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# BOOK REVIEWS

RESEARCH IN FLORIDA LAW. By Harriet L. French. New York:  
Oceana Publications, 1956. Pp. 79. \$2.50

If there is such a thing as an indispensable book for Florida lawyers and judges, it is Miss Harriet French's "Research in Florida Law." It is the first practice book of my acquaintance to do a job that no one else has even attempted. I have spent untold hours searching for some material known to exist somewhere, so even if the book were only a compilation of all the source materials needed for researching legal problems in this state, I would think it would be well worth while. It does far more than that. It organizes the material and explains its scope and function.

The book not only tells you readily where to find what you are looking for but where to find some of the things you ought to be looking for but hadn't thought of. For example, from examining Miss French's book, I am aware, for the first time, of the importance (where early session laws are involved) of referring to the second edition of Shepard's Florida Citations as well as the third edition, which I had taken for granted completely superseded the earlier edition. Another example of this sort is the suggestion of the value of consulting the early, out of date Florida Digests.

In addition to the compilation, organization and explanation of the source materials for research, this book tells you where to find all sorts of things like the Florida and Federal practice rules, the jurisdiction of all the state courts and principal administrative agencies and the like.

Most book reviewers try to find some fault even in a book being praised, if only to prove the impartiality of the reviewer. In this tradition I have tried to find something to pick at, but my efforts are completely without success.

I am very glad that no one, before Miss French, attempted to fill the great need for a research book in Florida. Except for that circumstance Miss French might not have made this very considerable contribution to the profession. The bench and bar and students of this state owe Miss French a debt of gratitude which will be expressed, I feel safe in predicting, in a universal acceptance of her work.

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