiff defendant order.
The General Digests

These contain current case law and supplement the Decennial Digests. Every five years (since 1976) they cumulate into part I or II of the next Decennial Digest. Each General Digest volume contains its own Descriptive Word Index, a Table of Cases and a Table of Cases Affirmed, Reversed, etc. as well as the digests of the cases arranged by key number.

Case digests in each volume of the General Digest do not cumulate until the publication of the next Decennial Digest. However, in every tenth volume (i.e. v.10, v.20, etc) of the General Digest published, cumulative Descriptive Word Indexes, Tables of Cases and Tables of Key Numbers for the last ten volumes are included. If you search through General Digest volumes that have not cumulated, you must search the Descriptive Word Index and Table of Cases of each individual volume separately.

Of special note is the Table of Key Number, Table of Cases and Indexes found in every tenth volume (i.e. v.10, v.20, etc.) of the General Digest. This is a time saving table that allows you to look up your topic and key number to see what volumes of the General Digest contain digested cases on your topic. The Table of Key Numbers cumulates in each volume for the volumes since the last tenth volume cumulation.

Formbooks and Other Drafting Materials

Overview:

Creating and preparing legal documents is fundamental to the practice of law. Whether you are an attorney, a law student, or a pro se litigant, formbooks can serve as a resourceful guide to drafting legal documents.

What is a formbook?

Formbooks contain sample legal documents and annotated checklists. Available in print and online, formbooks cover a wide variety of substantive and procedural issues. Law Students and pro se litigants use formbooks to help identify the language they should use for a particular legal document. Attorneys and other experienced drafters tend to use the annotated checklists to insure that no relevant provisions are left out. Some areas of the law, such as taxation, require the use of specific forms.

When drafting legal documents, it is important to remember that formbook samples only serve as a guide. The samples only act as template, so tailoring the sample to meet your needs is almost always necessary.

Formbooks in the Legal Information Center Collection

General Formbooks
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Book</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>American Jurisprudence Legal Forms, 2d</em></td>
<td>KF170.A542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Nichols Cyclopedia of Legal Forms, Annotated</em></td>
<td>KF170 .N5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>West’s Legal Forms</em></td>
<td>KF170 .L53 1981</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Forms by Jurisdiction: Florida Formbooks and CLE (Continuing Legal Education) materials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Book</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Bender’s Florida--Pleadings</em></td>
<td>KFF68 .M3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Florida Jur Forms: Legal and Business</em></td>
<td>KFF68 .F55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Florida Legal Forms</em></td>
<td>KFF68. F556 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Index to Forms and Checklists</em></td>
<td>KFF61 .F55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Southeast Transaction Guide</em></td>
<td>KF1410 .S68</td>
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**Pleading and Practice Forms**

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<tr>
<th>Name of the Book</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>American Jurisprudence Pleading and Practice Forms Annotated</em></td>
<td>KF8836 .A45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Bender’s Federal Practice Forms</em></td>
<td>KF8836 .F78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Taxation**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name of the Book</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Annotated Tax Forms: Practice and Procedure</em></td>
<td>KF6366 .R6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Current Legal Forms, with Tax Analysts</em></td>
<td>KF170 .R3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Federal Tax Forms</em></td>
<td>KF 6286 .C65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tax and Financial Planning for Tax-Exempt Organizations: forms checklists, procedures

KF6449 .B58 1990

Tax Action Coordination

KF6366 .T39

Wills, Trusts, and Estates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Book</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida Will and Trust Forms Manual</td>
<td>KFF144 .A65 F462 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts Forms</td>
<td>KF748 .P7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estate Planning Handbook—With Forms</td>
<td>KF750 .F7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finding General Forms Online

- The Internet Legal Research Group Forms Archive: [http://www.ilrg.com/forms/index.html](http://www.ilrg.com/forms/index.html)
- LexisOne: [http://www.lexisone.com](http://www.lexisone.com)
  - Forms are available for free in PDF format; interactive forms are available for a small fee.

