1L Database Guide

The following guide provides a brief introduction to the most popular electronic resources provided by the law library. As you go through law school, prepare to practice by getting comfortable with a wide variety of tools. You never know what will or won't be available in the future or what you will need to know.

Resources like Lexis and Westlaw require a personal password. Most resources use the same login throughout the law school. Some resources, like HeinOnline and West Academic Study Aids, will work automatically when you are on campus. Off campus, go to the law library's Electronic Resources page at http://lawlib.stmarytx.edu/databases. You will then be able to connect through the law school's proxy server using the information on your student ID card. If you have trouble using any of the resources listed here, please contact a librarian.

If you would like more information about using the research tools, assistance locating a resource, or information about additional resources, please stop by the circulation desk on the first floor of the law library and ask for assistance. Any of the librarians would be glad to help!

Comprehensive Legal Research Databases

Lexis (lawschool.lexis.com)

Lexis contains thousands of legal and non-legal databases. It is primarily used for researching case law or statutory materials. The cases and statutes provided by LexisNexis are annotated by professional staff and have cross-references. In addition to primary legal materials, this database contains a number of other secondary materials such as restatements, treatises, law reviews and journals, and newspapers.

Who can use it: Law school community only.
How to log in: Register your personal account using the access code provided by the Law Library.
DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER!

Westlaw and TWEN (lawschool.tr.com)

Westlaw is one of the most comprehensive services, boasting an index of over 23,000 databases. It is primarily useful for researching case law and statutory material, but it also contains a number of other resources that may be of interest to researchers with different areas of interest.

Who can use it: Law school community only.
How to log in: Register your personal account using an access code provided by St. Mary's University law library. This access code will be emailed directly to you.
DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER!

Law Reviews and Journals

HeinOnline

HeinOnline has law reviews and journals, all available as PDFs. Most journals are available from the very earliest issues, so this is a good place for historical research or retrieving older material (Westlaw and Lexis only go back to the 1980s for journals). The law library's subscription to Hein Online also contains many other collections, including a large collection of government documents, moot court materials, and international law resources.

E-Journal Locator

This is a list of all journals the law library has online access to, as well as those available from the university's Blume Library. If you start with a citation, you can use this to go straight to the article. To get to this list, visit the law library's homepage (http://lawlib.stmarytx.edu), choose "E-Journal Locator" from the drop-down box, and enter the name of the journals. For broader results, including books and electronic resources, type your search parameters into the "Discover More" box on our homepage.

Who can use these: Members of the public can use these by visiting the library in person. Current students, faculty, and staff of the entire university can use these on and off campus.
How to log in: While on campus, you will automatically be logged in to these electronic resources. Off campus, you need to go through the law library's proxy server. Go to the law library's webpage at http://lawlib.stmarytx.edu and click the link on the left of the page to go to "Electronic Resources". This will take you to a page of links that will help you connect. Log in using the information printed on your University ID card.

Classroom Resources

CALI (Computer Assisted Legal Instruction)

(www.cali.org)

CALI contains instruction modules, recorded lectures, and quizzes on a variety of legal topics, including property, torts, estates, the legislative process, etc. This is a good place to find quizzes for finals or extra lessons on a topic you cover in class. Your CALI registration code is printed on the instruction sheet you received in your 1L orientation folder.

Who can use it: Current law school community.
How to log in: Go to www.cali.org. Click "Create a new account" on the right of the screen. Register using the St. Mary's University law student registration code.

Study Aid Packages

St. Mary's University Law Library also offers you online access to hundreds of study aids, treatises, and audio lectures to help you succeed in law school. Visit our Electronic Resource page at lawlib.stmarytx.edu/databases.html to access invaluable resources from West Academic, Aspen, Lexis, and many others!!

- Aspen Learning Library
- CALI
- CALI registration code
- CasemakerX
- Congressional Index from Proquest
- Congress.gov
- Course Reserves
- E-Book Collection
- Edward Elgar Collection
- eJournal Locator
- Fastcase Premium
- Foreign Law Guide
- Government Publications
- Hein Online
- Law Info China (requires special password)
- Lexis Digital Library
- LLMC
- Oxford Scholarship Online
- State Statutes
- West Academic Study Aids