

legislation is placed into a code (codified) it will likely be broken up into smaller parts since different parts of a bill will affect different areas of the law.

THE UNITED STATES CODE

All U.S. statutes currently in force are collected and arranged by subject into 50 titles in a set called *United States Code* (U.S.C.). The text of the U.S. Constitution is also contained in U.S.C. A new edition of the code is published every six years and updated by annual supplements. U.S.C. has a subject index to the entire code and many useful tables, including:

a) Popular Names Table;

b) Revised Titles Table, which indicates where in the current code the text of older laws can be found;

c) Repealed Code Sections;

d) Statutes at Large Cite Table, which indicates where statute sections are codified;

e) Separate tables for reorganization plans, proclamations, and executive orders, which indicate where these are codified if included in the code; and

f) Internal References Table.

The main problems with using the U.S.C for research include a publication lag of 2-3 years and a lack of case annotations.

## ANNOTATED U.S. CODES

There are two sets of annotated codes, *United States Code Annotated* (USCA) and *United States Code Service* (USCS). These codes include all the features and tables of U.S.C. However, both annotated codes are superior to U.S.C. because they are updated more

frequently, include annotations of cases interpreting code sections, have detailed indexes, and provide historical notes of amendments and legislative history.

The U.S. Code, USCA, and USCS are all located on the main floor of the library on Shelf 215.

## FINDING U.S. CODE SECTIONS

Index method - use the general index (USC, USCA, USCS) or specific title indexes (USCA, USCS). The indexes to the individual code titles are usually more detailed than the index to entire code.

Topic method - go directly to the relevant title(s) and examine the outline of sections at beginning of each distinct subject or use the detailed title index. There is risk in this because you may miss a pertinent reference codified in a different title.

Popular Name method - many laws are known by a popular name. For example, 42 USC 14701, concerning the registration of sex offenders, is popularly known as "Megan's Law." To find the code sections where these laws are codified, look in:

- 1. Shepard's "Acts & Cases by Popular Names";
- 2. Popular Name Tables in USC, USCA, or USCS;
- 3. The General Index to USCS.

## COMPARISON OF ANNOTATED FEDERAL CODES

USCA and USCS have several features in common that are useful when performing statutory research.

- 1. Both provide historical and statutory notes of amendments and legislative history documents.
- 2. Both provide general indexes to the complete code and title specific indexes.
- 3. Both are updated by pocket parts and supplementary volumes.
- 4. Both include references to CFR rules promulgated under the authority of the specific code section.
- 5. Both provide cross-references to related code sections.

Some differences between USCA and USCS are:

- 1. USCA contains more annotations than USCS; USCS is selective, avoiding repetitive decisions.
- 2. USCS has a Research Guide with citations to ALR annotations and Am Jur 2d topics.