



FINDING JOURNAL AND LAW REVIEW ARTICLES

A great place to find information on new or unsettled areas of law is a scholarly journal article. In the field of law, these journals are often called law reviews. Every American law school publishes a law review, and many schools publish other, specialty journals on topics such as banking, entertainment law, sports law, or international law. The articles contain extensive analyses of legal topics. They also include lots of footnotes that cite to additional sources. By looking at journal articles, a researcher can be directed to key cases and statutes in addition to gaining an overview of a complex subject.

I. How to find articles

Westlaw and Lexis offer complex searching options that can be highly specialized. However, an index will do much of the work for a researcher.

Legaltrac (1980 – Present)

Location: Charlottelaw.org → Law Library → Library Databases → Legaltrac

Legaltrac indexes articles from over 900 law reviews and journals by subject. For example, searching for the subject “Antonin Scalia” on the main screen retrieves over 400 relevant articles spread across over 20 subdivisions.

Current Index to Legal Periodicals (CILP)

Location: Westlaw: CILP database. (Previous 8 weeks available)

The Current Index to Legal Periodicals indexes articles faster than Legaltrac or other legal periodical indexes. By using CILP, you can update secondary research to the latest publications.

United States Code Annotated and United States Code Service

Location in Print: Atrium, KF 62.5 W45 and KF 62 1972 .L38

Location Online: Westlaw: USCA and Lexis: USCS

Both the West and Lexis annotated codes have research guides following the code sections with references to journal articles. As with any code research in print, be sure to check the pocket parts for the latest references.

HeinOnline

Location: Charlottelaw.org → Law Library → Library Databases → HeinOnline → Law Library Journal

HeinOnline doesn't have the search capabilities of Lexis/Westlaw or the indexing functions of Legaltrac or CILP, but it does offer the widest dates of coverage. The



search engine on HeinOnline is improving and currently allows searches by citation, title, author, full-text and year.

Westlaw: Journals and Law Reviews

Location: JLR database

Westlaw's JLR does not index articles, but it does allow you to search for keywords in the title field or in the full text.

Lexis: Law Reviews and Journals

Location: ALLUS database

Lexis' law review and journal database offers similar search functions as Westlaw. The coverage dates and titles available will differ from Westlaw, so be sure to check both databases.

II. How to Retrieve Articles

In addition to search capabilities, Lexis and Westlaw also offer the full text of journal articles. However, the articles can be difficult to read. Footnotes are printed at the end of each article and connected to the text by hyperlinks. Also, graphs or tables are not reproduced. Therefore, many researchers prefer the articles in print or in HeinOnline.

HeinOnline

Location: Charlottelaw.org → Law Library → Library Databases → HeinOnline → Law Library Journal

Hein reproduces articles in the original printed format as PDFs, making it easy to read both the text and footnotes.

Print

Location: Compact Shelving and Off-Site Storage

Sometimes having a print copy of a journal is easier to read and use. Recent journals are located in compact shelving, and older volumes are located in the off site storage. If you need an older volume, stop by the reference desk and speak to a librarian.