

RESEARCH GUIDE SERIES 5 – NAVIGATING THE LAW LIBRARY



Guide 5D - FINDING LAW REVIEW & JOURNAL ARTICLES

This guide is divided into two sections. The first section addresses how you can find a law review or journal article from “scratch” – i.e. where you have a topic in mind but do not have a citation to a relevant law review article. The second section looks at how you can find the text of an article once you have a citation in hand. Each section discusses the resources available to you in print, via Lexis and Westlaw, and through other online databases.

I. Finding an Article When You Have a Topic in Mind

When you have a topic in mind, but no citation, you can find relevant articles in one of two ways. The first involves using an index, which organizes journal citations by subject. The second option is to search a law review database in an online resource like Lexis or Westlaw. Both options are discussed below.

A. Using an Index

An index is a compilation of article citations organized by subject matter. Most indexes do NOT include the full text of the articles they index. For any given topic you will instead see a list of article titles (and their citations) with, in some instances, an abstract of the article's contents. To find the full text of an article you will need to look up the article by its citation either in a book or online.

Indexes in Print

Several printed indexes exist which will provide you with article names and citations for different legal topics. For example, if you looked up the topic “Murder” in one of these indexes you would find a list of articles written about murder published during whatever time period the index covers. Most printed indexes will tell you the name of relevant articles and their citations, but will not provide you with the full text of the article itself.

All of the following indexes are located in the library's Periodicals collection. If you need help finding or using a specific index, please ask a reference librarian.

The printed indexes owned by the library include—

- (1) Index to Legal Periodicals and Books (1909-present; Books included from 1994)

The Index to Legal Periodicals indexes legal journals, periodicals and other legal publications written in English. The ILP covers the law of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. This is not a full text resource. It will provide you with the citation to relevant

articles and, in some cases, an abstract of an individual article, but it will not give you a full text document.

(2) Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals (1966-present)

The Index to Foreign Periodicals is a multi-lingual, worldwide index to law reviews, articles and other legal publications. It covers all jurisdictions except those covered by the Index to Legal Periodicals (coverage does not overlap). Like the Index to Legal Periodicals, it does not provide any full text access to the citations it indexes.

(3) Index to Periodical Articles Related to Law (1958-present)

The Index to Periodical Articles Related to Law indexes English language resources worldwide that are law related. It covers articles and publications that are not in either the Index to Legal Periodicals or the Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals.

(4) Current Index to Legal Periodicals

The Current Index to Legal Periodicals is a weekly publication that indexes law journals, articles and other law publications by topic.

Online Indexes

Online indexes provide you with the same content as the print options – article citation, title, and some abstracts – but you can search for relevant citations using your own search terms rather than looking through a fixed topic index. Indexes are available on Westlaw, Lexis and through the GGU Law Library's webpage.

(1) Legal Resource Index (LRI) & LegalTrac

LRI available on Lexis from 1977 (library and file = LAWREV;LGLIND)

LRI available on Westlaw from 1980 (database LRI)

LegalTrac, coverage from 1980, is available as a law library electronic resource.

Indexes law reviews, journals and other legal publications from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia. CSI & LegalTrac have some full text articles, but they are primarily indexes to be used for finding a relevant citation.

(2) Legal Journals Index

Available on Westlaw from 1986 (database LJI)

Indexes articles from the United Kingdom and other European countries pertaining to European Union Law and policy.

(3) Current Index to Legal Periodicals

Most recent eight issues available on Westlaw (database CILP)

The Current Index to Legal Periodicals is a weekly publication that indexes law journals, articles and other law publications by topic.

To access a Westlaw resource: Type in the index's database name into the "Search these databases" box on the main Westlaw search screen. For example, to search

the Legal Resources Index, type LRI into the "Search these databases" box to be taken to a search screen where you can then enter your search terms.

To access a Lexis resource: Type in the library and file names, separated by a semi-colon, into either the "Command Searching" link or the "Find a Source" tab. For example, to access the Legal Resources Index, type LAWREV;LGLIND into either a Command Searching box or a Find a Source by *Short Name* box. This will redirect you to a search screen where you can enter your search criteria.

