

THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW LIBRARY

Pathfinder Series
Nanette Collins, Reference Librarian
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Legal Periodicals

What are Legal Periodicals?

Legal Periodicals are compilations of articles written by judges, professors, law students and legal experts on various legal topics. The articles are usually scholarly and provide in depth analysis of legal issues.

Legal periodicals play an important role in the legal research process. Articles are a good source of background information and often provide additional information on the historical context of legal issues. Comprehensive research on a legal topic often involves finding relevant articles in law reviews and journals which discuss the point of law you are researching. Periodical articles are often the best source of information on legal issues. In addition, the footnotes or endnotes of a periodical article can often be used to expand your research by leading you to relevant primary and secondary authority.

Because the law is always developing and changing, its evolution is constantly being analyzed by legal scholars. Legal periodicals contain articles on new legislation, evolving legal issues, current legal theories, important cases as well as viewpoints and opinions of legal scholars. A legal periodical can help sort through confusing cases or complicated statutory developments and provide a rationale for the law. Legal periodicals give researchers insight into the law.



Types of Legal Periodicals:

1. **Law Reviews:** These are usually published by law schools and edited by law students. The articles may be written by professors, students or other scholars. Law Schools publish two types of law reviews:
 - a. The first is the law review the bears the **name** of its school of origin. These reviews tend to have no particular focus and are thought of as generic reviews because they cover a wide range of topics.
 - b. The second type of law review published by law schools is subject **specialty** reviews. These reviews focus on a particular field.
2. **Bar Journals:** These are published by bar associations and contain articles on many practical issues of current interest.
3. **Subject, Special Interest and Interdisciplinary Journals:** These journals are often commercially published by special interest groups and deal with only certain topics.
4. **Legal Newspapers:** These are similar to regular newspapers except that they are aimed at the legal community.
5. **Newsletters:** These publications contain news of interest to a special group.



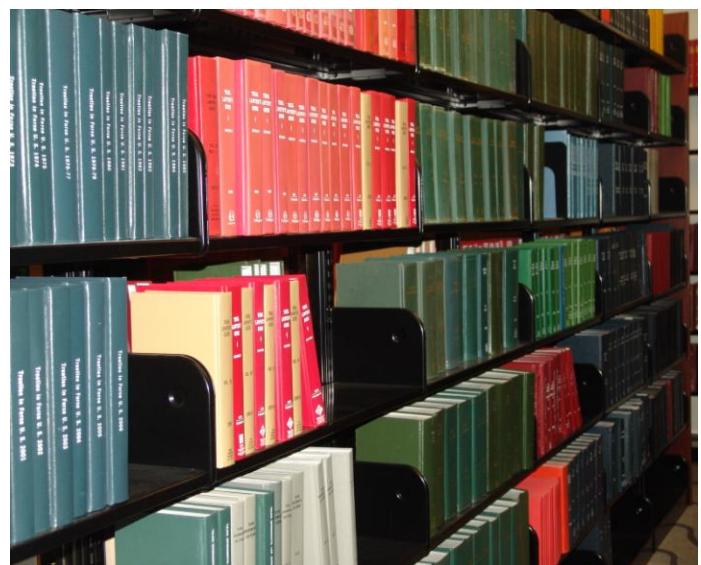
Contents of Legal Periodicals

The articles found in legal periodicals can be classified into several categories:

- *Articles* written by law professors, practicing lawyers or other experts.
- *Comments*, written by students contain surveys or critiques on selected subjects of contemporary importance.
- *Notes*, written by law students provide critical analysis of recent court cases or legislation.
- *Commentaries*, which are short discussions, usually following a feature article.
- *Book Reviews*, typically written by professors.

Where are Legal Periodicals located in the TMSL Library?

Print: A small selection of Law Reviews, Bar Journals and Special Interest Journals are located in the basement of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library. Current editions of Legal Newspapers and Newsletters are on Reserve.





LAW JOURNAL LIBRARY

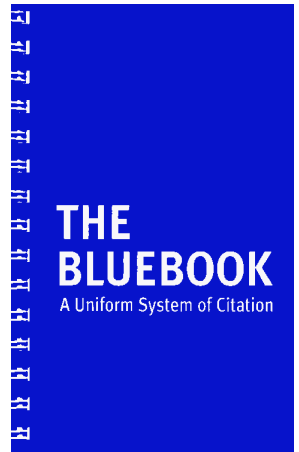
Electronic: HeinOnline, located on the Library's Electronic Resources page, provides full text access to more than 2000 law and law related periodicals.

Periodicals that are not a part of the Library's Collection may be retrieved through Interlibrary Loan, or Texshare. If you have any questions regarding these services ASK A LIBRARIAN.

Citing Legal Periodicals

Follow the 19th edition of the Bluebook Rules 15.1 & 16

- One author
 - Jane Smith, *Bankruptcy Law*, 90 MICH. L. REV. 219, 222-224 (1990).
- Two authors separated by ampersand
 - Jane Smith & Joe Harris, *Bankruptcy Law*, 90 MICH. L. REV. 219, 222-224 (1990).
- More than two authors, two options:
 - Use the first author's name followed by "ET AL."
Jane Smith ET AL, *Bankruptcy Law*, 90 MICH. L. REV. 219, 222-224 (1990). **OR**
 - List all the authors' names.
Bob Doe, Jane Smith & Joe Harris, *Bankruptcy Law*, 90 MICH. L. REV. 219, 222-224 (1990).
- The Periodical abbreviation must conform to Bluebook Table T.13.
Three issues:
 - Spacing: Disregard the *Single Capital Rule* just use the Table.
 - Abbreviation: Use the abbreviation exactly as it appears in the Table.
 - Small Caps *Rule 2.1(c)*: Use large and small caps for periodical names



Locating Legal Periodicals

Legal Periodical Indexes are used to locate legal periodicals. For a complete understanding of Periodical Indexes please consult the Legal Periodical Indexes Pathfinder.