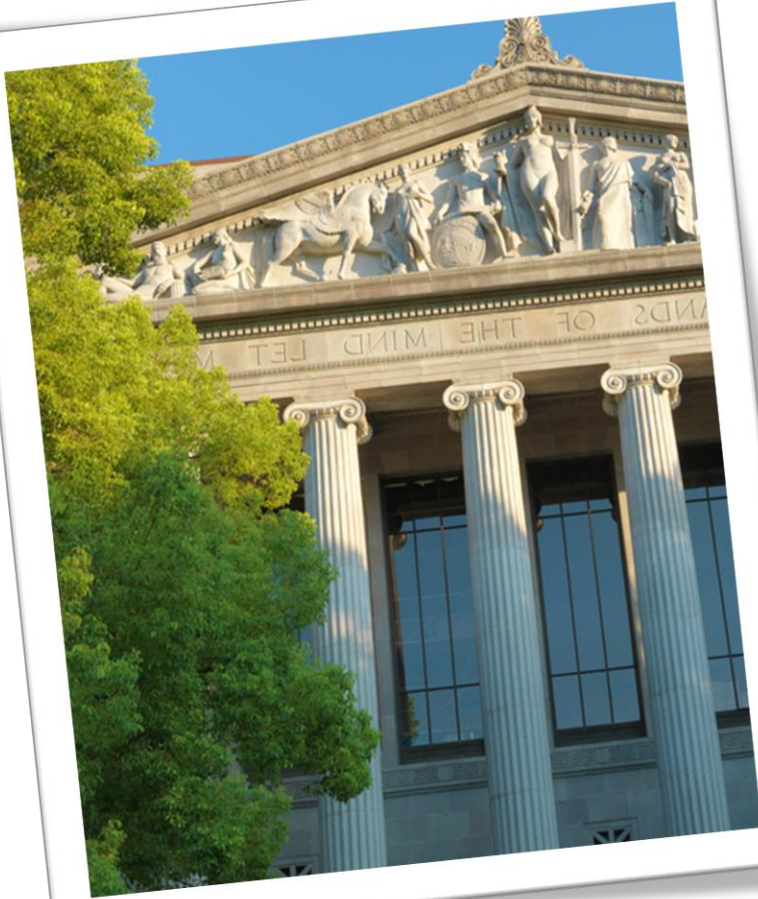




# Research with the Witkin State Law Library

# California State Library



- Founded 1850
- 6 Public Service Sections
  - Witkin State Law Library
  - Government Publications Section
  - Information Services
  - Braille and Talking Book Library
  - California History Section
  - Sutro Library (Our San Francisco Branch)

# Point of Clarification

- This is not an MCLE
- We are not
  - Lawyers
  - The State Archives
- Meaning that
  - Materials access not legal advice
  - Published items access





# Within State Law Library Services

- Access to Legal Materials
  - Remote access whenever it's possible
  - Full onsite access
- Research Assistance
  - Remote—Email and Phone
  - In-person—At the Library
- General Legal Education
  - Library Tours
  - Webinars and other events
  - Research Trainings



# Ongoing Projects (Stay Tuned)

- Research Aids
  - In-Depth Video Tutorials
  - Library “pathfinders”
- Digitization (Funding Dependent)
  - Attorney General Opinions
  - Bill Versions
  - Assembly File Analyses
  - Register Supplements
  - Notice Registers
  - Published Briefs



# Our Materials

- California Law—Our Greatest Strength
  - Current and Historic Primary Law
  - Self-Help Materials
  - Standard Practice Guides
  - Legal Treatises
  - Subscription Database Access
- Federal Law
- Other States Law
- International Law



# Research with Us

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Witkin State Law Library. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a "Home" link and the text "Witkin State Law Library". Below this is a large banner image of a library interior with the text "WITKIN STATE LAW LIBRARY". A paragraph of text follows, describing the library's extensive collection of primary and secondary sources with a focus on California law, including legislative and regulatory history, practice guides, court briefs, and do-it-yourself legal materials. It also mentions that the collection extends beyond California to include federal law and historical and international law. Below the text are four colored boxes with links: "California Law" (blue), "Federal Law" (orange), "Guides and Publications" (grey), and "Bernard E. Witkin Biography" (green). At the bottom, there is a "Contact Us" section with phone, email, and physical address information.

Home | Witkin State Law Library

## WITKIN STATE LAW LIBRARY

The Witkin State Law Library offers an extensive collection of primary and secondary sources with a focus on California law. Primary sources dating back to the beginning of California's statehood provides information to conduct legislative or regulatory history research. Practice guides, court briefs, and do-it-yourself legal materials aid legal professionals and people that are representing themselves in court. Our collection extends beyond California as we have materials relating to other states, federal law, as well as historical and international law.

Our librarians can assist you with your research requests, but we cannot operate as lawyers or provide you with legal advice. If you would like assistance with a legal matter or you are representing yourself in court, the [California Courts Self-Help Center](#) offers extensive information, including information on finding a lawyer.

If you are interested in learning more about researching State and Federal legislation, codes, or regulations, please see the links below. You will find in-depth information and research guides across a range of subjects. If you have questions about legislative or regulatory history research not answered by the information here or in our research guides, please reach out to us at the contact information on this page.

- California Law**  
Information on our unique and most requested collections regarding California state law, regulations, and courts.  
[See California Law](#)
- Federal Law**  
Highlights of our collection of federal laws, regulations, and opinions.  
[See Federal Law](#)
- Guides and Publications**  
A statute-to-bill number database, step-by-step guides on performing online legal research, archived newsletters, and more.  
[See Guides and Publications](#)
- Bernard E. Witkin Biography**  
In 1997, in honor of Bernard E. Witkin, the California Legislature designated the law library of the California State Library as the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library.  
[See the Bernard E. Witkin Biography](#)

**Contact Us**

Phone: (916) 323-9839  
Ask the Witkin State Law Library a Question  
csllaw@library.ca.gov

**In person:**  
914 Capitol Mall  
Stanley Mosk Library & Courts Bldg  
3rd Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95834

- California Primary Law—A Deep Dive
  - Legislative Intent
  - Regulatory Intent
  - Case Law
  - Attorney General Opinions
- Other Law—A Surface Skim
  - Federal Resources
  - Other States Resources
  - International Resources
- But do you have... (catalogs etc.)
- Research Test Drive

