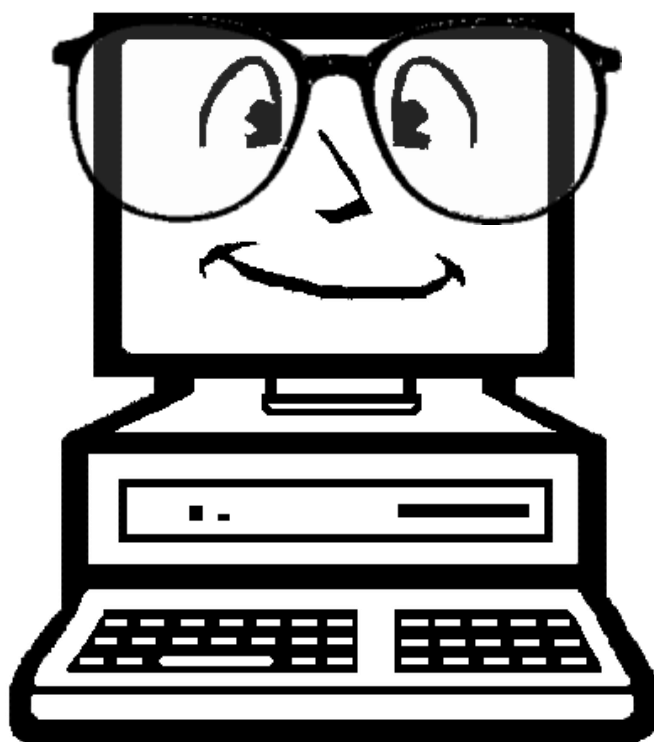


***Reference Services Division
Presents***



**DIY Legal
& Consumer Research**

Legal Research

1. Research Process

Legal Information Services to the Public (LISP)

www.aallnet.org/sis/lisp/research.htm

Excellent guide to legal research for laymen from the American Association of Law Libraries.

2. General Resources

Black's Law Dictionary

Reference Desk: 340.03 Blacks

Wex Legal Dictionary & Encyclopedia

www.law.cornell.edu/wex

Free, authoritative online legal dictionary and encyclopedia.

American Bar Association Law Info

http://www.americanbar.org/portals/public_resources.html

Comprehensive legal info for consumers. Lawyer referrals, legal self-help, criminal justice info and more.

FindLaw

<http://www.findlaw.com>

Free legal info, access to California and Federal Codes, Constitution and court cases.

Gale Legal Forms

http://smpl.org/Online_Databases_By_Subject.aspx

Up-to-date selection of popular legal forms for all fifty states. Includes legal dictionary and attorney directory.

Hieros Gamos

www.hg.org

Links to foreign, state and federal legal resources, articles and lawyer referrals.

3. Municipal Government Resources

Santa Monica City Government

www.smgov.net

Information about local government and programs

Los Angeles City Government

www.lacity.org/index.htm#Menu

Official website of the city of Los Angeles

County of Los Angeles

www.lacounty.info/wps/portal/lac

Official website of the County of Los Angeles

4. California State Government Resources

California Code

General Reference: 343.078 California

State of California

<http://www.ca.gov/>

Official State Government website

California Courts Self Help Center

www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm

User friendly site with links to forms, legal issues by topics, court locations and more. Available in Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese.

Law Help California

<http://lawhelpcalifornia.org/CA/index.cfm>

Legal help for low income Californians. Forms, referrals, legal self-help and more.

5. Federal Government Resources

US Federal Code

General Reference: 378.3 Federal

Federal Digital System (FDsys)

www.gpo.gov/fdsys

Access to the Federal Register, US Code, Congressional bills, hearings, records, budgets and other Federal documents.

Federal Forms

<http://search.usa.gov/forms>

Forms for most Federal agencies including IRS.

United States Patent and Trademark Office

<http://www.uspto.gov>

Search/apply for patents and trademarks

6. Community Resources**LA County Law Library**

<http://www.lalawlibrary.org/default.aspx>

“Committed to providing the best possible resources for both the legal community and the public community to engage in legal research”

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

<http://www.lafla.org>

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles offers free civil legal services, advocacy, and representation to low-income people in LA.

LAFLA's Self Help Center

Santa Monica Courthouse

1725 Main St., Room 210

Santa Monica, CA 904 01

Mon-Thurs: 9 am-noon, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm Fri: 9 am - noon

Legal Grind

www.legalgrind.com

Low cost legal advice and referrals.

Consumer Research

1. Cars

Consumer Reports New & Used Car Buying Guides

Reference Desk :629.2

Car Detective

<http://cardetective.com>

Enter car's VIN to learn about potential problems.

Safe Car

www.safercar.gov

Information on safe driving, crash test results, automotive recalls and more.

2. Shopping

Consumer Reports Magazine

Available at the Reference Desk and online via Masterfile Database

Bookfinder

www.bookfinder.com

Compare prices of online booksellers. Good for rare books

Consumer Search

<http://www.consumersearch.com>

User friendly site reviews products and services

Craigslist

<http://losangeles.craigslist.org>

Good for finding used vehicles, electronics, furniture and more.

Google Product Search

<http://www.google.com/>

Quick and easy comparison shopping and reviews

3. Personal Finance

Investment FAQ

<http://invest-faq.com>

Frequently asked questions (and answers) about investing.

Investopedia Dictionary of Financial Terms

www.investopedia.com/dictionary#axzz1ZAYUCX2T

Free online dictionary. Also includes articles and tutorials.

Historical Stock Quotes and Charts

<http://bigcharts.marketwatch.com/historical/>

Morning Investment Research Center

http://smpl.org/Online_Databases_By_Subject.aspx

An all-inclusive database providing comprehensive data and analysis of more than 35,000 investments, including stocks, mutual funds and other types of investment.

Yahoo Finance

<http://finance.yahoo.com/>

Financial news, stock quotes and more.

National Foundation For Credit Counseling

www.debtadvice.org

Free credit counseling for consumers