



# Effective Legal Research

## *Fourth Edition*

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# Effective Legal Research

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To  
F. J. P., A. B.,  
*and S. J. B.*

# Foreword to the Law Student

According to England's King George III, a lawyer is not a person who knows the law, but one who knows where to find it. This is not entirely so, but let us assume for the moment that it is. The lawyer finds the law principally in books housed in law libraries, so that a lawyer and a law library are inseparable.

Law books, as you may have already observed, are as multitudinous as they are voluminous. Their contents are revealed in still another voluminous host of specialized books of index, which the lawyer consults regularly in attempting to find the law. Once the search has succeeded, another function of the lawyer can be performed; namely, evaluating the law and utilizing the conclusions in counseling clients and persuading courts. Hence, the well-equipped lawyer is one who, above all, is thoroughly familiar with the tools of the profession and thus garners a priceless advantage over a colleague less well equipped.

What is true of the lawyer in this respect is even more so of the law student. The first year of law school is a strange world. However much or little reading was done during undergraduate days, the element of choice is removed in law school. The student must live with a high, wide and sometimes frightening mountain of reading materials. At first they may seem to be put together in such an illogical manner as to defy successful attack. But the lawyer's very necessity of finding the law has brought order out of this seeming chaos by calling forth from the publishers the guides, indexes and other means of approach to the law not found so abundantly in any other literature.

It is the function of courses in the use of law books to acquaint law students, as embryonic lawyers, with the tools of their professions. As such, these courses truly epitomize the "bread and butter" approach in the law school curriculum.

## Preface to the Fourth Edition

The authors of this edition have endeavored not only to update the material but to expand the coverage and to provide greater clarity by reorganizing and rewriting various parts of the text. Miles O. Price remains very much a part of this publication.

Five new chapters have been added and one has been divided into two. The five new ones are on Australian Materials, New Zealand Materials, South African Materials, International Law, and Automated Legal Research. The former chapter on English and Canadian Materials is now divided into two separate chapters, United Kingdom Materials and Canadian Materials. Appendix III, Abbreviations, has been made more definitive with substantial additions to the list.

The authors wish to express their special appreciation to the following individuals for their important contributions to the fourth edition: Professor Albert P. Blaustein, Dale Alan Diefenbach, Dorothy Dropick, Mary Fisher, Judith Lahey, Marlene McGuirl, William Matthews, Robert Oakley, Meira G. Pimsleur, Nicholas Triffin, and Ruth Van Demark. Special acknowledgment is made to our families and our library staffs for their patience and support. We also wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to many individuals for their contribution to the previous editions.

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