Juris Libris

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I would like to introduce a new column that has been in development for quite some time. The idea came about in response to comments by general academic and public librarians on the difficulties surrounding selection and collection development in the legal field. While legal bibliographies do exist, they are often general in nature and do not provide the necessary annotations/reviews needed to make an informed decision. To respond to this need, Katina Strach and I decided to create a column featuring a series of annotated bibliographies and informational articles dealing with a specific area of law or legal materials created by knowledgeable professionals in the field. Our first offering appropriately begins with the topic of legal research and has been produced by Joseph A. Custer of the Law Library, University of Kansas School of Law.

Joe Custer obtained his BA from the University of Northern Iowa, his MLS from the University of Missouri, and his JD from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He worked for four years as the Information Services Director at the Law Firm of Gage and Tuckner in Kansas City, Missouri. He is currently the Collection Development/Reference Librarian at the University of Kansas Law Library. He teaches Legal Research and Advanced Legal Research at the University of Kansas Law School.

We welcome your ideas and comments concerning this column. Also, if you would like to produce a bibliography or write an article, please contact me at <montgomery@law.missouri.edu> or (314) 882-7739. Thanks! — JM

Basic Resources for Legal Research

by Joe Custer
(University of Kansas Law Library)

This article deals with basic resources for legal research. It is directed at those with little background in the law, but who have the purchasing responsibility for their particular institutions. Many of the books are for the legal novice, but some are a little more advanced. Dictionaries are included because of the assistance they can offer when one is performing legal research. The listed items are possible purchases for college, public, special, and various research collections. I have included prices and ISBNs for the listed items to further help in making the best possible purchases. When I knew of new editions of books, I have given the source. All items were in print according to BIP Plus as of this writing.


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infringers with a strong deterrent.

In the future, before reproducing or distributing a copyrighted work, ask yourself: "Is this a possible infringement? Is this really worth the risk?" If it is an infringement, or if you are unsure, do not do it! For you do infringe upon a copyright, you may find yourself with a lot more problems than you bargained for.

Mr. Pritchard is a partner in the firm of Sinkler & Boyd, P.A. He received his J.D. from the University of South Carolina in 1987 and, following graduation, clerked for the Honorable Randall T. Bell, South Carolina Court of Appeals. He began practicing law in 1988.

FOOTNOTES

18 U.S.C. §2319 (b) (1) (supp. 1995); 17 U.S.C. §506 (a) (supp. 1995); 18 U.S.C. §3559 (a) (5) and (6) (supp. 1995); 18 U.S.C. §3571 (b) (3) and (5) and (c) (3) and (5).

$3571 (b) (3) and (c) (3) (supp. 1995).

12 See 17 U.S.C. §506 (c) and (d) (1982).

This may seem duplicative of the impoundment and destruction remedy discussed above, and, in a way, it is. Yet, while the end result may be the same either way, the method by which it is accomplished is very different. The impoundment and destruction remedy is a civil remedy, which must be sought by the holder. Seize and forfeit, however, is a criminal penalty, which must be sought by the proper authorities. Moreover, though not all infringements are criminal, all infringements are civilly actionable, so failure to include impoundment and destruction as a civil remedy would deprive the holder of the ability to have the infringing materials confiscated and destroyed in cases involving non-criminal infringement. Similarly, a holder may for some reason elect not to bring a civil action in a situation involving a criminal infringement (such as a case where the infringer is bankrupt so damages and attorney’s fees cannot be recovered from a pragmatic standpoint). Failure to include seizure and forfeiture as a criminal penalty would allow the infringer to retain the infringing materials in such a situation.

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Hill, Kathleen Thompson and Gerald W. Hill. Real Life Dictionary of the Law: Taking the Mystery Out of Legal Language. Santa Monica, CA: General Publishing Group, 1995. 479p. 1881649741. $19.95. Reviewed by Library Journal, 8/95, where the reviewer (Joan Pedzich) points out that the publisher notes that the "book [was] spotted at the O.J. Simpson trial on both the defense team’s and judge’s desks."


Nolfi, Edward A. and Pamela R. Tepper. Basic Legal Research & Writing. Blacklick, OH: Glencoe, 1993. $34.68. Structured primarily for the paralegal but also useful to the layperson.


