This tutorial will introduce you to some basic searching in the UMich Law Library Catalog, the law library’s online catalog.

We will discuss how to access the Catalog and how the catalog screens are organized. You will see a demonstration of how to do a basic search and I’ll explain how to read the search results.

The UMich Law Library Catalog is the main tool for finding books, periodicals and other publications in the law library. It provides essential information that will help you identify relevant materials and locate them in the library.

The Catalog provides a variety of bibliographic details about materials in the library, like the author’s name, the full title, whether an item is part of a series, and so on. It will also tell you if an item is currently available, and where it is located.

We should also point out some of the information that is NOT in the Catalog—the Catalog only contains information about law library materials, and NOT materials held in other libraries.

If you want to see what’s available at the other University of Michigan libraries,
you will need to search in their online catalogs.

A link to Mirlyn, the University Libraries' catalog, and a link to the catalog of the Kresge Library, are both available under the Catalog tab on the law library's homepage.

What's NOT in Lexcalibur 2
Also keep in mind that the Law Library Catalog does not provide information about individual articles, statutes, or court opinions. For these types of materials, you will need to use other finding aids such as journal indexes.

Check out our other online tutorials and audio tours for more information about some of these resources, and remember that you can always get more help at the reference desk.

To access the Catalog, you can use the quick search box on the law library's homepage, or select the Catalog tab at the top of the page.
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The Catalog search box on the library's homepage

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The Catalog search box on the library's homepage

gives you a limited selection of search options to start with, but after you perform your search, you are taken into the main Catalog interface where you can access all search functions.

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At any point during a search, you can go back to the main search page by clicking the “Start Over” button. You can get back to the library’s main page at any time by clicking on the “Library Information” tab at the top of the page.

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The Catalog includes a “Help” section which you can access by clicking

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the “Help” link below the search box from the front page of the Catalog tab.

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If you have any questions about this information, or need more assistance using the Catalog, please ask at the reference desk.