

secondary sources

what they are and why you should use them



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why secondary sources

- don't reinvent the wheel
- know the arguments on both sides
- get a quick introduction to a new area
- get an in-depth treatment of one topic

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what are secondary sources?

- anything that's not a primary source
- journals, newspapers, newsletters
- treatises, hornbooks, nutshells
- books

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finding books & journals

- catalogs: lawpac, chinook, prospector, etc.
- journals: search by journal title, not article title or author
- use keyword: keyword searching often works best
- remember that you are searching an index, not full-text

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about encyclopedias

- *American Jurisprudence 2d* — AmJur
- *Corpus Juris Secundum* — CJS
- general material
- national scope

using encyclopedias

- use index volumes at the end of the set to find article and section
- use the table of contents for your article to find *all* the relevant sections
- follow footnotes to find primary sources

about restatements

- written by American Law Institute
- editions are significant
 - first is descriptive
 - second is prescriptive
- come in various topics: torts, property, etc.

using restatements

- find your restatement in the catalog with keyword search
- use index and table of contents to find relevant section(s)
- use the appendix to find cases citing your section(s)
- check pocket part in appendix for recent cases

about treatises

- written by leading scholars (or teams of scholars)
- consult librarian to find “leading” treatises
 - see *Recommended Law Books* or *Legal Information Buyers Guide*
- one for every topic you can think of

using treatises

- locate in library or online using catalog
- use index to find relevant section(s)
- read commentary on your topic
- don't forget to use the citations in the footnotes to find primary material

about ALR

- *American Law Reports*
- comes in two flavors: regular and “fed”
- reports leading case, then analyzes issues in various jurisdictions
- articles are called “annotations”
- remember “already done legal research”

using ALR

- regular is located in library basement on first row of “state” section
- use index to find relevant annotation(s)
 - includes 2-6 and Fed - pocket part!
- read scope note and consult annotation table of contents
- read annotation and consult footnotes

about *colorado practice*

- several individual treatises in one series
- similar to *AmJur* and *CJS*, but state focused
- some states have, e.g., *NYJur*
- includes forms and checklists

using *colorado practice*

- located in Colorado section of library
- to start, either
 - ◉ find relevant element of the set and consult index in that element
 - ◉ or use master index
- then read annotation and consult footnotes

about finding articles

- indexes: *Index to Legal Periodicals* and *LegalTrac* (both are online)
- use keyword: keyword searching often works best, especially to start
- remember that you are searching an index, not full-text

why use an index?

	ILP & ILP Retro	JLR
Titles	c.600*	c.600
Dates	1918 –	c. 1995 –

* varies by date

why get full-text from non-Wexis source?

	Hein Online	JLR
Titles	c.1000	c.600
Dates	vol. 1 — 2002	c. 1995 – date
Footnotes	each page	endnotes
Printing	10¢ per page	free

about looseleafs

- one-stop shopping: collects statutes, cases, regulations and commentary by subject
- online: more up-to-date than paper, email alerts available
- often there are competing sets in one area, e.g., *CCH Standard Federal Tax Reporter*, *Tax Management Portfolios* and *RIA Federal Tax Coordinator*

using looseleafs

- read *How to use this set* in the front of the first volume (sometimes the index volume)
- really, they come with directions

demonstrations

- restatements
- encyclopedia
- state practice guide
- american law reports (ALR)
- treatise
- journal index

questions?