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 Tucker 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.ku.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 collection. I have included prices and ISBNs for the listed items to further help in making the best possible purchases. When I knew of reviews, I have given the source. All items listed were in print according to BIP Plus as of this writing.


Infringers Beware
from page 51
years and fined $250,000.00 for individuals and $500,000.00 for
organizations.11 Other criminal penalties are imposed for the fraudul-
ent use or removal of a copyright notice.12 Further, if one is
convicted of criminal infringement, all copies of the infringing
material and the means by which they were produced or repro-
duced are subject to confiscation and destruction.13
Copyright infringement is not treated lightly. In fact, it is serious
business. Copyright remedies and penalties are cumulative, and are
designed not only to allow the holder to recover his lost profits and
the ill-gotten profits of the infringer, but also to provide potential
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 if 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

FOOTNOTES


Prior to the 1976 amendments to the copyright laws, our author
may have been entitled to recover both his $50,000.00 lost profits
and the infringer’s $120,000.00 profits for a total recovery of
$170,000.00. Apparently damages, like most things, just aren’t
made like they used to be.

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 (e) (supp. 1995); 18
U.S.C. §3571(b) (3) and (5) and (e) (3) and (5).
18 U.S.C. §2319 (b) (1) (supp. 1995); 17 U.S.C. §506 (a)
§3571 (b) (3) and (c) (3) (supp. 1995).
12 See 17 U.S.C. §506 (c) and (d) (1982).
13 This may seem duplicative of the impoundment and destruc-
tion 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.

Juris Libris
from page 49
Herskovitz, Susan. Legal Research
Made Easy. Clearwater, FL: Sphynx
Written for those without a law background.
Includes two sample legal research pro-
blems. Author implies this book should be
used first before seeing a licensed attorney
( may save yourself some money).

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,
by Library Journal, 899, 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.”

Hodes, W. William. Legal Research:
A Self-Teaching Guide to the Law Li-
brary. Saint Paul, MN: Natl. Inst. for Trial
Research book provides self-help approach
to the law library. Can be used as a teaching
tool. Workbook included. (Instructor’s
Manual available).

Jacobstein, J. Myron and Donald J.
Dunn. Legal Research Illustrated. 6th ed.
488p. 156621674. $23.95. Abridged paper-
back version of more technical Funda-
mentals of Legal Research. Used by par-
legals and will be found in some colleges.

Lewis, Alfred. Pak: Using American
Law Books. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt
0787207349. $29.38. Suitable for the
first-year law student, the paralegal, the un-
dergraduate taking a law-related course or the
library science student taking a class in
legal bibliography.

Nolf, 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.

Oran, Daniel and Mark Tosi. Law
Saint
0314875352. $18.50.

Roberts, Bonita K. and Linda L.
Schlueter. Legal Research Guide: Pat-
terns and Practice. 2nd ed. Charlottesville,
0874736412. $18.00 Simplified nuts and
bolts approach to legal research with help-
ful checklists.

Statsky, William P. Legal Research
and Writing: Some Starting Points.
1993. 270p. 0314012079. $29.75. Focuses
on the paralegal but approach is very straight-
forward and easy to read for most audi-
ences.

Wren, Christopher G. and Jill R.
Wren. The Legal Research Manual: A
Game Plan for Legal Research & Analy-
sis. 2nd ed. Madison, WI: Adams &
Although used in some law schools for first-
year students, this book has a non-technical
approach which makes it suitable for other
audiences.