

## Teaching Legal Research: Past and Present

By Joyce Manna Janto & Lucinda D. Harrison-Cox. 84 Law Libr. J. 281 (1992).

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

**Keywords:** Assessments; Bibliography; Computer-Assisted Legal Research; Course Design; Curriculum; Law Schools; Learning; Legal Research Instruction; Legal Writing; Library Education; Research Skills; Survey; Technology

### Reviewer's Summary:

In this article, Janto and Harrison-Cox begin by providing an historical background of legal research instruction dating back to the 1800s. The authors provide a survey of legal instruction in the 1970s and 1980s, noting that studies in the 1980s showed that the role of law librarians as legal research instructors was actually declining in law schools. The authors then detail the legal research instruction in effect at the University of Richmond Law School in 1992. The discussion of the course is dated in its discussion of introducing students to Westlaw and Lexis. However, the overall design of the course could provide useful insight in modern course design. From the rejection of the "treasure-hunt" search problem, to assigning students to different jurisdictions for researching hypotheticals, this detailed description of the course, as well as the reasoning behind pedagogical choices could prove useful to someone interested in legal research course design.

**Summarized by:** Jill Sturgeon, University of Colorado, Wise Law Library, in 2020.