

## **TAB 13**

### **Top Ten Research Tools and Resources you'll want to know about when opening you law office**

**Jeanette Bosschart**  
**Reference & Instructional Services Librarian, Great Library**  
*The Law Society of Upper Canada*

### **Practice Workshop: Opening your Law Office**



The Law Society of  
Upper Canada

Barreau  
du Haut-Canada

**Continuing Legal Education**

**Practice Workshop: Opening your Law Office**

**TOP TEN RESEARCH TOOLS and RESOURCES**  
**you'll want to know about when**  
**opening your law office**

**Jeanette Bosschart**  
**Reference & Instructional Services Librarian**  
**Great Library**

## **TOP TEN RESEARCH TOOLS and RESOURCES you'll want to know about when opening your law office**

The following is a selective list of recommended Canadian resources suitable for all practice areas:

### **1. QUICKLAW [www.quicklaw.ca](http://www.quicklaw.ca)**

Quicklaw remains the largest online source for Canadian legal materials, and an essential research tool for most law offices. Its extensive collection of databases includes unreported judgments from all Canadian jurisdictions; hard to find board and tribunal decisions; topical databases combining case law, statutory materials and commentary; research tools such as indexes and the case citator, Quickcite; as well as a growing collection of secondary material such as legal texts, journals and newsletters. A merger with the American online service, LexisNexis has resulted in an expansion of Quicklaw's U.S. databases. Quicklaw also provides access to selective U.K., and Commonwealth case law.

(Internet-based subscription service)

### **2. WestlaweCARSWELL [www.westlawecarswell.com](http://www.westlawecarswell.com)**

Carswell's new electronic research service contains a wealth of primary and secondary legal information. Its strengths include extensive coverage of older case law, access to the *Canadian Abridgment* and the *Canadian Encyclopedic Digest* (CED) and to the rules of court for all Canadian jurisdictions. The service's citator, KeyCiteCanada, allows researchers to find judicial consideration of both cases and statutes. WestlaweCARSWELL also offers subscribers four separate subject modules: InsolvencySource, CriminalSource, FamilySource and SecuritiesSource. Access to Westlaw, the leading online source for U.S. case law, is also provided.

(Internet-based subscription service)

### **3. CanLII [www.canlii.org](http://www.canlii.org)**

The Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII) provides free Internet access to a growing collection of primary law materials from across Canada. Recent court decisions and current legislation can be searched by individual jurisdiction or collectively using one standard search interface, thereby eliminating the need to visit and search individual court and legislative Web sites.

(free Web site)

#### **4. Great Library Web site <http://library.lsuc.on.ca/GL/home.htm>**

Through this site, lawyers can access the library's online catalogue, as well as an e-reference service, which enables users to send reference inquiries to library staff via e-mail. The site also features extensive links to free Canadian, U.S. and U.K. web-based legal resources, a calendar of upcoming CLE programs and a current awareness service highlighting recent legal developments in essential practice areas.

(free Web site)

#### **5. E-Laws [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca)**

The Government of Ontario's e-Laws Web site is an indispensable resource for legislative research. The site provides free access to a current consolidation of public statutes and regulations, as well as source law from 2000 on. Newly enacted legislation is added within 2 days and amendments to existing laws are incorporated into the consolidation within 10 days. Legislation is searchable by title or subject/keyword. This site also makes available a variety of very current tables, such as the Table of Public Statutes used for finding and updating legislation.

(free Web site)

#### **6. Ontario Legislative Assembly Web site [www.ontla.on.ca](http://www.ontla.on.ca)**

This site, updated daily while the Legislature is sitting, allows researchers to track the progress of Ontario bills as well as find legislative debates (Hansard) and committee proceedings. Both public and private bills are available from the current and previous legislatures (1995- ). Background information on specific bills and guides on the legislative process are provided by the Ontario Legislative Library.

(free Web site)

#### **7. Basic legal texts**

Starting with a good textbook or loose-leaf service can save considerable research time. These sources can provide in-depth analysis of legal issues as well as references to the relevant case law and legislation. To find texts on a particular topic search the holdings of your nearest law library. (The catalogues of most

large law libraries are Internet accessible.) For guidance in selecting a current leading Canadian text to purchase for your practice, consult a librarian, or review a list of recommended titles, such as *The Essential Law Library* (published by LibraryCo at [www.libraryco.ca](http://www.libraryco.ca) under <Publications>).

(purchase or consult in the library)

## **8. Journals and CLE materials**

Legal journals and newsletters are particularly useful when researching current or very specific topics. The *Index to Canadian Legal Literature* is the most comprehensive finding tool for Canadian legal journal articles. Available in print and on Quicklaw (1985- ).

Papers presented at continuing legal education (CLE) programs are a valuable source of current, practical information, including cases commentaries, advice on complying with new legislation, and forms and precedents. To find relevant CLE materials by subject, use the *Canadian Law Symposium Index* which indexes papers from programs held across Canada. Available on Quicklaw (1986- ).

(consult in the library or use on Quicklaw)

## **9. Newsletters**

Legal newsletters published on a weekly or monthly basis are an important resource for current awareness. A wide variety of newsletters are available in print (e.g. *Money and Family Law* (Carswell)) and online (e.g. *Alan Gold's Criminal Law Netletter* on Quicklaw). To find a current newsletter covering recent developments in your area of practice, consult a librarian.

(subscription or consult in the library)

## **10. BAR-eX [www.bar-ex.ca](http://www.bar-ex.ca)**

This site provides access to a wide variety of products and services for Ontario lawyers, from online CLE programs to a writ searching service. The site's Current Awareness Service provides daily summaries of recent cases, legislative changes, new publications and general news items affecting the profession. Organized by practice area, this is a convenient tool for keeping current on legal developments. The BAR-eX Web site is free but registration is required.

(free Web site)