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Book Review of *Law of the Super Searchers: The Online Secrets of Top Legal Researchers* by T.R. Halvorson

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David Howlett, in the introduction to his recent book *Estate Matters in Atlantic Canada*, sets as his objective to write a book that will be helpful to both the lawyer or other professional practicing in the wills and estates field and also to the lay person who does not have sophisticated legal knowledge. That's quite a daunting task, but Mr. Howlett achieves it with his clear, somewhat mischievous, writing style and a thorough explanation of the law of wills, trusts, estate planning, estate administration and related matters.

Indeed, Mr. Howlett's text is a practical guide to the law in this area. He has included basic precedent clauses for wills and other documents with explanatory notes and context for the use of each clause. Mr. Howlett deals with the relevant statute and case law in each of the four Atlantic Provinces. He presents general propositions and provides easy-to-read references to relevant statutory provisions in those provinces. Where the common law or the statutory provisions differ among the four provinces, he provides highlighted sections for the reader's ease of reference. Mr. Howlett also makes liberal use of charts and other demonstrative aids to assist the reader's view of the material. He gives frequent examples and uses italics to emphasize important points in the text or to indicate those terms which he will then go on to define or expand upon. When appropriate, he provides a detailed explanation of the relevant case law, including a good summary of the facts, the analysis employed by the court, and the legal principles arising out of the case. The table of contents and index are helpful guides, particularly for the professional who already has a basic understanding of the general principles.

I suggest this is an excellent text for any professional practicing in this field in Atlantic Canada. While that professional will still need to refer to original sources and specialized texts on certain aspects of estate planning such as income tax, Mr. Howlett's book is a great general reference source and one that I will certainly keep close to my desk for quick reference, perhaps even while on the phone with a client! For the lay reader, the book does read well from start to finish and I encourage any lay person picking up this text to read it in that way. As Mr. Howlett notes, review of his text is no substitute for proper professional advice.

In short, Mr. Howlett has provided a text that makes everyone from the lay person to the seasoned practitioner think more, and more critically, about this complex and inter-related area of the law. When we do think about it, we now have Mr. Howlett's text as a reference source.

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will be likely to learn something from reading this book, or even from reading one or two chapters. At the very least, the reader is likely to appreciate another perspective on conducting legal research, or to be reminded of techniques or sites they seldom use. When reading the interviews with the American and academic researchers, I thought about what I could learn from them about doing American research and about online and Internet searching strategies generally.

A comment Halvorson makes in his introduction is worthy of note in this regard: "... a difference in setting might account for arriving at different insights without blocking the transferability of the insights from setting to setting. I am convinced that online legal researchers will gain valuable insights that can be transferred to their own settings from each of the experts interviewed for this book." In his introduction, Halvorson pulls together a useful summary of common themes expressed by the interviewees. One commonality is that legal researchers tend to begin with narrow queries and broaden as necessary, whereas other online researchers tend to work in the other direction. Also, and probably contrary to common assumptions, he notes that expert online legal researchers often do not use pathfinders, checklists, or Web bookmarks.

The book contains two very useful appendices. Appendix A lists the various Internet resources mentioned by the interviewees, categorized by resource type or source. The title and URL of each resource is given. Appendix B is a glossary of terms and publisher and product names mentioned in the interviews. This is likely to assist in bridging the gap readers might see between, for example, American and Canadian legal practice and research, or librarianship and law.

This book almost certainly will be a useful addition to any law library, whether it be in a law firm, university, college, legal department, or any other forum in which online and Internet legal research is done. It contains enough thoughtful, detailed information on topics such as the process of online legal research, procedures for assigning and conducting it, strategies and tools used, and the provision of research instruction, to intrigue most legal researchers in some way. In fact, many of the insights offered by the interviewees even have the potential to cross into other disciplines in which online and Internet searching is done.
