



Law Library News

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WEBSITE OF THE MONTH



Google Uncle Sam

<http://www.google.com/ig/usgov>, now officially called Google U.S. Government Search, is an independently run search engine used to find government information for federal, state, or local government. Google does this by only indexing government domains, such as .gov, .mil, and certain other government sites. The homepage has government related news, articles from the Washington Post, press releases from the White House, the weather in D.C., and much more.

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Welcome Michelle Cosby

Sally Wise

Michelle Cosby joined the Library on August 14th. She received a joint J.D./Masters in Library and Information Science degree from Indiana University – Bloomington in May 2006. Before coming to UM, she was a Reference Assistant at both the Indiana University School of Law and School of Journalism Libraries. She has also been an Intern at the Indiana Supreme Court Law Library and a Law Clerk with the Indiana Tax Court.



Michelle is our Reference/Information Services Librarian, which means that she will be coordinating the Lexis and Westlaw programs in addition to reference and research.

When you see her at the Reference Desk, please welcome her to the Law School and South Florida.



Researching Law Review Articles: Part I

Barbara H. Brandon

Finding a useful law review article or student note when you are doing research can be a challenge. The total volume of printed materials is enormous and growing rapidly. And, unfortunately, no one online database has all the various journals and materials. Several useful shortcuts exist, and I will discuss some

of them here and more in the next issue.



There are numerous ways to approach finding articles. Two of the most

useful are not in Lexis or Westlaw. Instead, go to the library catalog and utilize the online Index to Legal Periodicals or LegalTrac. The former is more comprehensive and indexes almost all printed law review articles from the turn of the last century to the present; therefore using a date restriction is often wise. When the Index opens up, the advanced search screen is your first option. If you are doing a topical search, you do not need to reset the right-hand search box from "All – Smart Search." However, if your inquiry is more specific such as searching for

articles written by a particular author, open up the menu box on the right-hand side of the search screen and choose "Author, Personal." LegalTrac's coverage begins in 1980, but it indexes more bar journals than the Index to Legal Periodicals.

One of the most useful tools for finding topical articles is the summary segment in the US Law Reviews database in Lexis. This searches the abstract of an article to determine what articles or student commentary address your query in depth. Because authors summarize the topic in the abstract, this can be an easy way to quickly locate material on point. No comparable field exists on Westlaw.

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Researching Prescription Drug Liability

Virginia Templeton

Section 6 (a) of the RESTATEMENT OF THE LAW (THIRD), TORTS: PRODUCTS LIABILITY (1998) (Treatise Collection: KF1296.A817 1998) states that, "A manufacturer of a prescription drug or medical device who sells or otherwise distributes a defective drug or medical device is subject to liability for harm to persons caused by the defect." This RESTATEMENT is also on Westlaw (PL-REST) and Lexis (Secondary Legal-Restatements-Torts).

There are also several other resources that will help you get started in this type of research. Two articles of interest are (1) Mark D. Shifton, *The Restatement; Third of Torts: Products Liability: the ALI's Cure for Prescription Design Liability*, 2002 FORDHAM URB. L.J. 2343--2386 (2002) and (2) Michael J. Wagner and Laura L. Peterson, *The New Restatement (Third) of Torts—Shelter from the Product Liability Storm for Pharmaceutical Companies and Medical De-*

vice Manufacturers? 53 FOOD & DRUG L.J. 225 --242 (1998).

Most titles on general products liability have sections on drug liability, such as the PRODUCTS LIABILITY REPORTER (Looseleaf Collection: KF1296.A6 C6, and CCH Internet Research Network from the Library's subscription database page - <http://library.law.miami.edu/databas.html>) and Louis R. Frumer and Melvin I. Friedman, PRODUCTS LIABILITY (Treatise Collection: KF1296.A6 F78).

Two sources that deal exclusively with drug liability are:

(1) DRUGS IN LITIGATION, DAMAGE AWARDS INVOLVING PRESCRIPTION AND NON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS (Treatise Collection: KF1297.D7M34). The body of this source is arranged alphabetically by brand name drugs with a brief discussion of it, followed by summaries of both appellate and trial court decisions, many of which give monetary amounts of judgments that concern that drug. It also has a case table and

is indexed by all names of the drugs. This is a good source in which to find alternative names of drugs for searching in other hardcopy sources as well as online. This source is on Lexis.

(2) Frank C. Woodside, DRUG PRODUCT LIABILITY (Treatise Collection: KF1297.D7 D59). This source gives details of current litigation that concerns drugs and medical devices. Volume one has a bibliography, Drugs in the Medical Literature, that is arranged alphabetically by the name of a drug. This set has texts of laws and regulations as well as non-legal sources such as newspapers and newsletters. Also in volume 4 is a table of (1) Trade to Generic/Chemical names with citations in the reporter that discuss the drug and (2) a similar table for Generic/Chemical names to trade names. This source is also on Lexis.



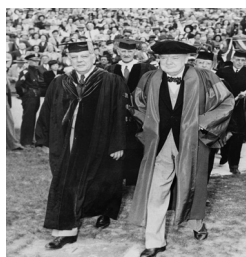
Good luck on final exams. Please be considerate while studying in the law library, and do not engage in activity that disturbs others who are studying.

For real night owls, Richter Library is open 24 hours per day until December 13th.



Did You Know?

We hope to add some new trivia about the Law School each issue from now on. Did you know that, in 1945, Winston Churchill was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Law?



Web Site of the Month cont.

Google has other specialized searches, like Google University Search (<http://www.google.com/options/universities.html>), which allows users to search through a specific school's web site.

For other government information, try Firstgov.gov (<http://www.firstgov.gov>), the official government website designed to allow easy access to government information and government services. There are tabs designed for citizens, business and non-profits, federal employees, and government-to-government.

If you like entering search terms to find information, you will probably prefer Google Uncle Sam, but if you prefer searching by topic, Firstgov is right for you. Explore both websites and decide which one is best for your research needs.

Or, for something totally new, try Govmine by Convera (<http://www.govmine.com>), which is a beta website to locate government information. The results of a search are ranked strictly by relevance.



Statistically Speaking

Mark Plotkin and Virginia Templeton

StateMaster.com, <http://www.statemaster.com>, is a unique statistical database which allows you to research and compare a multitude of different data on US states. Rapid Intelligence, the creator of the web site, has compiled information from various primary sources such as the US Census Bureau, the

FBI, and the National Center for Educational Statistics. More than just a mere collection of various data, StateMaster.com goes beyond the numbers to provide you with visualization technology like pie charts, maps, graphs and scatterplots. They also have thousands of map and flag images, state profiles, and correlations.

Other sources of statistical data include:

Statistical Abstract of the United States (Reference Desk: HA202.U5 or <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>) -

provides a compendium of the most requested statistics from the federal government.

County and City Data Book (Reference HA202.A36 or <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/ccdb.html>) supplies population and other numbers for individual states, counties and cities.

U.S. Bureau of the Census (<http://www.census.gov/>) - more than just the population, the Census Bureau publishes statistics on many other topics, including housing, poverty, economics and more.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics (Reference JV6461S8 or <http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/statistics/index.shtm>) gives information on number, location and other topics of both legal and unauthorized immigrants.

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Researching Law Review Articles Cont.

When searching for articles written by specific authors in Lexis and Westlaw, there are two tricks to remember. Lexis offers you two segments, "author" and "written by." Ignore the latter. If you type in Anthony Alfieri in the "author" segment, you will get results, but if you use the "written by" segment, you will wrongly assume that he has no published works. In both Lexis and Westlaw, you have to pay attention to the middle initial problem. Again assuming you are looking for all the articles written by Professor Alfieri, you should select the author field and type in "Anthony A. Alfieri" or Anthony +3 Alfieri. Better yet, if you are looking for a comprehensive list of all the articles written by a particular person, remember to use the Index to Legal Periodicals because its chronological coverage is the broadest.

Another useful tool in both Lexis and Westlaw allows you to require a particular term to appear a minimum number of times when doing a terms and connectors search. Let's say you were researching law review articles that discuss affirmative action in education. In Lexis you could utilize the search command "atleast" to narrow your results by typing in atleast25(Grutter) to ensure that each law review article mentions that recent Supreme Court case a minimum of 25 times. A similar function exists in Westlaw; the search screen "term frequency" that allows you to define the minimum number of hits in each article. Westlaw allows you to use this functionality on phrases, such as affirmative action whereas Lexis limits "atleast" to a single word.



United States Supreme Court case a minimum of 25 times. A similar function exists in Westlaw; the search screen "term frequency" that allows you to define the minimum number of hits in each article. Westlaw allows you to use this functionality on phrases, such as affirmative action whereas Lexis limits "atleast" to a single word.

