Online Citators: An Introduction
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Citators Presentations
- Divided into 6 sections:
  - Introduction
  - Shepard's Online
  - KeyCite
  - Google Scholar
  - LoisLaw
  - Fastcase

What Is a Citator?
- List cases showing how they have been cited in later cases.
- List statutes showing legislative changes & judicial citations.
- Lists rules, regulations & other primary authority showing judicial citations.
What Is a Citator?

- **Primary Function**
  - Validate and update material.
  - Help determine if a case or statute is still "good law."

- **Secondary Function**
  - Provide parallel citations for the decision.
  - Locate cases that cite to all later cases that cite your original case.
  - Locate secondary sources - law review articles, attorney general opinions, ALR annotations, some treaties.

Why Research with a Citator?

- Citators list cases which have referred to and have possibly changed the validity of the cases that support your argument.
  - Trace the prior history of your case - where did this case come from?
  - Trace the indirect history - determine the treatment of the case by other cases that have cited it (followed, declined to follow, distinguished, overruled).

Why Does Anyone Use Citators?

- Update your research to the present time!
- Is your case or statute still good law?
- Has your case holding been reversed, overruled, etc.?
- Has your case or statute been altered by legislation?
- Failing to use a citator is malpractice.
Citator Tools

- Print
- LexisNexis Shepard's (online)
- Westlaw's KeyCite (online)
- Google Scholar
- Loislaw & Fastcase

Rules of the Road
(tips to help you with citators)

- Know the citation to the authority you want to Shepardize. This is your original case or cited case.

- Choose your citator:
  - Shepard's (Lexis)
  - KeyCite (Westlaw)
  - Google Scholar
  - Loislaw or Fastcase.

Questions?
Please ask us - We're here to help

E-mail us: lawref@law.stetson.edu
Call us:
  - Reference: 727-562-7821
  - Toll Free: 1-866-391-3221
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