Assessing Legal Research Skills: An Online Research Exam

By Eric P. Voigt. 33 Second Draft 17 (2020).

**Article Categories:** Course Creation & Design; Legal Research Instruction for 1Ls

**Keywords:** Assessments; Course Design; Legal Research Instruction; Online; Research Skills; TWEN

**Reviewer’s Summary:**

In this article, Voigt describes the online research exam that he created for his first-year Legal Reasoning, Writing, and Research course. Voigt begins by noting the primary purpose of the exam: to determine if students could locate and understand statutes and cases without guidance from the instructor. The article then addresses several aspects of the exam, including content, format, and grading. Voigt highlights the benefits of an online research exam for both professors and students and also proposes solutions for potential problems. Voigt concludes that an online exam would be an effective assessment tool for both first-year and upper-level students.

**Summarized by:** Timothy Gallina, SMU Dedman School of Law - Underwood Law Library, in 2020.