COST EFFECTIVE LEGAL RESEARCH REDUX: HOW TO AVOID BECOMING THE ACCIDENTAL TOURIST, LOST IN CYBERSPACE

Lisa Smith-Butler

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Lisa Smith-Butler*

I. INTRODUCTION

There are three primary sources of American law produced by the three branches of American government. These sources are:

- Opinions published by the judicial branch, i.e. the courts;
- Legislation or statutes enacted and then published by the legislature; and
- Regulations promulgated under the power of the legislative branch and published by regulatory agencies as well as executive orders and executive orders and proclamations which are issued and published by the executive branch under its own authority.

With citations or names, it is relatively easy to access these materials in print or in electronic format. If the material is lacking a citation, popular or party name, bill, public law or docket number, it is necessary to utilize finding aids to locate the relevant material. As American law evolved over the centuries, a number of finding aids and updating tools were developed to assist legal researchers. When using

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2 U.S. CONST. art. I, II, III.

3 See generally BERRING & EDINGER, supra note 1, at 14-15.

4 Id.

5 See id. at 102-16. See also MERSKY & DUNN, supra note 1, at 81.
these precise finding aids and updating tools with understanding, researchers were said to be performing cost-effective legal research.\textsuperscript{6}

Generations of law students, now attorneys, learned to research with print finding aids.\textsuperscript{7} Several resources, such as digests, American Law Reports, law reviews, loose leafs, and treatises, were created to assist the researcher when locating cases by subject.\textsuperscript{8} Popular names tables and indexes provided access to statutes and regulations.\textsuperscript{9} Shepard’s Citation Service allowed researchers to update their materials.\textsuperscript{10}

In the 1970s, the electronic computer assisted legal research systems of Westlaw\textsuperscript{11} and LexisNexis\textsuperscript{12} (Lexis) were created by researchers familiar and comfortable with the print process of legal research.\textsuperscript{13} Thus, these new fee-based electronic systems relied upon the foundation of print legal research as the basis for their development.\textsuperscript{14} As electronic resources continued to grow, develop, and expand, law schools suddenly found themselves with Gen X and Millennial students who

\textsuperscript{6} See generally Lisa Smith-Butler, Cost Effective Legal Research, 18 LEGAL REFERENCE SERVICES Q. 61 (2000).

\textsuperscript{7} See BERRING & EDINGER, supra note 1, at 5.

\textsuperscript{8} See id. at 5, 102-16.

\textsuperscript{9} See MERSKY & DUNN, supra note 1, at 170, 223-24.

\textsuperscript{10} See id. at 67-69.

\textsuperscript{11} John B. West and his brother, Horatio, began West Publishing in 1872 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Thomson West, Historic Highlights, http://west.thomson.com/about/history/ (last visited March 2, 2008). Over 100 years later in 1975, Westlaw, a computer assisted legal instruction system, began operation. Id.


\textsuperscript{13} John B. West and his brother, Horatio, began West Publishing in 1872 in St. Paul, MN. Over 100 years later in 1975, Westlaw, a computer assisted legal instruction system, began operation. See Historic Highlights, supra note 11. Mead Data Corporation developed Lexis-Nexis in conjunction with the Ohio State Bar in the late 1960s. Lexis-Nexis went public in April 1973. See Media Kit, supra 12.

\textsuperscript{14} See BERRING & EDINGER, supra note 1, at 5-6.
were raised on computers and the Internet. These students were interested in using electronic rather than print resources. Since the late 1990s, a contentious debate has ensued among law professors, law librarians, and legal research and writing instructors about the value and validity of print and electronic resources. With flat or shrinking budgets for library materials, and rising costs of serial prints, academic law libraries struggled to make sense of the new world of electronic resources while trying to juggle the duplicative coverage created by electronic resources with print and micro formats. Students continued to learn print research in legal bibliography or legal research and writing classes, but dismissed print research tools as irrelevant until summer clerkships and lack of access to Westlaw and Lexis revealed their lack of research skills.

Because of the above, it appears that this transitional generation will need to understand both print and electronic legal research. Ac-


16 Just as law students, decades ago, learned to refer to the updating process as “shepardizing,” so too has “googling” entered the language as a verb, meaning “to search for.” See BERRING & EDINGER, supra note 1, at 66, for a discussion of shepardizing. See also Randy Cohen, The Way We Live Now: 12-15-02: The Ethicist; Is Googling O.K.?, N.Y. TIMES, Dec. 15, 2002, at 50, for a discussion on googling. For a discussion of teaching GenX and Millennial law students, see Tracy L. McGaugh, Generation X in Law School: The Dying of the Light or the Dawn of a New Day?, 9 LEGAL WRITING 119, 124 (2003); see also Cooney, supra note 15, at 412-15.


19 See generally Wu, supra note 17.

20 See BERRING & EDINGER, supra note 1, at 6.
cepting that, it also seems important to acknowledge that these students prefer the electronic format to either the print or micro format.\textsuperscript{21} As legal research transitions into electronic formats, perhaps the most useful and cost-effective approach to teaching students should be to focus on the three branches of government, the information produced by those branches, where the information is published, and the format in which it is available.\textsuperscript{22} In order to perform cost-effective legal research, students need to know how to precisely locate primary and secondary sources of law. They need to know in what sources these materials can be located; and they must also know how to evaluate these sources, whatever their format.\textsuperscript{23}

\textsuperscript{21} See Wu, supra note 17, at 251.

\textsuperscript{22} I am indebted to my colleague, Dean Gail Levin Richmond, for sharing this approach as she taught taxes to my advanced legal research class.

\textsuperscript{23} Both states and the U.S. government are placing their primary sources of law on the Internet. While much of this information is now available in electronic format, concerns do exist as to the authentication of these materials. See, e.g., AALL, State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources, http://www.aallnet.org/aallwash/authenreport.html (last visited Mar. 3, 2008). Although the technology exists to authenticate the materials, the majority of states have not yet done so. See Robert C. Berring, Losing the Law: A Call to Arms, 10 \textit{Green Bag} 279, 280 (2007) (“Not one state has put in place a system that authenticates and preserves the new digital information.”). In order to educate the appropriate government entities on the topic, the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) recently convened a national summit to deal with the authentication of legal information in the digital age. See American Association of Law Libraries, Authentic Legal Information in the Digital Age: AALL National Summit, http://www.aallnet.org/summit/default.asp (last visited Jan. 19, 2008). AALL recently published a report, listing the authentication of online legal resources by state. See Richard J. Matthews & Mary Alice Baish, AALL 2005-2006 Access to Electronic Information Committee, State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources, http://www.aallnet.org/summit/rmatthewspresentation.pdf. To deal with these concerns and raise legislative awareness of the issues, the Legal Information Preservation Alliance (LIPA) was created. Legal Information Preservation Alliance, http://www.aallnet.org/committee/lipa (last visited Jan. 19, 2008). LIPA’s stated mission is “to provide the leadership, the necessary organizational framework, and the professional commitment necessary to preserve vital paper and electronic legal information by defining objectives, developing and/or adopting appropriate standards and models, creating networks, and fostering financial and political support for long term stability.” \textit{Id}. AALL also published a document, listing the U.S. government information that is permanently available via PURLs (Permanent Uniform Resource Locator). See Richard J. Matthews et al., American Association of Law Libraries, State-by-State
Before using an Internet site, students should evaluate it just as a print source would be evaluated. A student should consider:

- Whether the publisher of the site is reputable and knowledgeable;
- Whether the content of the site is accurate, authentic, and objective;
- Whether the content can be retrieved via keyword, author, or title searching;
- Whether the information is current; and
- Whether the information is frequently updated.  

To assist law students with evaluating legal web sites containing primary and secondary sources of law, this article reviews certain free Internet sites pertaining to primary sources of federal and state law as well as secondary sources. When using these sites with understanding, legal researchers are said to be performing cost effective legal research and will avoid becoming an accidental tourist, lost in cyberspace.

II. COURT OPINIONS

A. United States Supreme Court Opinions

The United States Supreme Court is at the apex of the federal court system. Having both appellate and limited original jurisdiction, the Court is the court of “last resort.” Opinions produced by the Court are available in several sources, in both print and electronic format. In print, there are three reporters and a loose leaf service that publish Court opinions. The U.S. Reports, published by the Govern-

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SUP. Ct. R. 10.


ment Printing Office, is the official publication of Court decisions while commercial publications produced by Thomson West (Supreme Court Reporter) and Lexis (Supreme Court Reporter, Lawyer’s Edition) are also available. The Bureau of National Affairs’ publication, United States Law Week (USLW), a loose leaf, also publishes Supreme Court opinions. Access to these opinions is either via citation, party name, or subject search with the appropriate print case-finding tools.

Fee-based electronic services provide access to these opinions. In Westlaw, the legal researcher will consult the SCT database (which covers all United States Supreme Court Cases) to search for Court opinions, while researchers using Lexis will consult the Federal Legal U.S. library. In addition, VersusLaw and Loislaw provide access to these decisions for a low-cost electronic service fee. HeinOnline also has comprehensive coverage of the full text of Court decisions in


29 Id.

30 Both Lexis and West publish cumulative digests for their Supreme Court reporters with comprehensive coverage from 1754 to the present. Id. Party name, citation, and subject indexes are available. Id.; see also Digest of United States Supreme Court Reports: Lawyer’s Edition (LEXISNEXIS) (1754 - Present); United States Supreme Court Digest, (West) (1754-Present).


its publication, *United States Supreme Court Library*. Searching is via keyword, party name, or citation.

Several reputable Internet sites provide access to Court opinions. These sites include the official U.S. Supreme Court site, Cornell’s Legal Information Institute, FindLaw, FLITE, and Oyez. While all of these sites provide access to Court opinions, the focus of each site as well as the respective dates of coverage differ. Search engines also vary from site to site.

