

William A. Wise Law Library tip sheet:

How to find the law in using secondary sources

Secondary sources are a great starting point when you want to know what the law is. Here are some of the most popular sources in our library.

AmJur and CJS – *American Jurisprudence 2d* and *Corpus Juris Secundum* – in the Reference Area

- Provides a quick introduction to your subject, pointing you to other resources and cases
- Start in the index, which consists of multiple volumes, shelved at the end of the entire set
- Find your article and number, and then look it up in the main volumes of the set
- Each article has a Table of Contents
- Each volume also has an index at the end
- Be sure to check any pocket part in the back of your volume

ALR – *American Law Reports* – basement level State Section at KF 132

- There is an index at the end of the set – use this to find the your topic (be sure you are in the most recent index, covering ALR 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and Federal)
- If you find an article in both 2nd and 5th, look at the one in ALR 5th as it will be the most recent and up to date
- ALR Federal volumes are on the first floor in the Federal Section.
- Be sure to check the pocket part for any recent updates to your topic

Colorado Practice Series in the Colorado Section at KFC1880

- Colorado specific materials arranged by topic
- There is a general index shelved at the end of the set – be sure you are using the most current set and index
- There is a smaller index at the back of each volume as well
- Be sure to check the pocket part for any recent updates to your element

Colorado-specific treatises in the Colorado Section

- Colorado specific books arranged by topic – try a keyword search in the catalog or browse the shelf
- These are frequently continuing education materials for lawyers
- Very specific, e.g., *Colorado Water Law*, *Health Law in Colorado*, or *Colorado Estate Planning*

Treatises on the second and first floors

- Treatises provide an in depth treatment of a legal subject
- Treatises are located in the library stacks at call numbers KF1-KF9999, and are grouped by broad subject like torts, business law or tax law.
- A keyword search for your subject using the library's catalog is the best way to find a book. Once you have the call number for one book, you can go to the stacks and browse the books surrounding it in order to find one that may be more relevant to your issue or more up-to-date.