



NOVA SCOTIA  
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

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**RESEARCH GUIDE FOR PRINT RESOURCES**

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## The Legal Research Process

When performing legal research it is important to follow a procedure that ensures current and relevant information is not overlooked. Generally, it is best to begin legal research with secondary source material (e.g., textbooks and treatises), rather than primary source material (e.g., statutes and case law). This is especially true when researching an unfamiliar area of law. Secondary source material will provide background information and/or commentary which may lead to relevant statutes and case law.

### Definitions - Primary Sources

The legislation or case law of any jurisdiction is a primary source. Listed below are examples and definitions of primary legal material.

#### Statutes

Statutes are the laws enacted by a legislative body. Statutes are sometimes referred to as legislation or acts. The provinces, the territories, and the federal government all publish statutes.

#### Annual or Sessional Statute Volumes

At the end of a legislative session or at the end of a calendar year, the government produces a bound volume of the acts passed in that session (sessional volume) or in that calendar year (annual volume).

#### Revised Statutes

Periodically, the volumes of statutes require a complete revision. Revisions consolidate amendments, reorganize and renumber the statutes, and correct errors present in earlier statute volumes. When a revision is completed, the revised statutes are proclaimed in force while earlier versions are repealed. The frequency of producing revised statutes varies by jurisdiction. For example, the last revision or consolidation in Nova Scotia was 1989, while the last consolidation in New Brunswick was 1973.

#### Table of Public Statutes

The Table of Public Statutes serves as a table of contents to the statutes. In Nova Scotia, as well as other jurisdictions, the table of public statutes is printed on blue pages at the back of the annual or sessional volume. In some jurisdictions the table is published in a separate volume. The table of public statutes provides the location of the original act (e.g., R.S.N.S. 1989), as well as the amendments to that act since the last revision. Amendments are usually listed by section number.

#### Bill

A statute is introduced and debated in the legislative assembly in the form of a bill. Not all bills introduced in the House of Assembly become acts. When a bill is introduced, it is given a bill number. A process must be followed that allows for three “readings” of the bill and a final vote in the House before the bill passes to become law. When the act is eventually published in the statute volume, the chapter number is not the same as the bill number.

### Coming Into Force (CIF)

Coming into force is a phrase that refers to the date an act becomes law. Two common methods by which an act comes into force are royal assent and proclamation:

Royal Assent: A bill comes into force on the date of royal assent set out in the act.

Proclamation: When an act comes into force on proclamation, the act contains a provision which provides that the act does not become law until proclaimed. The act may come into force as a whole, in which case there is a single proclamation date, or in a piecemeal fashion, in which case there are many proclamation dates over a period of time.

### Regulations

Regulations are subordinate or delegated legislation created under the authority of an act. The regulations provide more detailed information on the procedures for carrying out the provisions of an act. The statute will clearly state, usually near the end of the act, which government ministry or statutory body has the authority to enact regulations.

### Case Law

Case law is the body of law consisting of decisions of judges and administrative tribunals.

### Style of Cause

The style of cause refers to the name of the case or the names of the parties involved in an action. The style of cause remains the same as it progresses through the various levels of the court system, from trial to appeal.

### Decision

The judicial determination or ruling of a court or administrative tribunal is referred to as a decision. Decisions may be oral or written. Juries do not provide written decisions.

### Law Reports/Report Series

Case law is compiled by commercial publishers in books which are variously known as law reports, report series, case reports, or case reporters. Law reports do not publish all cases, nor do they contain full documentation of the trial. Transcripts and other documents introduced in the trial are not reproduced in law reports. Law reports may be topical (e.g., *Reports of Family Law, Canadian Criminal Cases*), national (e.g., *Dominion Law Reports, Supreme Court Reports*), regional (e.g., *Western Weekly Reports, Atlantic Provinces Reports*), or provincial (e.g., *Nova Scotia Reports, Ontario Reports*).