Finding Florida Forms Online

  - The Florida State Court System offers a set of Family Law forms that can be used by anyone. It is strongly recommended that you consult your nearest Self-Help Center if you have questions about the content on any of these forms.
- Florida Department of State: [http://www.sunbiz.org](http://www.sunbiz.org)
  - Access to corporation, limited liability company, partnership, and judgment lien forms on this website.

Subscription Databases

Both LexisNexis and Westlaw provide electronic copies of forms available for download and printing. (You must be a member of the law school community to be able to access these websites.)

LexisNexis
Legal>Secondary Legal>Forms and Agreements>All Transactions

Or

Legal>Secondary Legal>Matthew Bender ®>By Area of Law> Forms

Westlaw

You can access all available forms by:

· Searching through the database “FORMS_ALL”; or
· Look under “Forms” in the Westlaw Directory.

Legal Encyclopedias

Overview:
Legal encyclopedias are secondary sources of law. They provide commentary on the law rather than providing the law itself. In addition to their role as a commentary source, legal encyclopedias provide citations to secondary or primary sources of law (statutes, case law, etc.)

Two major legal encyclopedia sets are owned by the Legal Information Center, and while much of the material is duplicated, each set has unique characteristics as well. American Jurisprudence 2d or Am Jur 2d was published by The Lawyers Co-op and Corpus Juris Secundum or (CJS) was published by West. Now both sets are owned by West. Entries in either of these encyclopedias are written by attorneys on the American Law Reports (ALR) is another quasi-legal encyclopedia. Although similar in tone to the articles in legal encyclopedias, ALR annotations are different in that they are not organized alphabetically, and they tend to delve more deeply into a specific legal principle or doctrine, while, in contrast, encyclopedia articles aim for a broader view of the legal issue.

There is also a Florida specific legal encyclopedia, Florida Jurisprudence 2d, which is similar in structure to Am Jur 2d.

Publisher staff, and for this reason, tend to be slightly less respected than treatises which are authored by specialist attorneys or professors.

Note: These encyclopedias are available online through Westlaw and to some degree LexisNexis for law students.

Finding the topic in Am Jur 2d and CJS:
Unless you are certain of your legal topic and can go directly to the volume, the index to the set should be consulted. It consists of several volumes and can be located at the end of the set.
Determining how your topic has been indexed can sometimes be one of the most difficult steps in legal research. Try using key words and then any word that you think a publisher might use to index your topic. When an index entry says "Accomp & Acc this index" this means use whatever volume of this index set "Accomp" would fall into alphabetically. It may not be the index volume in hand. If the index entry says "Title Index to Fraud" this indicates to go to the volume (not the index) where the topic is and use that volume's topical index; besides the multi-volume index, each topic is indexed in the back of each volume.

**Comparison of AM JUR 2D with CJS:**

Both encyclopedias are issued as an entire set of bound volumes with several volumes of indexes. They are both kept current with annual pocket parts. **Topics in both sets are preceded by an outline** which assists the researcher in locating the exact point of law in question. And both sets cite to court cases in footnotes or annotations.

**Comprehensiveness:**

An important difference between the two sets is that *Am Jur 2d* cites to selected court decisions rather than to all reported decisions as *CJS* claims to do.

Both sets list the topics they cover but that list is found in different locations. *Am Jur 2d* has a table of abbreviations in the Index volumes listing its topics and also a list of topics in its *Desk Book* (also located at the end of the set). *CJS* lists its topics in each volume on a beginning page.

**Re-numbering:**

Both sets are in a second series and in the front of each *Am Jur 2d* volume is a table of Parallel references that converts the older *Am Jur* (1st Series) to current *Am Jur 2d* sections. *CJS* does not have a similar table for its first series sections although some of its topics are preceded by a **Table of Corresponding Sections** in either the bound volume or the pocket part.

