

Better Research Instruction through “Point of Need” Library Exercises

By James B. Levy. 7 *Legal Writing: J. Legal Writing Inst.* 87 (2001).

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Reviewer’s Summary:

Levy introduces a “point of need” library exercise to bridge the usual gap between classroom instruction and out-of-class skill practice. Levy first outlines some basic pedagogical theory, emphasizing the value of immediate feedback, the motivation supported by realistic problems, and reducing the stress often associated with learning. Next, the article discusses two common techniques for teaching legal research and their limitations: the bibliographic method and the process-oriented method. Then, Levy provides his “point of need” exercise, which includes three components. A map that identifies the location of materials students will need helps students locate sources in the library. A flow chart helps students understand the research process. Finally, a research log, including instructions, provides students with specific guidance on using sources like *American Jurisprudence* and *American Law Reports* among others.

Summarized by: Susan Azyndar, The Ohio State University, in 2019.