### Neutral Citation

In June 1999, the Canadian Judicial Council endorsed the neutral citation standard for Canadian case law and urged all courts to implement the standard as soon as possible. A neutral citation standard is a means of citing decisions without reference to specific publishers, databases, or law reports.

The Neutral Citation Standard for Case Law permits every court registry to assign a unique identifier to each decision, thereby providing an easy and accurate way of referring to all decisions. Beginning in 1999, the various courts began adopting the neutral citation. A neutral citation begins with the style of cause, followed by the year, the tribunal identifier, and an ordinal number (e.g., *Household Realty Corp. v. Gudger*, 2005 NSSC 88).

### Alternate or Parallel Citation

The same case may be published in several different law report series. A criminal case from Nova Scotia could be published in a subject report series such as *Canadian Criminal Cases*, in a jurisdictional report series such as the *Nova Scotia Reports*, and in a general series such as the *Dominion Law Reports*. If the same case is published in all three of the aforementioned reporters, that case has multiple citations, and each of these citations is referred to as an alternate or parallel citation.

### Cases Judicially Considered / Judicial Treatment

In Canada's common law system, there is considerable value in earlier, similar court decisions. When one case is applied, distinguished, or considered in another case, it is said to have been judicially considered or cited. This is also referred to as a case's judicial treatment.

## Definitions - Secondary Sources

Generally, secondary sources are those sources that provide commentary or act as a finding aid to the law. Commentary is usually found in textbooks, looseleaf services, and periodicals. Finding aids include material such as encyclopedias and digesting services that provide access to the law by subject.

### Textbooks

Many legal textbooks have a long history and several editions. In addition to analysis and commentary on a subject, textbooks are extensively footnoted with references to case law and legislative material. Some textbooks are now published in a looseleaf format that permits frequent updating.

### Looseleaf Services

Looseleaf services usually contain commentary, digests or full text of cases, and/or legislative material on a particular subject. These services are kept current with regular looseleaf updates (e.g., *Canadian Employment Benefits and Pension Guide*).

### Encyclopedias

Legal encyclopedias summarize the law and provide references to supporting case law and legislative material. Usually they are arranged by subject and have a useful indexing system (e.g., *Canadian Encyclopedic Digest*). Some encyclopedias are comprehensive and cover all legal topics (e.g., *Halsbury's Laws of England*), while others summarize the law in only one area (e.g., *Couch on Insurance*).

### Digesting Services

Legal digests usually deal only with case law. Brief summaries of cases are provided, as well as a citation to the law report series where the full text of the case is found. The digest or summaries are typically arranged by subject and have an index (e.g., *The Canadian Abridgment*).

### Journal / Periodical

The term periodical and journal are often used interchangeably. A periodical is a publication that contains articles, reviews, columns, or other short works (e.g., *National, ABA Journal*). A journal is a periodical devoted to scholarly research in a particular field of study. The articles published in journals almost always include an abstract, as well as a bibliography or list of works cited. Periodicals and journals may be general in scope (e.g., *Dalhousie Law Journal, Canadian Lawyer*) or only publish work related to a specific area of law (e.g., *Canadian Family Law Quarterly, Law Practice Magazine*). Periodicals and journals are published quarterly, bi-monthly, monthly, or at specified intervals.

### Periodical Indexes

Periodical indexes are used to find articles published in journals or periodicals (e.g., *Index to Canadian Legal Literature, Index to Legal Periodicals & Books*). Most periodical indexes are arranged by author, title, and subject, and may also include book review indexes, as well as tables of cases and statutes. Some periodical indexes, such as the *Index to Canadian Legal Literature*, are now available through commercial online databases, including LexisNexis Quicklaw and Westlaw Canada's LawSource.

## Nova Scotia Decisions

The Barristers' Library in Halifax includes a collection of the reported and unreported decisions listed in the Nova Scotia Law News (N.S.L.N.). These decisions are kept in a series of bound volumes and binders.