**Other Features:**

*Am Jur 2d* has some additional services that *CJS* does not provide. One is the **New Topic Service**. This looseleaf binder, shelved at the end of the set, contains pamphlets covering new topics of law. In this way, new topics are covered without reissuing an entire volume until a volume is warranted. The general index refers to this service when necessary. New topics in *CJS* would be covered in the pocket part or a reissued bound volume.

Another main distinction between the two sets is *Am Jur 2d*'s emphasis on federal statutory law. A table is contained at the beginning of each *Am Jur 2d* volume containing cites from federal statutes, regulations, court rules and uniform acts that indicate where in *Am Jur 2d* you will find that law or rule discussed.
Am Jur 2d also provides its Desk Book. This volume contains miscellaneous legal information; e.g. every state's regulation of attorneys for admission to the bar, a table of Supreme Court justices, or telephone numbers for federal information centers.

Updating:

Remember to always look in the pocket part for the most recent case citations and changes in commentaries in both the topical and index volumes. When a topic of law changes substantially or a pocket part grows too large, a new volume is issued replacing the older material.

American Law Reports

American Law Reports (ALR) provides a variety of sources relating to specific legal rules, doctrines, or principles. It has been published since 1919.

Each ALR volume contains several annotations. An annotation is an article that summarizes the evolution of a very specific legal concept in a concise and precise fashion. The article will either be preceded by the full text of an important relevant case, or in later series, contain a reference to the text of the case, which is reproduced at the end of the volume.

The article will contain a wide variety of relevant citations to cases from throughout the United States and secondary sources like law review articles. The range and number of citations is always strongly representative but not always guaranteed to be completely comprehensive.

Although similar in tone to the articles in legal encyclopedias, ALR annotations are different in that they are not organized alphabetically, and they tend to delve more deeply into a specific legal principle or doctrine, while, in contrast, encyclopedia articles aim for a broader view of the legal issue. In addition, ALR articles are careful to provide cases on both sides of the legal issue and provide listings of cases according to their jurisdiction.

How to find material in ALR

Since the annotations are published in the order the leading cases were decided, there are various finding aids. The combined ALR Index indexes topics covered from ALR2d to the current series of ALR and all series of ALR Fed. West's ALR Digest now follows the classification system of the West American Digest System, and includes headnotes for the reported cases, as well as references to the annotations. For topics covered entirely by federal law, the softbound Quick Index indexes annotations in ALR Fed. The softbound Table of Cases (for a state case) or ALR Federal Table of Cases (for a federal case) provides ALR references for a particular case. A reader may also use the references in American Jurisprudence and Corpus Juris Secundum to find a more in-depth discussion in ALR. Finally, ALR articles may also be searched on Westlaw.
Different Series

ALR has been published in several series (the current series is ALR6th) and there are series of ALR Fed (which focuses on federal law). ALR3d through ALR6th and ALR Fed are updated by pocket part supplements (the first series has a citation service, and ALR2d a Later Case Service). Annotations may be superseded by a later annotation in which the editor reanalyzes the law in light of recent developments.

Florida Jurisprudence 2d

The Legal Information Center also has a Florida legal encyclopedia; Florida Jur 2d. Its arrangement is very similar to American Jurisprudence 2d. The Florida Jur 2d test is accompanies by footnotes which refer to cases and statutory law in addition to other relevant topics in American Jurisprudence 2d and A.L.R. annotations. Each article is preceded by a “Scope of Topic” note defining the coverage of the article, a “treated Elsewhere” note which refers to other articles discussing related topics, and a “Federal Aspects” note which briefly notes the relevance of federal law to the topic at hand. Included are an index and tables of citations to the Florida Constitution, Florida Administrative Code, Florida U.S. statutes, and Florida and U.S. rules of court. Remember always update using the sets of pocket parts and/or supplementary pamphlets.

