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“Free” versus “Fee” Online Legal Research in the United States and Canada

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“Free” versus “Fee” Online Legal Research in the United States and Canada

This paper provides an overview of “free” versus “fee” online legal research in the United States and Canada. Our goal is to briefly compare “free” and “fee” resources and explore in more depth the wide variety and greatly expanding volume of free online legal research sources. We first provide some context for this overview by discussing basic techniques for conducting legal research and how these techniques are impacted when using commercial or freely available online resources. We then discuss factors affecting when a researcher might prefer or require print sources of legal information in place of or in addition to online sources. Our next topic of discussion involves the importance of evaluating information found online, especially from free sources. Before discussing the increasing amount of free legal research sources online we provide a brief overview of the content found on the major commercial online databases. Since the topic for our session is “Legal Research Fast and Free,” we focus our comments in section 5 below on free online sources of legal research in the United States and Canada. Following this, we then identify some of the issues law librarians face when helping members of the public conducting legal research using free online resources. Finally, we discuss the impact of “free” and “fee” online legal research resources on print law library collections and the factors to consider when deciding what parts of your print collection may be suitable to be discarded.

1) Basics of Legal Research

In any discussion of “free” or “fee” online legal research, it helps to remember some of the basic techniques of conducting legal research to provide a benchmark against which to evaluate the suitability or availability of online resources – to what extent do free online legal research resources allow researchers to apply these basic techniques?

All law librarians know well the mantra regularly imparted to students and lawyers when conducting legal research: “Start with secondary legal resources to get a good overview before consulting primary legal resources.” Although secondary legal resources – including books, journals, continuing legal education (CLE) papers, encyclopedias, case law digests, and reference tools – are not “official” sources of law (and hence not binding on a court), they provide a good

overview of the law and usually save a lot of time and provide links to additional material. As such, a basic legal research technique is to start with *secondary* legal resources.

We then explain the need to actually consult *primary* sources of law – legislation and case law – to determine what the “official” state of the law is and what law governs in the situation being researched (since only legislation and case law have the “force of law,” unlike what an author might say in a book). However, as most legal researchers know, researching legislation and case law can be daunting, both because primary resources are not well-organized and are also subject to constantly being updated or over-ruled. Consulting primary sources of law is therefore another basic legal research technique.

However, consulting secondary and primary resources alone is insufficient, which then leads to another basic technique: update, update, update. Whether consulting secondary or primary sources of law, the legal researcher – unless perhaps when conducting historical research – must always ensure they are consulting the most recent material available to minimize the risk of relying on out-of-date information.

How well then do these basic techniques – starting with secondary resources, consulting primary resources, and updating – work when using free online resources? As will be fleshed out in more detail below, free online legal resources are likely best for consulting primary sources of law but less useful for trying to gain a thorough overview of the law that comes from print or commercial secondary legal resources, although various online web guides and other free reference tools do provide some useful content. In addition, most free online legal resources lack some of the value-added “updating” features found in commercial online resources, such as noter-uppers (KeyCite or Shepards, to name but two commercial noter-upper services), although the quality and scope of free online legal resources continues to improve.¹

¹ For example, the noter-upper on the Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII, online: <http://www.canlii.org>) for noting up case law and legislative sections considered by courts is constantly improving and may some day be a reasonable substitute for the commercial noter-uppers in Canada.

2) **Print versus Online – When to Use Print, When to Use Online**

Until recently, researching secondary sources of law (such as books, journals and encyclopedias) had to be conducted using print resources in a law library. However, the availability of online secondary resources in the last two decades has greatly improved, albeit typically only on commercial online services and not necessarily on freely available resources. As discussed below in more detail, some of the online secondary resources available by subscription include a growing number of e-books, online journal articles and CLE papers, encyclopedias, case digests and various reference tools, with e-books perhaps being the slowest to convert to online format. Legislation and case law, however, have had a much longer history of being available online in both commercial services and freely on the Web (see section 5 below for more detail on freely available online legal research sources). As such, it is now possible to research secondary resources online (using commercial services), although researchers risk being negligent if they limit their secondary source legal research to only online resources. On the other hand, legislation and case law is well-represented online in both free and fee sources.

So, when does one need to use print resources? There are a number of scenarios where print resources may need to be consulted:

- ***Pro se litigants***: as discussed below in section 6, *pro se* litigants will often not have easy access to commercial online services, either due to cost or licensing restrictions. As such, unless they can find sufficient information using free online resources, they may have no choice but to use print resources for secondary legal resources. In many situations, it is only larger cities with courthouse or academic law libraries that may have sufficient print collections to carry out print-based research. In some situations, however, access to the general public may be restricted.
- **Older resources / books**: Despite good initiatives to digitize older law-related materials (such as the efforts of the Alberta Heritage Digitization Project² and the Ontario

² Alberta Heritage Digitization Project, “The Alberta Law Collection.” Online: <http://www.ourfutureourpast.ca/law/>. This collection digitizes most Alberta legislation from 1906 to current.

Digitization Initiative³), many digitization sites lack usable interfaces. As such, although some of this older material may be found online, it is often difficult to use online, such that some researchers may still prefer to use print resources for older materials. In addition, although an increasing number of law-related books are available on commercial services, the majority of law-related books – especially older ones – remain available only in print, as do a number of other secondary legal research sources.

- **Some Canadian legislation:** Believe it or not, some Canadian provinces still do not regard their online legislation as official, thereby technically requiring the researcher to consult and use official “Queen’s Printer” print versions of legislation (although it is reasonable to assume this will change as the smaller provinces gain confidence that their online versions are reliable).
- **Official Status of U.S. Legal Sources:** In the United States the official status of free online legal resources varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. While a significant number of state online legal resources are deemed official⁴, many are not considered “authentic”⁵ because they lack specific security characteristics that ensure their reliability and trustworthiness. Obviously, this may have a significant impact on a researcher’s decision to consult online sources or print sources. While many online sources are deemed official, print remains predominate in terms of reliability and in many jurisdictions print still serves as “the” official source.

Michigan provides free online access to the Michigan Compiled Laws (code), Supreme Court and Court of Appeals decisions, and the Michigan Administrative Code (agency rules & regulations). Of these three the only online version that is considered official is

³ Connie Crosby, “Project to Digitize Ontario Legislation ‘Going Like Gangbusters,’” SLAW.ca Blog Post (23 April 2009), online: <http://www.slaw.ca/2009/04/23/project-to-digitize-ontario-legislation-going-like-gangbusters/>.