### Nova Scotia Law News

*Nova Scotia Law News* is published four times each year by Library & Information Services as part of *The Society Record*, which is mailed free-of-charge to members of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society. The *Nova Scotia Law News* lists all decisions circulated by the courts of Nova Scotia and provides digests of recent decisions of precedential value. The cases are arranged alphabetically by subject. Each decision listed in the *Nova Scotia Law News* includes the Library Number (e.g., S526/28) to assist users in finding the decision at the Barristers' Library in Halifax. The Library Number consists of an alphanumeric volume or binder number, followed by a slash, and then a tab number.

### Current Law / Cumulative Index to the Nova Scotia Law News

Library & Information Services has created an index to the decisions listed in the *Nova Scotia Law News*. The ongoing, subscription-only index, entitled *Nova Scotia Current Law*, is released ten times per year. An annual index is produced at year end, called the *Cumulative Index to the Nova Scotia Law News*. Only the *Cumulative Index to the Nova Scotia Law News* is available free to all society members through the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society website. Periodically, the annual indexes are cumulated into four- or five-year indexes. The 1967-1979 index lists only unreported decisions. From 1979 onward, the indexes list reported *and* unreported decisions.

If the date of the decision is known, go directly to the applicable table of cases or subject index. If uncertain of the date, begin with the 1967-1979 index and work forward. Search for decisions in the *Cumulative Index to the Nova Scotia Law News* by style of cause, subject, or statute judicially considered.

### For Your Additional Information:

Nova Scotia Law News is a database created by the staff of Library & Information Services. This searchable database is available online under of the name of Law News Online (<http://www.nsbs.org/librarydatabases.php?page=LNQBQE>). Law News Online provides access to the full text of decisions from Nova Scotia (primarily the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court), as well as access to the digests of decisions that appear in the print-based *Nova Scotia Law News*. Please read the "Coverage of Database" note on the query screen to Law News Online for the correct coverage information.

Training is available to Society members on all of the databases created by staff at Library & Information Services. The databases are available on the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society's website at [http://www.nsbs.org/library\\_search.php](http://www.nsbs.org/library_search.php).

## Nova Scotia Statute Law

The Nova Scotia statutes were last revised in 1989 (R.S.N.S. 1989). The R.S.N.S. 1989 were published in two formats: a bound set consisting of 12 volumes and a looseleaf set currently consisting of 15 volumes. The bound set is updated by a sessional volume, while the looseleaf set is kept current with looseleaf updates.

Nova Scotia statutes consist of both public acts, local acts, and private acts. Local and private acts are published in sessional volumes only, not the revised statutes.

### To Locate a Public Statute (using bound volumes)

1. Check the "Table of Public Statutes" in the latest sessional volume. This table is printed on the blue pages at the back of the sessional volume. Statutes are listed alphabetically by short title. This cumulative table provides, for each public act included in the last revision, the chapter number in the revised statutes, as well as a list of amendments, repeals, and new statutes enacted since the last revision. If unsure of the title of a statute, consult the "Subject Guide to Statutes of Nova Scotia" in volume 12 of the bound revision or volume 15 of the looseleaf set.
2. If the House is sitting, or the latest sessional volume has not yet been published, check the "Status of Bills" index to see if there are any bills which might affect the statute in question.

N.B. Not all public statutes appear in the latest revision. Check the "Unrevised Statutes" list in volume 12 of the bound revision or volume 15 of the looseleaf set.

### To Locate a Local or Private Act

1. Check the "Index to Local and Private Acts" in volume 15 of the looseleaf set of the Nova Scotia Statutes (in this case, the indexes in the looseleaf set are more current). There are five indexes covering local and private acts: to 1900, 1901-1923, 1924-1954, 1955-1967, 1968-1989, 1990-2009. Check each index carefully as headings may lack consistency.
2. Check the "Index to Local and Private Acts" in the latest sessional volume. This index is printed on the pink pages at the back of the sessional volume. This index covers local and private acts from 1990 to the date of the most recent sessional volume.
3. If the House is sitting, or the latest sessional volume is not yet published, check the "Status of Bills" index to see if there are any bills which might affect the statute in question.