Presented by the U.S. Supreme Court, the Court’s official site is aptly named, “Supreme Court of the United States.” The site provides an enormous amount of information for the practitioner and the legal researcher. Practitioners can access both the Court’s docket and oral argument calendar for scheduling purposes. They can also review the Court’s rules and case handling guidelines. A history of the Court as well as photographs and biographical information about present and past Justices is available. A recent feature provides transcripts of oral arguments from October 2000 to date. In October of 2006, the Court

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38 See id.
43 Supreme Court of the United States, supra note 39.
44 See id.
45 See id.
46 See id.
47 See id.
48 See id.
49 See Supreme Court of the United States, About the Supreme Court, http://www.supremecourtus.gov/about/about.html (last visited Jan. 18, 2008).
began posting transcripts of oral arguments to the site on the same day that the case is argued.\textsuperscript{51}

The full text of all Court opinions issued from 2004 onwards is available at this site.\textsuperscript{52} Access is to either recent slip opinions or term opinions, published in reverse chronological order and hyperlinked.\textsuperscript{53} Earlier opinions (1991-2001) can be located by a keyword search on the home page of Oyez or by using a case citation finder that must then be applied to the hyperlinked volumes that are labeled “bound.”\textsuperscript{54}

Cornell’s Legal Information Institute also provides access to the full text of Court opinions.\textsuperscript{55} Coverage is comprehensive for decisions rendered from 1990 onwards. Coverage is selective for decisions issued prior to 1990, using significant historical value as the selection criteria.\textsuperscript{56} Access to the decisions is via a topical search, a justice-authored search, a party name search, or a date search using either the month or term.\textsuperscript{57} There is also information about the Court’s calendar and rules as well as biographical information about the Justices.\textsuperscript{58} The \textit{liibulletin}, an electronic current awareness resource published and produced by Cornell second- and third-year law students, provides commentary on cases pending before the Court.\textsuperscript{59} The site also provides hyperlinks to briefs located on the American Bar Association Website, oral arguments reproduced on Oyez, and oral argument transcripts published on the official Court site.\textsuperscript{60}

\textsuperscript{53} Id.
\textsuperscript{54} See Oyez, supra note 43.
\textsuperscript{55} See Supreme Court Collection, supra note 40.
\textsuperscript{56} Cornell University Legal Information Institute, About Supreme Court Collection, http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/supremes.htm (last visited Jan. 18, 2008).
\textsuperscript{57} See Supreme Court Collection, supra note 40.
\textsuperscript{58} See id.
\textsuperscript{60} See Supreme Court Collection, supra note 40.
FindLaw, created by attorneys in northern California and eventually purchased by Thomson West, is also available for electronic case research. This site provides comprehensive coverage and access to the full text of Court opinions from 1893 to present. Access is via publication year, official U.S. citation, party name, or keyword search. There is a limited updating feature within the U.S. Supreme Court and circuit court files at this site. Links are readily available to Keycite, one of Thomson West’s commercial products. In addition to the full text of Court opinions, this site also provides access to additional Court information, including the Court’s calendar and rules. The U.S. Supreme Court Center at this site provides access, via the oral argument date, to the Court’s docket sheet, the full text of decisions from the lower courts, and briefs submitted to the Court, including petitioner, respondent and amicus briefs.

FLITE, developed in 1992 and maintained by the National Technical Information Service of the U.S. Government, provides comprehensive coverage to Court decisions between 1937 and 1975. Decisions can be searched either by keyword or party name.

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63 FindLaw, supra note 61.
64 FindLaw, Supreme Court Opinions, supra note 41.
65 See id.
66 You must actually locate a case to access the updating feature. It is not a separate and distinct feature like Keycite in Westlaw or Shepard’s in LexisNexis. Look for “Cases Citing this Case: Supreme Court” or “Cases Citing this Case: Circuit Courts.”
69 See id.
70 Federal Legal Information Through Electronics, supra note 42.
72 Id.
73 Id.
Oyez,74 published by Northwestern University75 with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities,76 is noted for its audio recordings of oral arguments made before the Court.77 This site provides access to all recorded proceedings in the Court recorded from 1995 onwards.78 Selected audio from 1955 to 1995 is available at this site; the site’s ultimate stated goal is to provide “a complete and authoritative source for all audio recorded in the [Supreme] Court since the installation of a recording system in October 1955.”79 Audio in the format of MP3 files and podcasts is available from the 2005 term onwards while earlier audio is available in the RealPlayer format available for computer use.80 Selected new media releases are podcasts, allowing the user to download updates with iTunes.81 Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds are available for news headlines from the site.82

In addition to the audio of oral arguments made to the Court, Oyez also provides access to blogs and other current-awareness resources. It links to the SCOTUS blog, which offers commentary about current cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.83 Docket reports are also available from Appellate.net, which is published by the law firm Mayer Brown LLP.84 There is also a link to a site maintained by the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University,85 On the Docket, which aggregates articles about cases pending before the U.S. Supreme

74 Oyez, supra note 43.
76 Northwestern University, About Oyez, http://www.oyez.org/about/ (last visited Jan. 18, 2008).
78 Id.
79 Id.
80 Oyez, supra note 43.
82 See Oyez, supra note 43.
85 See SCOTUSBLOG, supra note 83.
Court, and provides a list of current cases.\footnote{See Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, On the Docket, http://docket.medill.northwestern.edu/ (last visited Feb. 23, 2008).} An RSS feed is available for On the Docket.\footnote{Id.}

Historical and pictorial information is also available at the Oyez site. A virtual tour of the U.S. Supreme Court, including selected Justices’ chambers, is available.\footnote{Id.} Photos, paintings, and biographical information are provided about each Justice of the Court since its inception.\footnote{See Oyez, supra note 43.}

Access to selected full text opinions is also available at this site.\footnote{See Oyez, supra note 43.} Opinions can be searched by date, an Oyez-created subject index, or keyword search of the full text.\footnote{See id.} Searching via a Justice’s name or an advocate’s name is also possible.\footnote{See id.} Opinions are linked to Justia.com’s beta site known as the “US Supreme Court Center.”\footnote{Justia, US Supreme Court Center, http://supreme.justia.com/ (last visited Jan. 24, 2008).}

As the above sites demonstrate, audio recordings of oral arguments, transcripts of oral arguments, briefs, docket sheets, and the full text of Court opinions are readily available at no charge to the cost-effective legal researcher. In addition, commentaries and opinions by law professors and Court practitioners are now available at the click of a mouse.

There are many blogs available about the Court. A selected list includes:

- The ACLU blog,\footnote{American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU Blog, http://blog.aclu.org/ (last visited Jan. 24, 2008).} which is authored by the American Civil Liberties Union and reflects concerns with special RSS feeds for topics such as capital punishment, civil liberties, drug law,
free speech, government spying, privacy and technology, religious freedom, reproductive rights, torture and abuse, and women’s rights.

- The ACS blog,\(^{95}\) which is edited by law students from Yale, Rutgers, Texas, and Virginia. The American Constitution Society for Law and Policy was founded in 2001.\(^{96}\) The stated mission is to protect the “fundamental principles of human dignity, individual rights and liberties, genuine equality, and access to justice . . .” by ensuring that these principles “enjoy their rightful, central place in American law.”\(^{97}\)

- The Balkinization\(^{98}\) blog, which was created by Yale Law School professor, Jack M. Balkin.\(^{99}\) Other bloggers at this site now include: Ian Ayres, Lee Epstein, Mark Graber, Stephen Griffin, Scott Horton, Andrew Koppelman, Marty Lederman, Sanford Levinson, David Luban, Kim Schepppele, Brian Tamanaha, and Mark Tushnet.\(^{100}\) The blog provides commentary on how legal topics interact with politics and culture.\(^{101}\)

- The Behind the Homefront blog\(^{102}\) was created by reporters concerned about a free press. It is self-described as “[a] daily chronicle of news in homeland security and military operations affecting newsgathering, access to information and the public’s right to know.”\(^{103}\)

- The Campaign for the Supreme Court blog,\(^{104}\) which was created by The Washington Post to track Court nominations. It


\(^{97}\) Id.

\(^{98}\) Balkinization, http://balkin.blogspot.com/ (last visited Jan. 24, 2008). The blog is still run by Jack Balkin and numerous other contributors are listed on the blog’s main page in the left margin.


\(^{100}\) Balkinization, supra note 98.

\(^{101}\) See id.


\(^{103}\) Id.

focuses on the process, the politics, and the strategies involved in the nomination process.\footnote{See id.}


- The SCOTUS blog,\footnote{See SCOTUSBLOG, supra note 83.} which is published and edited by the Court practice Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P., provides commentary and analysis about the Court as well as discussions about new filings, orders, and opinions.\footnote{See generally id.
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A social book marking site, del.icio.us, allows registered users to tag and post articles of interest.\footnote{See What is del.icio.us?, supra note 111.} Del.icio.us tags regarding the Court are available, with links to articles recommended by individuals
interested in the Court. Since anyone can post, care should be utilized when accessing this site. Nonetheless, recent interesting posts include a link to A Supreme Court Conversation, published by online Slate Magazine.

Finally, Justia’s Blawg Directory is a directory of 2,431 law related blogs. Searching is via subject-created categories, analogous to an index, as well as by publisher (i.e. state, country, or law school). Constitutional law is an available subject category.

B. United States Circuit Courts of Appeals

Poised between the U.S. district courts and the U.S. Supreme Court are the U.S. circuit courts of appeals. There are eleven circuit courts of appeals as well as the District of Columbia Circuit Court and the Federal Circuit Court. Decisions from these federal courts of appeals are published in print and electronic formats. Electronic formats include fee and free Internet sites.

