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.
Google Scholar

- Searches scholarly literature in multiple disciplines
- Advanced search
  - Click on arrow in search bar for advanced 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 Lasson - 1970 - Da Capo Press
Cited by 649  Related articles  All 2 versions  Cite  Save  More

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 982  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 ensnared the "Brehm" in such a way that every effort to extract themselves only finds them more profoundly stuck. In 1971 Justice Harlan called for" an ...
Cited by 415  Related articles  All 6 versions  Cite  Save  More
Google Blog Search

same-sex marriage

Blogs

Delay sought on Virginia same-sex marriages (UPDATED)
SCOTUSblog (blog) - Aug 15, 2014
UPDATE Thursday 12:50 p.m. The clerk of the Fourth Circuit has notified counsel that the decision against the Virginia same-sex marriage ban ...

4th Circuit Clears the Way for Gay Marriages to Begin in Virginia ...
The Slatest (blog) - Aug 13, 2014

Gay marriages could begin in Va., barring delay
Macon Telegraph (blog) - Aug 14, 2014

Gay Marriages May Begin In Virginia Next Week, After Court Denies ...
Blog - NPR (blog) - Aug 13, 2014

Explore in depth (421 more articles)
Law-Related Databases

Shortcuts to the Most Popular Databases

- **AILALink (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 library homepage**
- **Shortcut for popular ones on library homepage**
- **More is a full alphabetical list, the list continues beyond what is shown here**
HeinOnline

- 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.
Directly from BNA.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Vacatur of Class Certification Ends Tolling**
Individual plaintiffs in a securities fraud class action whose class certification had been vacated are time-barred from refile 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 commonality 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” exception 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 »

**From the Editors**
- U.S. Law Week’s annual review of civil cases in the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2012-2013 term: Pre-Business Decisions Abound in Term Shaped by Civil Rights Rulings, Amici Efforts
- Supreme Court Term in Review—2012-2013 Civil Cases (chart)
- U.S. Law Week’s annual review of criminal cases in the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2012-2013 term: From DNA to Drug-Sniffing Dogs, Fourth Amendment Drives High Court’s Term
- Supreme Court Term in Review—2012-2013 Criminal Cases (chart)
- ‘MY FOLDERS’ TOOL: Access at the top of this home page. To learn more, take a quick tour.
- We welcome your suggestions and article ideas. Please contact the managing editor at patkins@bna.com.
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Partner

McDermott Will & Emery

Supreme Court Weighs in Again on Class Arbitration in Oxford Health Plans and Italian Colors

James R. Daly

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An impressive and easily searchable array of treatises and practice materials on a variety of legal topics.
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  - Bloomberg Law/BNA
  - WestlawNext
  - Lexis Advance
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