Effective Academic Research

- Use a variety of resources
  - Each database has unique data, algorithms, and rankings
  - Search for both print and digital information

- Use several search strategies
  - Keyword, subject, links to cited/citing sources, call numbers (in catalog)

- Developing strong keywords
  - Learn from each source you find to expand terms and find “terms of art”
Outline

- Library homepage
  - Research Guides
  - Catalog & inPrimo
  - E-journal finder
  - GMU database portal
  - Google Scholar
  - Law related databases
    - Incl. HeinOnline, Bloomberg/BNA, PLI Discover
      Plus
    - These resources should be used in addition to WestlawNext and Lexis Advance
- Setting up alerts
Scholarly Writing and Spading Guide

- Designed to assist you in writing a paper
- Ideas for topic selection, preemption, writing, and finding sources

Law Library Research Guide: Scholarly Writing & Spading

Finding a Topic

Book Chapters

Helpful Articles

Current Awareness Databases
BNA databases provide in-depth news and analysis of current events along with applicable statutes, administrative regulations, decisions, and cases in a variety of legal subject areas including business law, criminal law, environmental law, labor law, and intellectual property. The BNA databases are excellent for current awareness of legal developments and finding a topic for a student note. BNA's U.S. Law Week publishes a list of circuit splits once per month. You will see the link on the left of the screen under "Key Features." See also BNA's flyer entitled "Locating Paper Topics Using BNA Publications."

CQ Researcher offers in-depth analysis of major issues in the news. CQ Weekly covers Congressional news and both provide background on public policy issues.

Blogs
The ABA maintains a Blawg Directory that is browsable by topic; if you would like to find a law blog in a particular area of law.
The Adjunct Law Prof Blog - A section of the blog is an on-going list of Law Review Ideas.
Research Guides & Treatises

- **Research Guides**
  
  Helps you identify good sources—especially current awareness sources—in your area
  
  - Internet search: legal research guide [subject]
  
  - [Georgetown Legal Research Guides](#)

- **Treatises**
  
  - In-depth overviews of an area of law
  
  - E.g., *Administrative Law Treatise* by Richard Pierce
  
  - For help identifying a treatise:
    
    - Georgetown’s [Treatise Finder](#)
    
    - Harvard’s [Legal Treatises by Subject](#)
    
    - Ask someone in the field, or ask a librarian
  
  - Then, use the [GMU libraries catalog](#) to find the treatise in our library
Catalog & inPrimo

- The **Library catalog** searches for books in our library.
  - You **cannot** conduct thorough research for a paper without reviewing available print materials to see whether a book has been written on the topic.

- **inPrimo**
  - “Catalog overlay” and “discovery tool.”
  - Searches our catalog and much more, including articles, news, the internet, other libraries’ catalog.
  - Offers unique results.
  - Worth the time to search.
Catalog Tips

- Remember the catalog isn’t Google
  - No auto-spell correct or “do you mean”
  - Only searching words that our in the catalog record, not full text

- Use subject and call number searches in addition to keyword searching
  - Find subject headings from known items
  - Browse call numbers to find related items
If you know the journal title, use that to search. The E-journal finder will allow you to link through to an electronic version of the journal. Then, browse to find your article.
GMU non-law articles

- The most commonly used databases are:
  - JSTOR (many subject areas, esp. social sciences and humanities)
  - Academic Search Complete (many subject areas)
  - EconLit (economics)
  - Business Source Complete (business, marketing, and econ-lite)
- Access through the GMU Database Portal (next slide)
**GMU Database Portal**

Search, alphabetical, or browse by subject area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articles &amp; Databases</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Databases by Title:</td>
<td>A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P R S T U V W X Y Z [all]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Database Collections &amp; Formats:</td>
<td>Basic Topics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Google Scholar

- Searches scholarly literature in multiple disciplines
- Advanced search
  - Click on arrow in search bar for advance options
- Can link to GMU library resources
  - Settings > Library Links > search for and add GMU (3, add all)
Search and seizure: a treatise on the Fourth Amendment
WR LaFave - 1987 - West St. Paul
Cited by 2256 Related articles All 2 versions Cite Save More

Perspectives on the Fourth Amendment
AG Amsterdam - Minn. L. Rev., 1973 - HeinOnline
This Article is the text of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Lectures, delivered by Professor Amsterdam at the University of Minnesota Law School on January 22, 23 and 24, 1974.
Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. left a large part of his estate to the United States at his death in ...
Cited by 2032 Related articles All 4 versions Cite Save More

