



The Information Edge

Current Legal News from Collin County's
Curt B. Henderson Law Library

ISSUE 2018-04

WWW.COLLINCOUNTYTX.GOV

NOVEMBER 2018

Useful Internet Sites and Articles

re:SearchTX

CourTex—Office of Court Administration, October 2018

re:SearchTX became available to attorneys and registered users on November 7th, 2018. re:SearchTX is a statewide court records portal that works similarly to PACER, the federal online records system. re:SearchTX allows judges, attorneys and members of the public to retrieve documents that have been e-filed and to search for case information for all 254 counties in Texas. Prior to November 7th, re:SearchTX was only available to judges and clerks and attorneys of record to view their own e-filed cases. The Texas Supreme Court signed the final order regarding this portal on October 2, 2018. In its Order, the Court stated “[B]y making court documents more readily available to the public, e-access provides greater transparency for the justice system that is critical to evaluating its operation, improving its procedures and strengthening the public trust.”

re:SearchTX operates in one of two ways and varies from county to county. The first way is called the repository method and only documents that have been e-filed are available to search. Documents not e-filed will be unavailable through re:SearchTX. The second way is search and access which is not limited to only documents that have been e-filed. Regardless of the method each county uses, all documents in the portal will be watermarked to show they are merely a copy from re:SearchTX. Official certified copies must still be obtained through the clerks of the court of each county. There are fees associated with downloading documents from re:SearchTX. The fee is ten cents per page with the revenue going back to the county where the filings originated. Once purchased, the documents will only be available for viewing for 30 days so users will want to save the documents in an offline location if access is desired for more than 30 days.

The website for re:SearchTX is available [here](#). The website includes a lot of useful information including how to access the portal and tips for searches.

About re:SearchTX

re:SearchTX is the only service that offers a single place to easily find case information and court documents from every court in the state.

Technology to Assist Law Firms

AALL Spectrum, July/August 2018

In a recent *Spectrum* journal published by the American Association of Law Libraries, there is a useful article detailing various types of apps and programs to assist with meetings, planning, and visual aids. The article references several free apps to help with brainstorming and organization of ideas. Lucidchart is an online diagramming app that allows the users to create flowcharts, organizational charts, process maps and network diagrams, all with the use of free templates. Coggle and MindMeister are both free account based software programs. Both programs create detailed “mind maps” that can be shared and edited by a group of people. These types of programs are a good way to store a record of shared ideas and refer back to them for further discussion. PBworks is a free online website that permits users to set up a free internal wiki space, useful for collaborative efforts on anything from a pleading to trial exhibits. Storyboard That is a fun and practical way to tell a story or show a sequence of events. This is a free website that allows the user to tell a story with the use of dozens of backgrounds, characters, wardrobes and shapes.

Here is a basic example of a creation from Storyboard That:



The same article also lists several blogs and websites as a way to remain current on technology news and the newest apps. Consider checking out TechCrunch, Mashable, and Gizmodo and the Tech sections of several news sites including HuffPost and Business Insider.

Copies of these articles are available in the library, or from the law librarian via email:
droberts@co.collin.tx.us

Spotlight on the Supremes

The Texas Supreme Court adopted the Task Force on the Texas Bar Examination's recommendation to switch from the Texas Bar Exam to the Uniform Bar Examination. This recommendation came after the task force conducted a 2 year study of the bar exam following declining bar exam scores in Texas and throughout the nation. This change would allow new attorneys who pass the exam a score that can be applied for bar admission in more than 30 states. The Supreme Court's order said that the change will not take place until the February 2021 exam and that all rules and amendments regarding the change will be adopted by that time. The Uniform Bar Exam will do away with testing examinees on Texas procedure and evidence as well as the Texas essay portion. Instead, the Uniform Bar Exam will only include the multistate bar examination, the multistate performance test, and essay questions. Another aspect of the recommendation that the Court adopted is the development of a Texas law course and examination to ensure that Texas bar applicants learn Texas law, ethics, and procedure. The Supreme Court is accepting public comments on this order until December 8, 2018. Written comments may be sent to rulescomments@txcourts.gov. A copy of the Court's order is available [here](#).

Contact Information:

Diane L. Roberts
Law Librarian
Email: droberts@co.collin.tx.us

Bethany Fansler
Assistant
Law Librarian
Email: bfansler@co.collin.tx.us

Hours of Operation:
Monday–Friday
8:00 am–5:00 pm

Note: Computers will
automatically log off
at 4:50 p.m.

Did You Know?

The *ABA Journal* is an online magazine from the American Bar Association. The [website](#) is a wealth of information and has everything from daily news to podcasts to online legal blogs. The *ABA Journal* also has in-depth reporting on different aspects of technology, including "Building the 21st Century Law Firm" which discusses how to make the most out of technology and "Digital Dangers" which addresses some of the cybersecurity issues firms should consider before turning totally electronic.

Important Announcement

IOUs have been discontinued. Cash payment is due at the time the service is rendered. If you do not have cash to pay for copies, prints or faxes the library is not able to release the documents until payment is received. Faxes are \$1.50 for the first page and \$1.00 for each subsequent page. An alternative to receiving faxes is to have the documents sent to an email address. Prints and copies are \$0.10 per page.