⁴ American Association of Law Libraries, State by State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources 19 (2007), http://www.aallnet.org/aallwash/authen_rprt/AuthenFinalReport.pdf.

⁵ *Ibid.* at 20.

the Michigan Administrative Code. If a researcher wants access to an official source of the code or case law he/she would have to consult the print version of that source.⁶

The federal government via the Government Printing Office (GPO) provides access to a number of free online legal resources. None of the federal online resources has reached the status of official, but the government is making progress in ensuring the reliability and trustworthiness of its online resources. For instance, in 2009 the GPO launched the Federal Digital System (FDsys) website which “is an advanced digital system that will enable GPO to manage Government information from all three branches of the U.S. Government.”⁷ FDsys was created to provide reliable and easy access to federal legal materials and to ensure that these materials are preserved even as technology changes.⁸

3) **Evaluating Online Legal Information**

Much often rests on the quality and reliability of law-related information being researched – a person’s liberty may depend on the outcome of the research or large amounts of money may be at stake in a personal injury lawsuit or major commercial dispute. Most law librarians and well-trained lawyers are generally comfortable assessing the quality of information found in print law-related resources, in part relying on the strong editorial skills and quality control of the major legal publishers and in part deploying normal evaluative skills, including assessing the date of the materials, the extent to which additional resources or authorities are cited in the material, and so on. In theory, the same evaluative skills apply to assessing online legal information with the major difference being between commercially-published online legal information (where there will usually be more editorial control and detailed scope notes) versus free online legal information (where quality and currency may be quite variable or hard to determine).

⁶ This is a particularly vexing situation when it comes to researching the code, because the official version of the Michigan Compiled Laws has not been updated since 1979, instead the researcher is advised to consult the Michigan Public and Local Acts, which can be a cumbersome and frustrating process.

⁷ United States Government Printing Office, Federal Digital System <http://www.gpo.gov/projects/fdsysinfo.htm>.

⁸ *Ibid.*

However, it is reasonable to assume that free online environments raise special concerns not necessarily present when using only print materials. For example, the speed by which people access and use online information may make them susceptible to paying insufficient attention to quality or scope issues. Many users may not read information on the computer monitor as carefully as they might when reading from printed material. Likewise, online users might miss important disclaimers or stated limitations if they scroll too quickly or do not click through to other pages. In addition, online research may lack the normal contextual clues that readers might otherwise notice when using print materials (such as checking the bibliographic information on the verso page of a book for currency and edition information). That said, there are a number of standard criteria by which to evaluate free online law-related information:

- authorship (who authored the material?)
- accuracy and quality (does the site seem reliable?)
- purpose (does the website owner have any particular bias?), and
- scope (can you tell how current the site is and what information is included?).⁹

Another issue with using free resources for online legal research is lack of permanency or “link rot,”¹⁰ although it is sometimes possible to find pages that have disappeared using archival search engines such as the Internet Archive search engine (www.archive.org) to look for cached web pages.¹¹

⁹ For more detailed discussion on the evaluation of free online law-related sources, see Ted Tjaden, “Chapter 5: Legal Research on the Internet, Section B: Evaluating World Wide Web Information” in *Legal Research and Writing*, 3d ed. (Toronto: Irwin Law, 2010).

¹⁰ See, for example, Mary Rumsey, “Runaway Train: Problems of Permanence, Accessibility, and Stability in the Use of Web Sources in Law Review Citations” (2002) 94 *Library Law Journal* 27 and Carmine Sellitto, “The Impact of Impermanent Web-Located Citations: A Study of 123 Scholarly Conference Publications” (2005) 56 *J. of the Amer. Society for Inf. Sci. & Tech.* 695.

¹¹ Matthew Fagan, “Can You Do a Wayback on That? The Legal Community’s Use of Cached Web Pages in and out of Trial” (2007) 13 *B.U. J. Sci. & Tech. L.* 46.

4) Overview of Commercial Online Databases

Before outlining the availability of free online law-related resources, it may help to provide a broad overview of the type of content available by subscription from commercial legal publishers. The overview that follows – although by necessity brief – reinforces the notion that commercial online services have a number of advantages over free sources, including more secondary content and more value-added features. Appendix A sets out a chart containing a brief overview of the major American commercial online law-related sources,¹² with Appendix B setting out a chart containing a brief overview of the major Canadian commercial online law-related sources.¹³ From the charts, it is possible to make some broad characterizations about the types of law-related content on these commercial services:

- **Global Nature of Content on Westlaw and LexisNexis:** Although most researchers will focus on law-related content from within their own jurisdiction, it is clear, depending on license terms, that Westlaw and LexisNexis – as the two major comprehensive services¹⁴ – contain both secondary and primary resources for a number of major jurisdictions, not limited to just the United States and Canada (with there being strong content for the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and France). However, in Canada each vendor has customized their login interfaces to cater to Canadian content (e.g., on Westlaw Canada there is, depending on your subscription, an InsolvencySource tab providing quick access to Canadian bankruptcy-related primary and secondary sources and LexisNexis Canada, for example, has a tab for Canadian “PracticeArea Tabs,” which, depending on your subscription, might include specialized materials on labour law, civil litigation and the like).

¹² For a good overview of American commercial online service providers, see Mary Rumsey, “Update: A Guide to Fee-Based U. S. Legal Research Databases” (March 2010), online: http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/US_Fee-Based_Legal_Databases1.htm.

¹³ For more details on Canadian commercial online service providers, see, for example, Ted Tjaden, “Chapter 6: Legal Research Databases and CD-ROMs” in *Legal Research and Writing*, 3d ed. (Toronto: Irwin Law, 2010).

¹⁴ By comprehensive we mean that these providers have extensive content covering both primary and secondary sources of law and other news and business sources. By not including some of the other larger online vendors in this category, we are not disparaging the quality of scope of these other services, many of which are quite competitive with Westlaw and LexisNexis in terms of content, quality and service.

