
LEGAL RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET

Authors:

SUZANNE MINER DARAIS, M.L.S., J.D.
daraiss@law.utah.edu
S.J. Quinney Law library
332 South 1400 East
SLC, UT 84112-0731
(801) 585-3074

MARSHA C. THOMAS, Attorney
Thomas Tax & Law, Inc.
220 E. Morris Ave., Suite 440
SLC, UT 84115
(801) 363-1789
marsha@thomastaxandlaw.com

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LOCATING INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

You can move around and locate information one of three ways:

- Enter in an address you already know:** You will begin to get addresses from the newspaper, from colleagues, from television. If you know where you want to go, just enter that address.
- Use an index someone has already created:** You could go to one of the larger legal indices - either one created by a law school (<http://www.washlaw.edu>) or <http://www.loc.gov/law/guide/nations.html>) or a commercial site (<http://www.findlaw.com>). You can also just started clicking on hypertext at your home page and see where it leads you.
- Use a search engine:** either click on the “search” button or enter the address of your favorite search engine. The most popular search engine is at <http://www.google.com>. Google can now search headline news, it will translate into 50+ languages, and searches usenet newsgroup posts back to 1981. In most browsers, you can also now do a search from the location or address field. Search engines vary in the results they produce because of the way search engines are set up. Generally, search engines have web crawlers that go out and crawl about indexing web sites. The differences in results are produced because some of the engines crawl around more often, some only index certain key words while others may index the entire site. Most search engines are free because they make their money by hosting advertising at their site.

Some of the search engines to try are:

AllTheWeb	http://alltheweb.com
AltaVista	http://www.altavista.com (with spell-checker)
Yahoo	http://www.yahoo.com
Go	http://www.go.com/
Excite	http://www.excite.com
Lycos	http://www.lycos.com
Google	http://www.google.com

Some search engines combine results from other search engines (see <http://www.metacrawler.com>; <http://www.ixquick.com>; and <http://www.vivisimo.com>). Once you find your favorite search engine, use the help buttons to give you options on searching methods and commands.

There are a couple of sites that use templates for searching legal information. One is Meta-Index for U.S. legal research at <http://gsulaw.gsu.edu/metaindex/>, and the other is Law Guru <http://www.lawguru.com>.

SEARCHING THE INTERNET

1. **As yourself whether you need to search the entire internet.** Searching the entire internet is cumbersome. Is the web address for the item you need already in this handout? If not, check a legal index like Washlaw (<http://www.washlaw.edu>) before you venture forth to search the entire internet.
2. **Refine your search.** Since you will be searching billions of pages, try to think of the most unique words in your issue to use in your search.
3. **Decide if it would be better for you to review your results by category.** Many search engines will allow you to search categories (sometimes called directories), web sites, or discussion lists. There are also some subject directories (like <http://www.britannica.com/>). Category searches are usually more successful for broad topics, and web site searches are more successful for narrow issues. Discussion list searches are good for finding out other people's experiences with a particular item.
4. **Know the commands that work for most search engines.** Many of the search engines use the same searching commands now. Try some of the following commands to help narrow down your searches.

Simpler Commands

- Use quotations around phrases.
- Lower case indicates a case insensitive query.
- Any capital letters in a search will force an exact case match (as will accents).
- + a plus sign before a word means find the word for sure.
- a minus sign or the words (and not) before a word means exclude the word.

More Advanced Searching

- For connectors you can use the following:
and (use & or the word and)
or (use the word or)
near (in some search engines try ~ or the word near - searches for words within 10 words of each other)
- Use parentheses to better define your search if you are using the connectors **and** or **or** in the same search. Example - "double jeopardy" and (automobile or vehicle)
If there were no parentheses, it would look for the **and** first (try to find "double jeopardy" and automobile) or the word vehicle.
- Field searching
title: "the wall street journal" -will only search the title of the pages
url:put word here -use this if you want a particular word in the url.