# California Primary Law Highlights



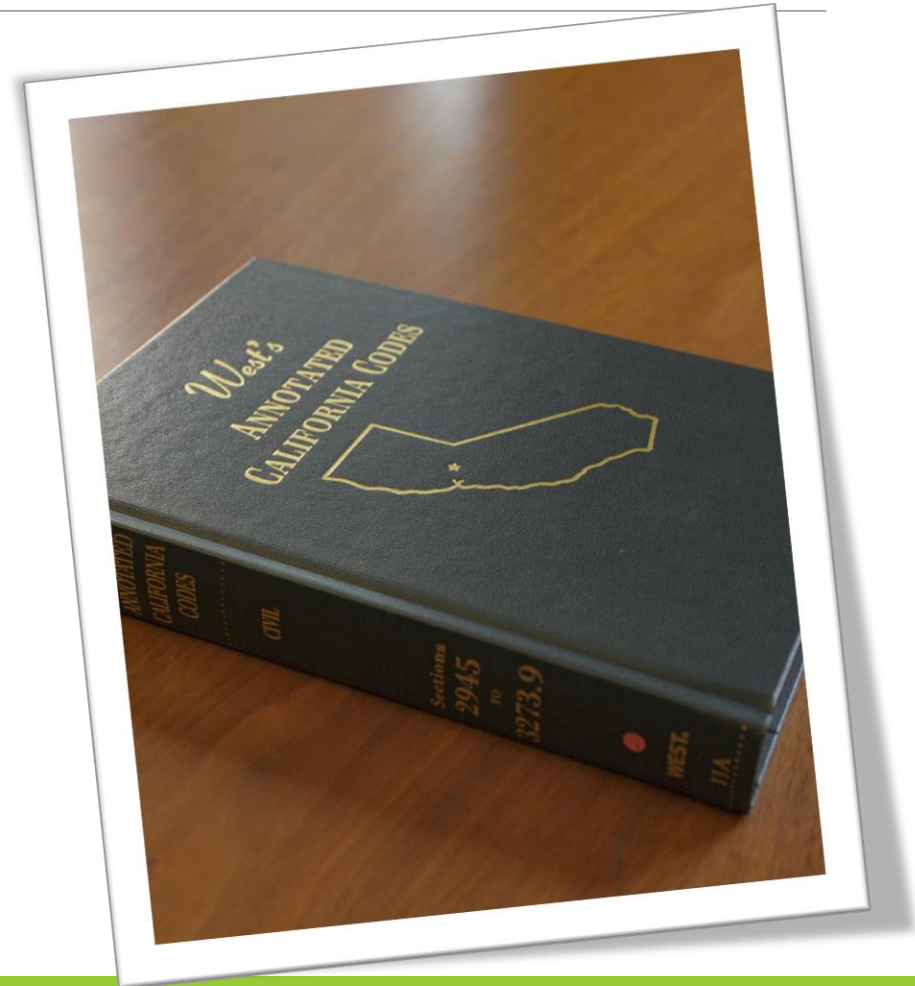
- Legislative
  - Mostly Online—See Guides & Videos
  - **Highlight:** Bill Versions
- Regulatory
  - Mostly Onsite—See Guides & Videos
  - **Highlight:** Register Supplements
- Judicial
  - 50/50
  - **Highlight:** Published Briefs
  - **Highlight:** Attorney General Opinions



# Legislative Materials

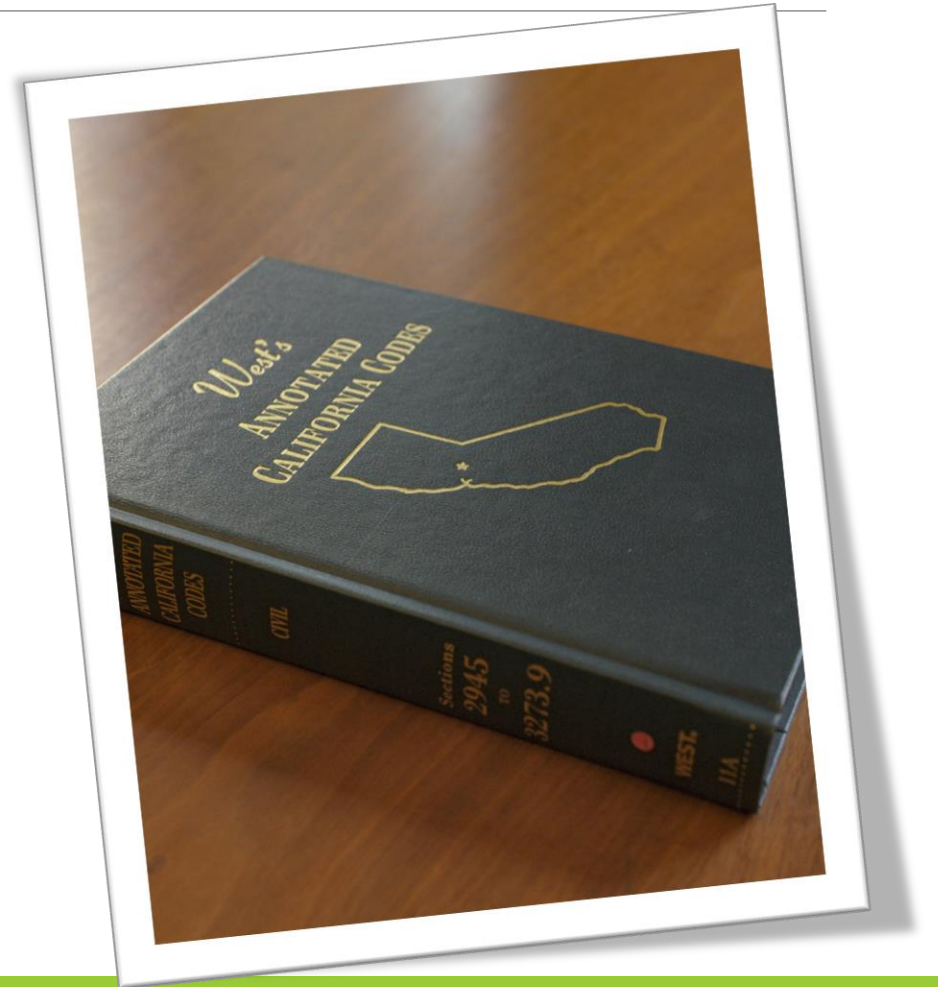
- Research Guides
  - Online Research Guide
  - Upcoming Online Demos
- Online\*
  - HathiTrust Bill Versions
  - Assembly Archives
  - Archived Legislative Information Website
  - Current Legislative Information Website
  - Statutes to Bill Database

**\*Consult Handout for URLs**



# Legislative Materials Cont.

- Onsite Resources
  - Annotated Codes
  - Westlaw
  - Assembly File Analyses
  - Bill Versions
  - In very rare cases: Committee Reports
    - These are government document item
- Elsewhere
  - California State Archives

