Finding Legal, Factual, and Other Information in a Digital World

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FINDING LEGAL, FACTUAL, AND OTHER INFORMATION IN A DIGITAL WORLD

by Timothy L. Coggins*


I. INTRODUCTION

[1] This updated listing of Internet sites for legal, factual, and other research offers a combination of more established sites and newer sites developed since the publication of the previous listing. The article began as a comprehensive bibliography of research and other sites for an Advanced Legal Research course and a series of continuing education sessions for legal assistants and paralegals.¹ The current version includes sites for primary authorities, both federal and state, as well as URLs for other types of information, such as sites that assist in finding expert witnesses and biographical and background information about individuals.

[2] Researchers seeking to locate more sites for legal or other types of

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¹ See Timothy L. Coggins, Legal, Factual and Other Internet Sites for Attorneys and Legal Professionals, XV Richmond J. L. & Tech. 13 (2009), available at http://law.richmond.edu/jolt/v15i4/article13.pdf (providing a previous version of this listing of Internet sites); Timothy L. Coggins, Legal, Factual and Other Internet Sites for Attorneys and Others, XII Richmond J. L. & Tech. 17 (2006), available at http://law.richmond.edu/jolt/v12i4/article17.pdf (providing the initial version of this article).
research can find Internet sites for attorneys and legal researchers identified in many sources. One popular source is the American Bar Association Law Practice Management Section’s annual TECHSHOW in which the popular 60 Sites in 60 Minutes program offers the favorite websites of the attorney and other panel presenters. In addition, many books identify relevant, new, useful, and intriguing websites for attorneys and legal researchers.

Individuals seeking information about the use of technology and the Internet by attorneys or their office personnel for research or other purposes might be interested in the results of an annual survey compiled and distributed by the Legal Technology Resource Center of the American Bar Association. The 2011 American Bar Association Legal Technology Survey Report includes explanatory information and data presented in chart format comprising six categories: Technology Basics; Law Office Technology; Litigation and Courtroom Technology; Web and Communication Technology; Online Research; and Mobile Lawyers.

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3 See, e.g., ROBERT J. AMBROGI, THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE BEST (AND WORST) LEGAL SITES ON THE WEB (2d ed. 2004); CAROLE A. LEVITT & MARK E. ROSCH, THE CYBERSLEUTH’S GUIDE TO INTERNET RESEARCH: CONDUCTING EFFECTIVE INVESTIGATIVE & LEGAL RESEARCH ON THE WEB (8th ed. 2007); CAROLE A. LEVITT & MARK E. ROSCH, FINDING INFO LIKE A PRO: MINING THE INTERNET’S PUBLICLY AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR INVESTIGATIVE RESEARCH (2010); CAROLE A. LEVITT & MARK E. ROSCH, THE LAWYER’S GUIDE TO FACT FINDING ON THE INTERNET (3d ed. 2006); THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT INTERNET DIRECTORY (Shana Hertz Hattis ed., 2012); see also Catherine Sanders Reach & David Whelan, 10 Ways to Stretch Your Research Dollars: How to Get the Facts on a Dime, L. PRAC., March 2009, at 32 (emphasizing ideas for keeping research overhead as low as possible, as well as many helpful and interesting research websites).

This list of Internet websites contains eleven sections. Part II covers search engines. Part III identifies some important “comprehensive” or portal websites. Part IV includes websites that can be used to search for legislative and administrative information, both Federal and state. Part V covers case law and court information sites. Part VI lists important Virginia legal research and state-specific websites. Part VII lists foreign and international law sites and Part VIII identifies locations for secondary materials. Part IX identifies websites for people, places, weather, vital records, company information, expert witnesses, and more. Part X presents some helpful sites for legal and other news, as well as law blogs, wikis, and podcasts. Part XI covers sites that are difficult to categorize into one of the earlier nine parts and the last section, Part XII, is a list of the URLs for the law schools in Virginia, many of which provide legal research guides in the “Library” portion of their websites.5

legal_technology_resources/publications.html. The report can be purchased from the American Bar Association, and you can read an executive summary of the report and/or purchase the report at the aforementioned link. The Legal Technology Resource Center sent the 2011 survey to 12,500 attorneys in the first four categories (Technology Basics; Law Office Technology; Litigation and Courtroom Technology; and Web and Communication Technology) and to 9,800 attorneys in the last two categories – Online Research and Mobile Lawyers. LEGAL TECH. RES. CTR., AM. BAR ASS’N., 2011 AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION LEGAL TECHNOLOGY SURVEY REPORT (2011), available at http://apps.americanbar.org/abastore/products/books/abstracts/2680106PDFmeth_abs.pdf . The response rate is not significant, frequently only about 10%. See id. The Online Research portion of the report covers the use of free and fee-based online legal research resources, as well as information about current awareness, knowledge management, locations where legal research occurs, preferences regarding fee-based online services, and much more. About Online Research, ABA WEB STORE, http://apps.americanbar.org/abastore/index.cfm?fm=Product.AddToCart&pid= 2680112PDF (last visited Mar. 25, 2012).