N.B. There is no cumulative index to the local and private acts.

### For Your Additional Information:

Consolidated statutes are available online through CanLII at <http://www.canlii.org/> or the Nova Scotia Legislature at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/legc/index.htm>.

N.B. The electronic versions of these statutes are provided for convenience only. For all purposes of interpreting and applying the law, users should consult official sources.

## Nova Scotia Regulations

Nova Scotia Regulations have been printed in several publications over the years. It is only since 1977 that all of the regulations have been printed. In 1942, the regulations were printed in a separate volume. From 1943 to 1973, the regulations were printed in the sessional volumes of the Nova Scotia Statutes. From 1973 to 1977, the regulations were printed each year in red volumes, separate and apart from the sessional volumes. Starting in 1977, the regulations have been printed in the Nova Scotia *Royal Gazette*, Part II.

### To Locate Nova Scotia Regulations

1. Check the Sectional Index to Regulations, which is a quarterly index. The index will provide a published source for regulations if one is available.
2. Check the issues of the *Royal Gazette*, Part II released after the publication of the latest quarterly index.

If the Sectional Index or *Royal Gazette* indicates the regulation is unpublished, contact the Registry of Regulations for a copy:

Telephone: (902) 424-6723

Fax: (902) 424-7120

E-mail: [regofregs@gov.ns.ca](mailto:regofregs@gov.ns.ca)

Location: 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Terminal Road Building, 5151 Terminal Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2L6

### For Your Additional Information:

Nova Scotia Consolidated Regulations are now available online through CanLII at <http://www.canlii.org> or the Registry of Regulations at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/>.

- N.B. The electronic versions of the regulations are prepared by the Registry of Regulations for convenience only. For all purposes of interpreting and applying the law, users should consult the official documents filed with the Registry of Regulations, or refer to the *Royal Gazette*, Part II.

## Nova Scotia *Royal Gazette* – Parts I, II

### Part I

The *Royal Gazette*, Part I is published weekly and contains notices of a general character. Of particular importance, the amendments to the *Nova Scotia Civil Procedure Rules* appear in Part I. The collection at the Barristers' Library in Halifax includes the *Royal Gazette*, Part I, from 2004, vol. 213, no. 1 to date.

### Part II

The *Royal Gazette*, Part II is published bi-weekly and updates the Nova Scotia Regulations. See the Nova Scotia Regulations section of this guide for further information.

#### For Your Additional Information:

The Registry of Regulations' website (<http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/>) provides online access to a number of documents related to the *Royal Gazette*, including unofficial copies of issues of Parts I and II, as well as annual indexes for both parts. Consult the Registry of Regulations' website for the dates of coverage of this online material.

## Canadian Statute Law

The Statutes of Canada were last revised in 1985 (R.S.C. 1985) and consist of eight original volumes and five supplements. The R.S.C. 1985 were published in two formats, bound and looseleaf. The bound set is updated by annual or sessional volumes. The looseleaf set is no longer updated and should not be used.

Federal statutes consist of both public and private acts. Private acts are published in sessional volumes only, not revisions.

To Locate a Canadian Public Statute (using bound volumes)

1. Check the Table of Public Statutes and Responsible Ministers (the white volume sitting next to the most recent annual volume). This cumulative table provides the chapter number of the statute in the R.S.C. 1985 and lists amendments, repeals, and new statutes enacted since the last revision. Alternatively, consult the Table of Public Statutes and Responsible Ministers at the back of the most recent annual volume.
2. Check for further amendments in those issues of the *Canada Gazette*, Part III published since the most recent Table of Public Statutes and Responsible Ministers. This will bring the search up to the date of the last issue of the *Canada Gazette*, Part III.
3. Check for federal bills pertaining to the statute in question by going to LEGISinfo at <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Sites/LOP/LEGISINFO/>. LEGISinfo is an online tool providing access to information about federal bills, including the text of bills at various stages and coming into force information.