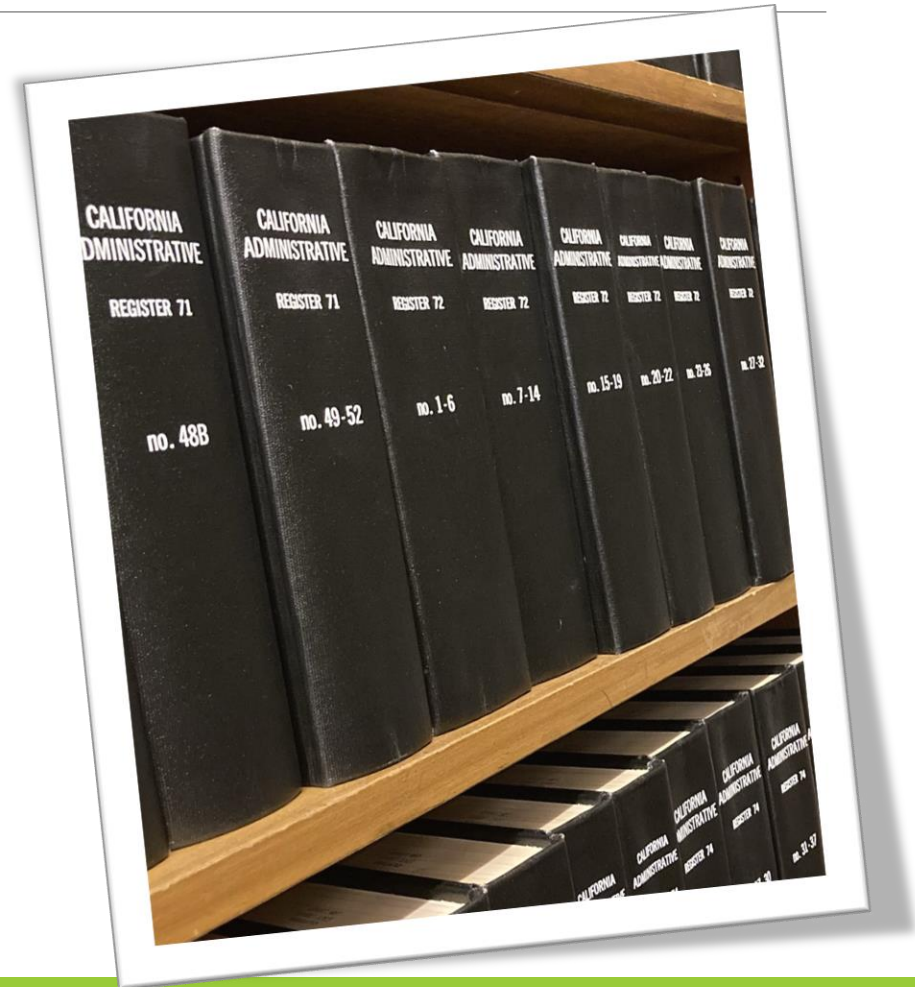




# Regulatory Materials

- Research Guides
  - Upcoming Online Demos
- Online Resources\*
  - Office of Administrative Law (OAL)
  - Westlaw via OAL
  - Archive-it
- Onsite
  - Register Supplements
  - Notice Registers
- Elsewhere
  - State Archives OR Individual Agencies

**\*Consult Handout for URLs**





# Regulatory History & Intent

□ = ONSITE    □ = ONLINE

ONCE

EVERY  
CHANGE



# Judicial Materials—Case Law

- Online Resources\*
  - Lexis via the California Courts
  - California Courts
  - Google Scholar
- Onsite
  - Published Opinions (Database and Paper)
  - Published Briefs
- Elsewhere
  - Individual Courts

**\*Consult Handout for URLs**



# Case Law Research

= ONSITE   
  = ONLINE   
  = OFFSITE STORAGE  
 = STATE EMPLOYEE REMOTE ACCESS

## STEPS

1850 1870 1890 1910 1930 1950 1970 1990 2010 Now

### FINDING A CITATION VIA TREATISES

TREATISES AND HOW-TO'S (1850-NOW)

CEB ONLAW (NOW)

WESTLAW (NOW)

### CASE SEARCHING (PUBLISHED OPINIONS)

LEXIS (1850-NOW)

HEIN ONLINE (1850-NOW)

GOOGLE SCHOLAR (1935-NOW)

COURT LISTENER (1850-NOW)

### DOCKETS (SOMETIMES USEFUL)

STATE COURTS WEBSITE (APPROX. 1996-NOW)

### PUBLISHED BRIEFS

BRIEFS STORED OFF-SITE 1860-1969

BRIEFS ON FICHE 1970-2010

LAW LIBRARY BRIEFS SERVICE 1996-NOW



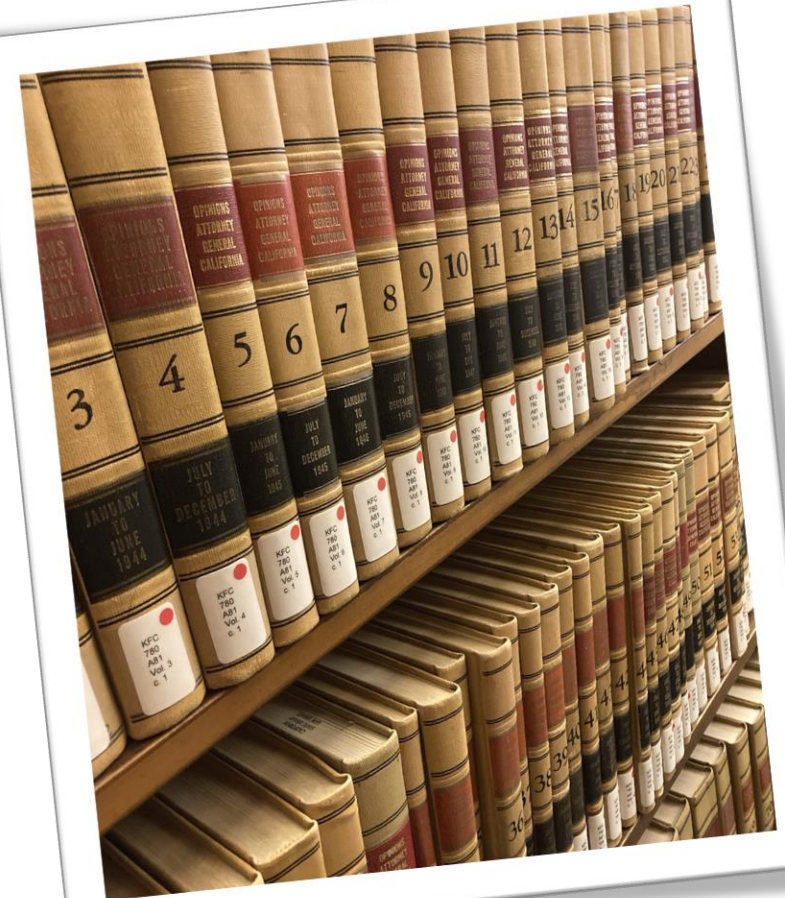
FIND A CASE

FIND CASE DOCUMENTS

# Judicial Materials—AG Opinions

- Online Resources\*
  - Department of Justice Website
- Onsite
  - Published Opinions (Database and Paper)

**\*Consult Handout for URLs**





# AG Opinion Research

= ONSITE     = ONLINE

= STATE EMPLOYEE REMOTE ACCESS

## STEPS

1850 1870 1890 1910 1930 1950 1970 1990 2010 Now

### FINDING A CITATION VIA TREATISES

TREATISES AND HOW-TO'S (1850-CURRENT)

CEB ONLAW (CURRENT)

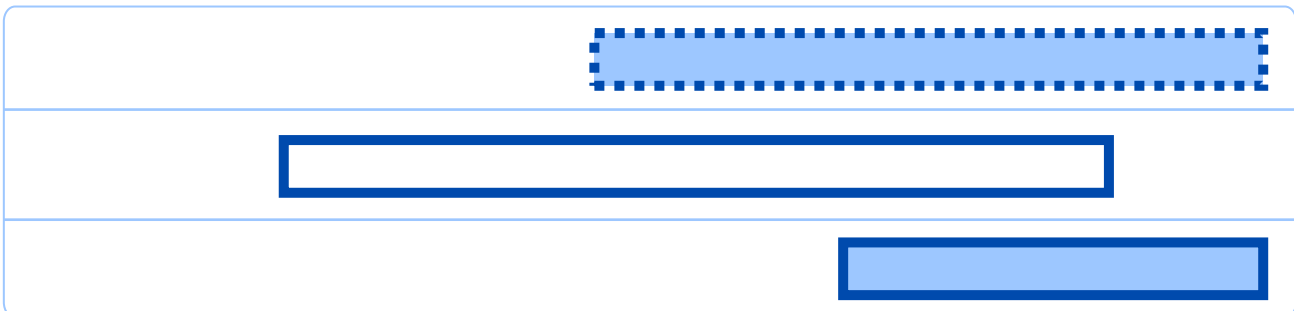
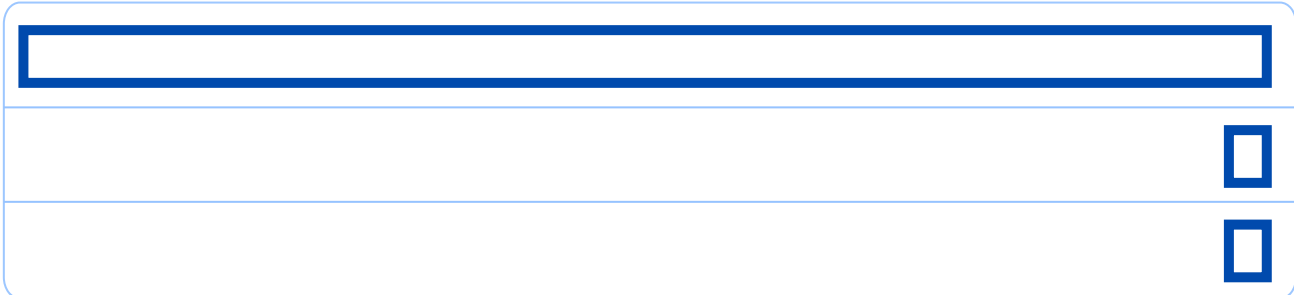
WESTLAW (CURRENT)

