

How Can Law Librarians Most Effectively Provide Legal Research Training?

By Steve Mishkin. 17 Legal Information Management 34 (2017).

Article Categories: Surveys & Empirical Research; Working with External Stakeholders

Keywords: Bloom, Competencies, Empirical Research, Flipped Classrooms, Google, Information Literacy, Law Firms, Law Schools, Legal Research Instruction, Research Skills, Survey

Reviewer's Summary:

Unless you're interested in the development of the BIALL Legal Information Literacy Statement, skip this article. This dissertation claims to "seek to establish the extent to which a research skills deficit exists" in new attorneys and "by means of a literature review, questionnaire and interviews [...] draw together the best examples of legal research training currently being provided." In actuality, Mishkin is overly reductive in his conclusions (*e.g.*, distinguishing the first firm librarian to write about the specific phrase "information literacy"), and uses his survey to highlight simplistic differences between firm and academic librarians (*e.g.*, firm librarians are less familiar with Bloom's Taxonomy and even fewer apply it in their trainings). Though the literature review purportedly draws from other common law countries including the United States, it is missing any mention of the MacCrate Report or the work of the ALL-SIS Task Force on Identifying Skills and Knowledge for Legal Practice.

Summarized by: Savanna Nolan, Georgetown University Law Center, in 2020.