5 This article does not cover other very important topics facing attorneys who are using the Internet for various purposes, such as cloud computing and competitive intelligence. See Catherine Sanders Reach, Reach for the Cloud, TRIAL, Jan. 2012, at 38 (offering an interesting discussion of cloud computing); see also Nicole Black, Legal Technology Predictions for 2012, VA. LAW. WKLY. (Jan. 26, 2012), at 7 (offering one person’s view about legal technology that will face attorneys in 2012); Competitive Intelligence: A Selective Resource Guide, LLRX.COM , http://www.llrx.com/node/ 1216/print (last updated Dec. 2011) (providing a comprehensive listing of websites relating to competitive intelligence).
II. Search Engines

[5] The lists below divide search engines into two different types: standard search engines like Google and other search engines that search multiple search engines or categorize or cluster results. Many sources compare various search engines and provide helpful charts that identify how to search with a particular search engine.

a. Standard Search Engines

http://www.altavista.com
http://www.bing.com
http://www.excite.com
http://www.gigablast.com
http://www.go.com
http://www.hotbot.com
http://www.lycos.com
http://www.yahoo.com


b. Other Search Engines


http://www.zapmeta.com

III. Comprehensive Research Sites

[6] Attorneys and legal researchers might be better served by starting their legal and other research by accessing a comprehensive or portal research site, rather than simply using a search engine. These sites are good starting places for many different types of information, both primary and secondary. Another advantage of the comprehensive or portal site is its organization. Unlike searching the Web generally, portal sites offer uniformity and consistency from page to page, allowing users to develop an understanding of how to locate information while using the portal. For example, a person researching the Wex Legal Encyclopedia at the Cornell Legal Information Institute website will find the same organization of information regardless of the subject. This means that the page concerning immigration has the same organization – an “Overview” section and tabs for “Resources,” “For Example,” and “In Caselaw” – as the page about domestic relations.

Bloomberg Law: A newcomer to the legal research field, Bloomberg Law offers a legal, regulatory and compliance platform. It also offers a suite of

news, data, analytics, and research tools to the legal and compliance community.9
http://www.bloomberg.com/company/#menu


Chicago-Kent College of Law: http://www.kentlaw.edu

FindLaw: Owned and managed by Thomson-Reuters.
http://www.findlaw.com

Hieros Gamos: http://www.hg.org

Internet Legal Research Group: http://www.ilrg.com

Justia: Founded by Tim Stanley, who developed Findlaw and subsequently sold it to Thomson-Reuters; provides access to free case law, codes, regulations, legal articles, and legal blog databases; includes a legal research and law practice series in areas such as injury law, criminal law, immigration law, etc.
http://www.justia.com


Legal Information Institute (Cornell University): Probably the best of the law school research websites; its “Wex Legal Encyclopedia” is frequently used by legal researchers to discover basic information about a subject matter as well as primary documents such as statutes and regulations.
http://www.law.cornell.edu

LexisNexis Community: Replacement for LexisOne; provides access to news, blogs, forms, podcasts, emerging issues, and more; no longer accepts a credit card for access to materials not found in the LexisNexis Community. 
http://www.lexisnexis.com/community/portal/content/lexisonelandingpage.aspx

Public Library of Law: Collaboration with Fastcase to provide access to case law, statutes, regulations, court rules, constitutions, and legal forms. 
http://www.plol.org

Public Resource Organization: New endeavor by Carl Malamud, a proponent of open access to primary legal authority, whose new website provides access to U.S. Supreme Court opinions dating back to the 1700s and all U.S. appeals courts decisions dating back to 1950.10 
http://public.resource.org

Reference Desk: http://www.refdesk.com

State and Local Government on the Net (formerly Piper Resources): 
http://www.statelocalgov.net/

TheLaw.net: http://www.thelaw.net

Virtual Chase: No longer being updated, but an excellent source for research guides about particular subjects. 
http://www.virtualchase.com

Virtual Law Library: http://law.indiana.edu/lawlibrary/research/resources/

Washburn University’s WashLaw: http://www.washlaw.edu

Zimmerman’s Legal Research Guides: Covers many different legal

subjects and provides excellent guidance on the research resources in those subject areas.
http://law.lexisnexis.com/infopro/zimmermans/

IV. ONLINE SITES FOR LEGISLATIVE & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

a. Federal Legislation & Administrative Materials

Code of Federal Regulations and the e-CFR:


Department of Justice: Designed to increase openness and transparency in government, utilizing a variety of online tools to share news and other information.
http://www.justice.gov

http://governmentattic.org

Federal Legislative History sites, The Library of Congress (Thomas): LexisNexis and Westlaw have databases that provide legislative history documents for attorneys who have subscriptions. For users searching for legislative history documents at the University of Richmond, the Congressional – ProQuest Legislative Histories database is available. There also is a collection of federal legislative histories available through the HeinOnline service at the University of Richmond.
http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php

Federal Register: Coverage includes 1994-present (vol. 59 - present) as well as access to the current issue of the Federal Register.
Federal Register: Provides access to documents that will be published in the next day’s Federal Register (click on “View Documents Online” button).  [http://www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov)

Federal Web Locator: Links to federal agencies.  [http://www.lib.auburn.edu/madd/docs/fedloc.html](http://www.lib.auburn.edu/madd/docs/fedloc.html)

FOI Letter Generator Request:  [http://www.rcfp.org/foia](http://www.rcfp.org/foia)

GovTrack: Independent website run by a graduate student “in his spare time,” following the status of federal legislation and the activities of senators and representatives.  [http://www.govtrack.us](http://www.govtrack.us)

GPO Access on the Web: Access to government documents including: Budget of the US; Congressional Directory and documents; bills; Congressional Record; Federal Register; History of Bills; Public Laws; Congressional Calendars; US Code; Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents.  Replaced by GPO’s FDsys (see below), which includes most content previously available through GPO Access.  [http://www.gpoaccess.gov](http://www.gpoaccess.gov)

