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Book Reviews

- **The Cybersleuth's Guide to the Internet: Conducting Effective Investigative & Legal Research on the Web**

The Cybersleuth's Guide to the Internet: Conducting Effective Investigative & Legal Research on the Web

By Carole A. Levitt & Mark E. Rosch (Culver City, CA: Internet for Lawyers Press, 2006). 268 pgs. \$59.95. Order, www.iflpress.biz.

Reviewed by Donna M. Jones

Are you savvy at conducting investigative and legal research on the Internet? *The Cybersleuth's Guide to the Internet* offers tremendous assistance for accessing vast resources on the Web. After giving a useful primer on using the Web, this detailed guide identifies numerous investigative and legal Web sites, provides specific directions for accessing their information, discusses their strengths and weaknesses, and indicates whether they are free or available for a fee (per use or by subscription).

Cybersleuth describes how legal portals and directories offer significant resources for substantive legal research. Legal directories categorize Web sites by area of law or jurisdiction and provide links to these Web sites. Legal portals include directories and, more importantly, provide full-text keyword searchable databases of court cases or subject-specific articles about an area of law. Each of the top 10 legal directories and portals, such as FindLaw and Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute (LII), are discussed, as are criteria for assessing the quality of legal directories and portals.

Legal and nonlegal investigative tools also are useful. Many Web sites help users locate people and background information and find experts and verify their credentials. Pretrieve.com is a meta-search site that searches numerous public records databases simultaneously. Typing in criteria once allows the user to view public records on multiple sites. Anywho.com provides telephone listings for more than 90 million consumers and 10 million businesses and updates the listings every three months and monthly, respectively. MoreLaw.com is a litigation and practice tool that provides a free jury verdicts and settlements database and offers a directory of experts. The Google *Advanced Search* page provides access to PowerPoint presentations posted on the Internet.

This informative guide is updated annually. Its extensive table of contents (seven pages) and index (11 pages) reflect its detail. Many black and white illustrations of relevant computer screens are shown but are difficult to see. A sharper color contrast would better serve readers. *Cybersleuth* cautions that information on the Web can change quickly.

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