Decisions from all U.S. circuit courts of appeals issued between 1789 and 1880 are published in thirty print volumes of Federal Cases. From 1880 to the present, print decisions from the U.S. circuit courts of appeals are published in the Federal Reporter series, which is part of West’s National Reporter System. Access to these

118 What is del.icio.us, supra note 111.
119 See del.icio.us, Search, http://del.icio.us/search/?fr=del_icio_us&p=a+recent+s
    upreme+court+conversation&type=all (last Mar. 6, 2008).
121 See id.
122 Id.
124 Federal Cases, (West) (1894-1897).
print cases can be found with a series of non-cumulative federal digests.\footnote{See The William S. Richardson School of Law, Law Library (2006), http://library.law.hawaii.edu/refres/legal_research_guides/Legal_Digests.pdf (discussing Federal Digest (West) (1941), Modern Federal Practice Digest (West) (1960-1961), Federal Practice Digest (West ed., 2nd - 4th) (1976-1999). These series contain party name and citation indexes as well as subject indexes. See Berring & Edinger, supra note 1, at 108-09. Topics and key numbers are also part of this case finding system. Id. Since this series does not cumulate, as do the U.S. Supreme Court digests, each series must be examined.}

Fee electronic resources also provide access to the full text of decisions from the circuit courts of appeals. Westlaw provides access via its CTA databases,\footnote{Thompson West, Comprehensive Federal Case Law, http://www.westlaw.com/SubOptions/WestlawPRO/allfed.wl (last visited Jan. 17, 2008).} while Lexis makes the opinions available in its Cases-US/All Courts by Circuit files.\footnote{Lexis Nexis, Total Research System, http://w3.lexis.com/lawschoolreg/researchlogin08.asp?y=&fac=no (last visited Jan. 17, 2008).} Loislaw provides access to the full text of opinions from 1924 to the present.\footnote{Wolters Kluwer, LouisLaw, http://loislaw.com/product/subscriptions/national.htm (last visited Jan 17, 2008). Loislaw provides access from 1924 to the present for opinions of the First through the Ninth Circuit as well as the Federal Circuit. Id. Opinions from the Tenth Circuit and the D.C. Circuit are available from 1929 onwards while the Eleventh Circuit opinions are available from 1981 onwards when that Circuit came into being. Id.}

Several Internet sites either maintain or provide access to official opinions of the circuit courts of appeals. Perhaps one of the best-known sites belongs to Emory University School of Law, MacMillan Law Library, Federal Courts Finder.\footnote{See Emory Law, Federal Courts Finder, http://www.law.emory.edu/FEDCTS/ (last visited Jan. 14, 2008).} Emory developed this site in the mid-1990s.\footnote{Emory Law School Federal Courts Finder, http://www.law.emory.edu/law-library/research/federal-courts-finder/credits-and-conditions.html (last visited Apr. 1, 2008). The copyright clearly indicates that the site was created in 1994.} At that time, it provided access to the full text of opinions from the First, Fifth, Sixth, Eleventh, and Federal Circuits. Today,
Emory no longer maintains official circuit court sites. Opinions may be searched by party name, keyword, or date of decision. In addition to maintaining official sites for these circuit courts, the Federal Courts Finder also operated as a portal to decisions from other circuits as well as the D.C. and Federal Circuits. Today, Emory continues to maintain the Federal Courts Finder with links to official circuit courts of

132 See id.

133 See, e.g., Emory University School of Law, First Circuit Opinions, http://www.law.emory.edu/1circuit/ (last visited Mar. 6, 2008).

appeals’ sites. These official sites then provide access to court opinions, search engines vary from site to site. Perhaps, the Federal Courts Finder is best known for the circuit court map, color-coded by geography and circuit.

Villanova’s Federal Court Locator maintains the official Third Circuit Court of Appeals’ Internet site. It also provides a portal to the other official circuit court sites. FindLaw provides links to Internet sites for the circuit courts of appeals.

The official federal government Internet site that provides portal access to the opinions of the circuit courts of appeals is the U.S. Courts site. In addition to providing links to official sites containing court opinions, this site also provides access to statistical reports, as well as manuals, including the Code of Conduct, U.S. Judges. Like Emory’s Federal Courts Finder, this site also has a map geographically color-coded by circuit. It allows researchers to search for federal circuit and district court information by district, circuit, zip code, area code, county, or state. Once the appropriate court is located, searching can usually be done via party name, keyword, or docket number, but it varies from court to court.

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135 See First Circuit Opinions, supra note 133.
137 See Federal Courts Finder, supra note 130.
139 See id.
140 See id.
141 Home Page, supra note 61.
145 Federal Courts Finder, supra note 130.
147 Id.
Columbia Law School and the University of Colorado Law School recently joined together to provide AltLaw.org, an alternative to fee-based online case resources. At this site, the full text of selected opinions, chosen by date, decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, as well as the Federal and the D.C. Circuits, is available. U.S. Supreme Court decisions from 1759 onwards are available, while the date selection varies for U.S. circuit court decisions. Some circuits, such as the Second Circuit, have decisions available from 1949 onwards, while others, such as the Eleventh Circuit, have opinions available from 1981 onwards. This site can be searched via keyword with Boolean and proximity connectors as well as by title. Browsing of cases is also an option; cases are arranged in reverse chronological order.

Lexisone was created by Lexis for small law firms and solo practitioners. At this site, attorneys and legal researchers can search for decisions from the last five years from all federal circuits. Decisions from 1790 onwards for the U.S. Supreme Court are available here as well. Searching is via keyword or citation.

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150 See id.
151 See id.
157 See id.
C. United States District Courts

Decisions from United States district courts are also available in print and electronic format. Each state has at least one U.S. district court; some states have more.\footnote{There are 94 judicial district courts, including courts in D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. \textit{See} \textit{The Federal Judiciary, U.S. District Courts}, http://www.uscourts.gov/districtcourts.html (last visited Mar. 7, 2008).} Print decisions from U.S. district courts can be located in two sources: the \textit{Federal Reporter}\footnote{\textit{See} \textit{The University of Texas at Austin, Jamail Center for Legal Research, Tarlton Law Library, Federal Primary Authority—Case Law}, http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/tour/federalcase.html (last visited Mar. 8, 2008) (explaining that only pre-1932 cases from the United States District Courts are published in the Federal Reporter).} and the \textit{Federal Supplement}.\footnote{\textit{FEDERAL SUPPLEMENT} (St. Paul, MN: West Pub. 1933 — 1988) and \textit{FEDERAL SUPPLEMENT 2D} (St. Paul, MN: West Pub. 1988—Present).} Between 1879 and 1932, decisions from U.S. district courts were published alongside opinions from U.S. circuit courts of appeals in the \textit{Federal Reporter} series.\footnote{\textit{See} Berring, \textit{supra} note 1, at 45.} After 1932, U.S. district courts obtained their own publication, the \textit{Federal Supplement}, which now includes the \textit{Federal Supplement}, Second Edition.\footnote{\textit{See} id.} As with opinions from the U.S. circuit courts of appeals, access to print decisions is done with the \textit{Federal Digest} series,\footnote{\textit{See} \textit{Federal Digest}, \textit{supra} note 126.} which is non-cumulative. Electronic fee services also provide access to U.S. district court opinions. In Westlaw, these opinions can be found in the DCT databases\footnote{Thomson West, Scope Content, http://web2.westlaw.com/search/default.wl?vr=2.0&sv=Split&rs=WLW8.02&db=DCT&fn=_top&rp=%2fsearch%2fdefault.wl&mt=Westlaw (last visited Feb. 25, 2008).} while Lexis provides access through Federal Court Cases, Combined.\footnote{LexisNexis, Search: By Source, http://www.lexis.com/research/ (last visited Feb. 29, 2008).} Loislaw provides access to selected federal district court opinions from 1921 onwards.\footnote{Wolters Kluwer, Loislaw, http://www.loislaw.com/product/information/federal.htm (last visited Feb. 25, 2008).}

Several Internet sites exist that provide portal access to either information or information and opinions from U.S. district courts. Both
FindLaw and Villanova’s Federal Court Locator provide links to the official U.S. district court sites for each state and territory.\textsuperscript{168}

The official site providing portal access to U.S. district court Internet sites is published by The Federal Judiciary.\textsuperscript{169} Cornell’s Legal Information Institute also provides portal access to official U.S. district and bankruptcy court Internet sites.\textsuperscript{170} A chart, organized by circuit, indicates whether an official U.S. district court site has only information available or whether it contains both information and opinions.\textsuperscript{171}

\textbf{D. State Supreme Courts}

State supreme court decisions can also be located in print and electronic format. Some states have an official print publication of their decisions,\textsuperscript{172} while other states simply rely upon the \textit{West Regional Reporter} to be the official print publication.\textsuperscript{173} Because of finite monetary and space constraints, West divided the country into seven regions in the late 1800s, and state supreme court decisions are published in the regional reporter servicing the particular state.\textsuperscript{174} Again, access is gen-