Read the help information about your favorite search engine. Some search engines offer advanced searching capabilities that can help you narrow down your results.

LEGAL INTERNET SITES

LEGAL DATABASES

The legal databases of Westlaw® and LexisNexis® contain most of the primary and secondary source materials, and in an effort to conserve space, will be listed here instead of individually under each subheading.

Westlaw® <http://westlaw.com> (fee-based)
LexisNexis® <http://www.lexis.com> (fee-based)

FEDERAL LEGAL INFORMATION: **PRIMARY SOURCES - CASES**

U.S. Supreme Court <http://findlaw.com>
[cases back to 1893, keyword, title and citation searchable.]

<http://www.lexisone.com>
[cases back to 1790, keyword and title searchable.]

<http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct>
[1990-present plus older historic decisions, key word searchable.]

<http://www.fedworld.gov/supcourt/index.htm>
[1937-1975, covers vols. 300-422 of US Reports, includes 325 selected historic decisions, some pre-1937.]

<http://versuslaw.com> (fee-based)
[Cases going back to 1900. Keyword, title and citation searchable.]

<http://loislaw.com> (fee-based)
[Cases going back to 1899. Keyword, title and citation searchable.]

Courts of Appeal <http://www.law.emory.edu/FEDCTS>
<http://www.uscourts.gov/links.html>
[Links to all Circuit Courts of Appeal are located at these sites. Date coverage varies. You can also search all Court of Appeals decisions at once by going to
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/federal/opinions.html>.]

<http://versuslaw.com> (fee-based)
[Some Circuit Courts of Appeal decisions back to 1930]

FEDERAL LEGAL INFORMATION (continued)

- Courts of Appeal (cont.) **<http://loislaw.com>** (fee-based)
[Date coverage 1923-1924 to present.]
- <http://lexisone.com>**
[Federal opinions for the past five years. Keyword searchable.]
- District Courts **<http://www.infoctr.edu/fwl/fedweb.juris.htm>**
<http://www.uscourts.gov/allinks.html>
[Links to available District Courts – searching capabilities vary by court.]
- Federal Court Records **<http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov>**
[Gives information on how to access court records, including PACER. Prices vary.]
<http://courtlink.lexisnexis.com> (fee-based)
- <http://www.courtexpress.com>** (fee-based)
[Both sites will search and retrieve federal (and state) court records.]

CASE CITATORS

- Shepards **<http://www.lexis-nexis.com>** (fee-based)
[\$4.25 per cite using the Lexis by Credit Card option.]
- KeyCite **<http://creditcard.westlaw.com>** (fee-based)
[\$4.25 per KeyCite result.]

DOCUMENT DELIVERY

- WestDoc **<http://creditcard.westlaw.com>** (fee-based)
[For \$12 per document, you can retrieve any document in Westlaw.]
- Lexis **<http://www.lexisnexis.com>** (fee-based)
[For \$9 per document, you can retrieve most legal documents within the sources listed. Other documents available for cost of \$1-12.]

FEDERAL LEGAL INFORMATION (continued)

STATUTES & BILLS

- United States Code **<http://straylight.law.cornell.edu/uscode>**
[Key word searchable with an update feature]
- <http://uscode.house.gov>**
[The internet versions of the United States Code
are at varying states of out-datedness. Make sure you check
the date.]
- U.S. Constitution **<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdoxmainpg.html>**
- U.S. Historical Documents **<http://www.law.ou.edu/hist>**
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>
- Bills **<http://thomas.loc.gov>**
[Key word searchable. Also includes recent committee reports and
congressional record.]

REGULATIONS

- Code of Federal Regulations
& Federal Register **<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html>**
[Key word searchable.]

FEDERAL AGENCIES, ETC.