- **Strong Secondary Content on Westlaw and LexisNexis:** Both Westlaw and LexisNexis have strong secondary content, including e-books, full-text law journal articles, encyclopedias, case law digests and reference tools. Because both vendors are part of a larger family of publishers (Thomson Reuters and Reed Elsevier, respectively), this secondary content is quite expansive and includes content from all of the major jurisdictions (e.g., you can get selected Sweet & Maxwell U.K. books on Westlaw and *Halsbury's Laws of England* is available on LexisNexis).
- **Strong Alternative Speciality and Smaller Commercial Databases:** Both the United States and Canada have fairly healthy competition within the online legal research database industry, with a number of smaller, speciality services providing strong content. In the United States, such services include Fastcase, Loislaw, VersusLaw, HeinOnline, BNA, CCH, RIA, Courtlink, and LiveEdgar. In Canada, such services include Canada Law Book's Best Case, CCH Online, Droit civil en ligne (DCL), Maritime Law Book, Répertoire électronique de jurisprudence du Barreau (REJB), and Société québécoise d'information juridiques (SOQUIJ).
- **Strong value-added features:** Most if not all of the commercial online databases have value-added features that leverage either human/expert intervention and editing or technological solutions to add value to any raw data provided by legislatures or courts. These value-added features, most of which are not available on free online sources, include such things as noter-uppers/citators, headnotes, annotated codes, taxonomies/classification/subject headings, saved searches/alerts, and online help/training.

5) Free Online Sources of Legal Research

Although the focus of our presentation is on free online sources of legal research, we felt it important to lay the foundation by discussing basic legal research techniques, when to use print resources versus online resources, how to evaluate online information and what is available through commercial online services. With this foundation, it is now time to “kick the tires” on free online sources of legal research and law-related information. Appendix C sets out a chart containing a brief overview of the major American free online sources for legal research, with Appendix D

setting out a chart containing a brief overview of the major Canadian free online sources for legal research. The focus of our in-person presentation will be on these resources.

How good are free online sources of legal information? To what extent can a researcher use free online resources to find answers to legal questions without needing to resort to print or commercial services? Unfortunately, there is no single, obvious answer to these questions. Set out below, however, are some initial observations on the use of free online sources of legal information:

- **Increasing quantity and quality of free information:** Compared to as little as 5 to 10 years ago, there is an increasing amount of free online law-related information, with legislators and courts and the various Legal Information Institutes being some of the more prolific producers of this primary content. Likewise, law librarians, public-interest organizations and other individuals are making available online research guides and other value-added information, while not at the same level of most print-published treatises or encyclopedias, go some way in explaining or commenting on the law. In addition, the impressive growth of Wikipedia – while clearly not devoted to law-related content – has made online access to research and other information very easy.
- **Impact of Web 2.0:** In the last several years, the blogging and RSS feed phenomena has greatly increased online legal discourse and access to commentary – albeit sometimes informal commentary – on legal issues. For current awareness and identification of important case law or legislative developments, free online blogs and RSS feeds have lessened the need to rely on print newsletters or other more traditional media for lawyers to stay current. In particular, Web 2.0 has allowed easy access to various law-related “gray literature” such as law firm bulletins.¹⁵

Although we have not found too many differences in the types or quality of free online legal information between the United States and Canada, we do have a few comments on some jurisdictional differences:

¹⁵ See the custom searches of law firm websites on Fee Fie Foe Firm (<http://www.feefiefoefirm.com>) or Ted Tjaden’s Custom Google Search of Canadian Law Firm Websites, Blogs & Journals (<http://www.tinyurl.com/canadianlawfirms>).

- **Being smaller has its advantages:** The sheer size of the United States compared to Canada creates a number of advantages for American legal researchers: more competition within the legal publishing industry, more specialized products, more public interest groups and law schools creating guides, and so on. However, one advantage Canada might have as a smaller country is the convenience of CanLII for a simple, centralized search engine to search all current Canadian federal and provincial/territorial legislation and all recent federal and provincial/territorial case law in a single search (with a search that includes a basic noter-upper). Aside from services such as LexisOne,¹⁶ there really is no free equivalent to CanLII in the United States that provides a “clearinghouse” search of all federal and state primary sources of law including a noter-upper.
- **Canada’s CanLII is financially supported by all lawyers:** all lawyers in Canada contribute to CanLII through their law society memberships via the Federation of Law Societies of Canada.¹⁷ By comparison, the Legal Information Institute at Cornell University Law School launches an annual campaign to raise donations in addition to seeking sponsorship.¹⁸
- **Canada is sometimes technologically poor:** Many American researchers are (rightfully) shocked that no Canadian court currently provides desktop access to court-filed documents with there being no Canadian equivalent of PACER¹⁹ or free access to court-filed papers.²⁰

Expect to see a growth in: (i) the availability for free online older law-related material that has been digitized from print sources, (ii) better search options (such as the recent addition by Google Scholar to search for cases and journal articles) and (iii) law-related commentary on blogs.

¹⁶ LexisOne, online: <http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/>.

¹⁷ See CanLII, “About CanLII,” Online: <http://www.canlii.org/en/info/about.html>.

¹⁸ See Cornell University Law School, Legal Information Institute, “Support LII,” Online: http://topics.law.cornell.edu/lii/support_lii.

¹⁹ Westlaw Canada’s Litigator database (<http://www.litigatoronline.ca>) provides court-filed pleadings and facta (briefs) for selected cases and the Plumitifs service provided by the Société québécoise d’information juridiques (SOQUIJ) provides access to Quebec court (and municipal) dockets.

²⁰ The Supreme Court of Canada and the Federal Court of Canada both now provide free “docket” information online but this only tells you which documents have been filed and does not give access to the actual court-filed documents.

6) Issues Helping *Pro Se* Litigants Conducting Free Online Legal Research

The challenge law librarians face when trying to help *pro se* (unrepresented) litigants has been well-documented in the legal literature.²¹ Clearly, these challenges have existed for some time, well before the advent of online legal research resources. Issues that law librarians face when unrepresented litigants ask for research help range from one of liability and not wanting to be seen as the person's lawyer to one of the time involved to properly help someone untrained in legal research. With the advent of commercial online legal research databases in the 1970's and beyond came the issue for *pro se* litigants of unequal access to the law to the extent that most *pro se* litigants did not have access to these commercial services and most academic and courthouse library subscriptions did not allow use for unlicensed users. Clearly, the Internet has levelled the playing field somewhat with relatively ubiquitous access to the Internet for most citizens.

