

Providing Legal Information at Texas Tech for Non-Law Students: 2016 Update

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



Overview

The Texas Tech University Library had taught since Fall 2009 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, there are a number of non pre-law students from all disciplines and some graduate students.

Since Fall 2016—for administrative reasons, the Legal Studies Minor section was formally dropped although most students who enroll are either Legal Studies Minor or Political Science majors.



2016 Update

- 1) Mr. Rohrig attended these TTU Law Library Excellence in Legal Research (ELR) classes: 1) Bluebook Survival Skills, 2) Federal Legislative History, and 3) Texas Statutory Material.
- 2) Mr. Rohrig added resources/information to the TTU Library LibGuides: Legal Information, Creating Your Own Opportunities: Using the University library resources to become an entrepreneur and obtain a patent (workshop), Government and Legal Information: Official and Authoritative Sources for Research (workshop). Note: We have master lists of links used in LibGuides for uniformity.
- 3) Mr. Rohrig added new law-related titles to the University Library's collections, primarily – 1) guides to finding/using legal information 2) basic law titles, e.g. The Bluebook (replaced missing copy).
- 4) All authors' awareness of legal resources and legal-related references in the news have increased. The authors are using some of these examples in both workshops they co-present, and their LIBR1100 class section.
- 5) Mr Rohrig regularly shares new knowledge with the RIO (Research, Instruction, and Outreach) department's colleagues. This summer, Mr Rohrig did a presentation on intellectual property to the Texas Tech University's 3 Day Start-up for new Entrepreneurs. Note: The person who asked me to present changed positions in Fall 2016 so Mr. Rohrig's participation in future 3 Day Start-ups is up in the air.
- 7) Mr. Rohrig believes the increased contact between the Law Library and the University Library with Mr Rohrig's ELR attendance and other activities.
- 8) Allows collaboration between the University Library and the Law Library in providing detailed instruction for pre-law and other students.
- 9) Helps the instructors to develop more in-depth legal research knowledge without being law librarians.
- 10) Increases instructor legal research expertise for the University community.
- 11) Mr. Rohrig began review of syllabi for all TTU courses involving legal information to improve legal resources for University campus patrons.

Standard Three: The information literature student evaluates the information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system.

Performance Indicator:

- 1) The information literate student summarizes the main ideas to be extracted from the information gathered.
- 2) The information literate student articulates and applies initial criteria for evaluating both the information and its sources.
- 3) The information literate student synthesizes main ideas to construct new concepts.
- 4) The information literate student compares new knowledge with prior knowledge to determine the value added, contradictions, or other unique characteristics of the information.
- 5) The information literate student determines whether the new knowledge has an impact on the individual's value system and takes steps to reconcile differences.
- 6) The information literate student validates understanding and interpretation of the information through discourse with other individuals, subject-area experts, and/or practitioners.
- 7) The information literate student determines whether the initial query should be revised.

Standard Four: The information literate student, individually or as a member of a group, uses information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.

Performance Indicators:

- 1) The information literate student applies new and prior information to the planning and creation of a particular product or performance.
- 2) The information literate student revises the development process for the product or performance.
- 3) The information literate student communicates the product or performance effectively to other.

Standard Five: The information literate student understands many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and accesses and uses information ethically and legally.

Performance indicators:

- 1) The information literate student understands many of the ethical, legal, and socio-economic issues surrounding information and information technology.
- 2) The information literate student follows laws, regulations, institutional policies, and etiquette related to the access and use of information resources.
- 3) The information literate student acknowledges the use of information sources in communicating the product or performance.

Syllabi Review (in progress)

Department/Class

Agricultural Education AGED 5340 Educational Law

Natural Resources Management NRM 4311 Wildlife Law

Economics ECO 3327 Anti-Trust Law and Economic Regulation

History HIST 3303 Introduction to Roman Law, HIST 5349 Studies in Roman Law

Exercise and Sports Sciences ESS 4359 Sport Law and Governance

Philosophy PHIL 5322 Law and Philosophy

Political Science POLS 2107 Federal and Texas Constitution, POLS 3323 Legislation
 POLS 3351 The Judicial Process, POLS 3352 Constitutional Law-Powers, POLS 3353
 Constitutional Law – Limitations, POLS 5324 The Executive, POLS 5325 The United
 States Congress, POLS 5356 Judicial Behavior
 Psychology PSY 5384 Psychology and the Law
 Sociology SOC 3327 Sociology of Law and Policing

Business BUS 5321 Negotiation and Business Law, ACCT 5306 International Taxation,
 ACCT 5307 Income Tax Accounting for Managers, ACCT 5308 Federal Income Tax
 Law for Partnerships, ACCT 5315 Estate and Gift Taxation, ACCT 5318 Income Tax
 Research and Planning, ACCT 5327 Advanced Income Taxation Accounting,
 BLAW 3381 Business Law BKAW 3393 Real Estate law, BLAW 4392 Business Law
 II, BLAW 5291 Intermediate Business Law, BLAW 5390 Legal, Regulatory, and
 Ethical Environment of Business, BLAW 5392 Advanced Business Law BLAW 4395
 Oil and Gas Law, BLAW 4396 Oil and Gas law II, BLAW 5315 International Energy
 Policy and Law.



References:

LIBR1100 [Course](#)

