

Empirical & Non-Legal Research Resources
Legal Writing IV Equivalency

Spring 2009

A. Statistics

- **Statistics Compiled by the U.S. Government**

- FEDSTATS

- <http://www.fedstats.gov/>

- Site allows searching of over 100 U.S. government agency statistics, as well as direct links to specialized agency statistical databases. Worth browsing the content, as there are a lot of surprises with regards to what is available.

- *Historical Statistics of the United States*

- <http://library.kentlaw.edu/eresources/index.htm>

- This is a subscription database of historical statistics of the United States, with data available in HTML, PDF, and Excel. Topics include population, labor, economics, and government. Data goes back to colonial times.

- STAT-USA

- <http://www.stat-usa.gov/>

- A password is required for this database, so users need to ask at the Reference Desk. This is a powerful database of commercial and economic data updated daily by the Federal government.

- *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, HA 202 .U6 (current edition at the Reference Desk, with earlier editions on the 8th floor)

- <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>

- Feature statistical tables from a variety of sources, including governmental, commercial, and non-profit. Online edition includes nearly every published edition since the first in 1878.

- **Other Statistical Compilations**

- International Monetary Fund

- <http://www.imf.org/external/data.htm>

- World financial indicators.

- Statistical Resources on the Web
<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/stats.html>
 Located at the University of Michigan, a comprehensive index of web sites and statistical documents, including weather and geographic data. Also has international statistics.
- Statistical Sites on the World Wide Web
<http://www.bls.gov/bls/other.htm>
 Links provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to the Websites of the national statistical offices for countries around the world.
- UNSTATS
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/databases.htm>
 Statistics compiled by the United Nations.
- World Bank
<http://www.worldbank.org>
 Statistics compiled by the World Bank. Click on “Data & Research.”

B. Company Information

- **Directories & Financial Information**

- Business & Company Resource Center
<http://library.kentlaw.edu/eresources/index.htm>
 A very in-depth subscription database. Find company profiles, financial reports, investment reports, corporate histories, and more. Includes many foreign and international companies.
- Hoover’s Online
<http://www.hoovers.com/>
 Some content is free, but some is restricted to subscribers.
- Yellow Books (Reference Desk, 9th Floor)
 These aren’t the “Yellow Pages”; these are specialized directories that cover financial institutions, non-profit organizations, federal and state government officials, foreign representatives in the U.S., among others.

- **Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Filings**

The Securities and Exchange Commission filings can provide a great deal of financial information about a company. There are a number of ways to obtain SEC filings. IDEA is the new database for submission by companies and others who are required by law to file forms with the SEC.

- Securities and Exchange Commission

<http://www.sec.gov>

Click on “Search for Company Filings” under “Filings & Forms” to begin your search. IDEA (which replaces an earlier database know as EDGAR) includes new tools, such as allowing users to subscribe to RSS feeds for new corporate filings.

C. Trade Groups and Organizations

Information from trade groups, associations, and other organizations can be helpful in finding information regarding a unique topic. In many cases, such research can be valuable in finding an expert witness or consultant. The items below aid the user in finding groups devoted to specific topics, be it a particular breed of sheep, asphalt paving, or any number of other topics.

- *Encyclopedia of Associations* (HS 17. G334) (Reference Desk, 9th Floor)
- *Encyclopedia of Associations: International Associations* (AS 8. E53) (Reference Desk, 9th Floor)

NOTE: Now available on LEXIS

D. Jury Verdicts and Settlement Awards

While certainly legal in nature, jury verdict reporters are specialized tools that often serve an empirical end, namely, to put a value on one’s case by finding jury verdicts and settlements from the same jurisdiction with the same or similar fact patterns (same injury, judge, experts, etc.)

- *Cook County Jury Verdict Reporter* (KFI 1799 .C6 A42) (10th floor; most recent at reference desk)
- *Illinois Jury Verdict Reporter* (KFI 1251 .A512) (10th floor; most recent at reference desk)
- Lexis has more than 40 individual files; some state-specific, others national in scope.
- Westlaw has many databases both state-specific and national in scope, some with coverage dating back to 1987.

