

Law Firm Legal Research Requirements for New Attorneys

By Patrick Meyer. 101 Law Libr. J. 297 (2009).

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Reviewer's Summary:

In this article, Meyer presents the results of a law firm librarian survey designed to identify both the most important law firm research tasks and whether those tasks are most properly performed in print or online. First, Meyer describes the results of earlier law firm surveys. In short, these studies found a need for integrated print and online instruction with attention to secondary sources, indices, and tables of contents. The 2007 law firm survey Meyer conducted reaches similar results. The most important tasks were cost-effective research, case/digest research, secondary sources, citators, and code research. Print was most correlated with secondary source and legislative code research. Print was still valued, although most firms subscribed to Westlaw and Lexis. In terms of teaching, Meyer emphasizes training using free resources effectively, integrating some print research, and introducing cost-effective strategies. Three appendices include the questionnaire and selected comments on legal research and research costs.

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