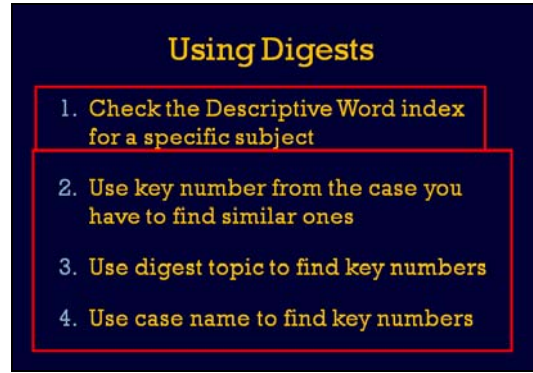


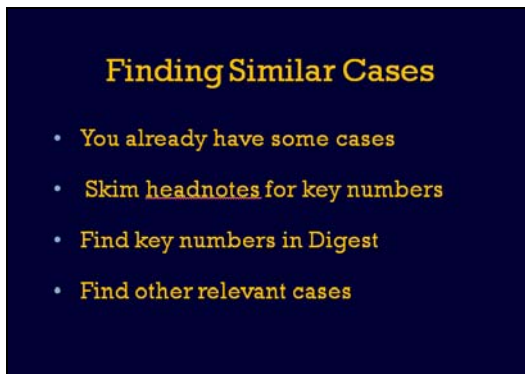
Slide 1

Digests are one of the most useful resources for finding cases -- they group cases together based on the legal issues, and provide a brief description of the issues or facts in each case.



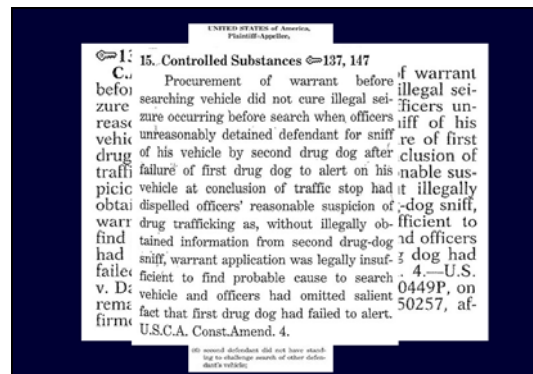
Slide 2

Part 1 of this tutorial covered the Descriptive Word Index. Now we will look at other ways to use Digests.



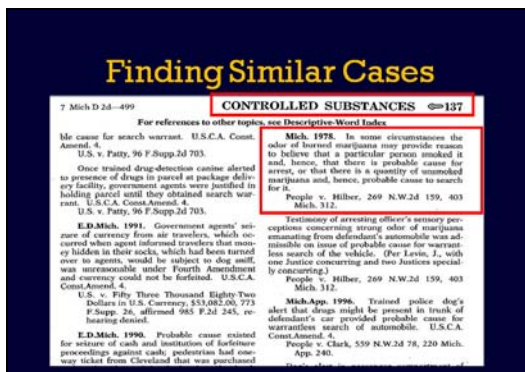
Slide 3

A second way to find cases in a Digest is when you already have a case that is relevant to your research and you want to find similar cases. You already have some relevant key numbers!



Slide 4

To find cases similar to a case you already have, skim to find the key number for the particular issue you are researching.



Slide 5

Once you have the key numbers that are relevant to your research you can go directly to the digest, locate those key numbers, and see if there are any other helpful cases.



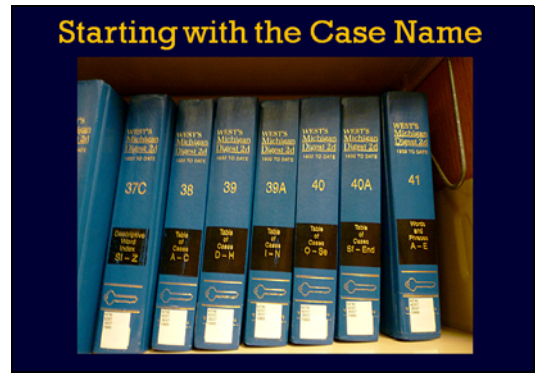
Slide 6

The third way to find key numbers relevant to your facts is to go right to specific Digest topics that you believe might be relevant. For example, in our Michigan scenario, perhaps you've researched similar issues in the past and thus already suspect that relevant key numbers for this assignment might be found in the Controlled Substances topic.



