

# Louisiana

*2007 Report and 2009-10 Update by Catherine Lemann, Alaska State Court Law Library (formerly of the Law Library of Louisiana)*

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| <b>OFFICIAL STATUS</b><br><br><b>X</b><br><br>No change since the<br>2007 report | <b>AUTHENTICATION</b><br><br><b>X</b><br><br>No change since the<br>2007 report |
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**Louisiana online legal resources are not official.**  
*Disclaimers on websites for the Louisiana administrative code, statutes, and court opinions do not specifically indicate the resources are not official. Users are cautioned to refer to other sources for official versions, but the location of the official version is generally not provided.*

**Louisiana is not addressing the authentication of online legal resources.**  
*There does not appear to be any interest in addressing the issue of authentication of online legal resources by any branch of government at this time.*

**Has the state eliminated the print publication of any of these titles in favor of online only since the 2007 report?** No, the state has not eliminated the print publications.

**Has the state enacted legislation guaranteeing the public's permanent access to state online government information since the 2007 report?** No, the state has not enacted legislation guaranteeing permanent access.

**Have courts in your state adopted a medium neutral citation system since the 2007 report?** Public domain citation became mandatory for all documents filed after July 1, 1994.

**(a) By what mechanism was the system adopted (e.g., state statute, regulation, rule of court, judicial opinion, clerk of court memorandum)?** Louisiana Supreme Court Administrative rule Part G. Section 8.

**(b) Where can a user find directions to understand the system (e.g., court web site with URL, state code or register with citation)?**

The rule includes examples: <http://www.lasc.org/rules/supreme/PartGSection8.asp>

**Have there been any other significant changes to the 2007 state summary?** Minor changes have been integrated into the text of the report below.

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The Louisiana statutes are available through the Louisiana legislature website (at <http://www.legis.state.la.us>). Statutes may be located using a table of contents, by entering a specific citation, or using the search feature. The search engine often returns many results and has limited help available. From 1951-2005, West (Thomson West) was the only *official* publisher of annotated and unannotated statutes for the state. In 2005, LexisNexis published the *Louisiana Annotated Statutes*, which have also been designated as *official* by the Secretary of State. The website does not direct users to either of the paper resources.

The *Louisiana Session Laws 1997 to current* are available on the legislature website (at <http://www.legis.state.la.us>). The session laws have a variety of search and retrieval methods: subject index to bills or to acts, citator index, by bill or act number, etc. There is no way to search for bills or acts across multiple years. The only link to the disclaimer on this site is from the home page and may not be reviewed by users prior to looking for specific information. Users are not referred to the *official* print *Acts of the Legislature*.

The Louisiana Supreme Court and the five Circuit Courts of Appeal each post their own opinions. Rules of the Supreme Court and the Uniform Rules for the Courts of Appeal require pinpoint citation to the page number of the court's paper slip opinion. The Supreme Court and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal post disclaimers that the opinions in PDF format may not have the same pagination as the official opinion of the court. None of the Court sites refers users to the *Southern Reporter*, the unofficial and only paper publication of opinions.

No court in Louisiana currently accepts electronic filings. Court rules would have to be changed to allow for electronic filings.

The electronic *Louisiana Administrative Code* and *Louisiana Register* (at <http://doa.louisiana.gov/OSR/osr.htm>) are Word (read-only) or PDF versions of the paper pamphlet published by the Office of the State Register. There is a disclaimer on the website as to the accuracy of the information but no reference to the paper. There is no search capability across titles or years. Individual titles or issues may be searched using the search feature in Adobe Acrobat or Word.

The *official* paper *Louisiana Administrative Code* pamphlets each have a facsimile of the notarized Certificate of Correctness signed by the Director of the Office of the State Register. The certificate is not included in the electronic versions. The paper version also has a disclaimer that only publications issued directly from the Office of State Register are accurate.

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The *official* paper *Louisiana Register* is published monthly. The electronic version does not include a copy of the inside of the front cover of each issue, thus omitting information concerning the effective date of rules published in the issue and authenticity. The administrative register is cumulatively indexed on an annual basis.

There does not appear to be any consideration of authentication of electronic legal resources by any branch of government in Louisiana.