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# Locating Legal Periodicals and Journal Articles

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## **Locating Legal Periodicals and Journal Articles**

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### Introduction

Can you really read a law review or journal article on the Web? The answer is, "it depends." There are a growing number of legal periodicals that are freely available via the Internet, but sometimes determining if a specific article or topic is available and then tracking it down can be a lot of work. For example, what if you are interested in identifying some current articles published in a certain legal field, such as immigration? No matter how good a searcher you are, it is nearly impossible to put "recent Immigration Law articles" into Google and get back a concise, usable list of articles. Instead, the best searching method to follow is making use of specialized websites, which assist in finding articles and legal periodicals on the Internet. Below are a few of these sites that will make the task of searching out articles easier and more time-efficient.

### **Legal Periodicals & Articles**

Many legal periodicals, especially law reviews sponsored by law schools and newsletters from non-profit organizations, are publicly available on the Internet. Commercial legal periodicals, too, will sometimes offer articles freely on the Internet, or at least make the table of contents or an abstract available publicly. The coverage varies greatly from title to title — sometimes there are full-text articles, other times only abstracts or tables of contents. However, even abstracts and tables of contents can be

helpful when trying to get a full citation or more information before you spend money getting the article from a commercial information provider, such as Westlaw or Lexis.

### Legal Periodical Directories & Searchable Indexes

One problem with legal periodicals on the Internet is that the links to this content are often buried deep on their host's websites. There are specialized directories and search tools for legal periodicals on the web, which take away much of the guesswork and ease the problem of locating articles from these publicly available sites. Below the directories and searchable indexes are divided into 3 sections. The first two sections cover legal periodical directories and are arranged by usefulness and coverage. University of Southern California Law Library – Legal Journals site, the JURIST – *Law Reviews* site, and the *WashLaw – Law Journals* site are the strongest in depth of coverage and information and are highly recommended. The remaining directories listed are of good quality and still better than most other directories of this type, but they cover fewer titles and have a few more inaccuracies. Nevertheless, these sites would be useful as supplementary resources, when you want to conduct a thorough search for a particular legal periodical. In the last section there is a list of searchable indexes of legal articles. These are limited in scope, but could be helpful when you are trying to find articles on a specific subject/topic, rather than from a specific journal.

### Legal Periodical Directories – For Primary Use

University of Southern California Law Library – Legal Journals http://lawweb.usc.edu/library/resources/journals.html

The best directory for legal periodicals currently available is the *University of*Southern California Law Library – Legal Journals site. It covers nearly 250

publications, organized into the following categories: General Law Reviews, Commercial Law Journals, ABA Journals and Newsletters, General Interest and Computing Periodicals, Subject Specific Law Reviews, Foreign Law Journals, Law Review Locating Services, and E-Journal Locating Services. Nearly half of the publications listed provide full-text of the journal articles. Each title is clearly marked with a code, indicating what level of content is available at that site. The codes are: F = Full-text; A = Abstracts; T = Table of Contents; S = Subscription Information. Because of the way the journal titles are divided into categories, it can make it a bit more challenging to know right away if a particular journal is linked to from this site. Whenever there is a discrepancy between this site and another law directory concerning the level of content available (such as if a particular journal is full-text or not), this list from the University of Southern California Law Library almost certainly has the correct information. There are also useful, brief annotations describing each publication when appropriate.

### JURIST – Law Reviews http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/lawrev.htm

The *JURIST – Law Reviews* site provides a listing of American law reviews that have a substantial web presence. The display is an easy to browse, straight alphabetical list, with no categorizations or annotations, divided into 3 sections: A-I, J-R, and S-Z. When looking for a specific title, the *JURIST – Law Reviews* site is much easier to use than the *USC Law Library – Legal Journals* site. The search box on each page allows for title searches for the titles listed on that page only. The nearly 100 titles available in full-text are clearly marked with a "Full Text" surscript note and with a "Full Text – PDF" note if full image of the print version is available on the Web. A unique feature of

this site are the links to specific parts of each journal's website. These links display as the following:

Current | Back | Search | Submissions | Subscriptions | Board | Contact

WashLaw – Law Journals http://www.washlaw.edu/lawjournal.html

Produced and frequently updated by the Washburn University School of Law, WashLaw – Law Journals has an easy to browse alphabetical directory covering over 300 law related titles available on the Internet. While there isn't a clear code designating links that have full-text articles, each title has a brief annotation describing the journal and sometimes noting availability of full-text or abstracts. Additionally, the site offers the ability to search a full-text index of law journals covered, using advanced site search software called WebGlimpse. This is a unique feature among the legal periodical directories and it is also listed in this paper under the Legal Periodical Searchable Indexes section.

### Legal Periodical Directories – For Supplemental Use

LawSource's American Law Sources On-line (ALSO!) — United States — Law Reviews and Periodicals http://www.lawsource.com/also/usa.cgi?usj

While not having the depth of the first two sites mentioned, the *LawSource's ALSO!* site is still a good source for links to legal periodicals. Titles that provide public access to full-text articles are listed in boldface, currently around 100 titles. However, the number of broken links seems to be a little high, which probably means the site isn't updated as frequently as the directory sites listed in the "For Primary Use" section. The titles are arranged alphabetically, with no categorizations or annotations. The titles are

followed by their standard Bluebook citation abbreviations, which can be helpful with so many similar sounding titles.

