TYPES OF SECONDARY SOURCES

Legal Encyclopedias
- Legal encyclopedias contain brief summaries on a variety of topics.
  - California: California Jurisprudence (Cal. Jur.) and Witkin’s Summary of California Law.

Treatises
- Treatises cover a single subject, e.g. Torts, as opposed to covering multiple subject areas like a legal encyclopedia.
  - Treatise examples: Corbin on Contracts, Witkin California Criminal Law.

Practice Guides
- Practice guides are similar to treatises but they also include things that practitioners need like checklists and forms.
  - The main practice guide publishers in California are Rutter (Westlaw), Bancroft-Whitney (Westlaw), Matthew Bender (Lexis), and CEB (CEB OnLaw).

American Law Reports (A.L.R.)
- A.L.R. contains articles called annotations.
  - Annotations collect summaries of cases from a variety of jurisdictions to provide an overview of the law on a topic and are more detailed than encyclopedias.
  - There is not an A.L.R. annotation for every topic, but if you can find one on point, A.L.R. annotations can be very useful.

Legal Periodicals
- Legal periodicals are law journals or law reviews (e.g. the Harvard Law Review).
  - They contain detailed articles on very specific topics.

SEARCHING FOR SECONDARY SOURCES

In Westlaw and Lexis Advance you have two options for accessing secondary sources.

Option 1: Type in the name of the item you are looking for (e.g. California Jurisprudence, American Law Reports, etc.) and select that item. Then search within that item using the search bar at the top of the screen.

Option 2: Search by natural language and filter by clicking on Secondary Sources, Publication Type, and possibly Jurisdiction.
LRC Week 3 Training: Primary and Secondary Sources

TYPES OF PRIMARY SOURCES

Case law
- The law found in the reported cases within a given jurisdiction

Statutes
- The law enacted by the legislature and organized into codes.

SEARCHING FOR CASES

Option 1: Find a citation to a case in the course of reading a secondary source.

Option 2: Find case law summaries in the annotations to a code.

Option 3: Search by Key Number (Westlaw) or Headnote (Lexis).

Option 4: Search by natural language and filter by clicking on Cases and Jurisdiction.

SEARCHING FOR STATUTES

Option 1: Find a citation to a statute in the course of reading a secondary source.

Option 2: Find relevant statutes discussed in court opinions (case law).

Option 3: Filter by Statutes and Jurisdiction, then use the Table of Contents, Index, or Popular Name Table (if available) to navigate to a specific code section.

Option 4: Search by Key Number (Westlaw) or Headnote (Lexis).