Guide for Substantial and Supervised Analytical Writing (SAW) Research

This student guide for Substantial and SAW research directs you to library resources, librarians, and legal databases for assistance with the following:

- where to go for more research help
- selecting a topic and faculty supervisor
- organizing and managing your research
- sources for helping you start your research

1) Inspiration, Topic Generation, and Getting Started

a) Coursework and intern/externships
b) Reflection on what interests you.
c) Policy orgs and think tanks
d) Use a current awareness tool:
   i) SMART CILP
   ii) RSS Feeds
   iii) Legal alters and newsletters
   iv) Non-academic sources
   v) Breaking Complaints (Bloomberg)
   vi) US Law Week
   vii) Law Prof Blog Network
e) L/W journal searches for unresolved issues:
   i) **Most broad search:** adv: (interesting or intriguing or important or timely or relevant or open or unresolved or outside or ongoing) /s (issue or question or topic or matter or scope) /p ("beyond the scope" or "outside #of the scope" or later or "another day")
      (1) Limit by date to last twelve months or three years.
      (2) Limit to Law Reviews and Journals
      (3) Add phrases, terms, concepts by searching w/in results.
   ii) **Topic specific searches:**
      (1) adv: (interesting or intriguing or important or timely or relevant or open or unresolved or outside or ongoing) /s (issue or question or topic or matter or scope) /p ("beyond the scope" or "outside #of the scope" or later or "another day") and T(RICO-example of topic)
      (2) **Broader search:** adv: (interesting or intriguing or important or timely or relevant or open or unresolved or outside or ongoing) /s (issue or question or topic or matter or scope) /p ("beyond the scope" or "outside #of the scope" or later or "another day") and ATLEAST10(RICO)
f) Review other student papers:
   i) [Prize Winning Papers by YLS Students](#)
g) Books on Law Student Scholarship
   i) *Academic legal writing: law review articles, student notes, seminar papers, and getting on law review*, by Eugene Volokh (2010).
   iv) *Scholarly writing for law students: seminar papers, law review notes and law review competition papers*, by Elizabeth Fajans, Mary R. Falk (2011).
2) Selecting a Faculty Supervisor

a) Consult the YLS Student Scholarship Guide for a list of Faculty Substantial Paper & SAW Policies arranged by faculty member.

3) Beginning Your Research

a) This guide is written with the assumption that you have a working knowledge of both Westlaw and Lexis Advance. In most databases, you have the option of using either the Terms & Connectors (Boolean) search method or the Natural Language search method. To arrange for individual or group instruction please contact a law librarian.

b) Take a research course. We recommend Advanced Legal Research (ALR) where you can use your own research topic to complete assignments for this course. We also offer specialized research courses in foreign and international research, corporate law research, regulatory research, and empirical research methods.

c) For advice on how to organize your research, schedule an appointment with a librarian or visit our research management guide at: Keeping It Together.

d) News Sources:
   
i) Westlaw nearly 12,000 newspapers, magazines, journals, newswires, newsletters, and transcripts of television and radio programs. Examples include newspapers such as the New York Times, magazines such as Business Week, and transcripts from programs such as 60 Minutes.

ii) Lexis Advance News - Over 20,000 sources, including TV & radio news transcripts and blogs.

   (1) Lexis Advance Mealey’s Litigation News Publications: the foremost publisher in litigation news and is widely read by trial and appellate litigators for the most cutting-edge cases. To find this source, follow these steps:
   a. Click on Browse Sources;
   b. Enter “mealey” into the search box under Sources and select “OK;”
   c. Find the publication you’d like to search;
   d. Click on it and select, “Add this source to search” and enter your search terms in the red box.

ii. Bloomberg Law News Tab contains top legal news, foreign news and a rich news archive.

iii. For historical and local newspaper coverage, see Newspaper Archive database.