### DIRECT OPINION SEARCHING

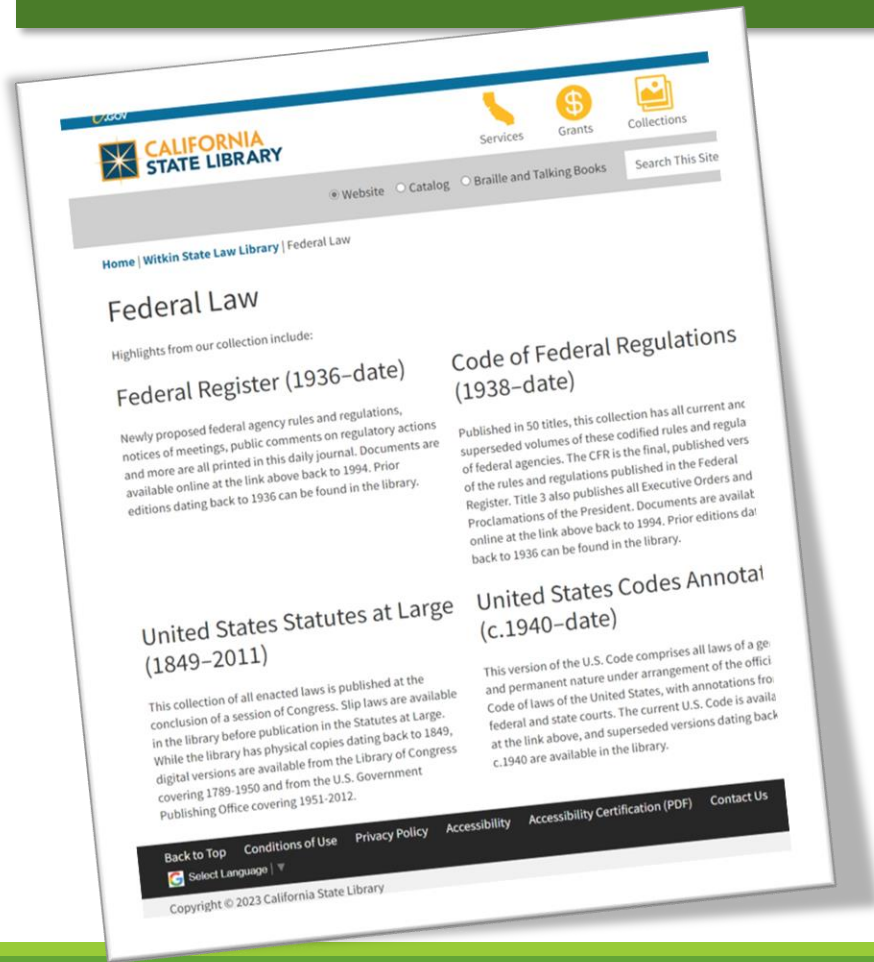
HEIN ONLINE (1943-PRESENT)

AG OPINIONS AT THE LIBRARY (1899-2013)

CALIFORNIA DOJ WEBSITE (1979-PRESENT)

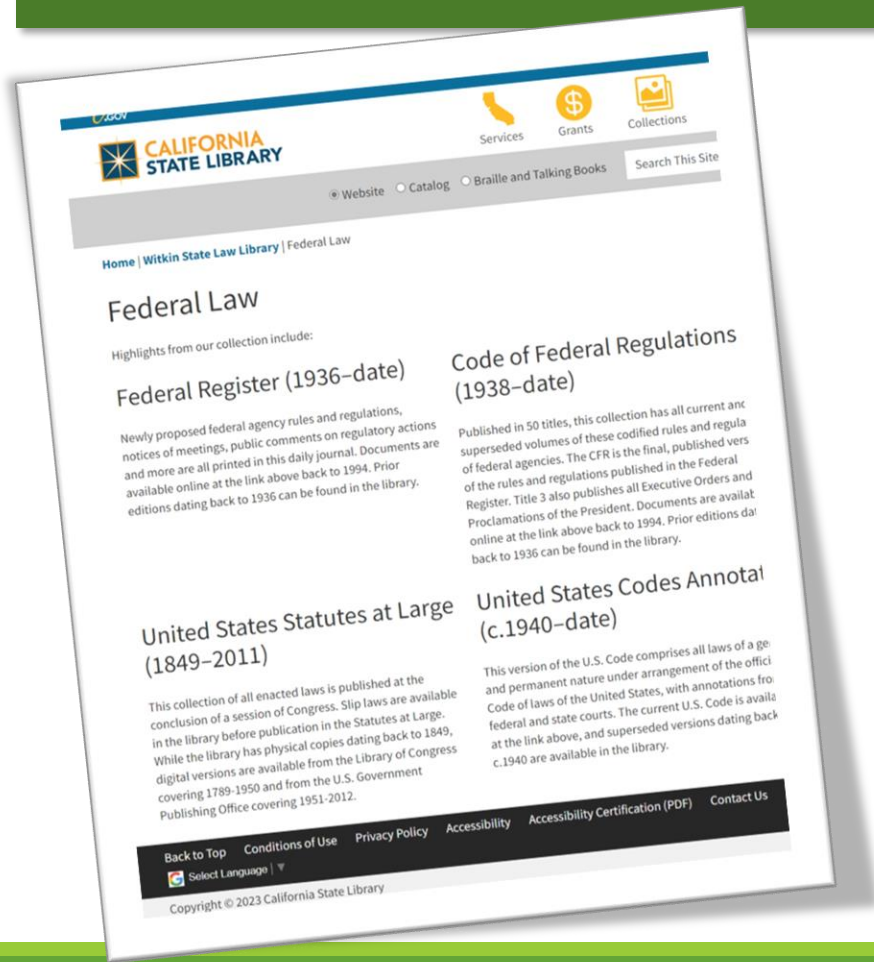


# Federal Primary Law Highlights



- Legislative Materials
  - Current—Online
  - Annotated codes—Onsite
  - Databases—Onsite
- Regulatory
  - Current—Online
  - Historic—Mostly by database
- Judicial
  - Opinions—Online and via Database
  - Attorney General Opinions—Online and via database

# Other State Resources



- Legislative Materials
  - Current—Via Database
  - Older Materials—Some in Paper
- Judicial (Case Law)
  - Opinions—Online and via Database
  - Attorney General Opinions—Online and via database

# Other State Law—Effective dates

## Common Question:

How did a specific (out of state) law read during a specific period?