GPO’s Federal Digital System (FDsys): Advanced digital system that enables GPO to manage government information in a digital form.  Includes files submitted by Congress and federal agencies; information gathered from federal agencies’ websites; digital files created by scanning previously printed publications.  [http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/home.action](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/home.action)


Metavid: Video archives of congressional floor proceedings on the web; searchable according to who said what; hosted by the University of California at Santa Cruz.  [http://metavid.ucsc.edu](http://metavid.ucsc.edu)
National Archives: National Archives and Records Administration website of important documents.
http://www.archives.gov/

OpenCRS Project: Project of the Center for Democracy and Technology that was designed to provide citizen access to CRS Reports already in the public domain and to encourage Congress to provide public access to all CRS Reports.
http://opencrs.com

Regulations.gov: Offers the opportunity to find, review, and submit comments on proposed rules from Federal agencies, and is designed for lay citizens, not attorneys.
http://www.regulations.gov/#:home

THOMAS: Access to full text, summaries and status of federal legislation. Includes committee reports, public laws, and the Congressional Record. THOMAS also links to legal historical documents and resources about the legislative process.
http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php

University of Virginia – Administrative Decisions & Other Actions: Concentrates on providing access to administrative actions other than the CFR and the Federal Register.
http://www2.lib.virginia.edu/govtinfo/fed_decisions_agency.html

USA.gov (formerly FirstGov): Billed as the most comprehensive site (consolidates about 27 million government web pages) to use when you are searching for information about any branch or agency of the Federal Government.
http://www.usa.gov/

U.S. Code: Offers access to the U.S.C. with good search flexibility.
http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.shtml OR
http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text
b. State Legislative and Administrative Materials

ALSO!: American Law Sources Online: State law resources, including state statutes.
http://www.lawsource.com/also

Council of State Governments: Can be used like a “portal” site since it links to state home pages.
http://www.csg.org/CSG/default.aspx

Drafts of Uniform and Model Acts:
http://www.law.upenn.edu/bll/archives/ulc/ulc.htm

Municode: Excellent collection of municipal, city, and county codes available for free with good searching capabilities.
http://www.municode.com

National Association of Secretaries of State: Portal for online state databases.
http://www.nass.org

National Conference of State Legislatures: Useful for researching issues and 50-state legislative tracking on many topics, including agriculture and rural development, ethics, health issues, transportation, and more.

State Legislative Presence on the Internet (Multistate Associates Incorporated): Chart comparing online state statute availability.

Uniform Law Commission (formerly called the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws): Develops and provides states with “non-partisan, well-conceived and well-drafted legislation that brings
clarity and stability to critical areas of the law.”

http://www.nccusl.org

V. ONLINE SITES FOR CASE LAW AND COURT INFORMATION

[7] The sites listed below offer access to state and federal court decisions. Search strategies vary greatly from site to site, but most are searchable by keyword or date. Researchers should also look at the websites in Part I under the comprehensive or portal website listing for additional access to case law.

a. U.S. Supreme Court and Other Courts

Casemaker: Similar to Fastcase; available to many attorneys through their state bar associations.
http://casemaker.us

CourtListener: Free and competitive real time alert tool for the U.S. judicial system, providing daily information on precedential opinions issued by the thirteen federal circuit courts and the Supreme Court of the United States.
http://courtlistener.com/

Fastcase: Less expensive alternative for accessing state and federal cases; check database coverage. Service is available as a member benefit for attorneys in Virginia who are members of the Virginia State Bar. Fastcase co-sponsors the Public Library of Law, which provides more than fifty years of federal case law, as well as recent state cases from all fifty states. http://www.fastcase.com & http://www.plol.org/pages/search.aspx


Federal Judiciary Directory Information: Search by office, city, zip code, area code, and many other ways.
http://www.uscourts.gov/ContactUs/ContactUs.aspx#courtlocator

Findlaw: Includes Supreme Court decisions since 1893 (comprehensive); browse by year and *U.S. Reports* volume number; searchable by citation, title, and full text.
http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html

“FLITE” database (Federal Legal Information Through Electronics): Includes over 7,400 Supreme Court opinions from 1937 to 1975.
http://supcourt.ntis.gov/

Legal Information Institute (Cornell): Coverage from May 1990 to present.
http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/index.html

Public Resource Organization: Offers access to Law.gov materials with plans to include primary legal materials from Federal Government and the states.
https://public.resource.org/index.html

United States Courts Access: Mission of this website, which is maintained by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts on behalf of the Federal Judiciary, is to provide information from and about the Judicial Branch of the U.S. Government.
http://www.uscourts.gov/Home.aspx

U.S. Supreme Court Oral Arguments: Audio files of selected oral arguments from Oyez: U.S. Supreme Court Multimedia.
http://www.oyez.org

The Curiae Project: U.S. Supreme Court Records and Briefs (selected cases only, but temporarily unavailable when searched in March 2009 and continuing to be unavailable when searched in February 2012)
http://curiae.law.yale.edu
U.S. Supreme Court website: Includes information about the Court and the Justices, as well as links to the calendar, court rules, dockets, opinions, orders, and other information. Previous volumes of the *U.S. Reports* at this site are PDFs of the print volumes; therefore, a researcher can easily locate particular volumes and specific page numbers.

