Researching U.S. and Illinois Law

Loyola Chicago Law School Library
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Review and analyze what you’ve been given.

Create a research plan.

Use secondary sources to find primary authority.

Cases
- Statutes
- Constitutions
- Regulations

Update
Secondary Sources

Examples:

- Dictionaries
- Encyclopedias
- Law Reviews and Journals
- Treatises (Doctrine)
- Hornbooks
- Restatements
Dictionaries

Black’s Law Dictionary

-the most consulted law dictionary in the U.S.
-now in the 10th edition
-copies available in the Law Library and also in Westlaw
Encyclopedias (National)

- **Corpus Juris Secundum** (C.J.S.) (Westlaw)

- **American Jurisprudence 2d** (Am. Jur. 2d) (Westlaw, Lexis)
Law Reviews and Journals

Electronic Versions
Westlaw
LexisNexis
HeinOnline (available in PDF)
Law Reviews and Journals

HeinOnline:

- available through the Law Library’s web page under “Databases A-Z”

- click on “Law Journal Library”

- all articles are available in PDF format
Treatises (Doctrine)

Examples: Prosser and Keeton on the Law of Torts  
Corbin on Contracts  
Moore’s Federal Practice

These are in-depth academic studies/analyses of legal topics. They can consist of one volume, or many.
Treatises (Doctrine)

Where are they found?

--Titles can be found by searching in the online catalog for all of Loyola’s libraries.

-Some are also available full text in Westlaw and Lexis, and other electronic databases.
Hornbooks

What are they?
Single volume books that contain the basic principles of an area of law.

The Law Library owns many in print. There is also an online collection in the “West Academic Study Aids Subscription.”
Restatements

The **Restatements** are a secondary resource published by **The American Law Institute** (ALI). Founded in 1923 and composed of prominent judges, attorneys, and law professors, ALI promulgates the **Restatements**, as well as model statutes and principles of law.
Restatements

Covering a variety of fields, the Restatements essentially "restate" the common law rules as they have developed over time in the majority of U.S. jurisdictions. Along with providing common law doctrines, the Restatements include commentary, hypotheticals illustrating how the rules should apply, and case summaries. The Restatements generally carry substantial weight as persuasive authority and are frequently cited.
Restatements

Available in print on the Law Library’s 3rd Floor and digital copies in HeinOnline. Also available electronically in Westlaw and LexisNexis (these include the most recent updates).
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Statutes
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Update
Primary Law: Federal Case Law

Federal court opinions (although not all from the trial level) are published in print reporters. There are official (government) and non-official (commercial) versions. The opinions are also available electronically in Westlaw, LexisNexis, Bloomberg Law and most currently on courts’ websites.

Example citations:
736 F. 2d 409 (7th Cir. 1984)
419 U.S. 345 (1974)
Federal Court of Appeals
Primary Law: Federal Case Law

Citators: You must always remember to update cases using a citator! A citator collects subsequent case citations and also tracks citations in secondary sources.

Westlaw: KeyCite
LexisNexis: Shephard’s (i.e., Shepardizing)
Primary Law: Federal Statutes

- The laws of the U.S. are codified in 50+ titles in the United States Code (U.S.C.) This is the official version that is not usually used for research purposes. A free version is available at: https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionUSCode.action?collectionCode=USCODE

- For research purposes, attorneys consult annotated versions:
  - United States Code Service (U.S.C.S.) (Lexis), or
Primary Law: Federal Regulations

The Code of Federal Regulations is available in many places.
Free:

https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/ECFR?page=browse (an electronic version that is more current than the official version—it is updated daily, but is not official)

Subscription:
Westlaw, LexisNexis (also regularly updated), HeinOnline has versions by year in PDF.
Primary Law: Illinois Case Law

Case Law:
The official opinions of the Illinois appeals courts and the Illinois Supreme Court are now only available electronically at http://www.state.il.us/court/. Most Illinois appellate and Supreme Court opinions are available in Westlaw, LexisNexis, and Bloomberg Law as well as the West print reporters, Illinois Decisions and the North Eastern Reporter.
Primary Law: Illinois Statutes

In Illinois, statutes are published in the Illinois Compiled Statutes by subject.

Free:
Primary Law: Illinois Statutes

Illinois Compiled Statutes

Two annotated versions are available in Westlaw and LexisNexis, and the print editions are shelved on the 3rd floor of the Law Library. The annotated versions are:

Smith-Hurd Illinois Compiled Statutes Annotated (West)
Illinois Compiled Statutes Annotated (Lexis)
In Illinois, there are also regulations (administrative law) issued by state agencies. These are contained in the Illinois Administrative Code.

Free Version:
http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/titles.html

Subscription: Westlaw and LexisNexis
IICLEs

IICLE stands for Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education. IICLE publishes a large series of print titles for practitioners, called IICLEs.

LUC Law students may use the electronic version of IICLEs, called *IICLE Online Library*, available under “Databases A-Z.”

Examples of titles:
- Defending DUI and Related Cases
-- Labor Law Handbook
Chicago Daily Law Bulletin

For lawyers in Chicago, there is a newspaper published on weekdays, the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, that includes local, national, and international legal news, as well as legal notices. The print version is shelved on the 3rd floor of the Law Library.

*LUC law students may sign up for free access to the electronic version at: https://store.lawbulletin.com/students
Study Aids

★ West’s **Nutshell Series**: print editions on reserve in the Law Library; electronically via LUC’s “**West Academic Study Aids Subscription**.”
Study Aids

Study Aids

🌟 https://www.cali.org/
Court Dockets

- **Bloomberg Law**

- Sign up for account here: [https://profile.bna.com/bloomberglaw-activate/](https://profile.bna.com/bloomberglaw-activate/)
Need Help?

» Electronic Research Guide for Visiting Foreign Students/Faculty: http://lawlibguides.luc.edu/c.php?g=610807

» Reference Desk Phone: 312.915.7205
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