

William A. Wise Law Library tip sheet:

How to find law review articles using an index

To find an article, you need to use an index that lists all of the articles published in legal journals, magazines and newspapers. *LegalTrac* and *The Index to Legal Periodicals* are two databases available to the public via the library's computers. These databases can be found by going to the library's homepage, clicking on *Research Tools*, then *Find An Article*.

LegalTrac (covers 1980-date)

- The default search in LegalTrac is a “keyword” search, which is often the best way to look an article up.
- Note that in LegalTrac, if you perform an “author” search, you should enter the first name then the last name last (as opposed to most databases which require the last name first and first name last).
- Also note that LegalTrac has different “tabs” on the search results page: Academic, Magazines, Newspapers, etc.
- Even though it may seem odd, you should click on the “Magazines” tab to see what, if any, results are listed there. Many well-respected, professional legal publications are classified as “magazines” by LegalTrac so you may find some very useful results under that tab.

Index to Legal Periodicals (covers 1908-date)

- The Index to Legal Periodicals works much the same way as LegalTrac.
- For an author search, in this database you should enter the author's last name first and first name last.

Some General Hints

- In either database, if you find an article that you really like, the subject headings listed at the very bottom of the screen can lead you to more articles that are similar. Just click on the applicable hyperlinked subject heading to see all of the other articles that have been assigned that same subject heading.
- Sometimes a database will provide you with immediate access to the full text of an article you have found, but if not, there are three ways to get a full text version:
 1. *Paper copies* – the library has many law journals in print on the basement level in the compacts shelves. Journals are organized alphabetically by title for easy use.
 2. *HeinOnline* – if published prior to (or sometimes after) 2002
 3. *Lexis Academic* – if published after 1995
- Both *Lexis Academic* and *HeinOnline* can be found on the library's website in the same manner as *LegalTrac* and *The Index to Legal Periodicals*: go to the library's homepage, click on *Research Tools*, then *Find An Article*.
- You will sometimes find direct links to online versions of a journal in the library's catalog or in the library's *Journal Locator*, linked from the *Find An Article* page.