1. Journal and Article Searching: see also http://library.law.yale.edu/research/preemption-checking
   a. Legal Source: Covers law review articles and bar journals since the 1980s (VPN required for off-campus access).
   
b. Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals: Covers journals on foreign and international law (VPN required for off-campus access).
   
c. Articles+: Search for articles access disciples and databases.
d. **SSRN.com / LSN, the legal scholarship network.** The LSN homepage provides a link to a list of law and law-related journals and working papers as well as abstracts of materials they have accepted for publication but have not yet published.

e. **CRS Reports:**
   i. [Everycrs.com](http://www.everycrs.com)
   ii. [Lexis Advanced](http://www.lexis.com)
   iii. [Proquest Congressional](http://www.proquest.com): use facets for document types on the left to limit for CRS Reports

**4) Developing Your Topic**

a) **Library Catalogs**
   i. Morris (Law Library): [http://morris.law.yale.edu/](http://morris.law.yale.edu/)
   ii. Quicksearch (Yale University and Law Library): [http://web.library.yale.edu/](http://web.library.yale.edu/)
   iii. WorldCat catalog of catalogs: [http://worldcat.org](http://worldcat.org)

b) **Foreign and International Law**
   i. International Law in Domestic Courts: [http://www.oxfordlawreports.com/](http://www.oxfordlawreports.com/). An online case reporting service that brings you the most important public international law issues being decided in domestic courts around the world. The most significant cases are identified and thoroughly analyzed. Full text judgments are included, as are authoritative English translations of key passages. Fully searchable database; browse by country, key word, or topic.
   ii. Yale’s Country-by-Country Grid: [http://library.law.yale.edu/research/guides/country-guide](http://library.law.yale.edu/research/guides/country-guide)
   iii. Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals (IFLP): [http://library.law.yale.edu/research/legal-databases](http://library.law.yale.edu/research/legal-databases)
   iv. EISIL: [http://www.eisil.org/](http://www.eisil.org/). Use this site to easily locate the highest quality primary materials, authoritative web sites and helpful research guides to international law on the Internet.
   vi. Contact our [Foreign and International Law Librarians](mailto:foreignlaw@yale.edu) for more help.

c) **Legal History:**
   i. [Historical Research Guides](http://library.law.yale.edu/research/guides/historical), especially the Making of Law Database which contains legal primary and secondary sources, such as early U.S. state codes, municipal codes, constitutional conventions and compilations, and other documents, many of which have heretofore only been available as bound volumes or in microfilm searchable cross-searchable with Primary Sources, Part I. Trials, 1600-1926.
   ii. Read, *The Yale Law School guide to research in American legal history* by Law Librarian [John Nann](mailto:john.nann@yale.edu) for more help.

d) **Regulatory and Executive Materials:**
   i. Federal Register: [https://www.federalregister.gov/](https://www.federalregister.gov/)
   ii. CFR Parts for Agencies: [http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=05c66f5dc8ce2a83677b1dae50f972df&tpl=/agencylist.tpl](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=05c66f5dc8ce2a83677b1dae50f972df&tpl=/agencylist.tpl)
   iv. Agency websites:
      a. The University of Virginia puts out a nice guide here: [http://guides.lib.virginia.edu/administrative_decisions](http://guides.lib.virginia.edu/administrative_decisions)
   v. Executive Materials
      d. US Presidency Project: [www.presidency.ucsb.edu/](http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/)
h. Foreign Relations of the United States: http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/
i. Contact Law Librarian Julie Krishnaswami for more information.

e) **Empirical Research and Statistical Analysis**
   i) Statistical Databases: https://library.law.yale.edu/empirical-legal-research-resources.
   ii) StatLab Software available for use or download: http://statlab.stat.yale.edu/inventory/software/.
   iii) Statistical datasets: http://statlab.stat.yale.edu/data/
   iv) Contact Law Librarian Michelle Hudson for more help.

f) **Sources of Compiled Legislative History**
   i) Legislative History Research Guide
   ii) Nancy Johnson, *Sources of Compiled Legislative Histories* on HeinOnline
   iii) Congressional Quarterly: Legislative news and analysis from Congressional Quarterly,
       http://library.cqpress.com/.
   iv) Contact Law Librarians Michael VanderHeijden or Julie Krishnaswami for more help.

g) **Subject Compilations of State Laws**
   2. See also 50 state surveys in Westlaw and LexisNexis, *Conference of State Legislatures*, and the
      National Center for State Courts.