A Suggested Flowchart for Basic Legal Research

1. Analyze problem to be researched
2. Classify research question
   - Federal/State
   - Procedural/Substantive
   - Civil/Criminal
3. Secondary resources
   - Legal Periodicals
   - ALR Annotations
   - Legal Encyclopedias
   - Treatises
   - Restatements
   - Practice Materials
4. Statute or court rule involved?
   - Yes
     - Annotated Codes
     - Legislative History
     - Admin. Decisions
     - Regulations
   - No
5. One relevant case
   - Shepard’s or KeyCite
6. Many relevant cases
   - West Topic & Key Numbers
   - Lexis More Like This Headnote