

Electronic Resources for Research in Administrative Law

The 8th edition of *Black's Law Dictionary* defines administrative law as the body of law created by administrative agencies in the form of rules, regulations, orders, and decisions. Fortunately, researchers can readily access most state and federal administrative materials on the Internet for free. This article will give an overview of some of the electronic resources that are freely available.

Although a number of research methodologies can be used, this article is based on a "funnel" methodology. The premise of the funnel scheme is to begin researching using a broad resource base and general ideas, gradually narrowing research efforts to more specific ideas and sources. Bearing this in mind, the article will begin by covering a broad spectrum of electronic resources and end with narrow and more specialized electronic resources.

Broad Resources

Initially, it may be a good idea for researchers to visit the tried and true Google search engine at <http://www.google.com/>. Google searches provide researchers with a broad range of information. However, most times a Google search in itself will not satisfy all of a researcher's needs.

Researchers of administrative law may find it helpful to use electronic resources that furnish a general overview of administrative law resources. These types of resources often contain a list of links to other valuable resources. Wex from Cornell Law School has an offering of this type at http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/index.php/Administrative_law.

Other websites that offer a wide range of links and materials pertaining to administrative law and may be of benefit to researchers include:

- Hieros Gamos Worldwide Legal Directories at <http://www.hg.org/adm.html> has an overview and links to other resources.
- The University of Pittsburgh School of Law's Jurist at http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/sg_ad.htm has links to other resources, such as law review articles.
- Two resources from Findlaw: the first can be found at <http://www.findlaw.com/01topics/00administrative/index.html> and includes links to various administrative law resources; the second can be accessed at http://www.findlaw.com/01topics/00administrative/gov_laws.html for links to primary materials.
- Catalaw, available at <http://www.catalaw.com/topics/Administrative.shtml>, has links to national and international resources.
- The Michigan State University Libraries website at <http://www.lib.msu.edu/publisher/docs/usfed/usregs.htm> has an explanation of administrative law plus links to the Code of Federal Regulations and the Federal Register.
- The LawSource at <http://www.lawsources.com/also/usa.cgi?mi> offers a multitude of information pertaining to administrative law.
- The University of Michigan Library Documents Center at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/fedexec.html> offers an extensive list of links to reference materials related to federal government resources.

The broad electronic administrative law resources listed here are but a few of the many resources available on the web for free.

Specialized and Michigan-Specific Resources

Administrative law encompasses a broad variety of rules, regulations, and the like,

stemming from a wide range of sources. To narrow research efforts, it is useful to search more specialized or niche resources.

A wealth of information about Michigan administrative law is available from state and private resources. The State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (SOAHR), a Type I agency housed within the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG), has many offerings relating to administrative law and can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-10576_35738---,00.html. The SOAHR website contains links to the Michigan Administrative Code and Register, recent and pending rule changes, and links to administrative hearing schedules and decisions. It is also possible to search and access Michigan Attorney General opinions through the Office of the Attorney General website at <http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,1607,7-164-20988---,00.html>. Additional resources include:

- Decisions of the Office of Financial and Insurance Services of DLEG at http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-10555_20594---,00.html.
- Executive Orders of the Michigan Governor at http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-10555_20594---,00.html.
- Revenue Administrative Bulletins from the Michigan Department of Treasury at http://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,1607,7-121-1748_1904_2027---,00.html.
- Administrative decisions from the Michigan Department of Education at <http://web1mdcs.state.mi.us/NXT/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=mdoeal:public>.
- Michigan municipal codes and ordinances from the Municipal Code Corporation website at <http://www.municode.com/Resources/online%20Library.asp>.

Research resources for administrative law judges have been afforded ample coverage on the web. The federal government furnishes many offerings. The U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Administrative Law Judges is one such site and offers a wealth of information about federal administrative law at <http://www.oalj.dol.gov/>. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Administrative Law Judges website at <http://www.epa.gov/oalj/> might be helpful to anyone interested in administrative law as it relates to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Other federal departments and agencies have similar offerings including, but not limited to, the U.S. Department of Agriculture at <http://www.usda.gov/da/oalj.htm>; the National Transportation Safety Board at http://www.nts.gov/alj/o_alj.htm; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/oalj/>; the Federal Communications Commission at <http://www.fcc.gov/oalj/>; and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at <http://www.fcc.gov/oalj/>. An interesting site with the mayor's agent decisions from the District of Columbia can be found at the Georgetown Law Library website at <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/histpres/decisions.cfm>.

The Association of Administrative Law Judges website is another resource that contains considerable information about various subjects in administrative law and can be found at <http://www.aalj.org/links.html>. The Florida State University College of Law website has a lot of useful information for

administrative law researchers at its ABA Administrative Procedures Database at <http://www.law.fsu.edu/library/admin/>.

Access to the federal Administrative Procedures Act 5 U.S.C. ch 5 and 7 can be located through Cornell Law School LII/Legal Information Institute website at http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode05/usc_sup_01_5_10_I_30_5.html and at http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode05/usc_sup_01_5_10_I_30_7.html. The Michigan Administrative Procedures Act, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 et seq., can be accessed through the Michigan legislature website at <http://www.legislature.mi.gov>.

Conclusion

Based on the extensive list of resources that have been cited in this article, and which represent just a small portion of what is available, it is clear that administrative law has

garnered extensive coverage online. Hopefully, the resources listed here will provide the would-be researcher a foot in the door when researching administrative law on the web for free. ◆

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