



State Law Surveys on the Internet

Cheryl Nyberg

“Subject Compilations of State Laws”

**Death Penalty
Information
Center**

**You
want
what?**

Rent-to-own laws?

**Assoc. of
Progressive Rental
Organizations**

**Education
Commission of the
States**

**Compulsory
school
attendance
laws?**

**Execution of
mentally
retarded
defendants?**

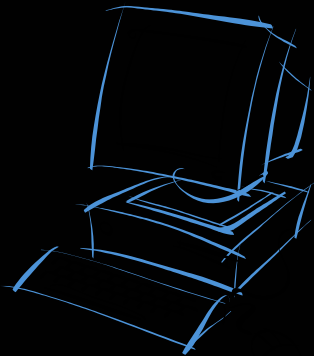
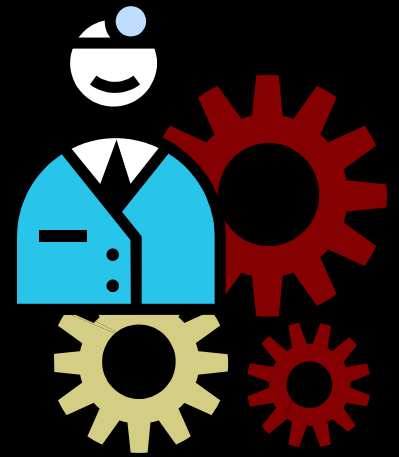
Finding State Law Surveys

- ❑ Descriptions
- ❑ Search engines
- ❑ The usual suspects
- ❑ Associations & organizations
- ❑ Evaluations

What Are They?

- Lists, no citations [LINK](#)
- Summaries & tables, no citations [LINK](#)
- Citations only [LINK](#)
- Tables with citations [LINK](#)
- Summaries with citations [LINK](#)
- Full text with citations [LINK](#)
- Searchable databases [LINK](#)

Where Are They?



Multiple Search Engines

DÖGPILE®

All the best search engines piled into one.
Including Google, Yahoo!, MSN and Ask Jeeves.



Multiple Searches

“states have laws”

50-state survey

ann. code laws rev. stat.

states statutes

[subject words, phrases & terms of art]

The Usual Suspects

- Abortion & contraceptives
 - NARAL & the Alan Guttmacher Institute
- Education & schools
 - Education Commission of the States
- Firearms
 - National Rifle Association & ATF
- Media, press & reporters
 - Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
- Traffic & driving
 - Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

Associations & Organizations

- Encyclopedia of Associations (print & LexisNexis)
- American Society of Association Executives [LINK](#)
- Internet Public Library, Associations on the Net [LINK](#)
- InfoPlease, U.S. Societies & Associations Directory [LINK](#)

Missing



- No robots
- Documents in databases
- Deeply buried documents [LINK](#)

Evaluating State Surveys



- Freshness
- Completeness
- Accuracy
- Objectivity
- Suitability

A Modest Proposal



One page of links
to all state law surveys
on the NCSL website

Just Ask!

cheryl_nyberg@yahoo.com

