Research Assistant Training: Journal and article research

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Journal Research: Three Scenarios

• Scenario 1: List of citations/document retrieval
  – Search the LRC Catalog by journal title
  – USD has access to many subscription journal databases

• Scenario 2: Finding articles on a particular topic
  – Use the advanced search features to limit by date, title, proximity, citations, etc.

• Scenario 3: When you have no #$!%* clue what the professor is asking for
Scenario 1: List of citations/document retrieval

Sources ASAP

StudentRA@sandiego.edu

Sources ASAP


How to Build a Better Human: An Ethical Blueprint.


Regards,
Professor Z
Search by Journal Title

• To find journal articles, search by the journal title (NOT the article title) in the library catalog.

• For example, search for Boston College Law Review, not “Non-enforcement Takings”

https://www.sandiego.edu/law/library/
Results 1 - 25 of 30 for Boston College Law Review

Sorted by Relevance | Date | Title | Author

**Boston College law review**
MICROFM SERIAL | 1978-
Show library holdings
Available at LRC Lower Level Microforms (K2 .O42 v.19 (1977-78)) plus 5+ more [see all]

**Boston College law review**
PRINT SERIAL | 1977-
Show library holdings
Available at LRC 1st Mezzanine & 2nd Floor (K2 .O42 v.19 1977-78) plus 5+ more [see all]

**Boston College law review**
E-JOURNAL | 1977-
Available at LRC Internet (K2 .08 ONLINE) [see all]

→ 1989 to present CLICK HERE to access this resource in Westlaw. Access restricted to USD Law faculty, students, and staff. Westlaw login and password required

→ 1993 to present CLICK HERE to access this resource in Lexis. Access restricted to USD Law faculty, students, and staff. Lexis login and password required
Results 1 - 25 of 778 for Bioethics

Refine by:
- Format
  - PRINT BOOK (479)
  - E-Books (216)
  - E-JOURNAL (42)
  - MICROFM BOOK (15)
  - PRINT SERIAL (14)
- Location
  - Copley Library (547)
  - Franciscan Library (14)
  - Legal Research Center (227)
- Search Found In
  - Subject (444)
  - Title (442)
  - Author (40)
- Availability
  - At the library (765)
  - Online (261)

Bioethics
PRINT SERIAL | c1987-
Show library holdings

Bioethics [electronic resource]
E-JOURNAL | ©1987-
Available at Copley Internet see all
- 1997 to present Full text from Wiley-Blackwell Full Collection (USD Users only)
- 01/01/1998 to 1 year ago Full text from Academic Search Premier (USD Users only)
- 01/01/1998 to 1 year ago Full text from CINAHL Plus with Full Text (USD Users only)

Encyclopedia of bioethics / edited by Stephen G. Post
PRINT BOOK | c2004
Available at CL Reference (QH332 .E52 2004 v.1) plus 4 more see all
Databases available through the Catalog

• **Westlaw** - Law Reviews & Journals
• **Lexis-Nexis** - U.S. Law Reviews & Journals, Combined
• **HeinOnline** - contains digital (PDF) images of law reviews from U.S. law schools.
• **JSTOR** - PDF archives of over 1,000 leading academic journals across the humanities.
• **Academic Search Premier** - Multi-disciplinary database, full text for over 4,600 journals.
• Plus many, many more!
Scenario 2: Finding articles on a particular topic

Research Request

To StudentRA@sandiego.edu

Research Request

Dear Student,

I'd like you to track down any recent and reliable journal articles with strong discussions of state law (judicial or legislative) that relieves medical professionals from tort liability if they refuse to disclose or to describe test results that might influence a patient to terminate a pregnancy.

Best,
Professor Y
Google Scholar

• **Google Scholar** is a free search engine for scholarly material (both law and non-law).

• Add USD to your library links to ensure you are getting full access to USD materials.
Advanced Search Tools

- Use the advanced search features in Google Scholar or in subscription databases like [Westlaw](https://www.westlaw.com) or [Lexis](https://www.lexis.com) to
  - Search for exact words in a title or abstract
  - Limit by date range
  - Narrow by adding proximity connectors such as /p, /s, or /n
ChatGPT and other AI tools

• ChatGPT, Google's Bard, or any other AI-based service can be generate lists of articles on a particular topic.
• However they can also inadvertently create digital hallucinations ([fake citations](#)).
• The reasons behind this are unclear.
• When using AI tools to assist in generating lists of articles
  - Make sure your prompts are specific
  - Double check the veracity of the citations produced
Scenario 3: When you have no $#%$! clue what the professor is asking for

Please find the following

StudentRA@sandiego.edu

Please find the following


law journal article, early 90s describing the IATTC dolphin accord (dolphin mortality) and the Declaration of Panama MEA
Misspellings & Other Mistakes


• Actual Citation: Mike C. Burkart & Samuel Lee, One Share - One Vote: the Theory, 12 Rev. of Finance 1-49 (Jan. 2008).
Working Papers/Forthcoming Papers

• Example: Daniel Crane, Bargaining Over Loyalty, ___ Tex. L. Rev. ___ (forthcoming 2013).

• First, check to see if the article has since been published (e.g. Google Scholar, browse HeinOnline, search by author or title in a full-text database like Westlaw)

• Then check:
  - SSRN: Social Science Research Network
  - bepress Legal Repository
  - Author’s Curriculum Vitae
Mystery Articles

- **Example:** law journal article, early 90s describing the IATTC dolphin accord (dolphin mortality) and the Declaration of Panama MEA

- To find support for a specific passage, search for sentence fragments in a [full-text journal database](#) and/or [Google Scholar](#)

Things to Remember

• If you know the exact article you are looking for, start by searching the library catalog by journal title.

• Google Scholar is your friend.

• Be flexible with your search terms and search strategy.

• LRC Reference Librarians are here to help!