

Information Is Cheap, but Meaning Is Expensive: Building Analytical Skill into Legal Research Instruction

By Yasmin Sokkar Harker. 105 Law Libr. J. 79 (2013).

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Reviewer's Summary:

The article begins by noting that legal research is a critical skill that law students and lawyers often lack. Online full-text searching has exacerbated this problem by depriving the researcher of context. Instructors must address this problem by teaching students how to apply analytical skills to their research. This is best taught in a legal research class. The next section of the article introduces the theories of metacognition and taxonomies. Metacognition can help students identify problem-solving strategies that are applicable to their research. Taxonomies of learning can be used to identify legal research objectives that will help to develop analytical skills. The article provides specific examples of techniques that can be used in the legal research classroom to foster these skills.

Summarized by: Robert Clark, University of Houston Law Center, in 2019.