However, as discussed elsewhere in this paper, conducting legal research using free Internet resources does not yet provide the same level of access to information provided to someone with access to good print and commercial online sources. In addition, to the extent that *pro se* law library users are more likely to use free Internet legal resources, this reintroduces the challenges identified above facing the law librarian, including the possible need to educate the self-represented researcher on the limitations of free Internet legal resources (to avoid potential liability) and the added time required if the law librarian is to spend the proper amount of time to help the *pro se* litigant with his or her free online legal research. Arguably, however, many *pro se* litigants conducting their own online legal research using free resources may increasingly be doing so on their own at home, without relying on a law librarian or going to a law library to conduct the search. While this eliminates the liability and time pressures on law librarians, it does raise the question of whether *pro se* litigants – on their own at home on the Internet – will have their information needs

²¹ Paul D. Healey, *Professional Liability Issues for Librarians and Information Professionals* (New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2008); Benjamin R. Dryden, "Technological Leaps and Bounds: *Pro Se* Prisoner Litigation in the Internet Age" (2008) 10 J. of Const. Law 819; John Cannan, "Muddying the Already Murky Waters of Law Librarian Liability – Are Public Law Librarians Immune from Suit?" (2007) 99 Law Lib. J. 7; Paul D. Healey, "*Pro Se* Users, Reference Liability, and the Unauthorized Practice of Law: Twenty-Five Selected Readings" (2002) 94 Law Lib. J. 133; Ronald W. Staudt & Paula L. Hannaford-Agor, "Access to Justice for the Self-Represented Litigant: An Interdisciplinary Investigation by Designers and Lawyers" (2002) 52 Syracuse Law Rev. 1017; Charles J. Condon, "How to Avoid the Unauthorized Practice of Law at the Reference Desk" (2001) 19 Legal Ref. Services Quarterly 165; Paul D. Healey, "In Search of the Delicate Balance: Legal and Ethical Questions in Assisting the *Pro Se* Patron" (1998) 90 Law Lib. J. 129; and Robert T. Begg, "The Reference Librarian and the *Pro Se* Patron" (1976) 69 Law Lib. J. 26.

met. This increases the importance of good online legal research guides from government and the private sector that properly explain a person's rights or options when facing legal issues, including traffic offences, landlord and tenant disputes, and family law disputes.

7) **The Shrinking Print Collection – What to Do?**

To what extent have free online legal research resources allowed law libraries to cancel and discard print materials? The answer to this might depend in part on the type of law library. To the extent that academic, bar/law society and courthouse law libraries are willing and able to maintain strong “just in case” research libraries that maintain print resources for posterity, this makes it easier for private law firm law librarians to discard print materials knowing that – in addition to any online equivalents – a local academic, bar/law society or courthouse law library has the print equivalent. However, given the budgeting pressure faced by all types of law libraries, this ideal scenario of major public or quasi-public law libraries maintaining strong print collections may be more fantasy than reality.

After considering the type of law library, one might also next consider the availability of commercial online law-related resources. As mentioned elsewhere in this paper, most commercial online services provide much more extensive material with strong editorial content. To the extent that a law library has access to the commercial databases (especially private law libraries), it makes it that much easier to discard print materials where there are exact or close-equivalents of the print resources online. Here are but a few examples of titles that law libraries might choose to cancel in favour of the online equivalent (realizing of course that such cancellations do not automatically result in an overall cost-savings):

- **Books:**
 - **Westlaw / LexisNexis:** There are various West-authored treatises available on Westlaw or Westlaw Canada (e.g., *Williston on Contracts*, *Secured Transactions in Personal Property in Canada*); likewise, LexisNexis also provides a number of treaties and online textbooks (e.g., Moore's *Federal Practice*, 3d ed, or Angela Swan's *Canadian Contract Law*, 2d ed.). Although these online versions tend not to

be directly (PDF) equivalents, they do offer other advantages such as keyword searchability, table of contents browsing and hypertext linking.

- **e-book collections:** In Canada, Carswell is “experimenting” by providing an option for access to e-book versions of certain of its looseleaf titles through its reference library (e.g., Harris’s *Wrongful Dismissal* is available as an e-book).²² Likewise, Irwin Law is offering its suite of books available on a stand-alone e-Library subscription.²³ In Michigan, the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) provides electronic access to 48 of its most popular practice manuals. This service is relatively new, so it’s difficult to say how it will impact the print versions of ICLE’s practice manuals, but given what we’ve seen with other online sources it’s probably safe to say the print usage will decrease and electronic access will increase.
- **Journals:**
 - To the extent that a law library has subscriptions to both HeinOnline (for archival copies of journals) and either or both Westlaw or LexisNexis (for current journal titles embargoed on HeinOnline), there is increasingly less need for (at least, private) law libraries to maintain print journal collections.
- **Encyclopedias and Case Law Digests:**
 - Since law-related encyclopedias and case law digests are typically not read from cover-to-cover in the same way that a book is, these resources are prime candidates for use in electronic format where keyword searching and hypertext-ability make them more functional as online products. Most major encyclopedias and case law digests in both jurisdictions have online equivalents and are therefore good candidates to be cancelled in print.

²² Carswell eReference Library (<http://www.carswell.com/ereference/>).

²³ Irwin Law, “Irwin Law E-Library Now Available” (21 December 2009) (<http://www.irwinlaw.com/posts/2009/12/irwin-law-e-library-now-available>).

- **Legislation:**

- Although United States legislators have been ahead of their counterparts in many ways on making their legislation available online, both countries offer good free access to online legislation, thereby lessening the need to subscribe to print versions of statutes or regulations. However, until archival/historical online versions of legislation become more widely available, most libraries will continue to need to maintain their older legislation in print. The other drawback of using free online sources for statutory research is that the free websites do not include annotations like the commercial versions. This is a significant shortcoming of the free websites as case law is an essential component to understanding and interpreting U.S. statutory law.

- **Case law:**

- There are numerous examples of free and fee-based online sources of case law that lessen the need for law libraries to maintain extensive case law reporter collections in print. In some situations, such as the *English Reports* on HeinOnline, the *Law Reports* on Justis.com, the *Dominion Law Reports* on BestCase or a Westlaw national reporter decision, the online version includes a PDF version of the printed case. In other situations, most courts now consistently number their paragraphs making citation to online decisions easier. As such, many law libraries – especially private law libraries – are or will be cancelling case law reporters in print.

- **Court systems:**²⁴

- In the United States there is the federal court system and there are state court systems; both of which have trial courts and courts of appeal.²⁵ In the federal court system, trials are heard in the district courts which are courts of original jurisdiction.

²⁴ See *Outline of the U.S. Legal System* at <http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/books/legalotln.pdf> for a detailed discussion of the federal and state legal systems.

²⁵ For a more detailed discussion of the U.S. federal and state court systems see *Understanding Federal and State Courts* at http://www.uscourts.gov/outreach/resources/fedstate_lessonplan.htm.

