Summer Research Handbook

Brought to you by the Robert Crown Law Library Reference Librarians

Summer 2020
# Table of Contents

Table of Contents ..................................................................................................................... 2
Guide Overview ............................................................................................................................ 5
Continuing Access to Resources FAQ ......................................................................................... 5
  Summer Access & Contact Information: Westlaw Edge, Lexis Advance & Bloomberg Law . . . 5
  Summer Access to Stanford Resources .................................................................................. 6
  Contact the Reference Office ................................................................................................. 6
  Current Students ..................................................................................................................... 6
  Graduated Students ................................................................................................................ 7
Legal Research Charts & Visuals ................................................................................................. 8
Legal Research Process ............................................................................................................... 9
  So You’ve Found a Statute . . . ............................................................................................... 10
  So You’ve Found a Case . . ................................................................................................. 11
Case Documents and Filings ....................................................................................................... 12
How Our Laws Are Made ......................................................................................................... 13
The Federal Rulemaking Process ............................................................................................. 14
The Legal Research Process: Overview ..................................................................................... 15
  Step One: Formulate a Research Plan ................................................................................... 15
  Step Two: Consult Secondary Sources ................................................................................. 16
  Step Three: Search for Primary Sources ............................................................................... 17
  Step Four: Update Primary Sources .................................................................................... 18
  Step Five: Analyze & Organize Research Results ............................................................... 18
Craft Advanced Searches ......................................................................................................... 19
Research Tips .............................................................................................................................. 21
  Tip #1: Use the legal research process ............................................................................... 21
  Tip #2: Browse materials and use finding aids .................................................................. 21
  Tip #3: Define your research question and regularly revisit it ............................................. 22
  Tip #4: Use the databases’ tools ......................................................................................... 22
  Tip #5: Reach out to the librarians ...................................................................................... 22
  Tip #6: Take breaks when needed ....................................................................................... 22
  Tip #7: Keep a research log ............................................................................................... 23
  Tip #8: Use Google and Wikipedia to your advantage ....................................................... 23
  Tip #9: Talk it out ............................................................................................................... 23
Suggested Treatises & Secondary Materials ........................................................................... 24
Introduction ......................................................................................................................... 24
Federal & National Sources ................................................................................................. 24
California Sources ............................................................................................................... 25
Other States ......................................................................................................................... 26
How to Find Other Topic-Specific Sources ...................................................................... 26
Researching Dockets ........................................................................................................... 27
What’s in a Docket? .............................................................................................................. 27
Reading Docket Numbers .................................................................................................. 27
Dockets Research: Background Information .................................................................... 28
How to Find Dockets in Databases .................................................................................... 29
Bloomberg Dockets ............................................................................................................. 29
Lexis Advance CourtLink .................................................................................................. 30
Westlaw .............................................................................................................................. 30
RECAP .................................................................................................................................. 31
Researching Federal Legislative History ........................................................................... 32
Bill Introduced ..................................................................................................................... 32
Documents Produced During a Bill Introduction .................................................................. 32
Locating Bill Introduction Documents ............................................................................... 32
Referred to a Committee/Subcommittee ............................................................................ 33
Documents Produced in the Committee/Subcommittee Markup Period .......................... 33
Locating Markup Period Documents .................................................................................. 34
Floor Debate ....................................................................................................................... 34
Documents Produced during Floor Debates ......................................................................... 34
Locating Floor Debates ....................................................................................................... 35
Conference Committee Markup Session .......................................................................... 35
Documents Produced During Conference Committee Markup Session .......................... 35
Locating Conference Committee Documents ...................................................................... 35
Presidential Signing Statements ......................................................................................... 36
Locating Presidential Signing Statements ............................................................................ 36
Precompiled Legislative Histories ....................................................................................... 36
ProQuest Legislative Insight ............................................................................................... 37
ProQuest Congressional ....................................................................................................... 37
HeinOnline .......................................................................................................................... 38
After Passage: The Publication Process ............................................................................. 38
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Resources by Topic &amp; Jurisdiction</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction &amp; Overview</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. State &amp; Federal Cases</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Resources</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources through Stanford</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign, Comparative, and International Law (FCIL) Research</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Resources</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources through Stanford</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Statutory &amp; Administrative Research</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Resources</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources through Stanford</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Statutory Research</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Resources</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources through Stanford</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Resources</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Resources</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources through Stanford</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Corporations Research</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Resources</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources through Stanford</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic &amp; Historical Research</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Resources</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources through Stanford</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Research Guides</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Guide Overview

Welcome! This guide provides both a general framework for how to conduct legal research and specific guidance for discrete topics, such as finding secondary sources relevant to your topic, federal legislative history, docket research, and a list of free and Stanford-accessible resources, to name only a few. We certainly don’t expect you to read all of it, so review the Table of Contents on the previous page to pinpoint the precise section you need.

While we hope this guide provides valuable information as you conduct research over the summer, the reference librarians are also available to help you at any stage of your legal research. There are myriad ways you can reach us—please reach out!

Continuing Access to Resources FAQ

Summer Access & Contact Information: Westlaw Edge, Lexis Advance & Bloomberg Law

Westlaw Edge: Access
- Current students:
  - Educational use only over the summer; limited to 60 hours per month.
  - Permissible uses include coursework, unpaid for-credit internships, and pro bono work that counts toward graduation.
- Graduating students:
  - Unrestricted access until December 2021 using Grad Elite.
  - Students must activate Grad Elite for continued access.

Westlaw Edge: Contact
- Call the Westlaw help desk at 1–800–850–9378.
- Live chat with the Westlaw help desk:
  - Log into Westlaw Edge, scroll down to the very bottom of the page, click “Live Chat,” and follow the prompts.

Lexis Advance: Access
- Current students:
  - No restrictions on use over the summer.
  - Students can use for paid or unpaid work at private law firms, public interest groups, or government entities.
- Graduating students:
  - Unrestricted access until February 28, 2021.

Lexis Advance: Contact
- Call the Lexis help desk at 1–800–455–3947.
  - Live chat with the Lexis help desk by clicking the link and following the prompts.
Bloomberg Law: Access
- Current students:
  - No restrictions on use over the summer.
  - Students can use for paid or unpaid work at private law firms, public interest groups, or government entities.
- Graduating students
  - Unrestricted access until June 1, 2021.

Bloomberg Law: Contact
- Call the Bloomberg Law help desk at 1–888–560–2529.
- Email the Bloomberg Law help desk at help@bloomberglaw.com.
- Live chat with the Bloomberg Law help desk.

Summer Access to Stanford Resources

Contact the Reference Office
We are here as a resource over the summer and after you graduate! The reference office is open, and reference librarians are available to help with any research questions you may have.

To reach us:
- Visit us in person! In the summer, we’re generally open Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., P.S.T. For any changes, visit the library’s Hours page.
  - During the COVID-19 pandemic, the law library is physically closed (but virtually open!) Please check the law library’s homepage for updated information.
- Zoom with us while the library is physically closed, during our open hours.
- Email us at reference@law.stanford.edu.
- Chat with us by clicking the Chat button on the library’s home page.
- Call us at 650–725–0800.
- Make an appointment for an individual research consultation by clicking on Request a Research Consultation from our homepage.

Current Students
Current students have access to the same physical and online resources they do during the academic year, including print materials, databases, e-books, online newspapers, and much more.

Print Materials
- Due to COVID-19, our physical space is currently closed and our print collection is not accessible. Please check the law library’s homepage for updates.
- When we re-open, current students may continue to check out print materials from the library. Unfortunately, we cannot ship books to students who are away from campus during the summer.
- Students also have access to dozens of partner libraries around the country, though students may not be able to check out books or access all databases at partner libraries.
  - During the COVID-19 pandemic, many libraries across the country are closed; please contact reference@law.stanford.edu to see if there is a partner library in your area and their current policies.
Legal Databases

- For a list of legal databases that the library recommends, visit the Robert Crown Law Library’s Legal Databases page.
- If you are not able to access a database through the above-linked page, please try logging onto Stanford’s VPN first. Review the instructions for setting up the VPN if needed.
- Contact the reference office if you have problems accessing any of those databases.

E-books

- You have access to many e-books through Stanford! To find them:
  o Go to the Stanford University Library’s catalog;
  o Search for the book you are interested in using the search bar at the top;
  o Click Access on the left-hand side of the screen underneath Refine Your Results;
  o Click Online. This shows whether Stanford has an e-book version available.

Newspaper Access

- For a list of major online newspapers, broader newspaper databases, and how to access them, visit the Major U.S. Newspapers research guide.

Graduated Students

Congratulations! After you graduate in June, you still have alumni privileges with the library.

For information on the resources that the library will continue to provide, visit the Robert Crown Law Library Alumni Services page. You can also contact reference at reference@law.stanford.edu.
In this section, we provide several visual aids for a variety of research processes. Some screen readers are able to read the charts; if you are using a screen reader and it cannot read the charts, we suggest that you download the individual charts as PDFs.

As always, please contact us with any questions.

The charts in this section are:

- **Legal Research Process**
  - A flow chart of the legal research process.
- **So You’ve Found a Statute . . .**
  - The steps and tools to use after you’ve located a relevant statute.
- **So You’ve Found a Case . . .**
  - The steps and tools to use after you’ve located a relevant case.
- **Case Documents and Filings**
  - A flow chart of the types of documents and filings commonly found in a civil case.
- **How Our Laws are Made**
  - A map-like overview of the legislative process and the documents produced along the way. It was so good, it’s the only chart we didn’t create ourselves!
- **The Federal Rulemaking Process**
  - An overview of how regulations are passed and where to find the documents produced.
Legal Research Process

This flowchart shows the basic process for researching laws governed by statutes or regulations and interpreted by case law, from start to finish. The exact steps you'll take depend on your research questions, but you can always return to this basic outline when you get a new research assignment or when you're stuck.

Get and define your assignment

Brainstorm and Plan!
- Review facts and identify issues
- Pull key concepts and language to use as search terms

Have you identified any additional search terms, like terms of art? Or issues you hadn't noticed before? Add them to the list!

Secondary Sources
- Use the search terms you brainstormed to search across and within treatises, legal encyclopedias, ALR annotations, law reviews, ...
- Explore free internet content (news, blogs, law firm updates, ...)
- Remember to use tables of contents and indexes to find more relevant sections and identify search terms!
- Refine your research questions as you learn more

Statutes and Regulations
- Look at neighboring code sections, and use the code's index to find other relevant sections
- Are you close to done?
  - Do the same results keep coming up?
  - Have you looked everywhere you planned to?
  - Have you run out of time?