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{168} \textit{See} Findlaw, Federal Government Resources, http://www.findlaw.com/10fedgov/judicial/district_courts.html (last visited Mar. 7, 2008); Federal Court Locator, \textit{supra} note 130. Villanova also provides access to official links to U.S. Bankruptcy Courts, the U.S. Court of International Trade, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and the U.S. Tax Court. \textit{See} Federal Court Locator, \textit{supra} note 130.
  \item \textsuperscript{169} \textit{U.S. Courts, supra} note 143.
  \item \textsuperscript{170} \textit{See} Cornell University Legal Information Institute, Law by Source, http://www.law.cornell.edu/federal/districtsbystate.html (last visited Mar. 7, 2008).
  \item \textsuperscript{171} \textit{See} id.
  \item \textsuperscript{172} \textit{See, e.g.}, \textit{GEORGIA REPORTS} (Darby Printing Co. 1st ed.) (1846—Present).
  \item \textsuperscript{173} \textit{See, e.g.}, West’s Florida Cases, Cases Adjudicated in the Supreme Court and District Courts of Appeal of Florida, \textit{SOUTHERN REPORTER} (West ed., 2d) (1941-Present).
  \item \textsuperscript{174} \textit{See} \textit{THE ATLANTIC} (West ed., 1st-2nd) (1886-Present); \textit{NORTH EASTERN} (West ed., 1st-2nd) (1885-Present); \textit{NORTH WESTERN} (West ed., 1st-2nd) (1879-Present); \textit{PACIFIC} (West ed., 1st-3rd) (1884-Present); \textit{SOUTH EASTERN} (West ed., 1st-2nd) (1887-Present); \textit{SOUTH WESTERN} (West ed., 1st-3rd) (1886-Present); \textit{SOUTHERN} (West ed., 1st-2nd) (1887-Present), which comprise the seven regional reporters published by West. All but three states have digests. \textit{See} BERRING & EDINGER, \textit{supra} note 1, at 41-45 and 107 (stating that no digest is published for Delaware, Nevada, or Utah).}
\end{itemize}
erally via a digest, either regional or state,\textsuperscript{175} that generally allows for searching via party name, citation, or subject.

Fee and free electronic access to state court decisions is also available. In Lexis, state court decisions can be found in alphabetical order by state, under the Legal, States Legal - U.S. library,\textsuperscript{176} while Westlaw provides access in its Cases by State and Other U.S. Jurisdictions database.\textsuperscript{177} Loislaw also provides access to the full text of state supreme court decisions in its State Library.\textsuperscript{178} While coverage varies by state, Loislaw generally provides coverage from the mid-twenties to present.\textsuperscript{179}

Internet access to state court decisions is also available and has greatly increased since the late-nineties. Cornell’s Legal Information Institute provides a portal to all fifty states.\textsuperscript{180} Links to official state Internet sites are organized into three categories: judicial opinions, regulations and other agency information, and other state legal collections.\textsuperscript{181}

FindLaw also provides an alphabetical portal with access to information from all fifty states.\textsuperscript{182} Information is organized as follows:

\textsuperscript{175} There are five regional digests that are still being published, namely ATLANTIC DIGEST (West ed., 1st-2nd) (1966-Present), NORTH WESTERN DIGEST (West ed., 1st-2nd) (1879-Present), PACIFIC DIGEST (West ed., 1st-4th) (1942-Present), SOUTHERN DIGEST (West) (1969-Present) and SOUTH EASTERN DIGEST (West ed., 1st-2nd) (1949-Present). See BERRING & EDINGER, supra note 1, at 107.


\textsuperscript{179} See id.

\textsuperscript{180} See Cornell University Legal Information Institute, State Courts—By Jurisdiction, http://www.law.cornell.edu/opinions.html#state (last visited Mar. 8, 2008).


- Constitution;
- Code;
- Administrative Code;
- Legislation;
- Bills;
- Attorney General Opinions;
- Federal Court Opinions;
- State Courts Opinions; and
- City Ordinances.\(^{183}\)

WashLaw also provides an information portal for international, state, and federal information.\(^ {184}\) At this portal, links to official state Internet sites are arranged in the following categories:

- Demographics/Vital Records;
- Administrative Code and Regulations;
- Attorney General;
- Boards;
- Courts;
- Directories;
- Executive Information;
- Historical Documents;
- Legal Forms and Filings;
- Legal Research;
- Legislative Information;
- Local Government;
- News; and
- State Agencies.\(^ {185}\)

### III. LEGISLATION

Promulgated by the legislative branch, legislation is enacted by elected bodies in order to regulate individual, corporate, and govern-


ment behavior. Legislation is “broadly construed to include constitutions, statutes, treaties, municipal charters and ordinances, interstate compacts, and reorganization plans.” Federal laws are promulgated and enacted by the U.S. Congress. Federal legislation has traditionally been published in three print formats: first, as an individual law known as a slip law; next, the laws passed during a particular legislative session are compiled and chronologically arranged in a format known as session laws; finally, the laws currently in force are arranged by subject, and are referred to as a code. With codes, access is usually via citation, popular name, or subject index.

A. Federal Session Laws

Federal session laws are published in two formats that are available both electronically and in print: Statutes at Large and United States Code Congressional and Administrative News. Statutes are available electronically at both fee and free sites. At GPO Access, the Statutes at Large are available for 2004, the 109th Congress, and can be searched by subject, public law number, popular name, statute or U.S. Code citation, or bill number. The Library of Congress makes the index and lists of Public Acts/Private Acts/Treaties of the Statutes at Large from 1789 to 1875 available. At this site, the researcher can

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186 MERSKY & DUNN, supra note 1, at 149-51.
187 See BERRING & EDINGER, supra note 1, at 119.
188 See MERSKY & DUNN, supra note 1, at 149-51.
190 ROBERT C. BERRING & ELIZABETH A. EDINGER, LEGAL RESEARCH SURVIVAL MANUAL 85-86 (2002).
191 United States Statutes at Large (Stat.) is the official government publication of the federal session laws while the United States Code Congressional and Administrative News (U.S.C.C.A.N.) is a commercial publication containing the session laws as well as selected legislative history. BERRING & EDINGER, supra note 1 at 126-27.
peruse a scanned document which allows the table of contents and the List of Public Acts to be browsed by volume.\footnote{Smith-Butler}{195}

Lexis makes the Statutes at Large available in its Federal-Legal/US library.\footnote{Smith-Butler}{196} At this site, the statutes from 1789 to present can be searched via title, popular name, or subject; a PDF document is then retrieved.\footnote{Smith-Butler}{197} According to Lexis, “after 1987 [researchers] can retrieve the full text from the Lexis public laws file (PUBLAW).”\footnote{Smith-Butler}{198} Westlaw provides access to the full text of the Statutes at Large from 1789 to 1972 in its US-STATLRG database.\footnote{Smith-Butler}{199} HeinOnline also provides access to the full text of the Statutes at Large from 1789 to 2005; it is searchable via keyword, citation, popular name, or treaty name.\footnote{Smith-Butler}{200}

The United States Code Congressional Administrative News (USCCAN) is published by West in both print and electronic format.\footnote{Smith-Butler}{201} The electronic format is available only on Westlaw.\footnote{Smith-Butler}{202} Beginning in 1948, USCCAN became the commercial publication for federal session laws.\footnote{Smith-Butler}{203} It provides access to the full text of the law as initially passed during a particular congressional session, full text of major legislative reports published to accompany the law, and limited legislative history.\footnote{Smith-Butler}{204} Public law and bill numbers, as well as a date of passage, can also be ascertained from this source.\footnote{Smith-Butler}{205}

\begin{footnotes}
\item[197] See id.
\item[198] See id.
\item[201] See Berring & Edinger, supra note 1, at 126; see also Researching Federal Statutes and Legislative Materials, supra note 199, at 21.
\item[202] Welcome to Westlaw, https://web2.westlaw.com/Welcome/Westlaw/default.wl?fn=_Top&rs=WLW8.03&mt=Westlaw&vr=2.0&sv=Split (last visited Mar. 21, 2008) (log into Westlaw and then search for “USCCAN” in the “Search These Databases” field on the left side of the page).
\item[203] Id.
\item[204] Id.
\item[205] Id.
\end{footnotes}
B. Federal Codifications

While session laws are excellent resources for reconstructing the historical aspects of federal legislation, researchers looking to locate the law that is currently in force should consult a code. A code is the subject-arrangement of the law that is currently in force.\(^{206}\) In print format, there are three publications of a federal code: the United States Code,\(^{207}\) the United States Code Annotated,\(^{208}\) and the United States Code Service.\(^{209}\)

The United States Code, published by the Government Printing Office, is the official code.\(^{210}\) It can be searched by subject, citation, or popular name.\(^{211}\) In addition to its print format, it can also be located on several Internet sites such as Cornell’s Legal Information Institute,\(^{212}\) FindLaw,\(^{213}\) GPO Access,\(^{214}\) and the United States House of Representatives’ Office of Law Revision Counsel.\(^{215}\)

Cornell’s Legal Information Institute provides researchers with access to both the United States Constitution and the United States Code.\(^{216}\) The Constitution can be browsed by preamble, article, or amendment.\(^{217}\) The United States Code can be searched via popular

\(^{206}\) See Berring & Edinger, supra note 1, at 128.
\(^{207}\) See id. at 129.
\(^{208}\) Id. at 131.
\(^{209}\) Id. at 126.
\(^{210}\) The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation R. 12.3 at 104 (Columbia Law Review Ass’n et al. eds., 18th ed. 2005).
\(^{211}\) Berring & Edinger, supra note 1, at 129-30.
\(^{216}\) See Cornell University Legal Information Institute, Welcome to the LII, http://www.law.cornell.edu/ (last visited Jan. 13, 2008.)
name, citation, or subject search, using the most recent version made available by the U.S. House of Representatives. Researchers can also browse by title. United States Code sections are annotated with citations to applicable public law numbers and statute cites, historical and revision notes, and citations to any applicable Code of Federal Regulations.

FindLaw also provides access to the United States Constitution and the United States Code. It pulls its data from the most current version of the United States Code issued by the House of Representatives. The Constitution can be browsed via preamble, article, or amendment, while the United States Code can be browsed by title, popular name, keyword, or official citation. Annotations include citations to the original public law number and statute cite, as well as citations to later amendments.

