

Finding the Law in Print

Source of Law	Description	Location & Dates
Bills	<p>Proposed laws considered by Congress. May create new law or amend existing laws. Must be approved by both houses of Congress and be signed by the President before becoming law.</p> <p>Identified by house of origin and number: H.R. = House of Representatives S. = Senate</p> <p>Numbered in sequential order. Numbers begin with 1 at the beginning of a two-year Congress.</p>	<p>Microfiche KF16 at Reference Area 96th Congress, 1979-date</p>
Public Laws	<p>Bills that have been approved by the House and Senate and signed into law by the President.</p> <p>May take effect immediately or on a specific date.</p> <p>Identified by number that included the Congress number and a sequential number in the order in which the law was enacted. Public Law 107-308 = the 308th law enacted during the 107th Congress.</p>	<p><i>U.S. Statutes at Large</i>, 1789-KF50.U5 at Reference Area</p> <p><i>United States Code Congressional and Administrative News</i>, 1952-KF48 at Reference Area</p>
Statutes	<p>Laws of a general and permanent nature, currently in force, arranged by subject. Organized into titles, chapters, and sections.</p> <p>Official: U.S. Code Commercial: U.S.C.A. & U.S.C.S.</p> <p>Commercial editions refer to cases, regulations, law reviews, etc. Updated by supplements at the back of each volume (pocket parts) and free-standing supplements.</p> <p>Indexes, popular names, other tables found at the end of each set.</p>	<p><i>United States Code (U.S.C.)</i> KF62 at Reference Area</p> <p><i>United States Code Annotated (U.S.C.A.)</i> KF62 1927.W45 at Reference Area</p> <p><i>United States Code Service (U.S.C.S.)</i> KF62 1972.L38 at Reference Area</p>

Source of Law	Description	Location & Dates
Proposed regulations	Drafted and considered by executive branch and independent agencies under statutory authority. May create new regulations or amend existing regulations.	<i>Federal Register</i> , 1936-KF70.A2, last 2 years at Reference Area, earlier years at Compact Stacks
Rules & regulations	Current, in-force, arranged by subject. Have the force of law. Organized into titles, chapters, and sections.	<i>Code of Federal Regulations</i> , 1938- (C.F.R.) KF70.A3, current edition at Reference Area, prior editions at Compact Stacks
Court opinions	Written decisions of (mostly) appellate federal and state courts. Interpret and apply laws, regulations, and other legal principles in a dispute involving two or more parties. Published in approximately chronological order, often by jurisdiction.	See Gallagher guide on Reporters & Digests

Secondary Sources

Secondary Sources

- Analyze, criticize, describe, discuss, and/or evaluate the law.
- Written by law professors and law students, other educators, judges, legislators, policy-makers, and other people with opinions about what the law should and should not do.

Used to:

- Identify relevant statutes and regulations on your subject.
- Provide historical, social, and political context.
- Help you understand how the laws and regulations have been applied and interpreted.
- Lead you to other useful material through footnotes.

Types

- Law review articles: often written by law professors and students. Many focus on very specific laws and regulations. Full of footnotes. Length varies from 10-100+ pages.
- Legal encyclopedias: written by lawyers. Focus primarily on the law as it has been developed by the courts. Provide useful overviews of legal topics. Length varies from 10-250+ pages.
- Books: written by a wide variety of authors. May focus on a large topic (American environmental law) or one specific issue (endangered Northwest salmon species). Length varies from 50 pages to 25 volumes.

- Government documents: written usually by government employees or researchers working under a government contract. Often state an agency's official position or perspective on a topic. Length varies from 10 pages to 10 volumes.

Finding Law Review Articles

- Search a periodical index: LegalTrac, 1980-date (UW Libraries Research Databases)
- Search a database that has the complete text of law review articles
 1. LexisNexis Academic (UW Libraries Research Databases), mid 1980s-date
 2. HeinOnline (UW Libraries Research Databases), older law reviews-date
- Browse the annotations to a law in the *U.S. Code Annotated* or the *U.S. Code Service*

Finding Legal Encyclopedia Entries

- Use the indexes found at the end of each set.
 - *American Jurisprudence* 2d, KF154.A42 at Reference Area. (*AmJur*)
 - *Corpus Juris Secundum*, KF154.C562 at Reference Area. (*CJS*)
- Browse the annotations to a law in the *U.S. Code Annotated* or the *U.S. Code Service*

Finding Books

- Search a library catalog by title, author, or keyword
 - UW Law Library catalog, <http://marian.law.washington.edu/>.
 - UW Libraries catalog, <http://catalog.lib.washington.edu/search>. Includes all libraries at the UW *except* the Law Library.
 - WorldCat, <http://www.lib.washington.edu/>. A catalog of thousands of libraries worldwide.

Finding Government Documents

- Search a library catalog by title, author, or keyword
 - UW Law Library catalog, UW Libraries catalog, or WorldCat
 - MarciveWeb DOCS, Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (UW Libraries Research Databases), 1976-date
- Search government agency websites via USA.gov, <http://www.usa.gov/>

Useful Websites

Gallagher Law Library, <http://lib.law.washington.edu/>

Hours, library maps, legal research guides to dozens of legal research topics (including administrative law and secondary sources).

UW Libraries Research Databases, <http://www.lib.washington.edu/types/databases/>

Links to commercial databases to which the Libraries subscribe and provide access to UW students and faculty, including HeinOnline, LegalTrac, LexisNexis Academic, LexisNexis Congressional, and MarciveWeb DOCS.

UW Libraries, Subject Guides, Law Subject Page, <http://guides.lib.washington.edu/law>

Links to free and subscription databases for sources of legal authority and secondary sources.