Cases
- Use annotations and citing references
- Is the issue primarily governed by statute or regulation? Follow the citations in secondary sources to statutes or regs...
- Use Key Numbers, citing references, and the citations within your case to find more cases

 Anything missing?
- Have you addressed all your research questions?

Write!
- (Then edit!)

"Clean-Up" Search
- Full-text searching to ensure comprehensiveness, informed by what you've already found

Update
- Shepardize/KeyCite to make sure your sources are still good law

Feeling Stuck?
- Reread your assignment and research questions. Maybe you can refine them.

- Go back a few steps. Is there a secondary source that would be helpful? Maybe you need to spend a bit more time with the statutes?

- Troubleshoot your search results. Do they need to be broader? More narrow? How can you limit or expand your search?

- Take a break, and return to the question later with a fresh mind.

- Take notes on your research, and have a system to keep track of what you find.

- Ask a librarian for help!
So You've Found a Statute...

This diagram provides guidance on how to find cases that address, construe, or cite a statute you’re working with—once you’ve identified that statute as relevant using secondary sources in your initial research process.

Why start with annotations? In an annotated code, the editors have selected and summarized the most important cases interpreting and applying the statute. This can save you a lot of time searching in citing cases, which include every case that’s mentioned the statute, however briefly.

First: Use annotations

Tab on top of page in Westlaw; in "Annotations" section at bottom of statute’s page in Lexis.

On Westlaw, you can search within them with the magnifying glass in the top right, or filter by jurisdiction. On Lexis, use Ctrl+F.

Navigate to the Notes of Decisions (Westlaw)/Notes to Decisions (Lexis)

Browse the cases and the list of subjects covered for one (or more) related to your question

Pull up the code section in an annotated code


Next: Use citations

Shepardize it (Lexis) or go to Citing References and filter to Cases (Westlaw)

Use filters and search within to narrow your results

Open and read relevant cases

Did you brainstorm search terms when you started your research? Refer back to that list here!

Use the headnotes and Key Numbers (Westlaw) or Topics (Lexis) to find more

Need more on these steps? Turn the page for "So You've Found a Case...."

Use the Citing References (Westlaw) or Shepard's report (Lexis) to find more
So You've Found a Case...

This diagram walks through different methods for using one case to find additional relevant cases. Use all three of these methods—they'll each show you a different part of the picture.

1. Pull up your case in Westlaw or Lexis.
2. Look around - what other cases deal with the same topic or issue?
   - Browse the headnotes and the associated Key Numbers. Which are related to your research question?
   - Click on the link beside the relevant Key Number(s) to pull up all cases under that Key Number.
   - Use filters and search within to narrow your results
     - Watch out for the jurisdiction filter. The default setting is to only show cases from the same court as your original case.
3. Look backward - what other cases does this case rely on?
   - Skim the case, and read the sections relevant to your issue in more depth.
   - Pull out cases that are discussed in depth, or that are controlling, or that are relied upon, or that just seem relevant.
4. Look forward - what other cases have cited this case?
   - Shepardize it (Lexis) or go to Citing References and filter to Cases (Westlaw)
   - Use filters and search within to narrow your results
     - Did you brainstorm search terms when you started your research? Refer back to that list here!
5. Found some useful cases?
   - Look around...
   - Look backward...
   - Look forward...
Case Documents and Filings

This diagram outlines a civil case's general trajectory and names some of the major documents filed at each stage. It can help you retrieve sample documents or filings from a particular case from an electronic docket system like PACER or Bloomberg Law. See the Researching Dockets section of this handbook for more on locating these documents.

**Pleadings**
Complaint, answer, any amended pleadings...

**Discovery**
Interrogatories, requests for production, requests for admission, depositions,... Note: discovery requests and responses do not appear in the docket!

**Trial Prep**
Briefs, motions in limine, joint statements of fact, witness and exhibit lists, jury instructions, stipulations...

**Motions on the Pleadings**
Motions to dismiss (e.g., 12(b)(6)), motions for judgment on the pleadings, supporting briefs, declarations, orders on motions, hearing transcripts...

**Motions on Discovery and/or the Merits**
Motions for summary judgment, motions to compel discovery, and associated documents (see Motions on the Pleadings above).

**Resolution and Next Moves**
Trial transcript, written opinions, settlement documents, motions for new trial or relief from judgment, notice of appeal...
HOW OUR LAWS ARE MADE

How Our Laws Are Made infographic by Mike Wirth and Dr. Suzanne Cooper-Guasco.

Congress shall have Power...to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper

U.S. Constitution Article I Section 8
The Federal Rulemaking Process

This diagram describes the steps taken and the documents produced during the informal rulemaking process required by the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. § 553). This is a very high-level overview, but for a great detailed visual, check out the "Reg Map": https://www.reginfo.gov/public/reginfo/Regmap/index.jsp

Congress enacts a statute that authorizes or requires an agency to regulate in a given area or on a given topic.

Agency develops proposed rule. It might - but isn't required to - publish an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) in the Federal Register soliciting public input at this stage.

Agency publishes a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the Federal Register. Along with the proposed regulatory text, the NPRM includes a summary of the rule's effect and a description of the history and rationale behind it.

Public comment period. The APA requires a meaningful opportunity for public comment, and the agency must consider the comments it receives. Usually, you can read comments (and submit your own) on regulations.gov.

Agency publishes a Final Rule in the Federal Register. In addition to the final regulatory text, it includes a statement of the basis and purpose of the agency's decision, a description of changes from the NPRM, responses to comments, and often a detailed description of the rule's history and effect.

The text of the final rule is codified in the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.). This is like the U.S. Code, but for regulations; it tells you what the current law is, incorporating all amendments into its text, and is loosely arranged by topic and by agency.
The Legal Research Process: Overview

Step One: Formulate a Research Plan

The first step in the research process is to create a plan. Answer the following questions (as applicable) to get a head start on efficient and effective research.

- **What are the likely sources of law?**
  - Is this an area governed by statute? By common law? Are there likely to be applicable regulations?

- **What is the jurisdiction?**
  - State or federal? Which county, city, judicial district?
  - Note that both state and federal law might apply—use a legal encyclopedia to figure it out.

- **What is the area of law?**
  - Criminal or civil? Torts, constitutional, environmental, energy?
  - If you don’t know, start with a broad legal encyclopedia to figure it out, then return to complete your plan.

- **What are the key facts and/or legal issues?**
  - Use these to help generate search terms.
  - Come back to these periodically during your research to make sure you’re on the right track.

- **Generate search terms**
  - Use the relevant facts, the area of law, and the legal issues as starting points.
  - Browse Black’s Law Dictionary (available on Westlaw) for synonyms or other search terms.
  - Browse the indexes and tables of contents of relevant secondary sources for other likely search terms.
  - Decide whether to start with natural language (good when you just need an “in,” to pull some examples, or when you’re not sure where to start) or terms & connectors (better when thoroughness, accuracy, and precision are important and you have some strong search terms). And use both—just be thoughtful about it!

Additionally, throughout your process, keep a research log that tracks what you searched, where you searched, what results you found to be relevant, etc. This will help if you ever need to retrace your steps (or show someone how you found what you did!). It will also help you avoid retracing your steps unnecessarily. Research logs can also help you analyze your search to make it more efficient, because as you write it down, it slows you down and triggers a different mental process then simply thinking about the search.

- Research logs can take many formats—charts, bullet points, handwritten notes, Coggle or other mind mapping software.
- If you’re new to research logs, try a few different methods out.
- The key point: you should be able to return to a research log 6 months later, retrace your steps, and locate the same sources you found.
Step Two: Consult Secondary Sources

Secondary sources are sources about the law that discuss the law. Primary sources are the law itself (such as cases, statutes, regulations). See also the Suggested Treatises & Secondary Sources section of this guide.

Secondary sources allow you to:
- Get **background information** about the area of law or legal issue
- Find **primary sources** such as cases and statutes
- **Refine** your search terms

Overview of Secondary Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Secondary Source</th>
<th>Overview &amp; Use</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Legal Encyclopedia       | • Brief overviews of legal topics.  
                          • Use to get lay of the land and context  
                          • Points you primarily to statutes, cases, regulations |
|                          | • California Jurisprudence (WL & LA)  
                          • American Jurisprudence (WL & LA)  
                          • Corpus Juris Secundum (WL) |
| Treatise & Hornbook      | • In-depth discussion of specific areas of law  
                          • Use when you know the area of law  
                          • Points you to statutes, cases, regulations, restatements, model laws  
                          • Use [Georgetown Law’s Treatise Finder](https://www.georgetownlaw.edu/library/treatise-finder) to locate top treatises |
|                          | • Williston on Contracts (WL)  
                          • Dobbs’ Law of Torts (WL)  
                          • Administrative Law (LA)  
                          • Moore’s Federal Practice (LA: [Civil](https://www.lexis.com) & [Criminal](https://www.lexis.com)) |
| ALR (American Law Report) | • Narrow, focused discussions of discrete points of law; circuit splits  
                          • Use if there’s a relevant one!  
                          • Collects cases on the topic or question covered  
                          • Search the title field |
|                          | • Proper Metric for Measuring Noise Level or Impact of Air Traffic, Airport, or Runway Under Federal Law (WL & LA) |
| Law review & journal articles | • Narrow, often subjective discussions of discrete points of law  
                          • Use for background or to collect primary source citations; good for new & emerging legal topics  
                          • Points you to all kinds of sources |
|                          | • Stanford Law Review  
                          • Duke Journal of Constitutional Law & Public Policy |
| Other secondary sources  | • CRS Reports: published for Congress on specific areas of law |
|                          | • CRS Report: [Statutory Interpretation: General](https://www.lexis.com) |

2 WL=Westlaw; LA=Lexis Advance.
• Blogs: often contain good starting information
• Many others

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principles and Recent Trends</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antitrust &amp; Competition Policy Blog (from LawProfBlogs)</td>
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Searching secondary sources
- Use Lexis and Westlaw’s Topic/Practice areas to browse for a specific relevant secondary source.
- Use the table of contents and/or index if it’s available.
  - In Westlaw, look over to the right once in the source; in Lexis, search for the source and click on the Index.
- Browse directly to Secondary Sources and use the filters on the left to limit based on jurisdiction or topic.
- Use the advanced search (linked near the big search bar at the top) to craft an advanced search. Try searching just within the title field (or the other fields made available by advanced search) and review the advanced search tips.

