George Mason Law Library Preemption Checklist

Complete this checklist to ensure your topic is not preempted. Keep a log of your searches.

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Westlaw and Lexis

Search for journal and law review articles in Westlaw and Lexis. Coverage varies and may not include historical material.

Therefore, do not rely solely on Lexis/Westlaw journal databases for your preemption check!

Law-Related Database: HeinOnline

Field search in the Law Journal Library.
  o Boolean operators (AND, OR) MUST be in capital letters.
  o Full text coverage goes back to volume 1 for nearly all journals and law reviews.

Social Science Research Network (SSRN) and Berkley Electronic Press (bePress)

Search these sources to find published articles and working papers (papers that have not yet been published but are in the publication process).
  o bePress: http://law.bepress.com

Google Scholar - http://scholar.google.com/

Find scholarly articles in all disciplines. Set your preferences to recognize GMU so that you can directly access our subscription databases.
  o Google Scholar ➔ Settings ➔ Library Links ➔ search for and add all George Mason University choices plus WorldCat Open Library Links
  o Advanced search available ➔ click on the down arrow in the Google Scholar search box.

Library Catalog/inPrimo

The library catalog finds books in our library. The new catalog overlay—inPrimo—checks GMU books and databases plus the Internet, news, and other libraries’ holdings to find relevant information from any discipline. inPrimo is a powerful tool with many post-search filters. It is available from the Law Library Homepage.

Law Blogs

  o Search the ABA Blawg Directory by topic to see blogs in your area of interest.
  o Justia Blawg Search lists law blogs by area of interest, too.
  o SCOTUSblog focuses on the Supreme Court and is comprehensive and analytical.

Research Guides

To learn more about researching your topic specifically, consult a research guide.
  o GMU Research Guides are available from the Law Library’s Homepage by selecting Guides and Publications
  o If we do not have an applicable research guide, Georgetown and Harvard Law Libraries have extensive guides on their library websites.

International and Foreign Law Articles

To search for articles in foreign law journals and law reviews about foreign and international law topics:
  o Within HeinOnline, search the Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals
  o Search the GMU database called PAIS International

Checklist updated July 13, 2015
Available at: http://www.law.gmu.edu/library/guides/scholarly_writing