

MANAGING OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES IN LEGAL RESEARCH

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Introduction

The rapid development in computer technology along with information technology, libraries and information centers have been blessed and therefore libraries are gradually shifting towards the electronic libraries with electronic resources. Legal research is performed by anyone with need for legal information including lawyers, law librarians and paralegals. Sources of legal information range from printed books, to free legal research websites (Open Sources) and legal information portals to paid database.

Concept of Electronic Resources

Concept of "Electronic Resources" provides access to substantial portion of world's literature expeditious, exhaustively, efficiently and pin-pointedly. The electronic resources is like CDROM databases, online databases and electronic journals are important for research and other activities.

According to Kannappanavar and Rajnikanta (2008) Highlights the use of e-learning resources in medical colleges. The study has found that medical education popularised only after the independence of the country. It is found that majority of the colleges under the study area have e-information resources, e-databases. Almost all colleges under study are also becoming member of a consortium. As far as the infrastructure facilities are concerned, almost all colleges under study have

provided very good infrastucture facilities to their libraries to serve their clients effectively.

According to Barker (1996) Electronic resources are three types of documents.

1. Static Documents: static are the most basic, they contain fixed information and never change their form (like i.e. Traditional online data)
2. Dynamic Documents: dynamic documents are also contain fixed information but also able to change their outward form (like i.e. multimedia CD-ROMs)
3. Living Documents: Living documents are able to change both their form (like i.e. information contain on the website)

Concept of Legal Research

According to Jacobstein and Mersky (2002) "Legal research is the process of identifying and retrieving information necessary to support legal decision making. In its broadest sense, legal research includes each step of a course of action that begins with an analysis of the facts of a problem and concludes with the application and communication of the results of investigation."

According to Thanuskodi (2010) described the law is a highly knowledge-intensive domain and obtaining accurate and up-to-date legal information which mean the difference between wining and losing cases.

The information work carried out by lawyers can be complex, often involving and working with a wealth of different types of information. This wealth of legal information spans different types of documents (e.g. law reports/legal cases, legislation, commentary articles, forms and precedents etc.) a wide range of legal topic areas and a range of jurisdictions.

Role of Electronic Resources in Legal Research

According to Harrington (1985) "The Function of Librarian, after all, is not just to act as the custodian of an information warehouse; it is to make information useful, which of course means being able to call it out when it is needed. Already there are professionals who specialize in helping people to select the right electronic library and retrieve information from it. These specialists know what each library contains and how to use the various search protocols to retrieve it. With more and more information being created and stored, finding it and bringing it out becomes an increasingly important specialty. Rather than making librarians obsolete, the development of computer assisted legal research makes librarians even more valuable.

According to Lohar and Roopashree (2006) have analysed the collected data to cover the use of electronic resources and how the electronic resources have improved the academic career of the faculty and also the problems that are faced in using the electronic resources. They conclude that the main intention of the use of electronic resources has been the academic interest of the users.

Electronic Resources in Legal Research

The term database generally refers to the

data that constantly flows among computers throughout the World. The backbone of this data stream is the Internet. It is possible to find data on the information quicker and cheaper than via any other method. Some commercially and non-commercially online legal database are mentioned below-

INDIAN KANOON

(www.indiankanoon.org)

Indian kanoon is a legal database available through Internet. It covers legal information regarding judgments of Supreme Court and all the Indian High Courts. This database consists of the judgments such as Supreme Court of India from 1902 to 2015, Allahabad High Court from 1874 to 2015, Bombay High Court from 1868 to 2015, Madras High Court from 1867 to 2015, Calcutta High Court from 1844 to 2015 with link to Supreme Court as well as all the High Courts of India. Silent features of the database are - Word and Phrase search, Restricting search by document types, Restricting search by date, Title and Citation Search, Author and Bench search etc.

MANUPATRA CASE FINDER

(www.manupatra.com)

The online web based legal database developed by M/s Manupatra Information Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Noida, it covers legal information regarding statutes, case laws of Supreme Court and all the High courts with various search option and much more legal information. Manupatra legal database having search options viz. Judgment search, Advanced search, Statutes search, State Bare acts search, Ordinance search, Full text of ordinance through web link, state wise ordinance, Bills on Committee reports, Drafts/Bills of Central and State etc.

AIR WEBWORLD

(www.airwebworld.com)

AIR web database is the gateway to accessing all journals published by the All India Reporter, Nagpur. With the AIR Web Registration Coupon, one can search the case law from all the journals for a period of one year starting from the date of activation of the coupon. One can also view or print the full text of the judgements at a very nominal price. Free text search is quicker, exhaustive and simple in this online database. The search options are - Citation Search, Nominal Search, View Subject Index, Browse by Case number/Year, Browse by Case bench, Browse by Case court, Browse by Case decision date, Browse by case Judges, Comprehensive search etc.

SCCONLINE (www.sconline.co.in)

SCC online is a database developed by M/s Eastern Book Company, New Delhi looking the need of digital law library for statutes and precedents. It is most powerful and user friendly legal search engine. The legal search including Search result, advanced search, Search index, Topic and Statutes search, Citation Search and Law Commission Reports available with the databases. It covers judgements and case notes of the Supreme Court for those judgements published in the Supreme Court Cases, The Indian Appeals, The Law Reports, The Weekly Law Reports, The Business Law Reports, All India Cases, Indian Factories and Labour Reports, Indian Civil Cases, Services Law Reporter, Delhi Reported Judgements, Central Acts and Rules, Constituent Assembly Debates etc. with true print facility.

LEXIS NEXIS (www.lexisnexis.com)

It covers a full range of U.S. Legal information and materials from all the states

and thousands of separate databases. Some databases combine the contents of several databases. Usually, it is cheapest and most efficient to search the smallest database that contains all the information needed. For its databases of cases, LexisNexis generally offers complete coverage back to the earliest case. It's statute and databases offers current, frequently-updated laws. Because researchers sometimes need earlier versions of statutes. LexisNexis has archived versions of statute databases, most of which extend back to 1991. It offers a free searchable list of its databases.

WESTLAW (www.westlaw.com)

It provides a full range of legal information, including materials from all 50 states of United States. In the U.S., primary authority consists of the Constitution, statutes, administrative regulations and cases. West law gives the researcher access to all of these sources. It has large databases of secondary sources- commentary on the law in legal treatises, law journals articles and legal encyclopaedias. It has links to thousands of separate databases. Some database combines the contents of several databases.

HEINONLINE

(<http://home.heinonline.org>)

HeinOnline is legal online research product with millions pages of legal history available in an online, fully-searchable, image-based format. HeinOnline bridges the gap in legal history by providing comprehensive coverage from inception of more than 1,500 law and law-related periodicals. HeinOnline also contains the Congressional Record Bound volumes, complete coverage of the U.S. Reports, famous world trials dating back to the early 1700's, legal classics from the 16th to the 20th

centuries, the United Nations and League of Nations Treaty Series, all United States Treaties, the Federal Register from inception in 1936, the CFR from inception in 1938, and much more. HeinOnline provides exact page images of the documents in PDF format just as they appear in the original print

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