## Hieros Gamos – Law Journals http://www.hg.org/journals.html

Covering almost 250 law related journals, newsletters, and bulletins, *Hieros Gamos – Law Journals* offers a collection of linked titles from its site that are more international in both subject and source of publication than other directories listed is this paper. The alphabetical arrangement of the titles is exceptionally easy to read and scan, but offers no indication of full-text availability. When one is especially interested in articles about foreign or international law, then this would be the best directory in which to start your research. The site also has a free mailing list that can be customized to send notices when article content has been updated in a variety of practice areas.

# LexisONE – Legal Journals http://www.lexisone.com/legalresearch/legalguide/legal\_journals/legal\_journals.htm

What makes the *LexisONE – Legal Journals* site noteworthy is that each title in its alphabetical list of online legal periodicals is followed by an extensive annotation. While this site provides significant descriptive information about each title, it only covers about 50 publications, making it nowhere near as comprehensive as the *USC* or *JURIST* sites. Within the annotations there is usually information about how to access the title and if full-text is freely available, but this isn't as handy as the codes and symbols used to display this same information in the previous sites mentioned.

The *Coalition of Online Journals* and *FindLaw* in cooperation with *Stanford*, *JURIST, LII*, and *AustLII* maintain the directory of law reviews called the *University Law Review Project*. As its name indicates this directory is limited to links to academic law reviews. This directory's greatest strength is its arrangement by subject area and by law school. Unfortunately there is no indication of full-text availability and the links appear to be checked infrequently. If you know the law school that produces law review you are looking for, but you are unsure of the title of the law review, then this directory can make that search very easy. Access to this directory is available on both the *University Law Review Project* website and on *Findlaw*.

# **Internet Legal Resource Guide – Law Journals and Publications** http://www.ilrg.com/journal.html

With listings only for a little over 100 journal titles, the *ILRG* does claim to only link to items that are relevant and substantive. The titles are arranged alphabetically with a search box that does a keyword search of the titles. There is no indication of full-text availability and a percentage of sampled links are broken. The flashing commercial (non-law/unprofessional) web advertising can be annoying at times. Use this directory only after all others have failed to provide links to the information for which you are searching.

### Legal Periodical Searchable Indexes

**Martindale.com – Legal Articles** 

http://www.martindale.com/xp/Martindale/Legal\_Articles/article\_search basic.xml

Martindale.com — Legal Articles has a searchable index of articles written by attorneys on various legal topics. It is a good resource for getting information on specific topics, but maybe not as good for locating specific articles. The index is dominated by firm publications, which gives this resource a very different make-up that many of the legal periodical directories that are dominated by academic law reviews. Free registration is required to view the full-text of publications, while non-registered users may view the abstracts only.

**Law.com – Briefing Papers** 

http://www.law.com/lawfirmcentral/papers/index.shtml

There is another searchable index of law firm client newsletters are available under *Law Firm Central* on *Law.com*. Submitted by *Law.com's* law firm sponsors, the *Briefing Papers* are organized into 30 categories that are searchable by practice area, firm, and keyword. No registration is required and it is easy to email the articles or view .pdf versions of the articles for easy printing.

WashLaw - Law Journals

http://www.washlaw.edu/lawjournal.html

WashLaw – Law Journals is described earlier in this paper under the "Legal Periodical Directories – For Primary Use" section. The site offers the ability to search a full-text index of law journals covered, using advanced site search software called WebGlimpse. The search results are fairly raw looking and take you away from the

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WashLaw site into a page generated by the WebGlimpse software, which can be a little confusing at first. Dominated by links to internet legal news sources and non-journal literature, such as Law.com and LII, rather than traditional law reviews, the "Full Text Index for Law Journals" search results are far from as comprehensive as would be found in a full-text periodical database.

### Table of Contents Services for Legal Periodicals

Staying current with recently published articles in legal periodicals can be accomplished using freely available services on the Internet. While there are current awareness pages available at many educational and commercial sites, scope and coverage is limited at most of them. The one Table of Contents site that rises above all the rest, because of its depth and search capabilities, is the University of Texas School of Law's *Tarlton Law Library – Contents Pages from Law Reviews and Other Scholarly Journals*. Also listed below is one of the better examples of a more general legal literature current awareness site from *JURIST*.

Tarlton Law Library – Contents Pages from Law Reviews and Other Scholarly Journals (University of Texas School of Law) http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/tallons/content\_search.html

The University of Texas School of Law's *Tarlton Law Library – Contents Pages* from Law Reviews and Other Scholarly Journals is the definitive table of contents service available covering legal periodicals. The site is made up of a keyword searchable database of tables of contents from more than 750 law reviews and other scholarly publications about the law. The database is updated daily, and covers titles from the United States and abroad received over the previous three months at the Tarlton Law

Library. One can view table of contents pages for specific journals or do a keyword search on a topic of interest. When you do a keyword search, such as for the word "river", it returns a list of links to each table of contents page containing that word. Once you are on a specific table of contents page you may need to browse or do an "Edit/Find in page..." search to locate the instance of your search term in that table of contents. While the content is good for this site, the visual output for your searches is in plain ASCII text, which is often difficult to read on the monitor. The site also provides lists of the journals indexed in the database and links to those journals on the Internet. This site used in conjunction with the legal periodical directories described above creates a powerful tool for accessing freely available legal periodical articles.

