



Legal Information Resources for Law Students

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Abstract:

The availability of resources in both print and electronic form creates a dilemma of choice for librarians working with a fixed or declining budget. Both print and electronic resources have some strengths and weaknesses. Traditional selection criteria are still valid for the evaluation of electronic resources but additional issues such as technology, overlap between indexed publications and library storage, access method, service implications, archival concerns and availability of new product information must be considered. The human lifestyle is changing day by day and many areas connected with it are also changing. The higher education system is moving towards ICT based teaching and learning and the library is a part of the education system and support system. To make both areas effective, many print resources and e-resources are available. The present article discusses the advantages and disadvantages of print and e-resources, as well as the various print and e-resources available for academic law libraries.

Keywords: *Print Resource, Electronic Resources*

1. Introduction

Law librarians often face questions by their administrators and patrons about the current and future value of printed books due to advent of the web and the proliferation of electronic information. Technology as well as its advantages in terms of convenience, cost, time presents a bright future. So why libraries would continue to collect stock of printed media, and why would their parent organizations provide space or funding for such acquisitions?

The answer is surprisingly complex, but it begins with the library's mission to meet current and future users' needs. But there are also some future risks for researchers and academic libraries in a rapidly changing technological environment. A library cannot guarantee the preservation of information for future generations, and may even be frustrated in its goal to provide continued access to the current generation. This article is designed to provide data to support the proposition for the need for print resources and electronic resources in the existing educational law library.

2. Print Resources

2.1 Meaning

A print source is a source that is published in a printed format, such as many daily newspapers, magazines, academic or trade journals, books, government reports, etc.

2.2 Advantages of Print Resources

- Its can be used at any location.
- Most students find it more convenient to use printing materials for reading.
- Print materials can be created and duplicated at low cost.
- Many distance learning courses can take advantage of existing textbooks, thus saving time and money in creating custom materials.

2.3. Disadvantages of Print Resources

- Printing sources do not provide interaction.
- The print source is static and not suitable for teaching languages and visual concepts.
- If learners are non-readers or language skills are required, print sources will not be effective.
- It takes more time to reach readers through print sources than e-sources.

3. E-resources

3.1 Meaning

E-resources are materials in digital format accessible electronically, such as e-journal, e-books, online databases in varied digital formats, Adobe Acrobat documents (.pdf), WebPages (.htm, .html, .asp etc) and more.

3.2 Advantages of E-resources

- E-resources can be accessed anytime and anywhere.
- Easy to use.
- Additional e-journals link facility.
- Quick access to desired information.
- Information can be accessed with multimedia like Video, animation, sound, graphical form etc.
- Time saving.
- Cheaper than print sources.
- Provides multi-access facility to users.
- Helps to reduce the workload of library staff.
- Storage location questions do not arise.

3.3 Disadvantages of E-resources

- Initially high infrastructure and installation cost.
- Need of special equipment to access.
- More causes concern about copyright.
- Staff training is required.
- Unfamiliar with retrieval of the e-resources.
- Possibility of unawareness of relevant resources among users.
- Inconvenient and un-comfortable in reading.

4. Print Resources for Law Students

4.1 Law Books

A book is a number of pieces of paper, usually with words printed on them, which are fastened together and fixed inside a cover of stronger paper or cardboard. All types of text books and reference books related to law can be termed as law books. A textbook is a book containing facts about a particular subject that is used by people studying that subject. Reference books include dictionaries, encyclopedias, thesauri, directories, and other materials providing general information about a variety of subjects. All books that provide legal information can be called law books.

4.2 Monographs

A Monograph has some common characteristics with books and review (survey) papers. A monograph is a special type of book written on a single specialized topic, devoted mainly for research works; could pose some unsolved problems and may provide detailed explanation of some research papers. So, it is like a big survey paper, but it does not appear in journals; it rather appears the way most books appear. A book is written works on a broad range of topics belonging usually to the same subject area.

4.3 Commission Reports

Law Commission of India is an executive body established by an order of the Government of India. Its major function is to work for legal reform. Its membership primarily comprises legal experts, who are entrusted a mandate by the Government. The commission is established for a fixed tenure and works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice. Reports with amendments to the law are published by this commission, which is known as a commission reports.

4.4 Government Publications

Governments or their agencies or subdivisions collect, produce, and distribute of information. They generate statistical, demographic, economic, and geospatial information, and publish documents such as laws, regulations, executive orders, and other public records of legislative, judicial, and executive decisions and activities.

4.5 legal Journals

Journal refers to a publication on a specific discipline or area of study that comprises of scholarly articles, book reviews and editorial matter. It consists of a collection of articles, which are well researched, scholarly written and refereed. The articles usually begin with an abstract and contain references. Further, the articles are always fact and evidence-based. So, all such journals which are related to law can be called law journals.

