Out of the Shadows: What Legal Research Instruction Reveals About Incorporating Skills Throughout the Curriculum


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

**Keywords:** Assessments; Callister; Course Design; Curriculum; Law Schools; Legal Research Instruction

**Reviewer’s Summary:**

This article uses legal research instruction as a sort of case study for the difficulties experienced in attempting to integrate skills training into the law school curriculum. The first part of the article discusses the politics of curricular reform. The next section deals with attitudes that hinder the development of skills instruction. The third section suggests that reform that is “grounded in collaboration and focused on assessment of student learning can raise the profile and importance of a particular skill.” As part of this last section, the author presents a rubric for assessing the legal research aspect of upper-level research papers.

**Summarized by:** Julie Tedjeske, Duquesne University School of Law, in 2019.