

CHAPTER 5: Digests. A.L.R.'s and Words & Phrases

A. Digests = Case locators

1. Organization-see p. 165
2. Key topics and key numbers
3. West's Digest Topics: see p. 167
4. Research Strategies:
 - a. Descriptive word approach-index:
see p. 171 example
 - b. Topic approach-specific volumes:
see p. 173 example
 - c. Table of Cases approach: see p. 174
 - d. Case-on-Point approach:
5. West's Digest System-all digests use key topics and key numbers
6. Levels:
 - a. U.S.S.Ct. Digest
 - b. Federal Practice Digest

P. 2

- c. Regional Digests
- d. State Digests
- e. Specialized Digests

7. Common Features of West's Digests

- a. all use key topics and key numbers
- b. descriptive word index
- c. Table of Cases
- d. Table of Words & Phrases
- e. updated by pocket parts/supplements
- f. cross references: encyclopedias, ALR's

B. American Law Reports (A.L.R.'s)

1. Contain selected cases and essays/ analysis of them
2. Organization:
 - a. A.L.R., A.L.R.2d, A.L.R.3d
 - b. A.L.R.4th: state appellate court cases: 1980-1992
 - c. A.L.R.5th: state appellate court cases: 1992 to 2005

- d. A.L.R.6th: 2005 to present
- e. A.L.R.Fed.: federal court cases from 1969 to 2005
- f. A.L.R.Fed. 2d: 2005 to present

3. Features of A.L.R.'s:

- a. Cases
- b. Annotations
- c. Research References
- d. Outline
- e. Index
- f. Table of Jurisdictions Represented
- g. Scope Section
- h. Related Annotations Section
- i. Summary

** see pp. 185 & 186 for labeled example

4. Finding A.L.R. Annotations

- a. Index: use quarterly pocket supplement in back of each volume of Index to get most recent material: see p. 187 example
- b. Quick Index:

5. Updating A.L.R. Annotations

- a. in minor ways—pocket parts
- b. A.L.R. Index—(last volume):Annotation History Table tells you if annotation has been supplemented or superseded—see p. 191
- c. Toll-free#: 1-800-225-7488 to obtain most recent info
- d. Westlaw: supplementation is completely integrated into annotation

C. Words & Phrases

1. Multi-volume case finder—see p. 194
2. Updated by annual cumulative pocket parts

D. Citation Form: only cite to A.L.R. Annotations of sources covered in this chapter; See Rule 16.6.6 in Bluebook and p. 195

**See CyberSites on p. 195