

2013 Cost Effective Legal Research Choices

	Ask RIC	Fastcase	Westlaw	Lexis	BNA Labor, Environmental, Pension	CCH Intelliconnect Tax, Securities, Franchise, etc.	HeinOnline	Open Web	Library - Print Sources	Jenkins Library	PLC, PLI
Find research already done on your topic (Ask us!!!)	YES	No	Sometimes	Sometimes	Yes, topics limited	Yes, topics limited	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (Catalog & LegalTrac online)	Yes
Do the most thorough, conclusive case law research	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes, Free Lexis and Westlaw onsite	No
Do preliminary searching for background and terminology	Yes.	Yes	No	No	Yes, topics limited	Yes, topics limited	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, Free Lexis and Westlaw onsite	Yes
Use Headnotes and finding aids to enhance case law searches	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes, topics limited	Yes, topics limited	No	No	Yes	Yes, Free Lexis and Westlaw onsite	No
Read a case	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes, topics limited	Yes, topics limited	No	Yes	Yes	Yes, Free Lexis and Westlaw onsite	No
Learn if a case is good law	Yes	No	Yes, only available on LX or WL	Yes, only available on LX or WL	No	No	No	No	No	Yes, Free Lexis and Westlaw onsite	No
Search Cases, Statutes, Treatises simultaneously	Yes	No	Yes, WLNext Platform only	Yes, LXAdvance Platform only	Yes, topics limited	Yes, topics limited	No	No	No	Yes, Free WestlawNext onsite	No
Access an unannotated Statute	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes, topics limited	Yes, topics limited	No	Yes (see State and Legislative tabs on the Research pages of BIN)	Yes	Yes, Free Lexis and Westlaw onsite	No

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Access an annotated statute	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes, Free Lexis and Westlaw onsite	No
Find latest updates to code sections	Yes	Sometimes	Yes	Yes	Yes, topics limited	Yes, topics limited	No	Sometimes	Sometimes	Yes, Free Lexis and Westlaw onsite	No
Access an administrative code or regulation	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes, topics limited	Yes, topics limited	No	Yes (see State and Legislative tabs on the Research pages of BIN)	Yes	Yes, Free Lexis and Westlaw onsite	No
Find proposed amendments to statutes & regs	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes, topics limited	Yes, topics limited	Federal Register only	Yes	Limited	Yes, Free Lexis and Westlaw onsite	Sometimes
Find Legislative History (Ask us!!!)	YES	No	Sometimes (Ask us!!!)	Sometimes (Ask us!!!)	No	Sometimes (Ask us!!!)	Many Federal Compilations (Ask us!!!)	Limited Federal and state histories (Ask us!!!)	Sometimes (Ask us!!!)	PA Legislative Histories; some materials for other states, ProQuest Congressional are <u>online</u> (Ask us!!!)	No