Step Three: Search for Primary Sources
Use secondary sources to determine whether a statute applies to your issue; if so, research that statute. Then, research cases (common law). If your issue is exclusively governed by the common law or most of the applicable law is found in cases (such as with many constitutional issues), start by researching cases. There are many tools available to you; we have merely summarized them here. Contact the reference office with any questions about how to use them.

Conduct statutory research using the state statutes or the United States Code
- Ideally, your secondary sources will provide citations to a specific statute section.
- Within the statute, search the index; search or browse the table of contents; do a keyword search, using search operators and/or advanced search fields.
  - Navigate to the statute then click advanced search to see the fields you can search. Try searching just within the text or annotations fields.
- Use annotated codes (these are the codes on Lexis & Westlaw).
- Annotated codes provide tools that will help you find relevant cases (and other sources):
  - Notes of Decision (WL) & Notes to Decisions (LA)³
    - Curated cases arranged by topic that cite to the statute.
    - Browse the topics, use the filters to limit by jurisdiction (WL only) or search just within the Notes.
  - Citing Reference (WL) & Shepard’s (LA)
    - Cases, secondary sources, regulations, etc., that cite to the statute.
    - Use the filters to limit by type of source, jurisdiction, etc., or search just within the Citing Reference.
  - Context & Analysis (WL only)
    - Provides curated list of related material (primarily secondary sources).

³ WL=Westlaw; LA=Lexis Advance
Case law/common law research

- Ideally, both your secondary sources and (if applicable) your statutory research will have provided you with citations to relevant cases.
- Once you’ve found a relevant case, use the tools to find additional relevant cases:
  - Cases that cite this headnote (WL) / Shepardize – Narrow by this headnote (LA): finds cases that cite to the case for the proposition of law contained in that headnote.
  - Key numbers (WL) / legal topics (LA): click on one of the key numbers or topics to bring up cases that Westlaw or Lexis has indexed under that key number/topic.
  - Citing references (WL) / Shepardize (LA): pulls materials (secondary sources, cases, etc.) that cite to the case. Limit using the filters on the left, or search within using keywords.
  - Cases cited within: Both Westlaw and Lexis link out to cases that a case cites. Chances are, if the court is citing to a case, that cited case is also relevant to your research.
- Use keywords from the secondary sources, statutes, and already-found cases to search for additional cases within a specific jurisdiction using the advanced search function.
- As you are reading and reviewing cases, note which cases are mandatory/binding and which cases are merely persuasive.

Step Four: Update Primary Sources
Before citing to a statute or case, confirm that it’s still good law. Use the citators in Westlaw and Lexis to check!

Westlaw’s KeyCite citator uses red, yellow, and blue striped flags. Red generally indicates either the statute has been amended or invalidated by a court; or that part of a case has been overruled or is no longer good law for at least one point of law. Yellow generally indicates caution (e.g. proposed legislation or a case has been questioned by another court). Remember to check why Westlaw has assigned a flag—a case might have a red flag but still be good law on the point you’re interested in! To get more information, review the descriptions for cases and for statutes.

Lexis has a more nuanced citator, Shepard’s, whose signals include a red stop sign (a case is no longer good law for at least one point of law); an orange square (validity of a case has been questioned); a yellow triangle (possible negative treatment); and a green plus sign (positive treatment indicated), among others. Lexis’s help section has more detailed information on the meaning of the signals.

Step Five: Analyze & Organize Research Results
The analysis and organization that you do will largely depend on your end product: are you writing a brief for a case, an internal memo for a client, a blog post for the firm’s website? Below are some common factors to consider, but be sure to tweak it to match your own work product.

Review the cases and statutes that you have found and determined to be relevant. Assess:

- how courts have interpreted the statute;
- the holding of the case and the facts critical to the court’s analysis;
• whether the statute/case helps you answer your questions.

**Prioritize** the cases and statutes you have. Factors to consider:
• which cases provide the best analysis?
• which cases have the most similar/dissimilar facts?

**Evaluate** your answer to the question presented.
• Can you answer the question concisely?
• Is your answer a complete answer to the research question asked?

Do you **keep returning** to the same primary authorities, regardless of which tools you use or what searches you conduct? This is an indication that you’ve found what you needed.

**Craft Advanced Searches**
Legal research is more efficient and productive if you can craft advanced searches that will (1) limit the number of results you get; and (2) bring back the most relevant results to your question.

**Crafting Advanced Searches: Recommendations**
• Use secondary sources to get familiar with the area of law/issue, the common terms of art, and how the law “talks” about the issue. Then, use those terms and phrases when searching to get more relevant results.
• Consult Black’s Law Dictionary (available on Westlaw) or a reputable thesaurus (Merriam’s or Oxford, for example) to find synonyms.
• Use the advanced search functions available in the database.
  o Narrow the sources (e.g., to statutes or cases) you’re searching as much as possible, which will provide greater advanced search options.
  o Review the PDF attached to each source type (in advanced search) for what each advanced search field searches.
  o Examples:
    ▪ if you’re searching across all statutes or a specific code, advanced search provides field searching, giving you the option to search just the statute annotations or just the text of the statute.
    ▪ Similarly, you can conduct field searches just within cases, and search just the summary or the headnotes.
• Check out the search tips/help for the database to confirm the terms & connectors / Boolean operators.
  o [Lexis Search Help](#)
  o [Westlaw Search Help](#)
  o Note that in both Westlaw and Lexis, the space is interpreted as an “or.” So, if you search capital punishment, it will return results that contain capital or punishment. Add quotes (“capital punishment”) to search as a phrase.
• Use parentheses to force order of operation (e.g. what the search algorithm searches first).
  o For example, take the search string: ((assault OR battery OR “assault and battery”) /s weapon) /p flee. This search string tells the algorithm to search for weapon in the same sentence as any of the three terms (assault, battery, “assault
and battery”); and then search within the paragraph in which those appear for the term flee.

- Without the parentheses, the search algorithm would bring back results that contained the word assault; or the word battery; or “assault and battery” in the same sentence as weapon; or weapon in the same paragraph as flee.

### Most Useful Advanced Search Connectors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Search</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>What it Does</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both terms present &amp; or AND</td>
<td>“high seas” &amp; pirate</td>
<td>Both terms must appear in the source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phrase searching “”</td>
<td>“high seas”</td>
<td>Searches for the phrase within the quotes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proximity searching /s, /p, /number</td>
<td>“high seas” /s piracy</td>
<td>Searches for “high seas” in the same sentence as; paragraph as; within 25 words of piracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term frequency ATLEAST number</td>
<td>ATLEAST10(“high seas”)</td>
<td>“High seas” must appear at least ten times in the source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Root expander !</td>
<td>pir!</td>
<td>Searches for all words that start with pir; will bring back pirates, piracy, pirouette, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single character expander *</td>
<td>se*; se*s</td>
<td>Searches just modifications of the single character indicated. se* will bring back sea, see, sew, etc. se*s will bring back seas, sees, sews, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research Tips

These are some collected tips we have found useful over the years. Whether we are just starting our research or have gotten stuck, these tips help get us through. Plus, you can always contact us with any questions or if you have tips of your own to suggest!

**Tip #1: Use the legal research process**

When you don’t know how to start your research, follow the legal research process, visually presented here and described immediately above.

The basic process is:

- Create a plan and generate a list of keywords and phrases relevant to your legal question. Use those keywords to search in secondary sources for sections relevant to your question.
  - If you’re not sure of keywords or phrases, browse a secondary source specific to your area of law (check out Georgetown Law’s Treatise Finder for suggestions of top secondary sources) and skim the table of contents of the treatise.
- Start by searching in secondary sources.
- Read the relevant sections of secondary sources and use the footnotes to guide you to additional secondary and primary sources.
- Use the tools and annotations (notes of/to decisions; citing references; headnotes; key numbers) to get to additional primary sources.
- Use citators to ensure that the primary sources you are looking at are still up to date.
- Craft advanced keyword searches to search across primary sources to fill in any gaps missing from taking the above steps.
- Repeat this process as necessary.

**Tip #2: Browse materials and use finding aids**

Most sources will have tables of contents, indexes, or other finding aids to help you navigate through the source.

**Use the Table of Contents**

- A good table of contents is a broad topical outline of the resource in front of you. Use the headings in the table of contents to quickly identify potentially relevant sections.
- Browsing tables of contents can be faster (and cheaper) than running additional searches.

**Browse**

- Once you find a relevant section of a secondary source, browse a little, i.e., look at the headings of the other sections immediately before and after it, and at the chapter title.
- Because many secondary sources are organized topically, this is a quick and easy way to identify other relevant sections without having to run another search.
Index

- A good index pinpoints all of the topics and cross-references within a resource. They can be highly effective tools for locating many of the relevant sections within that resource.
- To find the index:
  - First, not all sources will have an index. In print, it will be at the back of the book.
  - On Westlaw, once you’re in a source, look to the right of the screen under Finding Aids for a link to the index.
  - On Lexis, look just above the search bar to the right, or a link to the index may be the first item in the table of contents.

**Tip #3: Define your research question and regularly revisit it**

- Make sure you’re clear about what you’re supposed to be researching and what you’re trying to find.
- Make sure you understand the goal and end product of the research—are you writing a brief? Are you answering a client’s question? Are you writing an academic paper?
- Regularly revisit the research question to make sure you haven’t gotten sidetracked, to see if what you’ve found provides additional clarity about the question, and to check if you’ve already answered the question in part or in whole.

**Tip #4: Use the databases’ tools**

- There’s a reason Westlaw, Lexis, and Bloomberg cost so much, and one of those reasons is the tools they provide. So, use them!
- Use the headnotes, key number, and topic systems, which index cases by subject, to locate relevant cases within a specific area of law.
- Use the KeyCite flags and Shepard’s signals to efficiently pinpoint whether a statute, case, or regulation is still good law.
- Use the notes of/to decisions and the citing references to locate cases that discuss a statute or statute section in depth, quickly providing you with context.
- Use the analytics (for judges, cases, litigation, transactions, etc.). Ask a reference librarian to show you some of the other tools!

