

Using Competitive Intelligence Instruction to Develop Practice-Ready Legal Professionals

By Catherine A. Lemmer. 34 *LEGAL REFERENCE SERV. Q.*, 268 (2015).

Article Categories: Advanced & Subject-Specific Legal Research Instruction; Artificial Intelligence & Legal Analytics; Course Creation & Design; Legal Research Instruction for 1Ls

Keywords: Advanced Legal Research; Assessments; Competencies; Course Design; Curriculum; Law Firms; Law Schools; Learning; Legal Research Instruction; Subject-Specific Legal Research

Reviewer's Summary:

Noting that doctrinal law courses tend to focus on analysis of appellate court opinions, and that initiatives to add further practical instruction to legal curricula are likewise litigation-focused, Lemmer argues that competitive intelligence instruction is a welcome addition to legal research curriculum. Not only does competitive intelligence research introduce students to concepts they will encounter in corporate transactional practices, it introduces students to skills needed to successfully develop and grow their business. She discusses her experience adding competitive intelligence instruction to the second-year legal research curriculum at Indiana University, using simple hypothetical problems such as preparing a client pitch letter or analyzing a business expansion opportunity. In an expanded summer session, she divided students into groups to produce a company profile for firm leaders considering a response to a request for proposal, and in a 14-week advanced legal research course, planned to offer 8 hours of competitive intelligence instruction.

Summarized by: Meredith Capps, Vanderbilt University Law School, in 2019.