BOOK REVIEW: RESEARCHING AND WRITING IN LAW

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The fourth edition of *Research and Writing in Law* provides clear concepts and guidelines on formulating and writing legal research and is also a good reference for finding and validating the law. The discussions on standard doctrinal research methodologies, legal research frameworks and social science methodologies for lawyers offer valuable insights for legal academics, scholars, and researchers. The illustrations are very helpful to simplify the textual explanations.

The checklist is equally relevant. It has been organized well, easy for readers to understand. Having it presented in a table with specific column for the content of the research tool with a brief description of essential information content and how to use it makes it very useful.

Part one on *Formulating and Writing Your Legal Research Project,* has a thorough explanation of various types of social science research that can be explored. It also elucidates about research paradigms and changing context of research. The standards on doctrinal research methodologies section has provided helpful tips on sourcing information and how to use certain approaches as starting points that can lead to expand access information sources. It is very much an advanced strategy for researching that is not usually covered in basic research classes but is of utmost important in law. The introductory explanation on how to use the checklist and flowcharts are also a prelude to the 2nd part of the book. The chapter on Basic Electronic Research techniques provides an overview of online resources, a good supplementary readings and reference for students who wanted to conduct independent research. The topics on search strategies are the same principles taught in library instruction which kind of scaffolds the library instruction. Chapter 5 on Social Science Methodologies for Lawyers finds commonality between social science research and legal

research. The discussion on qualitative and quantitative research encourage neophyte legal researchers to explore various methods beyond the usual interview and survey. The discussion in citation analysis helps researchers understand deeper the value and impact of articles, authors, institutions which is an essential criteria in selecting scholarly references for literature review.

Part two which is the *Checklists for Locating and Validating the Law* provides the research tools which are links to useful research aids such as legal words and phrases, abbreviations, manual of citations, journal ranking, etc. Chapters on how to understand laws in specific countries, bills, cases, subject index, etc. is a one-stop guide. A chapter for China has also been added in the fourth edition. The 2018 edition is the most recent with available e-copy. This is the kind of reference that requires constant update as half of the content provides links to electronic resources.

As provided in the preface, this book is intended for postgraduate students. However, this is still one of the most reliable source of reference I have seen for students who want to embark into legal research even on the basic level as it covers topics on   basic electronic research techniques, how to formulate a research topic, how to refine the topic and how to write a research proposal.

For librarians providing information literacy instructions and research support, this is a valuable reference.