1L Lexis & Westlaw Training

Michelle Cosby

The 1L training will run from January 8th-January 10th, 2007.

1Ls: If you haven't signed up at the circulation desk for this training, make sure to do so before your Winter Break!

There are three classes that each student needs to take: the Fundamentals of Online Searching, a Lexis hands-on session and a Westlaw hands-on session. Sign up began Tuesday November 7, 2006 at the Circulation Desk. If a student forgets the class s/he selected, the sign-up sheets will remain at the circulation desk throughout the training.

For the hands-on sessions, students will need to sign into the law school network. If you have questions about doing this, please check with the Computer Resources department before the classes begin. Also, if you have a TWEN account this semester, bring this password to the Westlaw hands-on session. Your TWEN password will become your Westlaw password. Additionally, if you received a password for Lexis ICW exercises, bring this password to the Lexis hands-on session. Your ICW password will become your Lexis password.

For more information and for a list of Frequently Asked Questions, visit the web page:

<http://library.law.miami.edu/calr.html>.



Exam Hours

(November 29th-December 17th)



	Library Hours	Reference
Mon.-Thurs	7am-3am	8am-10pm
Friday	7am-3am	8am-6pm
Saturday	8:30am-3am	10am-6pm
Sunday	8:30am-3am	Noon-8pm

December 18 7am-Midnight 8am-10pm

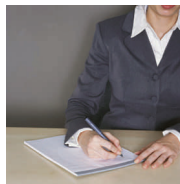
Intersession Hours

(December 19th-January 7th)

	Library Hours	Reference
Mon.-Thurs	8am-8pm	9am-6pm
Friday	8am-6pm	9am-6pm
Saturday	9am-5pm	10am-5pm
Sunday	9am-5pm	10am-5pm

The Law Library will be closed on December 23-26, 30-31 and January 1.

Legal Writing Resources



There are numerous books in the Reserve Collection at the circulation desk that will help you improve your legal writing skills. Included in this list are Brief Writing and Oral Argument, 9th ed., by Edward D. Re and Joseph R. Re (KF251.R4 2005), Drafting Legal Documents: Principles and Practices, 2nd ed. by Barbara Child (KF250.C47 1992), Handbook of Nonsexist Writing, 2nd ed. by Casey Miller and Kate Swift (PN218.M5 1988), Legal Drafting in a Nutshell, 2nd ed. by Thomas R. Haggard (KF250.H33 2003), Legal Writing in a Nutshell, 3rd ed. by Lynn Bahrch and Marjorie Rombauer (KF250.S68 2003), and Plain English for Lawyers by Richard C. Wydick (KF250.W93 2005). Previous editions of most of the titles are in the Treatise Collection and may be checked out for home use

For other help in legal writing, try the interactive lessons available through CALI (Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction) (<http://www2.cali.org>). There are lessons covering many writing issues, from drafting contracts, to punctuation, and bluebooking. The authorization code to register for CALI is available through the library's subscription database page (<http://library.law.miami.edu/databas.html>).

Statistics cont.



U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (<http://www.bls.gov>) is an excellent place to find information on

employment, unemployment and inflation rates. For statistics related to crime, victims, prosecution, and the justice system, try the **U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics** (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>).

Crime in the United States (Reference HV6787.A3 or <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>) compiles number of crimes and types of crime committed in the U.S.

For statistics related to Florida, try the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida (<http://www.bebr.ufl.edu>) or the **Florida Statistical Abstract** (Reference Desk HA 311. F55). **Florida and the Nation, 2000** (Reference HA311.F52) is an extract of information about Florida compiled from the last census.

If none of the sources above answer your statistics needs, FedStats (<http://www.fedstats.gov>) is a clearinghouse for all federal statistics. It allows the researcher to browse through a list of topics or search across agencies. MapStats is also part of this site. MapStats creates state, county, city, Congressional District or federal judicial district maps.

Library Directory

- Circulation & Reserves 284-3563
- Reference Desk 284-3585
- Automated Operator 284-2250
- Administrative Office 284-2251

Other University Libraries

- Richter Circulation 284-3233
- Richter Reference 284-4722
- Medical Library 243-6403
- Marine Library 361-4060

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Law Library News is also available on the Law Library's web site (<http://library.law.miami.edu/info.html#news>).

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