**Tip #5: Reach out to the librarians**

- We conduct legal and interdisciplinary research all day every day, and we enjoy helping students with their research!
- When in doubt, reach out to us! There is a good chance that the reference librarians have encountered a question similar to yours in the past and have some helpful advice on how to proceed.
- Those of you working at courts or private law firms may also have court or law firm librarians—reach out to them, too!

**Tip #6: Take breaks when needed**

- Prolonged legal research can cause tunnel vision, so if you have hit a wall, stop and take a break! Retrying the same unsuccessful course of action over and over again will
probably not yield any new or better results; but taking a moment to regain perspective, and consider alternative ways of approaching your question, very likely will.

**Tip #7: Keep a research log**
- Keep a research log of the words and phrases you use in your searches, the relevant resources you find, and citation information, so that you can easily navigate back to them later (and easily get back to the on-point treatise you stumbled upon).
  - Try the 6-month rule—your research log should be of sufficient detail that in 6 months, you can return to it and retrace your research process.
- It can also be useful to keep track of what didn’t work so you don’t retrace steps you’ve already seen aren’t fruitful.
- Don’t worry about formality or Bluebooking: even a piece of scratch paper where you jot down bulleted lists of good sources is vastly superior to nothing.
- Research logs are especially helpful for proving a negative (showing that a clear answer to your question does not exist).
- Use research logs to help you analyze your research process. By writing things down and being more methodical in your searching, you’ll have greater opportunities for efficient and effective searches.

**Tip #8: Use Google and Wikipedia to your advantage**
- Google and Wikipedia have powerful search engines that often are easier to search using natural language when you don’t have a good grasp on a subject. Plus, they’re free!
- Google will point you to blogs (often written by law professors), academic articles, and other resources that, even though you may not want to cite them, can provide a good introduction to a topic. It will also point you to sources that are irrelevant, misleading, or just nonsense; think critically about the accuracy and reliability of what you find.
- Wikipedia often provides overviews and in-depth discussions of major statutes, cases, and points of law. Again, we wouldn’t suggest that you cite to it, but it can be a helpful starting point.

**Tip #9: Talk it out**
- Talk about your process, your question, your search terms, with someone else. They may have a fresh perspective, and sometimes just explaining your issue can help clarify it for you.
- If you’re worried about confidentiality, even speaking in broad strokes about your research can be helpful. Or, find another person at your job who’s subject to the same confidentiality and talk it out with them.
- This includes librarians! Seek out your employer’s librarian(s), or give us a call or email us. We’d be happy to talk it through with you.
Suggested Treatises & Secondary Materials

Introduction
Treatises and practice guides will prove invaluable for summer research. Most of these titles are available on Lexis and Westlaw. When possible, however, it can be helpful to look at print copies for their tables of contents and indexes, which are often difficult to review online. Plus, flipping a page is often faster than waiting for the next section to load.

Here are just a few suggestions for treatises and practice guides. We’ve collected federal, national, and California-specific publications, along with suggestions for other states and topics, and some places to go for research guidance. Almost all these resources are available electronically, or your employer may carry them in hard copy. If you’re local and we’re open, you can swing by and peruse them here. Search our catalog to see if we carry them in print.

Federal & National Sources
American Jurisprudence 2d / [St. Paul, MN]: Thomson/West.
- One of two legal encyclopedias with national scope, along with Corpus Juris Secundum. Provides broad overviews of legal topics. American Jurisprudence has a greater emphasis on statutory law than C.J.S., which has more thorough case law coverage but minimal discussion of statutes. Available on Westlaw and Lexis.

Corpus Juris Secundum / [St. Paul, MN]: Thomson/West.
- The other national legal encyclopedia; see American Jurisprudence 2d, above. Available on Westlaw.


- Comprehensive treatment of all major federal civil rights statutes and how they have been interpreted by courts. Available on Westlaw.

Federal Practice & Procedure / Charles Alan Wright et al. [Eagan, MN]: Thomson/West.
- Comprehensive and authoritative coverage of federal civil, criminal, and appellate procedure. Often called simply “Wright & Miller.” Available on Westlaw.

- Influential treatise addressing the spectrum of federal civil, criminal, appellate, and admiralty procedure. Available on Lexis (Civil; Criminal).
California Sources

**California Civil Practice Series**
- A series of volumes covering topics in California law such as Business Litigation, Environmental Litigation, Real Property Litigation, and Workers’ Compensation. Each title includes discussions of the law along with practice checklists and sample forms. Available on Westlaw.

**California Forms of Pleading and Practice** / [Newark, NJ]: Matthew Bender.
- Detailed analysis of California substantive and procedural law, along with forms, checklists and research guides. Substantive topics include all civil matters (torts, business and commercial, real estate, public administrative, and family law). Addresses substantive and procedural aspects of complaints, answers and demurrers; attachment; discovery; summary judgment; extensive motions and orders; mandate and prohibition; enforcement of judgment; and appeal. Available on Lexis.

**California Jurisprudence 3d** / [Eagan, MN]: Thomson/West.
- A California-specific legal encyclopedia, covering all aspects of California law from A (Abandoned, Lost, and Escheated Property) to Z (Zoning and Other Land Controls). If you need a quick introduction to a topic in California law, start with California Jurisprudence, then turn to one of the other sources listed here for more detail. Available on Westlaw and Lexis.

**California Procedure** / B.E. Witkin and Members of the Witkin Legal Institute. [San Francisco, CA]: Witkin Legal Institute.
- Witkin is one of the most trusted sources on California law and procedure. California Procedure runs the gamut of procedural issues, from rules pertaining to pleadings, filing, remedies, and more. Available on Westlaw and Lexis.

- Commonly known as “Weil & Brown,” these California Rutter Guides are essential tools for California civil procedure questions. It is hard to find a more practical and efficient solution for all your California civil procedure needs! Available on Westlaw.

**Continuing Education of the Bar (C.E.B.) Practice Books, Action Guides & Forms**
- Great California-specific practice guides, covering a wide variety of practice areas including business, criminal law, employment, estate planning, family law, and real property. Potentially available in print at your employer, and available online from the publisher with a SUNet ID.

**Summary of California Law** / by B.E. Witkin and Members of the Witkin Legal Institute. [San Francisco, CA]: Witkin Legal Institute.
- Witkin does it again with this 10-volume collection of California law on subjects like torts, contracts, and property. Routinely cited by courts. If someone asks what the California law is on subject [X], Witkin has considered it! Available on Westlaw and Lexis.
Other States

Many states have a state-specific legal encyclopedia and/or general practice series.

- California has California Jurisprudence 3d and California Civil Practice Series, mentioned above.
- New York has New York Jurisprudence 2d (available on Westlaw and Lexis) and New York Practice Series (available on Westlaw).
- For other states, try searching or browsing for [State] Jurisprudence or [State] Practice in Westlaw, Lexis, or SearchWorks, or consult this handy but non-exhaustive list compiled by the Harvard Law Library.

Try searching for a legal research guide specific to your state, which will highlight major publications and provide other research tips.

- For example, the Georgetown Law Library maintains guides for each state plus D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. There are many, many more such guides maintained by other law libraries, and you can usually find them by Googling “[state] law research guide.”
- Filter Westlaw or Lexis’s secondary sources by jurisdiction. In either, you can click on “Secondary Sources” on the home page, then select your state. Lexis will show you the top publications and link you to more, sorted by publication type; Westlaw will show you a comprehensive list of all state-specific publications, and you’ll likely need to filter by publication type or search within the list to pinpoint the useful sources.
  o Carolina Academic Press publishes a series of excellent state-specific research guides (Arizona Legal Research, Arkansas Legal Research,…). Most are available for in-library use at the law library. These are the only print-only resources listed here, but they’re too good to leave out, and well worth the money if your practice is likely to focus on a specific state.

How to Find Other Topic-Specific Sources

- Use the Research Resources by Topic & Jurisdiction section of this guide.
- Use a treatise finder tool. The Harvard Law School Library, Boston College Law Library, and Georgetown Law Library have all compiled great lists of treatises organized by topic.
- Check Westlaw and Lexis’s recommendations. In either, you can click on “Secondary Sources” on the home page and scroll down a bit to see a list of topics. When you click on a topic, Westlaw will suggest some titles in the upper right-hand corner of the results page, and Lexis will take you to a page listing top works in that area.
- Search across all treatises in Westlaw or Lexis and see what publications come up. If you’re researching reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act and notice a lot of results from Americans with Disabilities: Practice and Compliance Manual, that’s probably a publication you’ll want to peruse further!
- If you’re working on anything related to corporate law, tax, or intellectual property, Bloomberg Law will come in handy. From the home page after logging in, click “Browse,” then “Practice Centers,” then select your topic to see a list of available sources.
Researching Dockets

Dockets are records of the proceedings and documents of a court case. The docket sheet provides a list of those proceedings in chronological order, including documents filed with the court. Researching dockets can provide history and context to the particular case, include examples of precedent documents filed with a court, and demonstrate how parties, attorneys, witnesses, and judges approached a case.

What’s in a Docket?

Dockets include lots of useful information. When a case is entered into the docket, the court clerk will typically create a docket sheet to track the proceedings of the case. The header of a docket sheet usually includes:

- Docket number/case number
- Parties
- Attorneys
- Court
- Judge
- Status of the case (open or closed)
- Date filed/date closed
- Nature of suit (NOS, federal only)

Below the docket header will be a list of docket entries in chronological order with information about the date of entry, entry number, and a brief description of the entry.

Important note: the content of a docket can vary widely. Courts have different rules about what types of documents get filed and entered into the docket sheet. Even within the same court, different court clerks may enter information in various ways, and the same kind of document may be described in multiple ways.

Reading Docket Numbers

Docket numbers are the easiest way to find a particular docket. Courts will assign each case its own docket number (sometimes called case number) to uniquely identify it within the court. The docket numbering scheme varies across different jurisdictions. Information about a court’s numbering scheme is typically available on the court’s website. The help or information sections of docket databases will also often include this information.

As an example, this is the federal district court scheme:

Court# : Year – Case Type – Case# e.g. 1:99-cv-01234

Common case types are:

cv = civil cm = criminal br = bankruptcy
Some courts may also add local notes, such as the judge’s initials, to the end of the docket number for further specificity, e.g.: 1:99-cv-01234-ABC. The local notes are not part of the official docket number and should be dropped when searching.