Legal Periodicals

Overview:

Legal periodical articles play an important role in legal research. Well-written periodical articles are often the best source of information on legal topics, and provide extensive footnotes, which enable the researcher to discover important primary sources. There are four principal types of legal periodicals:

1. LAW REVIEWS PUBLISHED BY LAW SCHOOLS

These law reviews often present a thorough discussion and analysis of current legal issues or recent cases. All accredited law schools publish at least one law review. Law reviews are produced by students. The lead articles are usually written by well-known jurists, professors, or attorneys. They also include a student-produced section of comments on cases or legislation and notes on particular legal topics. Many law reviews also include a book review section. In addition to the principal general law review, many law schools also publish topical law reviews, such as UF’s Florida Journal of International Law.
2. BAR ASSOCIATION PERIODICALS

National and state bar associations publish periodicals which often include a combination of bar news and substantive articles on topics of interest to the area. The American Bar Association publishes many periodicals which are some of the more important bar journals.

3. LAW PERIODICALS PRODUCED BY COMMERCIAL PUBLISHERS

A growing number of law reviews and newsletters are published by commercial publishers. National Tax Journal (Tax Institute of America) and Real Estate Law Journal (Warren, Gorham & Lamont) are examples of commercially produced law reviews. Personal Injury Newsletter (Matthew Bender) and Divorce Litigation (Aspen Publishers) are examples of commercially published newsletters.

4. LEGAL NEWSPAPERS

A fairly recent development is the rise of the national legal newspaper. National Law Journal, Legal Times Of Washington and American Lawyer all include a variety of articles about the legal profession, as well as about current legal issues. Several daily legal newspapers such as New York Law Journal also include substantive articles.

Finding Legal Periodicals in Our Own Collection

Call numbers, locations, and sometimes online content of legal periodicals are available through the online catalog. For example, to find the call number of Yale Law Journal, select Advanced Search and then select Title from the drop down menu options then type:

Yale Law Journal

The online catalog will indicate the call number, the location, the volumes which are bound, and the current issues which are located at the reserve desk. Bound law reviews are located on the Lower Level in call number order. Law reviews which are designated TAX in their call number are located on the second floor in the Tax Research area. Current unbound periodicals are at the Reserve Desk.

There are two principal indexes to legal periodical articles: the Index To Legal Periodicals published by the H.W. Wilson Co. and the Current Law published by
the Information Access Company. For coverage of earlier materials, see the Jones-Chipman index, *An Index To Legal Periodical Literature*, a six volume set published from 1888-1933. The first volume of the set covers legal periodical articles from 1770-1886. Online access via the links provided below is limited to UF affiliated users - this means it must be used on-campus or while logged into the VPN.

1. **INDEX TO LEGAL PERIODICALS and BOOKS** (H.W. Wilson), 1908-present.

   **Coverage:** ILP indexes approximately 500 law journals; it only indexes articles at least five pages in length. Notes and comments must be at least two pages.

   **Access:** Articles are indexed by author and subject. Each volume also includes a Table of Cases, a Table of Statutes and a Book Review index. Index features have changed significantly since the ILP began publication.

   Other Format: ILP is available on Westlaw and on Lexis.

2. **CURRENT LAW INDEX** (Information Access Company), 1980- present.

   **Coverage:** CLI indexes more than 800 legal periodicals. It indexes many practice oriented materials not indexed in ILP.

   **Access:** Articles are indexed by subject, author and title. The subject index is separated from the author/title index. CLI also includes a table of cases and a table of statutes. CLI does not include a separate book review index, but reviews are indexed under the author and title of the book reviewed in the author/title index. Other formats: The electronic formats of CLI also index legal newspapers such as *Legal Times Of Washington*, *National Law Journal* and *American Lawyer*. The major legal dailies such as *New York Law Journal* and *Los Angeles Daily Journal* are also covered.

The following online formats are available:

1. **LEGALTRAC** is available at the workstations in the Legal Information Center.

2. **LEGAL RESOURCE INDEX** is available in Lexis and Westlaw.

The full text of most law review articles is available online. LEXIS includes the full text of approximately 72 major law reviews in individual files in the LAWREV library. Most of these law reviews are indexed from 1982. Every article in each of
these law reviews is indexed. It is important to remember that this is a small percentage of all law reviews published. If you search this file, there is still material that has not been searched.

A number of legal newspapers such as National Law Journal, American Lawyer and Legal Times are available full text in the NEXIS library LGLNEW file.

The full text of almost 50 major law reviews is available on WESTLAW. The full text of selected articles from a number of additional law reviews is also included. When using Westlaw's ILP file there will be jump link capability if Westlaw has the full text online.

The biggest online database of full-text law reviews is HeinOnline, which has .PDF access to over 1,100 law journals. Coverage for most begins with volume 1 up to (but sometimes NOT including) the current year. Access is limited to UF affiliated users - this means it must be used on-campus or while logged into the VPN.

1. FEDERAL TAX ARTICLES (CCH) Ref. KF6285 .F42

2. INDEX TO FOREIGN LEGAL PERIODICALS
Ref. P I38 AND available online NOTE: This is a subject index to selected international and comparative law periodicals and collections of essays.

3. INDEX TO CANADIAN LEGAL PERIODICAL LITERATURE Ref. P I37
NOTE: This index covers legal periodicals published in CANADA. "No material is included that has not been published in Canada."

4. INDEX TO PERIODICAL ARTICLES RELATED TO LAW Ref. P I386
NOTE: This publication indexes articles selected from journals not included in the Current Law Index, Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals, or Index to Legal Periodicals.

Library of Congress

Introduction

Our collection is organized by the Library of Congress classification system with a legal and social science focus. Please use the online catalog to get a call number and determine if the item you are looking for is on the shelf. If you need additional help contact our Reference Desk at (352) 273-0723 or email referenc@law.ufl.edu.
Using the Library of Congress Topics is a good way of finding information on a specific subject area. By going to the shelves where the information is located, you are able to browse what the LIC has to offer on your subject without having to make a detailed list of every book available. You will be surprised to find things that you may miss on a cursory search of the online catalog.

This classification system is an important tool for all types of research.

List of General Library of Congress Topics
A, B: General Works; Philosophy-Religion
C, D, E, F, G: History-Geography
H, J: Social Sciences, Political Science, International Law
K: Law (general)
KA - KC: Legal History / Ethnic Based Legal Systems
KD: British Law
KE: Canadian Law
KF: U.S. Law/See Box to right for list of legal topics
KFA-KFZ: State and City Law
KG-KZ: Foreign and International Law
L: Education
M, N, P: Music, Fine Arts, Literature
Q, R, S: Science, Medicine, Agriculture
T, U, V, Z: Technology; Military Science; Library Science State Materials