- Generally, you need to use the databases
- Multi-step process

## STEPS

### LOOK UP CURRENT LAW

**ANNOTATED CODE FOR CODE SECTION HISTORY**

**LAW GOVERNING EFFECTIVE DATES**

### LOOK UP HISTORIC LAW

**AMENDMENT OR CODE JUST PRIOR TO DATE**

**FOR THOROUGHNESS: AMENDMENT JUST AFTER DATE**

**HISTORIC VERSION OF EFFECTIVE DATE LAW**



# International Resources



- Some Collection Highlights
  - Mining Law
  - Early English/Mexican/Spanish Law
  - Space Law
  - Treaties
  - High Profile Trials
  - Much more
- To find
  - Check the Library Catalog

# But do you have? Locating More Resources

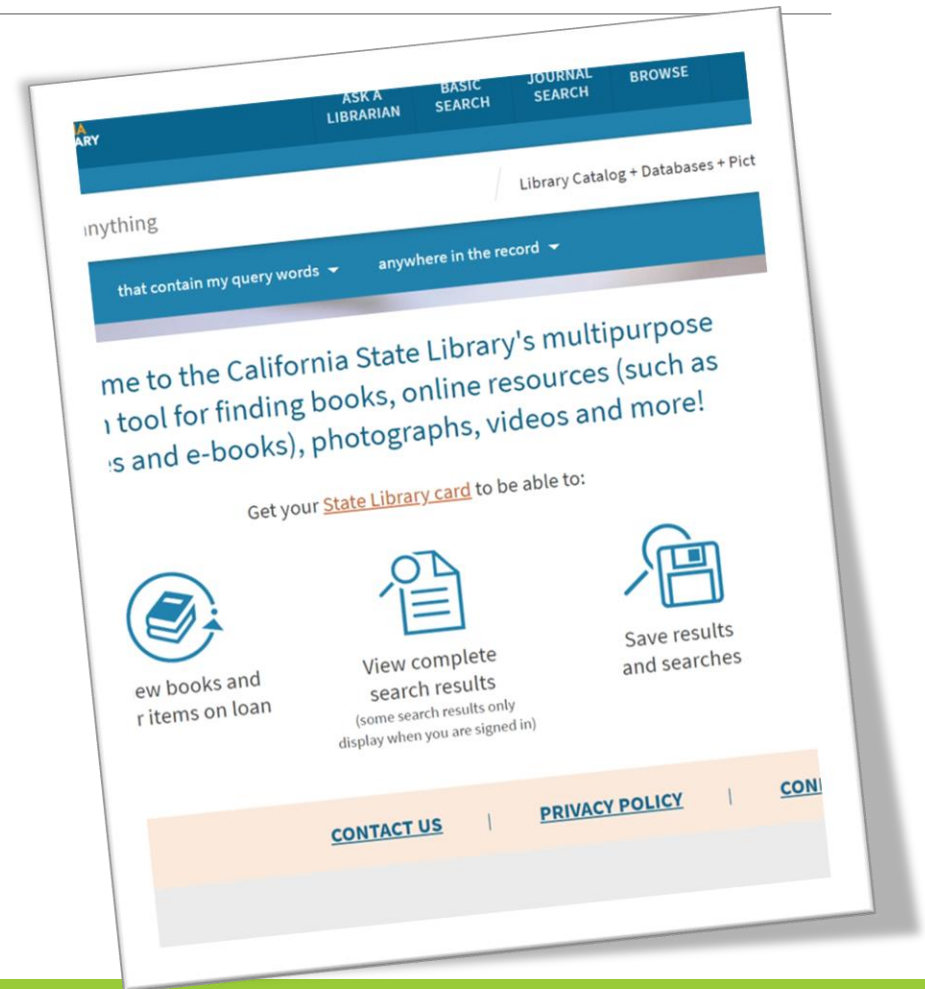


- Library catalog
- Databases
  - What we subscribe to
  - State Employee Access
  - Public Access
- Inter-Library Loan
  - State Employee Services
  - General Public Resources
- Asking us a question

# Searching the Catalog

- Go-To Source for Secondary Law\*
  - Signing in
  - What will you find?
- Example
  - Keyword search: Recycling
  - Narrow by Library
  - Select a Title
  - Request a Pull
    - [csllaw@library.ca.gov](mailto:csllaw@library.ca.gov)
    - Ask-A-Librarian

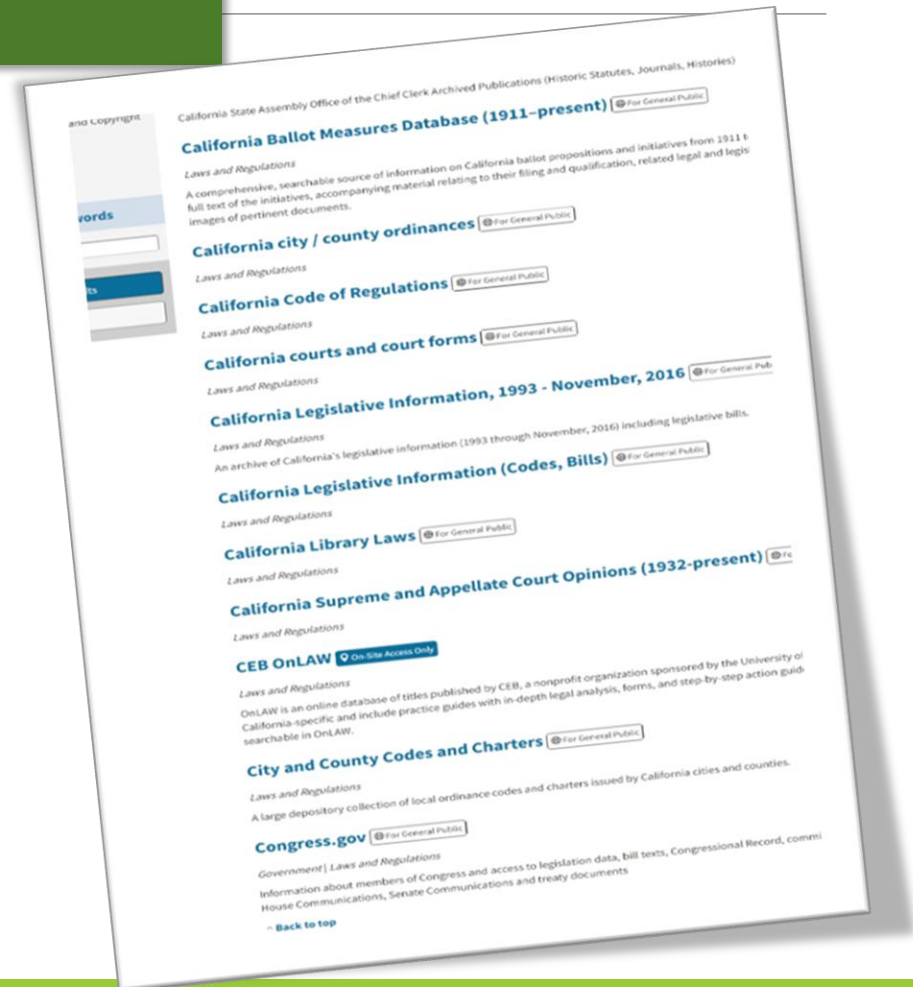
**\*Consult Handout for URL**



# Our Databases—State Employees

- Subscription Database Highlights
  - **HeinOnline** (Remote with log-in)
  - **CEB Onlaw** (Onsite only)
  - **Westlaw** (Onsite Only)
  - **Other databases**
    - Online Resources Page\*
    - Narrow to Laws and Regulations
- Trouble?
  - [csllaw@library.ca.gov](mailto:csllaw@library.ca.gov) or Ask-A-Librarian

