This guide is designed to help non-law-school students use resources available at the Southern Illinois University School of Law Library to locate legal information in support of research assignments. Please consult a reference librarian (Reference Desk telephone 453-8708) if you have questions about using a particular legal material.

Location

Southern Illinois University School of Law Library
Lesar Law Building, First Floor
1150 Douglas Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901
Library web site URL: http://www.law.siu.edu/lawlib/
(Parking available in metered lot southwest of the Lesar Law Building entrance)

Hours

Regular Semester (Fall & Spring) Hours:
Monday–Thursday, 8:00 am–9:00 pm; Friday, 8:00 am–6:00 pm
Saturday, 9:00–5:00 pm; Sunday, 1:00 pm–9:00 pm
Holidays, Summer & Semester Break Hours may vary; check web site at http://www.law.siu.edu/lawlib/info/hours.htm for updated listing, or call the circulation desk at (618) 453-8796.

Legal Research Guides

  Five videotapes, 346 minutes.
  - tape 1. The basics;
  - tape 2. Case finding and the future of cases;
  - tape 3. Citators and secondary source research;
  - tape 4. Statutes, legislative history and administrative materials;
  - tape 5. Legal research on the Internet and research strategies.
  One videocassette, 145 minutes, plus manual.
  This video is aimed at non-lawyers.
- Also see listing of legal research guides at LexNotes Pathfinders,
To find books on legal topics

Use the SIU Law Library catalog: (available via the Internet at http://131.230.102.1). Search by author, title, subject, keyword, etc. For more information, see "Finding Books and Videos in the Law Library" at http://www.law.siu.edu/lawlib/guides/books.htm.

To find legal periodical articles by topic

- Use LegalTrac (1980–present), available to SIU campus users at http://www.law.siu.edu/lawlib/resdata/index.htm (click on LegalTrac);
- Use WilsonWeb (1980–present), available to SIU Law users at http://www.law.siu.edu/lawlib/resdata/index.htm (click on WilsonWeb);
- Use printed indexes: Current Law Index, 1980–present (Index Shelves KF 8.C8); or Index to Legal Periodicals & Books, 1908–present (Index Shelves, KF 8 .I532).
- For more information, see "Finding Articles in the Law Library" at http://www.law.siu.edu/lawlib/guides/articles.htm.

To find United States Statutes

- Use United States Code, KF62 2000 .A2 (has subject index);
- Search by keyword via GPO Access, available to all Internet users via http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html, or via LexisNexis Congressional, available to SIU Law users only.

To find Illinois Statutes

- Use Illinois Compiled Statutes, KFI1230.3 .A3 (has subject index);

To find federal cases by topic

- Use West's Federal Practice Digest 4th, KF127 .A54 (begin with Descriptive Word Index);
- SIU students outside the Law School can search by keyword via LexisNexis Academic, available to SIU campus users from Morris Library's web page at http://www.lib.siu.edu/resources/articles/.

To find Illinois cases by topic

- Use West's Illinois Digest 2d, KFI1257 .I4 1982 (begin with Descriptive Word Index);
- SIU students outside the Law School can search by keyword via LexisNexis Academic, available to SIU campus users from Morris Library's web page at http://www.lib.siu.edu/resources/articles/.
To find general legal information, including citations to statutes and cases


To find general Illinois legal information, including citations to statutes and cases


To find the meaning of legal words


To understand the meaning of legal citations and abbreviations

- *The Bluebook : a Uniform System of Citation*, KF246 .U56 2000;

This research guide is available on the web at [http://www.law.siu.edu/lawlib/guides/nonlawstudent.htm](http://www.law.siu.edu/lawlib/guides/nonlawstudent.htm).