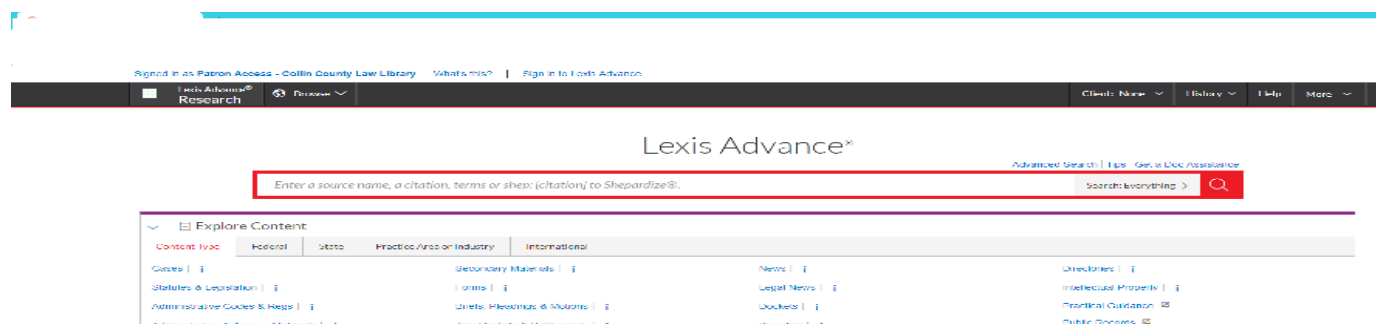
Please keep in mind that as the holiday season approaches it may be necessary for the Law Library to occasionally close for the lunch hour (12pm-1pm). Library staff may be reached at 972-548-4255 or 972-548-4260. Please call ahead of time to check the library's hours during this time.



Lexis Advance Tips

The Curt B. Henderson Law Library proudly offers Patron Access to Lexis Advance on all of the public computers. One of the wonderful benefits of this subscription is online access to the Matthew Bender guides which includes the following: Texas Transaction Guide, Texas Litigation Guide, and Texas Family Law Practice & Procedure. Here is how to locate these guides:

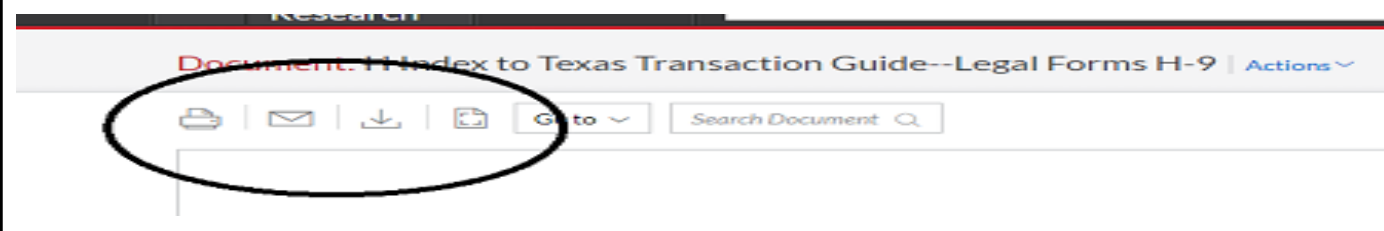
Upon signing in, the homepage and search bar will be brought up on the screen:



Simply type the name of the desired guide into the search box. The user can either type the entire title into the search box or select the name of the guide from the Lexis Advance predictive results:



The requested sections will be available online and the user has the option to print or email the pages or forms requested, subject to copyright law.



Tech Tips: More Useful Apps and Law Blogs

- ♦ **Doodle**— Doodle is a scheduling app and website. An individual URL is created and sends a poll to the invitees about the most convenient time to meet. The most popular time and date is the winner for the meeting. The app is designed to minimize the back and forth involved with setting up a time to meet. Available on both Android and iOS devices.
- ♦ **Paperpile**— Paperpile is a “reference manager for Google products.” Available on both iOS and Android devices, Paperpile contains over 8,000 citation styles, including *The Bluebook*. Users of this app can annotate and upload PDFs to any Google Docs project and the documents can be synced among all the devices through the user’s Google sign in.
- ♦ <http://appsinlaw.com/>—a website that highlights the best apps and tech tips available to attorneys. Its creator, attorney Brett Burney, trains lawyers and law firm staff on how best to use technology in their practice.

The Law Library will be closed November 22-23 for Thanksgiving Day.



The Law Library will be closed December 24-25 for Christmas.



The Law Library will be closed January 1, 2019, for New Year's.



The Law Library will be closed January 21, 2019, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



New on the Shelf

- ◆ O'Connor's Texas Family Code Plus—2018-2019
- ◆ O'Connor's Texas Property Code Plus—2018-2019
- ◆ O'Connor's Texas CPRC Plus—2018-2019
- ◆ O'Connor's Texas Estates Code Plus—2018-2019
- ◆ O'Connor's Texas Criminal Codes Plus—2018-2019
- ◆ Is It Admissible—Revision 20
- ◆ Search & Seizure (TCDLA) - 2017-2018
- ◆ Sampson, Tindall & England's Texas Family Code Annotated—August 2018
- ◆ Federal Civil Judicial Procedure and Rules—2018 Revised Edition
- ◆ Texas Discovery: A Guide to Taking and Resisting Discovery Under the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure—2019
- ◆ Kinkeade & McColloch's Texas Penal Code Annotated—2018-2019 Edition
- ◆ Texas Criminal Lawyer's Handbook—Revision 19
- ◆ 42nd Annual Advanced Estate Planning & Probate Course—Texas 2018 CLE
- ◆ Advanced Medical Torts—Texas 2018 CLE

Happy Holidays from the Law Library!



I foresee a Happy New Year,
but my lawyer says I can't
commit that to writing.