To Locate a Canadian Private Act

1. Check the cumulative Table of Private Acts (current to December 31, 2000), as well as the Table of Contents in bound annual volumes from 2001 to date. Alternatively, check the Table of Private Acts online at <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/TablePrivateActs/index.html>, which is more current than the print-based table.

For Your Additional Information:

Consolidated statutes are available online through CanLII at <http://www.canlii.org> or Justice Laws at <http://laws.justice.gc.ca>.

- N.B. The online version of the statutes available through CanLII are provided for convenience only. For all purposes of interpreting and applying the law, users should consult official sources. As of June 1, 2009, all consolidated acts and regulations available through the Justice Laws website are official and can be used for evidentiary purposes.

## Canadian Regulations

The Consolidated Regulations of Canada were last published in 1978 (C.R.C. 1978). The *Canada Gazette*, Part II updates the Consolidated Regulations of Canada.

### To Locate a Canadian Regulation

1. Check the *Canada Gazette*, Part II: Consolidated Index of Statutory Instruments. This index is published quarterly and is cumulative from January 1955. Table I of the index lists the regulations alphabetically, as well as the names of the federal statutes under which the regulations were made. Table II lists the federal statutes alphabetically, and beneath the name of each statute, the regulations made pursuant thereto, along with any amendments and repeals.
2. Update with issues of the *Canada Gazette*, Part II released after the publication of the Consolidated Index of Statutory Instruments.

### For Your Additional Information:

Regulations are available online through CanLII at <http://www.canlii.org> or Justice Laws at <http://laws.justice.gc.ca>.

- N.B. The online version of the statutes available through CanLII are provided for convenience only. For all purposes of interpreting and applying the law, users should consult official sources. As of June 1, 2009, all consolidated acts and regulations available through the Justice Laws website are official and can be used for evidentiary purposes.

The *Canada Gazette*, Parts I, II, and III are now available online at <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/index-eng.html>. Since April 1, 2003, the online PDF version of the *Canada Gazette* is an official version and is published simultaneously with the printed copy. The HTML version of the *Canada Gazette* does not have official status.

## *Canada Gazette – Parts I, II, III*

### Part I

Part I of the *Canada Gazette* is published weekly and contains all public notices, official appointments, and proposed regulations from the federal government. It also contains miscellaneous public notices from the private sector that are required to be published by federal statute or regulation. Each issue has an index and quarterly indexes are published throughout the year. Only the current year of the *Canada Gazette*, Part I is kept at the Barristers' Library in Halifax.

### Part II

Part II of the *Canada Gazette* is published semi-monthly and contains all “regulations” as defined in the *Statutory Instruments Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. S-22. It also contains other statutory instruments and documents, including orders in council, orders, and proclamations. Certain regulations are exempt from publication, but most will appear in Part II. Each issue has an index and consolidated indexes are published quarterly throughout the year. The consolidated indexes list all regulations back to January 1, 1955, as well as those regulations exempt from publication.

### Part III

Part III of the *Canada Gazette* is published as an update to the bound Statutes of Canada. As soon as possible after a public act has received Royal Assent, it is published in Part III. Each issue also includes a list of proclamations and orders in council related to the coming into force of federal acts. Each issue includes a table of contents to the acts contained therein.

#### For Your Additional Information:

The *Canada Gazette*, Parts I, II, and III are now available online at <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/index-eng.html>. Since April 1, 2003, the online PDF version of the *Canada Gazette* is an official version and is published simultaneously with the printed copy. The HTML version of the *Canada Gazette* does not have official status.

## Cases Judicially Considered

In order to determine whether a case has been judicially considered by Canadian courts and tribunals, check the following sources:

### 1. *The Canadian Abridgment*

*Canadian Case Citations* is the component of *The Canadian Abridgment* providing information about the treatment or judicial consideration of decisions of Canadian courts and tribunals. The cases listed in *Canadian Case Citations* are arranged alphabetically by the case name or style of cause, which is followed by the citation for the decision, the history of the decision, and finally, the treatment of the decision in other cases.

