

**Online Citators:  
An Introduction**  
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**Citators Presentations**

- Divided into 6 sections:
  - > Introduction
  - > Shepard's Online
  - > KeyCite
  - > Google Scholar
  - > Loislaw &
  - > Fastcase

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**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.

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### What Is a Citator?

- **Primary Function**
  - › Validate and update material.
  - › Help determine if a case or statute is still "good law."
- **Secondary Function**
  - › Provides Parallel citations for the decision.
  - › Locate cases – find cites to all later cases that cite your original case.
  - › Locate secondary sources – law review articles, attorney general opinions, ALR annotations, some treatises.



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### 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).

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### 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



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## Citator Tools

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



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## 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.



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## Questions ?

Please ask us – We're here to help

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