Bankruptcy courts are subdivisions of federal district courts. Every state has at least one federal district court. The federal courts hear cases which involve a federal question of law or diversity actions in which the parties are residents of different states. Appeals from the district courts are made to the federal circuit courts. There are twelve circuits in the United States, including eleven numbered circuits and the Circuit for the District of Columbia. There is also the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit which has jurisdiction over specialized cases such as those involving patent law, and over cases coming from the Court of Federal Claims and the Court of International Trade (trial level courts which have national jurisdiction). A very few cases are heard by the U.S. Supreme Court which is the court of last resort. Federal appellate and Supreme Court opinions can be searched through Findlaw's Cases & Codes. Both appellate and district court cases and court records can be researched using PACER, which is fee based but quite inexpensive. The U.S. Supreme Court posts opinions and court documents to its official site.

- There is a separate system of Tribal Courts which is not addressed in this paper. Please see the *Tribal Court System Clearinghouse*, a website of the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, for information on the justice systems of the Tribal nations of the United States.²⁶
- In the United States, the state court structure can differ dramatically from state to state. In Michigan, there are courts of general and limited trial jurisdiction and an appellate system which includes intermediate courts of appeal and the Supreme Court of Michigan.²⁷ The district trial courts, which have limited jurisdiction, preside over certain misdemeanour crimes and civil suits where damages sought are under \$25,000.00.²⁸ Traffic courts, landlord-tenant courts, and small claims courts (claims less than \$3000.00) are subdivisions of district courts. At the state level, circuit courts are the trial courts of general jurisdiction. Circuit courts generally

²⁶ See Tribal Court Clearinghouse, online: <http://www.tribal-institute.org/lists/justice.htm>.

²⁷ See <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/other/OrgChart.pdf> for a chart of the Michigan court system.

²⁸ See <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/trial.htm> for a directory of Michigan trial courts.

exercise trial jurisdiction over criminal matters involving felonies, and civil matters involving damages in excess of \$25,000.00. Divisions of the circuit courts also hear family matters (e.g. divorce), and matters involving juvenile defendants. Probate courts have jurisdiction over matters involving wills, estates, and legally protected individuals. They also preside over certain juvenile delinquency matters. In Michigan, the Grosse Pointes (Wayne County) have retained municipal courts which preside over matters similar to those handled by district courts. There is also a Michigan Court of Claims which has exclusive jurisdiction over most claims against the State of Michigan or one of its agencies.²⁹

- In New York, the Unified Court System is divided into a civil court system and criminal court system. Both the criminal and civil court systems have Courts of Original Instance which are trial courts. Courts of Original Instance include the supreme courts, which has jurisdiction over matters similar to those heard by the circuit courts in Michigan. New York's court system also includes district courts, county courts, city courts, town courts and village courts. This system is both intricate and expansive with over 1300 town and village courts alone. There is also a New York City Criminal Court and a New York City Civil Court. Orders of these courts may be appealed to the Intermediate Appellate Court system. The state high court for both criminal and civil cases is the New York State Court of Appeals.³⁰

- **Citators/Shepard's (U.S.):**

- A significant number of libraries in the United States have cancelled their print subscriptions to Shepard's Citations in favor of electronic citators.³¹ This is no surprise given the fact that electronic citators (the two best known being Shepard's and KeyCite) are updated immediately, are easier to use than print and results can be manipulated in ways unheard of in print. While electronic citators have profound

²⁹For a more detailed overview of the Michigan court system see <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/selfhelp/intro/court.htm>.

³⁰ See <http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/structure.shtml> for a map of the New York state court system.

³¹ Amanda M. Runyon, "The Effect of Economics and Electronic Resources on the Traditional Law Library Print Collection" (2009) 101 L. Lib. J. 177, 194-5.

advantages over print, they are only offered through subscription services and no free online option is available. Unfortunately, researchers who do not have access to one of the commercial services are at a distinct disadvantage in terms of completing their research through the use of a citator.

8) Conclusions

Freely available law-related resources on the Internet continue to flourish, with primary sources of law (legislation and case law) being predominant, with online secondary resources (such as books, journals, encyclopedias and other commentary) ordinarily being licensed content on commercial databases by subscription. However, the advent of Web 2.0 technologies such as blogs and RSS have drastically changed current awareness of the law, and along with efforts by various groups and institutions to make explanations of the law available online (or where to find the law in the form of online guides), the free Internet is increasingly an excellent source for conducting legal research.

9) Bibliography of Research Guides

Set out below are various “free” and “fee” legal research guides for the United States and Canada:

United States: Free Legal Research Guides / Legal Research Websites

- America.gov. *Outline of the U.S. Legal System*
<http://www.america.gov/publications/books/outline-of-u.s.-legal-system>
- Bacal, Glenn S. *Bacal's Internet Legal Research Guide*
<http://www.ali-aba.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=publications.bacal>
- Cornell University Law School. *Michigan Legal Materials*
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/states/michigan.html>
- Cornell University Law School. *New York Legal Materials*
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/states/ny.html>
- Georgetown University Law Center. Georgetown Law Library. *Michigan Resources*
<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/states/michigan.cfm>
- Georgetown University Law Center. Georgetown Law Library. *New York Resources*
<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/states/newyork-in-depth.cfm>
- Dames, David. *New York City Legal Research*
http://law.hofstra.edu/pdf/Library/library_guide_nycresearch.pdf
- Lillian Goldman Law Library, Yale University. *Legal Research Sources: the basics*
<http://www.law.yale.edu/library/WebFiles/PDFs/introduction.pdf> (targeted at the Yale community, but gives a very good overview of the American legal system)
- New York Law School. *Guide to New York Legal Research*
http://www.nyls.edu/library/research_tools_and_sources/guide_to_ny_legal_research
- Pace Law School. *New York State Resources*
http://law.hofstra.edu/pdf/Library/library_guide_nycresearch.pdf
- Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan. *Legal Research Links*.
<http://www.michiganprosecutor.org/LinkSrch.htm>
- Rutgers Law Library, Newark NJ. *New York Law Research Guide* <http://law-library.rutgers.edu/resources/nyresearch.php>
- Walsh, Ardena. *Michigan Major Web Resources*
http://www.cooley.edu/library/research_guides/Michigan_Web_Resources.pdf