Law Subject with Library of Congress Classification
Agency KF1341-1348
Arbitration and award KF9085
Bailments KF939-951
Banking KF966-1032
Bankruptcy KF1501-1548
Bibliography KF1-8
Business corporations KF1396-1477
Carriers KF1091-1137
Church and state KF4865-4869
Civil and political rights KF4741-4783
Civil defense KF7685
Civil procedure KF8810-9075
Collective works KF209-224
Commercial arbitration KF9085
Commodity exchange KF1085-1086
Common law in the United States KF394-395
Comprehensive contracts KF871-890
Compromise KF9084
Conflict of laws KF410-418
Constitution KF4525-4528
Constitutional history of the US KF4541-4545
Constitutional law KF4501-5130
Contract of service KF894
Contracts KF801-1241
Contracts involving bailments KF939-951
Copyright KF2986-3080
Corporations KF1384-1480
Cosmetics KF3861-3894
Court organization and procedure KF8711-8807
Courts. Procedures. KF8700-9075
Creditors’ rights KF1501-1548
Criminal law KF9201-9461
Criminal procedure KF9601-9760
Directories KF190-195
Domestic relations KF501-553
Drugs KF3861-3894
Eminent Domain KF5599
Encyclopedias KF154
Environmental law KF3775-3813
Equity KF398-400
Estate planning KF746-750
Explosives KF3975-3977
Family law KF501-553
Food KF3861-3894
Form books KF170
Govt-owned corp. and business organ. KF1480
Government property KF5750-5857
History KF350-374
Immigration KF4706-4710
Indian lands KF5660-5662
Indians KF8201-8228
Insolvency KF1501-1548
Insurance KF1146-1238
Intellectual property KF2971-3192
Judicial power KF5130
Judicial statistics KF180-185
Judiciary. Judicial power KF5130
Jurisprudence KF379-382
Labor law KF3301-3580
Land use KF5697-5700
Law dictionaries. Words and phrases KF156
Law enforcement KF7595-7596
Law reports and related materials KF101-153
Law societies KF294
Legal aid KF336-337
Legal composition and draftsmanship KF250-251
Legal education KF262-292
Legal maxims. Quotations KF159
Legal research KF240-246
Legislative documents KF16-49
Local government KF5300-5332
Medical legislation KF3821-3829
Military criminal law and procedure KF7601-7679
Military discipline KF7590
Military law KF7201-7755
Monopolies KF1631-1657
Natural resources KF5505
Negotiable instruments KF956-962
Non-profit corporations KF1388-1389
Particular branches of service KF7305-7479
Patent law KF3091-3192
Periodicals "P"
Personal property KF701-720
Police and power of the police KF5399
Property KF560-720
Public finance KF6200-6795
Public land law KF5601-5646
Public property KF5500-5865
Public utilities KF2076-2140
Public welfare KF3720-3745
Quotations KF159
Real property KF566-698
Records and briefs of individual civil suits KF228
Regional and city planning KF5691-5710
Restitution KF1244
Sale of goods KF911-935
Secured transactions KF1046-1062
Separation of powers KF4565-4578
Settlement KF9084
Society & bar assoc. journals & yearbooks KF200
Sports KF3989
State constitutions KF4530
Statistics, judicial KF180-185
Statutes and administrative regulations KF50-90
Succession upon death KF753-780
Suretyship KF1045
The executive branch KF5050-5125
The legal profession KF297-334
The legislature KF4930-5005
Torts KF1246-1327
Trade regulation KF1601-1666
Trademarks KF3091-3192
Trusts and trustees KF726-745
Uniform state laws KF165
Unincorporated associations KF1361-1380
Veterans KF7701-7755
Water resources KF5551-5590
Weapons KF3941-3942
Low Cost Legal Research

UF Legal Information Center [“LIC”] (www.law.ufl.edu/lic) Link to catalog, e-journals, databases

· Online Catalog:  http://uf.catalog.fcla.edu/uf.jsp
· Remote access instructions:  http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ufproxy.html

· American Law Sources Online: (http://www.lawsOURCE.com/also)
· FindLaw  http://www.findlaw.com

  - LawCrawler – search engine (http://lawcrawler.findlaw.com)
· Lawyers.com (http://www.lawyers.com)
· Cornell’s Legal Information Institute (http://www.law.cornell.edu)

· U.S. Courts Website (http://www.uscourts.gov/courtlinks)
· FirstGov.com (http://www.firstgov.gov/Agencies/Federal/Judicial.shtml)
· National Center for State Courts (http://www.ncsconline.org/D_KIS/info_court_web_sites.html)
· Florida State Courts site (http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/decisions/index.shtml)

§ Drawbacks:

  § No editor-added content, such as headnotes or references to other cases, statutes, encyclopedias, law reviews, etc.
  § Often there is no search engine

· United States Supreme Court (http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/opinions.html)
§ Opinions from 1991 to 2001 can be found under the “Bound Volumes” link
§ More recent opinions, in all forms (e.g., bench and slip opinions), can found through individual links on this main opinion page

- Eleventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals
  (http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/indexpub.php)
  § Official and unofficial opinions; 1995 to present
  § Search by keyword, date, or case #, PDF files

- Florida Supreme Court
  (http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/decisions/opinions.shtml)
  § Official opinions available from September of 1999 to present; unofficial opinions; 1991 to present
  § Court opinions are listed chronologically by year, PDF files
  § Drawbacks:
    § No search engine, Coverage is poor

- Florida Supreme Court Briefs & Opinions
  (http://www.law.fsu.edu/library/flsupct)
  § Created and maintained by FSU Law
  § Contains opinions 1992 forward and the briefs filed in those cases
  § Search engine that allows keyword searching

- U.S. Senate (http://www.senate.gov)
- U.S. House (http://www.house.gov)
- Thomas (http://thomas.loc.gov)
- FirstGov (http://www.firstgov.gov)
- Cornell Legal Information Institute (http://www.law.cornell.edu/states/listing.html)

- FindLaw (http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/index.html#statelaw)
  - Links to the various state legislative body sites; searchability will vary

- Florida Senate Website (http://www.flsenate.gov)
  - Statutes from 1997 forward
  - Bills from 1998 forward
  - Keyword searching

- Florida House Website (http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/)
  - Statutes from 1997 forward
  - Bills from 1998 forward
  - Keyword Searching

- FirstGov.com (http://www.firstgov.gov/Agencies/Federal/All_Agencies)
  - Provides an A-Z listing with links to all U.S. government departments and agencies

- GPO Access (http://www.gpoaccess.gov)
  - Contains the F.R. (1994 to present) and the C.F.R. (1996 to present)

- Louisiana State University
  - Listing of agencies by type (http://www.lib.lsu.edu/gov/index.html) and a search engine (http://www.lib.lsu.edu/cgi-bin/search.cgi) that allows you to search across all of the various federal agency websites

- State and Local Government on the Net (http://www.statelocalgov.net)
  - Includes a directory of links to state and local agencies in all 50 states

- MyFlorida.gov
  - Directory of Florida State Agencies (http://www.myflorida.com/includes/directory.shtml)

- Florida Administrative Weekly and the Florida Administrative Code (http://faw.dos.state.fl.us)
  - Access to current rules, proposed rules and regulations, notices of public meetings, and bid announcements
Finding Local Laws/Regulations
- State and Local Government on the Net (http://www.statelocalgov.net)
- Portal to thousands of state agencies and city and county government websites
- Municode.com (http://www.municode.com/)
- FindLaw (e.g., FL: (http://www.findlaw.com/11stategov/fl/laws.html)

Finding Rules of Court
- The Washburn University School of Law has an entire page devoted to federal court rules (http://www.washlaw.edu/searchlaw/courtrules)
- Florida Rules of Court: (www.floridabar.org)
- Look under rules to find the current Rules of FL Courts
- The LIC has the most recent federal and Florida rules of court behind the Circulation Desk in the reserve area

Finding Forms
- LexisONE (http://www.lexisone.com); Forms are available for free in PDF; Interactive forms available for a small fee
- The Internet Legal Research Group (http://www.ilrg.com/forms) has business-related legal forms; Small fee for forms in MS Word format
- Court Web sites:
  - Ex: Florida family law forms are available on the Florida State Courts website (http://www.flcourts.org/gen_public/family/forms_rules)
  - The LIC has sets of form books for federal and Florida courts behind the Circulation Desk
  - Remember that forms can often be found in annotated statutes
- Some courts provide docket information on their own sites.
- The U.S. Supreme Court (http://www.supremecourtus.gov/docket/docket.html)
  § Provides information regarding the status of cases for both the current Term and the prior Term
- Florida Supreme Court Online Docket (http://jweb.flcourts.org/pls/docket/ds_docket_search)
  § Searchable by: Case #, Party, Attorney, or Date filed
  § However, most courts require access to subscription services, such as Pacer (fees are generally nominal)
· Locally, the Official Records Program (http://myfloridacounty.com/services/officialrecords_intro.shtml) is offered through Florida’s Clerks of Courts

§ Provides access to court documents for a small fee ($120 annual fee and 50% off documents).

