



DCLRC Docket

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A Publication of the Dane County Legal Resource Center

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[http://wsll.state.wi.us/branch/
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The LION and LAMB Approaches to Legal Research



Learn the Basics

Quick, what branch of government creates Statutes? Need a refresher on the basics of legal resources or how laws are made? Stop in to DCLRC for a refresher course. We'll be offering workshops during National Library Week (April 3-7) as well.

Invest Some Time

Think you can get a divorce just by filing only a petition? Think again. As with almost all legal actions, learning how to complete legal research takes time. You won't learn to be an expert researcher after only one class, but through continual use of the resources and constant refinement of your research questions and goals.

Online vs. Print? No, Online *and* Print

News Flash! Not all legal resources are available online (and especially not for free). Resign yourself to the fact that thorough research often means using both print and electronic resources. Visit your local public law library (three in Madison!) to gain proficiency in all types of resources.

New, newer, newest

Laws are constantly being updated as society changes. Make sure you are using the most current legal resources by checking for a pocket part in the back of your books or a supplement volume on the shelf. Watch currency dates on electronic resources as well. Knowing these dates is useful for both current and historical research.

And above all, the **Lion's** approach requires bravery, strength, and hunting in packs.

Local First

Looking for a rule, form, or procedure? Start local by examining circuit or municipal courts first. Each local area is a little bit different, but you'll still be expected to know the local lingo and procedure.

Ask an Expert

Feeling stuck? Don't know where to begin? Start asking questions. Try to formulate your research goal in the form of a question or series of questions That might help your project take some shape. When in doubt call the law library for help. Even the most obscure request is no match for an expert.

Members Only?

Think legal research is only for lawyers? Think again! With the help of public law library resources aimed at the lay user, and a little consultation with a law librarian, anyone can complete basic legal research and learn basic legal terminology and procedure.

Break it up!

Feeling overwhelmed with all the areas you have to cover in your research? Break up your research into separate chunks that are more manageable for your research level. That way, you can celebrate the completion of each section as you move on to the next.

And above all, the **Lamb's** approach requires serenity and the ability to follow a good shepherd.

Visit your **public law library** for assistance.

DCLRC Grand Opening Planned

Mark your calendars: **April 3-7 is National Library Week** and will feature several grand opening events at DCLRC including workshops, contests, and prizes!

Used Book Sale

Looking for a little light reading? Make sure you visit our used book sale! Feel free to bring in your donations of lightly used paperbacks, hardcover, fiction or nonfiction. The proceeds will be used to purchase equipment in the new library.



Change Regarding Default Judgment Requirements

In order to be awarded a default small claims or civil judgment, litigants are now required to also file the “**Affidavit of Nonmilitary Service.**” The form is available online or available at DCLRC for 50 cents. There is also an information sheet available, explaining how to use the Affidavit. Both the form and info sheet can be accessed from the Small Claims Court Forms web page at:

http://www.countyofdane.com/clrkort/court_forms_small_claims.htm

Something Else...

March is **Women’s History Month.** Sponsored by the National Women’s History Project. Access their website here: <http://www.nwhp.org/>

New and Updated Online Resources

- The Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin’s (LLAW) Public Access to Legal Information Committee has produced a 40-page study highlighting the **access to legal information and assistance** Wisconsin citizens have. The report’s author, DCLRC Librarian Paula Seeger, presented on this topic to the Legal Association for Women at their luncheon on February 8. You can access the report on LLAW’s website: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llaw/paliguide/PALIFullReport2005.pdf>
- DCLRC Librarian Paula Seeger has recently published an article on **teaching legal research to the public** in *AALL Spectrum*, a publication of the American Association of Law Libraries. The article is online here: http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_sp0602/pub_sp0602_ProDev.pdf

Other Public Law Libraries
in Madison:

WI State Law Library
(608) 266-1600
Wsl.ref@wicourts.gov
Located at: 120 MLK Jr Blvd
<http://wsl.state.wi.us>

UW-Law School Library
(608) 262-3394
Located at: 975 Bascom
Mall on the UW Campus
<http://library.law.wisc.edu/>



Have you *Blawg’d* us lately?

Don’t forget to check the [DCLRC Blawg](#) for all the local legal news, interviews, and research tips that are posted in between monthly newsletters! Visit us regularly or sign up for our notifier services when you’re on the blawg site.