Online Research Tips You Didn’t Learn in Law School
Visit the ABA Legal Career Central Job Board to:

- **Search and apply** for more than 600 high-quality legal jobs nationwide,
- **Upload your resume** for review by hundreds of potential employers,
- **Receive email alerts** when new jobs are posted that meet your search criteria,
- Or **post a job** if you have an open position to fill.
Faculty Bio

Catherine Sanders Reach is Director, Law Practice Management and Technology for the Chicago Bar Association. She was the Director at the American Bar Association's Legal Technology Resource Center, providing practice technology assistance to lawyers for over ten years. Prior to her work at the CBA and ABA she worked in library and information science environments for a number of years, working at Ross and Hardies as a librarian. She received a master's degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa in 1997.

Ms. Reach's professional activities include articles published in Law Practice magazine, Law Technology News and GPSolo Magazine. She has given presentations on the use of technology in law firms for national bar conferences, state and local bar associations and organizations such as the National Association of Bar Council and the Association of American Law Schools. In 2011 she was selected to be one of the inaugural Fastcase 50, celebrating 50 innovators, techies, visionaries, and leaders in the field of law and in 2013 became a Fellow of the College of Law Practice Management. She served on the ABA TECHSHOW Board from 2007-2009 and 2014-2016 and is editorial advisory board emeritus for Law Technology News.

Follow her @catherinereach or connect at www.linkedin.com/in/catherinereach
The law can increasingly found online but...

• Is it:
  – Authoritative?
  – Official?
  – Trustworthy?
The Law Is Complicated
Eg. Supreme Court Slip Opinions
Science Says Eating Pasta Could Make You Thinner

Recognize the Internet’s Limitations
What is the Internet Good For?

- Primary legal information *in limited context*
- Context or background for legal research
  - Articles
  - Current awareness
- Factual information
  - Company information
  - Government information
  - Finding people
  - Ready reference
SEARCH ENGINES
Better Google Searching

– Site Search: patents site:www.abanet.org
– Exact phrase: "lauritzen v. larsen"
– Control words: bass –fishing or –guitar
– OR: vacation Sedona OR Phoenix
– Restrict search to domain (.edu), file type (.pdf), terms in title of the page
– Type in math, conversions, addresses, phone numbers, tracking numbers
Refining Search Results
DuckDuckGo
Startpage – Private Search Engine
Wolfram Alpha – Computation Engine

What is Wolfram|Alpha?

Wolfram|Alpha computes answers and provides knowledge.

Wolfram|Alpha is an engine for computing answers and providing knowledge. It works by using its vast store of expert-level knowledge and algorithms to automatically answer questions, do analysis, and generate reports.

Wolfram|Alpha’s long-term goal is to make all systematic knowledge computable and broadly accessible.

Wolfram|Alpha is a computational knowledge engine, not a search engine.

WOLFRAMALPHA uses built-in knowledge curated by human experts to compute on the fly a specific answer and analysis for every query.

SEARCH ENGINES index web pages, then look for textual matches, then give you lists of links to follow.
LINK ROT
• Internet Archive: The Wayback Machine
  • Google/Bing/Yahoo! Cache
  • CyberCemetery
LEGAL PORTALS
Getting Started..

- Justia
- Cornell LII
- Google Scholar - Legal
The Feds

• Federal Judiciary Homepage
• Congress.gov
• GovTrack.us
• US Code Search
• USGPO-Fdsys
• E-CFR
• PACER
• FedStats
New Legal Research Tools: PacerPro

PacerPro®
Case research made easy

Sign Up
or sign in
New Legal Research Tools: Ravel
New Legal Research Tools: Casetext
New Legal Research Tools: CARA

Hi, meet CARA.
( Case Analysis Research Assistant )

Drag your brief here
- or -
CHOOSE FILE

Upload a brief and CARA will find useful case law for you.

© 2016 Casetext
New Legal Research Tools: Court Listener

Abdul Mohamed v. Uber Technologies, Inc.

Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Date Argued: June 16th, 2016
Duration: 1:01:17
Docket Number: 15-16178
Judges: Tallman, Clifton, Ikuta
Fingerprint: bff05c22b1a9fc8c220cb3be0a905dbe7388d0fc9
The Judiciary

RobeProbe
The Robing Room
Ballotopedia
Almanac of the Federal Judiciary

Sullivan’s (IL)
Court Listener
PlainSite
SECONDARY SOURCES
Legal Intelligence

- Lawyer work product
  - JDSupra
  - Lexology
  - Mondaq
- Law Firm website search
  - Fee Fie Foe Firm
- Law journals
  - Legal Scholarship Network @ SSRN.com
Blawg Directory and Search

Blawg Directory
A comprehensive directory of continually updated law blogs. If you don't see your blawg listed, click here to apply for inclusion within the directory.

If you need to update your existing listing, send us an email.
News

• Legal Aggregators
  – Jurist Legal News
  – ABAJournal.com
  – Law.com

• General Aggregators
  – Google News
  – Yahoo! News
  – Bing News
BUSINESS RESEARCH/Ci
Business Research

- Hoovers (free and $$)
- BigCharts @ Marketwatch
- Dun & Bradstreet Company Reports ($$)
- US Economic Census
- Industry Information Resources
PrivCo

Private Company Research

Giordano's Restaurant & Pizzeria

GIORDANO'S RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA FINANCIALS AND KPIS

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Non-Profit Research

Find up-to-date information on thousands of nonprofits including:

GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations.

We envision a nonprofit sector strong enough to tackle the great challenges of our time. GuideStar's Nonprofit Profiles provide you with the information you need to make smart decisions, build connections, and learn from each other to achieve your missions.

LEARN MORE

Get IRS data, plus more up-to-date information from nonprofits for free.
Jobs/Competitive Intelligence

Vault rankings & reviews
Your Local Library

• Local law and public libraries
  – Offering remote access databases
    • Look for EBSCO, Thomson-Gale, ReferenceUSA
    • Excellent for looking for professional, non-legal information: medical, scientific, business
  – Extensive print collections
• Librarians’ secret weapon: WorldCat
PEOPLE SEARCH
Minding Your Own Business

• Free Public Records resources (BRB compiled list)
• TLOxp Online Investigative System ($)
• Spokeo, Zoominfo, PiPL
SOCIAL MEDIA
Google Image Search
Social Media Search Engines

Google Social Search
Top Social Networks Search Results Dashboard

Phrase search ("""")
By putting double quotes around a set of words, you are telling Google Social Search to consider the exact words in that exact order without any change. For example, search

“Free Competitions UK”
will find only pages where this exact phrase is shared.

Terms you want to exclude (-)
Attaching a minus sign immediately before a word indicates that you do not want pages that contain this word to appear in your results. The minus sign should appear immediately before the word and should be preceded with a space. For example, query

Online Competitions Winners -USA
will exclude all references with “USA” word from the search results.

