Research Survival Skills in an American Law Library for Visiting Scholars Seeking Secondary Sources

Tove Klovning
Foreign/Comparative and International Law Librarian
& Lecturer in Law
Washington University
School of Law
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Web bio: http://law.wustl.edu/Faculty/index.asp?id=866

Note there are several hyperlinks in this .ppt. All hyperlinks have been underlined.
Topics

- Library services and policies at Washington University School of Law.
- Developing a research plan for your topic of interest.
- How to keep track during your research process.
- Locating books via the online library catalog.
- Locating books via WorldCat.
- Locating legal articles of interest.
- Staying current on your topic e-alerts and rss-feeds.
- Using KeyCite (a service in Westlaw) and Shepard’s (a service in LexisNexis) to expand your research into secondary sources.
- Google searches.
- General research survival skills for visiting scholars.
Sources of Law the USA

- **Judicial**
  - Common Law (Judge-made Law)
  - Opinions issued by Courts
- **Legislative**
  - Statutes enacted by elected bodies
  - Constitutions
  - International law – US is a monistic legal system
- **Executive**
  - Executive Orders and Directives from President
  - Rules and Regulations
Authority of law

- Primary Authority
- Secondary Authority
  - Books about the law
Research Plan

- What are your options?
- Too many: books, periodicals, web sites.
- Problem:
  - Your time constraints.
- Getting too many results.
- How do you actually research something you know nothing about?
What does our library have to offer?
Has someone done the job for you?

- The library catalog is your friend http://catalog.wustl.edu/.
- Electronic shelf browse?
Still not satisfied? Feel free to search for sources on WorldCat/FirstSearch.

Did you locate a title that seems interesting – but you are in a time crunch? Try searching for the same call number in our catalog. Use the electronic browse feature in the catalog to identify a book of interest to your.

Why? Your challenge as a visiting scholar: Time. Why wait to have a book interlibrary loaned to you - when you can find a book with a similar content in our library?

Have you ever tried searching by call number? E.g. KZ6311.I32 2007 You can also e.g. search by author or title or keyword.

It is ok to go local – then global and then back to local by doing an electronic shelf browse by the newly discovered call number of interest at ..........another library.

Try searching for the same call number in our catalog. Use the electronic browse feature in the catalog to identify a book of interest to your.

Many library catalogs provide info regarding the table of contents of the book?
Another option: Google books? Did you know that our catalog provides to Google books for many books?

Google scholar? Google uncle sam?
No time for books?

Try searching for articles on your topic by author/title/keyword search.
Your options:
- Index to Legal Periodicals (1980-current)
- Index to Legal Periodicals Retro database (goes back to 1908)
- Legal Track (1982-current)
- Index to foreign legal periodicals

Click here to access them: [http://www.law.wustl.edu/library/database/liblegal.asp](http://www.law.wustl.edu/library/database/liblegal.asp)


Subscription databases continued.

**Hein Online:** *American* Journal of International Law, *American Journal of Comparative Law* + there are International Legal Materials, and several international law journals.

[International law journals](#) (click on hyperlink).
Staying current via newspapers.

- Newspapers and blogs
- International Herald Tribune (INTLHT) (Westlaw)
- Economist, The (Westlaw and LexisNexis)
- The Wall Street Journal (abstracts only on Westlaw)
- The London Times (FILE-NAME: TTIMES) (LexisNexis) not on Westlaw?

- Newspapers and blogs via the internet E.g. BBC.com
Internet Caveats

- Anybody can post anything to the Web, it is therefore important to evaluate information with a critical eye.
- Not everything is available on the Web.
- If you don't know the source of the information, take it with two grains of salt!

(Washington University in St. Louis School of Law Library)
Zotero

- Keeping your research organized......
- Is a free, easy-to-use **Firefox extension** to help you **collect, manage, and cite** your research sources. It lives right where you do your work — in the **web browser** itself.
  - check out the audio tutorial.

HeinOnline tip of the week:

Quick start guide in other languages:
- [http://www.zotero.org/support/quick_start_guides_in_other_languages](http://www.zotero.org/support/quick_start_guides_in_other_languages)
Quick Start Guides in Other Languages

- Dutch - Nederlands
- French - Français
- German - Deutsch
- Hungarian - Magyar Nyelv
- Japanese - 日本語
- Korean - 한국어
- Polish - Polski
- Russian - Русский
- Slovenian - Slovenščina
- Spanish - Español

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Questions you need to have an answer to.

- How does Zotero store my data?
- Where did my items go?
- Where is my Zotero data?
- How do I back up my Zotero library?
- Before resolving these specific questions, it is crucial to understand some of the basics of how Zotero stores your data.

See: http://www.zotero.org/support/zotero_data
Remember: You can also make an appointment with a reference librarian, stop by my office or the reference desk – or Google a research guide on your topic.
Sources

- Research guides mentioned in this .ppt
- How to find the law / by Cohen, Berring and Olson (1989)
- Tove Klovning .ppt “Researching Foreign Legal Systems” 2004, 2008 at
  
  http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/syllabi/Klovning/Foreignlaw2008tk.ppt#432,1,%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20Researching%20the%20Law%20of%20a%20Foreign%20Country%20–%20Online%20Resources