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Prepare to Practice - The Process of Legal Research

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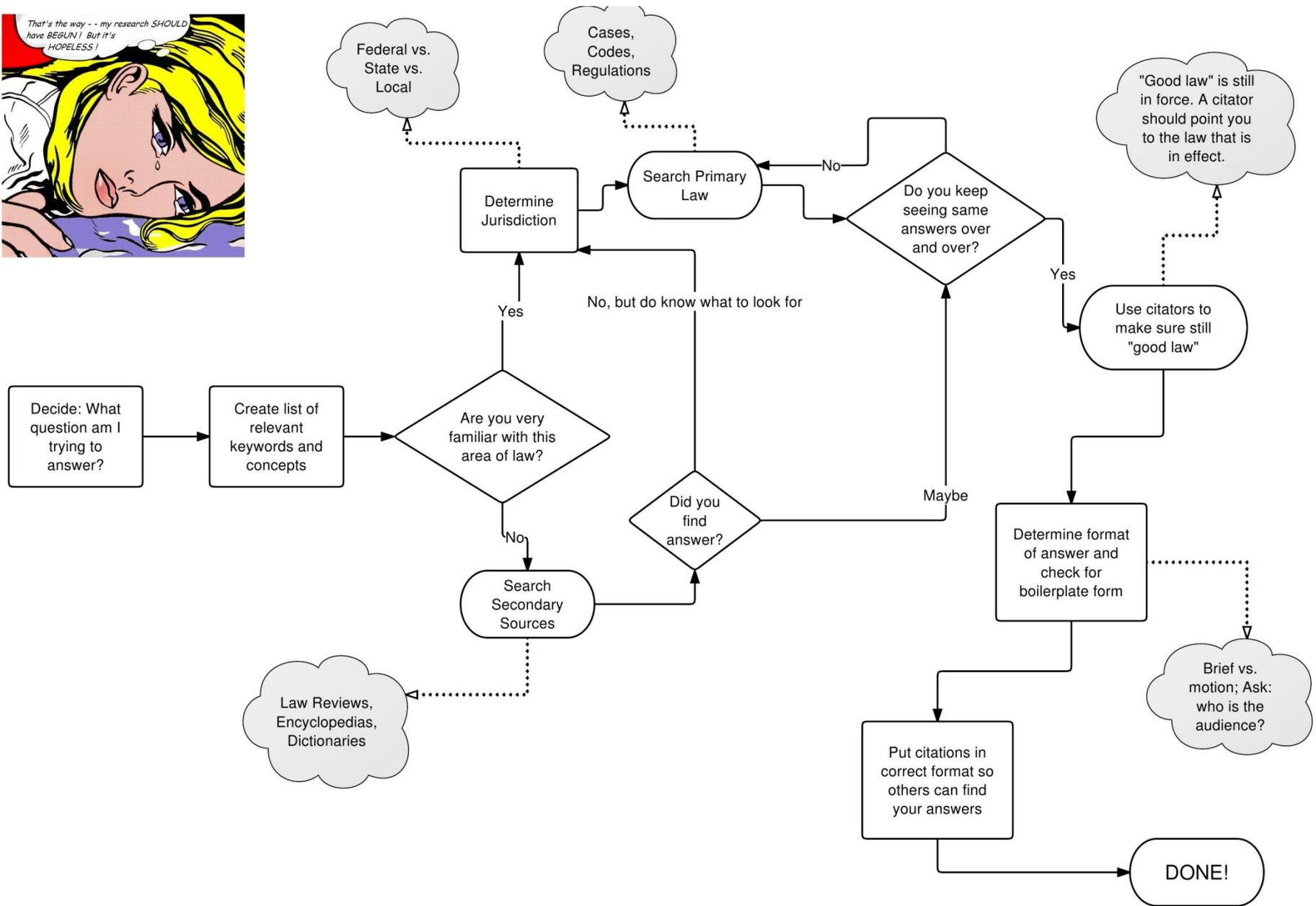


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The Process of Legal Research

Library Services available during the summer

- **Research Librarians!**
 - refreq@kentlaw.iit.edu
 - chat: see the box on our homepage <http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/library>
 - (312) 906-5670
- **Library Hours:** check our website <http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/library>

Library Guides: <http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/library/electronic-resources/library-guides> (especially the guide to free legal resources: <http://guides.kentlaw.iit.edu/freelegalresources>)

What about the library's subscriptions?

During the summer, you can keep using most of the library's paid subscriptions. The biggest exceptions are IICLE, Lexis, and Westlaw. Talk with your Lexis and Westlaw reps for more information. As for IICLE, be sure to ask if your firm subscribes to any IICLE publications, if not, you can access them in print at law libraries in the area.

Other libraries:

If coming to Kent isn't convenient, you may be closer to another library downtown or in the suburbs. Don't forget about libraries in courthouses and other law schools. And, of course, if you are lucky enough to work at a law firm with librarians, make friends with them quickly!

Notes:

Researching in an unfamiliar jurisdiction



Look for guides at other law schools.

May use links that ask you to log in to that school's network, but at least you'll know the name of the resource. Oftentimes, we have the same resources here.

Examples:

Illinois: <http://lawlibguides.luc.edu/content.php?pid=84661>

Wisconsin:

<http://law.wisc.libguides.com/wilegalinfosources>

Legal Information Institute: state statutes grouped by topic

http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/state_statutes

Google Scholar:

If your firm doesn't subscribe to cases/statutes from other jurisdictions, you'll probably have to use free resources. See the next page of this handout for more information and caveats.

Notes:

Cost effective legal research

Comprehensive guides:

The Law Student Guide to Free Legal Research: <http://freelaw.classcaster.net/>

Library's Guide to Free Sources Online:
<http://guides.kentlaw.iit.edu/freelegalresources>

Tips:

- Google Scholar can help you to find a “seed case” but it’s not powerful enough for comprehensive research. <http://scholar.google.com/>
- Your time is also valuable! Taking an hour to find something in a “free” resource will cost the firm more than finding it in 10 minutes on Lexis/Westlaw.

Notes:

