Secondary Sources

The Basics
Evaluating Research Tools

- What type of information does it contain?
- When would it be most helpful
- How do you locate relevant information within the source (finding tools)?
- How do you update it? (How up-to-date is it?)
Legal Encyclopedia

- Provide a basic description of the law
- Find relevant information through the index or the topic outlines
- Update with the pocket part (in print)
Treatises

- Books or set of books written by an authority on the subject
- Can vary widely in their coverage from very scholarly analysis to basic description
- Locate appropriate sources by using the Library’s online catalog/research guide
Legal Periodicals

- Critique of or recommendations for the law or a very specific issue within the law
- Also provide tons of other information in the footnotes
- Find articles through various indexes:
  - Recent: Index to Legal Periodicals, Legaltrac, L/W
  - Older: Index to Legal Periodicals, Hein Online
American Law Reports

- Provide in-depth review of a specific issue
- Use the ALR Index to find annotations (in print)
- Update with pocket part and Annotation History Table (in print)