*Canadian Case Citations* consists of a hardcover main volume, a soft-cover annual supplement, a soft-cover quarterly cumulative supplement, and a soft-cover monthly supplement, all of which must be consulted to fully judicially consider a case.

### 2. Reporting Services

Also check relevant provincial or topical law report series. For example, a case from Alberta may be reported in the *Alberta Reports*, or a case about divorce may be reported in the *Reports on Family Law*, etc. Look in the "Cases Considered" or "Cases Noticed" indexes of these reporters. These indexes may be found in cumulative index volumes, as well as individual volumes and paper parts.

N.B. When searching for cases judicially considered, remember to search under the names of both parties.

#### For Your Additional Information:

Westlaw Canada's LawSource provides the history and treatment of cases in its databases through a citation service called KeyCite Canada. Society members may contact the staff at Library & Information Services to request a search and for information on how to access LawSource, without charge, using the computers in barristers' libraries throughout the province.

Library & Information Services also provides access to LexisNexis Quicklaw for Society members who have their own password for this commercial database. Quicklaw provides the history and treatment of cases in its databases through a citation service called the QuickCITE Case Citator.

Staff are pleased to conduct searches for Society members in Westlaw Canada's LawSource, LexisNexis Quicklaw, and other databases. Training is available to Society members on all products available through Library & Information Services.

## Statutes & Statutory Instruments Judicially Considered

In order to determine whether a statute has been judicially considered by Canadian courts, check the following sources:

### 1. *The Canadian Abridgment*

#### A. *Canadian Statute Citations*

*Canadian Statute Citations* is the component of *The Canadian Abridgment* providing information about the treatment or judicial consideration of Canadian federal, provincial, territorial, international, and foreign statutes by Canadian courts and tribunals. Statutes are arranged by jurisdiction, and within each jurisdiction, statutes are arranged alphabetically by short title. Each statute is then broken down by section, and each section is followed by the cases judicially considering that section.

*Canadian Statute Citations* consists of a hardcover main volume, a soft-cover annual supplement, a soft-cover quarterly cumulative supplement, and a soft-cover monthly supplement, all of which must be consulted to fully judicially consider a statute.

#### B. *Rules Judicially Considered*

*Rules Judicially Considered* is the component of *The Canadian Abridgment* providing information about the treatment or judicial consideration of Canadian federal, provincial, territorial, and international rules of practice and procedure by Canadian courts and tribunals. Rules are arranged by jurisdiction, and within each jurisdiction, rules are arranged alphabetically by short title. Each rule is then broken down by rule or section, and each section is followed by the cases judicially considering that section.

*Rules Judicially Considered* consists of a hardcover main volume, a soft-cover annual supplement, a soft-cover quarterly cumulative supplement, and a soft-cover monthly supplement, all of which must be consulted to fully judicially consider a rule.

#### C. *Regulations Judicially Considered*

*Regulations Judicially Considered* is the component of *The Canadian Abridgment* providing information about the treatment or judicial consideration of Canadian federal, provincial, territorial, and international regulations by Canadian courts and tribunals. Regulations are arranged by jurisdiction. Within each jurisdiction, the short title of the enacting statutes are arranged alphabetically, followed by the title and citation of each statute's associated regulations. Each regulation is then broken down by section, and each section is followed by the cases judicially considering that section.

*Regulations Judicially Considered* consists of a hardcover main volume, a soft-cover annual supplement, a soft-cover quarterly cumulative supplement, and a soft-cover monthly supplement, all of which must be consulted to fully judicially consider a regulation.

## 2. Statute Citators

In a statute citator, statutes are listed alphabetically by the short title of the act, then by section number. Cases considering each section are listed after the section number.

Federal statute citators are shelved following the federal statutes. Provincial statute citators are shelved following the statutes for a province. Provincial statute citators are usually called, [name of province] *Statute Citator*, or *Statutes of* [name of province] *Judicially Considered*.

