Creating a well-written law review article can bring you substantial rewards—from a publication credit to a law review staff position to a judicial clerkship. But the writing process can be tedious and time-consuming. Choosing and developing a topic that is useful and that interests you, performing a preemption check, updating your legal research, and verifying citations and quotations can be overwhelming. Westlaw® can help you accomplish all of these tasks efficiently.

Choosing a Topic

Researching current trends in the law can help you find an issue or important recent decision that could form the basis of a law review or journal article. Westlaw provides a variety of materials, including cases, statutes, legal texts and periodicals, and nonlegal news and information, all of which can help you narrow your search for a topic for an article.

In most databases, you have the option of using either the Terms and Connectors (Boolean) search method or the Natural Language search method. Following is a list of database names and their identifiers that are frequently used in law review and journal research:

Case law		**Texts and periodicals**	
All Federal and State Cases	ALLCASES	American Jurisprudence 2d	AMJUR
All Federal Cases	ALLFEDS	American Law Reports	ALR
All State Cases	ALLSTATES	Journals and Law Reviews	JLR
Individual State Cases*	XX-CS		
		News and information	
Statutes		All News	ALLNEWS
United States Code Annotated	USCA	Major Magazines	MAGSMJ
Individual State Statutes–Annotated*	XX-ST-ANN	The New York Times	NYT

*Where xx is a state's two-letter postal abbreviation

Westlaw Topical Highlights and Bulletins

Researching current trends in the law can help you find an issue or important recent decision. Westlaw Topical Highlights databases cover 25 areas of the law, from bankruptcy and copyright to labor and employment and securities regulation. Westlaw Bulletins databases are available for the U.S. Supreme Court and for 10 states. To view a list of these databases, access the Westlaw Directory by clicking **Directory** on the toolbar at the tabbed Law School page. Click **Highlights** under *Legal Periodicals and Current Awareness*. Then click **Westlaw Highlights and Bulletins**.

Search tips

- To search for information on new legal issues or issues causing a split in opinion among the federal circuit courts, access the U.S. Courts of Appeals Cases database (CTA) and run a Terms and Connectors search such as **issue question matter /s "first impression" novel & da(aft 2004)**.

- To search for information on an issue involving a specific state, access a database such as Oregon News (ORNEWS) and type a Natural Language search such as **legalization of assisted suicide**.

Westlaw is available on the Web at **lawschool.westlaw.com**.

For assistance, call **1-800-850-WEST** (1-800-850-9378). For technical support you can also send an e-mail message to **west.support@thomson.com**.

Conducting a Preemption Check

Before you spend considerable time and energy writing a law review article, make sure that you are covering new ground. Use the following Westlaw databases to determine whether articles on your subject have already been written.

Current Index to Legal Periodicals	CILP
Texts and Periodicals–All Law Reviews, Texts, and Bar Journals	TP-ALL
Journals and Law Reviews	JLR
Individual State Journals and Law Reviews*	XX-JLR

*Where XX is a state's two-letter postal abbreviation, e.g., NY-JLR

Search tips

- To find entries in CILP on a specific subject such as immigration, restrict your search to the topic field (to): **to(immigration)**
- To determine what has already been written on a topic, access the JLR database and run a Natural Language search such as **english-only laws**.

Developing Your Topic

Once you've chosen a topic, you can begin the research process. Some of the many sources of background information available on Westlaw are described below.

Legal Encyclopedias and Treatises

American Law Reports

The American Law Reports database (ALR) provides extensive commentary on the law from *American Law Reports*, with analyses of cases from all jurisdictions. Each ALR® article is a complete legal memorandum on a particular legal issue.

American Jurisprudence 2d

The American Jurisprudence 2d database (AMJUR) contains the full text of *American Jurisprudence 2d* (Am Jur® 2d), a comprehensive encyclopedia of state and federal law containing more than 400 separate titles on a broad range of legal topics.

Search tips

- To browse the complete ALR index, type the following Terms and Connectors query, restricting your search to the citation field (ci): **ci(index)**
- To browse a specific title in Am Jur 2d, search for the title name in the citation field (ci): **ci("wrongful discharge")**

Other treatises

The Texts and Treatises database (TEXTS) contains the full text of many other resources relating to specific areas of the law.

Case Law

Headnotes

West attorney-editors analyze the legal issues in every case published in West's National Reporter System® and summarize each issue in a headnote. Each headnote is a succinct expression of a legal issue in a case.

Headnotes on Westlaw give you the following research advantages:

- The headnotes lay out the black letter law and apply the law to the facts of the particular case.
- Each headnote is classified to the West Key Number System®, providing you with access to all other cases that discuss similar points of law.
- Each headnote covers one point of law and is classified to at least one of the more than 100,000 West key numbers. You can focus precisely on your issue when you combine key numbers with your search terms.
- West editors add search terms that you're likely to use, such as synonyms, terms of art, and terms characterizing legal relationships (e.g., *landlord* and *tenant*, rather than *appellant* and *appellee*).

Topic and Key Numbers

West topic and key numbers help you focus your research and retrieve relevant cases. If you have an on-point case and want to find additional cases, run a search using the topic and key number from the relevant headnote in an appropriate database to find other cases classified to that topic and key number. To format a topic and key number search, access an appropriate case law database and type the topic number, the letter **k**, and the key number. For example, to search for cases containing topic 197, Habeas Corpus, and key number 521, Aliens, access a case law database and type the following search: **197k521**

Note: Slip opinions and cases from topical services do not contain West topic and key numbers.

The complete topic and key number outline used by West attorney-editors to classify headnotes is available in the Custom Digest service. You can use the Custom Digest to find topic and key numbers related to your issue and to retrieve cases with headnotes classified under those topic and key numbers. To access the Custom Digest, choose **Key Numbers and Digest** from the *More* drop-down list on the toolbar.

Checking Your Citations with KeyCite®

KeyCite is the powerful citation research service available exclusively on Westlaw. You can use KeyCite to view the history of a case, statute, administrative decision, or regulation to help determine whether it is good law and to retrieve citing references.

KeyCite is comprehensive, covering every case in West's National Reporter System, as well as more than 1 million unpublished cases; selected federal and state administrative decisions; federal statutes and regulations; state statutes from all 50 states and regulations from selected states; U.S. patents; ALR; more than 900 law reviews; and thousands of briefs. In addition, KeyCite provides citing references from numerous texts and treatises.

To access KeyCite at a tabbed page, type a citation in the *KeyCite this citation* text box in the left frame and click **GO.** To access KeyCite from any page, click **KeyCite** on the toolbar to display the KeyCite page. Then type a citation in the *KeyCite this citation* text box and click **GO.** KeyCite history is displayed in the right frame.

You can also check all of the citations in your document at once using WestCheck.com™, available at **westcheck.com**.

KeyCite Status Flags

A red flag warns that the case or administrative decision is no longer good law for at least one of the points of law it contains or that the statute or regulation has been amended by a recent session law or rule, repealed, superseded, or held unconstitutional or preempted in whole or in part.

A yellow flag warns that the case or administrative decision has some negative history but hasn't been reversed or overruled; that the statute has been renumbered or transferred by a recent session law; that an uncodified session law or pending legislation affecting the statute is available (statutes merely referenced, i.e., mentioned, are not marked with a yellow flag); that the regulation has been reinstated, corrected, or confirmed; that the statute or regulation was limited on constitutional or preemption grounds or its validity was otherwise called into doubt; or that a prior version of the statute or regulation received negative judicial treatment.

H A blue H indicates that the case or administrative decision has some history.

C A green C indicates that the case or administrative decision has citing references but no direct history or negative citing references or that the statute or regulation has citing references.

Depth of treatment stars

KeyCite depth of treatment stars indicate the extent to which a citing case, administrative decision, or brief discusses the cited case or administrative decision.

★★★★ Examined—The citing case, administrative decision, or brief contains an extended discussion of the cited case or administrative decision, usually more than a printed page of text.

★★★ Discussed—The citing case, administrative decision, or brief contains a substantial discussion of the cited case or administrative decision, usually more than a paragraph but less than a printed page.

★★ Cited—The citing case, administrative decision, or brief contains some discussion of the cited case or administrative decision, usually less than a paragraph.

★ Mentioned—The citing case, administrative decision, or brief contains a brief reference to the cited case or administrative decision, usually in a string citation.

KeyCite Quotation Marks

Quotation marks (") indicate that the citing case directly quotes the cited case.

Monitoring Citations with KeyCite Alert

KeyCite Alert is a service that automatically monitors the status of your cases, statutes, administrative decisions, and regulations and send you updates when their KeyCite results change, providing you with the most current KeyCite information for your research.

To access KeyCite Alert from a KeyCite result, click **Monitor with KeyCite Alert** on the Links tab in the left frame. The KeyCite Alert wizard is displayed, which provides step-by-step instructions for creating a KeyCite Alert entry.

Verifying Page Numbers and Quotations

Once you've finished researching and writing your law review or journal article, use Westlaw to make sure you've accurately quoted and cited the legal and nonlegal sources you are using.

Star Paging

Star Paging is a Westlaw feature that automatically displays print publication page references for the text you are viewing online. This enables you to cite the print publication without looking up the reference.

Star Paging references are displayed in a color different from surrounding document text and are preceded by one or more asterisks, which enable you to determine the publication to which a particular page number belongs. For example, if you retrieve *Kirchmann v. Lake Elsinore Unified School District*, 100 Cal. Rptr. 2d 289, 83 Cal. App. 4th 1098 (2000), page references from both *California Reporter*® (published by West) and *California Appellate Reports* (published by the state of California) are displayed online.

To go to a specific page from a print publication, click **Tools** at the bottom of the right frame and choose **Go to Star Page** from the menu that is displayed. Type the print page number in the *Go to Star Page* text box and click **GO**. For example, to go to page 295 in West's® *California Reporter*, type **295** in the text box.

Checking Quotations

Checking quotations using a citation

To check quotations from case law that you plan to use in your article, use the Find service and the Locate feature. For example, suppose that you want to check the following quotation by Justice Antonin Scalia from the case *Arizona v. Hicks*, 107 S. Ct. 1149 (1987): "[T]here is nothing new in the realization that the Constitution sometimes insulates the criminality of a few in order to protect the privacy of us all."

First, use the Find service to retrieve the case. Type **107 sct 1149** in the *Find by citation* text box at the tabbed Law School page and click **GO**. The case is displayed in the right frame. Then, to display the portion of the text in which the quotation appears, click **Locate in Result** in the left frame. In the displayed text box, type **insulates** and then click **Search**.

Click the right **Term** arrow to browse by Locate term and display the portion of the text where the term appears. Verify that you have accurately quoted the court. To return to your original result, click **Cancel Locate** in the left frame.

Checking quotations using a case title

If you have only the title of the case that contains a quotation you need to check, search the title field (ti) for the names of parties to the case and add terms from the quotation. For example, to check the above quotation from *Arizona v. Hicks*, access the All U.S. Supreme Court Cases database (SCT), type **ti(hicks) & insulates**, and click **Search**.

To view the full text of the case, click its title in the result list. Then click the right **Term** arrow to display the portion of the text in which the quotation appears. Check that you have accurately transcribed the quotation.

Checking quotations in non–case law databases

If you are using non–case law or nonlegal sources such as newspapers and magazines in your article, use Westlaw to check quotations from them. For example, suppose you are quoting a portion of an article from the *New York Times* concerning a speech by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in which she said, "The notion that it is improper to look beyond the borders of the United States in grappling with hard questions has a certain kinship to the view that the U.S. Constitution is a document essentially frozen in time as of the date of its ratification." To retrieve the quotation, access the New York Times database (NYT), type a query such as **ginsburg /p kinship /s frozen**, and click **Search**.

To view the full text of the article, click its title in the result list. Then click the right **Term** arrow to display the portion of the text in which the quotation appears and verify the quotation.

The QuoteRight® automated quotation-checking service in WestCheck®

To save time, you can check all the quotations in your article at once by using the QuoteRight service in WestCheck version 3.2 or later. When WestCheck extracts the citations from your document, it also creates a list of the quotations that it finds. You can then have the QuoteRight service check these quotations against the full text of the source documents as they appear on Westlaw.