

# § 11.3

# **Legal Periodicals**

# Law Reviews and Law Journals

There is no way a researcher can search each of the hundreds of legal periodicals individually. Even if the researcher had the time and energy, only a few periodicals have indexes. The researcher must rely on two major indexes to legal periodicals, or they must use the periodicals provided on the *Westlaw* or *Lexis* websites.

#### **QUICKVIEW § 11.3** – LEGAL PERIODICALS

#### Westlaw

- 1. In the main window, click on Secondary Sources, then click on Law Reviews and Journals
- 2. At the top of the database page that opens, type your query in the Search Query Text Box and click the Search Button
- 3. Narrow your search as needed by selecting a jurisdiction filter or using Search within results
- 4. Review the Article
- 5. Use the Footnote References to locate additional authority

#### Lexis

- 1. Click on the Law Reviews & Journals link on the Lexis home page
- 2. Enter your search query and click the *Search* button
- 3. Narrow the results, if necessary
- 4. Select an Article from the list of search results
- 5. Review relevant *Articles*, noting primary sources in the footnotes

#### **Law Library**

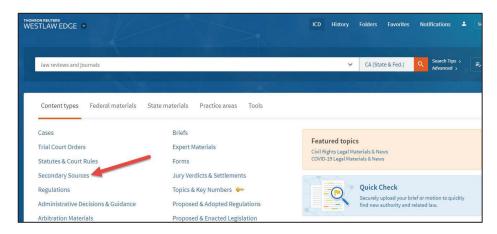
- 1. Locate the *Index to Legal Periodicals* or the *Current Law Index*, and determine the years which you wish to research
- 2. If researching an author or title of an article, use the Title/Author volume
- 3. If researching a topic of law, use the Subject Matter volume
- 4. In the main volume, locate any relevant articles and collect what appear to be relevant citations
- 5. Locate the legal periodical corresponding to the citations you located



# ASSIGNMENT § 11.3(A) | LEGAL PERIODICALS USING WESTLAW

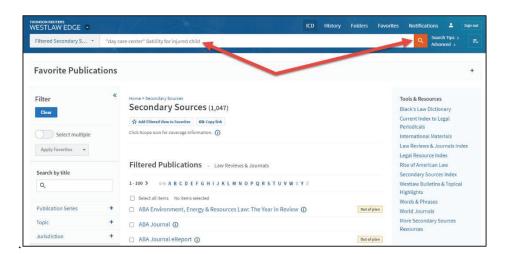
Periodicals, such as law reviews and law journals, are almost always secondary authority, the exception being, arguably, periodicals that include primary authority, such as *United States Law Week*.

1. Locate the databases for periodicals
In the main window, click on Secondary Sources, then click on Law Reviews and
Journals link, or a type the name of a specific periodical, such as Texas Law Review, in
the search bar.



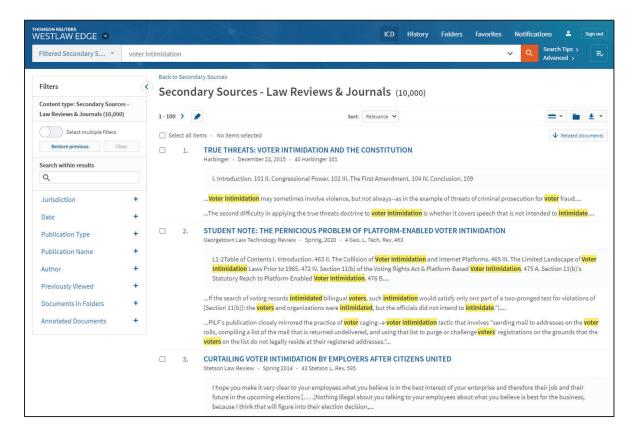
2. Pick a database or enter your query.

Either enter your search query and click the Search Button, or select one of the several hundred periodicals listed.

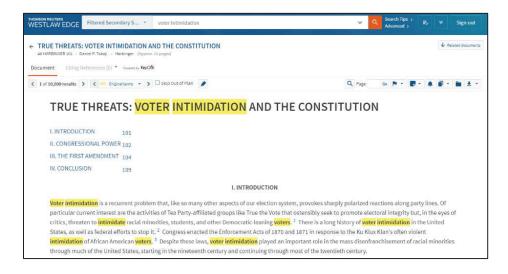


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3. Narrow your search by selecting a jurisdiction in the Results Page
In the left Narrow column you can select a specific jurisdiction to focus the results of your search.



