2004


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Part of the Legal Education Commons, Legal Writing and Research Commons, and the State and Local Government Law Commons
also serves as a communication tool ensures that the “library will both do what it says and say what it does” (p.4).

¶64 The book is easily readable in a single sitting. It contains four core chapters covering about one-third of the book, followed by a fifth chapter of mission statement examples, and completed by appendixes, suggested readings, and an index. Chapter 1, “Putting the Mission in a Mission Statement,” discusses the importance of a vibrant mission statement for marketing the library and communicating its identity. Chapter 2 elaborates on the tie-in between the mission message and marketing. Here Wallace offers examples of both good and bad mission statements, and distinguishes between mission and vision statements. Chapter 3 advises on the actual craft of writing an effective mission statement, while chapter 4, “Putting Your Statement to Work,” offers suggestions about communicating the mission statement effectively as part of the library’s marketing effort, and enumerates places and spaces where a shortened version of the mission statement might be posted. Chapter 5 presents an extensive array of examples of mission statements from the academic, public, research, school, and other library sectors. These examples are offered as inspiration for the reader in developing his or her library mission statement. One academic law library mission statement is presented under the heading of “Research Libraries.” A model mission statement for a school library media center is illustrated in appendix A, and a marketing communication planning worksheet is offered as appendix B.

¶65 Wallace’s work repletes with helpful examples, questions, and suggestions. This reviewer, prior to reading Libraries, Mission & Marketing: Writing Mission Statements That Work, wrote an article covering mission statements for a marketing toolkit to be published by the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries.24 After reading Wallace’s work, I refined my article to incorporate some of her ideas. This book would be useful to any librarian struggling to write a clear and compelling mission statement that is intended to form the basis of a library marketing effort. It is cogent, concise, and current in content and approach.


Reviewed by Jennifer Locke

¶66 Designed as a “teaching tool rather than a bibliographic compilation of state legal research sources” (p.xviii), Illinois Legal Research provides practical instruction primarily to law students. It can also serve as a ready reference tool for practitioners and others interested in researching laws specific to Illinois.

Mark Wojcik, associate professor of law at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, begins with a quick review of basic legal research methods and gives tips for developing effective and efficient research skills. He transitions into in-depth explanations of Illinois law, covering topics such as constitutions, judicial decisions, statutes and ordinances, administrative law, rules of court, and various types of secondary sources. Wojcik also includes a chapter on citation, comparing the requirements of the ALWD Citation Manual, the Illinois citation rules, and the Bluebook.

The text has a well-defined scope and an intuitive layout. It includes a table of contents, appendixes providing contact information for government offices and Web site addresses for Illinois courts, a listing of additional resources, and an index. Each of these features contributes to the usability of the text and helps to increase its value as a ready reference tool for more seasoned attorneys. Additionally, each chapter is well footnoted and contains a list of additional resources to help researchers find more detailed information on the chapter’s topic.

Throughout the chapters, Wojcik intersperses anecdotes and tips, such as, “what can happen if you don’t update your research” and “never quote a headnote,” which help both to add interest to the text and give the substantive instruction real-world context. These tips do, however, tend to be more appropriate for inexperienced legal researchers and may thus seem a little superfluous to practitioners.

One of the greatest strengths of Illinois Legal Research is Wojcik’s adherence to his purpose of providing a state-specific legal research guide. It does not veer off and attempt to bring in tangential discussions of federal law. Wojcik does discuss federal courts in Illinois, but this exception is appropriate within the context of the chapter on judicial courts. By remaining faithful to this purpose, Wojcik is able to keep the text succinct and manageable.

The chapter on “Illinois Constitutions” is especially well done. It contains a thorough history of the state, including the period prior to statehood, and discussions of each of the state’s four constitutions. One minor omission from this chapter is a discussion on how the current constitution can be amended.

One drawback to the text is the short shrift given to legislative history research. In his section on legislative histories, Wojcik spends as much time discussing the debate concerning the appropriateness of using legislative histories as he does providing information on how best to compile one. Legislative history research can be complicated and intimidating, and this section does not provide

enough guidance for inexperienced researchers. Additionally, this section would be improved by the addition of a quick review of the legislative process, explaining precisely how a bill becomes a law in Illinois.

Finally, the text could benefit from the inclusion of excerpts from the resources being described, tables, and quick checklists. These tools would convert *Illinois Legal Research* from a textbook to a quick reference guide and might also help the reader grasp the material more readily. Despite these minor criticisms, the text is a remarkably readable legal research guide that will introduce law students to the particulars of Illinois law and can serve as a ready-reference tool for practitioners. *Illinois Legal Research* is a solid, state-specific supplement to more general research guides, such as Berring and Edinger's *Finding the Law*.28

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