### JURIST – New Articles and Books http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/new.htm

The JURIST – New Articles and Books site is much more limited than the Tarlton Law Library site. However, it pulls its current awareness information from more than just the table of contents of law reviews. Breaking down its information into brief sections, it is a convenient, easy-to-browse current awareness source. It includes, "caught my eye" highlights from CILP, lists of new working papers from Legal Scholarship Network, new law books with links to publishers' websites, and new issues of law reviews gathered, of course, from Tarlton Law Library site.

### **Non-Legal Periodicals & Articles**

Sometimes articles that you need to find are not part of traditional legal literature. You may be looking for an article from *Time* magazine, a scholarly paper in a

psychology journal, or a business report from a trade publication. Just as with legal periodicals, articles from non-profit and commercial periodicals are available on the Web on a variety of subjects. Coverage can be uneven, but usually one can find articles on a topic or subject of interest, although not always from a specific source.

### FindArticles.com http://www.findarticles.com/

LookSmart's FindArticles.com contains over 3.5 million articles from over 700 publications on a wide variety of subjects. It is also available from LookSmart's homepage by selecting the "Articles" search tab. In addition to keyword searching, there are directories of the publications covered arranged by both title and topic.

Publications go back as far as 1998 and make readily available articles that sometimes are no longer directly accessible from their publications home pages. The advance search options allow for limiting searches to publications on specific topics and make it easy to exclude certain terms from the results lists. LookSmart is a commercial site that provides links to sponsor's websites that meet the entered search criteria. These sponsor links are listed first before the links to the articles in FindArticles.com, but are clearly marked.

## **NewsLink – U.S. Newspapers by State** http://newslink.org/statnews.html

While there are many sites to get current news from, sometimes what is needed is a specific newspaper article from a specific newspaper. There are several good newspaper and local media directories available on the web that can assist in locating specific newspaper websites. *NewsLink* provides an easy to navigate interface to not

only links for daily and major metro newspapers, but also links to specialized newspapers, such as business, alternative, and campus newspapers. It is an excellent starting point when looking for newspaper articles from a particular city or region.

## The Etext Archives http://www.etext.org/index.shtml

The Etext Archives is a searchable collection of "off the beaten path" publications varying from the professional to the personal. Established in 1992 and run by volunteers, the site's mission is to provide electronic versions of texts without judging their contents. There is a search engine powered by *Google* that searches the full-text content of the archive. Possibly some interesting information stored here, but probably not of much professional use.

### **Periodical Databases with Full-Text Articles**

Access to commercial periodical databases providing full-text articles generally is available only by subscription or for a fee. In Georgia, some commercial periodical databases are available to all state citizens through GALILEO, a virtual library sponsored by the Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia. The Georgia General Assembly funds a core group of periodical databases with full-text articles, and then individual library groups may purchase additional databases for their specific users. Some of the core databases available include: ABI/Inform (Business), Academic Search Premier (Academic & News), MEDLINE (Medical), Newspaper Source (News), and Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection (Social Sciences). There are additional databases funded by public libraries that expand this list further with such

databases as, Communication & Mass Media Complete (Media/Journalism) and Platinum Periodicals (Academic & News). There are also links to Georgia digital collections that do not require authentication, such as Georgia Government Publications, Georgia Legislative Documents, and Census Data.

GALILEO is available at every local public library in the state. It is also available at home or at work using library assigned passwords/PINs, which can usually be obtained from your local public library, if you are a cardholder for that library. For example, remote user passwords/PINs can be obtained for cardholders in the Atlanta area at: Atlanta-Fulton County Public Library, Conyers-Rockdale Library System, DeKalb County Public Library, Forsyth County Public Library, and Gwinnett County Public Library. Each library has different steps you must follow to obtain a password and once you have been given a password from a particular public library you are not to share it with other individuals. To prevent abuse from non-Georgia citizens, the passwords change 4 times a year. Even though there is some paperwork involved in getting a library card from your local public library and obtaining current passwords, the depth and quality of periodical databases with full-text articles make GALILEO a valuable resource that should not be overlooked. Go to your local public library's web page for more information on using GALILEO and obtaining a password. A list of Georgia public library web sites is available at:

<a href="http://www.georgialibraries.org/lib/directories/publiclibdir.html">http://www.georgialibraries.org/lib/directories/publiclibdir.html</a>.

### **Conclusion**

When trying to locate a particular legal periodical or article, there are many publicly available Internet sites that can assist you in finding the desired information quickly and easily. Making use of the sites described above can save you time and money when you are conducting research, whether for a client or for your own professional growth.