

RESEARCH LEGAL ISSUES FACED BY BUSINESSES

Research Guide for BUA 220
Business Plan - Legal Issue
Project

STEP 2 IDENTIFY TRENDING/ HOT LEGAL TOPICS *WITH LEGAL NEWS*

Use legal news to identify trending problems/issues disrupting your business and find newly released laws or cases, etc. Search by companies/industries, then narrow to legal topics.

Tools: LexisNexis Academic - All News - Advanced Options - U.S News; Wall Street Journal; New York Times etc.

STEP 4 UNDERSTAND THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE SCENE *WITH BOOKS AND LAW REVIEWS*

Books and law reviews help with understanding the rationale behind the laws and cases with more scholarly discussion on controversial issues and their implications on your business. They help identify related cases and legislation.

Tools: LexisNexis Academic - Law Review; URSUS (Books)

STEP 6 SOURCE QUALITY ONLINE CONTENT *USING TARGETED GOOGLE SEARCH*

Quality sources are often buried in overwhelmingly large amounts of outdated, misleading information online. Pay attention to the following:

Tools: laws and regulations from related government websites; trade associations website, reputable news sources, open-access law reviews.

STEP 8 DON'T FORGET TO CITE YOUR SOURCE *AND AVOID PLAGIARISM*

Use quotations when you use exact words from a source. Use citations when you paraphrase or get an idea from a source. Close paraphrasing is plagiarism too.

SEARCHING IS A STRATEGIC EXPLORATION

STEP 1 FIGURE OUT DOMINANT LEGAL ISSUES FACING YOUR BUSINESS

BY ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH

Find legal issues by analyzing stakeholders (i.e. related government agencies, suppliers, competitors, consumers, employees), then researching what laws governing these relationships; or by finding a leading company and searching cases it is involved in.

Tools: IBISWorld; LexisNexis Academic - cases.

STEP 3 BACK UP YOUR LEGAL ANALYSIS

WITH REAL CASES

Cases will provide the background and court opinions. Use LexisNexis Shepard's to track and update cases. Search by parties (a leading company in your industry) or by business area/legal issues as keywords.

Tools: LexisNexis Academic - Federal & State Cases; Google Scholar (case law).

STEP 5 EVALUATE & UPDATE FACTS AND DETAILS

WITH CURRENT & AUTHORITATIVE INFO

Evaluate the information you gathered based on CRAAP Test (Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy and Purpose). Shepardizing the cases and make sure it is not overridden.

STEP 7 SYNTHESIZE & RECONCILE DIFFERENCES

YOU ARE ALMOST THERE!

Synthesizing information and reconciling differences are the most challenging part of the analysis, while we are almost there!



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We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.

- Aristotle

TEAM RESEARCH TIPS



FORM AN EFFICIENT RESEARCH TEAM

Create a shared knowledge portal for your project, use the analytical framework provided by your instructor to create a list of questions to investigate, and then split your work based on different research topics.



CONDUCT AN EXTENSIVE RESEARCH

Use the guidance on the other side, and take different approaches to gather all available information for legal issue analysis. Go through the CRAAP Test to find the most current, relevant, accurate and authoritative information to back up your analysis.



WRITE A COMPELLING REPORT

Be aware of the argument you make and provide enough evidence to make it persuasive. Make sure your facts are consistent, your arguments are valid/coherent, and your sentences have a logical flow.



SAVE SOME TIME FROM CITATIONS

Try to find citation function in library databases (such as LexisNexis) and create a citation based on the required format.



OVERCOME EMOTIONAL CHALLENGES

It is common to feel overwhelmed, confused or frustrated. We should be proud of our persistence and determination to find answers and believe that our information has value.

YOUR LIBRARIAN IS HERE TO HELP!
Grace Liu (yan.liu1@maine.edu; 207-581-3610)

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