· LLRX.com (http://www.llrx.com/courtrules)

· Supreme Court Merit Briefs can be found on the ABA Web site (http://www.abanet.org/publiced/preview/briefs/home.html)

· Briefs may be accessed either by argument date or case name (2003-present)

· U.S. Supreme Court Records and Briefs, 1832-1978

· LIC homepage -> Research Links -> Federal Resources; or if on campus you can use this URL: http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/SCRB?locID=gain40375&srchtp=b&ste=1

· Westlaw (Select briefs from 1870-present) SCT-BRIEF-ALL

· LexisNexis (Search under Source—Court Records, Briefs, and Filings

· Note: only members of the law school community have access to LexisNexis and Westlaw

· SearchSystems.net (http://www.searchsystems.net)

  o Claims to be the largest public record directory on the Internet

  o Be careful as it may lead you to services that cost money

· NetrOnline (http://publicrecords.netronline.com/)

  o NETROnline a.k.a. the Public Records Online Directory is a portal to official state web sites, and those Tax Assessors' and Recorders' offices that have developed web sites for the retrieval of available public records over the Internet

· FedStats (http://www.fedstats.gov)

· U.S. Census Bureau (http://www.census.gov)

· Statistical Abstract (http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/)

· Bureau of Labor Statistics (http://www.bls.gov)

· University of Michigan (portal) (http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/stats.html)

· JURIST - Legal News and Research (http://jurist.law.pitt.edu)
Restatements of the Law

Restatements of the Law are treatise-like publications. They provide clear statement of and consensus views on specific rules prevailing among the fifty states. In this respect they resemble treaties. Restatements seek to summarize and “restate” general principles of American common law, much like legal encyclopedias. Unlike encyclopedias, restatements also provide some analysis and try to predict how the law will develop. Additionally, restatements include commentary on each restated principle as well as examples of particular applications and variations of the principles. Though they have no official legal status, they have considerable influence on the courts.

The Restatements are available on both Lexis and Westlaw.

Elements of this Guide:

- Subject Covered
- Features
- Access
- Tentative Drafts

Subjects Covered:

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***Earlier editions, as well as proposed and tentative drafts, may be in the Legal Information Center collection. To find additional materials, search the UF libraries catalog using the term “Restatement” along with a term describing the area of law you are interested in.
Each restatement is divided into chapters in which each of the chapters contain a major topic of the field of law.

Chapters are divided into numbered sections in which each section deals with a general principle of law within that topic. Each section begins with a principle of law statement in bold face type (often called "black letter" rule.) This followed by comments and illustrations of the rule.

The Second Series of Restatements includes these additional features:

· Reporter notes citing court decisions, statutes, and periodical articles which are both supporting and contrary to the stated black letter rule.

· Citations in court decisions to the First Series of Restatements and the published drafts.

· Cross references to relevant West digest topics and key number and to ALR Annotations.

· Annual updating pocket parts

The First Series of Restatements has a General Index Volume, KF 395 .A56, covering the contents of all volumes. The Second Series does not have a general index volume. Each of the individual Restatements, both First and Second Series, has its own index. Additionally, the tables of contents of each Restatement can be used as a broad topical approach to a field of law.

The publisher of the Restatement provides case citing and digesting for every topic covered by every set of Restatements. The appendix volumes of a Restatements Set record each time a court cites a section of that Restatement. Each such case is digested at length under the section it is citing.

The Restatement of the Courts set, Kf395. A3 A57 1945, serves the same purpose as the appendix volumes of each Restatement Set except that it cites and digests all Restatement sets topics.

Tentative drafts of Restatements are drafts that are read, reviewed, considered, debated, and amended by the Council of American Law Institute. Tentative drafts are often treated as a form of legislative history of the Restatements and are frequently cited to explain, support or attack particular Restatement rules.

Widely Used Legal Resources

Overview:
The research materials listed here are the most widely used when researching legal topics. Within the Guides is information that can help you understand how to use these various sources.

And REMEMBER, if you have questions, do not hesitate to find a librarian who can help find what you need.

Print Legal Resources Available at the Library:

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