The OR operator
Google Social Search’s default behavior is to consider all the words in a search. If you want to specifically allow either one of several words, you can use the OR operator (note that you have to type ‘OR’ in ALL CAPS). For example, query

Competitions OR Compers News
will give you results about either one of these words.
Personalized Mobile Newspapers

Pulse
Flipboard
Feedly
Online Research Tips You Didn’t Learn in Law School
Friday, September 9, 1 p.m. ET

Knowledge Management
Friday, October 14, 1 p.m. ET
Chair: Kathy Morris, Chicago and NYC
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  - Liz Stone, San Francisco
  - Mark Weber, Cambridge
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  - Emily Roschek, Chicago

Watch for more offerings and innovations...coming soon
Catherine Sanders Reach
Law Practice Management & Technology
The Chicago Bar Association
312-554-2070
www.chicagobar.org/lpmt
csandersreach@chicagobar.org
Just because you can find it in Google doesn’t mean you should rely on it. What are the most authoritative and up-to-date resources on the web for legal research, business information, competitive intelligence, and people searches? What free and low cost websites will provide the best information in the least amount of time? Come to this program to find out how to use the web wisely and hone your research skills to find the best information just in time.

Mining the Web for Information

Catherine Sanders Reach, Director
Law Practice Management and Technology
The Chicago Bar Association
TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEGAL RESEARCH ON THE ‘NET ........................................................................................................................... 2
SEARCH ENGINES .................................................................................................................................................. 2
BETTER GOOGLE SEARCHING ............................................................................................................................. 3
ARCHIVAL WEBSITES ........................................................................................................................................... 4
CREATE PERSONALIZED SEARCH ENGINES ........................................................................................................ 4
TOP FREE ONLINE LEGAL RESEARCH RESOURCES .......................................................................................... 5
NEW AND NOTABLE ........................................................................................................................................... 6
OFFERS FROM STATE/LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS .............................................................................................. 9
FEDERAL SITES ................................................................................................................................................ 9
PRIMARY LAW FROM THE STATES .......................................................................................................................11
IL SITES .......................................................................................................................................................... 11
CHICAGO AND COOK COUNTY ............................................................................................................................12
JUDGES ........................................................................................................................................................ 12
INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES ..........................................................................................................................13
SHARED CONTENT SITES ...................................................................................................................................13
BLOGS ......................................................................................................................................................... 14
LEGAL INTELLIGENCE .......................................................................................................................................15
ONLINE RESEARCH - DON’T FORGET THE PUBLIC LIBRARY ............................................................................15
BUSINESS RESEARCH GUIDES ............................................................................................................................16
BUSINESS RESEARCH SITES ...............................................................................................................................16
PEOPLE SEARCHES ......................................................................................................................................... 18
SOCIAL MEDIA SEARCH ...................................................................................................................................18
SOCIAL MEDIA MONITORING ..............................................................................................................................18
APPS ........................................................................................................................................................... 19
STAY IN THE KNOW ........................................................................................................................................ 19
WEB LINK AND CONTENT MANAGEMENT ..........................................................................................................20
RESEARCH FOLDERS AND DESKTOP SEARCH .................................................................................................20
TRAPPER KEEPERS .......................................................................................................................................... 21
AUTOMATION ................................................................................................................................................ 22
Today’s lawyers face an array of electronic information tools. We’ve moved beyond the basics to a universe of information now available on the Internet. But what’s needed to cope with that information is an understanding of strengths and limitations, of realities and myths, and a recognition that both today and for the foreseeable future lawyers will exist with a multiplicity of tools, conventional print, and web-based resources. The information that lawyers will need is not always available free of charge. Understanding where to spend your dollars on research and information is critical.

**LEGAL RESEARCH ON THE ‘NET**

When using the Internet to conduct free legal research it is best to use focused legal research sites to start the project. Even then, the user must be aware of accuracy, authority, and whether the resource is up-to-date. Some of the best online legal research resources provide pathfinders or bibliographies to help the research get started. Always remember the mnemonic from the American Association of Law Libraries – Just ASK a Law Librarian:

**J**urisdiction - Federal or State, Court or administrative, regulatory or legislative, or a combination?

**U**seful Tips - don’t recreate the wheel! Has this research been done?

**S**cope of Research - How extensive should the search be?

**T**erms of Art - Determine and define search terms, synonyms, similar concepts

**A**cronyms - Look them up, find out what they mean

**S**ources - Any secondary treatments? A treatise, law review articles?

**K**ey Cost Restraints - How much can you bill the client?

**SEARCH ENGINES**

**DuckDuckGo**


For a clean interface and a no-tracking privacy policy, check out the DuckDuckGo search engine. You can search most sites directly by adding a ![Bang parameter](http://duckduckgo.com/). For instance “!youtube kittens” would search YouTube for kittens or “!sla law copyright” searches popular legal blog Sla law.ca for the keyword “copyright”. You can also choose always on https, and prevents sharing of your search with sites you click on. You can even change the color, look & feel, and the layout.
WOLFRAM ALPHA: COMPUTATIONAL KNOWLEDGE ENGINE
http://www.wolframalpha.com/

Wolfram Alpha is more of a fact engine than a search engine. It excels at mathematical functions, but also can do things like find and analyze data on a stock, compare stocks, mortgage calculations, compute salary equivalents and current value of historical quantities of money, and thousands of other options. The Pro and Pro premium versions let you upload your own data (data, audio, text and 60+ other types) for the engine to analyze. They also have an app for lawyers - the WolframAlpha Lawyer’s Professional Assistant. This iOS app (iPad and iPhone only) has a legal dictionary, statutes of limitations for state, visa requirements, calendaring, fee calculations, settlement calculator, historical value of money, crime rates, and a way more for $4.99.

STARTPAGE
https://www.startpage.com/

Do you like the results you get from Google, but don’t want the customization of results you get because as a logged in Google user the search engine delivers results based on what it “knows” about you? Try Startpage, which lets you search Google anonymously. It calls itself the world’s most private search engine, and it is nice not to have your own behaviors taint search results.

BETTER GOOGLE SEARCHING

Google Search boasts a number of helpful search features and advanced operators, including using quotation marks to specify a phrase search, using minus signs to specify terms to exclude, [infile:] to search for a specific file types, [inurl:] to search for terms in a URL such as .gov or .edu, [site:] to limit the search to specific sites, and [define:] to search for definitions. According to Google employee Daniel M. Russell, a proximity operator can be used in Google searches. The syntax is [term/phrase1 AROUND(n) term/phrase2], where n is the maximum distance between term/phrase1 and term/phrase2. An example is [Obama AROUND(3) bill].

Google search defaults to ignore stop words so don’t forget to put your search operators in ALL CAPS or they may be ignored. For instance, if you search for __ Smith or Jones ____, Google returns the results for Smith and Jones. Try this to see the difference in the results set: searching for Smith or Jones yields 112,000,000 results while Smith OR Jones yields 647,000,000 results.

Google search will act as a calculator. Just type in your calculation using * to multiply and / to divide; adding and subtracting are + and - . You can also put in tracking codes, and other information to get instant information, such as stock quotes, unit conversions, flight tracking dictionary search, and more.