United States: Commercial Legal Research Resources

- Barkan, Steven M. et al. *Barkan, Mersky and Dunn's Fundamentals of Legal Research*. 9th ed. Westbury, NY: Foundation Press, 2009.
- Berring, Robert C. & Elizabeth Edinger. *Finding the Law*. 12th ed. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 2005.
- Cohen, Morris L. & Kent Olsen. *Legal Research in a Nutshell*. 9th ed. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 2007.
- Collins, Lauren M., et al. *Internet Strategies for Legal Professionals*. Eau Claire, WI: National Business Institute, Inc., 2006. [Course materials from a presentation given by five Michigan librarians.] Pub. # 32228; NBI's telephone number: (800)777-8707
- Elias, Stephen & Susan Levinkind. *Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law*. 15th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2009.
- Gordon, Stacey L. *Online Legal Research: A Guide to Legal Research Services and Other Internet Tools*. William S. Hein & Co.: Buffalo, NY, 2003.
- Hazelton, Penny A. *Specialized Legal Research*. Austin, TX: Wolters Kluwer Law & Business, 1987-.
- Kunz, Christina et al. *The Process of Legal Research*. 7th ed. New York: Aspen Law & Business, 2008.
- Levitt, Carole A. & Mark E. Rosch. *The Cybersleuth's Guide to the Internet: Conducting Effective Investigative & Legal Research on the Internet*, 10th ed. Culver City, CA: Internet for Lawyers, 2009. <http://netforlawyers.com>
- Manz, William H., Ellen M. Gibson, Karen L. Spence. *Gibson's New York Legal Research Guide*. 3d ed. Buffalo, NY: William S. Hein & Co., 2004. (Search Google Books for free online content.)
- Schmedemann, Deborah A. & Christina L. Kunz. *Synthesis: Legal Reading, Reasoning and Writing*. 3d ed. Aspen Law & Business, 2007.

Canada: Free Legal Research Guides / Legal Research Websites

- Appleby, Eric. *Legal Research Guide to Statutes 2007*. Fredericton, NB: Maritime Law Book Ltd., 2007.
Online: <http://www.mlb.nb.ca/site/ffiles/statute.pdf>.
- BC Courthouse Library:
<http://www.courthouselibrary.ca> (various guides)

- Best Guide to Canadian Legal Research:
<http://www.legalresearch.org>
- Bibliothèque de droit Michel-Bastarache: Legal Research Guides:
<http://www.umoncton.ca/umcm-bibliotheque-droit/node/97>
- Bora Laskin Law Library: Research Guides:
<http://www.law-lib.utoronto.ca/resources/locate/finding.htm>
- Law Society of Upper Canada: Legal Research Guides:
http://rc.lsuc.on.ca/library/research_guides.htm
- Lederman Law Library (Queen's): Legal Research Guides:
<http://library.queensu.ca/law/>
- Osgoode Hall Law School Library (York University):
http://library.osgoode.yorku.ca/res_guides.html
- Tjaden, Ted. "Canadian Top 40: What You Need to Know About Canada's Legal System" (March 2005) AALL Spectrum 10. Online:
http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_sp0503/pub_sp0503_Top.pdf.
- Tjaden, Ted. "Doing Legal Research in Canada" (April 2008) LLRX.com. Online:
<http://www.llrx.com/features/ca.htm>.
- Tjaden, Ted. "Researching Canadian Law" (Sept/Oct 2007) GlobaLex (NYU). Online:
<http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Canada1.htm>.

Canada: Commercial Legal Research Resources

Banks, Margaret. *Using a Law Library: Canadian Guide to Legal Research*. 6th ed. Toronto: Carswell, 1994.

Beaulac, Stéphane, ed. *Legal Style Guide / Guide de style juridique*. Markham, ON: LexisNexis, 2006.

Crosby, Connie. *Practicing Safe Research*, Aurora, ON: Canada Law Book, 2009.

Fish, Bonnie. *Fish on Legal Research*. Aurora, ON: Canada Law Book, 2010 (DVD).

Fitzgerald, Maureen F. (with Melinda Renner). *Legal Problem Solving: Reasoning, Research and Writing*. 4th ed. Toronto: Butterworths, 2007.

Gordon, Suzanne & Sherifa Elkhadem. *The Law Workbook: Developing Skills for Legal Research and Writing*. Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2001.

Kerr, Margaret et al. *Legal Research: Step by Step*. 3d ed. Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2009.

- Lafond, Pierre-Claude & Philippe Samson. *Techniques de repérage des sources documentaires du droit: guide pratique*. 3e éd. Cowansville, QC: Éditions Y. Blais, 2004.
- Lemay, Denis. *The Civil Code of Québec in Chart Form*. Montréal: Wilson & Lafleur, 2006.
- Lemay, Denis & John Eaton. *Essential Sources of Canadian Law / Les références essentielles en droit canadien*. Toronto: Irwin Law, 2009.
- Lemay, Denis et al. *La recherche documentaire en droit*. 6e éd. Montréal: Wilson & Lafleur, 2008.
- MacEllven, Douglass et al. *Legal Research Handbook*. With special assistance by Denis LeMay. 5th ed. Toronto: Butterworths, 2003.
- McCallum, Margaret et al. *Synthesis: Legal Reading, Reasoning and Writing in Canada*. 2d ed. Toronto: CCH Canadian, 2008.
- McCormack, Nancy, John Papadopoulos, & Catherine Cotter. *The Practical Guide to Canadian Legal Research*. 3d ed. Scarborough, ON: Carswell, 2010.
- Tjaden, Ted. *Legal Research and Writing*. 3d ed. Toronto: Irwin Law, 2010.
- Yogis, John A. & Innis M. Christie. By Michael J. Iosipescu & Michael E. Deturbride. *Legal Writing and Research Manual*. 6th ed. Toronto: Butterworths, 2004.
- Zivanovic, Aleksandra. *Guide to Electronic Legal Research*. 2d ed. Toronto: Butterworths, 2002.

10) Appendices

The attached Appendices contain charts providing information and links relating to major legal research sources:

- Appendix A: Chart of the Major American Commercial Online Law-Related Sources
- Appendix B: Chart of the Major Canadian Commercial Online Law-Related Sources
- Appendix C: Chart of the Major American Free Online Sources for Legal Research
- Appendix D: Chart of the Major Canadian Free Online Sources for Legal Research

