

Finding Law Review Articles - General Steps

Law Reviews are essential publications among law schools and universities. The focus of each depends upon the school's mission and interests. Articles within law reviews may provide unique or public perspective on areas of law, on the current trends in the law, or reveal upcoming concerns in the law. They explain and promote understanding of their topics.

Getting started - Ask these questions (which are followed by our example responses):

- What is your topic?
Define your topic broadly. Example: you're seeking information about cyberbullying.
- Do you wish to search this topic generally or to search this topic within a specific context? Narrowing the search from the beginning will allow you to research efficiently, to develop search terms and save time.
Example: you're seeking cyberbullying in the context of children in schools.
- Is this a current issue in the law or do you need an historical or point-in-time view? What publication years do you need to search? This is particularly critical as most online information may only include publications for the past twenty years. You may need to select your resource based upon the publication years you require.
Example: This is a relatively recent area of law. You wish to limit your search to the last ten years.
- What is the jurisdiction? Are you seeking information within New York? In the US? In another nation or the legal issue as it may be compared globally? Do you wish to search for articles within a single publication of your subject jurisdiction - ie. Albany Law Review or among several New York law review publications? Responding to this question further defines the resources in which you should look.
Example: you're interested in cyberbullying in the New York schools and are interested in law review discussions within several New York publications.
- What type of information would you like on your topic? An expert analysis? A history? An opinion? A unique slant in interpretation? Again, this speaks to the type of resource that will be best for you to select.
Example: you're interested in identifying the issues of cyberbullying among children in school and would like an overview of what's being discussed.
- Do you need full text articles, summaries, bibliographies of resources on the topic?
Example: you're interested in full text articles.
- What libraries and resources do you have access to? Where are you going to start your research? What choices among sources do you have?

Example:

1. You can visit a NY State Unified Court System public access law library near you where you may find the following resources: <http://www.nycourts.gov/lawlibraries/publicaccess.shtml>.

- List of titles within the library catalog. Search the statewide catalog for your location to identify available print and online law review titles or indexes to periodicals.
<http://www.nycourts.gov/lawlibraries/index.shtml>
See Finding Law Reviews and Indexes - UCS Trial Libraries Catalog Example.
 - Databases available to the public. At a public access computer terminal, any visitor to the library may use Lexis and Loislaw (However, there are no law reviews within the Loislaw databases so it is not so helpful for this purpose.)
See Finding Law Reviews - Lexis Example.
 - E-Research Locator and statewide document delivery service. Search the online database of indexed articles by author, title or keyword. Search to find a database for a specific law review or journal title. Send an electronic request for a specific article from home. This is especially helpful to verify citations and to request an electronic copy of an article when you cannot go to your library or your library does not own the title you need.
See Finding Law Reviews - UCS Office of Legal Information E-Research Locator Example.
2. You can search law reviews on the Internet using Google Scholar.
See Finding Law Reviews - Google Scholar Example.
3. You can search law reviews on the Internet using the Social Science Research Network (SSRN - <http://www.ssrn.com/en/>).
See Finding Law Reviews - SSRN Example.

Tips:

No source includes all law reviews published. Periodical indexes that can be searched by subject, author or article title, are helpful for finding articles on your topic. Online versions of these indexes can also be searched using Keyword. Use your found citations to obtain full text articles from your library if the print or online journal is not available. Indexes most commonly used for New York and US searching are:

In Print:

Index to Legal Periodicals
Current Law Index

In Lexis: Legal Resources Index