

About the Library...

Librarian: helpful person available at Reference Desk
Reference Desk: librarians available to answer research/any questions
Circulation Desk: check out & return books/ask questions
Reserve Reading Room: texts on reserve, 2 hr check out; quiet study
John P. Wilson Reading Room: main (2nd) floor of library with unassigned study tables; book with laws of U.S. and Illinois
Fulton Room: lounge w/popular magazines; 3rd floor west in Library
Library Catalog: online database for identifying/finding library books
Library web page: starting point for information & links to resources, www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/law
Search: request at Circulation Desk if book not on shelf & not checked out
Recall: request made in Library Catalog if book checked out
Page: request at Circulation Desk if book is in storage collections; Library Catalog says *Ask at Law Circulation*
Interlibrary Loan: borrow book/get article from other library; request made online or at Reference Desk
Carrel: assigned study space; apply at Circulation Desk
Ask a Law Librarian Table: reference librarians available at lunch time in the Green Lounge

About Cases ...

Case: an appellate court decision issued on a lawsuit
Caselaw: the body of cases that are the common law
Plaintiff: named party who brings/ files lawsuit
Defendant: named party against whom lawsuit is brought/ filed
Appellant: named party who brings/ files appeal of lower court decision
Appellee: named party who defends lower court decision on appeal
Caption: lists named parties at top of case
Syllabus: brief summary of the appellate court decision
Docket Number: assigned to a lawsuit by the court clerk
Majority Opinion: opinion of the majority of the court that decides the case
Dissenting Opinion: opinion of a minority of the court that disagrees with the outcome decided by the majority
Concurring Opinion: opinion of a minority of the court that agrees with the result reached by the majority, but on different grounds
Official Reporter: publication from the court (or its designee) with cases decided by the judge(s)
Unofficial Reporter: commercial publication of cases from a court
Parallel Citations: references to same case in multiple reporters
Published (Reported) Case: court decides to publish; printed in reporters and online
Unpublished (Unreported) Case: court decides not to publish in official reporter; may be online or in commercial reporter
Headnotes: commercially-produced summaries of the points discussed in a case that appear before the text of the opinion(s)
Topic and Key Number: labels at top of headnotes that serve as a commercially-produced topical index to cases

About Books ...

Treatise: book, or set of books, on a legal topic, usually scholarly
Nutshells: notable series of paperback-sized study guides on law courses/topics, published by West Publishing; in Reserve Room
Hornbooks: series of green hardbound study guides on law courses/topics, published by West Publishing; in Reserve Room
Looseleaf: legal publication in binders that includes primary laws and secondary commentary on a topic of law
A.L.R.: American Law Report annotations; article-length summaries of a legal issue with citations to cases and other sources
Encyclopedias: set of books covering law topics A to Z; e.g., C.J.S., Am.Jur.2d and state law encyclopedias
Restatements: summaries of recognized common law on a topic
Pocket Part: softbound update pamphlet in the back of a book
Supplement: softbound update pamphlet next to book(s)
Reporter: published cases from a court in chronological order
Digest: headnotes from cases published in a topical arrangement; serves as a subject index to cases in reporters
Bluebook: guide to legal citation form & legal abbreviations
Codes: legislative acts or administrative laws arranged by subject and updated to include laws currently in effect
Session Laws: legislation published chronologically, by session of the legislature

About Online...

Database: searchable computer file of documents/information
Terms: words selected by researcher to search a database
Connectors: ways of combining terms to search a database (e.g., AND, OR, NOT, w/5, /s, /p)
Search: request for certain documents/information to be retrieved from a database
Terms & Connectors Search: researcher constructs a phrase using a combination of terms & connectors; computer retrieves all documents that match the criteria in the search phrase
Natural Language Search: researcher chooses key terms; computer retrieves a limited number of relevant documents based on where and how often terms appear in a document
Search Template: menu interface for searching a database
Hits: list of results for a search in a database
Full-Text Search: search for terms in entire database
Segment/Field Search: search for terms in defined parts of documents in a database
Focus: LexisNexis tool for searching for term(s) within results
Locate: Westlaw tool for searching for term(s) within results
Shepards: LexisNexis database to find cases/sources that have cited a case/source; used to verify if a case is still good law
KeyCite: Westlaw database to find cases/sources that have cited a case/source; used to verify if a case is still good law