

Statistical Materials in the Legal Information Center

Compilations of statistics are authoritative tools to use when seeking information of a statistical nature. By their very nature, they present a summary of information. Often the researcher may need to look no further than the compilation. However, frequently the information sought is far more detailed than the tables in the volume cover. These compilations serve another vital function. Most tables include footnotes of the source or organization responsible for the information. If the tables you find seem related to your topic, but don't address the issue you need, check the cited source. The source will undoubtedly contain a wealth of additional tables, charts, etc.

The two most frequently consulted compilations in Florida are:

1. *Florida Statistical Abstract*. Compiled by the University of Florida, College of Business Administration, Bureau of Economic and Business Research. Current editions at Ref. HA311.F55. Covers statistics of a social, economic and political nature. The volume provides statistical references and serves as a guide to other statistical publications and sources. The table of contents is brief and the index is very general. Each table indicates the source at the bottom of the page and there is an Appendix which includes explanatory notes and sources. Another feature is a glossary.

2. *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. Compiled by the United States Bureau of the Census. Current editions at Ref. HA202.A35. Covers statistics of political, social and economic nature for the country. Each table is footnoted with the source to facilitate further research. Many statistics include a span of 10 - 20 years.

An excellent resource for statistics is the Statistical Universe from Lexis-Nexis. The database contains a collection growing by 30,000 statistical tables annually. This provides access to authoritative information on an unparalleled range of subjects including population, finance, government programs, economic, social and political trends. Statistical Universe brings together the indexing and abstracts of three time tested sources: American Statistics Index (ASI - Federal government sources), Statistical Reference Index (SRI - state government and private sources) and Index to International Statistics (IIS - international and intergovernmental sources).

Sources in the University of Florida Libraries may be located using Keyword searches on the online catalog. Some suggested search terms are "law or lawyer?", "court?" (plural is not implied in an online catalog search. The question mark (?) is the truncation symbol) "judicial or judiciary" combined with "statistic?" The Library of Congress subject headings

illustrate not only access points to additional sources, but also the format for subject headings that may be applied to other topics.

Some Frequently Searched Subject Headings

Court administration--Florida.
Court administration--United States--States.
Court administration--United States.
Court records--United States--States--Statistics.
Court records--United States--Statistics.
Courts--United States--Statistics.
Criminal statistics--United States--States.
Criminal statistics--United States.

District courts--United States--Statistics.

Evidence (Law)--United States--Statistical methods.

Forensic statistics--United States.

Judicial statistics--Florida.
Judicial statistics--United States--States.
Judicial statistics--United States.
Jury--United States--Statistics.

Law enforcement--United States--Statistics.
Lawyers--Specialties and specialists--United States Statistics.
Lawyers--United States--Discipline--Statistics.
Lawyers--United States--Statistics.

Police--Florida--Assaults against--Statistics.
Practice of law--Economic aspects--Florida--Statistics.
Practice of law--Economic aspects--United States--Statistics.

Sentences (Criminal procedure)--United States--Statistics.

Tax expenditures--Law and legislation--United States Statistics.

United States. Courts of Appeals--Statistics.
United States. Supreme Court--Statistics.

Women lawyers--United States--Statistics.