

# FINDING THE LAW ONLINE: PRIMARY & SECONDARY SOURCES

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# PARALLEL SYSTEMS

## Federal

- ⊙ Legislative = US Congress
- ⊙ Executive
  - ⊙ President
  - ⊙ Executive branch & independent agencies
- ⊙ Judicial
  - ⊙ US Supreme Court
  - ⊙ US Courts of Appeals
  - ⊙ US District Courts
  - ⊙ Specialized courts

## State

- ⊙ Legislative = WA State Legislature
- ⊙ Executive
  - ⊙ Governor
  - ⊙ Executive branch & independent agencies
- ⊙ Judicial
  - ⊙ WA Supreme Court
  - ⊙ WA Court of Appeals
  - ⊙ District, county & municipal courts

# PRIMARY & SECONDARY AUTHORITY

- ⊙ **Primary**
  - ⊙ Statement of "the law" from bodies with law-making authority
  - ⊙ Examples: laws, regulations, and court opinions
- ⊙ **Secondary**
  - ⊙ Analyze, criticize, explain, interpret, and/or refer to primary law
  - ⊙ Examples: books, government reports, law review articles, and legal encyclopedias

# PRIMARY SOURCES ONLINE

- ⊙ Government vs. commercial
  - ⊙ Updating frequency
  - ⊙ Citations to related sources
  - ⊙ Ease of use
  - ⊙ Free vs. fee


# FREE SOURCES

## Gallagher guide on Internet Legal Resources

- ⦿ Organization
- ⦿ Links

# COMMERCIAL SOURCES

## ⦿ Off-Campus Access

 Off-Campus Access

### Find Legal Databases

Browse popular online legal databases. Some databases require **UW NetIDs**.

## ⦿ UW Libraries > Subject Guides > [Law](#)

### ⦿ U.S. Federal Law

# FINDING LAWS ONLINE

## U.S. Code

- © [Cornell Legal Information Institute](#) (free)
- © [FDsys](#) (free)
- © LexisNexis Academic (\$)

# FINDING REGULATIONS ONLINE

## Code of Federal Regulations

- © [Cornell Legal Information Institute](#) (free)
- © [FDsys](#) (free)
- © LexisNexis Academic (\$)



# AGENCY WEBSITES

- © USA.gov
- © Google advanced search
- © Laws, regulations, policies links

# WEB 2.0

- © RSS feeds

- © [Regulations.gov](#)

# FINDING COURT DECISIONS ONLINE

## U.S. Supreme Court

- © [Internet Legal Resources](#) (free)
- © HeinOnline (\$)
- © LexisNexis Academic (\$)

# OTHER COURT OPINIONS

- ◎ Court websites
  - ◎ Federal courts
  - ◎ State courts
- ◎ LexisOne (free)
  - ◎ Last 10 years
- ◎ LexisNexis Academic (\$)

# FINDING ARTICLES ONLINE

- ◎ LexisNexis Academic > US Legal > Law Reviews
  - ◎ Search full-text articles
- ◎ HeinOnline > Law Journal Library
  - ◎ Retrieve PDF images of known articles
- ◎ UW Libraries > [Articles & Research Databases](#)
- ◎ UW Libraries > [Subject Guides](#)

# FINDING BOOKS ONLINE

- ◎ WorldCat
  - ◎ Books, government reports, selected articles
- ◎ Google Books
  - ◎ Selected previews

# REMINDERS

- ◎ Use Internet Legal Resources to find free online sources of primary law
- ◎ Use LexisNexis Academic to find laws, regulations, cases, and articles
- ◎ Ask a Reference Librarian!
  - ◎ 543-6794
  - ◎ Ask Us link on Law Library homepage