

OREGON LEGAL RESEARCH RESOURCES

NOT ONLINE OR THROUGH FEE-BASED DATABASE ACCESS ONLY

(Updated: March 25, 2011)

The following is a list of Oregon and U.S. legal research materials sought after by law library and public library patrons. Some of the resources listed below are in paper format only or are online only to Oregon attorneys or other paid subscribers, e.g. those who subscribe to Westlaw, Lexis, HeinOnline, Fastcase, Casemaker (bar associations only), LoisLaw, VersusLaw, or other legal research subscription database.

Many are specialized legal research resources that require knowledge of the principles of legal research, government organization, and law-making in order to use them to prepare for one's case or other purpose.

Notes:

- **Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS)** is online only for the current year, not for the superseded ORS, although one can use Oregon Laws dot org or the Internet Archives to find archived copies of the statutes formerly posted at the Legislature's website.
- **Oregon cases** prior to 1997 and superseded Oregon Revised Statutes are not online. The ones online are not searchable except by citation so are of limited use to the legal researcher.
- **Oregon laws (session law):** Online back to 1999 on the Legislature's website.
- **E-court** is not envisioned to be a free service, any more than PACER is. That is, they do (or may) offer some "free" materials, but only under specific conditions. Also, E-Court, like PACER, is a court document filing system, not a legal research database. It will make complaints, briefs, motions, orders, etc. available online, to subscribers.
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DOCUMENT/BOOK TITLE/SERVICE	Online, open source, free and/or public access	ONLINE TO OSB MEMBERS via Fastcase and/or OSB BarBooks	ONLINE TO PAID SUBSCRIBERS
Oregon Appellate Court Briefs	Some at SOLL (also, see guide at Wash Co Law Lib) Not all briefs on the public website and, unlike microfilm and bound briefs, extracts of record are not included.	No	Westlaw, Lexis
City codes, current	Some	No	Westlaw, Lexis, other (?)
County codes, current	Some	No	No
County codes, superseded	Rarely	No	Westlaw, Lexis, other (?)
County budgets - line item	Rarely (budgets submitted for approval are online for some jurisdictions, but not detailed line-item budgets)	No	No
Court approved legal dictionaries	No	No	Yes

Court dockets (OJIN)	Free at courthouse and some county law libraries	No	Yes
Complaints, motions, orders, and briefs in Oregon courts (full-text)	Some through OJIN, but not briefs	No.	Yes. Few, if any, Oregon public law libraries have these commercial court records databases, due to excessive cost. (E.g. a copy of a complaint can cost from \$25 to hundreds, depending on date and length.)
Jury instructions, Oregon	Print & OSB BarBooks at county law libraries	OSB Barbooks	OSB BarBooks
Legal encyclopedias	Print only and online if county law library has subscription	No	Yes
Legal forms, OSB	County Law Libraries have print and online practice books & OSB BarBooks	OSB BarBooks	Yes, OSB BarBooks
Legal journals*	Some	No	Yes
Legal monographs (books & treatises)	Some if law library subscribes.	No	Some vendors have online versions.
Legal newspapers	Current (7-14 days), often headlines only. Some law libraries subscribe.	No	Yes
Legal treatises	Some, if law library subscribes.	Oregon treatises, through OSB BarBooks, but not private legal publisher treatises.	Some vendors have online versions.
Municipal codes, superseded	Some	No	Yes, selective.
OCDLA publications	No	No	No
Oregon Employment Appeals Board (EAB), pre-2000	EAB has only back to 2000. Not at Archives.	No	No
Oregon DOJ AG Opinions	1997 forward	Yes	Yes (to 1940)
Oregon legislative history pre-1995	Paper or micro only, from State Archives and selected law libraries.	No	Lexis has ORS to 1995.
Oregon legislative bills	1995 to present. Previous bills available only at State Archives.	Yes, from 1995, via Legislature's website.	Current session via Lexis and Westlaw.
Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Superseded	Current only online at Legis website. (Earlier years also at Internet archive, but not official.)	No.	Lexis has ORS to 1995.
Oregon state bar (OSB) publications	OSB BarBooks, with current pubs, but not	Yes, current practice books, via BarBooks.	Yes, OSB BarBooks. Westlaw & Lexis have

	superseded or CLE course books.		OSB Bulletin archives
Oregon Agency Budgets	Some, but not line-item budgets	No	No. Public records request sometimes required.
Disciplinary reports (OSB)	Yes.	Yes (?)	Yes
Oregonian & other newspapers	Current (7-14 days)	No	Yes
PECBR**	2002 forward online at ERB website.	No	Casemaker
FEDERAL LAWS (Selected sources)	Online, open source, free and/or public access	ONLINE TO OSB MEMBERS via Fastcase & BarBooks	ONLINE TO PAID SUBSCRIBERS
U. S. Code - official	Print/online not current	Yes	USC, USCA & USCS
U. S. Supreme Court	Yes	Yes	Yes
U. S. Appellate Court	Previous 10 years	Yes	Yes
U. S. District & Bankruptcy Courts	Selective	Yes	Yes
U.S. Congressional Research Service reports	Selective	No	Yes
FINRA and (former) NASD decisions	Only summaries are online.	No	Yes