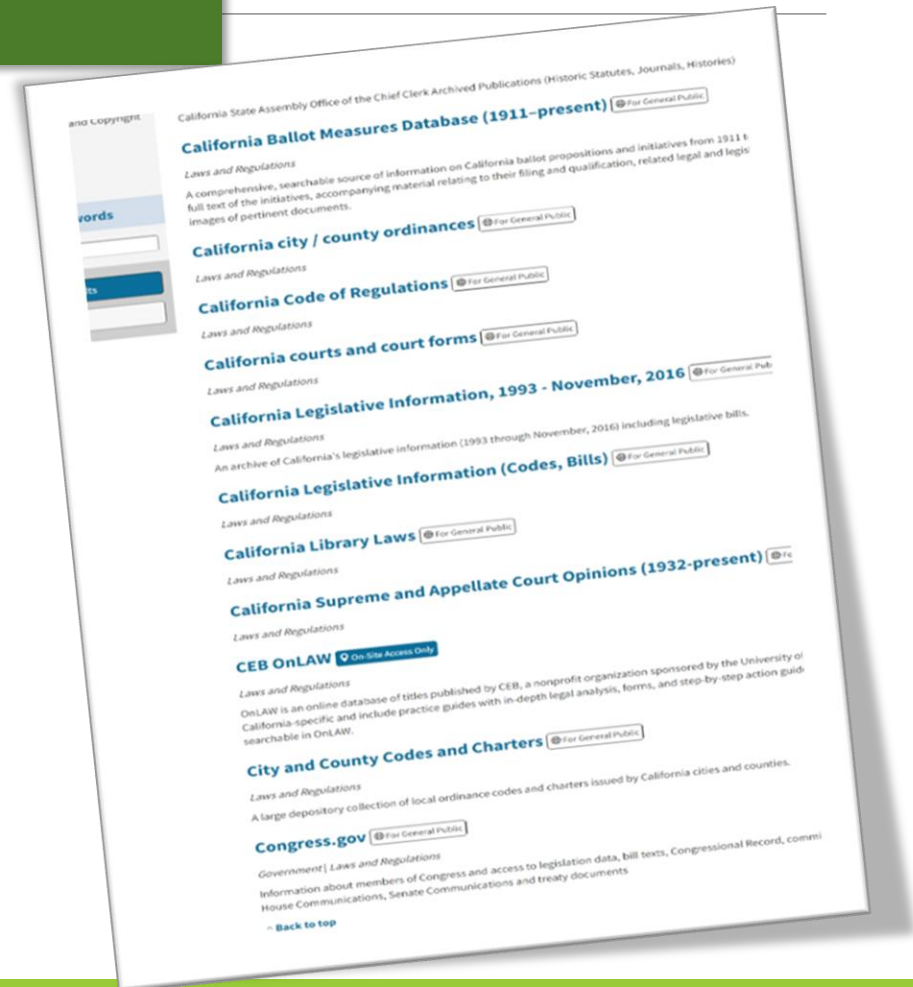
\*Consult Handout for URL



# Our Databases—General Public

- Onsite Access
  - HeinOnline
  - CEB Onlaw
  - Westlaw
- Other databases
  - Online Resources Page\*
  - Narrow to Laws and Regulations
- Ask for what you need
  - [csllaw@library.ca.gov](mailto:csllaw@library.ca.gov) or Ask-a-Librarian
  - We will try to get it to you

**\*Consult Handout for URL**

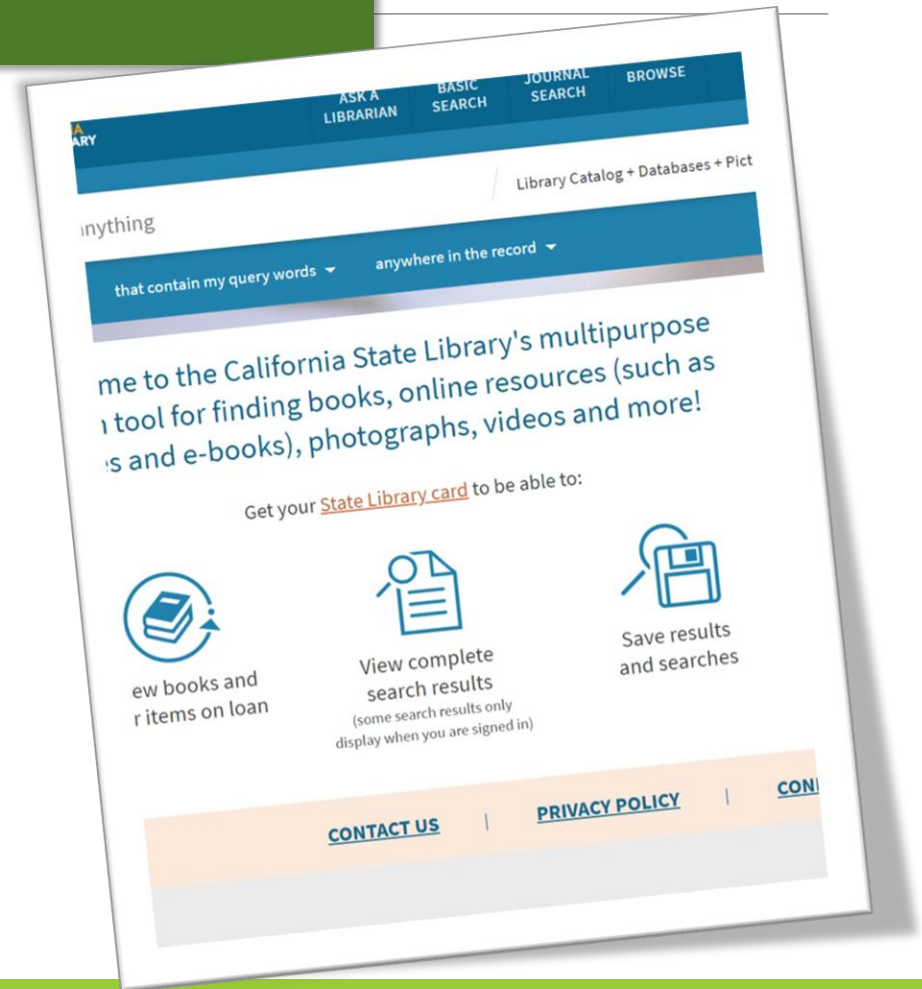




# Interlibrary Loan—State Employees

## Check the Catalog and Databases First

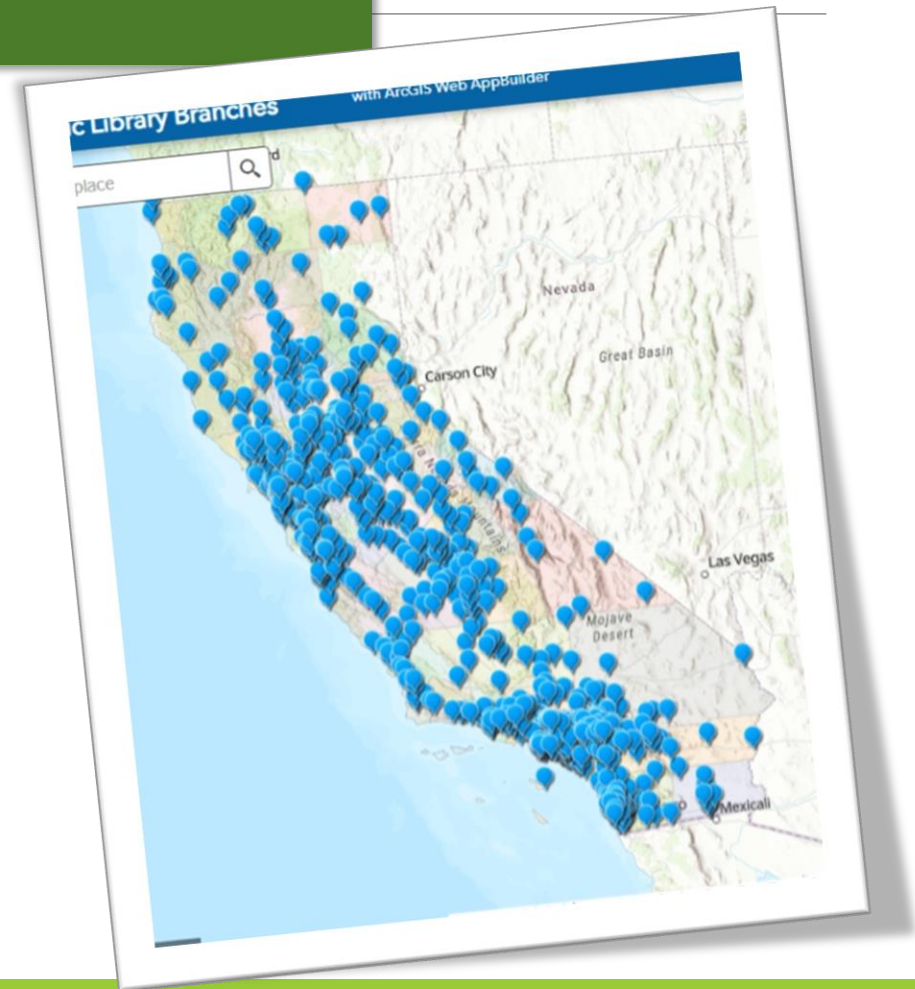
- If we don't have it
  - Sign into the Catalog
  - Click “Search Outside the Library”
  - Select your item and request it



