Principles of Legal Research, 3rd Edition.

By Kent C. Olsen, Aaron S. Kirschenfeld & Ingrid Mattson. (2020), 584 pages, ISBN: 9781640208056. $57

Subject: Legal research textbook

Useful for: Useful for newer researchers looking for a concise overview of legal research methods and sources.

Format: Chapters with index.

Reviewer's Comments:

This is the third edition of <u>Principles of Legal Research</u>. The text has two new authors, Aaron Kirschenfeld and Ingrid Mattson. As part of West Academic's Concise Hornbook Series, the text is succinctly written and does not provide much background. The third edition integrates information about the updates to the major legal research platforms, a deeper discussion of search algorithms, and highlights the executive branch's role in lawmaking. Like most research texts, the initial chapters explore research methodology, followed by secondary and primary sources, then specialized research topics.

The concise nature of the text allows it to cover a broad range of legal research, including specialized legal research, and legal research adjacent topics in one text. The writing is easy for new and experienced researchers to follow and provides enough information to begin searching in most areas of the law. The chapters on foreign and international law provide a succinct discussion of source materials, including those related to major international organizations such as the European Union and World Trade Organization, and highlight some of the issues with foreign research, including translations. The chapter on transactional legal research provides a brief overview of transactional heavy topics, including securities, corporate governance and M & A, banking and finance, intellectual property, and tax. One chapter that is particularly useful focuses on researching factual information, such as business and industry research, as well as public records sources. These areas of research tend be overlooked even though they are often performed when executing legal work.

Other features of the book that are useful include the illustrations of discussed resources, coverage dates of online resources, and the indexes. The Resource Index is

a nice feature for locating discussion of specific resources, especially if you are seeking class readings on particular topics.

Reviewed by: Kelly M. Leong, Fordham University School of Law, in 2020.