Compiled by Donald J. Dunn

Donald J. Dunn is Dean and Professor of Law at the University of La Verne College of Law in Ontario, Calif. 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.


The “aim [of this article] is not to produce a holding-dicta code book but instead a straightforward definition of the terms ‘holding’ and ‘dicta.’” Id. at 959. Provides a framework for making a distinction between the two.


“[C]overs the legal history of the District of Columbia prior to the passage of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act in 1973” including “a chronological description of the various legal and political structures that created local law in the District during the pre-home rule era …, the complex history of the court system in the district [and] the resources for researching the pre-home rule law and legal history in the district.” Abstract at 43.


A guide designed to assist the occasional user of European Union materials to locate sources of its law and official documents. Also provides a listing of research guides for use by the expert or experienced researcher.


Designed to create a common citation system. Provides guidance and suggestions for courts and practitioners on recommended methods of formatting, as well as on how to cite legal material in law-related documents.

Carol M. Bast & Susan W. Harrell, Ethical Obligations: Performing Adequate Legal Research and Legal Writing, 29 Nova L. Rev. 49 (2004).

“[P]rovide[s] a discussion of specific parts of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct that relate to the attorney’s legal research and writing obligations. … [I]ntroduce[s] the reader to a Model Rule, or a portion of a Model Rule, and suppl[ies] case law examples of the sanctions meted out to attorneys found to be in violation of the rules.” Id. at 50.


The first history of Ohio law in 70 years. Arranged under 22 topics that range from the history of Ohio’s constitutional conventions and legal institutions to the history of civil procedure, evidence, land use, civil liberties, and utility regulation.


Yep, it’s happened again … (for the 18th time) and just when I had learned some of the rules in the previous edition. Yipes!


Focuses on the rules of grammar, style, and usage. Includes samples of a letter, memorandum, trial brief, appellate brief, and transactional document. Provides examples of good and bad writing.


Alphabetically arranged. Identifies 10 themes and multiple subcategories, with each entry receiving one or more numbers corresponding to the list of major international legal compliance themes.


Covers primary and secondary authority, including books and articles. Articles are organized under categories: General; Offers Solutions; Gender/Race & Jury Nullification; Jury Nullification in Political & Policy-Making Contexts; Death Penalty; United States v. Thomas; Civil Jury Nullification; State Specific; The Fully Informed Jury Association (“FIJA”); and Dissertations, Theses, & Jury Studies.


“[P]resents the arguments on both sides of the ongoing debate surrounding PFRAP 32.1 and its treatment of some appellate opinions as unpublished and non-binding.” Id. Includes a discussion of the history and development of unpublished opinions.


Covers the principles of good legal writing, including style, grammar, punctuation, and other mechanics of writing. Includes tips on planning, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading. Contains a chapter on legal writing for English-as-a-second-language (ESL) writers.


Aimed at helping students write successful law review articles and seminar papers. Contains more information than the previous edition on choosing a subject, developing a thesis, and testing the thesis. Also discusses the evaluation of sources and the ethical use of sources.


Examines ethical and effective legal writing by providing more than 200 examples of judges’ reactions to errors in lawyers’ writing.


A highly critical review of a best seller on punctuation by one of America’s leading authorities on style and punctuation. Basically, Garner has a “zero tolerance” of the Truss book.


“[R]eviews the literature regarding CALR and identifies several hypotheses regarding quantitative differences in the results of print-based research and CALR. [A]nalyzes California Supreme Court opinions to determine CALR’s effect on the quantity, recency, and types of legal authority cited by the court. The data fail to support the commentators’ hypotheses.” Abstract.


The third in a planned series of six articles for educators. Focuses on locating statutes and regulations by citation or popular name.

A listing of books and articles published since 1995, plus Internet sources, intended to assist the users to explore the uneasy coexistence of print and electronic information.


Assignments cover cases, digests, citators, federal statutes, regulations, secondary sources, Westlaw, and LexisNexis.


One of this country’s great legal scholars provides his reasons for writing and describes why he believes it is important for all law professors to write. Part of a symposium issue on the topic of why professors write.


Presents the argument that because today’s students tend to use the online databases and the Internet, research instruction should begin with electronic resources rather than the traditional print ones.


A topically arranged, annotated bibliography of family law literature covering articles written between November 1, 2003, and November 1, 2004.


Discusses, among other bad traits, ineptness, pretentiousness, obfuscation, dishonesty, and verbosity in legal writing. Provides examples of bad writing.


A topically arranged and annotated bibliography relating to library design. Includes books, book chapters, reports, and articles.


