Scholarly Writing Fall 2016 - Research Checklist

Student: _____ **Topic:** _____

Journal: _____ **Date:** _____

√	N/A	
☐		**Library homepage**

Links to: Scholarly Writing & Spading Guide; Research Guides; Catalog; inPrimo; Law Related Databases; GMU Database Portal; Google Scholar; E-journal Finder; and more.

☐		**Library Catalog & inPrimo**

It is absolutely essential that you search for books on your topic.

- Use subject terms to expand the search.
- Browse the shelf near helpful call numbers for additional resources.
- inPrimo searches more than just our catalog; for example, it searches articles and news, too.

☐		**Law-Related Databases – BNA, Bloomberg Law, HeinOnline, and PLI Discover Plus**

We provide a list of all of our legal databases in alphabetical order. The librarian can suggest the databases that might be useful to you. These are essential for everybody:

- BNA & Bloomberg Law – BNA creates topical, current awareness materials for lawyers. Identify the BNA resource relevant to you. Set up to receive the relevant BNA reporter through Bloomberg Law. Also look for a Resource Center in BNA or a Practice Center in Bloomberg Law relevant to your topic.
- HeinOnline – Full text law reviews since inception. Field search—Boolean connectors must be in all capital letters.
- PLI Discover Plus: search for Practising Law Institute treatises and handbooks; download PDF versions of chapters. Covers most legal topics.

☐		**GMU Database Portal**

Here, you can search for non-law articles in interdisciplinary databases. The databases are arranged by subject, alphabetically, or can be searched by name. The most popular are:

- Business Source Complete (business, marketing, economics-lite)
- Academic Search Complete (covers a variety of subjects)
- JSTOR (various social sciences, including law)
- EconLit (economics literature—very technical)

☐		**Google Scholar**

Find scholarly articles in all disciplines. Set your preferences to recognize GMU so that you can directly access our subscription databases.

- **Google Scholar → Settings → Library Links →** search for and add **George Mason University (3, choose all)** plus **WorldCat Open Library**
- Advanced search available: → click on the down arrow in the Google Scholar search bar.

☐		**E-journal Finder**

Here, you can search for access to an online journal using the title of the journal.

- 56 Eur. Econ. Rev. 317 (2012)
- Use Bb T13 to determine full title—you must spell the full title correctly.

Checklist available at: http://www.law.gmu.edu/assets/files/library/guides/ResearchChecklist-2016.pdf

☐ **Alerts & Dockets – WestlawNext, Lexis Advance, Bloomberg Law**

- Set an alert for your search at any of the three – WLN, Lexis Advance, BLAW.
- Track Docket information at Bloomberg Law.

☐ **ProQuest Congressional, ProQuest Legislative Insight, ProQuest Regulatory Insight**

- Use **Congressional** if your topic requires you to find a single legislative document such as a hearing, committee report, Congressional Record entry, or CRS report, or to find congressional documents when there is no Compiled Legislative History.
- Use **Legislative Insight** if you are looking for a Compiled Legislative History.
- Use **Regulatory Insight** to find all agency rule-making documents related to a federal law or executive order since 1936 ("regulatory history").

☐ **Research Guide**

- GMU Law Library research guides
- Georgetown and Harvard Law Library research guides
- Or, google: legal research guide [relevant subject]

☐ **Historical Databases**

- Making of Modern Law – full text treatises online from 1800-1926
- HeinOnline Legal Classics Library & Law Journal Library
- LLMC Digital
- Google Books
- Index to Legal Periodicals Retrospective (1918-1981)
- ProQuest Historical Newspapers

☐ **International and Foreign**

- Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations
- Eur-Lex (EU documentation system for Directives, Official Journal, etc.)
- Foreign Law Guide (Law Library database)
- Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals (from within HeinOnline)
- Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law (Law Library database)
- UN Official Documents System (ODS)
- Internet for most international tribunals (e.g., ICJ) and many international organizations
- Georgetown's Wolff International Law Library

☐ **Statistics**

- ProQuest Statistical Insight (GMU database)
- Administrative Office of the United States Courts
- Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- See also Georgetown's Legal Research Guide on Statistics & Empirical Legal Studies

☐ **Other** (student and librarian add additional resources as necessary)

Notes: