Researching legal informatics literature

Mark Pinson


Preface

This is a brief sketch of research tools identified and methods developed in the course of some 3 years' work on a «knowledge base» project at the Harvard Law School. Marc Lauritsen, who directs the project, designates the subject matter of the knowledge base «legal informatics», a term not in wide use here, although it is current in several European countries [cf. Ger. – Rechtinformatik, Rus. – pravovaia kibernetika, Fr. – informatique juridique etc.]. As used here, the term encompasses all the areas in which computers have impacted on law – expert system in legal practice, computer assisted instruction in legal education etc. The categories the knowledge base has sought to cover include: books, articles, conferences, research in progress, courses offered, people, and «entities» (institutes, associations etc.). No attempt however was made to create a list of the numerous software packages which deal with the more routine aspect of legal office practice.

It has then been in the application of reference skills and tools from several disciplines, with an international perspective, to the selected categories of the knowledge base that the sources and procedures described here have been used, admittedly with varying degrees of success. As the field of legal informatics comes into its own, newer and more specific reference works will probably be created, reducing the need for turning to general ones to winnow the relatively small sections they have now relevant to legal informatics. Some of the sources described in the body of the work and the suggestions in the Conclusion may be helpful in identifying these.

It remains only to acknowledge the ever ready assistance of the reference and interlibrary loan librarians of the libraries of the Harvard Law School which contribute so much to the work of the project.
1. Locating Books

To locate books on the subject there are various general and specialized works which should be consulted. Most people are familiar with:

**TITLE:** *Books in print*

**PUB. INFO:** 1948 - New York, R.R. Bowker Co.

**ISSN:** 0068-0214

But one should also be aware of several related publications:

**TITLE:** *Forthcoming books*


**ISSN:** 0000-6159

These publications deal only with American books. For England, France, Germany and Italy one consults the following equivalent publications:

**TITLE:** *Whitaker’s books in print*

**PUB. INFO:** 1988 - London: J. Whitaker & Sons, Lt., c. 1988-

**LINKING NOTES:** Continues: British books in print, ISSN 0068-1350

**ISSN:** 0953-0398

**TITLE:** *Les Livres disponibles. French books in print*

**PUB. INFO:** 1977 - [Paris] Cercle de la Librairie

**LINKING NOTES:** Formed by the union of: Repertoire des livres de langue francaise disponibles, ISSN 0080 1003 and Catalogue de l’édition francaise, ISSN 0069-1089

**ISSN:**

**TITLE:** *Verzeichnis lieferbarer Bücher*

**PUB. INFO:** 1971-72 - Frankfurt am Main: Verlag der Buchhandler-Vereinigung; Munchen-Pullach: Vertrieb und Auslieferung, Verlag Dokumentation Saur KG, c1971-

**ISSN:** 0067-5999

**AUTHOR:** Associazione italiana editori

**TITLE:** *Catalago dei libri in commercio: soggetti* (subjects)

**TITLE:** *Catalago dei libri in commercio: titoli* (titles)

**PUB. INFO:** 1976 - [Milano, Editrice bibliografica; Ann Arbor, Mich., distributed by R.R. Bowker]

**ISSN:**

When using these one should be aware of the structural peculiarities. The American pattern – 3 separate sets, Authors, Titles and Subjects – is followed only by the Italians. The British and German works are simply in one alpha sort of authors and titles. To use the French set, one must first locate the code number for one’s subject in the index provided and then locate the section on that code number in the Subject volumes. In all cases, it is worthwhile to look in the Titles section under certain key first words

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such as computer, and data. Some of these works have also supplements which appear during the year.

One should also be aware that similar tools exist for other countries. For Canada, for example, there are two:

**TITLE:** Canadian books in print. Author and title index
**PUB. INFO:** 1975 - Toronto, University of Toronto Press.
**LINKING NOTES:** Continues: Canadian books in print., ISSN 0068-8398.
**ISSN:** 0702-0201

**TITLE:** Les Livres disponibles canadiens de langue franque [microfiche] = Canadian French books in print
**EDITION:** Ed. microfiche
**PUB. INFO:** Sept. 1987 - [Ottewmont, Quebec]: Bibliodata, 1987 -
**DESCRIPTION:** microfiche: negative.
**LINKING NOTES:** Continues: Liste des livres disponibles de langue francaise des auteurs et des editeurs canadiens.

For another multilingual country, cf.:

**TITLE:** South Africane books in print = Suid-Afrikaanse boeke tans in druk
**PUB. INFO:** 1984. [Capc Town]: Data Page Publishing, [C 1984]
**LINKING NOTES:** Continues: Books in print South Africa

One should be aware that many books, especially on technical subjects, are published in English initially in non-English speaking countries and so are not included in Books in Print. One way to check for such publications is to consult:

**TITLE:** International books in print
**PUB. INFO:** Munchen; New York: K.G. Saur; Detroit: Distributed by Gale Research Co.
**ISSN:** 0170-9348

Finally there is a survey exclusively of the legal field:

**TITLE:** Bowker's law books and serials in print
**PUB. INFO:** 1984-1985 - New York, N.Y.: Bowker, c1984
**FREQUENCY:** Annual
**LINKING NOTES:** Updated by. Bowker's law books and serials in print update.
**ISSN:** 0000-0752

To overcome the limitations of paper subject indexes one can use several machine-readable forms. Books in Print, for example, is accessible both as an online data base and in CD-ROM. (Procedures for locating data base producers will be explained in the section on data bases below). Whitaker's and the French National Bibliography are available in CD-ROM (the latter is quite new: Bibliographie Nationale Francaise depuis 1975 [to March 1989] published by Chadwick Healey France).
2. Locating Serials

The major general guides to serials, all of which have subject indexes, are:

1. **Title**: Ulrich's international periodicals directory.  
   **Pub. Info**: New York, Bowker  
   **Linking Notes**: Also available online through DIALOG (file no. 480), BRs (ULRIS), and the European Space Agency (file no. 103/ULRICH'S PERIODICALS); and on CD-ROM from R.R. Bowker (Ulrich's plus)  
   **ISSN**: 0000-0175

See also this update:

**Title**: The Bowker international serials database update  
**ISSN**: 0000-0892 - The Bowker international serials database update. New York: R.R. Bowker, [c1985-c1988]

2. **Title**: The serials directory: an international reference book  
**Pub. Info**: 1986 - Birmingham, Ala.: EBSCO, c1986  
**ISSN**: 0886-4179

3. **Title**: The Standard periodical directory  
**ISSN**: 0085-6630

For miscellaneous other publications see:

**Title**: Gale directory of publications and broadcast media  
**Pub. Info**: Detroit: Gale, ISBN: 0-8103-4838-0; ISSN 0892-1636  
**Linking Notes**: Continues: Gale directory of publications («An annual guide to newspapers, magazines, journals and related publications»).  
**ISSN**: 0892-1636

All of these, as American publications, are strongest in their coverage of the English speaking countries. Locating small serials in other countries, at times, requires going to their equivalent publications, e.g. for Italy there is:


Unfortunately, some countries, such as France, have not such publication. For tracking down small European serials, the microfiche version of the

**Title**: Zeitschriften-Datenbank: ZDB  
**Pub. Info**: Wiesbaden, Verlag Otto Harrassowitz  
**Frequency**: Semiannual  
**Notes**: Began in 1979. Cf. Deutsche Bib. Issued by: Deutsches Bibliotheksinstitut  
**ISSN**: 0171-8932  
**Authors**: Deutsches Bibliotheksinstitut

(periodicals database), which is a union listing of serials held by libraries in
W. Germany, containing somewhat over 500,000 titles, has been quite useful. (Presumably German unification will be reflected in this listing also).

One way to identify rapidly journals dealing with computers and law is to look at the lists of journals surveyed by journals which publish periodically bibliographic surveys of the field e.g., the Italian Informatica e diritto or the American Law Office Information Systems. Experience indicates that the researcher should be aware that these lists include the journals in which articles on legal informatics were found in the time period surveyed and in many cases the journal listed publishes only an occasional article on the subject.

3. Locating Articles

The basic tool is the index to periodical literature, somewhat like the best known of which is the old, very general:

**TITLE:** Readers' guide to periodical literature  
(Semimonthly)  
**ISSN:** 0034-1464

For legal literature there are several specialized indexes one can consult:

1. **TITLE:** Current law index  
**PUB. INFO:** v. 1 - Jan. 1980 - [Los Altos, Calif.] Information Access Corp.  
**FREQUENCY:** Monthly, with quarterly and annual cumulations  
**NOTES:** «Multiple access to legal periodicals».  
«Published by Information Access Corporation in cooperation with the American Association of Law Libraries».  
**ISSN:** 0196-1780  
(This paper index appears also as Legal Resources Index in microfilm and as a data base available through dialog)

2. **TITLE:** Index to legal periodicals  
**PUB. INFO:** Jan. 1908 - [New York, etc.] H.W. Wilson Co.  
**ISSN:** 0019-4077

3. **TITLE:** Index to foreign legal periodicals  
**ISSN:** 0019-400X

4. **TITLE:** Current publications in legal and related fields  
**PUB. INFO:** Vol. 1, no. 1 (Apr. 15, 1953) - New York, N.Y. Rothman  
**ISSN:** 0011-3859

5. **TITLE:** Current index to legal periodicals  
**PUB. INFO:** [Seattle, Wash.]: M.G. Gallagher Law Library and Washington Law Review  
**ISSN:** 0898-9451

For the purposes of legal informatics a simple search under such obvious
terms as computer, data (processing, -base, etc.), software etc. should be sufficient. If one wants to know what terms/subject headings are included in some of these indices, one may consult:

Krieger, Tillie (comp.), *Subject Headings for the Literature of Law and International Law*, (subtitle: and Index to LC K Schedules) 3. ed., pub. by F.B. Rothman, 1982. (Note: K is the LC classification for law. Some of the above five publications however use a thesaurus which is either a modification of this, or entirely of their own devising).

If one needs information on a more technical aspect one can consult:

**TITLE:** *Applied science & technology index*
**PUB. INFO:** v. 46 - 1958 - [New York, etc.] H.W. Wilson Co. [etc.]
**FREQUENCY:** Monthly (except July) with quarterly cumulations
**NOTES:** Issued also in an annual cumulation
**ISSN:** 0003-6986
**AUTHORS:** H.W. Wilson Company

or the *Bibliographic Guide to Technology*, published by G.K. Hall (Boston) (Each of the annual compilations has its own ISBN).

If one needs information on the business side of legal informatics, e.g., which companies are working on certain software applications, there are several indices to business literature to consult:

**TITLE:** *Business periodicals index*
**NOTES:** Monthly (except Aug.) with annual cumulations (varies)
**ISSN:** 0007-6961
**AUTHORS:** H.W. Wilson Company

**TITLE:** *Business index [microform]*

Also one should consult the Predicast F & S indexes to business literature, coverage of the U.S.A. and of foreign business (Predicasts: Cleveland, OH) USA (issn 0277-9676), Europe (0277-9864) and International (0277-9692).

There are several indexes to periodical literature on education which have sections on computer applications and legal education:

**TITLE:** *Current contents: social & behavioral sciences*
**PUB. INFO:** v. 6, no. 2 - Jan. 2, 1974 - Philadelphia, Institute for Scientific Information
**DESCRIPTION:** v. ill. 21 cm.
**FREQUENCY:** Weekly.
**LINKING NOTES:** Continues: Current contents. Behavioral, social & educational sciences, issn 0011-3387
**ISSN:** 0092-6361
**TITLE:** *Education index.*
Also there is the Current Index to Journals in Education [ISSN 0011-35-65], and two British publications: Contents Pages in Education [ISSN 0265-9220] and British Education Index [ISSN 0007-0637].

Over the course of time some of these abstracting services will cease to function and new ones will be started. One way to keep track of which ones are currently operating in areas connected with legal informatics is to consult these guides to such services.

**TITLE:** The Index and abstract directory: an international guide to services and serials coverage

**PUB. INFO.:** Premier ed. - Birmingham, Ala.: Fbso Pub. c1989-
**ISSN:** 0886-4179

**TITLE:** Abstracting and indexing services directory

**PUB. INFO.:** 1st ed., issue no. 1 (July 1982) - Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co., c1982-
**FREQUENCY:** Three issues a year
**NOTES:** Editor: John Schmittroth, Jr.
**ISSN:** 0732-8583

For some projects this one-time work may be of use:

**TITLE:** Indexes, abstracts, and digests: a classified bibliography reproduced from Library of Congress cards arranged according to the Library of Congress classification system / edited by Annie M. Brewer with Amy F. Lucas

**EDITION:** 1st ed.
**PUB. INFO.:** Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co., c1982
**ISBN:** 0810316862

For topics connected with legal informatics, e.g., computers, online etc. one may also see the appropriate subject sections in the:

**TITLE:** Encyclopedia of legal information sources: a bibliographic guide to approximately 19,000 citations for publications, organizations, and other sources of information on 460 law-related subjects... / edited by Paul Wasserman, Gary McGinn, Patricia Tobin

**EDITION:** 1st ed.
**PUB. INFO.:** Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co., c1988
**ISBN:** 0810302454

4. **ONLINE INFORMATION: DIRECTORIES, DATABASES, ETC.**

**A. Directories.** The most extensive guide to American online data bases is:

*Computer-readable databases: a directory and data sourcebook* / Kathleen Young Marcaccio, editor; Janice A. De Maggio, contributing editor; foreword written by

This is not updated annually in paper. However the online version of it is frequently updated. Another directory, from Cuadra, is updated several times during the year:

Directory of online databases. Vol., no. 1 (fall 1979) - Santa Monica, Calif.: Cuadra Associates, c1979 -. Quarterly. Each issue supersedes all preceding issues, ISSN 0193-6840

Another annually updated directory is:

Data base directory. 1984-85 - White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry Publications, Inc. in cooperation with the American Society for Information Science, c1984 - Annual, 1984-85 Semiannual, fall 1985 - [Some issues kept up to date by supplements. Part of the DataBase directory service, comprising, in addition, the monthly newsletter Data base alert; the DataBase directory service is also accessible online through BRS.] ISSN 0749-6680

The following directory is updated only biannually:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>The North American online directory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FREQUENCY</td>
<td>Biennial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINKING NOTES</td>
<td>Continues: Information industry market place, ISSN 0000-0450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOTES</td>
<td>«A directory of information products &amp; services with names &amp; numbers». Includes index to machine-readable databases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISBN</td>
<td>0-8352-2311-6; ISSN 0000-0841</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most frequently updated paper directory is the looseleaf:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>Datapro directory of on-line services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUB. INFO</td>
<td>Delran, NJ: Datapro Research Corp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREQUENCY</td>
<td>Monthly Loose-Leaf for updating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISSN</td>
<td>0730-7071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUTHORS</td>
<td>Datapro Research Corporation. [Note: Datapro has since been acquired by McGraw-Hill]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER TITLES</td>
<td>Directory of on-line services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

which lists over 2,000 data bases, information retrieval services and data base producers and has company, data base name and subject indexes.

For information on machine readable files of the U.S. gov’t cf.:


which has no schedule of regular updating, or

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>A Directory of computerized data files</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUB. INFO</td>
<td>1982 - [Springfield, Va.]: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, National Technical Information Service, c1983-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREQUENCY</td>
<td>Biennial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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For more coverage of overseas databases in general, one might consult:

Accessible Databases. A Directory of Online and Machine-Readable Information Sources, Ed. Tooke,

which is more up to date than the older:

Bases de datos del mundo: sistemas de informacion cientifica, tecnologica, social y economica accesi-
bles desde Espana / [compilado por] FUINCA. - [2a ed.]. - Madrid: Consejo Superior de Investiga-

For Western Europe as a whole, the most comprehensive guide appears to have been the now very outdated:

EUSIDIC DATABASE GUIDE. - Oxford; New York: Learned Information, 1981, ISBN 0-904933-27X, "Printout of Eusidic’s: European Scientific Information Referral Working-Group." (EUSIDIC = European Association of Scientific Information Dissemination Centres. There appears to have been a more recent edition in the U.K. in 1986, but Learned Information in the USA has been unable to provide it; for some years Learned Information has been promising to bring out a new edition here, but as of now it has not appeared.)

There are directories of the data bases available in some of the individual countries of W. Europe such as:

**TITLE:** Verzeichnis deutscher Datenbanken, Datenbank-Betreiber und Informationsvermittlungsstellen

**PUB. INFO:** Stand März 1985 - München: K. Saur, 1985-

**SERIES:** Informationsdienste ISSN: 0722-5172

**ISSN:** 0178-1685

**AUTHORS:** Gesellschaft fur Information und Dokumentation.

(Note: has also ISBN 3-598-10582-7 / ISSN (under this title) = 0178-1685; ISSN as a publ. of G.I.D. = 0722-5172)

There are also several far less expensive one volume guides to American online data bases. They are, of course, also less comprehensive and not regularly updated:


**AUTHOR:** Howitt, Doran

**TITLE:** Inc. magazine's databasics: your guide to online business information / by Doran Howitt and Marvin I. Weinberger.
B. Ancillary works. For those who want some guidance on how to find their way around in the online world there are various works which may be helpful:

General books on online such as:

**AUTHOR:** Glodsbrenner, Alfred  
**TITLE:** How to look it up online: get the information edge with your personal computer  
**EDITION:** 1st ed.  
**PUBL. INFO:** New York: St. Martin’s Press, c1987  
**ISBN:** 0312001320 (ppbk.); 0312001339 (hard);  

Of more specific reference aids such as:


There are also a number of third party books on using legal data bases, such as:

**AUTHOR:** Shapiro, Fred R  
**TITLE:** *LEXIS: the complete user’s guide / Fred R. Shapiro*  
**EDITION:** 1st ed.  
**PUBL. INFO:** New York: St. Martin’s Press, c1989  
**ISBN:** 031202942X:

C. Search Services. For those who need a search done, but do not own or have access to a computer hook-up, there is a directory, published by Gale Research, which «... provides detailed descriptions of the online information retrieval services offered by public, academic, and special libraries, private information firms, and other organizations in the United States and Canada»:


For the U.K. there is an analogous smaller publication:

Deunette, J.B. (comp.), *UK Online Search Services, 2nd ed.* (London: Published on behalf of the Online Information Centre [by] Aslib, c1987)

This lists 103 organizations in the UK which do searching. Most of those
listed are technically oriented. Several however, in the lists of databases to which they have access, mention databases which could be of use in legal informatics.

D. Locating the indexing of a specific periodical. One compelling reason to use online services is that since the advent of online information some 15 years ago there has been a growing trend among journals not to index themselves in paper (a costly operation), leaving the indexing function rather to data base producers/indexing and abstracting firms. There are several ways to find out which data bases index a given journal. One is to consult the listing in a guide to serials such as Ulrich’s or to look at works listing only this kind of information such as:


E. Online Databases. Since LEXIS and Westlaw are widely known, they need no discussion. Some of the data bases on business and/or computers with which legal researchers are probably less familiar could be searched for information on legal informatics. (Since these are bibliographic data bases, unlike the full text legal ones, one way to control costs is, in the case of those which have a paper corresponding publication, is to search the paper version first and then limit the online search to the period after the end of the paper version).

# 8 - Compendex - A large engineering and technical data base. (In paper see Engineering Index and Conference Papers.)
# 16 PTS Promt - a very extensive business database with much on computers, put up by Predicast. Predicast has created very good thesauruses of product & event code numbers to accompany its data bases. These provide precise numbers (an 8 digit expansion of the older 4 digit S.(tandard) I.(ndustrial) C.(lassification). Accordingly, searches can be greatly accelerated (and cost reduced) by consulting the thesaurus to find the product/event code before going online
# 18/98 PTS F&S Indexes - This is also from Predicast, a rich business data base with much on computers. The paper equivalents, the F&S Indexes, provide U.S. and international coverage
# 75 Management Contents - A very rich business data base with much on computers & telecommunications
# 34 Scisearch - A huge, scientific-technical data base from the Institute for Scientific Information, which has also a CD-Rom version
# 12/13 Inspec - also a very technical data base with much on computers and control and information technology
# 170 Online Chronicle - An online index to the periodicals Online and Database with some other materials - which can be consulted for very current developments in the field of online information
# 196 Find SVP - A database of market research, which has a paper counterpart, the paper Find directory, has much information on computers, telecommunications and related developments
# 233 Microcomputer Index. Paper version has same title
# 202 Information Science Abstracts - Paper version has same title
# 256 Business Software Data Base - Has no paper version
# 275 Computer Data Base - No paper version
# 278 Microcomputer Hardware and Software - put up by Bowker, part of this data base is Bowker's Software Encyclopedia
# 538 Advertised Computer Technologies II - a database of ads in computer journals. No paper version
# 610 Business Wire. BW is a wire service on which companies can put up a their news releases. This service is useful for locating new companies, new technologies etc.

For education: See the Eric database (# 1), which is the education database, in which one can find material on computers and education, legal education etc.

F. CD-ROM. To identify which databases are available in CD-ROM, one can consult:


5. Congresses

One way to determine which relevant congresses were held is to consult guides to published proceedings such as:

**TITLE:** Yearbook of International Congress Proceedings  
**PUB. INFO:** Brussels: (S.N.), - 1969

6. Associations

One other source of expertise in legal informatics one might tap is professional/trade associations. To locate these, one should consult several directories.

For the U.S.A.:

**TITLE:** National trade and professional associations of the United States  
**ISSN:** 0734-354X

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For both American and international coverage one can consult the appropriate parts of:

**TITLE:** Encyclopedia of associations: National organizations of the U.S. / Margaret Fisk, editor  
**EDITION:** 8th ed.  
**PUB. INFO:** Detroit, Mich. [1973]  
**ISSN:** 0071-6202  
**TITLE:** Encyclopedia of associations. Regional, state, and local organization  
**PUB. INFO:** 1st ed. (1988-89) - Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co.  
**ISSN:** 0894-2846  
**TITLE:** Encyclopedia of associations. International organizations  
**PUB. INFO:** 23rd ed. (1989) - Detroit, Mich: Gale Research c1989-  
**ISSN:** 1041-0023

For solely international coverage, one can consult the subject index in the third volume of:

**TITLE:** Yearbook of international organizations  
**FREQUENCY:** Irregular  
**LINKING NOTES:** Continues: Annuaire des organisations internationales  
**NOTES:** Beginning in 1983, published in 3 vols.: Vol. 1 - organization descriptions and index; Vol. 2 - geographic volume; international organization participation; Vol. 3 - subject volume: global action network. NOTES: Language note: Text in English, with instructions in English, French, and German; indexes in English and French.  
**ISSN:** 0084-3814

One recently developed tool gives rapid subject access to all of the directories published by Gale Research:

**TITLE:** Organization master index / Denise M. Allard, editor  
**EDITION:** 1st ed.  
**PUB. INFO:** Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co., c1987  
**NOTES:** Subtitle: A consolidated index to approximately 50 directories, handbooks, yearbooks, encyclopedias, and guides providing information on approximately 150,000 national and international associations, government agencies and advisory organizations, foundations, research centers, museums, religious groups, political organizations, labor unions, and other organizations, institutions, and programs of all kinds in the United States, Canada, and worldwide  
**ISBN:** 0810320797

7. Newsletters

One reason for locating relevant associations is to identify their publications which frequently are newsletters. For the organizations listed in the Gale directories:
To locate relevant newsletters published by persons or groups other than associations, one can consult:

**Title:** Newsletters in print  
**Pub. Info:** Latest - Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Inc., c1988-
**Frequency:** Annual  
**Linking Notes:** Continues: Newsletters directory, ISSN 0893-7636  
**Notes:** Supplements issued between eds.

**Title:** Oxbridge directory of newsletters  
**Pub. Info:** 1979 - New York, Oxbridge Communications  
**Frequency:** Annual  
**Linking Notes:** Continues: Standard directory of newsletters  
**Notes:** «... guide to U.S. and Canadian newsletters...»  
**ISSN:** 0163-7010

There is also a directory exclusively of legal newsletters:

**Title:** Legal newsletters in print  
**Pub. Info.:** 1985 - New York, N.Y.: Infosources Pub., c1985-
**Frequency:** Annual  
**ISSN:** 8755-416X

8. Consultants and other experts

To locate experts in the field one may consult guides to consultants. In the subject index of the directory published by Gale there is a law category and several categories of computer expertise. Since the whole work is maintained as a computerized data base, it should be possible to have an offline search done to identify those who deal with computers and law. (Probably the Dun's directory also exists in computerized form).

**Title:** Consultants and consulting organizations directory  
**Pub. Info.:** 2nd ed. (1973) - Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co., c1973-
**ISSN:** 0589-4859

**Title:** Dun's consultants directory / Dun's Marketing Services  
**Frequency:** Annual  
**ISSN:** 0884-3724
For certain kinds of institutional legal expertise

**TITLE:** Law and legal information directory  
**PUB. INFO:** 1st ed. - Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research, 1980-  
**ISSN:** 0740-090X

provides listings of American and Canadian legal information sources, institutions involved in legislation and jurisprudence etc.

The American Bar Associations also has a section dealing with computers. To find out which persons and institutions are included one may contact the A.B.A. and/or try a computer search of AMBAR (on ABANET) which lists hundreds of units of the A.B.A. Presumably the bar associations in W. Europe have similar listings. In W. Germany the G.I.D. has a section on legal informatics. On a recent trip I learned that the Greek bar association now has a computers and law section and that Prof. Stevan Lilic of the Law Faculty of Belgrade University is organizing a Yugoslav computers and law society.

Another approach to keeping up on this aspect would be periodic searches under subject headings law, legal... etc. in the *Directories in Print* (ISBN 0-8103-2948-4 ISSN 0899-353X) from Gale Research which surveys directories published in the U.S. or their recently begun counterpart for foreign coverage, *International Directories in Print* (ISBN 0-8103-2511-X ISSN 0899-255X). A search done earlier turned up various items such as a directory of expert witnesses in technology. For some areas, the older *International Bibliography of Special Directories*, published by Saur, in 1983, (ISBN 3-598-20520-1 ISSN 0724-4126) might be useful.

Also there are general guides to research institutions (U.S. and foreign) which can be checked for institutions engaged in research relevant to legal informatics:

**TITLE:** Research centers directory  
**PUB. INFO:** Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co.  
**FREQUENCY:** Irregular  
**LINKING:** Supplemented between eds. by: New research centers.  
**NOTES:** Seventh ed. published also in an edition arranged geographically: Research centers directory. Geographical and executive arrangement  
**ISSN:** 0080-1518

**TITLE:** International research centers directory  
**PUB. INFO:** 1st ed., issue no. 1 (Jan. 1982) - Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co., c1981-  
**ISSN:** 0278-2731
9. Washington

In Washington DC there are of course many organizations dealing with law in different ways, legislation, legal education, legal research etc. and there are several directories to locating the various groups and institutions there.

**Title:** Washington Information Directory  
**ISSN:** 0887-8064

One useful feature of this directory is that each of its subject divisions, e.g., «Law and Justice», is broken into subdivisions, e.g., «Legal Services and Education» and within each subdivision are listed first governmental agencies, committees etc. and then non-official ones allowing a quick overview of relevant bodies. A search done at one point found for example the «National Resource Center for Consumers of Legal Services», which presumably would include computer-related legal services.

Two other directories may also be useful in this area:

**Title:** Washington  
**Pub. Info:** v. 1 - Washington, Columbia Books, Inc. [etc.]  
**Frequency:** Irregular, (1971-). Annual, (1988-)  
**ISSN:** 0083-7393

**Title:** Who knows, a guide to Washington experts / by Washington Researchers Publishing, a division of Washington Researchers, Ltd.  
**ISBN:** 0934940320

One other extensive directory to information available from offices of the U.S. government:


— although out of date in some respects (e.g., many of the phone no.s are no longer correct), is useful in that it describes the specialized libraries and/or data bases of each of the government offices listed which has such a resource.

10. Conclusion

The brief lists provided here are by no means exhaustive, even at the time of writing. Given the dynamics of the information industry, some of the information will be outdated quickly. The reader can keep a file of key resources up to date with several fairly simple procedures: a) «Itinerant searching» described below. b) Ordering each year the catalogs from certain
publishers which specialize in publishing finding aids and c) periodic searches of selected databases.

One operating procedure developed during work on this project, which I call «itinerant searching», cannot be recommended too strongly: whenever one is in a large library with a computerized catalog, run a subject search on «computers» and «law» and/or variations of this. Such searches turn up not only American publications one may have missed, but also foreign and irregular publications (occasional papers etc.). In the course of this project various databases at the Library of Congress were so searched once or twice a year.

**APPENDIX 1: SEARCH STRATEGIES**

To give the reader who may be unfamiliar with some of these research tools how they might be used several examples are provided. Since most law students are brought into contact with one or another of the various books on how to do legal research and with the paper indices to legal literature listed in section # 3 and are presumed to be known, those tools are not included in these descriptions.

1. If one wished to work up a list of journals dealing with computers and law one could begin with the lists of journals abstracted in: a) *L.O.I.S.* b) the *B.I.D.* – the international bibliography on the subject which is published in installments in the journal *Informatica e diritto*. While some journal titles tend to appear in each compilation of titles in each of these two, in each individual list there are titles which did not appear before and for various reasons may not reappear (the journal only ran one article on the subject or went out of business etc.).

One would then consult some of the specialized tools listed such as the Bowker guide to books and serials on law or the Gale directories *Encyclopedia of Legal Information Sources* and *Law and Legal Information Directory* to see which journals they mentioned. Then one would look at the indexes to legal literature, under the subject of computers (or related subjects, e.g., software) to see in which journals articles had been found.

Finally, casting the net most widely, one would search the major guides to serials such as Ulrich’s, the Serials Directory etc., preferably in a computerized form (online or CD-ROM), but if this is not possible, then in paper.

Once the list of titles is compiled, one may well have many listings for which only the title was available. In order to flesh out the entry with publisher, years, ISSN, libraries holding the journal etc. one can then try searching the title on OCLC and/or RLIN. For obtaining this kind of data
for small European publications one could then search the Zeitschriften Datenbank, the microform version of which is in alphabetical order by title.