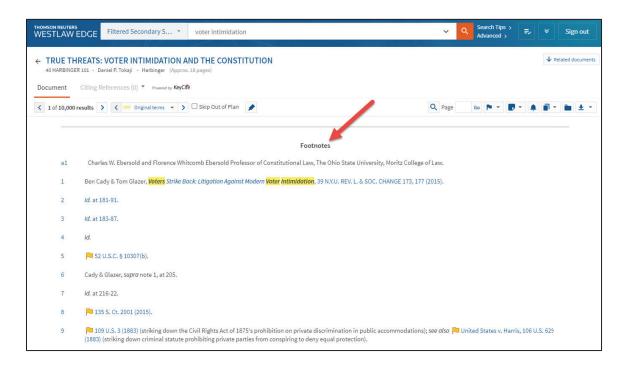
4. Review any articles of interest
Your search query terms will be highlighted.





# 5. Pay particular attention to the Footnotes

The footnotes will be packed with references to primary authority and rock-solid secondary authority. The author knows the article will be read by colleagues and professors, or fellow students, so there will be an effort to back up every point with authority. If you locate a relevant article, the author of that article has done your research work for you.



#### **CHECKLIST – LEGAL PERIODICALS USING WESTLAW**

In the Search Query Text Box, type the name or type of periodical, such as law reviews and journals, or Duke Law Review, and select one of the recommendations that appears
At the top of the database page that opens, type your query in the Search Query Text Box and click the Search Button
Narrow your search as needed by selecting a jurisdiction or using the Search within results features
Review the <i>Article</i>
Use the Footnote References to locate additional authority



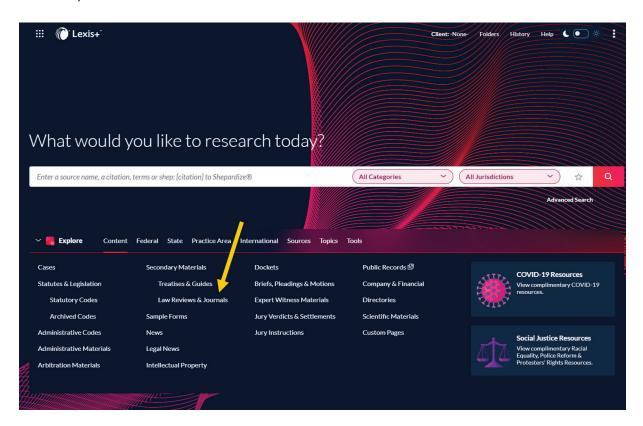
# **REVIEW QUESTIONS – LEGAL PERIODICALS USING WESTLAW**

- 1. Detail how you located a *Legal Periodicals* database.
- 2. What search query did you use?
- 3. When you saw the *Results Page*, were you satisfied with the outcome of your search query, or did you need to modify it?
- 4. When you viewed an *Article*, did you focus your search further using the *Narrow* column on the left side of the page?
- 5. Was the *Article* you researched relevant?
- 6. Were you led to any relevant primary authority in the *footnotes*?
- 7. Did you have a document *delivered*? If so, how? (Print? Email? Download?)



# **ASSIGNMENT § 11.3(B)** | LEGAL PERIODICALS USING LEXIS

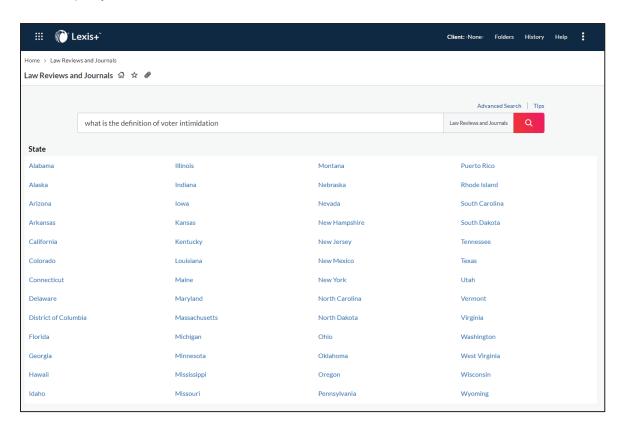
1. Select your Filter (Database)
On the Lexis home page, select Law Reviews & Journals under Secondary Materials in the Explore Content Box.





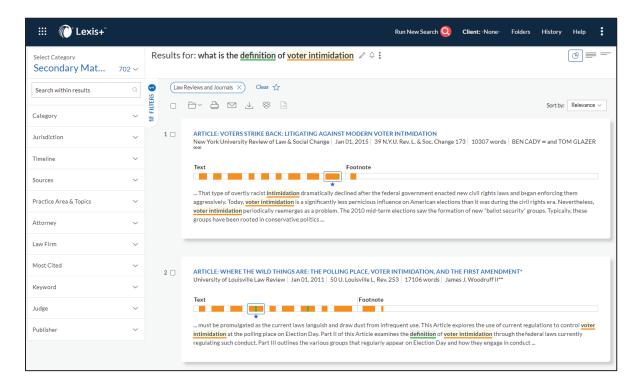
# 2. Enter your search query

You can enter your search query to search all periodicals in the database, or you can select a specific state or practice area in which to search, followed by entering your search query.