* **Law journal articles:** There are tens of thousands of journals and hundreds of thousands (maybe millions) of possible articles researchers need, many of which, though not all, are indexed by a variety of publishers. Neither the law library nor the public library could possibly have all databases or print editions of the journals from which researchers request articles, nor do libraries have all the indexes. Libraries have developed interlibrary loan and other types of manual and automated sharing methods to serve the needs of researchers.

****PECBR** doesn't have all cases online and has a per-page copy charge. (*Casemaker* has many of the PECBR cases on its database, but only state bar associations may purchase subscriptions to the service.)

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

The [AALL County Law Library Standards, 2009](#), includes the following recommended list of legal publications.

The titles underlined below are either not available online at all or only through a subscription legal research database or only at law libraries.

VII. County Public Law Library Collection

A. Publications of the county public law library's home state:

1. A complete collection of the published decisions of state courts.
2. Current annotated set of state/local court rules. If space permits, a collection of superseded state/local court rules.
3. Current statutory compilation, annotated if available. If space permits, a complete set of older statutory compilations and superseded volumes of current compilations.
4. A complete set of session laws, including a current session law service, if available.
5. The current state constitution as well as various historical versions of the constitution, and any published debates/proceedings of state constitutional conventions.
6. Local, county and municipal codes, charters, by-laws or ordinances within area served.
7. Current state administrative code, if available.
8. Published decisions of state administrative agencies.

9. A complete set of Attorney General Opinions.
10. The state legal encyclopedia, if available.
11. Significant state-oriented legal treatises and practice materials.
12. Selected legal periodicals and newspapers.
13. State and local bar publications and ethics opinions.
14. The state digest (In Oregon, the digest is a Thomson Reuters publication, available in print and online through Westlaw.) One can also search Oregon case law through Lexis and other databases, but not using the West Key Number Digest system.
15. A citation service, such as Shepard's or Keycite.
16. State-oriented reference tools including state government manual, legal/social services directories, city and/or county directory.
17. Significant state and local court publications including, but not limited to, annual reports, judicial statistics, court and general legal forms, policy statements, and bench books.

B. Publications covering federal law:

1. Official or another reporter of the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States.
2. A U.S. Supreme Court digest.
3. At least one annotated version of the United States Code.
4. U.S. Statutes at Large or other commercial federal session law service.
5. All published decisions of the U.S. District Courts, U.S. Courts of Appeal, and U.S. Bankruptcy Courts.
6. Federal court rules and forms.
7. Local Federal rules and forms for courts within jurisdiction.
7. Federal case digest.
8. Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations.
9. A citation service, such as Shepard's or Keycite, for reports and codes held by the library.
10. U.S. Government Manual.

C. General United States publications:

1. Units of the National Reporter System, as needed.
2. American Digest System units, as needed.
3. Current statutory compilations for contiguous states, as needed.
4. American Jurisprudence 2d and/or Corpus Juris Secundum.
5. American Law Reports and American Law Reports Federal.
6. General legal forms set.
7. ABA/BNA Lawyers Manual of Professional Conduct.
8. American Law Institute Restatements.
9. Uniform Laws Annotated.
10. A basic collection of legal texts, treatises, practice materials and looseleaf services of contemporary value on subjects of interest to the legal community and the public.
11. A broad selection of legal periodical titles.
12. A legal periodical index.
13. A citation service, such as Shepard's or Keycite, for case reporter and code units held by library.
14. Legal reference tools including dictionaries, a thesaurus, judicial biographical and legal abbreviations directories, legal quotations compilations and Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory.
15. General reference tools, including an unabridged dictionary, atlas, and statistical abstracts.
16. A collection of general legal and self-help titles on subjects of interest to the public and pro se litigant. (Note: Nolo Press is digitizing a number of their book titles, but they are available only through EBSCO, an expensive database that is not part of the [Oregon Statewide Database Licensing Program](#) collection. Thus, no public library in Oregon has access to the Nolo database on EBSCO. (I did inquire about this during a 2010 visit to Nolo. They chose the exclusive contract with EBSCO, knowing the problem with states that cannot afford to subscribe to EBSCO, but they said it was the only way for them to find a publisher willing and able to do an acceptable digitization of Nolo books.))