

Free and Public
Oregon Legal Research Sources

Compiled by State of Oregon Law Library, January 2017

Courts

Fastcase

Fastcase is a legal database with a complete case law database and advanced search tools. The automated BadLaw bot flags cases with negative history but is not a reliable citator. The SOLL account includes access to complete HeinOnline session laws, attorney general opinions, regulations and court rules.

- Oregon State Bar member access - <https://www.osbar.org/fastcase>
- The State of Oregon Law Library public access - <http://soll.libguides.com/index/fastcase>

Google Scholar

Google Scholar has a national caselaw database containing a partial database of state and federal case law. The database only contains Oregon caselaw from 1950 forward. The search tools are rudimentary and mirror a google search bar.

- <https://scholar.google.com/>

CourtListener

Produced by the non-profit Free Law Project Court Listener provides free sophisticated search access to federal and state case law. CourtListener provides extensive coverage of federal courts but incomplete coverage of older state case law. They do provide access to their data through an open API paving the way for novel uses of their database.

- <https://www.courtlistener.com>

Ravel

A data analytics suite aimed at case law and statutes. This site provides free entry level access to various legal data analytics tools. Ravel is the private partner for Harvard's Caselaw Access project. Coverage for Oregon (and most states) goes back to 1950.

- <https://www.ravellaw.com>

SCOTUSBlog

In depth analysis and swift updates and current US Supreme Court cases. This is a excellent stop to track an ongoing case or the current goings on at the court.

- <http://www.scotusblog.com/>

State of Oregon Law Library Digital Repository

The State of Oregon Law Library hosts a digital repository of Oregon documents. The repository is in the process of moving to a new updated site. New collections will be added to the updated site in the future. The current repository includes:

- Oregon Appellate Brief Collection 2006+ (Old Site) - <http://digitallawlibrary.oregon.gov/>
- Oregon Attorney General Public Records Orders (New Site) - <http://cdm17027.contentdm.oclc.org/>

PACER and RECAP

PACER is the official online portal for public access to recent Federal Court documents. PACER charges per page and an account is needed but fees less than 15\$ a quarter are waived. RECAP is a program of the Free-Law Project. It consists of a browser extension that provides links to free documents in the RECAP database and anonymously uploads downloaded PACER documents. They also now provide a web interface to search their database of federal court documents.

- PACER - <https://www.pacer.gov/>
- RECAP - <https://free.law/recap/>

National Archives

The National Archives is often the only source for older federal case documents. If you cannot access the documents using PACER you should request the documents from the appropriate National Archives location.

- Court Records Locations - <https://www.archives.gov/research/court-records>
- Seattle National Archives Federal Records Center (Oregon Records) - <https://www.archives.gov/frc/seattle/>

Legislative

Oregon State Legislature's Website

The legislature's website contains a number of current and historical legal documents. These include the current and all past editions of the Oregon Revised Statutes, the Oregon Laws volumes since 1999 and the House and Senate journals.

- Current ORS - https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/Pages/ORS.aspx
- 1999 – 2013 ORS - https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/Pages/ORSarchive.aspx
- 1953 – 1997 ORS - <https://archives.oregonlegislature.gov/Pages/ORS-Archives.aspx>
- Oregon Laws - https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/Pages/Oregon-Laws.aspx
- House Journals and Misc Documents - <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/chief-clerk/Pages/publications.aspx>
- Senate Journals and Misc Documents - <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/secretary-of-senate>

Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS)

OLIS is a state run repository of legislative materials starting with the 2007 regular legislative session. This site contains an increasing amount of materials. You can find the text of all the bills since 2007. For more recent sessions audio/video of committee hearings as well as submitted documents are available.

- <https://olis.leg.state.or.us>

Oregon Secretary of State Archives

The Oregon Secretary of State Archives division holds all the official records of the legislature and the executive branch. This collection includes committee documents, original bills and administrative rule filings. The Archive's web site has a number of helpful guides to finding their resources. Archives reference archivists are available to help you. They can even prepare a legislative history for a fee and they make all prepared legislative histories available for free.