[http://www.supremecourtus.gov](http://www.supremecourtus.gov)

Web Guide to U.S. Supreme Court Research:

### b. Federal Circuit Courts of Appeals


First Circuit: [http://www.ca1.uscourts.gov](http://www.ca1.uscourts.gov)


Third Circuit: [http://vls.law.vill.edu/Locator/3/index.htm](http://vls.law.vill.edu/Locator/3/index.htm)


Rather than using a website URL for a particular court, it might be easier to go to the United States Court Access website mentioned above and link to the particular court from that page.\(^\text{13}\)

c. State Court Opinions\(^\text{14}\) & Other Information

ALSO!: American Law Sources Online: State law resources, including court opinions.
http://www.lawsourcing.com/also

Federal, state, and local court rules, forms, and dockets (links to over 1,400 sites):
http://www.llrx.com/courtrules

Internet Legal Resources Guide: Includes links to state and federal decisions.
http://www.ilrg.com/caselaw

Legal Dockets Online: Court case information and public records (includes a blog).\(^\text{15}\)

PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records): Electronic public access service that allows users to obtain case and docket information from federal appellate, district, and bankruptcy courts as well as the

\(^{13}\) See Court Locator, UNITED STATES COURTS, http://www.uscourts.gov/Court_Locator/CourtWebsites.aspx.

\(^{14}\) See David Whelan, Opinions Online: An Increasing Number of Courts Are Offering Web Access, L. TECH. NEWS, July 1, 2006, at 49 (discussing the innovative ways state courts make opinions available); see also Robert J. Ambrogi, Get Your Free Case Law on the Web, L. TECH. NEWS, May 1, 2009, at 45 (listing websites that provide free access to case law).

\(^{15}\) See Warner J. Miller, Trial Court Docket Research Tools, 26 LEGAL INFO. ALERT, July/Aug. 2007, at 1 (discussing the leading docket search and retrieval services).
PACER Case Locator.  
http://www.pacer.gov/

RECAP: Project of the Center for Information Technology Policy at Princeton University to build a free and open repository of public court records by allowing RECAP users to automatically donate the documents they purchase from PACER into a public repository hosted by the Internet Archive.  https://www.recapthelaw.org/

SunEthics.com: Legal ethics, judicial ethics, and bar admissions issues.  
http://sunethics.com

U.S. Courts Civil and Criminal Forms: Collection of more than 125 commonly used forms, such as a summons in a criminal case, a criminal complaint, search and seizure warrants, summons in a civil action, summons on a third-party complaint, and more.  
http://www.uscourts.gov/FormsAndFees/Forms/CourtFormsBycategory.aspx

VI. SITES FOR VIRGINIA MATERIALS

Bankruptcy courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia: Includes court rules, hours, and fee schedules; registered users can access bankruptcy court opinions from the Eastern District.  


Municipal Codes and Ordinances: Includes codes and ordinances from a number of Virginia cities and counties.  
http://www.municode.com/ (Select “Browse the Library,” then click on your state on the map.)


Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia:  
http://www.courts.state.va.us/courts/scv/rules.html
State of Virginia: “Government” link provides access to State agencies, boards, councils, commissions and the Virginia Government Directory. 
http://www.portal.virginia.gov

Virginia Administrative Code:  
http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?121_men+SRR

Virginia Association of Law Libraries: General information about VALL and its members, libraries, activities, meetings, etc. at the VALL wiki.  
http://vall.pbworks.com/w/page/71980177/FrontPage

Virginia Bar Association: Membership information, publications, and calendar.  
http://www.vba.org

Virginia CLE: Mandatory CLE information; online registration and order forms; seminars; publications; Virginia Attorneys Network.  
http://www.vacle.org/

http://www.vsb.org/pro-guidelines/index.php

Virginia General Assembly: Full text, summaries, status, and history of bills and resolutions; schedules of activity; full text searching of the Virginia Code, Administrative Code, Constitution, and legislation.  
http://legis.state.va.us

Virginia’s Judicial System: Opinions of the Va. Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals; General information about Virginia courts including Supreme, Court of Appeals, Circuit Courts, and District Courts; Virginia State Law Library, Supreme Court session calendar and arguments docket.  
http://www.courts.state.va.us

Virginia Lawyers Weekly: Legal news for Virginia, including synopses of
opinions from the Virginia Supreme Court, the Virginia Court of Appeals, and various lower courts in Virginia.
http://www.valawyersweekly.com/

Virginia Legal Ethics Opinions: Provides access to LEOs numbered 1383 through 1861 from 1980 to present).
http://www.vacle.org/leos_list-pg113.aspx

Virginia Register of Regulations: http://register.dls.virginia.gov
& http://legis.state.va.us/codecomm/Register/regindex.htm

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall: Created to facilitate regulatory tracking; resource for regulatory text and interpretations with guidance documents organized by secretariat, agency, board, and chapter of the Virginia Administrative Code.
http://townhall.virginia.gov

Virginia State Bar: Bar exam results; officers; committees and boards; sections; staff directory; recent LEO and UPL opinions; access to the Virginia Lawyer.
http://www.vsb.org


Workers’ Compensation Commission: Cases from 1995 to present as well cases that were electronically transcribed since 1990.
http://www.vwc.state.va.us

VII. FOREIGN & INTERNATIONAL LAW SITES

ArchiveGrid: Connects to archives around the world that have primary source materials.
http://archivegrid.org/web/index.jsp

16 See also Robin Peek, Focus on Publishing: Digital Public Library of America, INFO. TODAY, Feb. 2012, at 24 (announcing the development of the Digital Public Library of America project). The DPLA Steering Committee recently met “to establish ‘the first concrete steps toward the realization of a large-scale digital public library that will make
ASIL Electronic Information System for International Law: Published by the American Society of International Law in various formats since 1997.  
http://www.eisil.org

ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law: Published since 1997, a comprehensive guide to legal research in international law.  
http://www.asil.org/erg

Canadian Legal Information Institute: Not-for-profit organization created by the Federation of Law Societies of Canada and designed to provide the public with permanent open access to the legal heritage of all Canadian jurisdictions.  
http://www.canlii.org

Findlaw International Law Sources: Links to international organizations and laws of foreign countries. Also allows web search of law resources by continent.  
http://www.findlaw.com/12international/index.html

FLARE: Foreign Law Research: Collaboration between the major libraries collecting law in the United Kingdom (Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Bodleian Law Library, Squire Law Library, British Library, and the School of Oriental and African Studies) to improve the coverage and accessibility of foreign legal materials at the national level.  
http://ials.sas.ac.uk/flare/flare.htm

FLARE Index to Treaties Extended: Fully searchable database of more than 1,500 of the most significant multilateral treaties concluded from 1856 onwards.  
http://ials.sas.ac.uk/treatindex.htm

Frequently-cited Treaties and Other International Instruments: Maintained by the Law Library at the University of Minnesota.  
http://library.law.umn.edu/researchguides/most-cited.html

the cultural and scientific record available to all.”  
Id.; see also Digital Public Library of America, Berkman Ctr. for Internet & Soc’y, http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/research/dpla (last visited Mar. 19, 2012) (detailing the effort in the United States, similar to the effort of the founders of ArchiveGrid).
Commonwealth Legal Information Institute: Provides browsing and searching of 464 databases from fifty Commonwealth and common law countries and territories.  
http://www.commonlii.org

Guide to Foreign and International Legal Databases (Law Library at New York University):  
http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/research/foreign_intl/index.htm

Guide to Law Online: Nation of the World (Library of Congress): Annotated list of links to the law of jurisdictions around the world.  

International Law in Domestic Courts: Domestic cases that explore international issues and cases from various nations throughout the world.  
http://www.oxfordlawreports.com/subscriber_articles_by_category?module=idlc

The European Library: Search through the resources of thirty of the forty-seven national libraries with access to more than 150 million entries; not full-text access, just bibliographic access.  

World Digital Library Project: Primary materials from cultures around the world, including manuscripts, maps, rare books, etc.  
http://www.wdl.org/en/

World Justice Project Rule of Law Index: Quantitative assessment tool designed by the World Justice Project to offer a detailed and comprehensive picture of the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law in practice.  
http://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/

World Legal Information Institute: Free, independent, and non-profit global legal research facility developed to provide a single search facility for databases located on the legal information institutes of fourteen
different legal information institutes, including those in Australia, Britain, Ireland, Canada, Hong Kong, and the United States.

http://www.worldlii.org

Worldwide Legal News: Law Library of Congress converted its Global Legal Monitor from a static, monthly PDF newsletter to this dynamic and regularly updated website that traces legal news and developments worldwide.

http://www.loc.gov/lawweb/servlet/lloc_news

VIII. SITES FOR SECONDARY RESOURCES

a. Law Review and Journals

ABA Journal: Magazine’s entire site and all of its contents open to the public since July 2007 after years of being available only to ABA members; site has back issues through 2005.

http://www.abajournal.com

American Law Source Online (ALSO): U.S. Law Reviews and Periodicals (click on “law reviews and periodicals” on the first page of the site).

http://www.lawsourcex.com/also

Findlaw: Allows keyword searching through the text of online law reviews.

http://stu.findlaw.com/journals/index.html

HighBeam: 35 million documents from over 3,000 sources that date back as far as twenty years.

http://www.highbeam.com

HighWire: More than one million scholarly journal articles from more than 900 journals available for free through HighWire Press, a division of

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Ingenta: Searchable index to thousands of academic and professional journals.
http://www.ingentaconnect.com/

Open Access Journal Content: Promotes models that ensure free and unrestricted access to scholarly and research journals; temporarily suspended, but will be back with a new interface.
http://www.openj-gate.com

b. Associations & Directories

American Bar Association: ABA news, ABA Journal, publications, meetings, CLE opportunities, discussion groups, section activities, and news in addition to more information for attorneys.
http://www.americanbar.org/aba.html

Avvo: Unveiled in June 2007, its mission is “to help people navigate the complex and confusing legal industry” and to choose a lawyer.18
http://www.avvo.com

Findlaw: Foreign/international, national, state, and local bar associations and directories.
http://www.findlaw.com/06associations/index.html

Legal Match: Describes itself as “America's original attorney/client matching service”; system matches the consumer's case to LegalMatch lawyers in their city or county based on the specifics of the consumer's case and the lawyer's location and area of legal practice.
http://www.legalmatch.com/

Martindale-Hubbell: Traditional directory that enables attorneys to

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research lawyers, law firms, government lawyers, and corporate law departments.

http://www.martindale.com/

The Robing Room: A judge rating site with more than 12,000 reviews of federal and state judges with a new e-mail alert system for notice to users when new postings relating to designated judges appear.

http://www.therobingroom.com

West Legal Directory: Listing of lawyers and law firms.

http://lawyers.findlaw.com/

c. General Legal and Other Reference Resources

Agency Websites (Hide and Seek with FOIA Information):


American Law Sources Online (ALSO): Laws of the US, Canada, and Mexico; uniform laws; law schools; law reviews; directories.

http://www.lawsource.com/also

Citation Information from LII: Introduction to basic legal citation; revised by Professor Peter in the fall of 2011 to take account of changes in the citation rules of a number of U.S. jurisdictions and to reflect the fourth edition of the ALWD Citation Manual as well as the nineteenth edition of The Bluebook (both published in 2010).

http://www.law.cornell.edu/citation

CyberCemetery: Maintained by the University of North Texas libraries; site is the repository for many government publications, both state and federal, including a database of Congressional Research Service reports (which are generally not available to researchers and the public); click on the “Digital Collections” for access to the CRS reports and other important collections.

http://govinfo.library.unt.edu

Defense Research Institute: National Association of Defense Lawyers’
website that features DRI seminar materials in addition to magazine and newsletter articles; can be searched by keywords or browsed by topic.
http://www.dri.org

Doing Business Gender Law Library: Collection of national legal provisions impacting women's economic status in 183 economies designed to facilitate comparative analysis of legislation, serve as a resource for research, and contribute to reforms that can enhance women’s full economic participation.