Documents using the same numbering scheme may still display the docket number in different ways. If you are looking for the docket number on a document, or if you are trying to use a docket number to search for the docket, consider these variations:

- Dropping punctuation: 199cv01234
- Dropping the court number in the beginning: 99-cv-01234
- Dropping leading 0’s: 1:99-cv-1234

**Dockets Research: Background Information**

Dockets are court records, so access to dockets will depend upon the court.

*Federal Courts*

Federal dockets are available through PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records). Access to PACER requires an account and PACER incurs charges for searches and downloads of docket sheets and documents. If you have access to PACER and intend to use it, we suggest you **complete the free PACER training first**, as the system can be complicated.

As a law student, you can also access everything on PACER for no charge through Bloomberg’s docket search or Lexis Advance CourtLink, [discussed below](#).

*State Courts*

State courts have their own systems, including their own electronic filing systems. Availability and costs for accessing those systems vary. Check the relevant court’s website to see how to access their dockets; the National Center for State Courts provides [links to various state court websites](#).

**General tips for docket searching:**

- Gather background information in advance (e.g. party names, filing dates, jurisdiction, etc.). The more information you have, the easier it is to filter out irrelevant results.
- Check multiple databases; the state court docket coverage in Bloomberg, Lexis CourtLink, and Westlaw varies widely.
- Within each database, check the frequency of updates to dockets and the scope of its search coverage.
  - Docket information is usually not continuously updated, so more recent filings and dockets may not appear.
  - Whether a document is available to download and searches depends on whether other users have already downloaded that document in that database. As a result, document searching can be very hit-or-miss.
- When looking at a docket sheet, check when it was last updated. Docket databases usually have an “update” option—it may take a few minutes to process.
If you can’t find the docket you need online, call or email the court clerk; they can help you find out whether the docket you need is accessible.

- Not all dockets are publicly accessible. Historical records may have been lost or destroyed. Dockets with private or privileged information may be redacted or sealed. Contacting the relevant court is the easiest way to find out whether the docket you need can be accessed.

How to Find Dockets in Databases

Bloomberg’s docket search and Lexis Advance CourtLink are the primary docket databases, though Westlaw and RECAP also have some docket coverage. Each of these databases provide docket information and documents, but they have different interface and search options, different ways of displaying results, and different coverage for different courts. Searching and downloading while using a law student subscription will not incur costs, though doing so on a commercial subscription will. Details of each database are discussed below.

Bloomberg Dockets

Bloomberg Law’s docket search is the most sophisticated and comprehensive docket database available in our collection. However, other docket databases may have different coverage, so if you are unable to find something in Bloomberg, it is still worth trying to search in other databases. Bloomberg’s coverage is available on its Docket Coverage Map page.

Bloomberg’s docket search form can be found by clicking Dockets on the homepage. The search form allows you to search by various parameters. Key points to consider when searching:

- Searching **dockets only** versus **dockets & documents**:
  - Dockets only will search the docket sheet (i.e. header information and brief descriptions of the docket entries).
  - Dockets & documents will search the docket sheet and the full-text of documents, but only those documents already downloaded to the database.
- Avoid searching the case name in the “keyword” search box – you are likely to obtain too many irrelevant results. Instead, search in the **Parties** box, or the **Case name** box under **More Options**.
- Click the question mark icon if you have any difficulty with a particular search field
- Certain options are only available for certain courts (e.g. Nature of Suit search is only available for U.S. District & Appellate Options and U.S. Bankruptcy Options). Scroll to the bottom of the form to see all possible options.

When looking at a docket sheet in Bloomberg Dockets:

- The **Update Docket** option is on the right-hand navigation bar. You should always check if it’s up-to-date, and update it if it’s not.
- The Keyword Search option for docket entries operates on the same basis as the general keyword search (i.e. searches the docket sheet and full-text of already-downloaded documents).
- In the docket entries, **View** means the document is already downloaded and available in Bloomberg; **Request** means the document is not yet available.
When requesting a document, you will receive a notification by email and an update to your **Docket Request** page when the request has been processed.

Not everything is available for download. Documents that require courier access will be cancelled by the system. If this occurs, you will receive an email notification that your request has been cancelled. Be aware that this feature may only be available for academic subscriptions; check on your employer’s subscription and how it’s controlled.

- The **Track Docket** option is along the top. This lets you set how often to check and update this docket, and to set notifications of any changes.
- The **General Information** tab on the right includes summary information about the docket and a link to **Related Opinions**. You can also navigate from opinions to dockets by clicking the General Information tab of an opinion and looking for Related Dockets.

**Lexis Advance CourtLink**

Lexis Advance CourtLink is a different product from Lexis Advance. To access Lexis CourtLink, click the product switcher menu (a 3x3 set of boxes) in the top left corner of the Lexis homepage, and find the CourtLink option. You can find information about CourtLink’s coverage by clicking **Court Information** at the bottom of the CourtLink homepage.

Key points to consider when searching in CourtLink:

- You can search Dockets only, Documents only, or Dockets and Documents.
  - When searching Documents, the initial search only allows for keyword searching; other filters are unavailable. However, filters will be available on the left-side navigation panel in the results page once you run the search.
- Additional options for filters will become available depending upon the court(s) selected.

When looking at a docket sheet in CourtLink:

- The **Update Docket** button will be in red at the center of the header if available.
- In the docket entries, **Free** means the document is already downloaded and available in CourtLink. **Online** means the document is not yet available; it may or may not be available to request.
- You can track the docket by clicking the bell icon at the top of the header sheet. This lets you set how often to check and update the docket, and how you’d like to receive notifications of any changes.

**Westlaw**

Westlaw’s docket access is integrated into the rest of its platform. It is accessible through the Dockets link on the homepage.

Westlaw’s docket coverage is significantly less comprehensive than Bloomberg’s and Lexis CourtLink’s when using a law school subscription. The exact scope of what documents are available for request and download is currently unclear.
From the dockets page, you can:

- Select a jurisdiction to search within. From there, clicking the information icon (an ‘i’ in a circle) will bring up more information about the jurisdiction and Westlaw’s coverage.
- Access information about Westlaw’s docket coverage from the options in the navigation panel on the right, including a **Coverage Map** and **Find By Case Number** tool.
  - The navigation panel also has a Track Docket option, but this feature is **not** included in Stanford’s subscriptions.
- Use the **advanced search** option at the bottom right corner of the search bar.
  - Advanced search in Westlaw includes **KNOS** (Key Nature of Suit). This is Westlaw’s only categorization system based off the official federal NOS system. KNOS is applied to both state and federal dockets.

When looking at a docket sheet in Westlaw:

- The **update** option is at the top in the header with an icon showing a cycle of arrows.
- The docket sheet entries do not differentiate between documents that are already available and unavailable ones. All of the documents will show both the “View” and “Request this document” options, so try both if needed.
- The **Filings tab** contains a collection of trial documents immediately available for download and viewing.
  - **Important note:** The Filings tab is a different collection from the docket sheet entries. You may find documents available in the Filings tab even if you see a denial when selecting the same documents from the docket sheet entries, so check both places.
- You can navigate from dockets to a related opinion by clicking the **Related Opinions/Dockets** tab along the top of a docket. You can also navigate from opinions to a docket by clicking the **Filings** tab, then **Dockets**.

**RECAP**

**Court Listener’s RECAP** is a project that collects docket sheets and documents that other people have downloaded from PACER and makes the collection publicly available. If you use PACER, consider installing the RECAP browser extension so that the documents you download become available on RECAP.

Because it is a free resource dependent upon user contribution, there is no option for updating a docket, or requesting a download for free. If a document is available, it will provide a **download PDF** option. If that option isn’t available, you’ll need to obtain it from a different source. A limited number of **docket alerts** are available if you create a free individual account, which will update you when a change occurs to the docket.
Researching Federal Legislative History

Legislative history refers to the documents Congress produces when a bill is introduced, considered, and debated. A statute’s legislative history can be important for a number of reasons, such as determining legislative intent behind vague or ambiguous provisions, or understanding whether the legislature was aware of but rejected certain issues when passing the law.

This section provides an overview of the fundamentals of federal legislative history and discusses:

- what material gets produced in the federal legislative process;
- where to find those materials; and
- how to find a law once it has passed.

For a detailed, visual review of the legislative process as well as a discussion of the documents generated during the legislative process, please see the “How Our Laws Are Made” infographic by Mike Wirth and Dr. Suzanne Cooper-Guasco, also reproduced above.

State statutes follow many similar or parallel processes in their passage and publication, but the documents produced in state legislative processes may sometimes be harder to retrieve because they are not always published, let alone made available online. Federal legislative history, though, can serve as a model to assist when doing state legislative history.

Bill Introduced

Documents Produced During a Bill Introduction

Bill introductory remarks: The first step in a legislative history is the introduction of the bill on the floor of a chamber of Congress. When legislators introduce a bill, they often provide introductory remarks, indicating the intent of the bill and why the bill should be passed into law.

- You can use introductory remarks to understand the legislators’ intent behind drafting the bill and to see whether any lobbying interests were involved with the drafting of the bill.
- Remember, bill introductions do not always include introductory remarks. To see if introductory remarks exist, check the Congressional Record (the official transcript of the floor of the Senate and the House) for the date when the bill was first introduced.

Bill versions: After examining the bill as it was introduced, compare this initial bill version to the enrolled bill (the final copy of a bill that has passed both chambers of Congress in identical form). Take special note of any inclusion, deletion, or modification of language; these changes offer hints regarding legislative intent.

Locating Bill Introduction Documents

Bill introductory remarks in the Congressional Record:

- Use the History of Bills, which serves as the index to the Congressional Record, to locate the bill introductory remarks. The History of Bills provides users with page numbers to

p. 32
all locations a bill is discussed within the Congressional Record, including when a bill is introduced and the introductory remarks if they exist.

- Congress.gov: History of Bills, 1989 to the present; coverage is not complete
  - From the bill in Congress.gov > select “actions” from the navigation bar > under “actions overview,” select “Bill History – Congressional Record References” > the History of the Bill will provide page numbers and link you to the notation in the Congressional Record
- Govinfo.gov: History of Bills, 1983 to the present
  - Select the Congressional Record from the govinfo.gov homepage > select History of Bills at the bottom of the page > locate your bill using the Congress and bill number > the history of the bill will provide page numbers and link you to the notations in the Congressional Record

Comparing bill versions:
- Congress.gov: provides the full text of bills from 1989 to the present and metadata from 1973 to the present.
  - From the bill in Congress.gov > select “text” from the navigation bar > use the dropdown menu to download the different bill versions
  - Congress.gov does not have a compare documents feature. To set up a side-by-side comparison, try using the Word or Adobe redlining features.

