

Finding the Theory and Method for the Pedagogy of Teaching Legal Research: A Response to Callister's "Time to Blossom"

By Paul Jerome Mclaughlin, Jr. 36 Legal Reference Services Q. 74 (2017).

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Reviewer's Summary:

In this article, Mclaughlin takes up Paul Callister's call for legal research instructors to discuss effective pedagogy. After summarizing Bloom's taxonomy (both the original and revised versions), the article describes Callister's approach to Bloom. Next, Mclaughlin presents a synopsis of systems theory, concluding that this framework can offer students a "repeatable pattern" to apply, one that acknowledges that concepts may shift and encourages students to attend to the context of legal research. The article then folds in the benefits and limits of active learning in legal research instruction. In combining Bloom's taxonomy, systems theory, and active learning, legal research instructors can better prepare their students for the changing technologies they will face in practice.

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