Legal Research & Writing: Research Labs, Research Quizzes, and Electronic Database Training for all First Year Students

This course includes a research instruction component. Conducting accurate and thorough legal research is a vital part of practicing law, and many of you will spend your 1L summer researching law for senior attorneys. In fact, many new lawyers spend most of their time researching the law. This document provides a preview of the research instruction you will receive in the Fall Semester.

1. Orientation Research Lab

Your legal research learning begins at orientation. Librarians from the Law Library will provide an overview of the services they provide to law students, and you will take your first steps toward learning how to research court cases.

Please complete the readings listed on the LRW syllabus prior to the orientation Research Lab. Also, please bring a laptop to this session if you are able to do so, and ensure that you are registered for the research databases Westlaw, Lexis Advance, and Bloomberg Law. The registration information for these platforms will be distributed via email in mid-August.

During orientation, you will be introduced to the librarian assigned to your section. Throughout your 1L year, you are encouraged to contact your section’s librarian with any questions about legal research that you may encounter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mike Hannon, <a href="mailto:mhannon@umn.edu">mhannon@umn.edu</a></th>
<th>Section A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Martineau, <a href="mailto:amartine@umn.edu">amartine@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Sections B &amp; E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vic Garces, <a href="mailto:garce003@umn.edu">garce003@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Section C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Uhl, <a href="mailto:uhlx0003@umn.edu">uhlx0003@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Section D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. October Research Lab and Research Template Assignment

The second Research Lab will be held at 8am on October 2 or 3, and will be conducted by your section’s assigned librarian. The session will cover secondary sources and provide a refresher on case law research. Also, you will be introduced to the Research Template Assignment, which will help you research your Fall Semester open memo.

Prior to the session, students are expected to complete the readings noted in the syllabus and take an online quiz.

3. Database Modules

As explained in the syllabus, you must complete a series of electronic research database modules in the Fall Semester. The modules cover the following topics: Basic Searching/Secondary Sources, Case Law/Updating Authority, and Rules/Statutes. Each of the
three database vendors (Westlaw, Lexis, and Bloomberg) will provide a module on each of the three topics, meaning that there are nine modules to complete in total.

The modules will become available on Sept. 30, and the quizzes are due Oct. 11 at midnight. Completion of the quizzes is mandatory.

4. **Vendor Trainings**

Westlaw, Lexis, and Bloomberg will each conduct research trainings in early September and early October. The precise dates and locations of the trainings are noted in the LRW syllabus. Please attend at least one training.

**Library Services Overview**

The library is here to help you succeed in law school. What follows is a brief description of some of the services that the library provides to students. For more comprehensive information about library services, please visit [this page of the Law Library website](#).

**Reference Services**

We welcome the opportunity to assist you with your research questions, whether by phone, email, chat, or in-person.

- Reference Phone: 612-625-4309
- Reference Email: law-ref@umn.edu
- Chat: [Ask Us! Chat Service](#)

**Fall Semester Hours:**
- Monday through Thursday: 9am to 8pm
- Friday: 9am to 5pm
- Saturday: 11am to 5pm
- Sunday: Noon to 5pm

**Research Consultations**

For more in-depth research advice, consider scheduling a research consultation. A reference librarian will meet with you to discuss research resources and strategies. To schedule a consultation, contact Vicente Garces (garce003@umn.edu) or your section’s assigned librarian.

**Study Rooms, Study Aids, Scanning, and More**

The library provides a variety of other services as well. For the full list, please visit [this website](#). Highlights include a collection of [study aids](#) and past exams kept on reserve at the Circulation Desk; photocopiers, printers, and scanners for your use; study rooms and carrels available to be reserved; access to [West Academic Study Aids](#) and CALI lessons; and [online research guides](#) covering a wide range of legal topics.