- Archives - <http://sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/default.aspx>
- Legislative Bill Tracings - http://sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/records/legislative_tracings.aspx
- Online Legislative Tape Logs and Audio Recordings - http://sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/records/legislative_minutes.aspx

Oregon State Library Voter Pamphlet Project

The Oregon State Library has digitized a historical collection of Oregon State Voter Pamphlets. These run for general elections from 1904 to the present. They are an especially good source of information on ballot measures and the published arguments.

- http://library.state.or.us/databases/subjects/Voters_Pamphlet.php

FDSys

This site is the U.S. Government Publishing Office's massive online repository of digitized federal documents. This site hosts federal documents ranging from the United States Code to Federal Court opinions. If you need a document produced by any part of the federal government this is a good place to start.

- FDSys - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>
- GovInfo FDSys' beta next generation interface - <https://www.govinfo.gov/>

U.S. Congress

Congress's website has the Congressional Record, as well as information on recent bills and legislation, committees and committee reports, treaty documents, and more.

- <https://www.congress.gov/>

Office of the Law Revision Counsel

This office is responsible for the codification of federal laws. They also have some useful tools for use in researching federal law.

- Popular Name Tool - <http://uscode.house.gov/popularnames/popularnames.htm>
- U.S.C. Classification Tables - <http://uscode.house.gov/classification/tables.shtml>

Law Librarians' Society of Washington D.C. (LLSDC) Legislative Source Book

An excellent and continually updated list of federal legislative sources and guides. This guide is especially helpful if you are interested in researching federal legislative histories or the federal administrative rulemaking process.

- <http://www.llsdc.org/sourcebook>

Department of Justice Legislative Histories

Many prepared legislative histories are behind HeinOnline or other paywalls. However the USDOJ has made several of their excellent histories available for free.

- <https://www.justice.gov/jmd/ls/legislative-histories>

Uniform Law Commission

The Uniform Law Commission is also known as the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. The ULC has drafted uniform legislation for states since 1892. Their site contains an comprehensive database of ULI model laws as well as drafts and supporting documents for more recent model laws.

- <http://www.uniformlaws.org/>

Executive

Oregon Secretary of State

The Oregon Secretary of State is responsible for receiving Oregon regulatory findings. The SOS website has the most current Oregon Regulations. They also have copies of the Oregon Bulletin from 2003 onwards. If you need particular assistance finding a agencies' rules often the rule coordinator for that agency can help you. The SOS maintains a page of contact information for agency rule coordinators.

- Links to OAR and Oregon Bulletin - http://sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/oregon_administrative_rules.aspx
- State Agency Rules Coordinator Contacts - <http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/resources/coordinators.html>

Oregon Board List

Oregon has a *very large* number of boards and commissions. Their individual websites are fairly uneven but can provide some unique resources particular to their various functions.

- <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/admin/Pages/Board-List.aspx>

Regulations.gov

This is the Federal Government's main public site for researching and interacting with the government's rule making process. The site has the most current federal rules in addition to administrative adjudications and the related supporting documents. It is also where members of the public can comment electronically on proposed rules.

- <https://www.regulations.gov/>
- The GPO's daily updated edition of the Code of Federal Regulations - <http://www.ecfr.gov/>

Federal Register

This is the official cite of this massive federal publication. The executive agency filings are updated on a daily basis. Historical editions of the Federal Register documents are available since 1994.

- <https://www.federalregister.gov/>

Congressional Research Service Reports

The congressional research service provides congress with first rate research support. These reports are available only from third parties and there are several places around the internet where a resourceful researcher can find CRS reports. Below are listed a few resources for locating these reports.

- Archive-IT Searchable Database of CRS Reports - <https://archive-it.org/collections/1078>
- University of Washington Guide to finding CRS Reports - <https://lib.law.washington.edu/content/guides/crs>

General Legal and Non Law Sources

Georgetown Research Guides

Georgetown's research guides are excellent introductions to researching specialized legal topics. If you are looking for a good book on a new legal topic this site is a good place to look. Their legislative research guide is a good example what they have available.

- Legislative History Guide - http://guides.ll.georgetown.edu/legislative_history
- List of all guides - <http://guides.ll.georgetown.edu/home>
- A list of Oregon resources! - <http://guides.ll.georgetown.edu/oregon>

The Public Library of Law

This Fastcase site provides links to primary law sources. The site links to government sites for free access to various state and federal primary law.