GPO Access, presented by the Government Printing Office, provides electronic access to both the United States Constitution and the United States Code. This site provides access to the most recent version of the United States Code that is released by the U.S. House of Representatives. The 2002 edition and 2004 supplement of the Constitution can be browsed by either article or amendment while earlier versions can be browsed or searched via keyword. The 2000 edition

218 See U.S. Code Collection, supra note 212.
219 See id.
220 See id.
221 U.S. Code, supra note 213.
222 See id.
224 U.S. Code, supra note 213.
225 See id.
226 See id.
228 See id.
229 The 1992, 1996, 1998, and 2000 versions of the U.S. Constitution at this site can be either browsed or searched by keyword. Id. at http://www.gpoaccess.gov/constitution/index.html (last visited Jan. 18, 2008.)
and supplement four of the Code is also available at this site. It can either be browsed by title or searched via keyword. Public law information, as well as later amendment information about a particular provision, immediately follows the full text of the selected statutory provision.

Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 285(b)(3), the House of Representatives’ Office of the Law Revision Counsel prepares and publishes the United States Code. At this site, the researcher can search by either keyword or citation. The entire United States Code can be browsed in either PDF or ASCII formats. A table of sections with amendments enacted, omitted, repealed or transferred, via legislative session, is included. Instructions for updating refer the researcher to the GPO Access site.

Fee electronic access to the United States Code is also available via Lexis and Westlaw. Loislaw and VersusLaw also provide fee access to federal legislation.

231 See id.
232 See id.
233 2 U.S.C. § 285(b)(3); see also Office of the Law Revision Counsel, supra note 215.
236 See id.
237 See id.
C. United States House and Senate Bills

Researchers trying to obtain pending federal legislation in the form of bills, congressional debates, and committee reports can locate a great deal of information at the Library of Congress’ Internet site, thomas.loc.gov.\textsuperscript{240} Pending bills and resolutions, in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, can be found at this site from the 101st Congress to the present.\textsuperscript{241} Bills can be searched by keyword, a Library of Congress-created index (known as standard subject searching), a bill’s sponsor, a House or Senate committee, or by date.\textsuperscript{242} Both individual and multiple congresses can be searched.\textsuperscript{243} The full text of the bill, its summary and status, and any congressional actions pertaining to it can be retrieved.\textsuperscript{244} Related bills are listed, along with the bill’s sponsors and co-sponsors.\textsuperscript{245}

Legislative intent is also ascertainable at this site via both House and Senate committee reports.\textsuperscript{246} Committee reports are available from the 104th Congress and can be searched via keyword, committee, or date.\textsuperscript{247} Legislative intent can also be discerned from congressional debate available via the \textit{Congressional Record}.\textsuperscript{248} The \textit{Congressional Record}, available in print and electronic formats, records the daily debate occurring in House and Senate sessions.\textsuperscript{249} With Thomas, this publication can be searched via keyword, member name, or date from the 101st

\textsuperscript{242} See Thomas, supra note 240.
\textsuperscript{243} See id.
\textsuperscript{244} See id.
\textsuperscript{245} See id.
\textsuperscript{246} Selected committee reports are published in the \textit{United States Code Congressional Administrative News} (U.S.C.C.A.N.) as well as other sources. For a discussion of committee reports, see BERRING & EDINGER, supra note 1 at 178-80.
\textsuperscript{248} Thomas, supra note 240.
\textsuperscript{249} See Thomas, supra note 240.
Congress to present. The *Congressional Record* is also available on fee based sites such as Lexis and Westlaw.

The House and Senate each have sites that provide access to current directories of members along with contact information and information about the members’ staffs. Committees, along with their members, are listed; links to selected committee hearings are available at both sites. Roll call votes and legislative activities, including daily bill digests and calendars, are also available from the 101st Congress.

In addition to the above sources, the Law Librarians’ Society of Washington, D.C. (LLSDC) has created a web site providing the researcher with practical advice about compiling a federal legislative history, as well as links to useful Internet sites with its *Legislative Source Book*. At this site, there is a guide to items needed for the compilation of a legislative history. There are also links to electronic legislative histories of selected U.S. laws. Links to selected congressional hearings and publications, such as the *Research Service Reports*, also exist at this site.

The Center for Democracy and Technology has created the Open Congressional Research Reports site which attempts to provide a central location for the electronic deposit of *Congressional Research Reports*. Coverage is not comprehensive at this site, but it does pro-

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250 See id.
251 See Westlaw, *supra* note 238; see also Lexis, *supra* note 238.
253 See id.
255 See id.
256 See id.
257 See id.
vide access to reports requested by individuals from their congressional representatives and deposited with the site.\(^{260}\)

State legislative information is also available. All fifty states publish official codes with updates.\(^{261}\) Most states are putting their codes online now. While most of these sites are not authenticated, official sites,\(^{262}\) they do provide online access to the codes. Both FindLaw and WashLaw provide portal access, in alphabetical order, to links for official state Internet sites.\(^{263}\) Search engines vary by site, as do dates of coverage.\(^{264}\)

Local government legislation in the form of municipal codes and ordinances has been published in print format for years.\(^{265}\) Currently, online access to many city and county codes and ordinances can be found at Municode.com.\(^{266}\) This commercial publisher is presently providing free Internet access to the full text of many codes and ordinances for the fifty states.\(^{267}\) A hyperlinked map allows the researcher to select the appropriate state.\(^{268}\) After clicking on the chosen state, the researcher then receives an alphabetical listing of counties and cities with hyperlinks to their codes.\(^{269}\) Searching is via keyword; the table of contents for most codes can be browsed at this site as well.\(^{270}\)

\(^{260}\) \textit{See id.} \\
\(^{261}\) \textit{See Berring & Edinger, supra} note 1, at 154-56; \textit{see also Mersky & Dunn, supra} note 1, at 221-23. \\
\(^{263}\) \textit{See FindLaw, supra} note 61; \textit{see also Washlaw, supra} note 185. \\
\(^{264}\) \textit{See id.} \\
\(^{265}\) \textit{See Berring & Edinger, supra} note 1, at 161-63; \textit{see also Mersky & Dunn, supra} note 1, at 233-235. \\
\(^{268}\) \textit{See id.} \\
\(^{269}\) \textit{See id.} \\
\(^{270}\) \textit{See id.}
IV. REGULATIONS AND EXECUTIVE PUBLICATIONS

The third and final primary source of American law, regulations by administrative agencies, is promulgated under executive or legislative authority. Regulations are published by agencies acting under the legislature’s grant of enabling power, whereas executive orders and proclamations are issued directly by the executive branch. As with all American law, regulations and executive orders are produced at both the federal and the state level.

A. Federal Regulations

At the federal level, agencies publish regulations to fill in gaps left by legislation. Federal agencies publish proposed rules, interim rules, and final rules, as well as notices of various agency actions, such as hearings. These are initially published in the Federal Register. Available in print and electronic formats, the Federal Register is published every business day by the Government Printing Office. GPO

271 See Berring & Edinger, supra note 1 at 230.
272 See J. Myron Jacobstein et al., Fundamentals of Legal Research 269 (7th ed. 1998) (“All regulations by administrative agencies are issued either under authority delegated to them by a federal statute or by a Presidential Executive Order.”).
273 See J.D.S. Armstrong & Christopher A. Knott, Where the Law Is: An Introduction to Advanced Legal Research 138-40 (1st ed. 2004); see also Berring & Edinger, supra note 1 at 266.
274 See id. at 266.
275 See id. at 235.
276 See id. at 237.
277 Id. at 235-37. Executive orders and presidential proclamations are also published in the Federal Register. Id. at 236. According to Berring, the Federal Register was designed to end the chaos created by Roosevelt’s New Deal legislation. Id. at 235. The New Deal legislation established numerous new federal agencies, which began issuing rulings. Id. at 235-36. Prior to 1935, no attempt was made to publish the rulings. See id. at 235. Consequently, several cases, involving the lack of notice regarding the existence of agency rulings and regulations, made their way to the U.S. Supreme Court. See id. at 235-36. After receiving congressional attention, Congress passed the Federal Register Act, initially published at 49 Stat. 500 (1935). Id. at 236. The Federal Register helped to make order out of chaos, by publishing proposed rules, final rules, and notices of agency meetings. See id. at 236-37.
Access, the official website for the U.S. Government Printing Office, provides electronic access to the Federal Register for agency publications dating back to 1994. This site can be searched by date or keyword. Every year, a table of contents, organized alphabetically by agency name, is published with hyperlinks to proposed agency rules, final rules, and meeting notices. An alert feature has been added to the site, allowing the legal researcher to receive daily email notifications.

Other electronic sources include Westlaw and Lexis. On Westlaw, the Federal Register is available in the Federal Register database from 1936, the date of its inception, to the present. By contrast, Lexis provides current coverage, but limited retrospective coverage in the Federal Legal US Library.

B. Decisions of Federal Agencies

While the Federal Register publishes proposed agency rules, notices of agency meetings, and final agency rules, it is not a satisfactory resource for locating final regulations that are currently in force. To locate final regulations that are currently in force, use the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.). While similar to the United States Code, with respect to the fact that the C.F.R is a subject arrangement of regulations currently in force, comparisons are not exact. In the C.F.R., agencies, rather than regulations, are grouped together based on

279 Id.
280 Id.
284 See Westlaw, supra note 283.
285 See Lexis, supra note 283 (providing coverage from 1980 to the present).
286 See BERRING & EDINGER, supra note 1, at 243.
287 See id.
288 See id.
subject matter and are arranged under fifty titles. Similar to the *Federal Register*, the C.F.R. is published in print and electronically by the Government Printing Office, and can also be found on Westlaw and Lexis.