The history and development of the fourth amendment to the United States Constitution
NB Lassohn - 1970 - Da Cape Press
Cited by 649 Related articles All 2 versions Cite Save More

The Fourth Amendment: First Principles
The Fourth Amendment today is an embarrassment. Much of what the Supreme Court has said in the last half century- that the Amendment generally calls for warrants and probable cause for all searches and seizures, and exclusion of illegally obtained evidence is ...
Cited by 992 Related articles All 7 versions Cite Save More

Two models of the Fourth Amendment
The fourth amendment is the Supreme Court's tarbaby: a mass of contradictions and obscurities that has enabled the "Brethren" in such a way that every effort to extract themselves only finds them more profoundly stuck. In 1971 Justice Harlan called for...
Cited by 415 Related articles All 6 versions Cite Save More
Google Blog Search

Google search results for "same-sex marriage" showing news articles, blogs, and discussions.
Law-Related Databases

Shortcuts to the Most Popular Databases

Select a Database

- Provided by the GMU Law Library; access may be limited to GMU Law School students, faculty, and staff.
- Restricted access: Off-Campus use requires GMU e-mail username and password.

AILA Link (American Association of Immigration Lawyers)

Provides access to AILA publications (including Kurzban’s Immigration Law Sourcebook); immigration-related statutes, regulations, and select case law; agency correspondence and manuals; AILA/government liaison minutes; and immigration forms. Access limited to no more than three simultaneous users.

Bloomberg Law

Provides access to Dockets, Company/Market Info, News, Legislative Watch, Regulatory Watch, DealMaker and Bloomberg Law Reports. For User Name and Password see the Reference Office.

BNA Libraries (Bloomberg)

BNA databases cover a wide range of legal subjects, including: business law, criminal law, environmental law, labor law, intellectual property, professional ethics, and the U.S. Supreme Court. The Law Library subscribes to all BNA databases, many of which provide daily or weekly email alerts. View a list of all available databases.

CALI (The Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction)

A collection of over one hundred interactive, computer-based lessons designed to augment traditional law school instruction. Access is limited to GMU Law School students, faculty and staff. To obtain the password to download CALI lessons, contact the Law Library Reference Office. Room 141.
- Link from homepage and *Law-Related Databases*

- Multiple search options
  - Boolean operators must be in caps (AND, OR)
  - Search specific libraries or across all libraries

- Scholarcheck
  - Law Journal Library provides “cited by” link
  - Sort results by number of times cited
Bloomberg BNA (see next 3 slides)

- Expert analysis and news on a wide range of legal subjects
  - E.g., Daily Tax Report, Daily Labor Report, Supreme Court Today, etc.
  - Resource Centers are an all-in-one

- Find BNA from the Library’s list of law related databases.
Supreme Court Today
Vacatur of Class Certification Ends Tolling

Individual plaintiffs in a securities fraud class action whose class certification had been vacated are time-barred from refiling their claims because the five-year statute of repose began running again once the class certification order was vacated, the Fifth Circuit rules. More »

Rule 23 Requisites Not Lower at Settlement; Mortgage Bias Class Fails

A proposed settlement class seeking to resolve mortgage discrimination allegations could not pass muster under the class comparability requirements outlined in Wal-Mart Stores Inc. v. Dukes, the Third Circuit decides. More »

Ukraine Can't Escape U.S. Jurisdiction Over Contract Dispute

Ukraine’s attempt to avoid litigation over its contractual obligations with an American company is halted by the First Circuit. Although foreign countries are typically immune from suit under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, the country’s contract with a private entity for international asset recovery falls within the “commercial activity” exemption to sovereign immunity, the court says. More »

ABA Backs Privilege for Consults With Law Firms’ Inside Counsel

The American Bar Association’s policy-making body urges courts and legislatures to recognize that lawyers’ consultations with their firm’s in-house counsel are privileged even if they concern potential liability to a client in an ongoing representation. More »

Michigan’s Criminalization of Begging Nixed as Free Speech Violation

The First Amendment protects the right of individuals to solicit alms, the Sixth Circuit holds. Striking down a decades-old Michigan ordinance that criminalized begging, the court rules in favor of two homeless men arrested under the law. More »
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Alerts

- You can set a **citation alert** or **search alert** in all three major research systems
  - Bloomberg Law/BNA
  - WestlawNext
  - Lexis Advance
- Also can set up Google Scholar Alert