

[Washington County Law Library](#)

OREGON LEGAL RESEARCH RESOURCES NOT ONLINE OR THROUGH FEE-BASED DATABASES ONLY

(Updated: February 6, 2013)

(NOTE: Internet links change. Use a search engine to find the new one or ask a librarian.)

Top Level Links****: [OREGON GOV](#), [OSB](#), [OJD](#), [LEGISLATURE](#), [ARCHIVES](#)

The following is a list of Oregon and U.S. legal research materials used by lawyers, judges, law clerks, judicial assistants, paralegals, legislators, law students, etc. Some of the resources listed below are in paper format or CD-ROM only (*thus, on-site access only*) or are online only to Oregon attorneys or other subscribers, e.g. those who subscribe to OSB BarBooks, Westlaw, Lexis, HeinOnline, Fastcase, Casemaker (*bar associations only*), LoisLaw, VersusLaw, or other legal research database.

Researchers who need out-of-print, superseded, unpublished, rare, fugitive, or other elusive documents, please contact a law librarian who can recommend search options.

Questions or Comments? Please contact us at lawlibrary@co.washington.or.us

NOTE:

- **Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS)** are online at the [Oregon Legislature's website](#). Superseded ORSs are beginning to appear on the Legislature's website, under [Selected Archives of the Oregon Revised Statutes](#), although one can use [Oregon Laws dot org](#) or the [Internet Archive](#) to find superseded ORSs formerly posted at the Legislature's website.
- **Oregon laws (session law)**: Online back to 1999 on the [Legislature's website](#). Session law from *Special Sessions* must be consulted until codified in the ORS. (E.g. 2010 Special Session laws are not published in an ORS until the 2011 ORS is codified and published in early 2012.)
- **Oregon cases** prior to 1997 are not at the OJD website. Oregon appellate cases online at the [OJD website](#) are unofficial and not searchable except by case name or (partial) citation so the collection is of limited use to the legal researcher. (*Citations and cases are not final and official until the print volumes are issued.*)
- Few **Oregon Circuit Courts** publish trial court judicial opinions online, although noteworthy cases may appear on a Circuit Court's website. Otherwise, trial court opinions are available from the judge or case file or appended to an appellate court brief, in the *Excerpt of Record* (*assuming there was an appeal and an Excerpt of Record*). Prior to 2011, one could locate the *Excerpt of Record* in microfilmed or bound briefs' collections (and in the case files at OJD in Salem). However, the last we heard (*this could change*), the *Excerpts of Record* are not scanned by OJD, nor are copies of briefs sent to the Multnomah Law Library or the State of Oregon Law Library, which previously bound them. For now, *Excerpts of Record* are available only from the OJD Appellate Records department in Salem (*per page copy charge*). In the future, they may become available via [eCourt](#). [See also the *How to Find Oregon Appellate Court Briefs* guide at the [Washington County Law Library website](#).]
- **Oregon's eCourt**, like [PACER](#), is a court document filing service, not a legal research database. It will make complaints, briefs, motions, opinions, orders, and other filed court documents available online, to subscribers. It will not be a free service, any more than PACER is. That is, [eCourt](#) may, or may not, in the future offer some free access to court documents.