# Interlibrary Loan—General Public

## Check the Catalog and Databases First

- Go to your Local Library
  - Ask about their resource sharing program
  - Follow their request procedures
- Be Aware
  - Each local library system is essentially an island and services vary. Shop around!



# Ask Us a Question

We are happy to assist you!

- Ask-A-Librarian
  - [www.library.ca.gov](http://www.library.ca.gov)
  - Click the question mark
  - Fill out the form
- Email: [csllaw@library.ca.gov](mailto:csllaw@library.ca.gov)
- Reference Desk: (916) 323-9839

The image shows a screenshot of a web form titled "Ask us a question" from JKNIA LIBRARY. The form includes a header with the library logo and title. Below the header, there are several sections for user input: "Fields and Submit" with a "required field" indicator, "Like us to contact you" with a checkbox, "Name" with a text field, "Email" with a text field, and "Phone" with a text field. There are also dropdown menus for "Select an option" and "Select a topic". A "Submit" button is visible at the bottom right. A "drop zone" for attachments is located at the bottom of the form, with the text "You may be dragged and dropped here".

# Research Test Drive: Government Code §14901



- Part of :
  - The Library Distribution Act
- For more detail:
  - California State Documents Collection and Depository Library Program
  - URL on your handout

# Check of Annotated Code

## Origins

Derived from Gov Code § 13661 added Stats  
1945 ch 1403

## Amendments

- Stats 1947 ch 477
- Stats 1953 ch 172
- Stats 1955 ch 120
- Stats 1955 ch 980
- Stats 1961 ch 818
- Stats 1963 ch 930
- Stats 1965 ch 371
- Stats 1965 ch 1825
- Stats 1972 ch 616
- Stats 1976 ch 1038
- Stats 2020 ch 110
- Stats 2024 ch 451





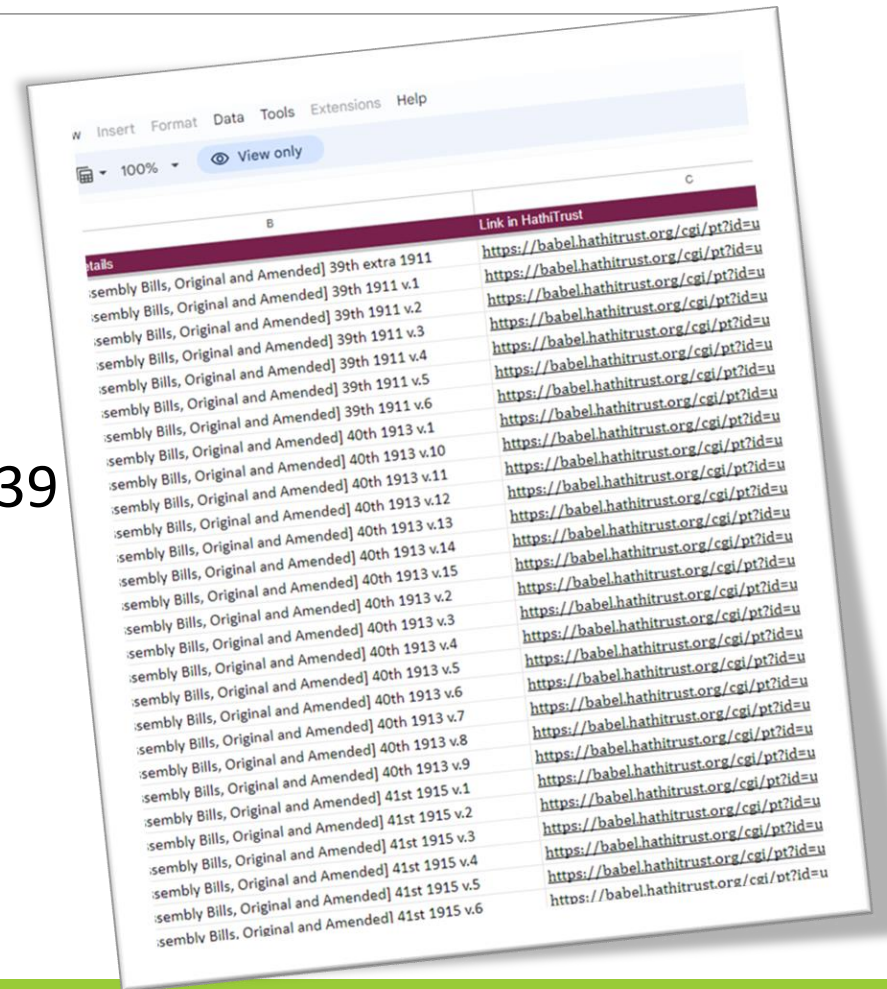
# Secondary Sources

- Secondary Source on Government Documents
  - Library Laws California
  - “Library Distribution Act”
  - Government Agencies
- Findings:
  - California Library Laws
  - California Public Records Act and Information Practices Act compendium.
  - Administrative law
  - California administrative law : a legal research guide



# Legislative History

- Consult Legislative History Research Guide
- Example: Stats 1976 ch 1038
- Pre-1995 laws:
  - 1911-1987 Laws
    - Look up Chaptered Laws (Assembly site)
    - Convert Statutes to Bills (Our tool)-AB 3539
    - Look up Bill Versions (Hathitrust)
  - 1974-1995 Laws
    - Look up Assembly File Analysis (Onsite)
- Later Laws
  - Archived Leginfo website
  - Current Leginfo website