Once you’ve done a search, look above the results to refine and re-scope a search by limiting by type, date, or verbatim (to force it not to automatically correcting spelling).
ARCHIVAL WEBSITES

One significant reality of the web is that content disappears. Links go bad (aka “link rot”) and content is lost forever – or is it? There are a few ways to try before giving up that a web page has disappeared forever.

CHESAPEAKE DIGITAL PRESERVATION GROUP
http://cdm16064.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/

The Chesapeake Digital Preservation Group features government, policy, and legal information archived from the Web through a partnership between state and academic law libraries, including the Harvard, Georgetown, Maryland and Virginia State Law Libraries. The scope is selected state, federal and foreign government documents and materials from Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia.

INTERNET ARCHIVE: THE WAYBACK MACHINE
http://archive.org/web/web.php

This repository of over 502 billion webpages archived from 1996 to the near present, archives websites as well as moving images, audio, software, FAQs and defunct forums. Not all sites are archived. Those that were password protected, blocked search engines or were otherwise inaccessible are not included. And, the site archive intervals are somewhat random. However, if you are looking for web content that has otherwise disappeared this is a good place to look. You can also add a site to be captured so it can be a “trusted citation in the future”.

GOOGLE/BING/YAHOO! CACHE

Most popular search engines offer cached views of webpages. If you do a search and find a “404 page not found” error go back to the search results and look to the right of the link or title. Depending on the engine and your browser you may have to mouse over a preview page to see the link to the cached version or in Google click on the carat. The cached version may not have the full content, such as dynamically driven content or Flash, but it should at least provide the text.

To specifically go to a cached site in Google type in cache:URL with no spaces. For instance cache:http://www.americanbar.org/groups/departments_offices/legal_technology_resources/about_us.html

CREATE PERSONALIZED SEARCH ENGINES

GOOGLE CUSTOM SEARCH
https://www.google.com/cse/create/new

The web includes trillions of pages. That staggering number underlines the necessity of effective search engines: without them, the web would be useless. Users simply wouldn’t be able to find the information they need in a reasonable amount of time.

Even the best search engines can cause frustration with the sheer breadth of information. Though attorneys can minimize some of these frustrations by learning search tricks or mastering a search engine’s "advanced" search tools, they can also build custom search engine tailored to their needs, built using Google’s Custom Search Engine tool. Google Custom Search Engine ("CSE") allows users to choose specific resources from the web - blogs, webpages, news sites, etc. and search only those resources, thus cutting down on the noise
from the rest of the Web. Creating a Google CSR requires a free Google account. Then follow the simple steps which include filling out a set up form. The Google CSE can then be used as a standalone page or it can be embedded as a "widget" on blogs or websites.

FEE FIE FOE FIRM
http://www.feefiefoefirm.com

Fee Fie Foe Firm is an aggregate search of law firm websites. The focus is US law firms, although you can change the jurisdiction to search the UK, Canada, Australia, Singapore, Ireland, New Zealand, or South Africa (more jurisdictions coming). Use the search box to search law firm websites for legal experts, law firm bulletins, articles, press releases and more!

FREE FULL-TEXT ONLINE LAW REVIEW/JOURNAL SEARCH

This free search engine from the ABA’s Legal Technology Resource Center searches the free full-text of over 400 online law reviews and law journals, as well as document repositories hosting academic papers and related publications such as Congressional Research Service reports. Several of the law reviews and legal journals (such as the Stanford Technology Law Review), working papers, and reports are available online only.

TOP FREE ONLINE LEGAL RESEARCH RESOURCES

LII – CORNELL’S LEGAL INFORMATION INSTITUTE
http://www.law.cornell.edu/

The Legal Information Institute (LII) is a legal research site from the Cornell Law School, founded in 1992. The site consists of a directory of resources ranging from the Constitution to the Uniform Commercial Code. Some of the content is linked to, some is hosted on the LII site. Content is also linked to the LII project Wex, a community built legal dictionary/encyclopedia. They also have a lawyer directory and a legal encyclopedia.

JUSTIA
http://www.justia.com/

Justia is a content rich web directory that links to articles, caselaw, statutory law, legal blogs and more, by practice area or jurisdiction. They also link to free legal forms, host a lawyer directory, maintain a blog and Twitter directory and have a public question/answer service. You can also subscribe via email to court updates to get summaries of new opinions issued in hundreds of jurisdictions or by topic.

LLRX – LAW LIBRARIAN’S RESOURCE EXCHANGE
http://www.llrx.com/

LLRX.com delivers current, high quality content on a broad range of topics including: technology and legal research, reviews of legal and non-legal websites for researchers, international and comparative law guides by authors worldwide, technology training resources, and seminar materials and presentations from leading legal and library-related technology conferences. The site has an email update feature to be alerted of new articles when they are posted.
LAW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
http://www.loc.gov/law/

The Law Library of Congress houses Congress.gov, which provides access to current and historical legislative information for Congress including bills, public laws, the Congressional record, roll call votes, and more. Also the Congressional Record App for iPhone or iPad that has the official record of the proceedings and debates of the US Congress. Plus a law librarian blog, training, and “ask a librarian” for personal assistance by phone or email.

GOOGLE LEGAL SCHOLAR
http://scholar.google.com/

Google Scholar legal searches case law in many state and federal jurisdictions, as well as fee and free legal journal articles. Searches can be limited to legal opinions by restricting to search caselaw and then click “Select Courts”. The legal opinions linked to in the search results are free full-text and include pagination. Google Scholar includes a citator feature for legal opinions: clicking on a "How cited" link appearing next to an opinion in the search results leads to a page which displays text snippets from citing paragraphs in citing opinions. While there is no editorial analysis on treatment, they have now added a graphical “how often cited” next to the citing case. "Cited by” and "Related documents” links display lists of citing and related opinions and articles. Stated coverage is “currently, Google Scholar allows you to search and read published opinions of US state appellate and Supreme Court cases since 1950, US federal district, appellate, tax and bankruptcy courts since 1923 and US Supreme Court cases since 1791.”

In addition, it includes citations for cases cited by indexed opinions or journal articles which allows you to find influential cases (usually older or international) which are not yet online or publicly available. Once you have created a search Google Legal Scholar offers the ability to create an alert for those search results directly from the search results page. All told, many lawyers have concluded that Google Scholar is a great place to conduct preliminary research, or to review new cases that have not yet been affected by precedent.

Legal research guru Carole Levitt wrote tips on how to use Google Scholar’s Advanced Search Menu for big data and analytics. She points out ways to gathering information on how a particular judge has ruled on issues similar to your clients and other cool searches.

NEW AND NOTABLE

PLAINSITE
http://www.plainsite.org/

A free legal research website that states: “From laws to regulations to lawsuits to judges to law firms to lobbyists to political donations to bureaucrats to board members and back again, PlainSite explains how the entire legal system works.” Most notable are the 8,000,000 court and agency dockets available, though to download (versus view) the actual filings pricing starts at $99 per month.
Casetext and CARA


Casetext is a public legal resource that combines free legal research with publishing so that you can search cases, statutes and regs for free and view annotations from the country’s leading attorneys, law firms and academics. So, in addition to searching the site, you can also publish on it too.