To access a Law Library Electronic Resource: Go to <http://library.ggu.edu>. Click on the "Search Law Library Electronic Resources" link. Scroll down until you find the resource you are looking for and click on its link.

B. Searching an Online Database of Law Reviews and Journals

This option allows you to search the entire text of law review and journal articles for the specific search terms you enter. You can choose to search within only a specific publication – for instance, the Golden Gate University Law Review – or you can search a source which has multiple journal titles combined. Unlike using an index, the result set you get will consist entirely of full text articles. The online databases you can search in this manner include Westlaw, Lexis and Hein Online.

(1) Westlaw (Coverage varies by publication)

If you know the database identifier for the publication(s) you want to search you can enter that into the "Search these databases" box on the main screen. For example, to search journals and law reviews combined you would enter its database code, JLR, into this box and hit enter. You would then have a search screen where you could enter your terms. If you do not know the journal database you want, you can find one either by a series of clicks (as in Directory – California – Law Reviews – Golden Gate University Law Review) or by typing in the name of the journal or resource you are looking for into the "Search these databases" box. Once you are in a search screen you can use terms and connectors or natural language to locate an article.

(2) Lexis (Coverage varies by publication)

If you know the library and file abbreviations of the folder you wish to search you can enter those into either the "Command Searching" link or the "Find a Source" by Short Name tabs. For example, to search all Law reviews, CLE's and legal periodicals you would enter LEXREF;LGLPUB into either of these links to be redirected to a search screen where you could enter your own terms. If you do not know the database information, you can find one by a series of clicks. To find Golden Gate's law review, we would go to California, then click on Law Reviews, and then click on Golden Gate Law Review. Once you are in a search screen you can use terms and connectors or natural language to locate an article.

(3) Hein Online

Hein Online has an extensive law journal collection, and they tend to have many of the older articles that Lexis and Westlaw no longer carry. From the main Hein screen you will need to pick one of their collections, like Law Journal Library. Then you will click on Search and enter your search criteria.

II. Finding an Article When You Have a Citation

Once you have a law review citation you can get the full text of the article by looking the citation up in a book or online.

(1) Article in Print

To look at the article in a book, you will first want to check our online catalogue to see if we own that particular journal. If you do not recognize what the journal title is from the citation you have, look up the abbreviated name in *Bieber's Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations* (Law Reference, KF246 .B46 2000) or in the *Bluebook's* periodicals index (Open Reserve & Reference Desk, KF245 .B58 2005). For example, if I wanted the article whose citation is 3 Golden Gate U.L. Rev. 1, I would need to check and see if the library owns this title. I would go to library.ggu.edu, do a title search for Golden Gate University Law Review, and then see if the library owns volume 3 of this title. Once I see that the library does own this, I can go to the periodicals section of the library and read the full article text. If the library does not own the journal you will need to look it up online.

(2) Online Options

Electronic Format via GOLPAC: When looking a journal title up in our online catalogue, there may be a listing for the journal that says "Electronic Resource" instead of providing you with a location in the library where the material may be found. By clicking on the "Electronic Resource" link for the journal title you will be redirected to an online site that offers you the text of the journal.

Lexis: To get the article click on "Get A Document" (make sure get by citation is checked off) and enter your cite. If your citation format is different from what Lexis uses you can click on the "Citation Formats" link to see how you should be typing the citation in.

Westlaw: Enter your citation into the "Find by citation" box. If Westlaw does not use your citation format it may either tell you the proper form – if it recognizes what journal you mean – or it may give you a link to its "Publications List" where you can find the proper citation format. You can always get a link to the "Publications List" by clicking on the Find link at the top of any Westlaw screen.

Hein Online: Select Law Journal Library. You will now have a series of drop down menus along the top of your screen. You can now select the law journal you want, its volume number, and the page number.

For Further Information Consult a Librarian

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