Research Tip –
West Academic Digital Reference Collection

One of the many resources available from the law library is the West Academic Digital Reference Collection. This collection provides electronic access to all of West Academic’s Nutshells, Hornbooks, and Concise Hornbooks.

You can access the Digital Reference Collection from the library or any court computer.

A. What’s Included

Nutshell Series: Nutshells are compact study guides that explain the most important issues of law, highlighting key cases and statutes. Nutshells are written by recognized experts who present the essential rules of law in a uniquely condensed format.

Hornbook Series: Scholarly and definitive, Hornbooks explain the law in great depth and broaden understanding with insights into not only the law’s historical development, but also its contemporary issues and future directions.

Concise Hornbook Series: The series features concise analyses of fundamental areas of the law by prominent legal scholars. Conveniently sized, yet expertly written to provide comprehensive coverage of the most crucial issues.

B. How to Search for Titles

There are multiple search options available for West Academic:

1. Library Catalog

All titles available from West Academic are linked to the library’s catalog. First, enter your search terms in the search box. Then follow the link to be directed to the eBook.
2. Global Search Bar

There are also several search options available from the West Academic homepage.

Use this option for general searching. Type in a title, author, keyword, or phrase to retrieve all items that include those search terms.

3. Browse by Subject

Use this option to see a full list of available subjects. Then select the subject to see all titles available for that topic.
4. Browse by Series

Use this option to see titles available by series type.

C. How to Search within a Title

Once you have chosen a book, there are additional options that allow you to navigate within that title. From the Product Details Page, select the Search in Book tab.

Enter keywords or phrases in the search bar to find every instance of that term throughout the book. The search results will be grouped together by chapters and listed in order of frequency.
D. How to Browse within a Title

From the Product Details Page, select the Browse Book tab.

The Browse Book tab will provide a table of contents for the book. Select any chapter, section, or subsection from the browse menu to jump directly to that place in the book.
E. How to View Book Details

From the Product Details Page, select the Book Description tab.
The Book Description tab provides general details about the book, including title, author, publication date, subject, and description.

G. Further Information

For more information, see the West Academic Reference Collection FAQ or contact Ashley Stewart at astewart@akcourts.us or (907) 264-0583.