A keyword search shows cases, with citation history, plus posts from attorneys who are writing about the topic. Results in “legal text” (cases, opinions, regs) or “posts” (analysis and commentary) can be filtered and sorted to get a smaller results set. Drilling to a case you can share, save via bookmark, save as a PDF and see insights (posts) and citing cases in a panel to the right of the case. For Pro users you can go to Legal Topics from “Learn” to follow updated content on areas of law – just click on the “Follow” button with the star.

Inspired? Click on the pencil to write and publish a post with your thoughts on the case. Or click the “learn” button and head to WeCite to contribute to crowd sourced citation treatment – positive, referencing, distinguishing or negative – with an explanation. The treatment and comments are moderated before they go online and you earn points and gift cards for participating!

The newest offering from Casetext, CARA, is not free but is **INCREDIBLY useful**. In CARA (Case Analysis Research Assistant) you upload a brief, filing, motion or other document and CARA scans the document for keywords and topics and the presents cases that are responsive to the issues. This not a cite check, rather it is an analysis of the citations and the text. The results are a list of cases which include a summary statement identifying why it is relevant, a key passage to draw your attention to the issue raised in the opinion, and insights from Casetext’s massive amount of expert legal articles. You can narrow results by jurisdiction. It is most impressive to do a 7 day free trial, to see how it works for you.

Casetext Pro will include CARA, as well as heatmap analytics, and other enhanced features. The service is available on an individual basis or a group rate.

Ravel

https://www.ravellaw.com

Newcomer (2012) Ravel must be doing something right because they having the funding to back Harvard’s [Caselaw Access Project](https://www.caselawaccessproject.org), which is digitizing every published US case *since the beginning*, some predating the constitution. Ravel will make it freely available, slated for mid-2017. Right now anyone can search Ravel for free to have access to all Supreme, Circuit and District court cases and most state cases (with some exceptions) from 2007 – present. Ravel presents information visually, so that a highly influential case is visually more prominent, though search results appear in a more typical relevancy ranked format as well. The free version also provides annotation capabilities and access to the US Code, which is hyperlinked to Congress.gov for legislative activity. The paid versions include judge analytics, case analytics, search history, client/matter tracking and more. Ravel Advanced is free for law students and legal academics.
COURT LISTENER (ORAL ARGUMENT)
https://www.courtlistener.com/

CourtListener is an endeavor of the Free Law Project, and its purpose is to make available not only millions of legal opinions, but also do analysis on raw data to generate visualizations. Search by case name, precedential status, judges, citation, filing date ranges, and filter by jurisdiction. You can also set up alerts for new cases that match your query.

Something entirely unique to Court Listener is the database of oral arguments. An advanced oral argument search lets you search audio content by docket, case name, date ranges and judge in the Federal Appellate courts and Supreme Court.

There is also an advanced Judges search that provides date of birth, judicial positions, political affiliations, education history, non-judicial positions, and opinions authored by the judge.

RECAP
https://free.law/recap/

Another project of the Free Law Project is RECAP, a free extension for Firefox and Chrome that improves the PACER experience. How does it do that? It adds cases you access from your PACER account to a public archive so that you and others don’t pay for it again. It provides better file names to the files you download from PACER. To use install the extension for your browser then use PACER as you normally would. Simple and effective.

PACERPRO
https://www.pacerpro.com/

This free search tool provides an advanced interface to PACER, while actually improving on the service with features such as real-time universal search, aggregated search results and one-click downloads of entire dockets. Recently they added “case feed” which shows case activity in real time.

PacerPro (https://www.pacerpro.com/), released in November 2013, gives Pacer users a better interface into Pacer. Through their interface you can search multiple district court, bankruptcy or appellate courts yet) dockets in Pacer, run a search by party or company name or case number and narrow by filing date range. You can then bookmark cases to keep up with new documents in the docket. You can also view all documents in a case and select multiple ones to download in a .zip file. The search interface and ability to compile filings is great, and if the file is already in PacerPro then it is free. Otherwise you can use this service and any new files downloaded will be charged directly to your Pacer account.

Just added scheduled updates to update cases on a specific schedule (daily, every other day, etc.) and email alerts to notify you when a case docket changes.

The free plan is limited to 2 bulk downloads and 2 followed cases per month. Professional and enterprise plans are available (1-4 users is $30 per month) with additional features like ECF mail capture, scheduled updates, and team management.
OFFERS FROM STATE/LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS

Your state bar association may also offer members-only access to case law and other materials. Many states have licensed either Fastcase or joined the Casemaker consortium as a member benefit. Depending on your bar’s participation, you may have state or national coverage, CLE materials, even practice rules and jury instructions.

CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION ONLINE LIBRARY

For members of The Chicago Bar Association you can search selected substantive materials from the CBA Record, CLE seminars and Committee meetings for free by logging in and searching from the Chicago Bar Association Online Library.

FEDERAL SITES

FEDERAL JUDICIARY HOMEPAGE

http://www.uscourts.gov/courtlinks

The Federal Judiciary Homepage is an important page to know because it provides a gateway to all federal court websites. What might one find on a court’s website? One will find important information like opinions, dockets, information on court calls, and local rules and forms. The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals (http://www.ca7.uscourts.gov/) website provides a good example. The Seventh Circuit is a stickler on filing briefs. If you look at the website, you’ll see a whole array of links to materials intended to assist practitioners in preparing winning briefs. This free information does not exist elsewhere.

U.S. CONGRESS ON THE NET

http://congress.gov

The federal government is making a strong push to provide all government information to the American public for free via the Internet. Congress.gov (f/k/a Thomas) is a perfect example. It provides access to federal bills back to 1979 and federal public laws back to 1973. This is one of only a few sites where those responsible for the content have made a concerted effort to add information that pre-dates the World Wide Web. One can also do the better part of a federal legislative history for free. There’s much more there worth exploring.

GOVTRACK.US

http://www.govtrack.us

GovTrack is a great way to keep track of who is doing what in Congress. You can follow the status of current legislation as it makes its way through the House and Senate. One can also look at the voting records and success rates for a particular congress person and look at the work being done by individual committees just to name a few things. This site, unlike Congress.gov, is not a government website.
U.S. CODE SEARCH

This site allows a researcher to search and browse the U.S. Code as well as retrieve sections by citation. It’s not perfect, but it’s a vast improvement over its predecessor. One can update a code section by looking at the classification table for the ensuing years and updating using Thomas. Is this an acceptable alternative to commercial publications of the code? It depends on one’s purpose.

USGPO-FDSYS
http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/

FDSys (Federal Digital System) is the replacement for GPOAccess. It’s an attempt by the federal government to provide accurate, trustworthy government information. For instance, you can look at the full budget of the US Government for FY2017. For more on ‘authentication,’ see the ‘about’ section the FDSys website. It also represents the government’s effort to bring all important sources of federal legal information into one searchable location.