- Federal Agencies **<http://www.infoctr.edu/fwl>**
[Links to federal agencies on the web.]
- White House **<http://www.whitehouse.gov>**
Oral Argument Archive **<http://www.oyez.org/oyez/frontpage>**
- Government Printing Office **<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html>**
At the Government Printing Office Access sites you will
have access to the United States Code, Congressional Bills,
Congressional Calendars, Congressional Documents,
Congressional Record and Index, Congressional Reports,
History of Bills and Resolutions, Federal Register, GAO
Reports and Decisions and Public Laws (and more is being
added all the time).

STATE AND MUNICIPAL LEGAL INFORMATION

UTAH MATERIALS / PRIMARY SOURCES

CASES

Supreme Court
& Court of Appeal

<http://www.utcourts.gov>

[Utah Courts home page has Utah Supreme Court and Court of Appeals decisions from 1996/97 - current.]

<http://versuslaw.com> (fee-based service)

[Utah court opinions from 1950 - present. Key word searchable.]

<http://loislaw.com> (fee-based service)

[Utah Court opinions back to 1923 and Utah Code, Utah Administrative Code. Key word searchable.]

<http://www.code-co.com> (fee-based service)

[Access to Utah Code, Utah Administrative Code and appellate court opinions (cases back to 1992), plus other government information. Key word searchable.]

Utah Courts Xchange (fee-based service)

<http://casesearch.utcourts.gov>

[Information on individuals, civil case pending reports, tax lien reports and other trial court information.]

STATUTES & CONSTITUTION

<http://www.le.state.ut.us>

[Full-text of the Utah Code. Key word searchable.]

<http://www.code-co.com> (fee-based service)

[Full text of the Utah Code. Key word searchable.]

<http://loislaw.com> (fee-based service)

Bills

<http://www.le.state.ut.us>

[Text and status of Utah bills.]

REGULATIONS

<http://www.rules.utah.gov>

[Includes proposed regulations.]

<http://www.code-co.com> (fee-based service)

[Also contains archived editions from 1995.]

STATE AND MUNICIPAL LEGAL INFORMATION (continued)

UTAH (continued)

AGENCIES

<http://www.utah.gov/government/agencylist.html>

[List of Utah state agencies--some have active web sites and some do not.]

<http://www.commerce.state.ut.us>

[Searching for Utah Business information.]

CITY & COUNTY CODES

<http://www.utah.gov/government/citycounty.html>

<http://www.statelocalgov.net/index.cfm>

[Contains links to state & city information, must then check city site to see if code is listed.]

<http://www.law.utah.edu/library/research/utah.html>

[Scroll to bottom of page to see links.]

Also, try searching for the city site, and seeing if there is a link to their code from there.

NEWSPAPERS

Deseret News

<http://deseretnews.com/dn>

Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

Other Utah Papers

<http://newsdirectory.com/news.php?co=USA&p=ut>

UNIVERSITIES

University of Utah

Main Campus

<http://www.utah.edu>

College of Law

<http://www.law.utah.edu>

S.J. Quinney Law Library Web Page and Catalog

<http://www.law.utah.edu/library>

Brigham Young University

Main Campus

<http://home.byu.edu/>

College of Law

http://www.law2.byu.edu/Law_School

BYU Howard W. Hunter Law Library & Catalog

http://www.law2.byu.edu/Law_Library

Other Utah University Libraries

http://www.lib.utah.edu/collections/other_libraries.html

STATE AND MUNICIPAL LEGAL INFORMATION (continued)

UTAH (continued)

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Salt Lake County Public Libraries
Salt Lake City Public Libraries
Other Utah Public Libraries

<http://www.slco.lib.ut.us>
<http://www.slcppl.lib.ut.us/index.jsp>
<http://pioneer.utah.gov/public.html>

