
Important Legal Resources

(Yes, even in your non-law library)
A Continuation

Mark Gooch

The College of Wooster Libraries
mgooch@wooster.edu
Federal Depository Library Conference
October 16, 2001



General Legal Reference Resources

- ◆ Black's Law Dictionary
- ◆ West's Encyclopedia of American Law
- ◆ Bieber's Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations
- ◆ A current guide to legal research
 - ◆ *Fundamentals of Legal Research*--Jacobstein and Mersky (currently 7th ed.)
 - ◆ *The Process of Legal Research*--Kunz (currently 5th ed.)



Directories of Lawyers

- ◆ Martindale-Hubbell Lawyer Locator
 - ◆ <http://www.martindale.com/>
 - ◆ Search by name, location, area of practice
- ◆ West Legal Directory
 - ◆ <http://directory.findlaw.com/>
 - ◆ Part of the FindLaw site
 - ◆ Search by name, location, area of practice



Reading a Citation

Miranda v. Arizona, **384 U.S. 436**, **86 S.Ct. 1602** (1966)

- ◆ The **red** part identifies the name of the case
- ◆ The **green** shows the volume number, reporter abbreviation and page number of the case
- ◆ The **purple** indicates the parallel citation for the case
- ◆ The **blue** indicates the year of the decision

From *How to Read a Legal Citation* by Ellen M. Quinn
<http://www.law.csuohio.edu/lawlibrary/lawpubs/citation.html>



Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe

- ◆ Available in many general academic libraries
- ◆ Includes a Legal Materials Component
- ◆ Source for annotated cases and statutes
 - ◆ Citations can lead to other relevant resources
- ◆ Search for cases by legal topic
- ◆ Law review articles
 - ◆ Citations can lead to relevant cases or resources



Finding Materials in Academic Universe

- ◆ Use the Guided Search Options
- ◆ Limit terms to Headnotes or Syllabus fields for topical research
- ◆ Use Plaintiff or Defendant fields for partial case name searches
- ◆ Spacing/punctuation are important for citation searches
- ◆ [Example: search and seizure and Ohio](#)



WWW Law Sites

- ◆ FindLaw
 - ◆ <http://www.findlaw.com/>
 - ◆ Yahoo!-type directory of law sites
 - ◆ Contains a consumer-oriented section of sites
 - ◆ LawCrawler legal search engine
- ◆ WWW Virtual Library--Law
 - ◆ <http://www.law.indiana.edu/v-lib/>
 - ◆ Sites are reviewed before being included
 - ◆ Can search or browse topically



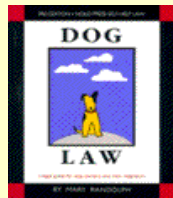
WWW Law Sites (cont.)

- ◆ LexisONE
 - ◆ <http://www.lexisone.com/>
 - ◆ Requires registration (free) to access some sections
 - ◆ Can browse topically and also by type of source
- ◆ Cornell's Legal Information Institute (LII)
 - ◆ <http://www.law.cornell.edu/index.html>
 - ◆ Good starting point for key legal materials by practice area



NOLO Press Books

- ◆ Publisher of “self-help” law books
- ◆ Are designed for Pro Se individuals
- ◆ Having trouble with the neighbor’s dog?



Thanks...

Questions?