Appendix A: Chart of the Major American Commercial Online Law-Related Sources

Content/Resource	Westlaw	LexisNexis
Books/Commentary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various Thomson Reuters/West federal & state specific treatises, depending on subscription (e.g. <i>Federal Practice & Procedure</i> (Wright & Miller); <i>Michigan Pleading and Practice</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various LexisNexis & Matthew Bender federal & state specific treatises depending on subscription (e.g. <i>Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law</i>; <i>Chisum on Patents</i>; <i>New York Employment Law</i>, 2d ed.)
Journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law reviews & journals database, newsletters & legal newspapers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law reviews & journals database; U.S. & Canadian Law Reviews; Bar journals <i>Legal Resource Index</i>
CLE papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALI-ABA, Practicing Law Institute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALI-ABA, National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) & some state specific CLE materials
Encyclopedias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>American Jurisprudence 2d</i>; <i>American Law Reports</i>; <i>Corpus Juris Secundum</i> & several state specific Encyclopedias 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>American Jurisprudence 2d</i>; <i>American Law Reports</i> & several state specific Encyclopaedias
Case Law Digests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topical & headnote searches; West's topic & key number system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topical & headnote searches
Reference Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Profiles of attorneys, judges & expert witnesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Martindale-Hubbell</i>; <i>CIS Index Legislative History</i>
Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal & state codes, including <i>United States Code Annotated</i> & <i>Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal & state codes, including <i>United States Code Service</i> & <i>Michigan Compiled Laws Service</i>
Case Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All federal & state case law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All federal & state case law
Administrative Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Code of Federal Regulations</i>; <i>Federal Register</i> & Agency Decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Code of Federal Regulations</i>; <i>Federal Register</i> & Agency Decisions
News/Business Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive news coverage & company & financial information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive news coverage & company & financial information

This is a basic overview of the sources available in Westlaw & LexisNexis, obviously access to any of these sources is dependent upon subscription terms.

The following other American legal publishers provide by subscription various law-related content:

- **Fastcase:** Libraries include primary law from all 50 states, as well as deep federal coverage going back to 1 U.S. 1, 1 F.2d 1, 1 F.Supp. 1, and 1 B.R. 1. The Fastcase collection includes cases, statutes, regulations, court rules, and constitutions.
- **Loislaw:** Offers a powerful, one-source digital gateway to primary law, public records, treatises and legal forms.
- **VersusLaw:** Three different plans, complete library directory is available online at: <http://www.versuslaw.com/help/library/LibCatProfessional.aspx>
- **HeinOnline:** Best known for its law journal library, it also includes primary federal law, English Reports, treaties, compiled legislative histories & more. Most materials are available in PDF.
- **BNA:** Includes treatises and newsletters on various legal topics, including the well known & respected United States Law Week.
- **CCH:** Tax treatises & primary documents.
- **RIA:** Tax treatises and primary documents.
- **Courtlink:** Provides access to pending litigation and statistical analysis.

Appendix B: Chart of the Major Canadian Commercial Online Law-Related Sources

Content/Resource	Westlaw Canada	LexisNexis Canada
Books/Commentary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various Carswell-authored treatises, depending on subscription (e.g., <i>Waters' Law of Trusts in Canada</i>, 3d) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various LexisNexis Canada-authored treatises, depending on subscription (e.g., Castel & Walker, <i>Canadian Conflict of Laws</i>)
Journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Reports Articles and Journals database • <i>Index to Canadian Legal Literature</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Legal Journals • <i>Index to Canadian Legal Literature</i>
CLE papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None but case comments from Carswell case law reporters available online 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Legal Symposia Index
Encyclopedias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Canadian Encyclopedic Digest</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Halsbury's Laws of Canada</i> (in stages)
Case Law Digests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Canadian Abridgment Case Digests</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Digests
Reference Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words and Phrases • Statute/Rules Concordance for family law, PPSA, civil procedure and securities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Legal Words and Phrases
Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All statutes, over 2,500 regulations; rules of court 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All statutes, regulations; rules of court
Case Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive court coverage • Litigator subscription includes court-filed pleadings and facta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive court coverage • Extensive administrative tribunal coverage
News/Business Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive newspaper coverage • Separate Westlaw Business subscription provides access to SEDAR, EDGAR and other business content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive newspaper coverage, including <i>The Lawyer's Weekly</i>

The following other Canadian legal publishers provide by subscription various law-related content:

- **Canada Law Book:** Includes various e-books, online law journals and case law through new BestCase service, described on its website as containing:
 - A comprehensive collection of unreported decisions from across the country
 - Canadian Criminal Cases – since 1898
 - Dominion Law Reports – since 1912
 - Labour Arbitration Cases – since 1948
 - Land Compensation Reports – since 1971
 - Ontario Municipal Board Reports – since 1972
 - All-Canada Weekly Summaries – case summaries for decisions since 1977
 - Canadian Labour Arbitration Summaries– case summaries for decisions since 1986
 - Weekly Criminal Bulletin – case summaries for decisions since 1977
 - Canada Law Book’s Western Digest Services – case summaries for decisions since 1971
- **CCH Canada:**
 - **CCH Online:** Provides online access to CCH tax, legal, business and financial content, depending on your subscription. Includes browsing and searching options and a news tracking feature.
 - **Canadian Legislative Pulse:** Tracks federal and provincial legislative changes including bills, statute amendments, and regulations.
- **Droit civil en ligne (DCL)** (Editions Yvon Blais / Thomson Reuters): Provides access to Quebec civil law commentary, legislation and case law.
- **Maritime Law Book:** The publisher of 14 law reporters for all of Canada (except Quebec). Makes its reports available online by subscription. Uses its National Reporter Key-number System to organize cases topically. Makes raw judgments available for free.
- **Répertoire électronique de jurisprudence du Barreau (REJB):** Provides legislation, case law and CLE articles of interest to Quebec lawyers.
- **Société québécoise d'information juridiques (SOQUIJ):** Provides access to decisions from the judicial and administrative tribunals of the Province of Québec. The Plumitifs service provides online access to Quebec court and municipal dockets. Includes case summaries and weekly newsletters.

Appendix C: Chart of the Major American Free Online Sources for Legal Research

Content/Resource	Website
Books/Commentary	<p>American Legal Publishers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LexisNexis Group • West Group • Wolters Kluwer (CCH, Aspen) • AALL Legal Publishers List • AALL List of Independent Legal Publishers • American Lawyer Media (ALM) • BNA Books • CCH • Juris Publishing
Journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google Scholar Advanced (Legal Opinions & Journals) http://scholar.google.com/advanced_scholar_search • ABA Legal Technology Resource Center - Free Full-text Online Law Review/Law Journal Search Engine http://www.abanet.org/tech/ltrc/lawreviewsearch.html • American Legal Sources Online (ALSO) http://www.lawsourc.com/also/ (not all of the links work, but still worth looking at – provides information pages on the individual states): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Michigan: http://www.lawsourc.com/also/usa.cgi?mi ▪ New York: http://www.lawsourc.com/also/usa.cgi?ny • Social Science Research Network (SSRN) http://www.ssrn.com

