

Technology for Lawyers

An Actual Review (Plus, Stolen Web Sites)

One of the problems with the Internet, as a tool for lawyers, is the sheer number of sites that are returned when simple search terms are used. And while some of you may enjoy the dirty pictures that frequently pop up during your “innocuous” searches, the rest of us don’t have time to weed through the garbage to get to the good stuff. Fortunately, there are a number of portals or gateways through which lawyers can find information on most anything, and best of all, the information is free. Seriously free (sorry West). The reason I know this is because I have just read (well, skimmed) two books published by the ABA Section of Law Practice Management, which the Bar Association purchased recently for use by members. The books, The Lawyer’s Guide to the Internet by G. Burgess Allison, and The Internet Fact Finder for Lawyers by Joshua Blackman provide an exhaustive look at the Internet, and how lawyers can effectively use the system in their practice. Both authors obviously have a lot of time on their hands, as they manage to provide entry sites on every topic imaginable. If you don’t know an internet from a legal pad, then get a life (Oops, sorry Green). What I mean is that these books would be helpful to you if you are interested in moving into the twentieth century.

Allison’s guide is out of date (copyright 1995), and unless you enjoy reading technical repair manuals for nuclear reactors, it is going to make your eyes glaze over after the second page. If I hadn’t promised to read the book for this article, I would have chunked it after five minutes. Blackman’s guide, however, is easy to read, well organized, and provides actual research examples to help lawyers figure out why the Internet might be a good thing for their practice. It explains browsers, search engines (Excite and Findlaw are recommended), Internet service providers and research methodology. It provides excellent recommendations for conducting medical research, how to find witnesses and experts, corporate and business data, and government information. Best of all, it has lists of sites that would be useful for lawyers, as well as wonderful tips to help determine when Internet searches would not be productive. Other than that, the book stunk.

As a lawyer, I believe it is the highest form of flattery to steal another lawyer’s ideas, arguments and research, and Internet sites seem to fall into that category, especially when the book lists for \$39.95. What you are about to copy and post on the side of your computer is stolen from these books, plus some sites that I filched from other lawyers who also steal (yeah you, Vorder-Bruegge), plus a couple of my own favorites that I found on my own, all by myself, without any help from anyone.

Tennessee Links

Memphis Bar Association

<http://www.memphisbar.org/memphisbar/>

TBA Link

<http://www.tba.org/>

Tennessee Government Home Page

<http://www.state.tn.us/gov.html>

Tennessee Code

<http://www.lexislawpublishing.com/resources/>

Supreme Court

<http://www.tscaoc.state.us/>

General Assembly <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/>

Arkansas/Mississippi Links

Mississippi Code <http://www.mscode.com/>
Arkansas Code http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/data/ar_code.htm

Federal Links

6th Circuit <http://www.ca6.uscourts.gov/>
Code of Federal Regulations <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/index.html>
U.S. Supreme Court <http://www.uscplus.com/current/index.htm>
Federal Court Rules and Procedure <http://192.41.4.29/tcr.htm>
Procedure/Evidence/Remedies <http://www.law.cornell.edu/topic2.html#procedure>

Legal Research Portals

Cornell University Legal Info Institute <http://www.law.cornell.edu>
House of Representatives Law Library <http://www.house.gov>
Indiana University School of Law <http://www.law.indiana.edu>
Lawlist <http://www.kentlaw.edu/lawlinks/listservs.html>
Findlaw <http://www.findlaw.com>
Legal Listservs <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/~llou/lawlists/info.html>

General Reference Sites

Atlas (US street maps) <http://www.mapblast.com/>
World Maps http://www.lib.utexas.edu/libs/pcl/map_collection/map_collection.html
Specialty Dictionaries <http://www.onelook.com/>
Legal Dictionary http://www.alaska.net/~winter/black_law_dictionary.html
Translation Dictionary <http://www2.echo.lu/edic/>
Weather and Climate Data <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/climate.shtml>
Case Citation Guide (Bluebook) <http://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/citation.table.html>

