

## **Sources and Strategies of Legal Research.**

By Caroline L. Osborne. (2023), 224 pages, ISBN: 9781531026233. \$45.

**Subject:** Legal research textbook

**Useful for:** Useful for those who teach legal research or legal writing, especially in the first year.

**Format:** Chapters with index, with review questions at the end of each chapter.

### **Reviewer's Comments:**

Books on how to research the law come out every year. "Sources and Strategies of Legal Research" differentiates itself by focusing on legal analysis as a critical component of the research process. This focus allows the book to be useful to both novice researchers and those with slightly more experience.

This guide stands out for two main reasons: its emphasis on legal analysis as the cornerstone of legal research, and its process-oriented approach that prioritizes search strategies over source identification and differentiation. This further embrace of process over the bibliographic approach contributes to the discourse of these two general approaches to teaching legal research.

The book is divided into three parts: the mechanics of legal research, the sources of legal research, and search strategies. This allows Osborne to explain the American legal system, where the law can be found, and how to find it efficiently using the tools that have been built into the system.

Part one covers the basics of legal research such as legal authority, legal analysis, and how to plan research. Each chapter in the sources of legal research section begins with a list of the characteristics of the legal source discussed and whether it is acceptable to cite that source to a court. None of the topics are covered in depth but enough context and detail are given to orientate a new researcher in the basics and build confidence in his or her skills.

The search strategies section guides the researcher through using citators, indices, and other legal research tools to find the most relevant law quickly and effectively. By providing a clear framework for strategic information retrieval, this section helps researchers navigate the complexities of legal databases and resources with confidence.

## RIPS-SIS Legal Research Text Review

By placing legal analysis at the heart of research and focusing on strategic information retrieval, "Sources and Strategies of Legal Research" provides readers with tools for efficient and effective legal research. This approach not only enhances the research process but also lays a solid foundation for future legal careers.

Overall, this book is a helpful resource for first-year law students and educators. Its innovative approach, combined with a clear and structured presentation, makes it a notable addition to the field of legal education.

**Reviewed by:** Aimee Self Pittman, Louisiana State University Law Center, in 2024.