E-CFR
http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/ECFR?page=browse

Very few offices have an up-to-date print set of the CFR. Fortunately, the federal government provides a pretty reliable online version through E-CFR. The nice thing is that one can easily update a section by checking against the Federal Register. Though currently an unofficial editorial compilation, soon it may be the official edition and permanent record. You can also see past updates to the CFR back to Jan. 1, 2015.

PACER
http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/

PACER is the Public Access to Court Electronic Records website of the U.S. government. It provides 24/7 access to a listing of all parties and participants in a federal lawsuit including judges and attorneys; a compilation of all case information like the cause of action, nature of the suit, dollar demand and docket information. In addition, it provides images of many pleadings and briefs that can be retrieved and printed. It’s not free, but it only costs 8 cents per page to print. One can use PACER to track similar cases or to retrieve briefs.

FedStats—ONE STOP FOR GOVERNMENT STATS
http://fedstats.sites.usa.gov/

The federal government produces a wealth of statistical information. Fedstats is an attempt to organize the vast array of federal government information sources into one search interface. Anyone involved in litigation will eventually need to make an argument based on a federal statistic like case load statistics or employment statistics. Note that you can search by topic, region or agency. This is truly one-stop shopping for government statistics.
How trustworthy are state-level primary legal resources on the Web? The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) published a State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources that answers this very important and timely question. The comprehensive report examines the results of a state survey that investigated whether government-hosted legal resources on the Web are official and capable of being considered authentic.

Ultimately, the issues surround the authenticity and reliability of state hosted public domain law (cases, regs, statutes, legislation) caused the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws to promulgate the Uniform Electronic Material Act in July 2011. The Act calls for the official publisher of legal materials - if they are only available electronically - to designate the electronic record as official, to provide authentication of the electronic record, ensure that it is accurate, and provide for the preservation of the record (whether maintained electronically or not). So far it has been enacted in 11 states.

Keep in mind that some jurisdictions have turned their case law publishing over to a commercial publisher. California state case law is available for free through a special LexisNexis site. Alaska case law, and Kentucky Court Rules are available from similar, publicly-accessible Westlaw sites.

IL SITES

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
http://www.ilga.gov

The ILGA website is a must-have for Illinois practitioners. It’s the only place you will find the Illinois Administrative Code for free online, and there is no longer an official print version. It’s where you need to go to perform an Illinois legislative history. And, it’s where you MAY go to find a free version of the Illinois Compiled Statutes. But, be aware that’s not official and there is a large disclaimer noting that fact. This is very typical of primary legislative and administrative materials online. According to a state by state study done by the AALL Access to Electronic Information Committee, “The vast majority of state online primary legal resources are not sufficiently trustworthy.”

ILLINOIS CORPORATE NAME DATABASE
http://www.ilsos.gov/corporatellc

The Internet is a great source for agency information at both the state and federal level. Agency websites will contain: agency decisions, applicable regulations, practice pointers like how to handle an administrative appeal and other documents like agency handbooks. The Illinois Corporate Name database provides the corporate information for all corporations and LLCs registered in Illinois.

ILLINOIS COURT OPINIONS
www.state.il.us/court/opinions/archive.asp

The Illinois Courts website provides a host of important information sources for Illinois practitioners. As of July 1, 2011, there is no longer an official print version of Illinois cases. The official version resides here. In addition, the citation format for these cases has changed to a public-domain citation standard (see the amended Supreme Court Rule 6). This site provides a wealth of state court information including court rules, and beginning recently, jury instructions. There is a search function, but the cases only go back to 1996 and the search engine is very rudimentary.
**CHICAGO AND COOK COUNTY**

**CITY OF CHICAGO DATA PORTAL**  
https://data.cityofchicago.org/  

This freely available database lets you browse, filter, search and combine data from over 200 datasets from city departments, services, facilities and performance. For instance, if you represent landlords and a permit is in question you can look for permits from 2006 to the present, permit types and issue dates, with estimated costs, amount paid and even contractor name for an address, a PIN number and more. Filter, roll up the data, export, discuss and more. An amazing resource.

**CONNECT TO COOK**  
http://connecttocook.cookcountyil.gov/connecttocookpublic/  

The site describes the resource as “a dynamic web based tool to identify demographic characteristics as well as highlight strategic opportunities for location, investment or development.” You can, by a point on a map in Cook County, run a report that provides anything from Automotive Aftermarket Expenditures to a Community Profile to a Sports and Leisure Market Potential. There are similar public data initiatives in other large metropolitans.

**JUDGES**

Law libraries have guides to everything, written and updated by the librarians. Seek out bibliographies, guides and resources on how to do everything from research a judge to conduct a legislative history. As an example, here is a great [judicial research guide](#) from University of Cincinnati Law School.

**ROBEPROBE.COM AND THE ROBING ROOM**  

Judicial rating sites, with some biographical content. As usual, comments should be taken with a grain of salt.

**BALLOTOPEDIA**  
https://ballotpedia.org  

Expanded from the former Judgeopedia, this site still has various levels of information on judges – the higher the court the more detail. This site also helpfully shows lists of judges in every court with bios and a tab for elections. You can see a list of judges, for instance, on the bench for the northern district of IL and find out where he or she went to graduate and undergraduate, year of birth, appointed by, etc. Further information, like professional career, judicial career and notable cases are also provided.

**ALMANAC OF THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY**

Try your law library, this title is a very expensive print publication or available through a Westlaw subscription or through WoltersKlewer online. This title has judicial profiles for every federal judge, bankruptcy judge, magistrate judges, plus federal trial and appellate judges. Bios feature interviews who have argued cases before the federal judiciary, as well as academic and professional background, noteworthy rulings and more.
GOOGLE SEARCHES

- Past Clerks: (clerked OR "clerk to" OR clerk) judge XYXNAME AND (edtx OR "eastern district of texas")
- Any Controversies: (arrested OR scandal OR ethics OR resign OR disbarred OR misconduct) AND "Judge Name"
- Memberships and Affiliations: (judge XYZ NAME) AROUND(5) (donor OR member OR board OR donation OR founder OR director) -settlement -"class member" -"class members"

SULLIVAN’S JUDICIAL PROFILES

In Illinois, Sullivan’s Judicial Profiles is a hardcover book, usually held behind the reference desk, that provides “biographical information on every active Circuit Court, U.S. District Court, or 7th U.S. Circuit Court judge who presides in Illinois, this hardcover book includes Jury Verdict Reporter case cites, plus references to Law Bulletin print media in which the judge is mentioned.”

INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

Foreign law is increasingly available on the Web. Cornell’s Legal Information Institute has leant its name to a growing list of LII’s from other countries.

WORLDLII
http://www.worldlii.org

WorldLII can search and aggregate results from most of the LIIs and you can restrict results by geographic area. Coverage will vary depending upon the jurisdiction.

Some of the LIIs have developed substantial sites, so if you are researching in a particular jurisdiction, you may want to go directly to that country’s LII if it exists. Canada’s CanLII (http://www.canlii.org ) includes case law, statutes, and regulations, as well as a citator (known as note up in Canada) and point-in-time legislative comparisons.