Looks at the problem and cure of poor drafting of legislation and rules; examines the legislative process and sources of proposed legislation; defines statutory construction and relation between legislative drafting; explains formal federal, state, and local requirements and limitations; covers administrative and court rules; reviews drafting principles regarding the who and what; provides general principles on readability; and describes specific rules and the organization and subdivision of a bill.


Discusses the makeup of a typical law review and the purposes it serves in society, describes the editorial process, and provides tips to non-U.S. and ESL legal scholars seeking to publish in an American law review.


A bibliography designed to assist prospective authors who want to write on Internet gambling, also known as online gambling, virtual gambling, and e-gambling.


Focuses on writing an office memo, a motion memo, and an appellate brief. Includes chapters on oral argument, client letters, and client interviewing. The chapter “Organizing Proof of a Conclusion of Law” has been divided into four chapters. Includes a new chapter on demand letters.
Instructs on the best source for a project, emphasizes electronic research, uses a problem-based organization that focuses on categories of legal issues, and provides an introduction to the essentials of legal research. Includes illustrations, practice pointers, and exercises.

A listing of books and articles (with the articles arranged by subject) intended to help users find current information (1990–2004) on the law and its implications for baseball. A bibliography that Frank Houdek and my son Kevin will appreciate.

A bibliography arranged according to Critiques of Law Reviews, Critiques of Law Review Students, History of Law Reviews and Legal Periodicals, Citation Trends for Law Reviews (Bibliometrics), and Miscellaneous.

A listing of books and monographs; articles, article-length tributes, and essays; book reviews; and magazine and newspaper articles, short book reviews, and op-ed pieces. Published as part of an issue devoted to recognizing Professor Kamisar’s contributions to law and legal education.

A lengthy and scholarly discussion and description of the books and essays written by the Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court about themselves. Arranged chronologically.

Designed as a desktop reference for legal writers. Provides reference material and guidance on improving one’s legal writing, including usage questions. Contains new information on e-mail, graphics, symbols, and tone in e-mail and text messaging, faxing, and voice mail. Part of the American Casebook Series.

Covers general principles of legal writing, opinion and claim or demand letters, appellate brief writing, oral argument, and citation of authorities. Integrates information on electronic legal research. Contains numerous illustrative appendixes.

An annual annotated bibliography that groups recent publications under 10 categories relating to commercial arbitration.

A comparative review that concludes that a student seeking to become “a (published) legal scholar” should “use Volokh’s [text], especially with regard to legal argument, and Fajans and Falk’s [text], especially with regard to legal writing and process.” *Id.* at 211.

Argues that electronic citation checking is an acceptable means of citation verification and
that law reviews should stop insisting on the use of print sources. Criticizes Rule 18 of The Bluebook for seemingly mandating the use of print sources in light of a survey conducted by the authors.


“[D]iscusses Web features that would be of value to the pro se patron, surveys the numbers of academic law libraries offering those features, gives examples of Web sites specifically designed with the pro se patron in mind, and offers suggestions on how to structure the Web site to provide services for these patrons.” Abstract at 1.


Designed to familiarize students with basic research sources. Chapters incorporate questions at four levels, progressing from basic source features to advanced research skills.


Calls upon the South Dakota Legislature to become more proactive in providing electronic access to the state’s documents and seeing to it that these documents are preserved.


Designed to acquaint social workers with how to conduct research in the United States Code by using examples from Social Security, welfare reform, and charitable choice.


Argues that “the dichotomy between the ‘practical’ and the ‘theoretical’ is false,” id. [and that] “[e]ffective teaching of ALR [advanced legal research] requires an integration of basic jurisprudence with the practical ‘how to’ list of research nuts and bolts.” Id. at 308. Describes how jurisprudence can be incorporated into an ALR course.


Describes why foreign official gazettes are important as sources of legal information and then details the difficulties associated with acquiring, maintaining, and using them.


An annotated, topically arranged bibliography that includes works both by and about Ruth Bader Ginsburg.


Briefly discusses the criticisms and justifications employed in the unpublished disposition of cases and then focuses on “decisionmaking concerning unpublished dispositions at each of the stages of the process, from pre-argument through the period after dispositions are filed.” Id. at 69.


An entertaining excursion into the development of popular names for statutes and the more recent trend of creating acronyms that spell out or suggest the focus of the act, e.g., CAN-SPAM Act of 2003 (Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing Act of 2003).


Examines the competing opinions about whether it is necessary to maintain sources in multiple formats and concludes that “abandoning either format would translate into a failure of service to patrons, both present and future.” Abstract at 233.

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