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. Resources like Hein Online 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 re-sources 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 law 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 LexisNexis offers a cite-checking service known as Shepherd's, which helps researchers determine whether case law is still "good law." 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 students and faculty only.
How to log in: Register your personal account using an access code provided by St. Mary's University Law Library in the orientation module. **REGISTER IT!**

Westlaw and TWEN (lawschool.thomsonreuters.com) Westlaw

Edge is almost certainly the most comprehensive service 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 a researcher.

Who can use it: Law students and faculty only.
How to log in: Register your personal account using an access code provided by St. Mary's University Law Library in the orientation module. The code will come directly from Westlaw **REGISTER IT!**

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) and simply type the title of the journal into the "Search Electronic Journals" box. For more in-depth 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. From off campus, you need to log in through the law library's proxy server. To go through the law library's account, 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 St. Mary's 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: Law students and faculty.
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 student registration code provided in the Law Library presentation video.

LexisNexis Digital Library
(lawlib.stmarytx.edu/databases.html)
St. Mary's University Law Library provides access to course-specific study aids, treatises, and other law school materials.

Who can use it: Law students and faculty.
How to log in: lawlib.stmarytx.edu/databases.html and click on LexisNexis Digital.

West Academic Study Aids
(lawlib.stmarytx.edu/databases.html)
St. Mary's University Law Library offers you online access to hundreds of study aids, treatises, and audio lectures to help you succeed in law school.

Who can use it Members of the public can use this by visiting the library in person. Current students, faculty, and staff of the law school can access this on and off campus.
How to log in: lawlib.stmarytx.edu/databases.html and click on West Academic Study Aids.