



Using the free Web for legal research - 10 things to ask yourself

- Is the web page authoritative? Can you cite to the information posted?
- Can you rely on the information posted?
- Who sponsors the web page: a government agency? A university? Other non-profit group? A special interest group?
- How often is the information posted on the web site updated?
- How can you be sure you have the most current information?
- How much time do you have to go through search results?
- How do you know which search results are “better” than others?
- How well do you know the search system you are using? Have you taken the time to train yourself on the advanced search features (of Google and other search engines)?
- Do you have your own collection of authoritative and reliable web sites in your areas of interest/practice rather than always performing a keyword search on Google or other search engine?
- Beyond the free web, do you have reliable and authoritative alternatives within your reach? A well-known legal treatise available to you may be a wiser and more time-effective choice for legal research than taking your chances with a long list of Google search results.

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