In addition to acting in a quasi-legislative fashion by promulgating regulations, federal agencies carry out quasi-judicial functions, by issuing agency opinions. Many of these agencies publish their information on their own websites, while others allow GPO Access to publish their information. The University of Virginia’s library provides access to agency decisions and orders from various administrative agencies. Access is via a subject-created index and a directory of agencies.

289 *Id.* In addition to the publication of final agency regulations, the C.F.R., Title 3, also publishes executive orders, presidential proclamations, and other presidential documents. *Id.* at 248-49.


292 *See BERRING & EDINGER, supra* note 1, at 257-61 (including a discussion on researching federal agency decisions and their publication).


296 *See id.* The library website provides links to decisions and orders from many agencies, including the FDIC, FRS, OMB, SEC, IRS, SBA, NSA, FDA, FEC, EEOC and FLRA. *See id.*
C. Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations

In addition to agency regulations and decisions, regulatory materials are also produced by the executive branch.\textsuperscript{297} At the federal level, executive orders and presidential proclamations are published in print and electronic format.\textsuperscript{298} Initially, both appear in the \textit{Federal Register}, and then published in Title 3 of the \textit{Code of Federal Regulations}.\textsuperscript{299} Proclamations are usually policy announcements, while executive orders direct federal agencies and government officials to pursue a particular course of action.\textsuperscript{300} In addition to the sources listed above, proclamations can be found in the \textit{Statutes at Large} (1846 to present), the \textit{United States Code Congressional Administrative News} (USCCAN), and the \textit{United States Code Service Advance Sheets} (USCS Advance).\textsuperscript{301} While executive orders are not available in the \textit{Statutes}, they are available in USCCAN and USCS Advance.\textsuperscript{302}

The current administration’s proclamations and executive orders can be located at the official White House Internet site.\textsuperscript{303} Orders and proclamations are arranged in reverse chronological order and keyword searching of the site is available.\textsuperscript{304}

Proclamations and executive orders from the Clinton Administration are archived by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).\textsuperscript{305} The five versions of the White House web site, created under former President Clinton, are archived there as well.\textsuperscript{306} Plans are to archive future presidential documents, by term, on the Clinton Li-

\begin{thebibliography}{9}
\bibitem{297} See \textsc{Berring & Edinger}, \textit{supra} note 1, at 262-65.
\bibitem{298} See \textit{id.} at 262-63.
\bibitem{299} Both resources are published in print and electronic formats by the Government Printing Office. See \textit{id.} at 262. They are also available in fee electronic resources such as Lexis, LoisLaw, Westlaw, and VersusLaw. See \textsc{Berring}, \textit{supra} note 1, at 263.
\bibitem{300} \textit{Id.} at 262.
\bibitem{301} \textit{Id.} at 263.
\bibitem{302} \textit{Id.} at 263.
\bibitem{304} See \textit{id.}
\bibitem{305} National Archives and Records Administration, http://www.archives.gov/ (last visited Jan. 14, 2008).
\end{thebibliography}
One may access former President Clinton’s official papers via the GPO Access site, which provides access to the Public Papers of the President.

In addition to executive orders and proclamations, presidents also produce other information, including messages to Congress, reorganization plans, speeches, press conferences, and nominations to various government posts. This material can be located in the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Papers, published by the Government Printing Office in print and electronic formats. This material is compiled biannually into the Public Papers of the President, available in print and electronic formats.

If a researcher remains confused and unsure where to look, they should visit the USA.gov site which is self-described as the “U.S. government’s official web portal.” It provides access in several ways, including: a subject created index, an alphabetical agency index, an audience selection, and a federal/state/local government selection.

V. Secondary Sources

There are numerous secondary sources available to assist the legal researcher. Research guides, directories, dictionaries, law reviews, current awareness resources, blogs, and working papers are a few secondary sources that can point a researcher to primary sources of law and clarify legal concepts.


308 See Public Papers of the President of the United States: Search, supra note 307.

309 See BERRING & EDINGER, supra note 1 at 263-65.


313 See Id.
A. Research Guides

The Law Librarians’ Resource Exchange (LLRX) was created in 1996 by law librarian Sabrina Pacifici. LLRX helps researchers ascertain which resources to consult and how to begin a research process, by providing access to subject research guides for over thirty-five legal topics, ranging from agricultural law to trade law. Links to court rules and dockets by jurisdiction are available at this site, as are articles about technology, marketing, and librarian resources. This site focuses on providing research assistance for primary sources of law at the international, federal, and state levels.

The Virtual Chase was created in 1996 by Genie Tyburski, a law librarian, and owned by the law firm of Ballard, Spahr, Andrews, and Ingersoll, LLP. This site assists the legal researcher in locating primary and secondary sources of law. It is best known for its excellent guides that help researchers locate information about businesses, companies, or individuals.

Zimmerman’s Research Guide was created by a law firm librarian, Andrew Zimmerman. As word about the guide spread, Lexis published it, and it is now known as an “online encyclopedia for legal

316 See LLRX, supra note 314.
317 See id.
researchers."\footnote{Id.} An extensive subject index was created to help researchers browse\footnote{See Id.} in addition to keyword searching capabilities.\footnote{See Id.} In response, an encyclopedic entry is returned with hyperlinks to similar subjects.\footnote{See Id.}

\section*{B. Directories and Dictionaries}

In addition to research guides, there are directories and dictionaries available to assist a legal researcher.\footnote{See, e.g., LEXIS NEXIS, martindale.com\textsuperscript{®}, http://www.martindale.com/ (last visited Mar. 8, 2008); see also FindLaw, Research Lawyers, http://legalrecords.findlaw.com/ (last visited Mar. 8, 2008); see also Hieros Gamos, Worldwide Legal Directories, http://www.hg.org/ (last visited Mar. 8, 2008).}

1. Directories

Directories are abundant, but vary in quality. The oldest and most familiar attorney directory, Martindale Hubbell, is now available online at no charge.\footnote{See LEXIS NEXIS, supra note 328.} At this site, lawyers and law firms can be searched by name, practice area, or location.\footnote{See Id.} An advanced search engine expands the search to include the number of years that have passed since a lawyer's first bar admission.\footnote{See LEXIS NEXIS, martindale.com\textsuperscript{®}, http://www.martindale.com/SearchAdvanced.aspx (last visited Mar. 8, 2008).} The search also permits the researcher to discover the languages a lawyer speaks and the law school they attended.\footnote{See Id.} Access to a legal personnel directory is also available, allowing a search for firm administrators, marketing professionals, librarians, and paralegals.\footnote{See Id.} Peer ratings are available for consumers, while attorneys have access to practice related articles.\footnote{See id. (check “Featured Peer Review Rated” box); LEXIS NEXIS, martindale.com\textsuperscript{®}, http://www.martindale.com/legal-articles/Article_Basic_Search.aspx (last visited Mar. 8, 2008).} Links to professional development sites and professional organization infor-
information also exist. This directory has been accessible in print since 1931.

The Lexis competitor, Thomson West, also has a directory of legal professionals and attorneys known as FindLaw’s Lawyer Directory. This site is a traditional directory, allowing consumers to search for an attorney by name, law firm name, legal topic, subject, or location. FindLaw’s Lawyer Directory differs from the traditional print directory because it allows consumers with a legal issue to contact the consultants listed within the directory.

Worldwide legal directories are available on Hieros Gamos. Consumers can search for attorneys throughout the world by practice area, continent, or bar association. This site also offers directories for court reporters, expert witnesses, process servers, forensic experts, and investigators. Individuals interested in attending law school can search for law schools by continent.

There is a directory of “defunct U.S. government agencies and commissions” maintained by the U.S. Government Printing Office and the Libraries of the University of North Texas, known as the CyberCemetery, that allows researchers to access federal agencies’ websites that no longer exist. This site allows searching via keyword in addition to browsing by agency name. For example, it maintains the

336 MARTINDALE HUBBELL LAW DIRECTORY (LEXIS NEXIS) (1800s- Present)
338 See Research Lawyers, supra note 328.
339 Id. (follow “Search” hyperlink; then follow “Practice Support & Consultants” hyperlink).
340 Hieros Gamos, supra note 328.
341 See id.
342 See id.
343 See id.
defunct Amtrak Reform Council web site exactly as it existed before the
council was disbanded.346

2. Dictionaries

Along with directories, dictionaries are available in electronic
and print formats. Perhaps the best known legal dictionary today is
Black’s Law Dictionary.347 Initially compiled in 1891 and produced by
Henry Campbell Black,348 Black’s Law Dictionary has been a standard
for law students and lawyers alike for well over a century.349 While it is
available in print and electronic formats, it is not available free in an
electronic format. Electronic legal dictionaries that are available at no
charge include Merriam-Webster’s Law Dictionary and
Law.comDictionary. Merriam-Webster, published in 1996, is available
online at FindLaw’s site.350 At this site, the researcher keys in the legal
terms; a list of hyperlinked terms is then retrieved.351 Pronunciation and
definition are included.352 Law.comDictionary, an American Law Man-
agement product, also has a legal dictionary that allows researchers to
search by word, or browse an alphabetical list of words.353

Hieros Gamos provides hyperlinks to thirteen electronic diction-
aries; ranging from the early and no longer updated, John Bouvier Law
Dictionary to the Nolo Press’s Everybody’s Legal Glossary.354

346 See Amtrak Reform Council, http://govinfo.library.unt.edu/arc (last visited Mar. 8,
2008).
348 Id. at ix.
2008).
351 Id.
352 Id.
(last visited Jan. 7, 2008).
visited Jan. 7, 2008).
WEX is “a collaboratively built, freely available legal dictionary and encyclopedia.”\textsuperscript{355} WEX is a wiki created site\textsuperscript{356} that is published, and maintained by Cornell University’s Legal Information Institute.\textsuperscript{357} Unlike traditional wikis, which allow anyone to contribute content to the site, WEX requires that an author/contributor be a qualified expert.\textsuperscript{358} The site defines a qualified expert as one who has “demonstrated expertise in particular areas of law[, ] [a] desire to educate law novices[, ] [and] the ability to communicate effectively with an extremely diverse audience.”\textsuperscript{359} As a dictionary, this site arranges entries in alphabetical order, as traditional dictionaries do.\textsuperscript{360} In addition to definitions, it provides citations to illustrative cases, as well as see also references to other related subjects.\textsuperscript{361} As an encyclopedia, it arranges topics in alphabetical order, and then provides commentary on the topic.\textsuperscript{362} Citations to applicable federal and state statutes and judicial decisions are included.\textsuperscript{363}

\section*{C. Law Reviews}

Law reviews are plentiful and provide researchers with a wealth of citations to primary sources of law. They are available in print formats, as well as online in both fee based and free resources. Westlaw, Lexis, and HeinOnline provide fee based access to electronic versions of law reviews, while FindLaw and Hieros Gamos provide free access.

FindLaw has worked with Stanford, Jurist, the Australian Legal Information Institute, and Cornell’s Legal Information Institute, among

\textsuperscript{356} See generally id.
\textsuperscript{357} Id.
\textsuperscript{358} See id. (encouraging “contributions from qualified experts”).
\textsuperscript{361} Id.
\textsuperscript{363} See id. (listing citations that are available by clicking on each category).}
others, to create the University Law Review Project website. Hyper-linked law reviews are listed, in alphabetical order, under the topic, General Law Reviews. At this site, a researcher can determine if a particular law review’s full text is available at no charge. Law reviews are grouped into thirty-five subject categories that can be browsed. Keyword searching, using Boolean connectors, is available. These searches retrieve both an abstract and a hyperlinked citation. Current awareness resources can be created when researchers sign up to receive emails with “abstracts of new law review articles.”

Another source that provides access to free law review articles is Hieros Gamos. Journals are listed in alphabetical order with hyperlinks. Some journals provide free, unfettered access to their articles, while others require a subscription password.

In addition to locating electronic law reviews, a researcher may also need a directory of law reviews. Such a directory can be found at the Lexis site. Compiled by University of Mississippi law professor Michael H. Hoffheimer, and initially published by Anderson Publications, this site lists, in alphabetical order, all student edited law reviews plus contact information. Special focus law reviews, as well as non-

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366 See id.
367 See id.
368 See id. (making such searches available by clicking on “options” under “Full Text Search of Law Journals on the Internet”).
369 See id.
370 Id.
372 Id.
373 See id.
student edited peer reviewed journals, are listed in separate directories.\textsuperscript{376} 

The table of contents pages of law reviews are an excellent current awareness resource. There are electronic versions that are free as well as those that require a fee. The University of Washington School of Law’s Marian Gould Gallagher Library has published the \textit{Current Index to Legal Periodicals} (CILP) since 1948.\textsuperscript{377} Today it is available for a modest subscription in electronic format.\textsuperscript{378} It indexes over 500 legal publications and uses 100 subject headings.\textsuperscript{379} A researcher can view the information either by subject heading or browse the table of contents pages for law reviews arranged in alphabetical order.\textsuperscript{380} SmartCILPs, a current awareness resource that functions via email, can be set up in the CILP.\textsuperscript{381} The advantage of this particular resource is its currency; it is available four to six weeks before commercial indexes such as \textit{Current Law Index} or the \textit{Index to Legal Periodicals} become available.

The University of Texas’ Jamail Center for Legal Research, Tarlton Law Library, provides access to the contents’ pages of 750 law reviews at no charge.\textsuperscript{382} Publication is limited to law reviews published by the Tarlton Law Library within the last three months.\textsuperscript{383} Keyword searching of these pages is available and retrieves a hyperlink to law reviews with articles on the keyword searched.\textsuperscript{384}

Washington & Lee Law School’s law library provides a database that allows researchers to select, and then determine, the most

\textsuperscript{376} Id.
\textsuperscript{378} See id.
\textsuperscript{379} Id.
\textsuperscript{382} The University of Texas at Austin, Jamail Center for Legal Research, Tarlton Law Library, Contents Pages from Law Reviews and Other Scholarly Journals, http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/tallons/content_search.html (last visited Jan. 7, 2008).
\textsuperscript{383} Id.
\textsuperscript{384} Id.
cited law reviews. An alphabetical list of law reviews exists with contact information and hyperlinks for each law review. Known as the Current Law Journal Content (CLJC), this site covers 1,354 law journals that include the 720 journals scanned by the Tarlton Law Library. With the CLJC feature, researchers can search the table of contents of law journals via date or keyword. A keyword search retrieves a list of citations that includes the author’s name, title of the article, and publication information.

D. Current Awareness Resources

Other current awareness resources exist aside from law reviews and their respective table of contents. Jurist: Legal News & Research was originally known as Law Professors on the Web, because Bernard Hibbitts, editor-in-chief and publisher, initially developed the service for law professors in 1996. Today, this service is written and edited by regular law school staff and students at the University of Pittsburgh. There are also special contributors, including law professors from Duke, Texas, and Yale; as well as former Supreme Court clerks. Jurist provides access to continuous legal news from all around the world and updates this information twenty-four hours a day. In addition to headline news, researchers can access the site by U.S. and world subject created hot topics, as well as a limited subject and name index. In addition to leading legal news stories, links are available to recently released important documents, as well as to video clips from

386 Id.
388 See id.
389 See id.
391 Id.
392 Id.
393 See id.
House and Senate Committee conferences and hearings.\textsuperscript{395} Op eds by law professors are also published.\textsuperscript{396} The entire site can be searched via keyword.\textsuperscript{397}

Google Alerts\textsuperscript{398} can also be used as a current awareness resource. Created by Google, these alerts allow a researcher to enter his or her choice of search terms.\textsuperscript{399} Once selected, the researcher then decides whether the search will be comprehensive, or limited to either news or blogs.\textsuperscript{400} Search results are then emailed directly to the specified email account on an as-it-happens basis, daily, or weekly basis, as preferred.\textsuperscript{401}

Fee based alert services, provided by Lexis,\textsuperscript{402} Loislaw,\textsuperscript{403} and Westlaw,\textsuperscript{404} also exist. As a subscriber to these services, a researcher can create a search in an individual database, or multiple databases, and can choose to have the search results sent to him or her on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis; either via email or print.\textsuperscript{405}

\textsuperscript{395} See Univ. of Pittsburgh School of Law, Jurist: Legal News & Research Gazette, http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/gazette (last visited Jan. 7, 2008). On this date, there were links to the full text of a DC ruling on California’s auto emissions standards, an Arizona immigration law ruling, and the White House Executive privilege ruling. \textit{See id.}

\textsuperscript{396} See id. (making the search available under “Documents Search”).

\textsuperscript{397} \textit{See id.}

\textsuperscript{398} Google Alerts, \textit{supra} note 109.

\textsuperscript{399} See \textit{id.}

\textsuperscript{400} \textit{See id.}

\textsuperscript{401} \textit{See id.}


\textsuperscript{405} See LexisNexis, \textit{supra} note 402; \textit{see also} LoisLaw, \textit{supra} note 403 and Thomson West, \textit{supra} note 404.
E. Blogs

Blogs are becoming increasingly popular as a current awareness resource, and some are speculating that “the future of legal scholarship” belongs to the blogsphere.406 Several “blawg”407 directories are available to provide access and direction, including the American Bar Association’s (“ABA”) Blawg Directory, Blawg.com, Justia’s Blawg Search, and the Law Student Blogger Directory.408

At the ABA’s Blawg Directory, there is a weekly featured blawg as well as a list of the most popular blogs as determined by the week, the month, or all time.409 The latest legal news is available at this site.410 Also, readers can suggest and submit blog links.411 While no keyword searching is available, researchers can search over 1,000 law related blogs by alphabetical subject index, author type, region, or law school.412 The ABA’s subject created index includes over one-hundred topics, ranging from administrative law to worker’s compensation, while the author index allows the researcher to locate blogs authored or edited by an associate, general counsel, judge, law professor, law student, partner, prosecutor, or public defender.413 Additionally, researchers can search by region, arranged via U.S. jurisdiction (i.e. Supreme Court, circuits, and states), or by continent.414 Lastly, a researcher can search by law school to see professors that are publishing blogs.415

408 See Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center, Law Library & Technology Center, Legal Blogs, http://www.nslaw.nova.edu/library_tech/library/services/currentawareness/blawgs.cfm (last visited Jan. 12, 2008).
410 See id.
411 See id.
412 See id.
413 See id.
414 See id.
415 See id.
Created by Bill Gratsch in 2002,\textsuperscript{416} Blawg.com is known as “Your Source for Legal Blogs, Podcasts & News Feeds.”\textsuperscript{417} Gratsch began the directory because “[t]here was little organization or structure to the blogosphere.”\textsuperscript{418} At this site, the researcher can search for blogs via keyword, a thirty topic subject index with topics ranging from bar exams to world blawgs, and a U.S. map that highlights the home state of the site’s bloggers.\textsuperscript{419} There are several categories to assist the researcher, including a list of most recent posts, recently added blogs, and the most popular legal blogs.\textsuperscript{420} RSS feeds are available for blogs listed at this site.\textsuperscript{421} In addition, podcasts from the legal radio network Legal Talk Network’s\textsuperscript{422} program, \textit{Lawyer 2 Lawyer},\textsuperscript{423} are available in both MP3 and Windows Media Player formats.\textsuperscript{424}