E. Public Records and Private Financial Information

From real estate holdings to credit reports, lawyers often need to track down information about businesses and individuals, information that might be in the public domain, or might entail more invasive searching of private information.

- *The Sourcebook to Public Record Information: The Comprehensive Guide to County, State, & Federal Public Records Sources* (JK2445. P82 S64 2003) (9th Floor -- Reference Desk)
- A few public records databases on LEXIS and Westlaw are available to students.

F. Medical Information

The need for medical research is not limited to personal injury and med mal lawyers. The resources below are amongst those most often used by attorneys.

- *Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-IV-TR) (RC 455.2 .C4 D54) (9th floor --Reference Desk)
- *Merck Manual* (RC55. M4) (9th Floor – Reference Desk)
<http://www.merck.com/mmpe/index.html>
A guide to symptoms and treatment of diseases and disorders.
- *Physician's Desk Reference* (PDR) -- A comprehensive guide to pharmaceuticals including side effects. (RS 75. P5) (9th Floor – Reference Desk)
- *PubMed*
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>
PubMed contains references and abstracts from over 18 million life science and biomedical articles dating back to the 1950s.
- *Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary* (R121 .T18) (9th floor -- Reference Desk)
- WebMD
<http://www.webmd.com>
Perhaps the largest and most well-known online medical reference resource.

G. Newspapers and Periodicals

The Library carries subscriptions to major daily newspapers such as the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *New York Times*. The current day's editions can be found in the 9th Floor Reading Room (Room 950), while recent editions are available in the 9th Floor Current Awareness area (Stack 969). General newspapers can be a helpful resource in learning about a potential client or adversary. Scholarly journals can assist in background research in other fields.

Online News

- America's Newspapers
<http://library.kentlaw.edu/eresources/index.htm>
Subscription database of over 800 newspapers

- Google News
<http://news.google.com>
- OnlineNewspapers.com
<http://www.onlinenewspapers.com>
Links to thousands of daily newspapers, both in the United States and worldwide.
- Lexis and Westlaw also offer a variety of news resources

Periodical Databases

- A-Z Journal List
<http://sfx.carli.illinois.edu/sfxiitdc/az>
Allows users to find individual periodicals within almost all of the Library's online databases
- Academic Search Premier
<http://library.kentlaw.edu/eresources/index.htm>
Holdings: See database publication list for exact holdings; some titles from 1975 or earlier, many with PDF images
Description: Citations and abstracts from over 8200 journals and full text articles from over 4200 journals
- Business Source Premier
<http://library.kentlaw.edu/eresources/index.htm>
Holdings: See database publication list for exact holdings. Includes full text for nearly 8,350 scholarly business journals and other sources, including full text for more than 1,100 scholarly business publications, some publications back to 1922.
Description: Contains full text articles from management, marketing, and scholarly journals
- JSTOR
<http://library.kentlaw.edu/eresources/index.htm>
Holdings: Some articles as far back as the 1800s; recent issues of included journals are generally not available.
Description: Search authoritative business, law, education, public policy, social science, fine arts, and many other scholarly journals. Articles are imaged full text.
- Project Muse
<http://library.kentlaw.edu/eresources/index.htm>
Holdings: See database description for complete list of holdings
Description : From the Galvin Library. Includes over 250 scholarly journals on a variety of subjects including arts and cultural studies.

Periodical Indexes

- Business Periodicals Index
<http://library.kentlaw.edu/eresources/index.htm>
When available, SFX provides links from this database to full text articles in other databases.
- Index to Periodical Articles Related to Law
KF8. I54 – 7th Floor

H. Other Reference Sources

- Balay, *Guide to Reference Books*, 11th ed.
Z1035.1 .G89 1996
9th Floor Reference Desk
- Chicago Public Library, Harold Washington Library Center
<http://www.chipublic.org/branch/details/library/harold-washington/>
400 South State Street
Chicago, Illinois 60605
312-747-4300