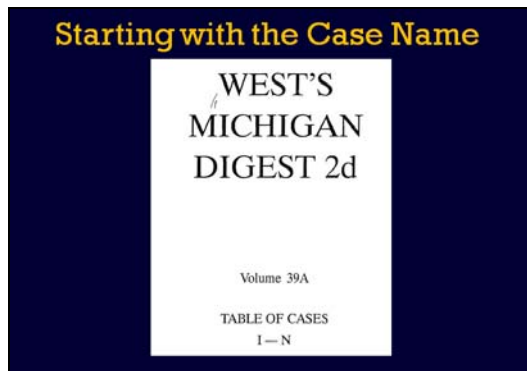
Slide 7

Accordingly, you might go right to the topic in the main Digest volumes. There, you could review the table of contents for that topic, making note of all potentially relevant key numbers, and then look up those case annotations. This approach might be a bit haphazard, but can be quite effective if you're already familiar with the general area of law.



Slide 8

Finally, you can find key numbers in the digest if you only know a case name.



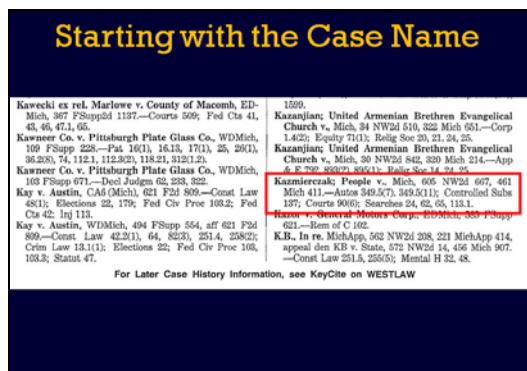
Slide 9

Digests have Tables of Cases organized alphabetically according to the Plaintiff and the Defendant. Each entry contains helpful information including the court, the citation for the case, and important case history, such as if it has been reversed, affirmed or modified on appeal or rehearing. Additionally, the entries contain the most recent key number classifications of the cases.



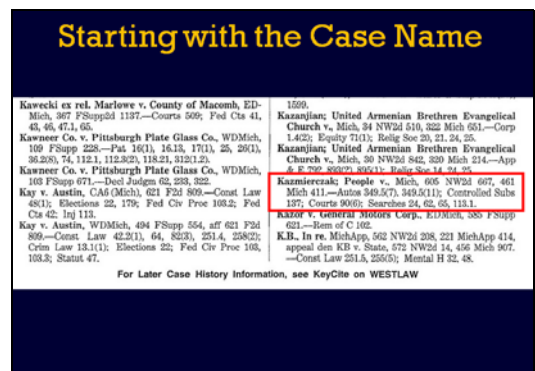
Slide 10

For example, if a senior attorney told you that she thought the case People v. Kazmierczak was relevant to your research assignment, and you wanted to both find the case and find other cases like it, you could use the Table of Cases.



Slide 11

Using the Table of cases we can look under “P” for People, or under “K” for Kazmierczak. Note that the listing contains the title of the case, the court the case was in, the citation to the case for both Official and Regional reporters, and then the key numbers where the case summary appears. All of these key numbers will help you find cases that are similar to this case in some way, but you should rank them according to which you think will be most relevant.



Slide 12

Our case involves an Automobile, controlled substances and Searches. The “Courts” topic does not seem as relevant to our case, so we would likely put that one at the bottom of the list to research. Note that if the case you are looking for is very recent that the Table of Cases is also updated by pocket part.

Starting with the Case Name

- Never assume there's only one relevant key number
- Use your research terms in different ways
- Gather several key numbers and then search the Digests for relevant cases

Slide 13

Remember that there is no one path to locating relevant key numbers. Plus, you should never assume there is only one relevant key number. It is helpful to record the first potentially relevant key number you found, and then use your research terms in different ways, or including additional or alternative terms, to locate additional relevant key numbers. Then you can turn to locating them in the Digest and seeing whether the cases annotated there help you answer your research question.