Preemption Checklist

Complete this checklist to ensure your topic is not preempted. Keep a log of your searches.

- Westlaw and Lexis

Search for journal and law review articles in Westlaw and Lexis. Coverage varies and may not include historical material.

*Therefore, do not rely solely on Lexis/Westlaw journal databases for your preemption check.*

- Law-Related Database: HeinOnline

Field search in the Law Journal Library.
- Note that Boolean operators MUST be in capital letters.
- Full text coverage goes back to volume one for nearly all journals and law reviews.

- Law-Related Database: Index to Legal Periodicals (ILP)

After keyword searching, you can refine your search by using the subject terms for each relevant entry. Subject terms are listed along the left side-bar within each entry.

- Social Science Research Network (SSRN) and Berkley Electronic Press (bepress)

Search these sources to find published articles and working papers (papers that have not yet been published but are in the publication process).
- bePress [http://law.bepress.com](http://law.bepress.com)

- Library Catalog & Discovery Tool

The library catalog finds books in our library. The catalog overlay—[insert name of discovery tool]—checks University books and databases plus the Internet, news, and other libraries’ holdings to find relevant information from any discipline. It is a powerful tool, with many post-search filters. Available from the Library’s homepage ([insert link])


Find scholarly articles in all disciplines. Set your preferences to recognize GMU so that you can directly access our subscription databases.
- [http://scholar.google.com/](http://scholar.google.com/) → Settings → Library Links → search for and add __________ plus WorldCat Open Library Links

- International and Foreign Law Articles

To search for articles in foreign law journals and law reviews about foreign and international law topics:
- Within HeinOnline search the Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals
- PAIS International

- Research Guides

To learn more about researching your topic specifically, consult a research guide.
- Guides are available from the Library’s Home Page by selecting __________
- If we do not have an applicable research guide, [Georgetown](http://www.georgetown.edu) and [Harvard](http://www.harvard.edu) Law Libraries have extensive guides available to the public on their library websites.

- Law Blogs

- SCOTUS Blog (focuses on the Supreme Court) [http://www.scotusblog.com/](http://www.scotusblog.com/)

Checklist updated August 19, 2013