Back to the Future of Legal Research

2007 Librarian Survey
Librarians by Organization

N: 98

- Firms [62] (64%)
- Government [12] (7%)
- Academic [7] (4%)
- Non Profit [4] (13%)
- Other [13] (12%)
Organization Size

N: 98

- 1-99 [18]
- 100-249 [11]
- 250-499 [5]
- 500-999 [11]
- 1000+ [5]
- Not reported [48]
Do Librarians in your Organization Perform Legal Research?

- Yes [64] (86.5%)
- No [10] (13.5%)

N: 74
Are new attorneys trained to do legal research?

- Yes: 85.7% (54)
- No: 11.1% (7)
- N/A: 3.2% (2)

N: 63
Who Does the Training?

- **Vendors**: 70% - [42]
- **Librarians**: 81.7% - [49]
- **Not Applicable**: 8.3% - [5]
- **Other**: 18.3% - [11]

N: 60
Are new attorneys trained to use free web resources like the GPO Access site?

- Yes: 38.7%
- No: 54.8%
- N/A: 6.5%

N: 62
Are new attorneys able to research effectively and efficiently prior to any in-house training?

Overall Skills
- Yes: 18.6%
- No: 71.2%
- N/A: 10.2%

Print Resources
- Yes: 13.8%
- No: 77.6%
- N/A: 8.6%

Electronic Resources
- Yes: 22.8%
- No: 73.7%
- N/A: 3.5%

N: 59
Are new attorneys aware of resources helpful in their practice area(s)?

N: 59

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Type</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Print Resources</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>89.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Resources</td>
<td>56.1%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Skills Found Lacking

- Define or Narrow Issues with Secondary Sources: 89.3%
- Find Relevant Sources Efficiently: 80.4%
- Recognize Irrelevant Sources: 39.3%
- Aware of Authority Hierarchy: 32.1%
- Update Research Accurately and Efficiently: 48.2%
- Other: 14.3%

N: 56
Which resources are available to your attorneys?

- Hein Online: 61.8%
- LexisNexis: 96.4%
- LivEdgar: 60%
- Pacer: 78.2%
- Westlaw: 92.7%
- Other: 49.1%

N: 55
Which resources are most used by your attorneys?

- Hein Online: 16.4%
- LexisNexis: 70.9%
- LivEdgar: 23.6%
- Pacer: 30.9%
- Westlaw: 85.5%
- Other: 20%

N: 55
Does your organization pay a flat fee for access to your most-used electronic resources?

N: 55

YES: 92.7%

NO: 7.3%
Are you generally able to bill clients for the online research costs?

- **YES**: 61.8%
- **NO**: 18.2%
- **N/A**: 10.9%
- **Other**: 9.1%

N: 55
Do your clients limit the charges for legal research costs?

- **YES**: 12.5%
- **NO**: 10.4%
- **Sometimes**: 58.3%
- **N/A**: 18.8%

N: 48
Have you cancelled or do you plan to cancel subscriptions to any print materials?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>N/ A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N: 48
Print Materials Cancelled

- Reporters
- Shepard's
- Law Reviews
- Current Awareness Newsletters
- Topical Reporters/ Loose Leafs
- Treatises
- Administrative Regulations
- Session Laws
- Statutes
### Which Will You Replace with Electronic Subscriptions?

- **Reporters** [30]
  - 88% [Red]

- **Shepard's** [25]
  - 31% [Green]

- **Law Reviews** [18]
  - 62% [Light Blue]

- **Current Awareness Newsletters** [15]
  - 48% [Orange]

- **Topical Reporters/Loose Leafs** [19]
  - 59% [Dark Blue]

- **Treatises** [13]
  - 43% [Purple]

- **Administrative Regulations** [12]
  - 39% [Brown]

- **Session Laws** [13]
  - 43% [Green]

- **Statutes** [11]
  - 43% [Teal]

---

Reporters [30]

Shepard's [25]

Law Reviews [18]

Current Awareness Newsletters [15]

Topical Reporters/Loose Leafs [19]

Treatises [13]

Administrative Regulations [12]

Session Laws [13]

Statutes [11]
Which will you Replace with Free Online Resources?

- Reporters [4] (12%)
- Shepard’s [0] (0%)
- Law Reviews [3] (10%)
- Current Awareness Newsletters [4] (13%)
- Topical Reporters/ Loose Leafs [0] (0%)
- Treatises [1] (0%)
- Administrative Regulations [11] (35%)
- Session Laws [8] (11%)
- Statutes [3] (27%)
Which will you not replace?

- Reporters [1]
- Shepard's [4]
- Law Reviews [4]
- Current Awareness Newsletters [3]
- Topical Reporters/ Loose Leafs [6]
- Treatises [5]
- Administrative Regulations [1]
- Session Laws [2]
- Statutes [1]

% of respondents by category:
- Reporters: 3%
- Shepard's: 19%
- Law Reviews: 17%
- Current Awareness Newsletters: 14%
- Topical Reporters/ Loose Leafs: 10%
- Treatises: 7%
- Administrative Regulations: 4%
- Session Laws: 3%
- Statutes: 7%
Which will you not cancel?

- Reporters [3]
- Shepard's [3]
- Law Reviews [6]
- Current Awareness Newsletters [11]
- Topical Reporters/Loose Leafs [7]
- Treatises [13]
- Administrative Regulations [11]
- Session Laws [8]
- Statutes [15]
Trends: The Last Five Years

- Too much reliance on electronic (Wexis/Google)
- Diminution of ability to use tools (e.g., index, digest)
- More collaborative research
- More use of Google over Wexis
- “Students who think they know it all”
Trends: The Next Five Years

- Ever-increasing reliance on electronic over print resources
- Integration of electronic legal research databases with firm knowledge management databases
- More forms, fewer writing skills
- More non-legal research
- More small vendors filling niche roles
- Need to establish guidelines for “Google for Legal Research”
Changes in Survey Responses, 2005-2007: The Bad News

- Virtually all “negative” indicators went up and virtually all “positive” indicators went down
- Percentage of “new attorneys able to research efficiently” dropped by almost half
- Percentage of “new attorneys unaware of print resources in their practice” went up almost 30%
- Number of firms with flat fee arrangements with most used vendors significantly increased.
Focus Groups: The Good News

- “More younger attorneys looking for print treatises”
- “Much better at using tools than they used to be”
- “Better training than ever about pricing”