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Book Review of Finding the Answers to Legal Questions

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government documents, when the new FDSys should be used. However, the book's own credibility is bolstered by a companion website, <www.GetLaw.net>, which will contain updates to the copious links to online resources. While notes about the companion website appear throughout the book, librarians should consider affixing a prominent notice to the front cover.

The tone of the book is encouraging, but for some legal issues the authors are realistic in noting that some of the resources mentioned are unlikely to be available outside of major public or academic law libraries. A section that will be especially useful for reference librarians covers eight areas of law patrons are likely to research, including family law, estate planning, and bankruptcy. At various points the book reminds the reader that no librarian (even a law librarian) is permitted to provide legal advice, and provides guidance on searching for an attorney when needed. Given that the intended reader's closest library is probably not a law library, the book focuses on relatively affordable print materials and free online resources. The two major proprietary databases, Westlaw and Lexis, are also briefly discussed.

A number of other legal research guides are available, including *Legal Research Made Easy, 4th Edition*, and *Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law, 15th Edition*. For more experienced researchers, *Legal Research in a Nutshell* is a compact but advanced option. Any legal source is always at risk of becoming obsolete, and to the extent the book relies on online resources, its value beyond a couple years will depend greatly on careful maintenance of its companion website. An accessible primer for legal research, *Finding the Answers to Legal Questions* is recommended for public and academic libraries that assist patrons with practical questions.—**Benjamin J. Keele, Reference Librarian, Wolf Law Library, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA 23187, USA** <bjkeele@wm.edu>.

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Finding the Answers to Legal Questions, by Virginia Tucker and Marc Lampson. New York: Neal Schuman, 2011. 274 p. \$80.00. ISBN 978 1 55570 718 7.

Conducting research to learn what the law is on a given situation is often a challenge, especially for a researcher unacquainted with the law's esoteric vocabulary and organization. Fortunately, Virginia Tucker and Marc Lampson have produced a capable guide that will make finding authoritative information on a legal question a bit less daunting. *Finding the Answers to Legal Questions* is a solid choice for public and academic libraries.

The authors' prose is thorough but readable. The text is not weighed down with legal terminology, and the few terms of art are clearly defined when they first appear and in a glossary. The book gently leads the reader through the basic structure of the U.S. legal system and primary materials, such as statutes, cases, and administrative regulations. The authors wisely counsel researchers to seek out reliable secondary sources that summarize the law and devote equal space to explaining treatises, encyclopedias, and law reviews.

While many online legal resources are perfectly trustworthy, there are plenty of misleading websites, too. Tucker and Lampson urge researchers to carefully evaluate online resources and self help books. Much of the book is effectively an annotated bibliography of authoritative print and online sources. Unfortunately, the book primarily uses the soon to be retired GPOAccess as its portal for