4.6 Magazines

A magazine is a form of a periodical press publication, often geared to general as well as the special audience, whose articles are written by staff writers or freelancers. The articles are well researched and authentic, as the information is collected from different sources and transformed into stories and reports.

4.7 Newspapers

Traditionally newspapers are printed on newsprint paper, usually appear without a cover, folded rather than bound together, with a masthead, and are normally larger than 297 mm x 420 mm in size.

5. E-resources for law Students

5.1 E-books

E-books are nothing but the electronic version of printed books. In addition to textual matters the e-books consist of hyperlinks, search facilities and multimedia capabilities. E-books compilers compile also the source files into an easy to distribute file format like HTML, PDF and RTF files. In other words, e-books have electronic text and that text is showed to the readers visually. The electronic text is saved into a floppy disk, transferred into a CD-ROM, downloaded from the Internet or built into a palm – sized digital reader project.

5.2 E-Journals

There is main three types of E- Journals- Online Journals, Offline Journal and Network Journal. A journal contains intellectual works of the researchers relating to current information on a particular subject field. An e-journal is processed, published and distributed all over the world by electronic network. Electronic journals have helped publishers and scholars to disseminate information much more quickly than was previously possible. Initially, electronic journals were seen by many as a passing fad.

5.3 E-Magazines

An E-Magazine is an electronic version of a magazine that can be read on a computer, tablet, or mobile device. Some online magazines distributed through the World Wide Web call themselves webzines. An ezine (also spelled e-zine) is a more specialized term appropriately used for small magazines and

newsletters distributed by any electronic method, for example, by electronic mail. Some social groups may use the terms cyberzine and hyperzine when referring to electronically distributed resources.

5.4 E-Newspapers

E-newspaper is a newspaper published as an electronic document on a computer network, which is typically a digital version of a print newspaper.

5.5 E-Judgements

Judgment is an important decision by a court or other tribunal in resolving a dispute. A judgment is the final part of a court case. Judgments that are published electronically can be called electronic judgments. There are also many free websites that provide information on important judgments of the Supreme Court, High Court, etc.

5.6 E-Case Summaries

Case Summary means general information on a case dealt with either by Eurojust or OLAF and describing the main features of elements of the case, but without containing any personal data. Such case summaries which are available in electronic form can be called e-case summaries.

5.7 Legal Databases

Electronic fee-based legal databases provider

Lexis Nexis- Lexis Nexis is one of the leading providers of comprehensive information and business solutions to professionals in a variety of areas—legal, risk management, corporate, government, law enforcement, accounting and academic. The database provides access to 5 billion searchable documents from more than 32,000 legal, news and business sources.

Westlaw- Westlaw is Thompson West's online legal research service. It provides quick, easy access to a collection of statutes, case law materials, public records, and other legal resources, journals and law reviews published from all around the world. The primary legal materials are available on jurisdictions of UK, USA and Commonwealth countries.

Manupatra- Manupatra is an Indian legal information database comprising legal and business module. It includes case updates from the Supreme Court and all High courts, orders of tribunals, 1100 Central Acts with all amendments incorporated, notification circulars of 36 Government of India ministries including SEBI and RBI updated daily, full-text of Bills in Parliament and ordinances, agreements and drafts, committee reports, stamp duty, court fees, court rules, etc.

INDLAW- INDLAW is an Internet provider of research modules relating to Indian legal, tax, business and regulatory issues. Indlaw is part of the Indian law online project which was launched in April 1997 as a collaborative exercise between professionals and academicians based in U.K, and in India to build an electronic legal library to enable solicitors, advocates, students and clients to have access to information on various primary and secondary legal documents like the constitutional texts, parliamentary debates, case law, parliamentary and state enactments and delegated legislation in both India and the U.K.

E-Jurix- E-jurix is a collection of law information in India covering more than 2, 5,000 full-text judgments. It covers all Supreme Court, High Court and Tribunal decisions reported till now for the modules covered.

Hein Online- Hein Online is an image-based collection of legal periodicals. Each volume starts from volume one. Most of the titles are from USA and UK. Legal Pundits is an Internet based legal and regulatory information services

World Bank Resource Online- World Bank e-Library is an electronic portal of the World Bank's full-text collection of books, reports and other documents on social and economic development.

5.8 Research Database

A database is an organized collection of data, generally stored and accessed electronically from a computer system. Research databases enable you to see what has been published in the area you are

researching. They contain detailed records of thousands of journal articles, book references and conference proceedings. These records usually include the article title, authors, abstract (a brief summary), keywords (to enable your search to find it) and more.

6. Conclusion

The library of law colleges, like other institutions, faces various challenges with the rapid rate of technological as well as constant change. The mission of the Law Library is the same, but the medium of accomplishing that goal have changed. Therefore, law college librarians should evaluate the quality of print and electronic information and act as key participants in the mission of their organizations. In addition, in today's rapidly evolving technological environment, law college librarians must be proactive in delivering information to users faster with law enforcement or amendment.

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