<p>CLE papers, seminars</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The People’s Law School (New York State Bar Association): http://www.nysba.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Public_Resources&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=33123
<p>Encyclopedias</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michigan – N/A • Cornell LII Wex: http://topics.law.cornell.edu/wex
<p>Case Law Digests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michigan Appellate Digest: http://coa.courts.mi.gov/Digest/DigestLaunchPage.jsp
<p>Reference Tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Dictionaries: http://dictionary.law.com/ ; http://dictionary.lp.findlaw.com/ • Martindale-Hubbell directory: http://www.martindale.com/ • Michigan Uniform System of Citation: http://coa.courts.mi.gov/rules/documents/9MichiganUniformSystemofCitation.pdf • Thomas M. Cooley Research Guide/ Legal Citations: http://www.cooley.edu/library/research_guides/Legal_Citations.pdf <p>Blogs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Librarian Blog: http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/law_librarian_blog/ • ABA Journal Blawg Directory: http://www.abajournal.com/blawgs/ • Blawg: http://www.blawg.com • Justia Blog Search: http://blawgsearch.justia.com/blogs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Library Blogs (AALL Computing Services SIS): http://aallassis.pbworks.com/Law-Library-Blogs • USLaw.com Law Blog Directory: http://www.uslaw.com/law_blogs
<p>Legislation</p>	<p>Federal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornell LII U.S. Code: http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/ • Findlaw U.S. Code: http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/ • Thomas: http://thomas.loc.gov/ <p>State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findlaw, MI: http://www.findlaw.com/11stategov/mi/index.html • Findlaw, NY: http://www.findlaw.com/11stategov/ny/index.html • SA: Findlaw Cases and Codes: http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/ • Michigan Legislature Website: http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(wc4ywt55ckpo41r2zagc5qid))/mileg.aspx?page=home • New York State Assembly Website: http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/
<p>Case Law</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LexisOne, online: http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/. <p>Federal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United States Supreme Court: http://www.supremecourt.gov/Default.aspx • Findlaw U.S. Supreme Court Center: http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/ • Google Scholar – Legal Opinions: http://scholar.google.com/schhp?hl=en&tab=ws • Pacer: http://www.uscourts.gov/ • U.S. Courts: http://www.uscourts.gov/ • SCOTUSBlog: http://www.scotusblog.com/

	<p>State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findlaw, MI: http://www.findlaw.com/11stategov/mi/index.html • Findlaw, NY: http://www.findlaw.com/11stategov/ny/index.html • SA: Findlaw Cases and Codes: http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/ • Google Scholar Advanced (Legal Opinions & Journals), Michigan Court Opinions Website • Michigan Court Opinions: http://coa.courts.mi.gov/resources/opinions.htm • New York Reporter: http://government.westlaw.com/nyofficial/search/default.asp (Westlaw search capability)
<p>Administrative Law</p>	<p>Federal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e-CFR: http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=%2Findex.tpl • Federal Register: http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html • United States Agencies: http://www.usa.gov/Agencies/Federal/All_Agencies/index.shtml • LSU Libraries – Federal Agency Directory: http://www.lib.lsu.edu/gov/index.html
<p>News/Business Sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LegalNews.com (links to local legal newspapers): http://www.legalnews.com/ • Michigan Lawyers Weekly: http://www.milawyersweekly.com/ • Michigan Legal News: http://www.michiganlegalnews.com/ • New York Law Journal: http://www.law.com/jsp/nylj/index.jsp • New York Law News: http://www.newyorklegalnews.com/ • USNPL Michigan (links to local online newspapers): http://www.usnpl.com/minews.php • USNPL New York (links to local online newspapers): http://www.usnpl.com/nynews.php

Appendix D: Chart of the Major Canadian Free Online Sources for Legal Research

Content/Resource	Website
Books/Commentary	<p>Various online library catalogues can be used to source/identify books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMICUS: Canadian National Catalogue • Supreme Court of Canada Catalogue <p>Canadian Legal Publishers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Law Book • Carswell • CCH Canadian • Éditions Yvon Blais • Emond Montgomery • Irwin Law • Lancaster House • LexisNexis Canada • Maritime Law Book • Self-Counsel Press • SOQUIJ • Wilson & LaFleur
Journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ted Tjaden's Custom Google Search of Canadian Law Firm Websites, Blogs & Journals http://www.tinyurl.com/Canadianlawfirms • Google Scholar Advanced • CAIJ JuriBistro http://www.caij.qc.ca

<p>CLE papers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ted Tjaden's Custom Google Search of Canadian Law Firm Websites, Blogs & Journals http://www.tinyurl.com/Canadianlawfirms • AccessCLE (Ontario) http://accesscle.lsuc.on.ca • LSUC Great Library Catalogue Search: The Great Library at the Law Society of Upper Canada has been cataloguing the Table of Contents from CLE seminar binders for a number of years. Choose "Guided Keyword Search" and choose "Search in . . . Table of Contents"
<p>Encyclopedias</p>	<p>Wikipedia</p>
<p>Case Law Digests</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Reference Tools</p>	<p>Directories/Dictionaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Law List (Legal Directory) http://www.canadianlawlist.com • Lawdictionaries.com <p>Legal Citation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queen's Law: Legal Citation • UWO: Legal Citation • Douglas College Guide to Legal Citation • Canadian Citation Committee, The Preparation, Citation & Distribution of Canadian Decisions <p>Current Awareness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lexology (http://www.lexology.com) • Linex Legal (http://www.linexlegal.com)

	<p>Blogs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Law Blogs List: http://www.lawblogs.ca • SLAW.ca • Connie Crosby • Vancouver Law Librarian Blog • Library Boy (Supreme Court of Canada Library) • UBC Law Library Reference Blog • New & Notable (Courthouse Libraries BC) • The Stream (Courthouse Libraries BC) • Edmonton Association of Law Libraries (ELLA) Blog • Shaunna Mireau on Canadian Legal Research (Field LLP) • U of A Law Library News (John A. Weir Memorial Law Library, University of Alberta) • Library Technician Dialog • Off the Shelf (Osgoode Hall Law School Library Blog) • The KF Modified Blog (Tim Knight) • Bora Laskin Law Library Reference Services Weblog (U of T)
Legislation	<p>CanLII (http://www.canlii.org)</p>
Case Law	<p>CanLII (http://www.canlii.org)</p> <p>Martime Law Book – Free Judgments: (http://www.mlb.nb.ca/cf-docs/FreeSearch.cfm)</p> <p>Nomus (New): (http://nomus.ca/php/index.php)</p>
News/Business Sources	<p>Google News Canada (http://news.google.ca)</p>