Referred to a Committee/Subcommittee
After a bill is introduced, it is referred to a committee or subcommittee for editing and analysis. This is known as the markup period. The committee or subcommittee considering the bill may hold hearings on the bill, review committee prints, and produce committee reports.

Documents Produced in the Committee/Subcommittee Markup Period

Hearings
- Committees may listen to testimony about the bill to determine a need for the legislation. When testimony is given, it is called a hearing on the bill.
- Hearings are an opportunity for interested parties to speak about the bill.
- Hearings generally focus on the views of the parties testifying rather than the views of the committee or Congress. This focus on testifying parties’ opinions makes hearings less valuable for determining legislative intent.

Committee prints
- Committee prints are wide-ranging documents on a wide variety of topics. Committee prints can include research materials, statistical information, legislative analyses, staff reports, investigative reports, and internal background information.
  - Because committee prints aren’t necessarily created by legislators, you cannot rely on a committee print to provide an indication of legislative intent. Instead, watch out for legislators’ references to committee prints in debates and reports.
Committee/Subcommittee Reports

- After committee members listen to hearing testimony (if a hearing occurs) and after reviewing any applicable committee prints, the committee/subcommittee members will often create a committee report.
- Committee reports are some of the most important documents for determining legislative intent. They are issued for many bills that become law, and they generally include the purpose of the bill, a section-by-section analysis, the reasons the committee recommends approval for the bill to the full chamber, the text of any amendments to the bill and changes to existing law, and the views of any dissenting committee member(s).

Locating Markup Period Documents

Hearings: hearings do not always occur, and the publication of official hearing transcripts can take months. If you need to access a hearing before it has been published, check committee websites for prepared statements or webcasts—such documents are generally available immediately after the hearing takes place.

- Govinfo.gov: Available from 1961 to the present; official publications available
  o Govinfo.gov Advanced Search > Refine by Collection “Congressional Hearings”
- U.S. Congressional Testimony (Westlaw): Select hearings from 1993 to the present
- Congressional Hearings (Lexis Advance): Hearings from 1824 to the present (updated two days after publication)

Committee prints: Congress only publishes committee prints irregularly, and publication timing largely depends on the committee. Documents are sometimes available in HTML format only.

- Govinfo.gov: select Committee Prints from the 104th Congress (1995-96) to the present
  o Govinfo.gov Advanced Search > Refine by Collection “Committee Prints”

Committee reports:

- Govinfo.gov: House and Senate Reports, 1995 to the present
  o Govinfo.gov Advanced Search > Refine by Collection “Committee Reports”
- Congress.gov: House and Senate Reports, 1995 to the present
  o From the bill in Congress.gov > select “Committees” tab from the navigation bar

Floor Debate

When a bill leaves the markup session, it is reintroduced to the chamber’s floor, where legislators may debate different elements of the bill. Floor debates, when they exist, are strong evidence of legislators’ intent because they often include legislators speaking directly about why or why not a bill should become a law and considering the specific language within a bill.

Documents Produced during Floor Debates

Congressional Record entries: The Congressional Record may contain a transcript of arguments for or against a proposed bill or amendment or explanations of provisions that are vague or unclear within a bill.
Locating Floor Debates

Floor debates and remarks regarding bills in the Congressional Record:

- The History of Bills serves as the index to the Congressional Record. It provides users with page numbers to all locations a bill is discussed within the Congressional Record, including when a bill is debated and commentary on a bill if it exists.
  - Congress.gov: History of Bills, 1989 to the present; coverage is not complete
    - From the bill in Congress.gov > select “actions” from the navigation bar > under “actions overview,” select “Bill History – Congressional Record References” > the History of the Bill will provide page numbers and link you to the notation in the Congressional Record
  - Govinfo.gov: History of Bills, 1983 to the present
    - Select the Congressional Record from the govinfo.gov homepage > select History of Bills at the bottom of the page > locate your bill using the Congress and bill number > the History of the Bill will provide page numbers and link you to the notation in the Congressional Record

Conference Committee Markup Session

Often, different versions of the same bill will rise through both chambers. The bicameralism requirement necessitates that both the House and the Senate agree upon the same bill version. When dealing with complex, different bill versions, Congress will sometimes create a conference committee in which a group of leaders from each chamber will work together to create a new version of the bill that functions as a compromise of all the prior versions.

Documents Produced During Conference Committee Markup Session

Conference report: Conference reports, much like committee reports, can be extremely useful in determining legislative intent. Conference reports are generated during the conference committee markup session and generally include a detailed, line-by-line analysis of the bill.

- Because Congress creates conference reports late in the publication process, they can be especially useful in determining legislative intent about final language decisions for bills.
- Conference reports are issued as House Reports, with the committee as the Committee of Conference. You will find that often, databases store conference reports in the same location as committee reports.

New bill drafts: If a conference committee decides to create an entirely new bill, that bill draft often retains language the committee cherry-picked from the different bills. Compare the differences between the bill versions for a better understanding of congressional intent.

Locating Conference Committee Documents

Conference reports:

- Congress.gov: 1995 to the present
  - Locate the bill in Congress.gov > select “actions” from the navigation bar > filter by “all actions” > if a conference report exists, it will be labeled “Conference report filed with a link to the report”
• Govinfo.gov: 1995 to the present
  o Govinfo.gov Advanced Search > Refine by Collection “Committee Reports”

New bill drafts:
• Congress.gov: provides the full text of bills from 1989 to the present and metadata from 1973 to the present
  o Locate the bill in congress.gov > select “text” from the navigation bar > use the dropdown menu to download the different bill versions
  o Congress.gov does not have a compare documents feature. To set up a side-by-side comparison, try using the Word or Adobe redlining features.

Presidential Signing Statements
When presidents sign a bill into law or veto a bill, they can issue a pronouncement to accompany the bill. Typically, presidents use these pronouncements to point out what they see as the positive or negative aspects of the bill and how the bill fits in with the administration’s views. The signing statements often define or clarify what the president considers as ambiguous aspects of the bill, or explains why the president is vetoing the bill.

Locating Presidential Signing Statements
Presidential documents are collected in two sources:

Compilation of Presidential Documents: The Compilation of Presidential Documents collection consists of the official publications of materials released by the White House Press Secretary. Documents within the Compilation include acts approved by the President, White House press releases, digests of White House announcements, nominations submitted to the Senate, and Presidential Signing Statements.
• Govinfo.gov: 1992 to the present
  o From the govinfo.gov homepage, select “browse” > “Budget and Presidential Materials” > “Compilation of Presidential Documents”

Public Papers of the Presidents: These papers are an official series of documents that includes Presidential writings, addresses, and remarks. These documents are organized by president and are helpful if you are interested in a Presidential Signing Statement.
• Govinfo.gov: Herbert Hoover to Barack Obama; missing Franklin D. Roosevelt
  o From the govinfo.gov homepage, select “browse” > “Budget and Presidential Materials” > “Public Papers of the President”

Precompiled Legislative Histories
What do you do if you want to pull together everything—all the bill drafts, floor debates, hearings, reports, committee prints, etc.—related to a specific public law? Reach for the compiled legislative history! There are several sources for precompiled legislative histories, available electronically or in print. For now, we’re just going to focus on precompiled histories available through ProQuest and HeinOnline. Keep in mind that other sources exist (Westlaw and Lexis both have some, for example), and contact a reference librarian if you need help locating additional sources for precompiled legislative histories.
ProQuest Legislative Insight

ProQuest Legislative Insight has over 20,000 histories of laws, assembled and edited by ProQuest staff. These precompiled legislative histories are for bills that became law.

- Each legislative history includes the full text of the public law itself, all versions of related bills, law-specific Congressional Record excerpts, committee hearings, public comments, reports, and prints. It also includes presidential signing statements, Congressional Research Service reports, and miscellaneous congressional publications that provide background material to help understand the issues related to making the law.
- Legislative Insight includes documents related to the passage of particular public laws, so hearings, reports, bills that are not part of a pre-compiled legislative history of a public law are not included here.
- ProQuest Legislative Insight does not have legislative histories for every bill ever passed, and even the ones that it does have can be incomplete.

Searching within Legislative Insight

- Advanced search functions allow users to search by citation or to search using the Popular Name Table.
- Due to the high cost of the database as well as contractual agreements with law firms, you are unlikely to have access to ProQuest Legislative Insight after you graduate SLS.

ProQuest Congressional

ProQuest Congressional is an almost comprehensive collection of congressional documents from 1789 to the present. While the database isn’t technically a precompiled legislative history, running a search by bill number can help you obtain all documents related to a bill.

- The materials available in ProQuest Congressional extend beyond those within ProQuest Legislative Insight—ProQuest Congressional includes documents that have not been precompiled into a legislative history, such as documents related to a bill that never became a public law or documents related to a public law but that were produced in a Congressional session previous to the session that actually passed the public law.
- The database contains the full text of hearings, reports, committee prints, and other federal legislative history materials.

Searching within ProQuest Congressional

- Advanced search functions allow users to browse document collections or search by citations.
- Due to the high cost of the database as well as contractual agreements with law firms, you are unlikely to have access to ProQuest Congressional after you graduate SLS.
HeinOnline

HeinOnline’s U.S. Federal Legislative History Library includes a collection of more than 80 full-text compiled legislative histories. The U.S. Federal Legislative History Library is divided into two different legislative history collections: the U.S. Federal Legislative History Title Collection and the Sources of Compiled Legislative Histories Database.

- **U.S. Federal Legislative History Title Collection**: Many of these compiled legislative histories have been compiled by the Government Printing Office. In addition, HeinOnline has contracted with legal experts to compile and publish legislative histories in-house.
  - Authorship of these legislative histories is listed on the title page of the history.
- **Sources of Compiled Legislative Histories Database**: These compiled legislative histories are based on the loose-leaf publication by Nancy P. Johnson, Sources of Compiled Legislative Histories: A Bibliography of Government Documents, Periodical Articles, and Books.
  - This resource occasionally includes citations (though not the document itself) to news articles and details regarding lobbying interests as well as government documents.