Davis County Public Libraries
Weber County Public Libraries

<http://www.co.davis.ut.us/library>
<http://www.weberpl.lib.ut.us/index2.htm>

ALL STATES LEGAL INFORMATION

WashLaw	http://www.washlaw.edu
American Law Sources Online	http://www.lawsource.com/also
Cornell	http://www.law.cornell.edu/states/listing.html [Select a state from the list and the legal materials available on the internet for that state will be listed. Note: sites are always changing so some links may not work.]
LOIS	http://loislaw.com (fee-based service) [Cases, statutes, regulations for all 50 states.]
VersusLaw	http://versuslaw.com (fee-based service) [Appellate court cases from all 50 states, date coverage varies, many back to 1930. Can search all fifty states at once.]
LexisOne	http://lexisone.com [Free searching of U.S. Supreme court cases back to 1790 and other selected federal and state caselaw going back five years.]
State Statutes by Topic	http://www.law.cornell.edu/topics/state_statutes.html
Administrative Codes & Registers	http://www.nass.org/acr/acr.html [Links to administrative codes and registers. All fifty states are listed, though not every state has their Codes and Registers on the web.]
City & County Codes	http://www.municode.com Also try searching for the city or county web site and see if there is a link to their code from there.
State & Local Gov't Pages	http://www.statelocalgov.net/index.cfm
State Court Records	See Courtlink and CourtExpress entries under Federal Legal Information.

SECONDARY SOURCES

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Legal & Law Related Journals

<http://lawweb.usc.edu/library/resources/journals.html>

[Will tell you if a particular journal is full-text or abstracted on the internet.]

<http://www.lawreview.org>

[Search of full-text journals on the internet.]

<http://www.lawsource.com/also/usa.cgi?usj>

Tables of Contents of over 750 Law Reviews

http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/tallons/content_search.html

Infotrieve **<http://www4.infotrieve.com/default.asp>** (fee-based)

[Document delivery service.]

You can also use WestDoc (**<http://creditcard.westlaw.com>**, \$12 per document) or Lexis.com (**<http://www.lexis.com>**, \$9 per document), to retrieve any journal articles that are available on Westlaw or Lexis.

LEGAL NEWSLETTERS AND INFORMATION

Law Library Resource Exchange **<http://www.llrx.com>**

The Virtual Chase **<http://www.virtualchase.com>**

NEWSPAPERS

Recent News Articles **<http://news.google.com>**

National Law Journal **<http://www.law.com/jsp/nlj/index.jsp>**

TotalNEWS **<http://www.totalnews.com>**

Dow Jones Business Information **<http://www.dowjones.com>** (fee-based)

COURT TV **<http://www.courttv.com>**

SECONDARY SOURCES (continued)

ELECTRONIC BOOKS

Matthew Bender Treatises - Authority on Demand

<http://bender.lexisnexis.com/> (fee-based)

[Matthew Bender offers many multi-volume sets on different areas of law, through their Authority Online service. This site contains those sets in electronic form available for either keyword searching or table of content browsing.]

BNA Tax Management Portfolios **<http://web.bna.com>** (fee-based)

CCH Internet Tax Network **<http://tax.cchgroup.com/>** (fee-based)

[Includes Standard Federal Tax Reporter.]

RIA Tax Services

<http://ria.thomson.com>

(fee-based) [Includes Fed. Tax Coordinator 2nd.]

LAW-RELATED DISCUSSION GROUPS

Law Lists **<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/cgi-bin/law-lists>**

[Compilation of legal electronic discussion lists and Usenet newsgroups. Lists arranged alphabetically and is key word searchable.]

To search newsgroups **<http://groups-beta.google.com>**

REFERENCE AIDS

GENERAL

<http://www.refdesk.com>

LAW ENCYCLOPEDIAS

Nolo's Legal Encyclopedia <http://www.nolo.com/index.cfm>
Lawclopedia <http://www.lectlaw.com/ref.html>
FreeAdvice.com <http://freadvice.com/index.htm>

LEGAL DICTIONARIES

<http://www.nolo.com/glossary.cfm>
<http://lectlaw.com/def.htm>

DICTIONARY AND THESAURUS

<http://www.m-w.com>
<http://dictionary.reference.com>

<http://www.computeruser.com/resources/dictionary/dictionary.html>
[Hi-Tech Dictionary]

LIBRARY CATALOGS

<http://www.libdex.com>

BIBLIOGRAPHIC FORMATS FOR CITING ELECTRONIC INFORMATION

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/cite.html>

CITING LEGAL INFORMATION - BLUEBOOK INFORMATION

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/prior>

MAPS

<http://mapquest.com> & <http://mapblast.com>

STATISTICS

Stat-USA <http://www.stat-usa.gov/stat-usa.html>
[Department of Commerce's business and economic statistics.]