2. If one wished to identify newsletters dealing with computers and law the obvious first step would be to look at Legal Newsletters in Print. Then to cast the net more widely, one would consult the Bowker guide to books and serials on law, the Gale directories, Encyclopedia of Legal Information Sources and Law and Legal Information Directory and then for still wider coverage, the 2 general newsletter directories: Newsletters in Print and the Oxbridge Directory of Newsletters. Finally, one might consult: a] the various directories of associations, U.S., foreign and international and b] the directories to Washington D.C., to ascertain if there were any additional associations, agencies etc. active in this field and if they had newsletters. 3] If one wished to locate articles on computer applications to legal education in general (i.e. not only law students enrolled in a school but also, for example, in educating paralegals working at a firm) one could begin with the bibliographies in L.O.I.S. and Informatica e diritto. One should then consult the indices in education under relevant subject headings (computers, software, legal education, law etc.) and then look at the online data bases in business and computers which were listed, with a search strategy containing three components: a] Computers, software, CAI etc. b] Education, training, instruction, learning and c] Law, legal.

If one’s own institutions has no online search capacity or has one but without access to certain hosts or databases, one might consult the guide to online search services to find a service having the requisite connections. When one has a list of citations retrieved and finds that some of the journals listed are not available locally: a] one can search OCLC or RLIN to see which US library holds them (or the German Z.D.B. for European periodicals which one does not find in OCLC/RLIN) and try to request a photocopy through interlibrary loan, b] If the data base or host has a service providing full texts, such an order can in some cases be sent by computer mail or c] one can place an order with a document delivery service (Such companies maintain extensive runs of many periodicals precisely for this purpose, addresses and descriptions are given in several of the general books on online information).

APPENDIX 2: FOREIGN LEGAL DATA BASES

This list of foreign legal data bases, primarily of W. Europe, was limited by materials available here and is by no means all inclusive. Items in capital letters are names of specific data bases. Those followed by question marks are ones whose identification is not certain. In some cases, such as Austria, the sources indicated that work was in progress, but apparently had not yet resulted in the creation of any specific databases.
This information was abstracted from:

Progress in Legal Information Systems in Europe, Council of Europe (Legal Affairs section), Strasbourg, 1984, ISBN 92-871-0332-1

1 — U.K.: EUROLEX / LEXIS-UK, LAWTEL, [INFOLEX ?]
2 — Austria: Only general data
3 — Belgium: BELJUS, CREDOC
4 — Denmark: DC-JURA, SCHULTZ DATA LEX
5 — France: LEX, RÉASAGRI, SIGAD, JURINPRI, JURIDOC, CEDIJ, JURIS-DATA
   LEXIS/France, SYDONI, CRIDON, DOCLIS
6 — Germany W. (B.R.D.): The subject index of Verzeichnis deutscher Datenbanken (1985) (cited above) listed 8 legal data bases: ASYLDOC (on refugees), COD (Computergestuetztes Dokumentationsystem fuer Literatur - Computer Supported Doc. Sys. for Lit.), DATEV-LEX inform (Tax Law Data base LEX inform), DIP (Documentation and Information System for Parliamentary materials), DRUSUS (Press evaluation and statistics), ELIS (Environmental Law Information System); GESTA (W. Ger. Federal Legislation), and JURIS (Juridical Information System of the W. Ger. Federation) (This was written before German reunification!)

7 — Italy: ITALGIUBE
8 — Netherlands: Kluwer DATALEX, PARAC, SAMSOM, VERMANDE
9 — Norway: LAWDATA, [NORIS? NOVA STATUS?]
10 — N. Ireland: QUOBIRD?
11 — Sweden: RATTSDATA, [LAGRI?]
12 — Switzerland: SYBI/REBUS
13 — Finland: FINLEX, FIHolar.
14 — Canada: QUICLAW (Queens Univ. Insttt. for Computing Law), DATUM (Documentation Automatique des Textes Juridiques de l'Univ. de Montreal), STATUT (Statute Search).
15 — Brazil: SICON (info. sys. of cong.)

Since none of the documentation provided by the individual producers of the European data bases is available here at this time it is not possible to go beyond mere listing and evaluate to what extent these data bases might be useful for research in legal informatics.

If any readers wish to send descriptive material on a finding aid or database for the next edition of this survey, this will be greatly appreciated. Please send however the fullest possible description in the original language rather than brief summaries in English, to: Marc Lauritsen, Lawyering Information Systems Project, Langdell Hall 129, Harvard Law School, Cambridge MA 02138, USA or questions by E-mail to Pinson & Hulaw 1. Harvard edu.