Searching within HeinOnline’s U.S. Federal Legislative History Library

- **U.S. Federal Legislative History Title Collection**
  - Search this collection by publication title, public law number, or popular name.
- **Sources of Compiled Legislative Histories Database**
  - Search this database by bill number, Congress, and/or related document title.
  - Remember, if you want to search by phrase, put your search terms in quotation marks!

After Passage: The Publication Process

Bills that are passed by Congress and signed by the President can be found through several different methods, each with its own numbering system you can use to identify a specific law:

**Bill Number**: When a bill is introduced by a sponsor, the clerk of the House or Senate assigns a bill number (sometimes called a “legislative number”). The first number indicates the Congress in which the bill was introduced and the second number is the chronological number of the bill in that session. House bills use H.R.; Senate bills use S. For instance, the number 104 H.R. 3103 means that this was the 3103rd bill introduced in the House in the 104th Congress.

- To find the years that correspond to various Congresses, consult the Senate’s “Congress to Years” site.

**Enrolled Bill**: Once a bill is approved by both houses in identical form, it is now “enrolled.” The Government Publishing Office sends a certified copy to the President. The President may sign the law; if the President approves the law, he may choose to issue an accompanying signing statement.
Public Law:
- Once a bill has been signed by the President, it becomes law. This new law is first assigned a “Public Law Number.” The public law number simply indicates the order in which that law was passed within a given session. For instance, HIPAA (104 H.R. 3103), cited above, became the 191st law passed during the 104th Congress, so its public law number is P.L. 104-191.
- At this point, we now have two ways of identifying our law:
  - As the 3103rd House bill introduced in the 104th Congress, 104 H.R. 3013.
  - As the 191st public law passed in the 104th Congress, P.L. 104-191.

Statutes at Large:
- After the public law number is assigned, the Government Printing Office prints out the law in a pamphlet called a “slip law” (referring to the fact they’re printed on slips of paper). The slip laws are marked with the assigned Public Law number.
- Over the course of a Congressional session, all of the slip laws that passed during that session start to pile up (picture a stack of accumulating pamphlets; each of the pamphlets reflects one law that has passed). At the end of each Congressional session, all the individual pamphlets from a given session are collected into hard copy volumes called the United States Statutes at Large.
- Because this print volume set is published by session, the laws printed in it are called session laws. Unfortunately, the Statutes at Large volume numbers do not correspond to the congressional session or year numbers. For instance, Volume 110 of the Statutes at Large contains the laws passed during the 104th Congress, in the second session in 1996.
- Session laws are printed in the Statutes at Large in the same order in which they were passed. Citations to a public law in the Statutes at Large, then, include the first page number on which the public law appears and likewise do not correspond to either the year or Congressional session in which the public law was passed.
  - For instance, the Statutes at Large number for HIPAA is 110 Stat. 1936, meaning you will find this law printed in volume 110 of the Statutes at Large, beginning on page 1936.
- At this point, we now have three ways to find the very same text:
  - by the bill number or legislative citation, 104 HR 3013;
  - by its public law number, P.L. 104-191; or
  - by its Statute at Large number, 110 Stat. 1936.

United States Code:
- To understand codification, it helps to know that the U.S. Code is arranged by topic within 54 titles. For instance, laws dealing generally with Public Health and Welfare will be codified in Title 42. The Office of Law Revision Counsel is the entity responsible for preparing and publishing the U.S. Code, and making sure it is up-to-date.
- Often (but not always), the public laws that are passed will prescribe that changes be made to the U.S. Code. For instance, you might have a Public Law that states that a new

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4 There are such things as “private laws,” too. Congress will (infrequently) enact a law affecting only an individual, family, or small group injured by government programs, or appealing an executive agency ruling. For more about private laws, see Matthew Mantel, *Private Bills and Private Laws*, 99 L. LIBR. J. 87 (2007).
paragraph should be added to 42 U.S.C. § 1309. So, the Office of Law Revision Counsel edits the Code to make sure that the text of the new paragraph gets added to § 1309 as prescribed by the public law. This process is called “codification.”
  o The public law might not mention a specific code section. In that case, the Office of Law Revision Counsel will determine where it best fits in the subject organization of the U.S. Code.

- Because an enacted statute can have numerous (sometimes thousands) of sections dealing with different topics, a single statute may be codified in separate titles or parts of the U.S. Code. For example, the portions of HIPAA (P.L. 104-191) concerning public health and welfare were codified in several places within Title 42 of the U.S. Code—some portions at Section 300gg of Title 42, and others at Section 1320d of Title 42.

- At this point, we now have four ways to find the very same text:
  o by the bill number or legislative citation, 104 HR 3013;
  o by the public law number, P.L. 104-191;
  o by the Statutes at Large number, 110 Stat. 1936;
  o by its various U.S.C. citations, such as 42 U.S.C. § 300gg and 42 U.S.C. § 1320d.
Research Resources by Topic & Jurisdiction

Introduction & Overview
This section of the guide collects resources that are freely available to you at any time, or available through a Stanford database subscription while you are a Stanford student, divided by topic and jurisdiction. The purpose of this section is to provide an overview of some top resources while also providing you with free alternatives once you are no longer a Stanford student. This section also focuses on material available outside of Westlaw, Lexis, and Bloomberg, and, when appropriate, we have marked the top database(s) within each section with a star.

Your access to specific databases largely depends on when you are conducting this research:

- **During the academic year**, you have access to all of Stanford’s databases including Lexis Advance, Westlaw, and Bloomberg Law.

- **During the summer**, Lexis Advance and Bloomberg Law are available to you for free through your Stanford accounts (though your firm may request you use a firm-based account); Westlaw is available only if you are taking summer law courses, participating in a study abroad program, or working at an unpaid internship/externship. See this guide’s Continuing Access section for additional information on access to these databases.

- **After you graduate**, your student access to Lexis, Westlaw, and Bloomberg and to most Stanford databases will discontinue.

- To access Stanford databases while off-campus, you can use the links on our Legal Databases page or in SearchWorks, install the Lean Library browser extension, or connect to Stanford’s VPN.

As with everything else, contact a reference librarian with any questions, or if you’re researching a subject or jurisdiction not covered here. We are happy to help!

U.S. State & Federal Cases
This section provides resources for locating state and federal cases in the U.S. beyond Westlaw, Lexis, and Bloomberg. Remember to always update statutes and cases before citing to them!

Free Resources
**Caselaw Access Project** (through Harvard Law School)
- Goal to make published U.S. court decisions available online. Includes cases from all 50 states and all federal and territorial courts, with some cases back to 1658.
- In addition to case searching, the Project includes several data-driven tools, such as downloadable zip files of cases and visualizations of terms over time.
Court Websites

- Court websites (particularly for federal courts) often post recent opinions, briefs, and case documents.
- Example courts:
  - SCOTUS;
  - 9th Circuit;
  - San Francisco County Superior Court.
- Blogs and other sites also track opinions and link to filings, plus provide context.
  - For example, SCOTUSblog offers background information on cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and links to case documents.

Google Scholar – Cases

- Select Case Law to access this database.
- Fully text-searchable case law, varying in coverage by jurisdiction; the full scope of Google Scholar cases is unknown. New content added several times per week.

Justia

- Opinions from and information about U.S. Supreme Court, Circuit Courts of Appeal, District Courts, and state courts. Searchable and browsable. Coverage varies by jurisdiction, though some go back quite far.
- Also has a docket search/retrieval tool.

Library of Congress

- Has SCOTUS opinions from 1754 to 2003 (volumes 1 through 542 of the U.S. Reports).

Public Library of Law

- Cases from all 50 states back to 1997; also includes all SCOTUS cases, and federal circuit court cases from 1950.

State-Specific Resources

- States may also provide additional resources for their materials. Google “research guide cases [name of state]” to see librarian-curated resources for a specific state.
  - Examples:
    - UCLA’s California Case Materials Checklist;
    - Pace Law’s New York Legal Research: Courts and Case Law
- The Library of Congress also has information for each state.

Resources through Stanford

Fastcase

- Fastcase provides access to caselaw back to the 1950s for federal and state courts, as well as Authority Check and Forecite to update your cases.
- Access to Fastcase is also provided by over half of the bar organizations as part of membership to the bar, including in California.
**Ravel Law**
- Founded by SLS alums, Ravel provides search, visualization, analytics, and annotation platform for cases and recently began providing judicial analytics.
- Free, limited version available; additional access provided through Lexis Advance.

**Supreme Court Insight (ProQuest)**
- Access to Supreme Court cases, dockets, briefs, and more, for Supreme Court cases between 1975 and 2017; plus certiorari denied cases from 1975 to 2018.

**Foreign, Comparative, and International Law (FCIL) Research**

**Free Resources**

**ASIL’s Electronic Research Guide**
- American Society of International Law (ASIL) information resources on specific international law topics, such as international commercial arbitration, international intellectual property, and international piracy.

**Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations**
- Figure out what that citation means by using Cardiff’s to determine the meaning of abbreviations for English language legal publications, including from the British Isles, the Commonwealth and the United States. Also includes a wide selection of major foreign language law publications from over 295 jurisdictions.

**GlobaLex**
- Research guides for both international law topics and foreign law resources. Typically the best place to start, especially if you only have access to free resources; provides an overview of individual country legal systems.

**LLRX–Comparative/Foreign Law & LLRX–International Legal Research**
- Collection of resources and path finders for comparative and foreign; and international legal research resources and tools.
- Hard to browse, use the search function.

**United Nations Digital Library & United Nations Treaty Collection**
- Access to UN documents, maps, resolutions, treaties, and more.

**World Legal Information Institute (WorldLII)**
- Access to primary legal materials from hundreds of countries, with a heavy focus on Australia, Great Britain and Ireland, Canada, Hong Kong, and Pacific Islands.

**Resources through Stanford**

**Foreign Law Guide**
- Excellent source of citations and links to official compilations of statutes and case law from approximately 190 countries. Also provides subject access to legislation arranged by country. One of the best places to start for foreign law research.
**Getting the Deal Through** (Bloomberg Law)
- *Getting the Deal Through* provides international comparative guides to law and regulation in 75 practice areas and over 150 jurisdictions featuring explanations to critical legal and regulatory matters that arise in business deals and disputes worldwide.

