Preemption Checklist

Spring 2017 — Zief Law Library

Use this checklist to keep track of your preemption-check searching. Links to sources are embedded in this document, and are in the Zief Library's research guide on "Preemption Checking for Law Reviews & Journals" (http://legalresearch.usfca.edu/Preemption)

- **Index to Legal Periodicals ("ILP")**

  For tips on searching Index to Legal Periodicals (ILP) — including how to create a free "My EBSCOHost" account — download the "ILP Cheat Sheet" from the Zief Library's Finding Articles research guide (http://legalresearch.usfca.edu/FindingArticles).

  - Before you search, create a free "My EBSCOHost" account so that you can save searches and results as needed.
  - Search by keyword, case name, or statute name.
  - Use the "Subject" filter on the results page to ID subject tags and learn of other key words to try.
  - Search again, using subject tags.

- **Current Index to Legal Periodicals ("CILP")**

  For tips on searching CILP, download the "Current Index to Legal Periodicals Cheat Sheet" from the Zief Library's Finding Articles research guide (http://legalresearch.usfca.edu/FindingArticles).

  - Search by keyword, case name, or statute name.
  - Identify the broad topical category under which any of your relevant results appears.

    The topical categories will be appear as all-caps headings above the list of article citations that contains your results.

    You can also use the web-based list of CILP "Subject Headings" at http://lib.law.washington.edu/cilp/revsub.html.
  - Search again, using the relevant topical categories.

    For example, adv: topic(corporations)
  - Create a "WestClip" alert to run your topical-category searches weekly.

    To begin setting up an alert, use the bell icon at the top of your results list to select "Create WestClip Alert." At the next screen, let Westlaw prompt you through the steps of creating the alert.

- **Full-Text articles on Westlaw and Lexis**

  - Search the "Law Reviews & Journals: source on Westlaw, using a variety of keyword searches (including natural language and terms-and-connectors ("advanced:")
  - Run a variety of keyword searches in the "Law Reviews and Journals" source on Lexis Advance.

- **Full-text articles via the Law Journal Library on HeinOnline**

  For tips on searching the Law Journal Library, download the "HeinOnline Law Journal Library Cheat Sheet" from the Zief Library's Finding Articles research guide (http://legalresearch.usfca.edu/FindingArticles).

  - Run a variety of keyword searches in Hein's Law Journal Library.

- **Working papers via SSRN and bepress.**

  Working papers are articles scholars are writing but have not yet published. Both SSRN and bepress have working papers (but to complicate the picture, they also include published articles — which you probably will have found via the previous steps).

  You can search SSRN (http://www.ssrn.com/en/) and bepress (http://www.bepress.com/) via their own web sites. SSRN and bepress results will also appear in Google Scholar (http://scholar.google.com/) search results.

- **Non-legal articles — if your topic is interdisciplinary**

  Dig into Gleeson Library's "Databases" page (https://www.usfca.edu/library/databases) for article-finding tools for all sorts of non-legal subjects.

General advice

Do a variety of searches in each source. If possible, use:

– terms & connectors ("boolean") searches ("advanced:" searches on Westlaw);

– plain-language (natural language) keyword searches;

– "subject" or topical searches (in sources that allow this style of searching —
  e.g., ILP and CILP;

– case-name or statute-name searches, if your topic involves an important case or statute.

Always — *always* — include the "indexes" (ILP and CILP) in your search.

Wherever possible, set up alerts to get regular updates on new scholarship about your topic.

Get personalized advice from Zief research librarians

Suzanne Mawhinney, Lee Ryan & John Shafer
>   Research Center phone: 415-422-6773
>   Other contact info.: http://legalresearch.usfca.edu/ZiefResearchHelp