FDA: For Consumers: http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/default.htm

Findlaw: Legal subject index; cases and codes; professional development; news and reference materials; law firms and lawyers; legal associations and organizations.
http://www.findlaw.com


Guide to Finding Old Web Pages: Available at the Search Engines Showdown webpage and last updated as of January 27, 2008; table shows the name of the services, the way to find archived pages, and some notes as to the age of a page that the archive may contain.
http://www.searchengineshowdown.com/others/archive.shtml

Handbook on Military Law 2004 (Secrecy News):
Internet Archive (Wayback Machine): Searchable using a URL to see what was included on a company or other institution’s website at a given point in time.  
http://www.archive.org/index.php


Land and Property Values in the United States: databases available here contain information on the values and rental prices of residential properties in the United States; maintained by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.  
http://www.lincolninst.edu/subcenters/land-values/

Legal Bitstream: Database of tax materials beginning in 1990 with access to many IRS pronouncements, such as rulings and procedures:  
http://www.legalbitstream.com

Legal Information Institute (Cornell): Legal materials arranged by topic; U.S. Supreme Court decisions; U.S. Code & Constitution; Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Evidence; variety of other legal material.  
http://www.law.cornell.edu

Merck Manual: Based on the world’s most widely used textbook in medicine.  
http://www.merckmanuals.com/home/index.html

Net’s Best Law Dictionary - Legal Lexicon’s Lyceum: Includes thousands of definitions and explanations of legal terms, phrases, and concepts.  
http://www.lectlaw.com/def.htm

Patent Assignments on the Web:  
http://assignments.uspto.gov/assignments/?db=pat

President’s DNA Initiative: Initiative designed to “advance justice through DNA technology” with links to highlights, research initiatives, speeches, testimony, press releases, etc.:  
http://www.dna.gov/
Recalls: Current recalls issued by six government agencies.
http://www.recalls.gov

The Memory Hole: Website owner preserves as many documents that disappear from other websites, including government sites, as he can, such as CRS reports that were only recently made available at other sites.
http://www.thememoryhole.org

TradeMarkia: Search engine for more than six million trademarked logos, names, and slogans.
http://www.trademarkia.com/

Visual Thesaurus: http://www.visualthesaurus.com/?vt

Wordnik: Definitions from multiple sources.
http://www.wordnik.com/

d. Sources for Verifying Quotations

Bartleby.com: http://www.bartleby.com/quotations

Bibliomania: http://www.bibliomania.com

Quoteland: http://www.quoteland.com

QuotesandSayings.com: http://www.quotesandsayings.com/quotes/find/

IX. SITES FOR PEOPLE, PLACES, WEATHER, RECORDS, COMPANIES, EXPERT WITNESSES, AND MORE

a. Directories and Information about People

Accurint: Owned by LexisNexis; can be used to locate almost anyone with aliases, historical addresses, relatives, associates, neighbors, assets, and more; focused on helping collection agencies, companies with internal
collections departments, lawyers, insurance professionals, law enforcement agencies, and corporations locate debtors, witnesses, suspects, and other persons critical to their work; can search by social security number if available; requires an account.

http://www.accurint.com

Addresses.com: U.S. White Pages; offers a reverse telephone directory (enter a telephone number and find the resident’s address and name).

http://www.addresses.com/white-pages

Four11: Compiled by Metromail from published white page directories and other publicly available sources; one of the most comprehensive compilations on the net; owned by Yahoo.

http://people.yahoo.com/

Globemaster Links: Provides access to databases of active, reserve, retired, and veteran military personnel.

http://www.globemaster.de/links.html

Infospace: Features an array of white and yellow page directories, city guides, and other listings; contains 112 million listings.

http://www.infospace.com

Switchboard: One of the fastest directories; 106 million residential listings and eleven million business listings.

http://www.switchboard.com

USA Search: Genealogy and Family History: page at the USA Search website that offers searching of Census Bureau information, family history, state archives, birth and death information, etc.

http://usasearch.gov/search?v%3Aproject=firstgovweb&query=genealogy

WhoWhere? Claims to have the largest directory of e-mail addresses as well as more than ninety-million residential phone listings; offers a “familyfinder” genealogy search engine; utilizes a wildcard search option on the first name.

http://www.whowhere.com/
Yellow Book: Business, people, reverse lookup.  
http://www.yellowbook.com

Google: http://www.google.com/help/features.html (scroll down to People Profiles)

Internet Address Finder: http://www.iaf.net/

iSearch: http://www.isearch.com/?refer=3338

KnowX People Finder: http://www.knowx.com

PeopleSearch.net: http://peoplesearch.net/

The Ultimate Pages: http://www.newultimates.com

b. Business Directories and Business Information Sources

Business and Human Rights Resource Center: Source of news and reports about the positive and negative impacts that companies have on human rights worldwide.  
http://www.business-humanrights.org

Corporate Information: Jump station for sites that offer information on locating companies; organized by country.  
http://www.corporateinformation.com

