Legal Research and Writing Resources: Recent Publications

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.


An annual compilation that provides extensive annotations of articles on gender arranged by topic.


“[E]ncourages clinical and law librarian collaborations to further prepare law students to conduct effective legal research in law practice.” Id. at 69–70. “[R]ecommends that clinicians and librarians work together to develop customized research instruction modules in the classroom portion of the clinic [because] the clinical professor knows common and complex questions students will need to research in a clinical setting; librarians know how to shape those questions into a research instruction plan.” Id. at 132.


Covers general works on global administrative law, types of international regimes, historical aspects, public international aspects, legal theory, political science and political theory dimensions, developing countries, economic analysis, domestic aspects, and region and country-specific aspects. Comprehensive, but unannotated.


Identifies and explains the different pieces of individual judicial opinions. Discusses the types of opinions that may be issued by a given court and the legal effect of each type. Concludes by discussing how researchers can ensure that they have located judicial opinions, statutes, and regulations that are still recognized as current law by the courts and other branches of government. The last of six articles by this author in this publication.


A collection of enjoyable and valuable essays written by the author over 15 years and published in six publications. Part one shows why lawyers need to improve their legal writing. Part two provides concise guidelines, explanations, and numerous examples to show how these improvements can be made.


Points out that legal writing, biology research articles, and computer programming are each rules-driven and that once a writing instructor recognizes the similarities in logic and structure, attention can focus on smoothing the student’s transition to reading, thinking, and writing like a lawyer.


A listing of publications that spans more than four decades of dedicated scholarship by one of the true giants of law librarianship. Lists books, book chapters, articles, and book reviews.


Explores the problem of “link rot,” the phenomenon where the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) becomes a dead link, making the footnote citation worthless. Provides extensive documentation of link rot that has already occurred.

“[A]ddress[es] the common challenges that surface in structuring a LRW program and discuss[es] how to maximize student learning … reviews the recent history and progress of LRW as a discipline … review[s] the Temple University School of Law LRW program … highlight[s] those aspects of [the Temple] program that are different from many other LRW programs and suggest[es] why [its] methods resolve certain pedagogical dilemmas and are consistent with current theories on teaching writing and helping students enter the discourse community of lawyers.” *Id.* at 94.


A case simulation problem that provides a complete set of court documents to supplement a persuasive legal writing, pretrial practice, appellate advocacy, or moot court class. Based on a tort action in federal court against an Alabama church for financial exploitation by a pastoral counselor.


A comprehensive, topically arranged listing of articles, essays, books, and book chapters relating to clinical legal education published since Special Issue No. 1 in 2001.


“[R]eports the results of a study finding that the opinions and performance of modern legal researchers do not support the traditional notion that print digests are the tool of choice for researching legal rules while electronic databases are best suited for finding cases discussing unique factual situations.” Abstract at 661.


Provides an extensive, annotated introduction to the sources and methods involved in researching international trade in agricultural products.


Points out that writing is hard work requiring practice and that “the purpose of writing [is] the ordered translation of thoughts into words … [and] good writing in legal matters does not require much in the way of literary flair. Its hallmark … is accuracy, clarity, and brevity, its aim to inform and to persuade.” *Id.* at 76.


An annotated bibliography compiled in posthumous tribute to one of the country's best legal writers that lists his scholarly publications and selected noteworthy district and circuit court opinions that he authored. Also includes a listing of tributes to Judge Arnold in other publications.

An excellent article that demonstrates unequivocally that punctuation matters when one is engaged in statutory interpretation.


A selective bibliography, arranged by topic, of current law review literature of possible interest to civil defense counsel.

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