LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING RESOURCES:
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

COMPILED BY DONALD J. DUNN

Donald J. Dunn is Professor of Law at Western New England College. He is a member of the Perspectives Editorial Board in Springfield, Mass. This bibliography includes references to books, articles, bibliographies, and research guides that could potentially prove useful to both instructors and students and includes sources noted since the previous issue of Perspectives.


Suggests that access-services librarians “must integrate technology with library service models to maintain efficient patron access.” Abstract.


Argues that the “new legal research paradigm will be the computer code used in computer-assisted legal research” rather than the digest system now in common use. Id.

Best of Perspectives Teaching Legal Research and Writing, 2001. [St. Paul, MN: West Group, 156 p.]

A collection of 30 articles considered by the Perspectives Editorial Board to represent the “best” from volumes 1–9, 1992–2001, of this publication. Complimentary copies are available upon request from the publisher.

[Editor’s note: Complimentary copies of Best of Perspectives can be ordered from Beckie Burmeister, West Group, Product and Client Communications, D 5-5354, 610 Opperman Drive, Eagan, MN 55123, phone: 651-687-5702, fax: 651-687-8722.]


Lists American Law Institute publications, books, secondary materials, and symposia relating to the model penal code.


Accompanies a symposium issue on the topic. Contains an unannotated listing of articles, books, U.N. documents, cases, miscellaneous international legal materials, and constitutions.


Teaches how to transfer traditional library and office techniques to the Internet.


Originally prepared for a preparatory course for LL.M. students at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, the text is designed with the non-native English speaker in mind. Discusses reading and understanding case law and statutes.


Argues that an aggressive approach is necessary with regard to the issue of teaching legal research in an academic law library. Examines the methods the author uses in providing this instruction.

Bobbi Cross & Michelle Ayers, Privacy and Legal Research on the Web, Legal Intelligencer, June 7, 2000, at 8.

Discusses tools such as a cookie manager or a cloaking program that can protect one’s privacy from unwanted advertisers, etc., while conducting legal research on the Web.

Jean Davis et al., Perspectives on Teaching Foreign and International Legal Research, Legal Reference Services Q., No. 3/4, 2000, at 55.

Includes “an overview of teaching
international legal research" using various formats, a discussion of "some of the resources that are helpful for those who want to begin teaching foreign and international legal research," and a discussion of "teaching techniques and class activities for a semester-long course." Abstract.


An alphabetically arranged, annotated listing of references that are useful in locating sources dealing specifically with issues concerning the law of the Internet.


"[E]xamine[s] how advances in technology have changed forever the way reference librarians interact with both patrons and reference sources." Discusses services to remote users and offers some predictions about the way reference service will be provided in the future. Abstract.


After examining the views of literary writers about legal writing, the author uses examples from poorly drafted statutes to illustrate how legal writing can be improved by using plain language.


Written from the perspective of the solo librarian, this article "proposes several ways to initiate or update legal research training for attorneys in a law firm library." Abstract.

Carol Ebbinghouse, Medical and Legal Misinformation on the Internet, Searcher, Oct. 2000, at 18.

Points out the many things that can be wrong, or go wrong, with using legal information gained via the Internet. Lists numerous techniques one can use when evaluating professional advice sites.


Helps legal writers apply the basics of grammar and punctuation to their writing. Includes a chapter on eloquence in legal prose, advice on being concise, a discussion of plain English and legalese, and a section for those for whom English is a second language.


Lists 37 tips and admonitions that lawyers can use to improve their legal writing style.


Argues persuasively that the texts of legal documents should not be cluttered with legal citations or other bibliographical references, but rather these citations should be relegated to footnotes. The result "will be one of the greatest helps in improving the expository prose that lawyers produce." Id. at 106.


"[D]iscusses the practical nature of Internet legal research by providing examples of actual research problems solved on the Internet and by providing a selective listing of Internet legal resources for judicial materials, federal legislative and administrative materials, and state materials." Abstract.

“[D]iscusses the application of three different learning style models to successful teaching in legal research courses.”

Abstract.


A brief but useful guide to the techniques to employ in compiling an annotated bibliography. Uses a different citation style from The Bluebook and the ALWD Citation Manual.


Provides the introduction to a series of articles that focus on how legal research can be taught in a reference service environment. The various articles in this issue of Legal Reference Services Quarterly are annotated elsewhere in this listing of sources.


Describes how the Human Rights Library at the University of Minnesota, one of the largest collections of human rights documents on the Web, was built, how it is used in research and teaching, and how it is maintained.


Provides references to animal law contained in books, law journal articles, book reviews, science journals, magazine and newspaper articles, animal rights publications, government documents, videos, and more.


Identifies for the practitioner the key sources that can be used to access trusts and estates materials on the Internet.


Illustrates how the use of legalese can lack accuracy and precision and that plain language can make a document both better and easier to read and understand.


A well-organized directory of Internet resources that is intended to guide researchers to the best sites for their research purposes. Kept up-to-date with a companion Web site that is updated every 60–90 days.


Describes how such sources as Loislaw.com, V., Congressional Universe, and CQ.com can provide access to electronic legal and congressional research without having to use either LexisNexis or Westlaw.


A comprehensive discussion of the sources, both print and electronic, related to conducting research in Pennsylvania.

"[E]xplores the status of proposed but unratified amendments to the United States Constitution ... [and] describes sources available for identifying amendments introduced in Congress—most of which are never proposed for ratification—and includes a bibliography of such sources." Id.


Poses several possible scenarios relating to judicial opinions, e.g., can a law clerk write them, when should an opinion be published, can an opinion be used to launch an investigation of a leak, can a judge use an opinion in an effort to influence an election? Concludes by suggesting that some rules for opinion writing be added to the Code of Conduct for United States Judges.


A guided, self-instructional model that allows students to learn in their own style and at their own pace. Integrates the principles of legal reasoning and legal writing with the fundamentals of legal research. Includes a computer-assisted legal research supplement.

Jamie Lee Mignon, How and Why We Write, 50 DePaul L. Rev. 1095 (2001).

Published as part of the DePaul Law Review 50th Anniversary Issue, this brief essay suggests keeping Strunk and White's The Elements of Style handy at all times and being vigilant to not fall into bad writing habits.


Describes how reference librarians can reduce the anxiety students sometimes associate with online legal research by suggesting helpful information and then checking back with the patron.


The author discusses his theory for writing a casebook and then discusses the selection and organization of materials and how one goes about getting it published. Provides some truly useful advice.


The goals of this little booklet are to help Bluebook users to locate and apply the most appropriate rule or rules to a particular
authority and to highlight some of the hidden nuances in some of the rules.


“[P]rovides a reference foundation for librarians seeking to understand records retention in the private legal environment.” Abstract, at 7.


A revision of one of the standards in the field. It emphasizes that students gain a better understanding of legal reasoning and legal writing when the two are taught together. Contains new sample documents and examples and a new section on the ALWD Citation Manual.

Cheryl Rae Nyberg, State Administrative Law Bibliography: Print and Electronic Sources, 2000. [Twin Falls, ID: Carol Boast and Cheryl Rae Nyberg, 597 p.]

“This work surveys one of the last frontiers in traditional legal bibliography: the published adjudications, cases, decisions, findings, interpretations, opinions, orders, and rulings of state administrative agencies. Its purpose is to facilitate the identification and retrieval of these elusive materials.” Introduction at xi. Represents a major contribution to the field of legal research.


Includes symposia, law review and journal articles, Web sites, and videotapes related to the multiplicity of issues related to affirmative action and diversity.


Designed for those who want to become proficient in the practice of federal tax research. Provides extensive discussion of the various tax sources and the methodology associated with their use.


Chapters include Design of Legal Reasoning; The Basics: Designing Clear and Effective Writing; Designing the Legal Memo; Designing the Brief; and Beginning, Middle, and Ending. Includes samples.


A review of “the major changes of the seventeenth edition [of The Bluebook] … concentrating on its major innovation, a new rule regarding citation of electronic materials.” Id.


Intended to provide legal researchers with a simple step-by-step guide to the process for conducting hard-copy research.


Describes how reference and legal research instruction has evolved at Brigham Young University's Law Library “through a hybrid of the bibliographic approach and the new emphasis on practical advocacy” and how this has led to better prepared law student researchers. Id.

“This bibliographic essay covers sources for researching Irish legal history from the earliest days of the brehon legal system to the present. In addition to suggesting sources for research, the article provides brief explanations of the Irish legal system and its major developments.” Id.


Contains nine articles devoted to various aspects of the politics that often underlie legal writing (or what causes people to write the way they do). Especially valuable is Jan M. Levine’s “Legal Research and Writing: What Schools Are Doing, and Who Is Doing the Teaching,” at 51.


A pathfinder that covers current case law and the current standing of state statutes relating to the visitation rights of grandparents (updated through October 2000).