## 3. Report Series

Most report series will contain a list of "Statutes Noticed" or "Statutes Considered". This list may only appear in the cumulative index volume of the report series, but most have this section in each bound volume. In addition to checking provincial reporters, users may want to consult subject reporters (e.g., *Motor Vehicle Reports*, *Canadian Cases on the Law of Insurance*, etc.), depending on the subject of the statute in question.

## 4. Cumulative Index to the Nova Scotia Law News

The *Cumulative Index to the Nova Scotia Law News* includes a section listing cases from Nova Scotia that have judicially considered a federal statute, as well as a section for cases that have judicially considered a Nova Scotia statute or the *Nova Scotia Civil Procedure Rules*. Statutes are listed alphabetically by the short title of the act, then by section number. Cases considering each section are listed after the section number.

### For Your Additional Information:

Online searches for cases from Nova Scotia that have judicially considered a federal statute, a Nova Scotia statute, or the *Nova Scotia Civil Procedure Rules* can be conducted in Law News Online (<http://www.nsbs.org/librarydatabases.php?page=LNAQBE>). Searches for cases considering the *Nova Scotia Civil Procedure Rules* can also be conducted in the Nova Scotia Annotated Civil Procedure Rules (<http://nslaw.nsbs.org/nslaw/>), an online version of the rules that not only includes annotations, but also forms, an index, and a concordance to the 1972 *Rules*.

Westlaw Canada's LawSource provides the judicial treatment of Canadian and foreign statutes, regulations, and rules in Canadian decisions through a citation service called KeyCite Canada. Society members may contact the staff at Library & Information Services to request a search and for information on how to access LawSource, without charge, using the computers in barristers' libraries throughout the province.

Library & Information Services also provides access to LexisNexis Quicklaw for Society members who have their own password for this commercial database. Quicklaw provides the judicial treatment of Canadian statutes in Canadian decisions through a citation service called the QuickCITE Statute Citator.

Staff are pleased to conduct searches for Society members in Law News Online, Westlaw Canada's LawSource, LexisNexis Quicklaw, and other databases. Training is available to Society members on all products available through Library & Information Services.

## Indexes

Periodical indexes are useful tools to search for journal articles. Most indexes allow searching by author, title, and subject. A few of the common periodical indexes to legal information are listed below:

1. *Index to Canadian Legal Literature* (part of *The Canadian Abridgment*)
2. *Index to Canadian Legal Periodical Literature*
3. *Index to Legal Periodicals & Books*

When a citation is located for an article or publication, consult the Textbooks/Treatises Catalogue (<http://www.nsbs.org/librarydatabases.php?page=CATQBE>) and the Serials Holdings Catalogue ([http://www.nsbs.org/library\\_search.php](http://www.nsbs.org/library_search.php)) to check the holdings of the Barristers' Library in Halifax, as well as county barristers' libraries throughout the province. If the journals or periodicals are not available in the collections of these libraries, staff can arrange to obtain the article through interlibrary loan.

For Your Additional Information:

Secondary Sources (<http://www.nsbs.org/librarydatabases.php?page=2DSourcesAQBE>) is a database created and maintained by Library & Information Services. This resource provides access to a wide range of Society-related secondary sources, including papers presented at Continuing Professional Development conferences, Continuing Legal Education Society of Nova Scotia conferences, articles published in *Nova Scotia Law News* and *The Society Record*, as well as other useful, unpublished articles written by members of the profession.

Both Westlaw Canada's LawSource and LexisNexis Quicklaw provide online access to the *Index to Canadian Legal Literature*. Society members may contact staff at Library & Information Services to request a search and for information on how to access LawSource, without charge, using the computers in barristers' libraries throughout the province.

Staff are pleased to conduct searches for Society members in Westlaw Canada's LawSource, LexisNexis Quicklaw, HeinOnline, and other databases. Training is available to Society members on all products available through Library & Information Services.