DOCUMENT/BOOK TITLE/SERVICE	Online, open source, free and/or public access?	ONLINE TO OSB MEMBERS via Fastcase and/or OSB BarBooks, or member website?	ONLINE TO PAID SUBSCRIBERS?
American Bar Association (ABA) Books/Monographs	No	No	No (ABA has some eBooks, but not a searchable database of their publications (like Nolo's EBSCO or OSB's BarBooks). Some ABA article & essay monographs are republished in fee-based subscription journals.)
Building codes, current	Some. Most under publisher copyright. Check with gov't entity's code enforcement division.	No	Yes
Building codes, superseded	Some at Public Resource dot org . Others under publisher copyright. Check with gov't entity's code enforcement division	No	Yes
Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) materials (course materials and audio) for credit from the Oregon State Bar (OSB) and Oregon Law Institute (OLI).	No. Some Oregon law libraries have a CLE collection , but in print and CD-ROM only.	Yes, some for purchase, at OSB or OLI websites.	Yes, and from other private and public CLE publishers.
Dictionaries, legal	Some online, but the one required by the OJD Appellate Courts Style Manual is not free online, unless ***	No	Yes ***
Encyclopedias, legal	No *** (Am Jur, CJS, Gale Encyclopedia of American Law)	No.	Lexis, Westlaw, Gale.
Governor, Oregon, Executive Orders	See OAR, Oregon Governor, below.		
Legal books & treatises	Some *** and if outside of copyright or open source or Creative Commons copyright, thru Google Scholar, SCRIBD, etc. (Nolo publishes some books free.)	OSB imprint titles on BarBooks.	Legal publishers have online versions of some of the treatises they publish, though usually current editions only.

DOCUMENT/BOOK TITLE/SERVICE	Online, open source, free and/or public access?	ONLINE TO OSB MEMBERS via Fastcase and/or OSB BarBooks, or member website?	ONLINE TO PAID SUBSCRIBERS?
Legal forms, Oregon	Some *** Oregon Family Law forms & other court approved legal forms. See OJD and Circuit Court websites	Yes. BarBooks.	Westlaw, Lexis, OCDLA, etc.
Legal forms, general	Some *** See OLR blog post on the Legal Forms Pyramid.	No	Westlaw, Lexis, Gale, etc.
Legal journals*	Some *** and open source, Creative Commons, etc. Use a search engine or consult a law librarian.	No	Lexis, Westlaw, Gale, HeinOnline, EBSCO, among others. Publisher collections vary in coverage.
Legal newsletters	Some and ***. Some OSB Section newsletters and other bar association newsletters are available.	Yes	Yes. ABA, Lexis, Westlaw, legal newsletter publishers, etc.
Legal newspapers	Current (7-14 days) at newspaper website or headlines only.*** See also OLR blog.	No	Lexis, Westlaw, Bloomberg, newspaper publisher websites, etc.
Legal treatises	Some ***	Oregon treatises, through OSB BarBooks, but not private legal publisher treatises.	Lexis, Westlaw, BNA, and other publishers of legal treaties.
OAR: Oregon Bulletin	Yes (current, online archive of past year. Sec of State Archives copy for \$10 + .75/page)	No	Yes. Lexis, 2000 to present Westlaw, current
OAR: Oregon Governor Executive Orders	Yes, 1995 to present. (In print in the Bulletin, but see above.)	No	Yes. Lexis, 2000 to present

DOCUMENT/BOOK TITLE/SERVICE	Online, open source, free and/or public access?	ONLINE TO OSB MEMBERS via Fastcase and/or OSB BarBooks, or member website?	ONLINE TO PAID SUBSCRIBERS?
Oregon appellate court briefs	Some *** and at SOLL (<i>also, see guide at Wash Co Law Lib</i>). Not all briefs on the public website and, unlike previously microfilmed and bound briefs, extracts of record are not included.	No	Westlaw, Lexis (expect briefs run about \$25/per brief, but depends on contract terms)
<i>Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR)</i>	Yes (but current only at SoS Archives site) Multnomah Law Library has in print or for \$\$ at SoS Archives.	No	Yes. Lexis, 1999 to present Westlaw, 2002 to present
<i>Oregon Attorney General's Administrative Law Manual and Uniform and Model Rules of Procedure under the APA</i>	No. Print only. (Some libraries will archive superseded editions.)	No.	No. Can purchase print from the Oregon AG office website.
<i>Oregon Attorney General's Public Records and Meetings Manual</i>	Yes, but current edition only. (Some libraries will archive superseded editions.)	No.	Yes. Can purchase current print, CD, or PDF version from AG's Public Records website.
Oregon Bureau of Labor & Industry (BOLI) Final Orders.	Selected orders , 1996-present, on BOLI website .	No	Not on Lexis or Westlaw.
Oregon Circuit Court documents, e.g. complaints, motions, orders, etc.	No . Only available in print from Court Clerk. (Sometimes can be located on subscription services before available to the public at courthouse.)	No.	Yes, in subscription databases. Few, if any, Oregon public law libraries have these commercial court records databases, due to excessive cost. (<i>E.g. a copy of a complaint can cost from \$25 to hundreds, depending on date and length.</i>)
(Oregon) City and County codes, current	Some (mostly medium and large jurisdictions)	No	Westlaw, Lexis ***
(Oregon) City and County codes, superseded	Rarely (unless jurisdiction's website out of date)	No	Westlaw, Lexis ***
Oregon Court dockets (OJIN)	Qualified yes . Free at courthouse and some county law libraries. ***	No	Yes, Lexis, Westlaw, etc.

DOCUMENT/BOOK TITLE/SERVICE	Online, open source, free and/or public access?	ONLINE TO OSB MEMBERS via Fastcase and/or OSB BarBooks, or member website?	ONLINE TO PAID SUBSCRIBERS?
Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Assoc (OCDLA) publications	No	No	OCDLA members only. Some law libraries are subscribers, but can purchase print books only, not CLEs.
State of Oregon death indexes	No	No	State of Oregon Dept. of Human Resources, Health Division, Center for Health Statistics . Also, check Secretary of State website for data-access restrictions.
Oregon DOJ publications and AG Opinions	Some. At DOJ website. AG Opinions, 1997 forward at DOJ website . Pre-1997 in print or *** Pre-1940 in print only.	Yes (<i>AG opinions, 1940 to present on Fastcase?</i>)	*** Westlaw, Lexis (back to 1940)
Oregon Employment Appeals Board (EAB), pre-2000	Some. EAB has decisions only back to 2000. Not at Archives, either. [Nowhere?]	No	No
Oregon jury instructions	No *** Print & online OSB BarBooks at subscriber law libraries.	OSB Barbooks	OSB BarBooks subscription.
Oregon jury verdict reports	No (print only in selected counties)	No	Jury Verdicts Northwest subscription ***
Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) decisions	Current. 1990 to present on LUBA's website .	No	Lexis and Westlaw coverage from 1980. Appears to be a delay before latest vol. is available.
Oregon Laws (session Law)	Yes , 1999 to present at OR Legislature website.	No	HeinOnline, 1843 to 2009 Lexis & Westlaw (current if not yet codified)
Oregon legislative history 2006 - present	No. Tape logs online, but not minutes, exhibits or bill files . Only at State Archives .	No	Lexis has ORS to 1995. Westlaw has ORS to 1989. But no minutes, exhibits.
Oregon legislative history 1991 - 2005	Some. Minutes online from State Archives website , 1991 thru 2005. No exhibits. Complete bill files only at Archives.	No	Lexis has ORS to 1995. Westlaw has ORS to 1989. But minutes, exhibits are not online.

DOCUMENT/BOOK TITLE/SERVICE	Online, open source, free and/or public access?	ONLINE TO OSB MEMBERS via Fastcase and/or OSB BarBooks, or member website?	ONLINE TO PAID SUBSCRIBERS?
Oregon legislative history 1971-1995	Some. Microfilm exhibits and minutes at State Archives and selected law libraries. But not complete bill files, which are only at the State Archives .	No	Lexis has ORS to 1995. Westlaw has ORS to 1989. Minutes, exhibits are not online prior to 1995.
Oregon legislative history Pre-1971	No , but see <i>Oregon Laws & ORS</i> . See also the Oregon State Archives website .	No	HeinOnline: <i>Oregon Laws</i> from 1841 to present, but no exhibits, minutes, bill files.
Oregon Legislature: bills	Current. 1995 to present on Legislature's website. Previous bills available in print only at State Archives .	Yes, from 1995, via Legislature's website .	Current bills on Lexis and Westlaw. ***
Oregon municipal codes, superseded	Few (unless jurisdiction's website out of date)	No	Yes, selective.
Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) (current & superseded)	Current and recent years online at Legislature website. *** (Earlier years beginning to appear at that website as Washington Co. Law Library scans them.)	No	Yes. Lexis, to 1995. Westlaw, to 1989.
Oregon state and local budgets	Many , but not at line-item level. See Oregon Transparency website . Public records requests sometimes required. Check with Agency or Department.	No	?
Oregon State Bar (OSB) practice materials	Some *** OSB BarBooks, with current pubs, but not superseded or CLE course books. Additional materials on their website, in front of firewall.	Yes, current practice books, via BarBooks.	Yes, OSB BarBooks. Westlaw & Lexis have OSB Bulletin archives
Oregon State Bar (OSB) OSB Bulletin Index	No index (but individual full-text issues are available)	No	Lexis & Westlaw

DOCUMENT/BOOK TITLE/SERVICE	Online, open source, free and/or public access?	ONLINE TO OSB MEMBERS via Fastcase and/or OSB BarBooks, or member website?	ONLINE TO PAID SUBSCRIBERS?
Oregon State Bar Disciplinary reports	Yes	Yes	N/A
Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) " <i>Civil Process Manual</i> "	No. There is a CD-ROM version from OSSA (2010 revision cost \$350). Some law libraries have it.	No	No (CD-ROM only)
Oregon Workers Compensation Board Decisions	Current, 1996-present on WC website (but pre-2002 decisions do not have Van Natta citations)	No	Lexis and Westlaw.
Oregonian & other general interest newspapers	Current (7-14 days); Internet archive. ***	No	Lexis, Westlaw, Dialog, EBSCO, and other news database aggregators.
PECBA / ERB ** Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act / Employment Relations Board	Current: ERB orders, 2002 forward, online at ERB website . "Interest arbitration awards" from June 1995 to present, but no index, digest, or search engine.	No	PECBR Online (full database). Selected decisions on Casemaker (not available except to state bar association subscribers - not Oregon), and BNA employment law databases.
FEDERAL LAWS (Selected sources)	Online, open source, free and/or public access	ONLINE TO OSB MEMBERS via Fastcase & BarBooks	ONLINE TO PAID SUBSCRIBERS
U. S. Code - official	Yes, but not current. Providers and ***	Yes	Yes. USCA (Westlaw) & USCS (Lexis), on their respective publisher databases.
U. S. Supreme Court Opinions	Yes	Yes	Yes, various legal research databases.
U.S. Supreme Court Briefs and related documents (e.g. cert petitions)	Selected at U.S.S.Ct. website. Others at SCOTUS blog, and selectively as posted on blogs and websites.	No	Yes. Lexis & Westlaw.
U. S. Appellate Court decisions	Yes. Various providers and ***	Yes	Yes, Lexis & Westlaw
U. S. District & Bankruptcy Courts	Yes. Various providers and ***	Yes	Yes, Lexis and Westlaw
U.S. Federal Appellate Court briefs	Some. See law librarian research guides to appellate court briefs.	No	Yes. Westlaw, Lexis, and PACER subscription. (None comprehensive.)
U.S. Congressional Research Service reports	Selective or ***	No	Yes

DOCUMENT/BOOK TITLE/SERVICE	Online, open source, free and/or public access?	ONLINE TO OSB MEMBERS via Fastcase and/or OSB BarBooks, or member website?	ONLINE TO PAID SUBSCRIBERS?
FINRA and (former) NASD decisions	Summaries are online.	No	Yes

KEY:

* **Law journal articles:** There are tens of thousands of journals and hundreds of thousands (maybe millions) of possible articles researchers need, many of which, though not all, are indexed by a variety of publishers. Neither the law library nor the public library could possibly have all databases or print editions of the journals from which researchers request articles, nor do libraries have all the indexes. Libraries have developed interlibrary loan and other types of manual and automated sharing methods to serve the needs of researchers.

