

# How to Find the Best Online Legal Research Services



Legal research is a pivotal aspect of a lawyer's profession, shaping the course of cases and ensuring justice prevails. As a result, selecting the most suitable legal research services is paramount. With abundant choices available, delving into the intricacies of these platforms can be daunting.

Begin by understanding the importance of legal research for lawyers. It's the foundation upon which strong cases are built. You need access to legal research services that provide a comprehensive database and user-friendly interface to achieve this.

This post will discuss how to discern the best legal research service. It would be best to scrutinize database depth, search functionality, and cost-effectiveness factors. Ultimately, selecting the right legal research services ensures you have the software you need to succeed in the legal arena.

## What Is Legal Research?

Legal research systematically explores legal sources to unearth vital information crucial to law practice. It plays an integral role in the legal profession, serving as the bedrock upon which attorneys build their cases and strategies.

By its very essence, legal research empowers you to make well-informed decisions, guiding you through intricate legal landscapes. This process consumes a substantial portion of lawyers' time, approximately 35-40% of their working hours.

In essence, legal research is the compass that navigates the legal terrain, enabling lawyers to interpret laws, locate precedents, and craft compelling arguments, ensuring justice prevails in every case.

## **Steps to Do Legal Research**

Legal research is an intricate process that demands precision and thoroughness. Following a structured approach is essential to ensure your legal research is compelling. Here are some critical steps to do legal research:

### **Gather Information**

The journey begins by identifying the issue or problem at hand. This initial step is critical as it sets the foundation for your research. Gathering relevant facts and details is paramount. A comprehensive understanding of the issue ensures your research is on the right track.

In legal research, overlooking even minor details can be costly. Therefore, meticulousness in gathering information is vital.

### **Establish Goals**

Defining clear objectives for your research is crucial before delving into the vast realm of legal sources. What are you trying to achieve? What specific questions need answers? Setting clear goals ensures that your research remains focused and efficient.

These goals are guiding stars, steering you toward the most pertinent legal information.

### **Determine Legal Sources**

Identifying applicable laws, statutes, and regulations is the heart of legal research. You'll encounter both primary and secondary legal sources.

Primary sources, such as statutes, regulations, and court decisions, carry significant weight in legal research. Analyze these sources to understand the legal framework and precedents relevant to your case.

Secondary sources comprise legal commentary, articles, reviews, and treatises, which offer valuable insights and analysis. They can provide a deeper understanding of complex legal issues and help you form persuasive arguments.

A deep dive into primary sources provides the bedrock of legal analysis, while secondary sources offer valuable insights and interpretations.

## **Reference a Citator**

Ensure the credibility and relevance of your sources. A citator is a vital tool in legal research. It serves as a navigator, helping you verify legal sources' validity and current status. Citators provide information on whether a case has been overruled, cited frequently, or questioned by subsequent cases.

Utilizing a citator ensures that your research relies on up-to-date and authoritative legal precedents. An example of a great legal research database with citation services is Westlaw. They offer a service called [KeyCite](#), which checks the validity and relevance of statutes, case law, and other primary and secondary legal sources to ensure they are current.

## **Report Results and Fill Gaps**

As you accumulate legal information, organizing and summarizing your findings is imperative. A well-structured report not only aids your understanding but also facilitates effective communication with clients or colleagues.

Identifying gaps in your research is equally significant. If you've missed crucial information, take the necessary actions to fill those gaps promptly.

In legal research, a methodical approach is your greatest ally. These steps to do legal research ensure that you harness the power of information effectively, enhancing your ability to provide sound legal counsel and navigate the complexities of the legal landscape.

# Best Legal Research Software

Legal research services have revolutionized the legal profession, and at the forefront of this transformation is online legal research software. These advanced software offer many advantages, making them indispensable for modern attorneys.

Legal research software streamlines the complex legal investigation process, providing instant access to a vast repository of legal documents and resources. Access reputable online legal databases and libraries. Platforms like Westlaw, LexisNexis, and HeinOnline provide extensive collections of legal materials. Use advanced search features to narrow down your results effectively.

Legal research software's efficiency is unparalleled, saving you significant time and effort. Combining your legal databases and libraries with a stellar legal document management platform like [Bill4Time](#) sets you up for far-reaching success. These features employ sophisticated algorithms and search functionalities, ensuring no crucial detail goes unnoticed.

In a profession where precision is paramount, legal research software emerges as an indispensable ally, enhancing productivity and enabling you to make well-informed decisions swiftly.

## Tips to Master Legal Research

Legal research is the cornerstone of every attorney's practice. It's a skill that can make or break a case. In today's digital age, mastering legal research requires traditional expertise and harnessing the power of technology. Here are some essential tips for you to excel in legal research, focusing on leveraging the capabilities of legal document management software like Bill4Time. This software can significantly enhance research efficiency.

1. **Leverage Technology:** In the legal field, technology is a game-changer! Programs like Westlaw and LexisNexis offer features that can streamline your research process. They enable you to search vast legal databases, saving precious time quickly. Bill4Time's advanced search functions, Boolean operators, and [document management capabilities](#) make it a valuable ally in the quest for legal information.
2. **Stay Updated:** The legal landscape is ever-evolving, with laws, regulations, and case precedents constantly changing. It's crucial to stay ahead and

updated with the latest legal developments. Bill4Time provides access to real-time legal information regarding [cyber-security](#). Their [data security](#) suit ensures you have the most current cyber-security data at your fingertips. This feature is invaluable in helping you protect and store sensitive client information.

3. **Organize Your Research:** Effective organization is key to successful legal research. Bill4Time aids in categorizing and managing research materials efficiently through [project management software](#). Its intuitive interface allows you to create folders, tags, and labels for easy retrieval of documents.
4. In addition, Bill4Time helps your team effectively communicate tasks and costs of litigation by encoding the American Bar Association's (ABA) [Litigation Code Set](#) within their [billing software](#). This legal research service saves time and ensures you can access critical information when needed.
5. **Collaborate and Seek Expertise:** Legal research often benefits from collaboration and seeking expertise from peers and experts. Bill4Time facilitates collaboration by allowing multiple users to access and contribute to research projects. This feature promotes knowledge sharing, which, as a result, enhances the quality of research and can lead to more robust legal strategies.

## Manage Legal Research with Bill4Time

Mastering legal research requires a combination of traditional legal skills and harnessing the capabilities of technology. Software like [Bill4Time](#) is invaluable in this pursuit, offering advanced search functionalities, real-time legal updates, efficient organization, and collaborative features. You can elevate your legal research game by effectively incorporating these tips and utilizing legal research services and technology.