Delaware Corporations Commission:  
http://www.corp.delaware.gov/default.shtml

EDGAR Database: SEC’s database of financial filings of public companies; 24-hour delay in data availability.  
http://www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml

Guide to Other Sources for Company Information:  
http://virtualchase.com/topics/company_information_index.shtml
Hoover’s Online: Provides information on 12,000 public and private companies; provides free capsule reports, but full profiles are for subscribers only.  
http://www.hoovers.com

Knowledge Mosaic: Makes SEC filings more accessible and provides other value-added materials.  
http://www.knowledgemosaic.com/net/home/kmhome.aspx

c. Expert Witnesses

Defense Research Institute: Searchable database of 47,000 experts; fee-based and membership required.  
http://www.dri.org

Expert List from Hieros Gamos: Simple, phonebook-style list of experts organized by area of expertise compiled from experts who advertise in major legal publications; site also includes a searchable, self-listing database in which experts can list themselves, describe their credentials and services, and provide links to their websites.  
http://www.hgexperts.com

Expert Transcript Center: Extensive database of expert transcripts; lists experts for which Triodyne has background information; must call for list of transcripts for specific expert; fee for transcripts based on number of pages.  
http://www.triodyne.com/Transcript.htm

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Expert Witness & Litigation Consultant Pages: Organized by specialty, country, and state; scope is broad, but results seem somewhat limited.
http://expertpages.com/

Expert Witness Network: Sponsored by the Legal Resource Network; available for free is an extensive, searchable index of experts with Web pages and the archives of the “expert-l” discussion list; paid subscribers have access to a database of experts’ curricula vitae and articles written by various experts.
http://www.witness.net/

FindLaw Experts Section: Extensive index of experts and consultants on the web; browse the index or search by keywords.
http://marketcenter.findlaw.com

LexisNexis Expert Research On-Demand: Commonly believed to be the best resource for defense experts; includes more than 75,000 experts’ names; provides a list of prior cases and opposition’s expert testimony; electronic transcript archive; membership required.
http://idex.lexisnexis.com/requests/index.jsp?_requestid=35969

Noble Expert Witness Directory: One of the most famous directories now available on the Net.
http://www.experts.com/

Virginia Association of Defense Attorneys: Data about experts available only to members.
http://www.vada.org

WashLaw Experts Page: Lengthy collection of links that includes most of the sites listed here and links to individual expert pages; maintained by the Washburn University Law Library.
http://www.washlaw.edu/expert/

d. Public Records

Corporate Filings: http://www.azcc.gov/divisions/corporations (AZ)
Criminal Records:
- Bureau of Justice Statistics:  
  http://www.bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm
- Who’s A Rat: http://www.whosarat.com

Death Records Index: Social Security death index offers information about individuals dying since 1962; name, social security number, date of birth, date of death, last know address; data from the Social Security Administration.  
http://search.ancestry.com/search/default.aspx?

KnowX: Free searches for people and businesses using a variety of data; results of free searches are highly summarized; full record is available for a fee.  
http://www.knowx.com

National Obituary Archive: http://www.arrangeonline.com

Portico: Collection of websites containing publicly available information for the advancement community.  
http://indorgs.virginia.edu/portico/

RealQuest/City or County Property Records:  
http://www.realquest.com/jsp/rq.jsp?action=switch&page=main

Search Systems: http://publicrecords.searchsystems.net

Vital Records Information State Index: Links and information on obtaining vital records from each state, territory, and U.S. county.  
http://vitalrec.com/index.html

http://www.funeralnet.com/index.php

http://www.legacy.com/ns
X. NEWS/UPDATING SITES, BLOGS, WIKIS, PODCASTS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA

a. Online Legal Research News and Online Legal News

beSpacific: Daily law and technology news with links to primary and secondary sources on topics including e-government, privacy, government documents, cybercrime, ID theft, the Patriot Act, freedom of information, federal legislation, legal research, knowledge management, blogs, RSS, and wikis.

http://www.bespacific.com

Electronic Discovery News: http://www.evestigate.com

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b. News (Especially Up-to-Date News)

Alternet.org: Produced by the Independent Media Institute to provide access to alternative press and political coverage.  
http://www.alternet.org/

Excite News Tracker: http://news.excite.com/index/id/home.html (for older news)

GoogleNews: http://news.google.com (GoogleNewsAlerts: sign up for alerts that will send an e-mail whenever an article that matches your search criteria is published in any of the index’s sources)

Historic American Newspapers: Access to newspaper pages from select American newsprint sources ranging from 1880 to 1910.  
http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

Moreover: Recent news and updates: news headlines and stories from over 1,500 sources.
News Is Free:  http://www.newsisfree.com/

Newspaper Association of America:  http://naa.org

Salon Magazine:  http://salon.com/?x

Stateline.org:  Stories about issues facing state governments; also publishes reports that are useful to researchers, journalists, and others; has a 50-state analysis of post 9/11 open records laws.  http://www.stateline.org/live


Writenews (newspapers from many different locations):  http://www.writenews.com/newslinks

c.  Law Blawgs,\textsuperscript{22} Wikis, Twitter, and Social Media

Above the Law:  One of the most well known legal blogs; described as an online legal tabloid with the intention of serving as a “kind of virtual water cooler”\textsuperscript{23} for the legal profession.  http://abovethelaw.com/


\textsuperscript{23} Jamie Diaferia, \textit{A View from the Legal Press Box: An Interview with David Lat}, L. PRAC., Sept./Oct. 2009, at 48 (Lat is the author of “Above the Law” Blog).
Law.com: Includes a frequently updated listing of law-related blogs (see “visit our bloggers” listing at the first page of newsletter); provides the option of signing up for delivery of the free Legal Blog Watch newsletter.