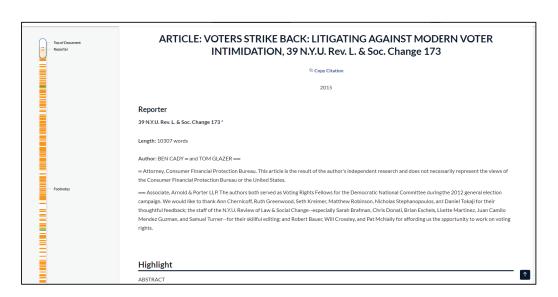




3. *In the Results Page, click on the title link to view a relevant article*You are also able to further focus the scope of the search results by using the tools in the left column, including *Search Within Results, Category*, and *Jurisdiction*.



4. Select a relevant Article
Review the article to determine its relevance.



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5. Locate additional authority by using footnote links If a section is relevant, use the links in the body of the article that lead to the *footnotes*. The footnotes refer to authority, usually primary.



#### **CHECKLIST – LEGAL PERIODICALS USING LEXIS**

Click on the Law Reviews & Journals link on the Lexis home page
Enter your search query and click the Search button
Narrow the results, if necessary
Select an Article from the list of search results
Review relevant Articles, noting primary sources in the footnotes

#### **REVIEW QUESTIONS – LEGAL PERIODICALS USING LEXIS**

- 1. Detail how you located a Legal Periodicals database.
- 2. What search query did you use?
- 3. When you saw the *Results Page*, were you satisfied with the outcome of your search query, or did you need to modify it?
- 4. Was the Article you researched relevant?
- 5. Were you led to any relevant primary authority in the footnotes?



# **ASSIGNMENT § 11.3(D)** | LEGAL PERIODICALS USING THE LAW LIBRARY (OPTIONAL)

1. Use either the Index to Legal Periodicals or Current Law Index
Both the Index to Legal Periodicals and the Current Law Index are accessed using the same steps. Thus, we will demonstrate the Current Law Index here, but keep in mind that the same steps apply to the Index to Legal Periodicals.

The *Current Law Index* (CLI) is very easy to use, but the researcher must be thorough. When beginning research in CLI, you must have the following:

- ✓ The name of the author, the title of a specific article, or the general subject matter
- ✓ A specific year or period of years in which the researcher wants to check for periodicals

The researcher will sometimes have either an author or title of an article that needs to be researched. It is more common, however, for the researcher to have only a topic or general subject: for instance, articles written by an expert witness who is expected to testify.

- 2. Locate the volumes covering the desired year CLI volumes are arranged by year. The researcher must choose what year to search within. Each year will have two volumes. One for the *Author or Title* of the articles, and one for the *Subject Matter* being researched.
- 3. If the researcher has the name of the author or the title of an article, research in the Author/Title volume
  On the spine of the book, underneath the year of the volume, select the Author/Title volume. Within that volume, the researcher may look up titles of articles or specific authors.
- 4. If the researcher has no name or title, research the Subject Matter volume
  A more traditional method of researching is by subject matter. Use the standard process of researching terms relevant to your client's case.



5. Write down any citations to periodicals that CLI provides
CLI does not actually contain articles. It leads the researcher to publications, such as law reviews and law journals, that publish the articles. The biggest obstacle for the researcher is that no law library contains all law reviews, journals, or other periodicals. There is no more frustrating feeling than finding a citation to what appears to be a great article, then discovering your library does not subscribe to that periodical.

If this happens, you do have a couple of options. First, if the publication is a law review, contact the law school, or see if their law review is published on their website. The *Harvard Law Review*, for example, publishes all its editions online at no cost in the form of PDF downloads (*harvardlawreview.org*).

If that does not work, phone a large public law library (such as your state's Supreme Court Law Library) and ask if they have the publication. If they do, ask if they will fax you a copy of the article. (You will be amazed how helpful law librarians can be if treated with respect and courtesy.)

#### **CHECKLIST – LEGAL PERIODICALS USING THE LAW LIBRARY**

Determine the year to be searched
Choose either the Author/Title or Subject Matter volume for that year
If the researcher locates a desired article, take note of its citation
Try to find the periodical, and look up the citation

# **REVIEW QUESTION – LEGAL PERIODICALS USING THE LAW LIBRARY**

Your attorney remembers reading an article on the subject of sexual harassment by an author named Jenero or Generro, or something like that. He thinks it was between 1995 and 1998. Can you find such an article? Was the *Article* you researched relevant to that issue?