SHARED CONTENT SITES

With the advent of Web 2.0, and the increasingly familiar and trusted experience of participation and sharing on the web through social media, shared content sites that allow end users to upload and share content, comment on other’s content, and gain recognition for contributions, has resulted in some very useful sites for lawyers.

JDSUPRA
http://www.jdsupra.com/

Among other things, JD Supra allows lawyers and legal professionals to upload representative documents – briefs, articles, presentations, etc. to be freely shared – and searched. Large firms such as Bryan Cave and Fenwick & West, as well as many others, submit content.
SSRN (SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH NETWORK)

The Social Science Research Network contains vast amounts of scholarly articles, from law, accounting, corporate, political science and much more. Scholars and academics submit research articles to SSRN before they go through peer review and the formal publishing process. This means the articles are often not the final version, but they are made available much faster than the traditional publishing procedure allows. Users can hone in on just legal articles, some articles are available only in abstract. SSRN has a Legal Scholarship Network, with research papers, faculty job openings, and a directory.

WEX
http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/

Wex is the Legal Information Institute’s community built, free legal dictionary and encyclopedia. Wex content, unlike Wikipedia, is contributed by named, qualified legal professionals and edited by legal experts. Entries contain an overview and definitions, resources, examples, and in caselaw. While the site is not comprehensive, it is valuable.

BLOGS

Blogs, or weblogs, are another way to get legal research information and current awareness. Many lawyers are blogging, providing commentary on practice area specific information. Some very good blogs provide legal research information and tips.

The legal profession has enthusiastically embraced blogging. Vast directories of legal-centric blogs have been compiled, including Justia’s Blawg Directory, and the ABA Journal Blawg Directory, which list blogs on topics ranging from administrative law to workers compensation and most everything in between. The ranks of lawyer bloggers now include numerous law professors, nationally-recognized appellate lawyers and entire practice groups. These directories allow users to search the blogs all at once, or drill down to practice areas.

SLAW
http://www.slaw.ca

A Canadian-centric legal blog that discusses research and related legal topics, its postings range well into legal research developments in the U.S. and other foreign jurisdictions.

ROBERT AMBROGI’S LAW SITES
http://www.legaline.com/lawsites.html

The tagline reads “tracking new and intriguing Web sites for the legal profession”, which this blog has been doing since 2002. Ambrogi reviews new legal research sites, social networking tools, web 2.0 and online marketing phenomena.
By virtue of your Chicago Bar Association membership you receive a customized daily CBA Newstand by Lexology, which brings together articles submitted by major commercial law firms. Anyone can go to the site to search for content on hot topics like Bring Your Own Device, Virtual Currencies, Merger Control and more through Navigator, or simply search by keyword then narrow results by jurisdiction, topic, or author/firm.

International in scope, you will find the latest thinking on legal, accounting, regulatory and commercial issues supplied by the world's leading professional advisors. Browse or you can search the database for articles by date, topic, firm, country, author, free text, etc. You can also subscribe to free news alerts (2 per week) based on region and topics/sub-topics.

Fee Fie Foe Firm USA is a search engine that searches on the websites of US law firms and international firms. Use the search box to search for legal experts, law firm bulletins, articles, press releases and more! Similar to Fee Fie Fo Firm is the Law Firm Search Engine, which searches more than 4,700 law firm websites around the world.

Aggregates expert insight, commentary and intelligence on corporate, small business and personal matter. They offer a subscription via email, social media, RSS and more. Large firms such as Bryan Cave and Fenwick & West, as well as many others, submit content.

Looking for company information for competitive intelligence or client development? Old news stories? Journals?

Don’t forget about the local public library. Many libraries now offer extensive online research databases that can be accessed from home or office with a library ID number. The best part about these services is that they are free so may provide an economical start to research when the bottom line is a concern.

The ABA Legal Technology Resource Center created a list of links to some local libraries. It is by no means comprehensive so please contact your local library, or look for it online, to see what resources are available to you as a patron. The Chicago Public Library system has an amazing online collection spanning law, business, health & medicine and much more. Any city resident can access the online databases with a library card number. For those in the suburbs, many of the suburban libraries have extensive online collections.
BUSINESS RESEARCH GUIDES

There are any number of excellent guides to doing business and people research on the web.

VIRTUAL CHASE BUSINESS RESEARCH
http://virtualchase.justia.com/research-resources/business-research

This site provides annotated guides for fee and free sources for Business News, Business Watchdog Groups and Company Ratings, Company Information - Officers and Executives, General Company Information, Industry Research and Resources, and Public Company Filings

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
http://www.loc.gov/rr/business/company/scope.html

The Library of Congress has put together a Doing Company Research guide, which covers directories, rankings/lists, private, public, and foreign company research resources. Many of the resources can be accessed through the public library.

BUSINESS RESEARCH SITES

HOOVERS
http://www.hoovers.com/

Offering limited free information, this site offers pay-as-you-go and subscription services for business intelligence for mostly publically traded companies. They offer free information which includes an overview, executives, competitors, and financials for companies. Sample reports available to see what information you will be purchasing.

BIGCHARTS FROM MARKETWATCH
http://bigcharts.marketwatch.com/

BigCharts is an easy-to-use investment research Web site, providing access to professional-level research tools such as interactive charts, quotes, industry analysis and intraday stock screeners, as well as market news and commentary. BigCharts is a free service supported entirely by our site sponsors. For attorneys, one of the most interesting aspects is **historical quotes**, for probate and estate valuation purposes.

DUN & BRADSTREET COMPANY REPORTS

Get background, corporate family tree, company profile, snapshot, or international company reports. Also credit searches to see the creditworthiness of companies. Search is free, reports cost between $3 and $30. You can view a sample report to see the type of data provided. Private and publically traded companies are included.

US ECONOMIC CENSUS AND ECONOMIC INDICATORS
http://www.census.gov/econ/

The Economic Census is the U.S. Government's official five-year measure of American business and the economy. It is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau every five years, and response is required by law.
Forms go out to about 5 million businesses, including large, medium and small companies representing all U.S. locations and industries. Respondents are asked to provide a range of operational and performance data for their companies. Results for the 2002, 2007 and 2012 census are online in full. Economic indicators, such as new home sales for specific date ranges, geographic areas, etc. are available and results delivered in PDF or spreadsheet format.

**INDUSTRY INFORMATION RESOURCES**
http://valuationresources.com/industryreport.htm

Industry Information Resources is a free guide to industry information, research, and analysis for over 400 industries. Individual pages for each industry list resources and data available from trade associations, publications, and research firms which address subjects such as industry overview, issues, trends, and outlook, financial information and financial ratios, compensation and salary surveys, and business valuation resources. Individual industries are listed below by industry category and standard industrial classification code.

**PRIVCO PRIVATE COMPANY FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE**
http://www.privco.com/

This site is designed to provide research and track privately held companies. Reports include financials like revenue, employee productivity, funding and M&A Activity, as well as a business summary, competitors, and more. $199 for a one time report or monthly.

