Who Should Use This Book

The Cybersleuth's Guide to the Internet is meant to be a guide to free and low cost resources for any one who needs to conduct investigative and legal research on the Internet. The book starts off at the "beginning" laying out Web browser functions some Web users might be less familiar with. It then lays the groundwork of how search engines locate and retrieve the information we're searching for before it moves on to discuss more sophisticated search techniques and then how to apply those techniques to other Web sites to locate the information we're looking for.

Because the vast majority of sites discussed in this book are freely available on the Internet many of these resources could be located through Web searches – if you had the time to conduct those searches, sift through all of the results, and test out the sites until you had culled down the millions of potential sites to a list of the most credible, relevant, and useful.

How to Use This Book

The Cybersleuth's Guide to the Internet is a reference book; it is not meant to be read cover to cover. We have tried to organize this book the way researchers think – by keeping like topics together. There are a number of concepts and search strategies that are applicable to types of research we discuss in different chapters. Therefore, some strategies appear in more than one place in the book to keep the back and forth page flipping to a minimum.

Throughout the book we have adopted a number of conventions to distinguish different types of information.

- Web site names are **boldfaced** to make them stand out on the page when you're scanning for them.
- Text that appears on Web pages like the labels on pull-down menus or search fields (e.g., *Search* or *Last Name*) are *italicized* to make them unique from the site descriptions.
- In our sample searches, the *search terms*, *keywords*, or *phrases* that we enter into search boxes are also *italicized* to make them unique from the site descriptions.
- Because many of the Web site addresses for the sites discussed in the book are so long, we have used a URL shortening service to make them easier to type into your Web browser. So, while you'll see many URLs that look like this – http://linkon.in/9uihD4 – they really do point to the Web site described and will then display the actual URL.

We've made locating all of the Web sites in the book easy by creating a full index of more than 1,200 entries. Sites are indexed by site name (e.g., Google), type of site (e.g., Search Engine: Google), and type of information they contain (e.g., Bankruptcy Dockets: PACER).

What's New in the 12th Edition – 100 Pages of New Information!

The three things we can count on when it's time to revise *The Cybersleuth's Guide to the Internet* are:
- many of the sites in the book have changed some features or functions
- there are a number of new useful Web sites to add
- some Web sites no longer exist

The 12th edition is no exception. The function of every Web site discussed in the previous edition has been verified and updated for this edition. Many sites have added (or taken away) functions and features – and those changes have been noted in the sites' descriptions in this new edition. To illustrate those changes, we updated almost every screenshot in the book. In addition to all of those changes, the following is just some of the new information covered in this edition:

Basics

- Discussion of Web browser functions updated to describe **Internet Explorer 9** running in **Windows 7**.

Search Strategies

- **DuckDuckGo**: The meta-search site that doesn't store your searches or other identifying information.

- **Google's** latest navigation interface: the Black Top Bar

- Learn where **Google** hid their cached Web pages

- Uncovering integration of **Google News Archive** into General News or Web searches

- The demise of **Google's** Phone Directories

- Proximity searching with **Google's** *AROUND(n)* connector

- **Google's** reverse image search

- **Internet Archive**: navigating their redesigned interface

- Updated **Search Engine Features Comparison Chart**

Investigative Research

- **LocatePLUS**: new pricing at this investigative research database.

- **SearchSystems.net**: Navigating their redesigned search scheme.

- **Social Security Death Index**: Important data deleted and new sources to find the deleted data.

- **Spokeo.com**: free people-finding Web search

- **TLO**: a new investigative research database with very low prices, very sophisticated search features, and lots of data.

Legal Research

- More case law added to *Chapter Two* re: admitting Internet information from Web sites (including the **Internet Archive** and social media profiles) into evidence.

- A new social media ethics section.

- **Casemaker's** new pay products: *CaseDigest*, *CaseCheck* + (a possible alternative to the demise **of Lexis's** "pay as you go" access to *Shepard's*), and *CiteCheck* (automated cite checking software for legal briefs)

- How to search the new version of **Casemaker**

- **Cornell LII**: The re-design of its entire site has now made it more difficult to find various databases and search features of those databases, especially the *U.S.C.* database. We clue you in.

- New features at **Fastcase** (cloud printing and case summaries by **Justia**)

- **FindACase**: While searching and viewing opinions are still free, there's a fee to view the opinion's citation, footnotes, and docket number.

- The demise of **GPO Access** and the rise of **FDsys** for federal government documents. A close look at how to use **FDsys**.

- **The Free Law Reporter** (**FLR**): an experiment that builds on **Report of Current Opinions** (**RECOP**), provides a free, keyword searchable database of all slip and final opinions from the appellate courts of all 50 states, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the Federal Appellate Courts (but not the Federal District or Bankruptcy Courts).

- **Google Scholar**: Explanation of new customized multiple court search across any federal or state jurisdiction and the new *Cited By* "visual."

- New free resources added at **Justia**

    o Latin America Law Links
    o Daily Court Opinion Summaries e-newsletters (or news feeds)
    o Weekly Practice-specific e-newsletters (or news feeds)

- **LexisNexis Communities** Portal replaces **LexisONE**: How to use the new Portal.

- **LexisNexis** ceases to offer: (1) free case law and (2) "pay as you go" access to Shepard's or any Lexis product.

- **MetaLib:** Find out how to run a unified search through up to ten U.S. Federal government databases.

- **U.S. Code: The House of Representatives' Office of the Law Revision Counsel (OLRC)** has released a public beta of its new **USC** Web site.

- **USCprelim**: An advance posting of the next online version of the **U.S. Code** at the **House OLRC** Web site.