

Legal Resources for Public Library Collections

Introduction

This outline guides public librarians in building legal research collections for the non-attorney legal researcher. Suggestions are grouped into basic collections (for small libraries) and enhanced collections (for larger public libraries and library systems). Some online resources (both fee and free) are listed.

I. Reference Materials

Basic

- *Black's Law Dictionary* (11th edition, Thomson Reuters; 2nd edition at <https://thelawdictionary.org/>)
- *Legal Research: How to Find & Understand the Law* (Nolo Press)
- *Locating the Law: A Handbook for Non-Law Librarians* (Southern California Association of Law Libraries at <https://www.aallnet.org/lispsis/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2019/01/Locating-the-Law-Sixth-Edition.pdf>)
- Carolina Academic Press' Legal Research Series title for your state (ex: *Wyoming Legal Research*)
- Gallagher Law Library Acronyms & Abbreviations (<https://lib.law.uw.edu/pubs/acron.html>)

Enhanced

- *Bieber's Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations* (Hein)
- *Dahl's Law Dictionary: Spanish-English/Inglés -Español* (Hein)
- *Legal Research in a Nutshell* (West Academic)
- *American Law in the Twentieth Century* (Yale University Press)
- *Famous Trials* (<https://famous-trials.com/>)
- *The Law and Legal System of the United States* (West Academic)
- *Oxford Companion to American Law* (Oxford University Press)

II. General

Basic

Nolo Press (<https://www.nolo.com/>) titles including:

- 101 Law Forms for Personal Use
- Chapter 13 Bankruptcy
- Criminal Law Handbook
- Divorce & Money
- Employer's Legal Handbook
- Every Landlord's Legal Guide

- Everybody's Guide to Small Claims Court
- Foreclosure Survival Guide
- How to File for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy
- How to Get a Green Card
- How to Win Your Personal Injury Claim
- Neighbor Law
- Nolo's Essential Guide to Child Custody & Support
- Nolo's Essential Guide to Divorce
- Nolo's Guide to Social Security Disability
- Represent Yourself in Court
- Small Business Start-Up Kit
- Social Security, Medicare & Government Pensions
- U.S. Immigration Made Easy

Enhanced

National Consumer Law Center (NCLC, digital or in print) titles including:

- Collection Actions
- Consumer Bankruptcy Law and Practice
- Fair Debt Collection
- Home Foreclosures
- Repossessions
- Student Loan Law
- Unfair and Deceptive Acts and Practices

“Nutshells” from West Academic, including:

- American Indian Law in a Nutshell
- Constitutional Law in a Nutshell
- Contracts in a Nutshell
- Criminal Law in a Nutshell
- Employment Law in a Nutshell
- Federal Disability Law in a Nutshell
- First Amendment Law in a Nutshell
- The Law of Schools, Students, and Teachers in a Nutshell
- Privacy Law in a Nutshell
- Real Property in a Nutshell

III. Legal Periodical Literature

Basic

- Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.com>)

Enhanced

- HeinOnline Journals and Law Reviews Database

IV. Forms

Basic

- State Courts web sites, Wyoming Judicial Branch (<https://courts.state.wy.us/legal-assistances-and-forms/>)
- Equal Justice Wyoming (<https://equaljustice.wy.gov>)
- LawHelp (<http://lawhelp.org>)
- PublicLegal (<https://ilrg.com/forms>)

Enhanced

- Gale LegalForms
- West's Legal Forms

V. Legal Directories

Basic

- Wyoming Bar Association (<https://wyomingbar.org/for-the-public/hire-a-lawyer/membership-directory/>)
- Martindale-Hubbell (<https://martindale.com>)

VI. Statutes/Regulations/Case Law

Basic

- Wyoming Statutes Annotated, Wyoming Legislative Service Office (<http://wyoleg.gov/StateStatutes/StatutesConstitution?tab=0>)
- Wyoming Court Rules Annotated (<https://courts.state.wy.us/supreme-court/court-rules>)
- Federal statutes, United States Code (<https://govinfo.gov>)
- Wyoming regulations (<https://rules.wyo.gov/>)
- Federal regulations, Code of Federal Regulations (<https://govinfo.gov>)
- Court decisions from your state and federal jurisdictions (<http://scholar.google.com>)

Enhanced

- Online services from lower cost legal research vendors, i.e. Casemaker/Fastcase
- Online Shepard's (LexisNexis) or KeyCite (Thomson Reuters) for citation checking