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http://www.law.com/jsp/law/index.jsp

Law Library Blogs/Blogs at the AALL Computing Services Special Interest Section wiki:

http://aallcssis.pbworks.com/w/page/1189465/Law%20Library%20Blogs

Legal Blog Watch: http://legalblogwatch.typepad.com/

Legally Minded: ABA’s online community serving the legal profession; designed to create an “unparalleled” resource that gathers law school students, academics, firm administrators, legal support staff, judges, paralegals, attorneys, law librarians, and other professionals to contribute, network, and collaborate online.24

http://americanbar.org/aba.html

LibraryLaw Blog: Blog by Mary Minow (attorney/librarian) that deals with many issues, including copyright law.

http://blog.librarylaw.com/

Library Weblogs:

http://www.libdex.com/weblogs.html

LinkedIn: World’s largest professional network.

http://www.linkedin.com/

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Opinio Juris: One of the first blogs devoted to international law and international relations.  
http://www.opiniojuris.org

Slaw: Weblog about Canadian legal research and the impact of technology; aim is to share information, offer advice, and instruction.  
http://www.slaw.ca/

Supreme Court Blog: Devoted to comprehensive coverage of the U.S. Supreme Court without bias and according to the highest journalistic and legal ethical standards; provided as a public service and sponsored by Bloomberg Law.  
http://www.scotusblog.com/

Twitter: Real-time information network that provides access to stories, ideas, opinions, and news.  
http://twitter.com/

http://valawyersweekly.com/vlwblog/

Wiki of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit: provides electronic access to Seventh Circuit case information, rules, procedures, and opinions; first public wiki created by the federal judiciary.  

Wikipedia: Online encyclopedia that anyone can edit with over 2,800,000 articles.  
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

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Congresspedia: The Citizen’s encyclopedia on Congress that is now a part of Open Congress.  
http://www.opencongress.org/wiki/wiki_home

d. Podcasts (Searching the Content of Podcasts)

Blinkx: http://www.blinkx.com

Yahoo!Search: http://music.yahoo.com

XI. MISCELLANEOUS INTERNET SITES

CitySearch: Provides restaurant and entertainment reviews, weather, maps, sections for singles, and online auctions (absorbed content of Sidwalk.com).  
http://www.CitySearch.com

CEO Express: Source organized for a busy CEO with links to many different types of information, including movie reviews, airline schedules and prices, and the stock market; also includes a section with links to Internet reference type materials such as directories, dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc.  
http://www.ceoexpress.com/default.asp

Deep Web Research: http://www.deepwebresearch.info/

Dumb Laws: Listings and texts of “stupid” laws still on the books; organized by jurisdiction.  
http://www.dumblaws.com

Extreme Searcher’s Internet Handbook:  
http://www.extremesearcher.com/

FlyOnTime: Designed for air travelers who are interested in the on-time performance of the commercial air system in the United States.  
http://flyontime.us/
Intute: Consortium of seven British universities with partners from many other universities, libraries, associations, and societies; this site reviews, evaluates, and indexes educational and informational web pages from around the world; site closed effective July 2011, but material is still located at the site and nothing new is being added.  
http://www.intute.ac.uk/

MilitaryConnection: Comprehensive directories of military and veteran benefits.  
http://www.militaryconnection.com/

Nolo.com (“Law for All”): Legal publisher of many “self help” type materials, but also includes a law store for purchasing software, books, forms, etc.; legal internet guide section includes information arranged by practice areas and other categories.  
http://www.nolo.com/

Smithsonian Collections Search Center: One-stop search of more than two million of the Smithsonian's museum, archives, library, and research holdings and collections, including 265,900 images, video and sound files, electronic journals, and other resources from the Smithsonian's museums, archives, and libraries.  
http://collections.si.edu/search/

Statistics (a few significant ones):

Bureau of the Census: http://www.census.gov


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Health Statistics: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/

Labor Union Statistics: [http://www.unionstats.com](http://www.unionstats.com)


The World Clock: [http://www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com)


Words and Phrases: Devoted to recently coined words and phrases, old words that are being used in different ways, and existing words that have enjoyed a “recent renaissance.” [http://www.wordspy.com/index.asp](http://www.wordspy.com/index.asp)

Zillow.com: Real estate research with free valuations and other information on more than forty million homes in the United States; historical value changes as compared to surrounding zip codes; etc. [http://www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com)

**XII. VIRGINIA LAW SCHOOL WEBSITES**

[9] Most law school libraries maintain research guides. For example, the University of Richmond’s website provides access to a series of research guides dealing with topics such as “federal case law,” “Virginia materials,” “treaties and agreements,” as well as many other topics. These research guides identify both print and electronic resources that might be useful to attorneys and other researchers. Similar research materials might be available at the “Law Library” or “Library” portion of the following websites.

Appalachian School of Law: [http://www.asl.edu/](http://www.asl.edu/)

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XIII. CONCLUSION

[10] There are many caveats for those using this type of listing. First, anyone using the sources identified in any listing of Internet websites must recognize that website URLs change frequently and that websites disappear. If you cannot locate a website using the URL in this listing, merely use the name of the website in Google or another search engine to attempt to locate the current URL for the site. 27 Secondly, as merely a listing of websites that might be useful to attorneys, law students, and others in the legal profession, this article clearly does not deal with the issue of whether or not online searching, print searching, or some combination of the two is the most effective type of legal and other research. Numerous authors have written extensively about this issue. 28
