FINDING OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION


FINDING BOOKS AND OTHER LIBRARY MATERIALS

OBIS is the Oberlin College Library’s online catalog; it lists most library materials. The OhioLINK Library Catalog combines the holdings of ~90 libraries at colleges and universities–and through SearchOhio, those of an additional 20 public libraries–across Ohio. Both can be searched by Author or Title for a specific author or work, or by Subject Heading or Keyword for works about a topic, person, place, etc.

Search for a specific Supreme Court justice by searching name as a subject:


Useful subject headings:

Constitutional history Judicial process Freedom of speech Political questions and judicial power
Constitutional law Judicial review Freedom of the press
Judge-made law Freedom of expression Hate speech
Judicial power Privacy, Right of

Note: to find books about specific cases, use keyword search; case names are NOT subject headings
Tip: use Advance Search in OBIS; enter “supreme court” in Box 1 and words describing topic in Box 2

UNDERSTANDING LEGAL CITATIONS, FINDING SPECIFIC COURT CASES

Citations to court cases in legal publications generally follow the same conventions:

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<tr>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Reporter</th>
<th>Page</th>
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<th>By citation</th>
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<td>Bowers</td>
<td>v.</td>
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<td>New York</td>
<td>v.</td>
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The “Look up a Legal Case” search box in *LexisNexis Academic* is an easy way to retrieve a known case. Search by citation (you must use the *exact, correct abbreviation* for the reporter when searching by citation—click on “Citation help” to see examples) or by the names of the parties.

**USING DATABASES TO FIND ARTICLES IN SCHOLARLY JOURNALS**

*Connect from Databases tab on the Library home page search box, or use the Quick Links drop-down menu*

**HeinOnline. Government, Politics & Law**
Our newest online legal database; includes ~2,300 law-related journals, court cases, congressional publications, treaties, world constitutions, and more. Includes fully searchable, downloadable pdfs. *After doing a search, look for filters for Law Journal Library and U.S. Supreme Court Library.*

**LexisNexis Academic**
Includes full text of court cases, laws, law reviews, newspapers, magazines, and other sources. *To search the scholarly law journals, click “Advanced Options” under the red search box; then uncheck everything except “Law Reviews.”*

**Legal Collection**
Full text articles from ~400 law journals, law reviews, documents, and case studies.

**LegalTrac**
Indexes articles in all major (approx. 1,500) law reviews, law journals, specialty law and bar association periodicals, and legal newspapers, with full text for ~250 titles.

**PAIS International**
Indexes a variety of publications (articles in periodicals, books, government documents, and publications of organizations) in the area of public policy.

**Worldwide Political Science Abstracts**
Indexes journal articles in political science, international relations, law, and public policy.

☞ *To determine if the library has a particular journal, Use “360 Link to Full Text” or “Find It!” where available in research databases, or search Journal Finder from Library home page or the Quick Links pull-down menu*

**WEB SITE**

**Legal Information Institute.** Cornell University Law School.  
http://www.law.cornell.edu/  
Not-for-profit website dedicated to promoting open access to legal information. Provides links to a variety of web-based sources for legal information, including constitutions, statutes, judicial opinions, regulations, and legal topics. You may be asked to create an account to view some information.

**GETTING RESEARCH HELP AT THE LIBRARY**

Research Desk Hours:  
Monday – Thursday  10am-noon, 1-5pm, & 7pm-midnight  
Friday 10am-noon & 1-5pm  
Weekends:  Saturday 2-4pm, Sunday 1-5pm & 7pm-midnight

*Click on Ask a Librarian on the library’s home page for more ways to get help*