Directories

Areacodes <http://www.555-1212.com/aclookup.html>
Toll Free Phone Directory <http://www.tollfree.att.net/dir800/>
Zip Codes http://www.usps.gov/ncsc/lookups/lookup_zip+4.html
Bigfoot Phone Directory <http://www.bigfoot.com/>
Database America <http://www.databaseamerica.com/html/index.htm>
Metromail Database <http://www.four11.com/>
InfoSpace (Cross ref to maps) <http://www.infospace.com/>
WhoWhere (Reverse Phone # search) <http://www.whowhere.com>
Trackem <http://www.toolcity.net/~richreen/trackem.html>
Internet Address Finder <http://www.iaf.net/>
Military Personnel <http://www.militarycity.com/>
Federal Govt Directory <http://bp.fed.gov/main.html>
Vital Records Information <http://www.inlink.com/~nomi/vitalrec/staterec.html>
Business Phone Book <http://www.tollfree.att.net/>
Big Yellow <http://bigyellow.com/>

Company Fax Lookup http://www.555-1212.com/fax_us.htm
GTE Superpages (Reverse Lookup) <http://yp.gte.net/>

Experts

Physician Directory <http://www.ama-assn.org/>
Expert Internet Sources <http://www.nocall.org/experts.html>
ProfNet (Academic experts) <http://www.vyne.com/profnet>
USC Experts http://www.usc.edu/dept/News_service/experts_directory.html
Washburn University Expert Collection <http://lawlib.wuacc.edu/washlaw/expert/expert.html>
Expert Pages <http://www.expertpages.com/>
Legal Research Network <http://www.witness.net/>
National Directory of Expert Witnesses <http://www.claims.com/>

Search Engines

MetaSearch Engine <http://www.metacrawler.com>
Internet Sleuth <http://isleuth.com/>
Newsgroup Search Engine <http://www.dejanews.com>

Corporations

10K Reports <http://www.sec.gov/cgi-bin/srch-edgar>
Major Corporations <http://www.cio.com/WebMaster/competition.html>
Networth <http://networth.galt.com/www/home/equity/irr/>
Annual Reports <http://www.prars.com/>
Investor Relations Network <http://www.irin.com/colist.html>

Medical Sites

Medical Index <http://www.med-library.com/>
Anatomy <http://www9.biostr.washington.edu/da.html>
Martindale's Health Science <http://www-sci.lib.uci.edu/HSG/MedicalAnatomy.html#AIB>
Jeff Flax Medical Resources <http://www.jflax.com/med.htm>
Yahoo Medical Sites <http://www.yahoo.com/Health/Medicine>

Diseases/Procedures

Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapies <http://www.merck.com/pubs/mmanual/>
Center for Disease Control <http://www-sci.lib.ci.edu/HSG/Medical.html>
Cancer Link <http://cancer.med.upenn.edu/>

Journals

Medline <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>
Journal of Am Med Assn <http://www.ama-assn.org/public/journals/jama/jamahome.htm>
New England Journal of Medicine <http://www.nejm.org>
Medical Reporter (Patient Oriented) <http://www.dash.com/netro/nwx/tmr/tmr.html>

Drugs and Pharmacology

Medical Developments/Breakthroughs <http://www.ivanhoe.com>
Pharmacology <http://www.cponline.gsm.com/>

Drug Database
Internet Drug Index

<http://pharminfo.com/drugdb/>
<http://www.rxlist.com/>

Health Profession References

American Medical Association
American Chiropractic Association
American Dental Association
American Nurses Association
American Optometric Association

<http://www.ama-assn.org/>
<http://www.cais.net/aca/>
<http://www.ada.org/>
<http://www.ana.org/>
<http://www.aoanet.org/aoanet>

Labor/Employment

OSHA
National Labor Relations Board
EEOC
Social Security Administration
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Dept of Labor
Natl Employment Lawyers Assn
Labor Relations Reporter

<http://www.osha.gov>
<http://www.nlr.gov>
<http://www.eeoc.gov>
<http://www.ssa.gov>
<http://www.bis.gov>
<http://www.dol.gov>
<http://www.nela.gov>
<http://www.bna.com/prodhome/hrl/lrr.html>

Jim Summers

<http://www.neelygreen.com>