**VAULT RANKINGS & REVIEWS**
http://www.vault.com/

For job seekers mainly, great intelligence on companies including law firms. For instance, learn all about industry outlook and trends and predictions for $20 for 3 month’s access. Much of the content, however, is free, including law firms ranked by Vault with key information including stats, employment contact, base salary, history, and representative cases/clients. To uncover more you’ll need to pay the $20, but you can’t be too prepared in an interview!

**GUIDESTAR**
https://www.guidestar.org/Home.aspx

Looking for information on a religious group of non-profit? About 1.8 million IRS recognized tax exempt orgs, thousands of faith based nonprofits not required to register with the IRS, plus Form 990, IRS data, financials, chief officers, membership #s, annual reports, board members and more are available from Guidestar. The profiles are free for program, financial and operations information. For downloadable copies of Form 990 and more you will need to purchase premium ($250 per month/$1500 per year) or Pro ($2000 a year).
PEOPLE SEARCHES

FREE PUBLIC RECORDS RESOURCES FROM BRB
http://www.brbpublications.com/freeresources/pubrecsites.aspx

BRB Publications, who put out the PRSS-Web (public records search service) subscription service, maintains a list of free public record sites by state to locate sources for civil records, criminal records, driving records, real estate records, public record vendors, record retrievers, and more. For instance, for information on small businesses usually the Secretary of State’s website has a plethora of useful information. They also link to government public record sites for Canada and other foreign countries.

TRANSUNION TLOxp ONLINE INVESTIGATIVE SYSTEM
http://www.tlo.com/

Comprising trillions of public and proprietary records, TLOxp Online Investigative System is the most powerful database for background research on people, assets and businesses. You can access TLOxp data through our intuitive, online interface and secure API connections as well as process large volumes of data through our batch processing systems. They also include social media search and vehicle location in the search. They offer transactional (pay as you go), per seat and flat rate pricing.

Other sites offer people searches, and focus on finding people results in white pages, public records, business records and social media sites. These search sites include ZoomInfo, YoName, Snitch.name and Spokeo. Keep in mind that you will need to do additional research, as these directories match against name only, which is an inexact science. Additionally, similar “reality checks” need to be followed if you choose to use any of the public records searches available with some of these tools.

SOCIAL MEDIA SEARCH

For researching what people are doing, saying, and revealing about themselves, searching social media sites is imperative. Blogs, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Reddit, Tumblr, and most other popular social media sites offer built in search tools. Lawyers should not forget these as valuable places to search, though they must be careful to avoid “pre-texting” or using means to coerce or deceive someone into giving access to a private social media profile. Google’s primary search engine will pick up some social media content, primarily blogs and public LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter information, as do Bing and other search engines. However, there are other ways to search multiple social sites en masse which may offer different and possibly better results.

While aggregate social media search engines are in their infancy, there are a few out there to explore. One is Google Social Search, which aggregates search from many popular social networking sites. Another is Social Searcher which search news, blogs, forums, comments, videos as well as Twitter, Facebook, etc. Blinkx searches video content in Hulu, YouTube, as well as news and media outlets (note: adult filter is on by default).

SOCIAL MEDIA MONITORING

Social media management tools like Hootsuite, Social Oomph, and TweetDeck will help you monitor activity by keywords and account names in multiple social media channels. However, if your monitoring needs are
infrequent or changeable, there are a number of social media search tools that offer alerts via email or RSS. **Social Searcher** offers alerts.

**APPS**

Thanks to the librarians at UCLA School of Law in the Hugh & Hazel Darling Law Library there is a fairly [comprehensive list of legal research mobile apps](https://www.library.ucla.edu/apps) that is maintained and updated. Everything from Blacks’ Law Dictionary to Hein Online to DroidLaw’s Federal Rules of Civil Procedure are listed with links and descriptions.

**FLIPBOARD**

[Flipboard.com](http://flipboard.com)

A free app for iPhone, iPad and Android that creates a personalized magazine that learns about you as you use it. By allowing it to hook in to your social media (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.) it will deliver news content based on your interests. As you click on articles you can tell it you want more like this, or to forget it. Flexible, useful, and free! Flipboard bought Zite, a competitive tool. They currently exist separately but will likely merge into one app. Similarly, [Pulse](https://www.pulse.com), now owned by LinkedIn and [Feedly](https://feedly.com) also provide subject driven content, with Feedly also acting as an RSS feed reader.

**STAY IN THE KNOW**

**GOOGLE ALERTS**

[http://www.google.com/alert](http://www.google.com/alert)

GoogleAlerts is an easy to use service to watch the internet for mentions of a person or company. Users can search in Google’s main index, blogs, groups, news or altogether. So if an attorney wants to track a topic on the Blogosphere they can set up the search criteria and receive the alerts as they happen, daily or weekly. Google Alerts provide a method for simple market research and topic tracking. Keep in mind that the more targeted the search terms, the more targeted the results. The topics are easy to manage and search terms can be added and deleted as necessary.

You can choose to receive alerts via email or your favorite RSS feed reader. Recently people have complained that they are not receiving Google Alerts.

**WATCH THAT PAGE**

[http://www.watchthatpage.com](http://www.watchthatpage.com)

Ever find a webpage you’d like to keep an eye on, but it has no email updates, no RSS feeds, and you don’t want to set a reminder to visit it? For instance, you want to watch the press release pages of a number of your client’s competitors. How can you do that automatically? **WatchThatPage** allows you to select pages you want to watch for changes, and monitors them for you. WTP compiles the information for you and gives it to you either in an email or online. Register to use WTP, and tell it what pages you want to watch. You have the option of having one email with content from all your watched pages, or separate emails for each page. You can also customize the days on which you receive your emails.
MENTION.COM
https://en.mention.com/
Similar to Google Alerts but with advanced settings to let you search variations or AND or EXCLUDE words in results. Looks in Facebook, Twitter, News sites, blogs, video sites, forums, image sites and general web. Will also watch for mentions on social media, like Twitter. Pretty impressive results. You can set it up to email you results daily or weekly. “Starter” account, though, after the free trial it is is $29 per month.

GIGA ALERT
http://www.gigaalert.com/
Somewhat secretive about where they search, “deep results” for $4.95 a month, search options are very much like Google advanced search options. Free for limited use (not deep results). The first set will likely be a mess.

WEB LINK AND CONTENT MANAGEMENT

Managing and accessing hyperlinks to your favorite research sites, articles, and other web content through bookmarks only solves half the problem. Content on the web tends to be ephemeral, and content is now so much more than text. There are a number of tools that allow users to manage not only the links, but also content, images, videos and much more.

GOOGLE BOOKMARKS

Internet bookmarks can be useful for keeping track of websites when doing research online. One inconvenience of traditional browser-based bookmarks is that they are stored locally and available only on a single computer. In contrast, several online/social bookmarking services such as Delicious and Google Bookmarks store bookmarks online, allowing you to access them from any computer with a browser connected to the Internet.

