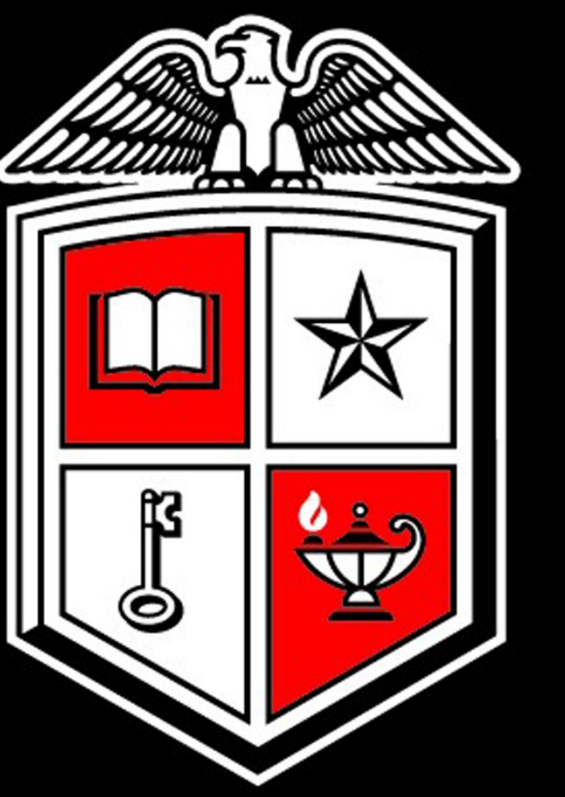


Providing Legal Information at Texas Tech for Non-Lawyers: a Progress Report

Presented by **Minerva Alaniz, Tom Rohrig and Jake Syma**



Overview

The Texas Tech University Library teaches two sections of the 1 hour semester credit course LIBR1100 Introduction to Scholarly Research that “is designed to teach students lifelong information literacy skills, and how to do research in a university library.” Although the majority of students enrolled are undergraduate pre-law, a number of non pre-law students from all disciplines and some graduate students also take the class.

In 2015, a perceived need for more accessible legal information lead to the development of the LibGuide [Legal Information](#) [Minerva Alaniz](#) (Communication Studies/Mass Media), [Jake Syma](#) (Business/Economics) and [Tom Rohrig](#) (Government Information/Patents and Trademark, Political Science) who all work with legal information, came together to identify legal resources for the Texas Tech community as well as for the Lubbock community.



Objectives of Project

- 1) Poster presenters will develop specialized legal information expertise for use as resources for University Library.
- 2) Identify legal resources for both Lubbock community and the Texas Tech non-Law School community.
- 3) Provide information to give Univ Library faculty resources for use in their [Introduction to Scholarly Research](#) classes.
- 4) Provide continuing education information for [Research and Instruction Personal Librarians](#) on continuing basis.
- 5) Develop on-going collaboration with [Texas Tech Law School Library](#) faculty.
- 6) Identify possibilities for writing articles.
- 7) Identify most common legal questions, e.g. finding Supreme Court cases, how to analyze case, how to identify legal citations, etc.

Benefits:

The benefits of this project are:

- 1) Allows collaboration between the University Library (UL) and the Law Library in providing instruction for pre-law and other students;
- 2) Helps the UL instructors to develop more in-depth legal research knowledge without being a law librarian.
- 3) Identify legal resources to support growing emphasis in Entrepreneurship and start-ups.
- 4) Develop RIO Department Personal Librarians legal research expertise for the University community.
- 5) Provides opportunity to provide more in-depth information on government information – local, state, federal, international.
- 6) Provides opportunity to discuss intellectual property (ip) in more depth, e.g. patents/trademarks, copyright, trade secrets, etc.
- 7) Identifies TTU Law Library databases available to General TTU Community and Law School Community, .

Resources Reviewed:

1. Libguides
 1. [LibGuide Community Site](#) - Libguides on legal information, particularly federal and Texas.
 2. GPO Partnership – Government Information on the Web Subject Index – [“Legal Information”](#)
 3. [Depository Libraries](#)
 1. Academic/Public
 2. Academic Law Library
 3. Federal Court Library
 4. Highest State Court Library
 5. State Library
2. [TTU Law Library](#) Resources
 1. [Excellence in Legal Research program](#)
 2. [Internet Resources](#)
 3. [Research Guides](#)
 - 3) [Electronic Resources: Databases, Journals, and Sites](#)
3. Legal Research Literature
 1. [Databases](#) – Index to Legal Periodicals/Books, Law Library Journal, etc.
 2. Review relevant journals – e.g. Legal Reference Service Quarterly, Law Library Journal, Journal of Legal Education, etc.
4. United States [Library and Information Studies](#) Curricula related to legal information
 1. [University of North Texas](#)
5. Federal Government Legal Resources
 - 1) Library of Congress - [U.S. Judiciary](#)
 - 2) [Library of Congress – Legal Research Guides](#)
6. [Texas Government Legal Resources](#) e.g. Legislative Reference Library of Texas, Texas Legislative Council, etc.
7. [Lubbock Area Resources](#) e.g. Lubbock County Law Library, Lubbock Code of Ordinances, etc.
8. Relevant websites
 - 1) [FindLaw](#)
 - 2) [Nolo.com](#)
 - 3) [Justia Virtual Chase](#)

Sample of Classes identified as requiring some legal research. Source: [Texas Tech University Office of Official Publications](#).

