

The Rotten Side of Research: Battling Link Rot and Citation Translation in Law Libraries

Sara Sampson
Assistant Dean for Information Services
& Director of Law Library
sampson.8@osu.edu



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
MORITZ COLLEGE OF LAW

In citing to online sources, law is an outlier



MLA, APA & Chicago manuals generally have no format preference.

The Bluebook's preference for print materials

18.2 The Internet (p. 179)

The Bluebook requires the use and citation of traditional printed sources **when available**, unless there is a digital copy of the source available that is authenticated, official, or an exact copy of the printed source, as described in rule 18.2.1.

The rules that follow offer guidance in formatting Internet citations. Rule 18.2.1 lays out general principles applicable to all Internet citations. Rule 18.2.2 sets out rules for direct citations to Internet sources. E-mails should be treated as unpublished letters per rule 17.2.4.

18.2.1 General Internet Citation Principles

18.2.2 Citations to Internet Sources

18.2.1 General Internet Citation Principles (p. 180)

(a) Sources that can be cited as if to the original print source. When an authenticated, official, or exact copy of a source is available online, citation can be made as if to the original print source (without any URL information appended). Many states have begun to discontinue printed official legal resources, instead relying on online versions as the official resources for administrative or legislative documents. The federal government is also moving toward increasing access to online versions of legal documents, though it continues to publish official print versions.

(i) Authenticated documents. When citing to such materials, *The Bluebook* encourages citation to “authenticated” sources: those that use an encryption-based authentication method, such as a digital signature or public key infrastructure, to ensure the accuracy of the online source. Generally, an authenticated document will have a certificate or logo indicating that a government entity verified that the document is complete and unaltered.

(ii) Official versions. Some states have designated, either by legislation or other official mechanism, that the online source is the “official” source for a particular legal document. Some online publishers similarly make a distinction as to whether the document has been approved by, contributed by, or harvested from an official source by the content originator, designating such a document “official.” Generally, *The Bluebook* prefers citation to an authenticated source or, if none is available, to the “official” source.

(iii) Exact copies. An exact copy is one that is an unaltered copy of the printed source in a widely used format that preserves pagination and other attributes of the printed work (such as Adobe’s portable document format, or “PDF”).

The cost of citing to print greatly outweighs the benefits.

- Costs
 - Journal students must “translate” writer’s e-cite into p-cite
 - Purchasing and maintaining subscriptions
 - ILL costs to lending and borrowing libraries
 - Academic integrity
 - Lost opportunities
- Benefits
 - Print is predictably available

PDF = locked up law

- The *Bluebook’s* preference for print even extends to online sources.
- This boils down to a preference for PDF, which locks up the law.
 - PDFs are less nimble and can’t be manipulated like other types of data

So what can libraries do?

- Remind students (and faculty authors) that there is no *Bluebook* police
- Encourage use and citation of online sources
- Advocate for changes to the rules
 - Better newspaper rules in 20th
- Interpret the rules
 - ILL ≠ available
- What else?



6. LOCHNER IN CYBERSPACE: THE NEW ECONOMIC ORTHODOXY OF "RIGHTS MANAGEMENT"

Michigan Law Review | November, 1998 | 97 Mich. L. Rev. 462

I. The Convergence of Economic Imperatives and Natural Rights. 468 II. The New Conceptualism. 480 A. Constructing Consent. 481 B. Manufacturing Scarcity. 495 1. Transaction Costs and Common Resources. 497 2. Incentives and Redistribution. 504 III. On Modeling Information Markets. 515 A. Bargaining Power and Choice in Information

17. OIL AND GAS SPACING AND FORCED POOLING REQUIREMENTS: HOW STATES BALANCE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND LANDOWNER RIGHTS

University of Dayton Law Review | Summer, 2015 | 40 U. Dayton L. Rev. 47

I. INTRODUCTION. 47 II. THE HISTORY OF FORCED POOLING LAWS. 49 III. THE FORCED POOLING PROCESS. 51 IV. ANALYSIS OF EXISTING STATE LAWS. 53 A. Well Spacing Requirements. 54 B. Minimum Acreage Control Requirements. 58 C. Treatment of Non-consenting Landowners. 62 1. Free Ride States. 62 2. Silent States. 63 3. Risk Penalty States. 64 4. Option...

...He is the author and co-author of several books, including William and Meyers, Oil and Gas Law (5th ed. abridged Lexis Nexis 2013)...

...See Cal. Code Regs. § 1721.2 (Deering, LEXIS through Register 2014)...

18. TIPPING THE SCALES IN FAVOR OF CIVILIAN TAPING OF ENCOUNTERS WITH POLICE OFFICERS

University of Denver Criminal Law Review | Summer, 2015 | 5 U. Denv. Crim. L. Rev. 61

The original purposes of eavesdropping statutes were to protect the citizen against government intrusion into the citizen's privacy and to authorize law enforcement interception to fight organized crime. Yet, in certain instances, the statutes have been used offensively by the government to avoid citizen oversight of policing and even to intimidate...

...Tex. Penal Code Ann. § 16.02(b) (West, Westlaw through the end of the 2013 Third Called Session of the 83rd Legislature)...

...Ann. § 53a-189 (West, Westlaw through enactments of Public Acts of the 2014 February Regular Session of the Connecticut General Assembly effective on or before July 1, 2014)...

19. INTESTACY CONCERNS FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES: HOW VARIATIONS IN STATE LAW AND POLICY AFFECT TESTAMENTARY WISHES

Seattle University Law Review | Summer, 2015 | 38 Seattle U. L. Rev. 1523

As the number of same-sex couples increases in the United States, concerns regarding the evolution of federal and state law, with respect to rights for same-sex couples, also continue to rise. As marriage is not always available to same-sex couples, they often face very different legal issues than couples in a traditional marriage. Because marriage...

.... Tex. Family Code Ann. § 6.204(b) (West, Westlaw through 2013 Third Called Sess. of 83d Legis.)...

.... Tex. Family Code Ann. § 6.204(b) (West, Westlaw through 2013 Third Called Sess. of 83d Legis.)...

Lobby for new citation standards that are format neutral

Universal Citation Guide 3rd edition

[Home](#) / [Publications](#) / [More Publications](#) / Universal Citation Guide 3rd ed



The *Universal Citation Guide* contains AALL's recommendations for universal citation rules for judicial decisions, statutes, and administrative regulations. Designed in an easy-to-use format, the AALL *Universal Citation Guide* complements *The Bluebook* by effectively bridging the gap between the current print-based citation forms and the technology-based future of legal information.

Universal citation works equally well for both print and electronically published law. The guide provides a roadmap for constructing actual citations for those jurisdictions that have adopted the universal citation form. For those jurisdictions still debating the issue of citation reform, it serves as a model for adoption.

This third edition of the guide updates material presented in the 2004 guide.

Ordering Information:



[Click here to
preview
sample
content.](#)

A sample proposal

Ohio Rev. Code. Ann. § 2909.01 (LexisNexis 2014)

Ohio Rev. Code. Ann. § 2909.01 (Westlaw current through 2015 Files 1 to 24 of the 131st GA (2015-2016)).

becomes

Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2909.01 (LexisNexis last amended Sept. 23, 2004), or

Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2909.01 (WestlawNext last amended [session law citation])