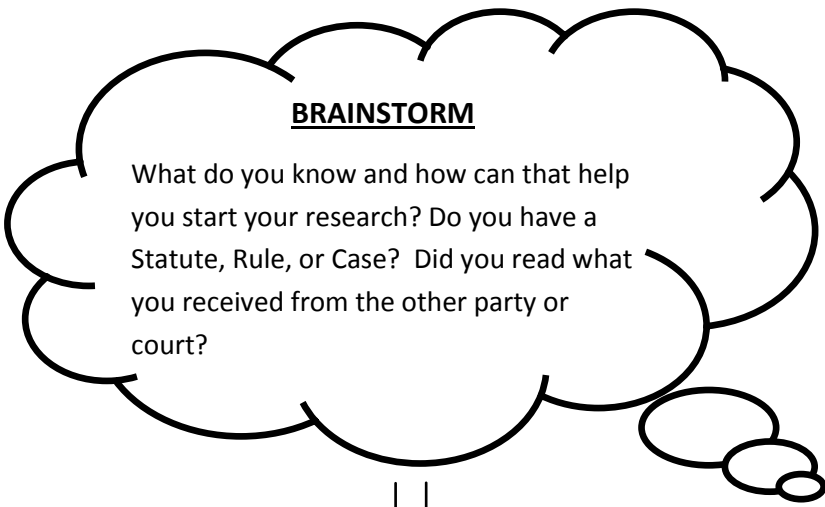


# How to Research—Lane County Law Library

This guide is designed to be used primarily online with the linked sources. The main exception is the final few steps may require a visit to the library or courthouse. Feel free to contact us at 541-682-4337 or at [lclawlib@co.lane.or.us](mailto:lclawlib@co.lane.or.us) with any questions. This guide is a tool for research which should not be construed as legal advice or as the only method of research.



## **BRAINSTORM**

What do you know and how can that help you start your research? Do you have a Statute, Rule, or Case? Did you read what you received from the other party or court?

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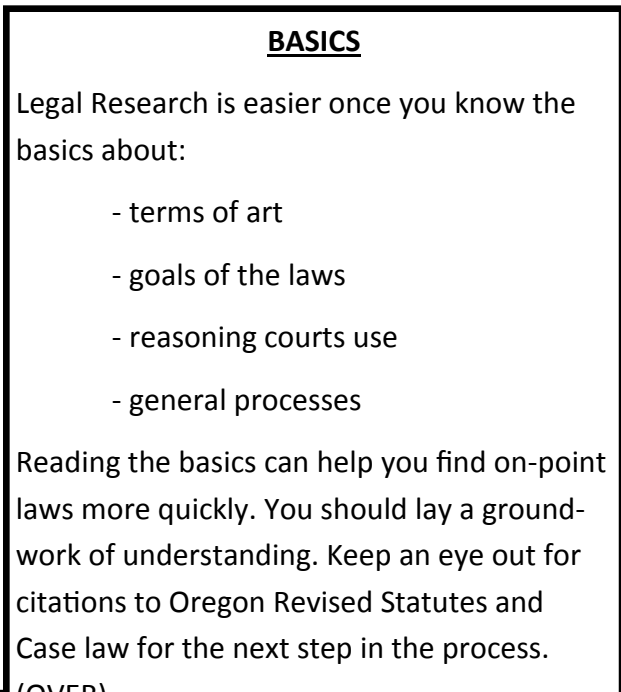
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## **BASICS**

Legal Research is easier once you know the basics about:

- terms of art
- goals of the laws
- reasoning courts use
- general processes

Reading the basics can help you find on-point laws more quickly. You should lay a groundwork of understanding. Keep an eye out for citations to Oregon Revised Statutes and Case law for the next step in the process.

(OVER)

SUGGESTED WEBSITES FOR FINDING INFORMATION ON "The Basics"

[www.oregonlawhelp.org](http://www.oregonlawhelp.org)

[www.osbar.org](http://www.osbar.org)

[NOLO Books on Ebscohost](#)

(name: lane password: Oregon)

[www.nolo.com](http://www.nolo.com)—Oregon specific content

[WEX](#) online legal dictionary and encyclopedia

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## FIND AND READ THE LAW

The best approach in research is to try to determine what the law provides in situations similar to yours not how to get what you want.

Try finding relevant:

- [Statutes](#)—the written laws of Oregon are known as the Oregon Revised Statutes

- [Cases](#)—Judges write decisions between two parties that demonstrate what “the law” is in Oregon or to create “common law”.

- [Court Rules](#)—These often tell you what happens when in a court case.

[Fastcase \(click to create a free account\)](#) has the current Oregon Revised Statutes, and most Oregon Appellate Cases.

I suggest using the “natural language” search option. There are tutorials on their site, or you can always call our staff for information on using Fastcase.

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Know what documents you need to file and ready to draft? Or maybe you’ve decided on a different course of action.

NOT YET

YES

### SECONDARY SOURCES

These help explain how the law works. Like the NOLO books above, but find resources with greater depth and more detail. The Barbooks again are a good resource.

### TEMPLATES, FORMS, EXAMPLES

Once you have an understanding of how the law works, what documents you need for your problem, and when to use them; then it is time to find forms and examples. Try looking first at the Oregon Court Website, then to stationary store forms or feel free to browse the index of our Oregon forms available in the library, or our Thomson Reuters Books for non-Oregon specific forms.



### Complete your Legal Task (Or Not)

Using the knowledge you gained of the law, facts specific to your case or problem and the templates or forms you have found; you are now ready to draft your letters, court documents or other legal documents. Or, possibly, not take action.

Be ready to go to earlier steps in the process as you discover new legal questions.