

INTERNET LEGAL RESEARCH

WHAT IS AVAILABLE

State and Federal research sources are available online. State sources will include state laws, state Supreme Court cases, city codes, and county codes. Federal government sources include Federal courts, Federal laws, codes, and regulations. Two good sources for legal research using the Internet are www.usa.gov and www.loc.gov/law/.

You can also search the Internet for legal research sources. Use the search function of Internet Explorer, the browser used on the computers here at the Law Library. Many times you will find that there are many different sources of information on the Internet.

When doing legal research using the Internet, there are some key points you should be aware of and keep in mind while you are researching; they are outlined below.

TIMELINESS OF SOURCES

Many sources will only go back a few years. The older the information, the less likely it is that it will be on the Internet. Many state Supreme Court cases only go 4 years back.

SEARCHING

When searching using a word or phrase the computer will look for exact matches. If your word does not match, exactly, the words in the text, you will not get any matches from the search. Therefore, if you are not sure of the exact word or phrase, try as many different words as you can think of that are in the same topic you are investigating. This becomes a major problem when you do not know what the exact word or phrase is that you need. In this case, the Law Library recommends that you use the index in the appropriate books.

RAPID GROWTH OF THE INTERNET

The number of Internet sites is growing incredibly fast every day. Because of this rapid growth, sites are constantly changing. Keep in mind that sites can leave the Internet just as quickly as they were put on the Internet. Sites also change their addresses and content frequently. It is impossible for the library to keep track of all of these changes so keep this in mind when you cannot find a site.

USEFUL SITES

The following lists should help you find what you need for your research on the Internet. These lists are just a starting point; remember that you make all of the decisions about your own research.

Federal Government Resources www.usa.gov
State Resources www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/states.html

STATE OF NEVADA

Nevada Home Page www.nv.gov
Nevada Legislature www.leg.state.nv.us
Nevada Supreme Court www.nvsupremecourt.us
Nevada Secretary of State www.sos.state.nv.us/
Nevada Revised Statutes www.leg.state.nv.us/law1.cfm

CLARK COUNTY

Legal Forms www.accessclarkcounty.com/law_library/formspage.htm
Clark County Departments www.accessclarkcounty.com

Clerk's Office www.co.clark.nv.us/clerk/clerkhome.htm
District Court www.co.clark.nv.us/ClarkCountyCourts/ejdc/index.html
Family Law Self-Help Center www.co.clark.nv.us/District_court/self_help_center.htm
Free Legal Aid www.clarkcountylegal.com/
Law Library www.accessclarkcounty.com/law_library/home_page.htm

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SITES

U.S. Courts

United States Supreme Court www.supremecourtus.gov/
Federal Judiciary www.uscourts.gov/
Federal and State Court Structure Charts and Links www.ncsconline.org/D_Research/Ct_Struct/Index.html

Federal Laws, Rules, And Regulations

U.S. Code www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode
Federal Rules of Court www.uscourts.gov/rules/
Code of Federal Regulations www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/
Federal Register www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html
U.S. Government Printing Office www.access.gpo.gov
Internal Revenue Service www.irs.gov
Federal Citizen Information Center www.info.gov