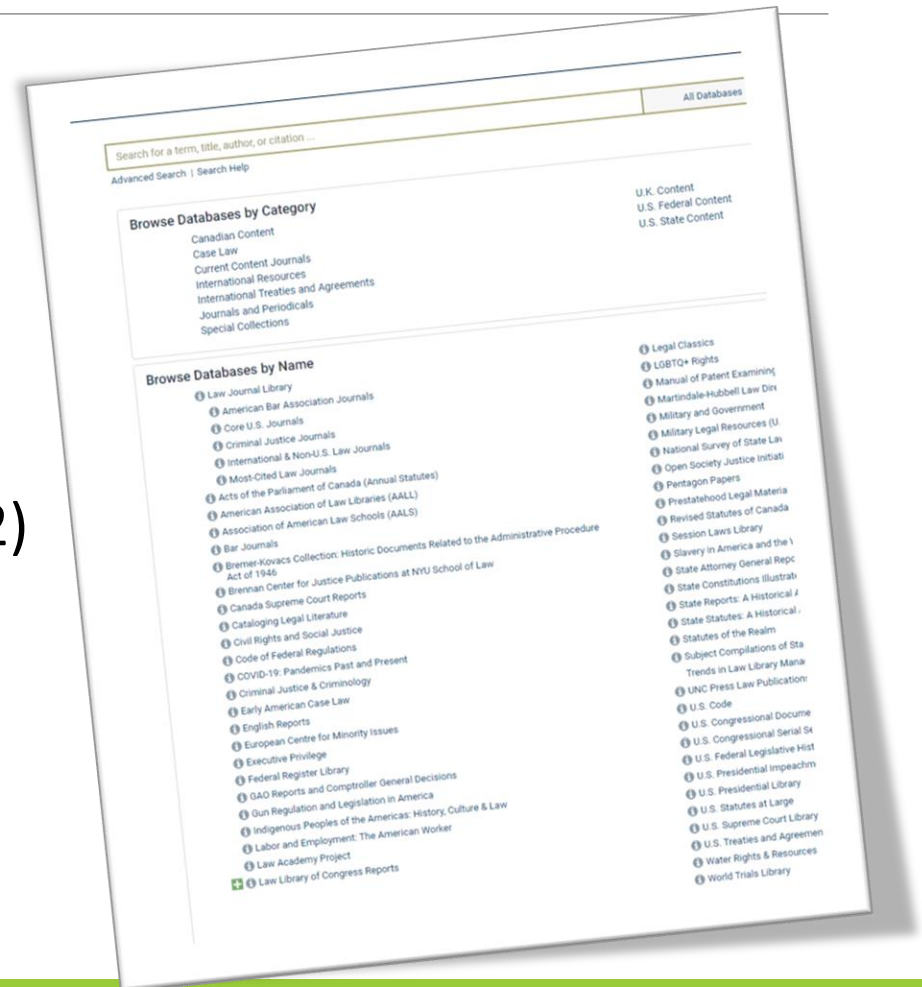


The image shows a screenshot of a spreadsheet application, likely Google Sheets, displaying a table of legislative history data. The table has two main columns: a description of the bill and a corresponding link to the Hathitrust database. The rows list various bills, including those from the 39th and 40th assemblies, with specific versions and dates. The links provided are all of the form <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...>.

	Link in Hathitrust
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 39th extra 1911	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 39th 1911 v.1	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 39th 1911 v.2	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 39th 1911 v.3	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 39th 1911 v.4	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 39th 1911 v.5	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 39th 1911 v.6	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 40th 1913 v.1	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 40th 1913 v.10	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 40th 1913 v.11	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 40th 1913 v.12	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 40th 1913 v.13	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 40th 1913 v.14	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 40th 1913 v.15	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 40th 1913 v.2	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 40th 1913 v.3	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 40th 1913 v.4	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 40th 1913 v.5	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 40th 1913 v.6	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 40th 1913 v.7	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 40th 1913 v.8	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 40th 1913 v.9	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 41st 1915 v.1	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 41st 1915 v.2	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 41st 1915 v.3	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 41st 1915 v.4	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 41st 1915 v.5	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>
sembly Bills, Original and Amended] 41st 1915 v.6	<a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=...</a>

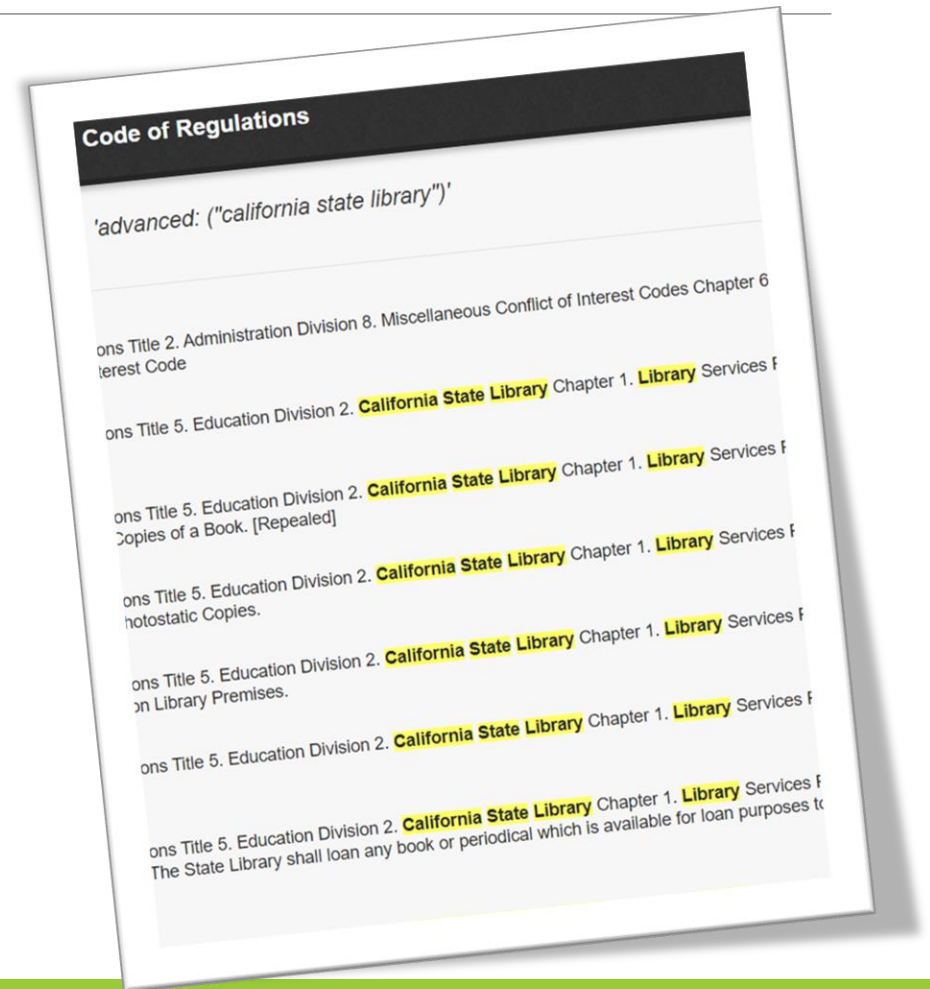
# Database Checks--HeinOnline

- HeinOnline
  - Keyword search
    - Library Distribution Act
  - Contextual Articles
    - SCCLL News 34 (2008)
    - Documents to the People (March, 1992)
  - AG Opinions
    - Didn't see anything directly but there were several opinions that mentioned the State Library



# Related Regulations

- Search via Office of Administrative Law
  - 14901
  - Government publication
  - State Library
- Not much—Contextual Library Use Policies—5 CCR § 20004
  - History is short:
    - Register 82, No. 19
  - Register Supplements (Onsite)
  - Notice Registers (Onsite)



# Case Law

Started with Google Scholar

- Usual keywords—but the library isn't particularly litigious

Opinion:

- Robinson v. Fair Employment & Housing Com., Docket No. S019095.
  - Citation to a Government Document held by the California State Library
  - Onsite: 3 Briefs





# Contact Us



## Remote

- Reference Desk: (916) 323-9839
- Email: [csllaw@library.ca.gov](mailto:csllaw@library.ca.gov)
- Ask-A-Librarian: See Handout

## In-Person

Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building  
914 Capitol Mall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Monday – Friday: 9:30am – 4:00pm