Fedstats <http://www.fedstats.gov>

Statistical Resources on the Web

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/stats.html>
[Index of web sites for statistical information. Listed by topic.]

LEGAL FORMS & DIRECTORIES

FORMS

<http://www.washlaw.edu/legalforms>
<http://www.findlaw.com/16forms/index.html>
<http://www.lectlaw.com/form.html>
<http://www.ilrg.com/forms>
<http://www.uslegalforms.com> (fee-based)

COURT DIRECTORIES

State and Federal Courts <http://www.courts.com> (fee-based)

ATTORNEYS AND LAW FIRMS

Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory <http://www.martindale.com>
West's Legal Directory <http://lawyers.findlaw.com/lawyer/splash2.html>

BAR ASSOCIATIONS

American Bar Association <http://www.abanet.org/index.cfm>
Utah State Bar Members <http://www.utahbar.org>
Other State Bars <http://www.hg.org/bar.html>
<http://www.lawtechnology.org/lawlink/home.html>
[Also includes some other legal associations.]

DIRECTORY OF PHYSICIANS

<http://www.ama-assn.org>

TELEPHONE AND INTERNET DIRECTORIES

National White & Yellow Pages <http://www.dexonline.com>
<http://www.switchboard.com>
<http://www.anywho.com>
<http://infospace.com>
[Includes reverse lookup]
Worldwide Phone Directories <http://www.infobel.com/teldir>

LEGAL EDUCATION NETWORK

<http://jurist.law.pitt.edu>

EXPERT WITNESSES

Listing of various pages <http://www.nocall.org/experts.htm>
Technical Advisory Service for Attorneys (TASA)
<http://www.tasanet.com> (fee-based)
ExpertPages <http://expertpages.com>
ExpertLaw <http://expertlaw.com>

DIRECTORIES (Continued) & INDEX SITES & CLE

LEGAL PUBLISHERS

AcqWeb	http://acqweb.library.vanderbilt.edu [Lists internet sites for publishers and information vendors.]
Bureau of National Affairs	http://www.bna.com
John Wiley & Sons	http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA
Matthew Bender	http://bender.lexisnexis.com/
Lexis Law Publishing	http://www.lexis.com
Oceana Publications, Inc.	http://www.oceanalaw.com
West Publishing Company	http://west.thomson.com/store/default.asp

SITES THAT INDEX LEGAL INFORMATION

Washlaw	http://www.washlaw.edu
Cornell	http://www.law.cornell.edu/topics/index.html
FindLaw	http://www.findlaw.com
Emory	http://www.law.emory.edu/erd/index.html
CataLaw	http://www.CataLaw.com
Hieros Gamos	http://www.hg.org
ABA LawLink	http://www.lawtechnology.org/lawlink/home.html

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

http://www.findlaw.com/07cle [Contains a listing of many Continuing Legal Education sites.]
http://westlegaledcenter.com/home/homepage.jsf [Fee-based service]
http://www.ali-aba.org

COMPANY/BUSINESS INFORMATION

PUBLIC COMPANY INFORMATION

Wall Street Research Net	http://www.internetnews.com/bus-news
Hoover's	http://www.hoovers.com/free
OneSource	http://www.onesource.com
Wright Research Center	http://www.wisi.com/ramainnew.htm

ANNUAL REPORTS

<http://www.prars.com>
http://ics.adp.com/release11/public_site/default.asp

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

<http://www.nonprofits.org>
<http://www.guidestar.org>

EXCHANGE RATES

<http://www.oanda.com/index.shtml>
[Exchange rates for 164 countries on any day back to 1990.]

