
Chapter 4: The Process of Legal Research Revisited

A. INTRODUCTION TO THIS SUPPLEMENT

In the main text of this Workbook, you have learned how to use many resources commonly relied on by individuals in the legal profession as they look for answers to important legal questions. In Assignment Sheets 1 through 5 you have put your hands on traditional hard copy resources as well as some popular online tools for finding and updating law. In addition, you have read **TIPS** and **WARNINGS** regarding those sources and others that you might use in the future.

This Supplement will provide you with a more focused opportunity to try your hand at additional techniques and sources used by legal researchers when they are working online. You will be given a new client and a new legal question to research in this Supplement, and you will complete Assignment Sheet 6 as you learn how to use online resources to find case law that will address that client's question. For convenience, Assignment Sheet 6 focuses exclusively on case law, but you will be able to generalize these same techniques in the future when you search for other kinds of information online.

As you have learned in your earlier lessons, Westlaw and LexisNexis are the principle providers of fee-based online legal research. In Assignment Sheet 6, you will have an opportunity to search for case law using each of these providers separately. When you have completed the Assignment Sheet assigned to you based on your earlier client, you can learn more by completing the other version of Assignment Sheet 6 that approaches Westlaw and LexisNexis in a different order. At the end of Assignment Sheet 6, you will also have the opportunity to be introduced to alternative fee-based and free online sources of legal information.

Online research tools, like all computer-related technology, change rapidly. The best way to become proficient at online research is to remain flexible and to look forward to innovation and change. At the end of Assignment Sheet 6 you will have a chance to explore online tutorials provided by LexisNexis and Westlaw. Frequent exploration of these tutorials will help keep you informed about the most current tools these services offer. Taking advantage of additional educational opportunities often available through local Bar Associations and other sources for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits in the future is another way to ensure that you remain competent and competitive in the rapidly changing world of legal research throughout your career.