LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING RESOURCES: RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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Donald J. Dunn is Associate Dean for Library and Information Resources and Professor of Law at Western New England College in Springfield, Mass. He is a member of the Perspectives Editorial Board. 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.


A lively analysis of opinions in two federal cases from different circuits discussing whether an unpublished opinion is citable and, if so, whether it is binding precedent or should be used only for its persuasive value. Briefly discusses the emergence of West’s Federal Appendix, which reports “unpublished” federal opinions since January 1, 2001.

Bibliography Issue [on Dispute Resolution], 17 Ohio St. J. on Disp. Resol. 711 (2002).

An annual issue of this journal, this one contains more than 200 pages of annotations of books and articles on the topic of alternative dispute resolution.


Provides legal research starting points for legislative resources for the federal and state governments; the judiciary and their opinions; secondary sources and reference tools; news, media, and business; legal ethics and professional responsibility; and international and foreign law. Shows how to make contact with other professionals.


A basic guide to conducting legal research on the Internet designed for attorneys, paralegals, law clerks, and law enforcement personnel. Part of the West Legal Studies series.


“[E]xamines Native Hawaiian legal issues and sovereignty aspirations against a backdrop of the long and unsavory history of American involvement in the Pacific Islands that became our fiftieth state.” Id. Discusses legal issues still unfolding; includes a selected annotated bibliography.


Examines the often conflicting opinions relating to interpretation of the Second Amendment, showing which authors have staked out various positions. Argues that a “more sophisticated and historically grounded interpretation of the Second Amendment” is needed. Id. at 682.


A bibliography of the publications of John William Corrington (1932–1988), a frequent writer of legal fiction.

Howard Darmstadter, Hereof, Thereof, and Everywhereof: A Contrarian Guide to Legal Drafting, 2002 [Chicago, IL: ABA Section of Business Law, 179 p.]

Much of the material is from the author’s column, “Legal-Ease,” in Business Law Today. Offers tips designed to improve most legal documents by removing obsolete legal conventions and writing in a style suited to current conditions.

Contains more than 2,000 definitions of criminal justice terms. Discusses, for example, abduction, cycle of violence, eyewitness testimony, facial reconstruction, habeas corpus, and typology.


Provides information on current Canadian legal definitions. Includes more than 7,000 definitions, citations of authority, and cross-references.


Suggests that to be a good writer one must not isolate himself or herself from criticism, learn to achieve simplicity, and develop an easy-going, sensible (nonlegalistic) writing style.


Examines the use of nonlegal sources by the Supreme Court of the United States from the October Term 1989 through the October Term 1998.


Discusses, among other topics, electronic resources, first-year and advanced research, teaching research in government and law firm libraries, and foreign and international law research. Published simultaneously as *Legal Reference Services Quarterly*, volume 19, numbers 3/4.


“[P]roposes a model rule that would standardize the federal courts of appeals’ rules restricting publication and citation of certain opinions.” *Id.*


Can be used as a stand-alone text or as a supplement to another book. A *Teacher’s Manual* and a *Computer-Assisted Legal Research Supplement* are also available.


“[E]xplores the design and maintenance of law library Web sites, describing a number of general design principles and identifying elements that are typically included in such sites.” *Id.*

Assists paralegals in understanding legal issues and providing written analyses of those issues. Part of the West Legal Studies Series.


An excellent text for use in tax research or advanced research courses. Significantly expands the coverage of electronic sources, both subscription-based and those available without charge, and the coverage of treaties and international materials and of congressional and executive agencies. A *Teacher's Manual* is available.


Argues that the court in *Anastasoff v. United States*, 223 F.3d 898 (8th Cir. 2000), vacated, 235 F.3d 1054 (8th Cir. 2000) (en banc) [leaving open the question as to whether unpublished opinions have precedential value] was correct that the practice of designating opinions as “unpublished” or “uncitable” should be banned.


Provides an introduction to research methods combined with an overview of primary and secondary sources, with an emphasis on Florida legal resources.


Analyzes the conflicting opinions of *Anastasoff* and *Hart v. Massanari*, 266 F.3d 1155 (9th Cir. 2001), and proposes “a regime requiring official publication of all judicial opinions, thus giving all opinions precedential effect and replacing unpublished opinions with published precedential summary dispositions.” *Id.*


A revision of the 1985 edition. Covers the historical beginnings of the Minnesota Constitution, legislation, executive and administrative law, the judiciary, finding aids and secondary sources, and institutions and organizations.


Begins by summarizing “the traditions and conventions of persuasion and persuasive writing—how they are characterized in law and how they are taught in law school” and then moves to a discussion of a form of “antilanguage” intended to “persuade and to convey the author’s substantive (feminist) message.” *Id.*


Designed primarily for paralegals. Includes sections on law libraries and how they are organized and a chapter on computer-assisted legal research.

Begins with instructing students on how to draft an office memorandum and then moves to discussions of client letters and persuasive arguments. Includes examples and exercises.


“[C]ollects and annotates books and journal articles about the common doctrine of coverture, which held that a wife had no legal standing because her being was completely incorporated into that of her husband.” *Id.*

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