STOCK QUOTES

<http://finance.yahoo.com>
<http://finance.lycos.com/qc/default.aspx>
[Provides pricing for securities, including stocks, bonds, options, commodity futures and mutual funds. Fee-based.]
<http://www.stockmaster.com>
[Provides current and historical stock quotes.]

PRODUCT RECALLS

<http://www.cpsc.gov>
[Recalls of consumer and office products, automobiles, etc.]

THOMAS REGISTER OF AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS

<http://www.thomasnet.com/home.html?WTsource=TR>

DOCUMENT SPECIFICATIONS & STANDARDS

<http://www.document-center.com/>
[Fee-based service.]

SUBJECT SITES

MULTI-SUBJECT

<http://www.findlaw.com/01topics/index.html>
<http://www.law.indiana.edu/v-lib>
<http://www.njlawnet.com/general.html>
<http://www.nocall.org/collection.htm>

BANKING

Money Page <http://www.moneypage.com>
Banking.com <http://www.digitalinsight.com>
Qualisteam <http://www.qualisteam.com/Banks>
[listing of banking sites on the web]

ENVIRONMENTAL

E.P.A. <http://www.epa.gov>
EnviroLink <http://envirolink.netforchange.com>

FOREIGN and INTERNATIONAL

<http://www.law.emory.edu/erd/foreign.html>
<http://www.washlaw.edu/forint/forintmain.html>
United Nations
<http://www.un.org>

IMMIGRATION

Immigration and Naturalization Center <http://uscis.gov/graphics/index.htm>
Immigration Portal <http://www.ilw.com>
Immigration Lawyers Central <http://www.immlawyers.com/default.asp>
Visa Law Portal <http://visalaw.com>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

U.S. Patent Office <http://www.uspto.gov/>
Official Gazette <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/og/og.htm>
Hieros Gamos <http://www.hg.org/intell.html>
U.S. Copyright Office <http://www.copyright.gov>
University of Texas Copyright Crash Course
<http://www.utsystem.edu/OGC/IntellectualProperty/cprtindx.htm>
International Intellectual Property <http://www.llrx.com/features/iplaw2.htm>

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

Employment Law Practice Center <http://www.law.com/jsp/pc/emplaw.jsp>

LEGAL ETHICS

<http://www.legalethics.com/index.law>

SUBJECT SITES (continued)

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES

<http://www.llc-usa.com>

MEDICAL

PubMed

<http://www.pubmed.gov>

[comprehensive index of medical journal articles]

Medical Matrix

<http://www.medmatrix.org>

<http://www.medscape.com/px/urlinfo> [full-text articles]

WebMD

<http://www.webmd.com>

MD Consult

<http://www.MDConsult.com> (fee-based)

Medical Websites Listing

<http://www.myhq.com/public/a/l/alper>

Disease Treatment Listings

<http://www.Dynamicmedical.com>

Merck Manual

<http://www.merck.com>

SECURITIES

SEC & EDGAR Home Page

<http://www.sec.gov>

SecLaw.com

<http://www.seclaw.com/Welcome.shtml>

NASD

<http://www.nasd.com/>

1933 and 1934 Acts, Rules and Forms <http://www.law.uc.edu/CCL/xyz/sldtoc.html>

TAXATION

I.R.S. Publications / Forms

<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>

Forms

<http://www.1040.com>

ABA Tax Section

<http://www.abanet.org/tax/sites.html>

Tax Analysts

<http://www.taxanalysts.com>

VERDICTS

MoreLaw

<http://www.morelaw.com>

Judicial Statistical Inquiry Site

<http://teddy.law.cornell.edu:8090/questata.htm>

State Jury Verdict Publishers

<http://www.juryverdicts.com>

Rocky Mountain Jury Verdicts

<http://www.rockymtverdicts.com>