- <http://www.plol.org/>

Cornell University's Legal Information Institute

Cornell University's LII provides extensive access to various primary law texts. These include codes, regulations, constitutions, court rules and the Uniform Commercial Code. They also have various articles aimed at a lay audience on various legal topics. They also host **Oyez** a site that makes SCOTUS oral arguments available to the public.

- LII - <https://www.law.cornell.edu/>
- Oyez - <https://www.oyez.org/>

NOLO

NOLO publishes a line of legal reference books aimed at non-lawyers. The NOLO books combine general advice with simple discussions of legal topics. These books are useful tools to use when discussing options with clients. The State of Oregon Law Library provides free access to these books through their website.

- <http://soll.libguides.com/index/nolo>

HathiTrust

HathiTrust is the result of collaboration between the Google Books project and various universities to

scan their libraries. The HathiTrust site provides a sophisticated search function and access to the Google Books Project's enormous library. This is a great place to find complete books which are out of copyright.

- <https://www.hathitrust.org/>

JSTOR

JSTOR is database of scholarly Journals and Books. While access to the full text of the resources is limited to subscribers researchers can use the abstracts to locate the articles from other sources such as the SSRN.

- <https://www.jstor.org/>

Social Science Research Network SSRN

This site is a popular repository of uploaded scholarly papers. This is not a journal is not a peer reviewed publication. However you can find free final drafts of papers published in other peer reviewed journals.

- <https://www.ssrn.com>

GPO's MetaLib

This page provides a search function that searched a staggering number of federal databases at once. This covers databases as diverse as the PubMed medical database and the US Patent Database. Be sure to check out the A-Z Resource List. That list is a excellent way to find federal technical data databases.

- Search Page - <https://metalib.gpo.gov>

PubMed

PubMed is NIH's National Library of Medicine's database of medical journals. This site searches a massive database of full text and abstract medical articles. If you are interested in finding current research on a medical topic PubMed is an excellent first stop.

- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/>

Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations

If you have ever run across an obscure or antique legal citation you know how difficult it can be to identify 19th century Massachusetts case reporters from a few letters. The Cardiff Index collects dozens of reference works on legal citations into one website. Just type in your citation or abbreviation and it

will list the possible matches.

- <http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/>

Your Public Library

Your local public library may have significant research resources available. These may include resources like HeinOnline's database of state and federal law, LegalTrac's collection of law articles, Legal Forms Library, or general research databases like EBSCO. It is a good idea to reach out to your local library and discover what resources they have available.

Historic Oregon Newspapers

This database is an ongoing project of the University of Oregon. It collects digitized historic Oregon newspapers from the 19th and early 20th century. This site is a good place to start when researching a matter of general public interest from this time period.

- <http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>

FindLaw for Legal Professionals

FindLaw is a general database of statutes, regulations and case law. However it also contains a large database of publicly available contracts organized by subject.

- <http://lp.findlaw.com/>

Google Data Studio

While not a database this data analytics tool is useful for working with data from other sources. If you need to analyze or present data in a useful and compelling way the Google Data Studio can produce a polished product fit for a professional presentation.

- <https://datastudio.google.com/>

Law Libraries

State of Oregon Law Library

Electronic resources, research guides, and online catalog.

- <http://soll.libguides.com/index>

University of Oregon Law School Library

- <http://library.uoregon.edu/law/libraryguides.html>

Lewis & Clark Law School Library

- <https://law.lclark.edu/library/>

Willamette College of Law Library

- <http://willamette.edu/law/longlib/index.html>

U.S. Courts of the Ninth Circuit Libraries

Local branches located in the Pioneer Circuit Courthouse and Mark O. Hatfield District Courthouse.

- <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/library/>

Oregon Council of County Law Libraries

Directory of county law libraries, online catalogs, and legal research resources.

- <http://www.oregoncountylawlibraries.org/>

Oregon Legal Research blog and website, created by Laura Orr, Washington County Law Librarian, retired.

- <http://www.oregonlegalresearch.com>