

Basic Legal Research: Tools and Strategies, 8th Ed.

By Amy E. Sloan. (2021), 273 pages, ISBN: 9781543825275. \$131

Subject: General Legal Research; Legal Research Textbook

Useful for: Useful for those who teach first-year legal research and beginning legal researchers.

Format: Chapters with index, with charts and annotated screenshots, as well as checklists at the end of each chapter.

Reviewer's Comments:

Sloan's textbook, Basic Legal Research, has been updated from the 7th edition (published in 2018) to further emphasize online legal research. Sloan has reordered the content to reflect the research process for online legal research. She has also changed many of the chapters to feature search methods for locating sources online. The textbook now features the newest iterations of Lexis, Westlaw, and Bloomberg Law as well as the most recent editions of ALWD and the Bluebook for legal citation.

Sloan breaks down the legal research process in a way that beginning legal researchers would understand. The textbook provides charts to visualize the content discussed in the book, and the checklists at the end of the chapter may be particularly useful for students who would benefit from a summary of the material. The annotated screenshots introduce novice researchers to the services they will use, but the screenshots will likely be more valuable to readers now than they will be as the fee-based services change.

It is worth noting that many of the textbook's useful resources for online research are placed in the last two chapters, Online Legal Research (Chapter 10) and Creating A Research Plan (Chapter 11). While this organization is similar to previous editions of the textbook, the increased focus and emphasis on online research throughout the textbook makes the chapter on Online Legal Research somewhat unexpected. Therefore, instructors and readers should note that many helpful flowcharts, tables, and checklists (including a master checklist) have been placed at the end of the textbook.

The highlights of this textbook are its clarity and simplified method for describing a complicated process to novice legal researchers. The flowcharts and checklists make

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helpful resources for quick reference. Overall, this textbook simplifies the legal research process so that novice legal researchers can gain a basic understanding of legal research tools and process before putting that knowledge into practice.

Reviewed by: Chelsey McKimmy, Lincoln Memorial University, in 2022.