

Getting the Most Out of Casemaker: Access to all State Libraries

by Jodi McKenzie

Casemaker is the fastest growing online legal research tool in the state of Georgia. As such, Casemaker is continuously adding information to its database, which allows more and more attorneys to rely on Casemaker as their sole method for doing legal research. Best of all, access to Casemaker's vast libraries is free!

Most recently, Casemaker has added the ability to search the libraries of every state in the country. Now, when you open to Casemaker's main content page, you will see links to the Federal Library and Nationwide Collections, as well as every state in the country (see fig. 1).

Using the scroll bar on the right-hand side of the screen will allow you to scroll down on the page and see all the state's libraries. In order to access a library, simply place your cursor over the name of the library and click on it. We will use the Florida Library for our example (see fig. 2).

At the minimum, every state will have their State Case Law available since 1950, their current State Statutes and their State Constitution. The CaseCheck feature will be available on all State Caselaw books to indicate if the case you are looking at has been cited by any later cases within that same State Caselaw book starting from 1950 forward. At the bottom of every library, you will find a "Current Contents Information" link (see fig. 3).


Clicking on this link will let you know how current the information is for all the books in that particular library (see fig. 4).

Each state that is a member of the Casemaker Consortium has the option to add additional books or databases beyond Caselaw, Current Statutes and the State Constitution to their libraries. Georgia has added a host of other relevant books to their library. Georgia's Caselaw book extends beyond the basic 1950 date to include all cases since 1939 (see fig. 5).

The Georgia Library also includes the Administrative Code, which you may access by choosing the browse option of Rules and Regulations (see fig. 6). State Court Rules (see fig. 7) as well as Federal Court Rules (see fig. 8) are also available.

Casemaker has also just recently added the Magistrate and Probate Court Rules to the Georgia Library. Casemaker is in the process of adding content to its Federal Caselaw Libraries. The U.S. Supreme Court will soon have a complete library dating back to 1754. All circuit courts are being updated to go back to 1950 and will also have the CaseCheck feature.

Casemaker's consistency in adding more information and search options to its database has made it a powerful and reliable research tool for Georgia attorneys. Free Casemaker training is available every month at the Bar Center. The dates for the next training sessions can be found at www.gabar.org.

Do you want to read more about Casemaker and learn more tips? Visit www.gabar.org/casemaker for an archive of past articles published here. 



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