For those not using Google’s Chrome browser Google Bookmarks may be convenient for those who already use Google services like Gmail or Google Docs—you can add to and access your Google Bookmarks in a browser anytime you are logged into your Google Account. To access Google Bookmarks you can drag a simple Google Bookmarks bookmarklet into the Bookmarks or Favorites toolbar of your web browser or install the Google Toolbar. Clicking on the bookmarklet or the Google Bookmarks button on the Google Toolbar will bring up a Google Bookmarks window—the title and URL of the webpage you are currently viewing will be automatically filled-in and fields will be available for you to add labels (tags) and notes about the webpage. Pressing the save button will save the bookmark to your online Google Bookmarks account.

If you are a Chrome user then another way to save bookmarks is to click on one of the blank stars in the address bar of a website. Organizational features include searching by labels and organizing by date. Chrome browser bookmarks are available to you as long as you are logged into Google from a Chrome browser – at home, on the road, on your mobile device, etc.

RESEARCH FOLDERS AND DESKTOP SEARCH

Many of us have scanned documents, thumb drives with CLE materials, and other reference material or “digital assets” that we would like to be able to manage, store, and recall when needed. One simple way to harness all the research materials that you gather can be as simple as create a folder on your hard drive or
network drive where you store any materials that you might want to make use of again. Simply create a
folder on your computer and call it something like Reference or Library. Save the materials as you gather
them to this folder. If you have a thumb drive with CLE materials, for example, you can simply save the
contents to this folder. If the documents are in Portable Document Format (PDF), you will need to verify
that there is a text layer in the files so that they can be searched. If they aren’t simply run Adobe Acrobat
OCR or another Optical Character Recognition (OCR) program such as OmniPage Pro or Abby FineReader.
By harnessing the power of OCR you can also scan articles and columns from paper publications and place
them in the Reference or Library folder. Save webpages and other materials found on the web as .html by
using the “save as” feature in your browser, or saving pages as .PDF.

X1 and Copernic are two sophisticated desktop search engines that make finding content on your local
machine, networked drives, or external drives a snap. Super-fast, imbued with bells and whistles, and
reasonably priced, these tools have been around for some time. But, the developers have not rested on
their laurels. Both of these super powered search tools now offer mobile apps, to let you search your data
on the go.

With myCopernic On the Go! you can search your computer remotely from your smartphone, iPad or
remote PC (sorry, Windows only). You will need to install the myCopernic Connector for it to work. Then
from your device you can login to myCoperic On the Go! to access search for your files. You will need
Internet access, and functionality is delivered through a web-based app, not a native app. Because of that
it works on just about any device with a browser, including BlackBerry. This service costs $9.95 annually, in
addition to the $50 for Copernic Professional Desktop Search (though it is not necessary to have Copernic
Professional Desktop installed).

X1 offers X1 Mobile Search, A native app for iPhone or iPad, this free app will let users search their Macs or
Windows PC with or without having X1 Professional Client installed (although they do mention it
works best with X1 search). X1 Mobile Search also lets you view and display files, share files, and download
files for offline use. Setup includes downloading the X1 Mobile Search app from the iTunes store and
installing the Windows or Mac version of X1 Mobile Connect. Et voila. Connections are protected by x.509
PKI based two-factor authentication and RSA powered SSL/TLS.

TRAPPER KEEPERS

POCKET (FORMERLY READITLATER)
http://getpocket.com/

A little web utility called “Pocket” can be a great way to manage your time and keep track of all the
information whizzing by that you may not have time to address at the moment, but do want to get to
eventually. You can use Pocket from most any browser or smartphone. It lets you save links or entire pages
and you can access them online or off – making this a very handy tool for productively using downtime.
Once you’ve read the item then mark as read and it will be deleted from your list. Similarly InstaPaper lets
you save articles to read later from smartphones and the web, but also adds ebook functionality for Kindle,
iPad and others.
MS OneNote
http://office.microsoft.com/onenote/

MS OneNote is part of the MS Office suite, but can be downloaded for free or accessed via Office.com. OneNote is similar to Evernote and allows end users to capture, create, organize, share, and reuse content. Think of it as a series of spiral bound notebooks with pocket dividers. You can create notebooks containing folders, subfolders, and pages.

The pages in this program are “unlined” so that text, audio or video can be dropped in anywhere, allowing the user maximum control and providing a digital version of a real notebook. Users can add text, clip web content, clip any content from any MS application, insert text, audio and video files, convert handwritten notes from a table to text, and much more. You can record audio directly into OneNote, while it syncs your notes. You can export OneNote text to MS Outlook as a Task, and share portions of OneNote over a network. Users can flag notes, import content in multiple formats, even import MS Office Calendar events to create a notebook or page around the event. The program is easy to use, very intuitive, and is a great replacement for that dog-eared notebook.

Evernote
http://www.evernote.com

Do you write yourself notes on tiny pieces of paper, and then have to frantically search through the stack to find what you need? Cast your little pieces of paper aside: Evernote is a note-taking application that can help you stay organized. You store notes, website clippings, links, etc. on a single page (Evernote calls it "an endless roll of digital paper"). Instead of keeping notes in separate files, everything is in one place, and you can search for it in multiple ways: through categories, automatic labeling, by time and date stamps, and with keywords. You assign categories manually or automatically, and there are over 50 icons you can also assign to organize yourself visually. An icon is installed in your toolbar; you use this to cut content from the internet and paste it into your Evernote page -- a full link is provided along with the content. So continue jotting down those notes-- just do it digitally with Evernote!

A new product, similar to Evernote, called Diigo, is now available. Diigo’s website beckons those who are looking for a tool to migrate their Delicious content (a similar tool which is soon to be no longer supported).

Automation
IFTTT
http://www.ifttt.com

A new service, IFTTT - If This Then That, gives users the ability to write “recipes” to combine tasks on the internet based on a trigger. For instance, if someone retweets or mentions you on Twitter you set up IFTTT to automatically thank them for the mention. Or, if the weather forecast calls for rain send an email reminder to take an umbrella. How about if someone mentions one of your clients in a tweet send it to a shared Evernote folder? IFTTT works with many channels, including email, most social networks, Dropbox, SMS, Pocket, Evernote, and hundreds more. You choose which channels to turn on. The possibilities are endless.
For current awareness, if you receive an email with an update from WatchThatPage send it automatically to Evernote. Or if a blog you read adds a new post send you an email. As long as the channel is supported you can write “recipes” to your heart’s content.

Similar to IFTTT (If This Then That) which connects applications, services and devices, Zapier offers 5 zaps for free that will run every 15 minutes with up to 100 tasks per month to make it easy for you to automate tasks between web apps. Zapier has over 500 Apps you can connect, with a focus on business services ranging from legal SaaS Clio to Basecamp to HelloSign. So, how can this work for you? Automatically save attachments in Gmail to Box. Create tasks and to-dos from new emails automatically. Create a Gmail label from new Clio matters or add new Clio contacts to a MailChimp list. A few clicks and you can automate activities that you either had to do manually, or just plain forgot to do.