**HeinOnline**
- Provides access to the United Nations Law Collection, U.S. Treaties & Agreement Library, yearbooks of international law, world constitutions, English Reports and other case reporters, and more. Focus is on international law. Foreign law coverage is confined primarily to some Commonwealth countries (England, Canada, Scotland) and Eastern Europe.

**International and Foreign Law Research: A Coursebook**
- Provides a detailed, in-depth walk through of almost any international or foreign law research question.

**Investor State Law Guide**
- Database of international investment treaty law, including NAFTA and ICSID arbitration decisions.

**Kluwer Arbitration**
- Journals, treatises, bilateral investment treaties, international agreements, and arbitration decisions related to international arbitration. Best place to start for international arbitration research.

**Max Planck Encyclopedias of Public International Law**
- Excellent starting place for research on international law topics, this is a comprehensive analytical resource covering public international law.
- Use the subject guide to navigate to specific topics.

**Trade Law Guide**
- WTO dispute resolution decisions searchable by agreement article and subject.

**Federal Statutory & Administrative Research**

**Free Resources**

**Congress.gov** (statutory research)
- Congress.gov is the official source for federal legislative information, offering full-text searching and retrieval of public laws, pending bills, bill status, committee reports, hearings, and the Congressional Record.

**FederalRegister.Gov** (administrative research)
- FederalRegister.gov is an edition of the daily Federal Register in an easy to read format, with extensive navigation aids and links to related material such as the
- Also includes aids for finding material relevant to topical or agency-related interests, including subscription tools.

**GovInfo (both statutory and administrative research)**  
- Official U.S. Government information and publications, with documents from the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. GovInfo provides access and allows you to full-text search, browse, and download materials from collections such as the Congressional Record, Code of Federal Regulations, Federal Register, Statutes at Large, etc. On average, material dates back to the mid-1990s.

**Regulations.gov (administrative research)**  
- Source for proposed regulations, final regulations, notices, scientific and technical findings, guidance, adjudications, comments, and the Unified Agenda and Regulatory Plan. Only has federal materials.

**United States Code (statutory research)**  
- The Office of Law Revision Counsel, within the House of Representatives, maintains and publishes the U.S. Code along with several finding aids and tables. Online, they offer several ways to access current and historical editions, both in HTML and PDF formats.

**Resources through Stanford**

**HeinOnline (both statutory and administrative research)**  
- Includes historical versions of the Code of Federal Regulations and United States Code, and complete editions of the Statutes at Large and state session law compilations. Also has many compiled federal legislative histories.

**ProQuest Congressional (statutory research)**  
- Federal Congressional materials (such as the Congressional Record, bills, committee reports and prints, and CRS reports) and legislative histories with full-text searching and retrieve by citation. Contains hearings, reports, bills, etc. that are not part of the passage of a law; contains documents back to 1776.

**ProQuest Legislative Insight (statutory research)**  
- ProQuest Legislative Insight provides compiled legislative histories for Public Laws enacted by Congress, including bill versions, Congressional Record materials, committee hearings, reports, prints, and executive materials, among many other documents. This database only includes documents for laws that were passed; to research other legislative histories, use ProQuest Congressional.

**ProQuest Regulatory Insight (administrative research)**  
- Provides regulatory histories for select federal statutes and executive orders back to 1935, by collecting all relevant Federal Register entries related to that statute or order. Also includes the full text of all relevant regulatory sources, including the CFR and Federal Register.
State Statutory Research

**Free Resources**

**Cornell’s Legal Information Institute (LII)**
- The LII collection of state legal materials gathers state-by-state sources of the constitutions, statutes, judicial opinions, and regulations for the fifty states, plus D.C., and the U.S. territories and affiliated jurisdictions.

**National Conference of State Legislatures**
- Bipartisan organization providing research and assistance with developing state legislation.
- Offers 50-state surveys of current and emerging law on a variety of issues. This site also points you to state websites with legislative information.

**State Legislatures’ Websites**
- States vary in the legislative materials they place online, but the state legislatures’ websites can provide a wealth of information. They may include Senate and Assembly (or House) journals, bill drafts/amendments, enrolled bills, reports, and the like.

**Resources through Stanford**

**Fastcase**
- Fastcase provides access to all 50 state statutes (with some historical statutes), plus Authority Check.

**HeinOnline**
- Includes historical State Session Laws; State Statutes – a Historical Archive; and Subject Compilations of State Laws (essentially 50 state surveys).

**California Resources**
In addition to the materials listed under U.S. State and Federal cases, above, there are also several California-specific resources available.

**Free Resources**

**California Courts**
- Access to both published and unpublished opinions of the California Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal, though search is limited to party name, case number, or attorney name.

**California State Legislature & Assembly Office of the Chief Clerk**
- Provides links or access to California State Assembly and Senate bills and journals, hearing recordings, and other legislative materials, both sites are go-tos for California legislative research.
Legal Information Institute (LII)’s California Page
- Links to searchable CA constitution, statutes, regulations, pending bills and legislation, judicial opinions, and CA government directories and websites.

Online Archive of California
- Primary resource descriptions to the archives of more than 200 universities related to California, including collections on the 1906 earthquake and oral histories.

SCOCAL
- Joint project between the Robert Crown Law Library and Justia, containing a database of California Supreme Court opinions from 1934 to 2015, plus annotations, briefs, documents, and news for some of the cases.

Selected California Research Guides
- Georgetown Law Library’s California Resources
- USF’s Finding California Legislative History
- Locating the Law: California (Southern California Association of Law Libraries)
  - Excellent guide to legal research that includes California, federal, and international legal materials.
- UC Hastings Law Library California Administrative Law Research Guide
  - Links to CA judicial, legislative, and executive materials, as well as California research guides.

Resources through Stanford Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB) OnLaw
- OnLAW provides access to more than 125 of CEB’s California practice guides by practice area (e.g., business, criminal, estate planning, family, litigation practice/procedure, employment, real property).

ProView
- Thomson Reuters ProView provides access to a library of e-books, including many California legal treatises. Sort by jurisdiction to see available titles, which include companion handbooks to both civil and criminal jury instructions, California Procedure, and many more titles.

Business & Corporations Research

Free Resources
EDGAR (U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission)
- Public companies, foreign and domestic, are required to file registration statements, periodic reports, and other forms electronically through EDGAR. Information can be accessed and downloaded for free.
**Investopedia**
- Short, quick overviews of financial terms and phrases; good starting point for those unfamiliar with the language of business and finances, and a place to look up unknown terms.

**Nonprofit Corporations Form and Sample Documents**
- Created by Stanford Law’s Organizations & Transactions Clinic, this database posts sample and precedent documents for nonprofits on a broad array of topics, including documents related to arts programs, grants, loans, and services agreements.

**University of Pennsylvania’s Corporate Reports Online**
- Provides links to select historical annual reports from 1800 to 1955

**Resources through Stanford**
While you’re still a Stanford student, we suggest that you also reach out to the Graduate School of Business Library for suggestions on research related to company information, financials, stock histories, etc. The databases listed here only skim the surface of the research resources available through GSB. **Contact GSB** for more information or look through the full list of databases.

**D&B Hoovers (aka OneSource aka Avention)**
- Access to millions of company profiles that include financials, employee information, and SWOT reports. Also has some industry and analyst reports.

**Business Source Complete**
- Full–text journals in all disciplines of business, including marketing, management, MIS, POM, accounting, finance, and economics.

**NetAdvantage**
- Stock and bond guides and reports, plus investment research and analyst reports, plus secondary sources from S&P.

**PrivCo**
- Access to company information for private companies; also includes information on private equity and venture capital deals and companies.

**RBSource**
- Provides access to statutes, regulations, guidance, and secondary sources related to securities law, including searches of EDGAR filings and exhibits.

**Thomson One Banker** (must use Internet Explorer to access)
Academic & Historical Research

Free Resources

American Memory
- From the Library of Congress, this site contains full-text documents from the founding in its Century of Lawmaking database; American women resources; and the African American Odyssey.

Google Scholar
- A specialized Google that just searches scholarly material (including HeinOnline and JSTOR) using the same power as a Google search. Connect Google Scholar to Stanford Libraries to get seamless access to articles available through Stanford.

HathiTrust
- Digital collections from libraries around the world; offers access to many historical materials, from member libraries, Google Books, the Internet Archive, and more.
- Also provides a research center, which allows for text-based analysis of the entire HathiTrust corpus.

Internet Archive
- With the original goal of preserving and archiving material housed solely on the internet, the Internet Archive also includes books, media, images, and more.
- Also has the Wayback Machine, which archives past versions of websites. Plug a broken link into the search bar; they’ll likely have captured what used to be there.

SSRN
- The Social Science Research Network encourages early distribution of research by publishing draft scholarly abstracts and papers, and is an excellent source for the latest scholarship across a wide variety of disciplines.

Resources through Stanford

EBSCOhost
- EBSCOHost contains thousands of scholarly journals, news materials, and reference works. Start with Academic Search Premier or scroll through the database descriptions to limit to a particular subject.

Eighteenth Century Collections
- Collects significant English and foreign language sources printed in the United Kingdom during the eighteenth century. Includes almost 180,000 titles.

Gale Databases
- Access to e-books, book reviews, and the Digital Scholar Lab, plus various primary and secondary sources. Scroll through the database descriptions to select the most applicable for your research.
Useful sub-databases for legal history research include the Law Journal Library, Legal Classics, and the Selden Society Publications, among others.

Over 1,000 academic journals and other scholarly content, primarily from humanities and social sciences, including a music collection and 19th Century British Pamphlets.

Navigate to “M” and select “Making of Modern Law” resource of interest. Ten million pages of legal history from American and Britain. Full-text searching of over 21,000 works from 99 subject areas, including foreign and U.S. primary sources, trial records from as early as 1600, and treatises published in 1800.

Scholarship and mass media publications in fields including social sciences, humanities, history, medicine, business, and arts, plus dissertations and theses. Click Change database to see the full list and descriptions of the sources available.

Research guides are compiled and written by librarians and often provide excellent starting points for research. The libraries below produce high-quality and up-to-date research guides. If they don’t have a research guide specific to your topic or jurisdiction, simply Google “research guide + [your topic or jurisdiction]” to find other research guides.

Guides for all 50 states and many topics, plus its very useful Treatise Finder.

Only partially about research, but all-important information for any federal clerk.

Southern California Association of Law Libraries’ guide on how to find the law, including California and federal cases, statutes, regulations, and online resources.