Justia’s Blawg Directory, discussed earlier under the cases section, allows for keyword searching, in addition to searching via Justia-created subject topic.\textsuperscript{425} Topics range from admiralty law to worker’s compensation.\textsuperscript{426} The site features a blawger of the week, as well as

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{416} Blawg, About Blawg, http://www.blawg.com/About.aspx (last visited Jan. 12, 2008).
  \item \textsuperscript{418} Blawg, \textit{supra} note 416.
  \item \textsuperscript{419} See Blawg, \textit{supra} note 416.
  \item \textsuperscript{420} See \textit{id}.
  \item \textsuperscript{421} See \textit{id} (listing “Featured Feed”).
  \item \textsuperscript{424} Legal Talk Network, \textit{supra} note 422.
  \item \textsuperscript{425} See Justia, BlawgSearch, http://blawgsearch.justia.com (last visited Jan. 12, 2008).
  \item \textsuperscript{426} \textit{Id}.
\end{itemize}
listing the most popular blogs of the day, week, month or all time.\textsuperscript{427} It also headlines the most recent blawg posts.\textsuperscript{428}

Law students can search for blogs by, and about, law students at the Law Student Blogger Directory.\textsuperscript{429} At this site, students can search by school, keyword, or a subject index, consisting of ten topics that begin with blogging and conclude with virtual property.\textsuperscript{430}

Lawsagna\textsuperscript{431} is edited and published by attorney Anastasia Pryanikova.\textsuperscript{432} Pryanikova also has a business, E-Studio, which develops and sells “study aid and training products for law students and legal professionals.”\textsuperscript{433} The blog’s stated purpose is to provide “[a]lternating layers of thoughts, tips, tricks, and other ingredients to live and learn well in law and beyond.”\textsuperscript{434} Recent posts include motivational topics such as “21 Steps to Becoming a Better Learner”\textsuperscript{435} and “What Can Law Schools Do Better?”\textsuperscript{436} RSS feeds are available, as are social bookmarking options, such as Digg This!, Stumble It!, and de.licio.us.\textsuperscript{438}

Vendors are beginning the process of sponsoring law related blogs. Law Professor Blogs is sponsored by Thomson West and published by Dean Paul L. Caron, University of Cincinnati College of

\textsuperscript{427} Id.
\textsuperscript{428} Id.
\textsuperscript{430} Id.
\textsuperscript{432} Id.
\textsuperscript{433} Id.
\textsuperscript{434} Id.
\textsuperscript{435} Lawsagna, supra note 431.
It links to over fifty-three blogs, published, edited, and authored by law professors at law schools that include American University’s Washington College of Law, Florida Coastal School of Law, Georgetown University Law Center, Mercer University School of Law, University of Texas School of Law, University of Cincinnati College of Law, and University of California-Davis School of Law. Topics include:

- Aviation Law;
- Chinese Law;
- Civil Rights;
- Elder Law;
- Food Law;
- Immigration Profs;
- Law Librarians;
- Law School Innovation;
- Legal Profession;
- Legal Writing Prof Blog;
- Brian Leiter’s Law School Reports;
- Products Liability;
- Statutory Construction; and
- Tax Prof.

Prawfs Blawg is sponsored by Aspen. Created by several law professors, its mission is to discuss a “variety of topics related to law and life.” Editors and contributors include Dan Markel of Florida State University, Ethan J. Leib of UC Hastings College of Law, Robert Howse of University of Michigan, Rick Garnett of University of Chicago School of Law, Matt Bodie of Saint Louis University, Steve

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440 Id.
441 Id.
443 Id.
Vladeck of American University, and Orly Lobel of University of San Diego.\footnote{Id.; PrawfsBlawg, supra note 442.}

\section{F. Working Papers}

Working papers are another recent development in digital scholarship, allowing researchers to keep track of works in progress.

BePress\footnote{BePress Legal Repository: About The Berkeley Electronic Press, http://law.bepress.com/repository/about_bepress.html (last visited Jan. 9, 2008).} was established in 1999, and is the Berkeley Electronic Press working paper series.\footnote{Id.} Here, legal researchers and scholars can submit articles for publication and download articles that are continuing works in progress.\footnote{BePress Legal Repository: Promote Your Faculty Scholarship, http://law.bepress.com/repository/faq-institutions.html (last visited Jan. 9, 2008).} As of January 7, 2008, this site had 3,098 papers with full text downloads of 563,111 for the 2007 calendar year.\footnote{BePress Legal Repository, http://www.law.bepress.com/repository/ (last visited Jan. 7, 2008).} Since its inception, there have been 1,070,338 downloads.\footnote{Id.} This site can be searched by keyword, browsed by institution, or browsed by a subject index\footnote{BePress Legal Repository: Search by Subject, http://law.bepress.com/repository/search_by_subject.html (last visited Jan. 7, 2007).} that includes over one-hundred topics, such as Animal Law, Law & Technology, Psychology and Psychiatry, and RICO.\footnote{Id.} The site organizes and provides links to recent publications, the most popular papers, and peer reviewed articles.\footnote{Id.} Bealerts are current awareness resources,\footnote{Id.} delivered directly to a chosen email address, that allow researchers to be notified of new papers by a particular author, or in a particular subject area.\footnote{Id.} In addition to keyword, subject index, and institution searching, this site can also be browsed by author.\footnote{BePress Legal Repository: Promote Your Faculty Scholarship, supra note 448.}
NELLCO’s Legal Scholarship Repository is a consortium that includes materials categorized as “working papers, reports, lecture series, [or] workshop presentations” created by NELLCO member schools. Member schools include Boston College Law School, Columbia Law School, Cornell Law School, Duke Law School, Fordham University School of Law, Georgetown University Law Center, Harvard Law School, New York University School of Law, Pierce Law, Roger Williams University School of Law, Suffolk University Law School, University of Connecticut School of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Vermont Law School, and Yale Law School.

Powered by the BePress technology, this site allows for searching via keyword, a subject index, author name, corporate author name, title, publication title, or abstract. Customized email alerts, created by chosen subject topic, are available.

The Social Science Research Network (SSRN) began, in 1994, to “create a way for scholars to share and distribute their research worldwide long before their papers worked their way through the journal refereeing and publication process.” Like BePress, it too allows legal researchers and scholars to upload working papers in progress, as well as download working papers. This facilitates scholarship before publication is finalized. Many law schools are members of the SSRN working paper series. This membership allows professors to upload their works in progress, receiving commentary from other scholars in

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458 Id.
459 Id.
461 Id.
463 Id.
464 Id.
the field, similarly, researchers can download works in progress to assist with research in a particular subject area. The SSRN consists of an abstract database as well as an electronic paper collection database. The electronic paper collection can be searched via keyword, title, title abstract, or author; it can be browsed by network, journal, or topic. The site provides access to several subject areas, including accounting, economics, financial, information systems, and law. The Legal Scholarship Network portion of the SSRN site is managed by University of Texas professor Bernard Black, and two Stanford Law School professors, A. Mitchell Polinsky and Ronald J. Gilson. According to data on the SSRN site, as of January 9, 2008, there have been 171,817 abstracts and 132,270 full text papers deposited with SSRN. There are 86,433 authors whose papers have been downloaded and a total of 17,340,777 downloads since the site’s inception, 294,301 of which were downloaded in the last thirty days.

VI. CONCLUSION

In this article, selected free Internet sites have been reviewed that can assist the legal researcher with performing cost effective legal research when used with understanding.

467 SSRN’s Objectives and Commitments to Users, supra note 462.
468 SSRN Homepage, supra note 466.
470 Id.
471 See id.
473 SSRN Electronic Library, supra note 469.
474 Id.
475 It is the author’s contention that appropriate free Internet legal research sites, when used properly and with understanding, can be effective in locating primary and secondary sources of law. For disagreement, view the video available at: You Tube, Westlaw Stress Toy, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miv9k2fEW4 (last visited Jan. 7, 2008).
While official authentication remains an issue\textsuperscript{476} to be resolved, these reputable sites provide an enormous amount of legal information at no cost.\textsuperscript{477}

As legal research is taught today, the emphasis should be for researchers to select the appropriate branch of government from which information is needed. Once this is decided, researchers can then directly approach the primary source of information and begin retrieval via name, number, or subject searching. While electronic resources have yet to develop the precision searching tools created for print resources, electronic precision searching tools are in the process of development at fee sites. It is likely that these precision tools will develop eventually at free sites.

As with the beginning of any print research project, today’s digital researchers should begin their research projects by asking a series of questions, such as:

- What are the relevant background facts in the problem to be researched?;
- What issues need to be researched?;
- What research terms should be used?;
- Should federal or state law be researched on the topic? Is there a need to consult both?;
- Should cases, statutes, or regulations, or a combination of these three primary sources be researched?;
- Do secondary sources need to be utilized to help locate primary sources on point?;
- Do non-legal resources need to be consulted?;

\textsuperscript{476} AALL Washington Affairs Report: State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources, \textit{supra} note 23. See also \textit{Losing the Law: A Call to Arms, supra} note 23 ("Not one state has put in place a system that authenticates and preserves the new digital information.").

\textsuperscript{477} For a portal of law related Internet sites, see Nova Southeastern University, Internet Resources - Shepard Broad Law Center, http://www.nsunlaw.nova.edu/library_tech/library/resources/internet.cfm (last visited Jan. 7, 2008) (listing free Legal Research Portals).
Does updating the research change anything? \footnote{See Lisa Smith-Butler, Nova Southeastern University, Research Strategies Worksheet, http://www.nsulaw.nova.edu/faculty/syllabi/research_strategies1.pdf.}

Once these questions have been answered, and the researcher knows which resources will be consulted, the research can begin.