

Legal Research: Tips to Zero in on the Good Stuff... and then Find it Again!



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ABA Technology Survey

- *Online Research 2007* volume
- 91% conduct legal research online
- When Starting Online Legal Research...
 - 39% use fee-based resources first
 - 26% go to legal-specific search engine first
 - 27% go to a general search engine
- 82% use fee-based online resources
- 85% use free online resources

You Get What You Pay For: Free Web Research

- Search engines have limits
 - Full text of long documents is not indexed
- Know what the search engines are up to
 - SearchEngineWatch.com
- Just like school – know your sources
- In fact, surfing can be dangerous
- Keep it advanced, while keeping it simple

JUST ASK a Law Librarian

- **Jurisdiction**
- **Useful tips** - check university libraries and other sites for pathfinders
- **Scope** - how extensive should the research be?
- **Terms of Art** – define search terms and find synonyms

- **Acronyms** – look them up
- **Sources** – Secondary treatments?
- **Key Cost Restraints** – can you bill the client?

Speaking of Libraries...

- Don't forget your local law and public libraries
- World of information online via public libraries
- [AALL 50 State Survey of Authentication of online legal resources](#)
- Library secret weapon - [WorldCat](#)

Using Web Directories

- Directories are compiled by humans
- Search or browse
- Examples:
 - [LII – Librarian's Internet Index](#)
 - [DMOZ Directory](#)
- What about wikis?
 - [Wex](#) from Cornell

Legal Specific Web Directories

- [GLIN](#) – Global Legal Information Network
- [LII](#) – Cornell's Legal Information Institute
- [LLRX](#) – Law Librarian's Resource Exchange
- [Findlaw](#)
- [LexisONE](#) ([Shepard's by Credit Card](#))
- [Zimmerman's Legal Research Guide](#)
- [ABA LawLink](#)

Blawgs For Research Tips

- Virtual Chase
- BeSpecific
- ABA Site-tation
- Inter Alia
- And hundreds of legal specific topical blogs (blawgs)
 - Caveat: know your source!!

Searching Blogs (and Blawgs)

- [BlawgSearch](#)
- [ABAJournal.com](#)
- [Technorati](#)
- [Google Blog Search](#)

Non-Traditional Sources

- [YouTube](#)
- Social Networking Sites
- [Podcasts](#)

News Junkie

- [Jurist Legal News](#)
- [Law.com](#)
- [Google News](#)
- [Yahoo! News](#)
- [AltaVista News](#)



Law Firm Newsletters

- Mondaq.com
- LawKT.com

Law Reviews Online

- [University Law Review Project](#)
- [SSRN Legal Scholarship Network](#)
- [Research Now](#) (Advanced Search)

Other Sources to Remember

- Law Schools
- Professional associations
- The Government
- Wayback Machine
- Google Cache

Browser Toolbars

- Search engine toolbars become part of the browser, eliminating the need to surf to a search engine
- Lots of tools beyond simple search
- Example:
 - [Google toolbar](#)
 - [Dogpile toolbar](#)
 - [LexisNexis toolbar](#)

Metasearch Engines

- Search multiple search engines at one time
 - Copernic Agent
 - Clusty
 - Dogpile

Personal Knowledge Management

- Knowledge Management on a small scale
- Track research strategies – sources, search strings, results
- Rule #1 of librarians
 - I know the answer because I know where to look
- Too much information to remember?
- Use methods and tools to help you remember, store, find, and reuse information and mix/match

“Clipping” Services

- Create automated searches
 - Sent to your email
 - [Google News Alerts](#)
 - [Google Alerts](#) and [GoogleAlert](#)
- Webpage Watchers
 - Sent to your email or RSS feed reader
 - [InfoMinder](#)
 - [WatchthatPage](#)

Desktop Search

- Google Desktop Search (+ Outlook)
- Copernic
- DT Search
- X1

- Compare them all

RSS Feed and News Aggregators

- Getting Started
 - Get a “feed reader” or “news aggregator”
 - Software/downloaded Readers
 - FeedReader
 - RssReader
 - NetNewsWire (Mac)
 - Web-based readers
 - MyYahoo!
 - Bloglines
 - Newsgator
 - Google Reader/ iGoogle

RSS Feed and News Aggregators

- Looking for RSS Content
 - Check your favorite news sites, websites, blogs, etc.
 - Search engines for RSS content:
 - [Syndic8](#)
 - [Technorati](#)
 - [Justia Blawg Search](#)

RSS Feed and News Aggregators

- Adding RSS Content
 - Some sites have “add to _____” for popular news readers, like:



- Otherwise look for these symbols, right click and “Copy Shortcut” and paste into the news reader:



Personal KM - Super Simple Method

- Create a folder called “Research”
- Dump all content into it
 - Print to PDF for web content
 - CDs/thumb drives with CLE conference materials
 - Scan materials (OCR?)
- Use good desktop search tool
 - X1 or Copernic
 - Index of files/folders, email, network resources

Online Favorites/Bookmarks

- Advantages:
 - Web-based, go anywhere there is a browser
 - Tags or folders
 - Annotate
 - Share
 - Not dependant on the browser
- Examples:
 - [Google Bookmarks](#)
 - [Del.icio.us](#)

Web Link & Content Management

- Advantages
 - End link rot
 - Capture content as you find it
 - Good for discrete content (versus a website)
 - Sharing
- Examples:
 - [Google Notebook](#)
 - [eSnips](#)
 - [SurfSaver](#)

Research Notebooks

- Advantages
 - Really powerful with tablets
 - Keep research folders, with notes, clippings, todos,
 - Insert anything – pictures, audio, video, web
 - Replaces dog-eared notebooks, post-it notes,
 - Can be shared via network
- Examples:
 - [MS OneNote](#)
 - [Evernote](#)

Library and Asset Management

- Advantages
 - Keep up with print and electronic titles
 - Familiar approach
 - Requires a bit more work, organization
- Examples:
 - [LibraryThing](#)
 - [InMagic Presto](#)

Databases

- Advantages
 - Organization
 - Reporting
 - Browse and search
 - And more...
- Examples: Ask Sam, Citeit

Questions?

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