

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTERESTED IN THE LAW

The State Law Library is a great resource for the following:

- For an introduction to researching legal issue, consult *How to Research a Legal Problem: A Guide for Non-Lawyers* (www.aallnet.org/sis/lisp).
- Extensive self-help materials from legal publishers such as NOLO and easy to understand Nutshell series from West. NOLO materials are available electronically at all libraries. Nutshells can be accessed via the public access Westlaw terminals at the main library.
- Legal Encyclopedias such as Am Jur 2nd and CJS – A great place to start your research.
- Comprehensive legal materials from Rhode Island, consisting of case law, statutory codes, session laws, regulations, and municipal ordinances. These include current materials as well as a complete historic collection of Rhode Island statutes and cases.
- Treatises ranging from one volume works to multi-volume resources on a wide variety of legal topics.
- A variety of finding aids and tutorials to assist you in your research.
- Internet access to premier legal databases, including Westlaw and Lexis. Westlaw is available at the main library only. Lexis is offered at the main library and in all the county libraries.

Note – Databases can only be accessed from within the Judiciary's network. They are not available from your desktop. Although the library has wireless capabilities, personal computers cannot be used to access the internet or individual networks due to security issues.

- Electronic resources on a variety of topics. Materials consist of forms, treatises, and practice materials that will assist the researcher.
- Reference assistance via phone or email. Librarians can point you to books and databases that may be helpful in your research. Library staff CANNOT provide legal advice, that is, apply the law to your specific circumstances or interpret the law for you.
- Photocopiers and printers are available at each of the libraries. The cost is \$.10 per page for printing and \$.20 per page for photocopying. A vendor card can be purchased for \$5.00, using either \$1.00 or \$5.00 for the initial purchase. Please bring proper change with you.