Teaching Advanced Legal Research: Philosophy and Context


Article Categories: Advanced & Subject-Specific Legal Research; Course Creation & Design

Keywords: Advanced Legal Research; Critical Thinking; Legal Research Instruction; Pedagogy; Research Skills

Reviewer’s Summary:

In developing an overall philosophy of advanced legal research instruction, the authors review how legal information and law students have changed over their years of teaching the subject. Beginning in a mostly print world and moving to a mostly electronic world, they describe their focus on preparing students for the future of legal information by teaching students to think critically about legal information itself. The article not only focuses on advanced legal research as a skills-based class, but also as an intellectual exercise in understanding the nature of legal information. Even though the article was written over ten years ago, the analysis, or philosophy, still serves today, and it can help instructors of advanced legal research develop a course based on this philosophy.

Summarized by: Robin Schard, University of Miami School of Law Library, in 2019.