** **PECBR** doesn't have all cases online and has a per-page copy charge. (*Casemaker* has many of the PECBR cases on its database, but only state bar associations and law schools may purchase subscriptions to the service.)

*** Online and "free" only if the individual or library has a paid database subscription.

**** **URLs change.** You may need to use a search engine to find the new hyperlink. Or, contact the agency directly or a librarian for assistance.

Compiled by Laura Orr
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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

The [AALL County Law Library Standards, 2009](#), includes the following recommended list of legal publications.

The titles underlined below are either not available online at all or only through a subscription legal research database or only at law libraries.

VII. County Public Law Library Collection

A. Publications of the county public law library's home state:

1. A complete collection of the published decisions of state courts.
2. Current annotated set of state/local court rules. If space permits, a collection of superseded state/local court rules.
3. Current statutory compilation, annotated if available. If space permits, a complete set of older statutory compilations and superseded volumes of current compilations.
4. A complete set of session laws, including a current session law service, if available.
5. The current state constitution as well as various historical versions of the constitution, and any published debates/proceedings of state constitutional conventions.
6. Local, county and municipal codes, charters, by-laws or ordinances within area served.
7. Current state administrative code, if available.
8. Published decisions of state administrative agencies.
9. A complete set of Attorney General Opinions.
10. The state legal encyclopedia, if available.
11. Significant state-oriented legal treatises and practice materials.
12. Selected legal periodicals and newspapers.
13. State and local bar publications and ethics opinions.
14. The state digest (In Oregon, the digest is a Thomson Reuters publication, available in print and online through Westlaw.) One can also search Oregon case law through Lexis and other databases, but not using the West Key Number Digest system.
15. A citation service, such as Shepard's or Keycite.
16. State-oriented reference tools including state government manual, legal/social services directories, city and/or county directory.
17. Significant state and local court publications including, but not limited to, annual reports, judicial statistics, court and general legal forms, policy statements, and bench books.

B. Publications covering federal law:

1. Official or another reporter of the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States.
2. A U.S. Supreme Court digest.
3. At least one annotated version of the United States Code.
4. U.S. Statutes at Large or other commercial federal session law service.
5. All published decisions of the U.S. District Courts, U.S. Courts of Appeal, and U.S. Bankruptcy Courts.
6. Federal court rules and forms.
7. Local Federal rules and forms for courts within jurisdiction.
7. Federal case digest.
8. Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations.
9. A citation service, such as Shepard's or Keycite, for reports and codes held by the library.
10. U.S. Government Manual.

C. General United States publications:

1. Units of the National Reporter System, as needed.
2. American Digest System units, as needed.
3. Current statutory compilations for contiguous states, as needed.
4. American Jurisprudence 2d and/or Corpus Juris Secundum.

5. American Law Reports and American Law Reports Federal.
6. General legal forms set.
7. ABA/BNA Lawyers Manual of Professional Conduct.
8. American Law Institute Restatements.
9. Uniform Laws Annotated.
10. A basic collection of legal texts, treatises, practice materials and looseleaf services of contemporary value on subjects of interest to the legal community and the public.
11. A broad selection of legal periodical titles.
12. A legal periodical index.
13. A citation service, such as Shepard's or Keycite, for case reporter and code units held by library.
14. Legal reference tools including dictionaries, a thesaurus, judicial biographical and legal abbreviations directories, legal quotations compilations and Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory.
15. General reference tools, including an unabridged dictionary, atlas, and statistical abstracts.
16. A collection of general legal and self-help titles on subjects of interest to the public and pro se litigant.
(Note: *Nolo* is digitizing a number of their book titles, but they are available only through EBSCO, a database that is not part of the [Oregon Statewide Database Licensing Program](#) collection.)