

# CHECK IT OUT

Lucille Stewart Beeson Law Library Newsletter  
Cumberland School of Law of Samford University



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## Interesting Facts about Citators: Five Things to Know

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Citators (also known as citation services) are an extremely important part of legal research. Generally, they are used to determine how often a source has been cited by other sources. This is necessary because it allows legal researchers to determine whether an authority is still good law.

The following are five facts about citators that can help the legal researcher in the quest for good information.

1. Citators help researchers to understand legal history while gaining insight into what may happen in the future. Citation services are used to identify the history of a particular authority. Also, they are used to gain an understanding of how others view and have treated (negatively or positively) that particular authority.

2. Until the late 1990s, [Shepard's Citations Service](#) (from Lexis Nexis) was the only comprehensive legal citation service. Today, it is still one of the most widely used citators. [KeyCite](#) (from Westlaw) is, also, one of the most widely used citators.

3. Although Shepard's and KeyCite are the most widely used citators, there are other citation services that can be extremely useful to the legal

researcher. The following platforms provide legal citators.

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## Best of luck with finals!!

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### Bloomberg Law

The [Bloomberg Law Citator](#) is known as BCITE. It provides information about the direct history of a source, case analyses, tables of authorities, and citing documents.

### Casemaker

Casemaker's citation service, called [CaseCheck+](#), instantly provides information concerning whether case citations are still good law. Casemaker's other citator, CiteCheck, allows the uploading of documents for citation analysis.

### Fastcase

The citator for [Fastcase](#) is called Authority Check, and it is used to identify whether a case has received negative treatment. Also, it can be used to identify the cases that have been cited the most. FastCase has a feature

See *Citators*, Page 2



**LAW LIBRARY SCHEDULE**  
**MONDAY-THURSDAY**  
**7:00 A.M.-12 MIDNIGHT**  
**FRIDAY**  
**7:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.**  
**SATURDAY**  
**9:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.**  
**SUNDAY**  
**1:00 P.M.-12 MIDNIGHT**



**Remember:**

**The hours for Easter weekend and Finals will be available on our [web page](#).**

*Citators* from Page 1

called Bad Law Bot that provides a way to quickly determine whether a case has received negative treatment from a court.

4. There are other tools that might not be classified as traditional legal citators that can perform the same or similar functions.

**VersusLaw**

The [VersusLaw Research Database](#) has a service through its Legal Research Center that provides an experienced researcher who will, for a fee, check and validate citations.

**Google Scholar**

[Google Scholar](#) (and other Google search products) can be useful because Google uses citation analysis when retrieving search results. This analysis helps the researcher to determine how often a case, article, or other publication has been cited.

**Full-Text Databases**

Full-text databases can be used as citators by searching for citations within the documents of that database. The results can then be analyzed to determine the impact of the cited resource.

5. The following resources are just a few of the tools that are available for learning more about citators.

Fundamentals of Legal Research, 10th Edition  
 (Steven M. Barkan, Barbara A. Bintliff, and Mary Whisner)  
 ISBN: 9781609300562  
 Call Number:  
 KF240 .J3 2015

This book devotes an entire chapter to the explanation of citators. There are details about the differences between Shepard's and KeyCite. Also, there is information about other ways to analyze source citations.

Legal Research in a Nutshell, 12th Edition  
 (Morris L. Cohen)  
 ISBN: 9781634604628  
 Call Number:  
 KF240 .C55 2016

Gives a brief overview of the significance of citators in legal research. Provides specific information of how citators are

used for research of cases and research of statutes.

Principles of Legal Research, Second Edition  
 (Kent C. Olson)  
 ISBN: 9780314286642  
 Call Number:  
 KF240 .O378 2015

This resource provides an understanding of where citators fall in the research process. There is, also, advice for how citators can be used in order to arrive at sound search results.

It is important to remember that citators can be extremely different in function and capability. It is the responsibility of the researcher to evaluate the citator that is being used in order to determine whether it adequately meets the researcher's needs.

**Password Management**

by Grace Simms,  
 Information  
 Technology Librarian  
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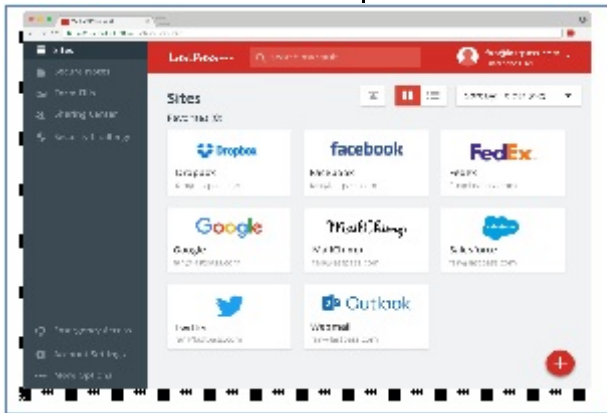
Do you need a password manager? There has to be a better and safer way to maintain your password list than in a Word document, on a piece of paper, or a sticky note. Trying to remember passwords from memory rarely works easily.

A password manager can maintain your password list and help you create stronger passwords. A password manager can only be opened with a master password that you know. Very important - don't forget the master

password! If you need it and don't remember it - you can lose access to all your passwords.

A password manager can keep passwords for your phone, tablet, and computer. It can create/keep strong/complex passwords for you, protect you from credential stuffing (using a hacked password on multiple sites), and will protect you from prying eyes in public places.

Here's an example of one option - LastPass:



There are a wide variety of password managers. If you have an iPhone or an iPad running iOS 11 or later, you already have Keychain in place to store your passwords and to sync across devices using iCloud Keychain.

Password managers will often offer a free trial or a free version. Most are reasonably priced as well. Take a look at this list to see the wide variety

of options offered by various password managers:

<https://www.cnet.com/news/the-best-password-managers-directory>.

Give one a try - just don't forget your master password!

If you need help with any of the above, please email me at [glsimms@samford.edu](mailto:glsimms@samford.edu), Grace Simms, Information Technology Librarian.

## Researching Local Laws

By Ed Craig,  
Reference Librarian  
[elcraig@samford.edu](mailto:elcraig@samford.edu)

Searching for laws pertaining to local municipalities and counties is not a type of legal research routinely performed by law students. It has been described as the “caboose” of legal research in the United States, with little more than a mere mention in law school research course work.<sup>1</sup> However, area attorneys visit the Law Library on a regular basis to do this very kind of work. What resources are used? What is available? This article will provide a basic introduction to the resources commonly used for research of laws pertaining to local municipalities and counties passed by the legislature as well as ordinances created by the municipalities themselves.

## Interested in a Job?

The Law Library would like to interview law students who are service orientated and who are interested in working at the Circulation Desk. Prospective law student employees may start during the summer or fall semesters. Please see Ed Craig if you are interested, or contact Ed at [elcraig@samford.edu](mailto:elcraig@samford.edu).



There is no uniform structure to local governments in the U.S.; the same can be said for publication of local government laws and regulations. Whether they be city, county, or other local government entities, they are creatures of their state; they rely on state law for their existence and their powers are limited to what the state gives them, either through statute or the state constitution. In the case of Alabama, a constant

criticism of the Alabama Constitution is that local officials have very limited authority to govern or raise tax money without prior permission from the Legislature. As a result, particularly in the case of Alabama, laws pertaining to a city, or particularly the county, may be found in amendments to the state constitution or a session law of the state legislature.

### Finding Local Ordinances

Within Alabama, most cities of any substantial size will have its current ordinances listed online at [Municode](#). However, legal researchers must still be wary of out-of-date information regardless of the format; again, it pays to contact city hall to verify the timeliness of all sections relied upon. There are several database services that provide access to current city codes online, with [Municode](#) being the dominant provider for Alabama municipalities (and some other states, as well). This web address provides free access to fairly current city codes for these Alabama cities and many more, in-state and out-of-state:

Birmingham (current as of June 6, 2017)

Bessemer (current as of May 16, 2017)

Center Point (current as of June 22, 2017)

Homewood (current as of December 31, 2018)

Hoover (current as of February 4, 2019)

Huntsville (current as of August 23, 2018)

Irondale (current as of December 29, 2017)

Mobile (current as of December 18, 2018)

Montgomery (current as of October 3, 2017)

Mountain Brook (current as of April 9, 2018)

Pelham (current as of September 4, 2018)

Pleasant Grove (current as of November 27, 2018)

Tuscaloosa (current as of January 29, 2019)

Vestavia Hills (current as of June 11, 2018)

Other database services providing city codes (but not currently for cities in Alabama) include:

[American Legal Publishing Corporation](#)

[General Code](#)

If none of the web addresses listed provide a code of ordinances for the city you are concerned with, you should first try to find the city government's homepage and see if there is a link to an online code there. If not, you should contact the city clerk's office, the local Law Library (if there is one) or a local public library in that municipality.

### Finding Alabama Session Laws and Constitutional Amendments Pertaining to Local Government

Slowly, but surely, state acts and constitutional amendments which address Alabama counties and municipalities are becoming more accessible to the legal researcher. The Thomson West edition of the CODE OF ALABAMA, 1975, has listed local laws by county, alphabetically, in Title 45 (recently updated to include JEFFERSON COUNTY!) through Marion County. This version can be valuable for several reasons; it includes annotations with West key numbers and C.J.S. citations that could lead the researcher to more valuable topical information. It also provides "code commissioner's notes" which often list prior superceded acts covering the same topic and locality. The Lexis edition of the Code has also begun arranging local laws alphabetically by county, but has only published up to

Colbert County in its alphabetical listing as of the date of this article.

Alabama legislation and constitutional amendments pertaining to local governments are both indexed in [LOCAL LAWS INDEX](#) provided online by the Alabama Legislative Services Agency, Legal Division. This work is currently up-to-date as of the end of the 2018 Regular Session. This work is first divided up by county, and then subdivided within each county into three indices:

1) The first index provides local acts applicable to a county either because it is specifically named in the act or because it fits a population description stated in the act's text.

2) The second index, "Local Laws Applying To Municipalities of [named county]", provides a listing of local acts applicable to municipalities in that county either because they are specifically named in the act or because they fit a population description stated in the act's text.

3) The third index, "Constitutional Amendments," lists such state amendments that apply to either the county as a whole or to cities within that county.

### Finding Annotations for Local Laws and Ordinances

Unknown to many researchers, there is a digest service for ordinances. ORDINANCE LAW ANNOTATIONS: A COMPREHENSIVE DIGEST OF AMERICAN CASES THAT INTERPRET OR APPLY CITY AND COUNTY ORDINANCES (First Floor, Digest section) by Shepard's/McGraw-Hill is such a resource. To use it to find case law covering a specific city's ordinances, the researcher would go to the Table of Cases volumes at the end of the set (beginning with volume 6A) and look up the state, then the city (or county), in the alphabetized table. Once the needed city or county has been found, individual entries will provide a case citation as well as an abbreviated subject heading and section number referring to the location where it is digested. Hopefully, these subject headings will be sufficient for the researcher to discern which decisions address the ordinance of interest, if there are any. As always, be sure to check the pocket part for any updates.

If you have any questions about performing research with local acts, please contact a reference librarian at Beeson Law Library.

<sup>1</sup> Marc A. Levin, *How to Find Local Law: A California Paradigm*, 13 Legal Res. Services Q. 79.

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### Alabama Department of Archives and History

In 1901, the state of Alabama established the nation's **first** publicly funded repository for photos and documents - the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Thomas McAdory Owen and his wife Marie Bankhead Owen were the founders. Stated from the Encyclopedia of Alabama: Although Owen graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law, his legal career was always secondary to his interest in history. The Alabama Legislature passed an act in February 1901 creating the agency, which "identifies, preserves, and makes accessible records and artifacts of enduring historical value to the state and serves as the official repository for records created by state agencies". Thomas Owen was the first director, followed by his wife who served in that position for the next 35 years. The hours for the [Alabama Department of Archives and History](#) are available online, along with their address and directions.

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## Librarian Update

Grace L. Simms, Information Technology Librarian, recently attended the 33rd ABA TECHSHOW Conference and EXPO in Chicago, IL. It's where "lawyers, legal professionals, and technology all come together".



Simms with The Lawyerist founder - Sam Glover

## Is Don Quixote Your Favorite Novel?

OCLC, Online Computer Library Center, is an American nonprofit cooperative organization that provides the largest online public access catalog in the world, of which the Law Library is a small part. OCLC has introduced, "[The Library 100: Top Novels Worldwide](#)".

Based on analysis research, this list ranks library holdings across all print editions and

translations of these works in WorldCat, part of OCLC.

Maybe the books listed are not your favorite, but according to OCLC, a library's greatness can be measured by how many libraries have a copy on their shelves.

How many of these novels have you read?

## Alabama Constitutions

The six [Alabama constitutions](#) are available online, thanks to the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Their website also includes the Alabama nineteenth century House and Senate journals and the nineteenth and twentieth century acts.

## Books Stolen During World War II

The New York Times recently featured an article about the volume of books stolen by the Nazis during World War II. The article was written by Milton Esterow, an editor with ArtNews. Mr. Esterow wrote:

"The hunt for the millions of books stolen by the Nazis during World War II has been pursued quietly and diligently for decades, but it has been largely ignored, even as the search for lost art drew headlines.

...recently, with little fanfare, the search for the books has intensified, driven by researchers in America and Europe who have developed a road map of sorts to track the stolen books, many of which are still hiding in plain sight on library shelves throughout Europe."

(From Milton Esterow, The Hunt for the Nazi Loot Still Sitting on Library Shelves, N.Y. Times, January 14, 2019.)

The full article can be found on [Lexis Advance](#).



This is the last issue of **CHECK IT OUT** for this semester. Three

issues will be published during the Fall Semester beginning in September 2019. If you have any ideas or suggestions as to ways we can improve, contact **Becky Hutto** at [rmhutto@samford.edu](mailto:rmhutto@samford.edu). We look forward to the Fall Semester and new issues of the newsletter.

## Director's Brief

From Greg Laughlin  
[laughlin@samford.edu](mailto:laughlin@samford.edu)

### Update on Various Matters

Over the Spring Break several projects were undertaken. Some of them you may have already noticed.

We have removed the older law reviews shelved in the Reading Lounge and replaced them on the shelves to the right with the Legal Classics collection, a series of books which the Law Library has been collecting for more than two decades and which were shelved in the general classified collection on the second floor. We decided to pull them all together in one place to increase awareness of this collection. On the left, we have added a variety of periodicals, including several magazines on the first three sections. On the fourth section, each librarian is selecting a few books which we are recommending as works worth reading by those seeking a study break.

On the Lower Level, we are in the process of converting Room 024 into a place where students can fix a cup of coffee and microwave food. We have also erected shelving where

students can host their own book exchange, in the spirit of a little library. Librarians, students, and others may contribute books which they want and may borrow books which others have contributed. We are awaiting the installation of a keypad lock on the door so that this space will be available only to Cumberland School of Law patrons and not others who may be otherwise using the Law Library. Hopefully, the lock will be installed soon.

The cushions which we purchased to use with the Law Library banker's chairs have met with considerable positive feedback. As a result, we have purchased more of them. Students may pick up one at the front desk and take it to a chair of their choice, either leaving it there or returning it to the book cart at the front desk. We plan to continue to purchase cushions until we meet the full demand.

We are in the process of getting final approval for replacement of the table lamps with ones that have AC and USB power outlets built into the base, eliminating the need to find a power plug under the tables. If approved, those lamps will be installed over the summer.

We are also seeking a bid to install a prox card system to provide unstaffed access to the Law Library after closing. Due to a campus-wide, pre-existing schedule for installation of such systems, we may or may not be able to have this available at the beginning of the Fall 2019 semester. The university has prioritized residence halls for installation of such systems and the last of those is scheduled for completion this summer. The Law Library is further down the list, but we are seeking to have it moved up to meet the repeated requests for greater access to the Law Library after hours. We will keep you posted.

### Hours for the Remainder of the Semester

Admitted Students Weekend will be held the last week in March, with the Law Library hosting the Faculty/Staff Mixer and Housing Fair on the Lower Level from 11:15 to 12:15 and a luncheon on the first floor from 12:15 to 1:15 on Friday, March 29, after which, the Law Library will be restored to its normal condition. As a result, the Law Library will be closed on Friday, March 29 until 2:30 pm, at which time we will open and remain open until normal closing.

We will have normal hours through Thursday, April 18. Beginning Good Friday, April 19, through the Monday of Easter Week, April 22, the schedule is as follows:

Friday, April 19	7:00 am – 4:30 pm
Saturday, April 20	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sunday, April 21	Law Library Closed
Monday, April 22	Law Library Closed

When we open on Tuesday, April 23, we will begin extended hours for the exam period. Those are as follows:

Tuesday, April 23 to Friday, April 26	7:00 am – Midnight
Saturday, April 27	9:00 am – Midnight
Sunday, April 28	1:00 pm – Midnight
Monday, April 29 to Friday, May 3	7:00 am – Midnight
Saturday, May 4	9:00 am – Midnight
Sunday, May 5	1:00 pm – Midnight
Monday, May 6 to Wednesday, May 8	7:00 am – Midnight
Thursday, May 9	7:00 am – 4:30 pm
Friday, May 10	8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Friday, May 10	Law Commencement
Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12	Law Library Closed
Monday, May 13 to Friday, May 17	8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19	Law Library Closed
Monday, May 20 to Friday, May 24	8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Saturday, May 25 to Monday, May 27	Law Library Closed
Monday, May 28	8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Tuesday, May 29	Summer Schedule Begins

All schedules are subject to change based on University decisions to close during times we currently list as open. If changes are made, they will be posted on the Law Library doors, on the [Law Library web site](#), on the Law Library Facebook site, and by email to all recipients of this email.



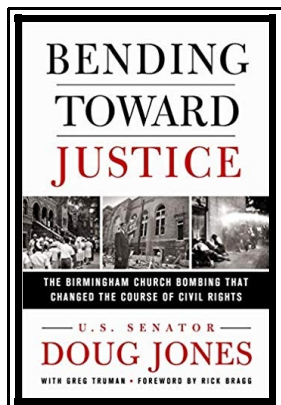
### SAVE OUR SEATS!

- **Grab a cushion.**
- **Take it to your favorite seat in the Law Library.**
- **Leave it.**

**There are cushions just for you.  
Check at the Circulation Desk.**



## New Book by Cumberland Graduate



The Law Library has received two copies of **Bending Toward Justice: The Birmingham Church Bombing That Changed the Course of Civil Rights**. This book was written by Alabama's United States Senator, Doug Jones, a 1979 graduate of Cumberland School of Law. One copy is shelved in the display case across from the Circulation Desk, and the second copy is tentatively shelved in the Reading Lounge, Second Floor. The classification number is: **F334.B69 N445 2019**.

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## Find Room 250 in the Law Library

Have you been to the Reading Lounge on the Second Floor lately? There is now a collection of books in the lounge, all part of a series entitled, **Legal Classics Library**. The publishing company of this series began in Birmingham, Alabama, and was founded by Leslie Adams, a 1971 Cumberland graduate. Each book is a reprint of an older legal classic. Enjoy!

