

## **Legal Research Explained**, 5th Edition.

By Deborah E. Bouchoux. (2020), 448 pages, ISBN: 9781543801644. \$176.95

**Subject:** Legal research textbook

**Useful for:** Useful for first year law students learning legal research.

**Format:** The book is divided into five sections as follows: 1) Legal Research: Primary Authorities; 2) Legal Research: Secondary Authorities; 3) Legal Research: Using Electronic and Computer Resources; 4) Legal Research: Citing and Validating the Authorities; and 5) Putting it Together: An Overview of the Research Process. It also includes an Appendix on using Shepard's in print form, an Appendix with a sample legal memorandum, a glossary, and an index.

### **Reviewer's Comments:**

This book would be beneficial for both students and instructors. It would be especially helpful if you were teaching a flipped class or teaching asynchronously because of the depth of information it provides on most legal research topics. The detailed explanations provided by the text and supported by multiple visual aids, would be less likely to leave students with unanswered questions as they tried to work through the material on their own.

For students, the book offers a very clear text that explains legal research. The book is very detailed and thoroughly covers many legal research topics. Definitions and explanations for important terms and concepts are bolded and easy to see. In addition to the explanation of legal research there are also many explanatory charts, maps, sample problems, and citation examples throughout the book that would be beneficial for new researchers.

For instructors, the level of detail in the text could reduce the number of separate explanatory readings or recordings that you typically need to use to supplement your research class. Additionally, the research and internet assignments at the end of each chapter could also be useful to assign as in-class assignments, or for students to practice their research skills on their own. The book also includes clips of sample pages from print sources like the U.S.C.A. and then carefully labels different sections of the page (Ex. Text of statute, Historical and statutory notes, Notes of decisions, etc.). This

## RIPS-SIS Legal Research Text Review

is especially useful if you are teaching remotely and cannot access your print collection but would still like to demonstrate the different look and feel of searching a publication like the U.S.C.A. in print versus online to your students.

One change I would have made to this book would be in the handling of electronic resources. I would have preferred to have the electronic research integrated into the rest of the book rather than just as a stand-alone chapter. While the stand-alone chapter is well done and useful in and of itself, I think the way that most students conduct research now it's impractical to teach print resources by separately. It would be more helpful to have the side by side comparison of print and electronic resources together in each topical chapter in addition to the general coverage offered of electronic resources in the separate chapter. However, overall this book offers a very good explanation of legal research and would be beneficial to use as a text in a research class.

**Reviewed by:** Shannon Kemen, University of Cincinnati, in 2020