

## RESEARCH GUIDE SERIES 3 – GENERAL LEGAL RESOURCES



### Guide #3D - USING AND UPDATING ALR

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**American Law Reports (ALR)** (KF 132 A5) published by Lawyers Cooperative/ Bancroft -Whitney, offers an encyclopedic approach to various topics, using a major case as the core about which it builds its discussions. Gathered in the annotations are references to cases from all jurisdictions, making this series a useful starting point for any type of legal research. Citations to ALR can be found in many other services printed by these publishers (Am Jur 2nd, Deering's, USCS, etc.) or by using one of its many indexes.

**Six series of ALR exist:**

ALR 1st (1919-1948), ALR 2d (1948-1965), and ALR 3d (1965-1980) all include state and federal topics to 1969, but only state topics from 1969-1980. ALR 4th (1980-1991), and ALR 5th (1992- ) cover only state topics. ALR Fed (1969- ) covers only federal topics.

Each of the series has its own index and digest. Cases found in ALR can be updated by Shepardizing the official or regional citations. Annotations found in ALR are updated differently depending on the series. ALR 1st is updated using the ALR Blue Book of Supplemental Decisions (shelved after ALR 1st,) 10 volumes with an annual pamphlet . Check each volume as they are not cumulative. ALR 2d is updated by the ALR 2d Later Case Service (shelved after ALR 2nd,) 100 volumes arranged

by original ALR 2d citation, supplemented with annual pocket parts. ALR 3-5 and ALR Fed are supplemented by annual pocket parts in each volume.

**Other ALR Tips**

The last volume of ALR Index has something called, innocuously, "Annotation History Table." Consult this! It will tell you if the ALR annotation you have has been superseded or supplemented by later annotations. In addition, the Lawyer's Co-operative Publishing editors can be helpful. They can be reached at 800-527-0430.

Notice the 3-volume Shepard's Citations for ALR (KF 132 A59 S5). This set can help you determine if a case you're using has been cited in an ALR annotation. Shepard's on line and KeyCite on Westlaw will also indicate if a case has been cited in ALR.

Notice the softcover Electronic Search Queries and West Digest Key Numbers for annotations in ALR 4th (KF 132 A54 Supp.). This set provides search queries and West key numbers for each annotation in ALR 4th. This kind of information has already been incorporated for you in ALR 5th and recent ALR Feds.

Finally, ALR is a library on both Lexis and Westlaw. If you cannot find an annotation through the indexes or

digests, you can try an electronic search query in the ALR library.

Finding an ALR annotation on point will give you a cohesive view of the law. The

annotation will give you helpful references to other Lawyer's Co-operative publications such as the Am Jur series.

**For Further Information Consult a Librarian**

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