Subject

Using citators to expand research

Learning Objectives

1. How to use citators to expand research in case law. 2. How to check the validity of a statute and use a citator to expand research on a statute or regulation.

Features Identified on a Platform [Lexis, Westlaw, Bloomberg, etc.]

Shepardize - Narrow by this Headnote to identify additional authority on a particular point of law in a key case. Filtering a Shepard’s report by Headnote number, court, analysis, depth of treatment, and date of decision. Keyword searching in Shepard's report. Using the Table of Authorities to understand the foundation of decisions. Identifying relevant secondary sources using citators. Content of Shepard’s reports for statutes and how this can be used in research. Shepardizing a statute by subsection.

Level of Difficulty: [0-4, 4 being the highest.]

3 - Students should complete Validate Your Research: Citator Basics before completing this module.

Interactivity [0-4, with 4 being the highest.] Is it sufficient?

3 - multiple choice questions probe understanding of what citators do; also require students to perform tasks on Lexis+ to select correct answer.

Transferability to Print

The skills covered in this tutorial are not transferable to print. The focus is on the web-based filtering tools in Shepard’s that facilitate easy identification of citing documents.

Use of Relevant Examples

The problems presented were basic, but appropriate and understandable to law students at any level.

Level of Detail
This tutorial was appropriately detailed given the more complex features, but still concise enough to keep student attention. Of note was the introduction to Shepardizing by subsection, both to check validity and identify authority.

**Relevance to Students**

Students should walk away from completing this tutorial with a basic understanding of how they can quickly and easily use a single case or statute to identify other relevant sources of authority to expand their research.

**Appropriate Terminology**

The terminology was defined as needed.

**The Graphics**

The graphics were appropriate and effective, particularly the highlighting and callouts used when demonstrating filtering.

**Length of the Video**

The length of the video is appropriate for a more complicated topic.

**Reviewers Comments**

This is a solid tutorial to use for introducing more advanced search features on Lexis+. It is a little longer and more in-depth, but covers some important features effectively.

**Reviewer**

Sara Gras, Seton Hall Law (April 27, 2023)