Department –University Studies

HRDV 3307 - Employment Law in Human Resource Development.; WE 4311 Wind Energy Law and Regulatory Issues

College of Agricultural and Applied Economics

AAEC Agribusiness Law AAEC 5320 Agribusiness Law AGED 5340 Educational Law (Agricultural Education) NRM 4311 Wildlife Law

Rawls College of Business

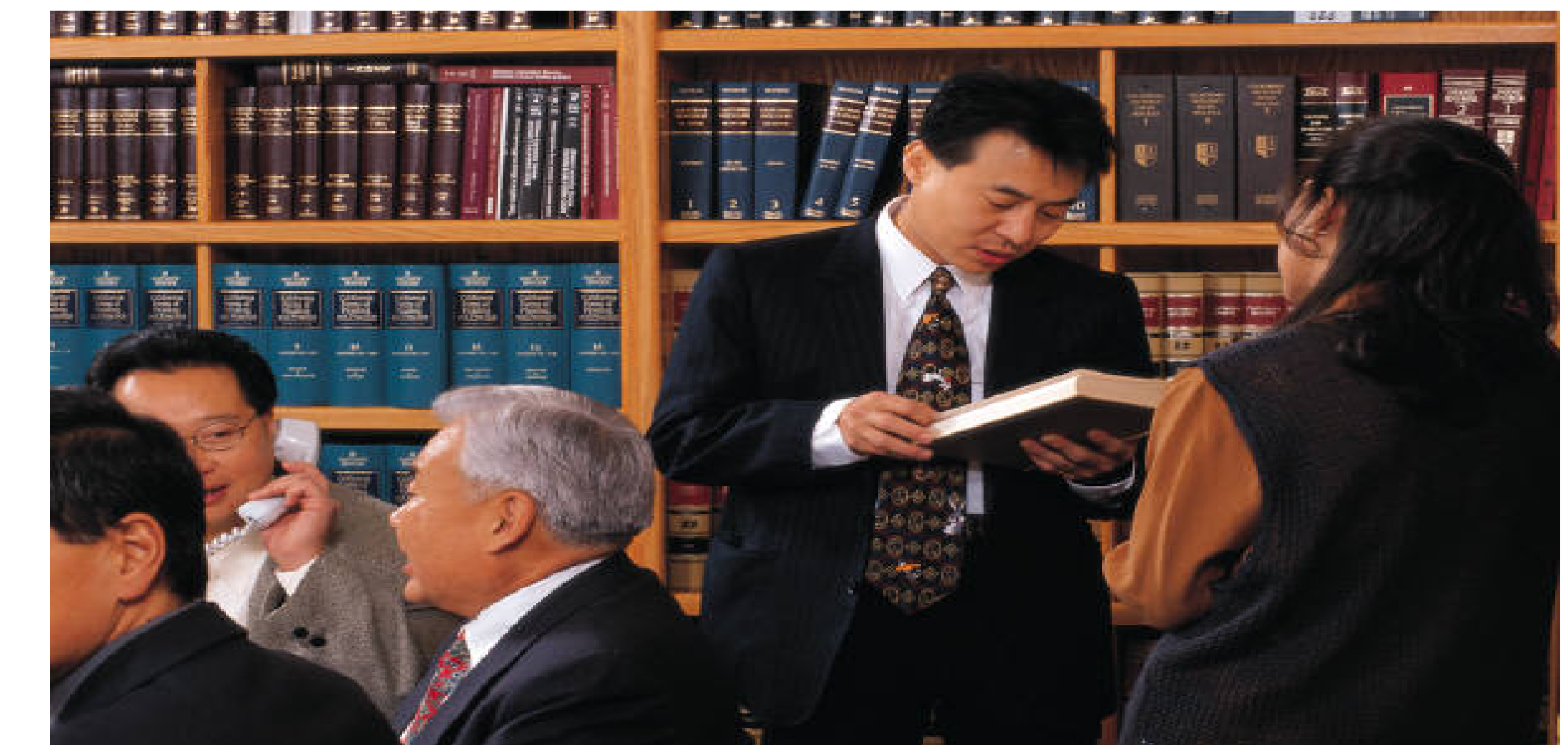
BLAW 3391 Business Law, BLAW 3393 Real Estate Law, BLAW 5290 Legal, Regulatory, and Ethical Development of Business

College – Mass Media and Communications

MCOM 3320 Mass Communications Law, MCOM 5320 Mass Communications Law,

Department of Political Science

POLS American Government, POLS 3323 Legislation, POLS 3351 The Judicial Process, POLS 3352 Constitutional Law – Powers, POLS 5325 The United States Congress



[Introduction to Library Research](#) (p. 88) (1). Designed to introduce students to life-long information literacy skills and establish the tools for effective and efficient research in a university library.

Introduction to Scholarly Research is a one-hour course designed to introduce students to lifelong information literacy skills and establish tools for effective and efficient research in a university library. Because information comes in many forms, students sometimes find the multitude of printed publications, Internet resources, and micro- form and audiovisual materials overwhelming. They need to know how to identify, find, evaluate, and use resources that are most appropriate for their assignments. Introduction to Scholarly Research has four main objectives: to present the arrangement and services of the Texas Tech University Libraries; to provide an introduction to resources and search strategies; to outline a transferable, systematic plan for critical evaluation and use of these resources in a variety of ways; and to promote the effective use of information to accomplish specific tasks. Course content (readings, quizzes, and activities) is accessed through Blackboard for onsite and distance students. Onsite students will meet for lecture and hands-on sessions.

