

Advanced Introduction to Empirical Legal Research.

By Herbert M. Kritzer. (2021), 168 pages, ISBN: 9781839101069. \$20

Subject: Subject-specific legal research (empirical research)

Useful for: Useful for those who teach or who want to understand empirical legal research.

Format: Chapters with references index.

Reviewers Comments:

This text is an excellent introduction to empirical legal research for experienced and inexperienced researchers. It is concise and clearly describes the foundational elements of empirical research. The author, Professor Herbert Kritzer, has been performing empirical research since the 1970s and does an excellent job at conveying complex information. He is also a co-editor of the Oxford Handbook of Empirical Legal Research.

Part I offers a brief introduction and history of empirical legal research. First, the author briefly outlines what empirical research is, a methodology involving the systematic collection and analysis of information that can be replicated, and its application to legal topics. Then, there is a short history of empirical legal research in the English language literature, recognizing that there is also ample content in foreign language literature.

Part II moves onto the methodology of empirical legal research. This section provides an overview of empirical methodology with the intent of educating consumers of empirical information instead of preparing researchers to perform empirical research. This part highlights the differences between qualitative and quantitative studies, common errors, methods of data collection, and data analysis.

Part III is an interesting section that provides examples of empirical legal research dividing the types of empirical research into three categories: law's institutions, law's people, and law's subjects. Law's institutions covers topics including, but not limited to, court organization, and the legitimacy of legal institutions. Law's people discusses studies involving lawyers, judges, and juries. Law's subjects focuses on legal subject-areas, such as shareholders and intellectual property.

Reviewed by: Kelly M. Leong, Fordham University School of Law, in 2021.