

Quality Control

Research



Learning objectives

- Learn how to check original research
- Define “redundant research”
 - Learn the goals of redundant research
- Learn the steps in redundant research
 1. Assigning redundant research
 2. Two researchers complete research for five jurisdictions each
 3. Supervisor compares and reviews citations of relevant laws
 4. Resolve divergences



Checking original research

- As statutes, regulations, or other sources of law are being researched, the supervisor must review the laws for each jurisdiction
- Specifically, the supervisor should:
 - Conduct spot checks in a legal search engine to ensure that the researcher collected all relevant laws
 - Compare collected laws to an unencumbered source of law to ensure that they have been properly transcribed
 - Verify that Master Sheets have effective dates and statutory history recorded for each law



Defining “redundant research”

- “Redundant research” consists of two researchers independently identifying and recording citations of relevant laws in one jurisdiction
 - The supervisor reviews and compares the redundant research to identify whether the researchers diverged on collected laws
 - 100% of jurisdictions are redundantly researched until the rate of divergence goes below 5%, then 20% of jurisdictions are redundantly researched

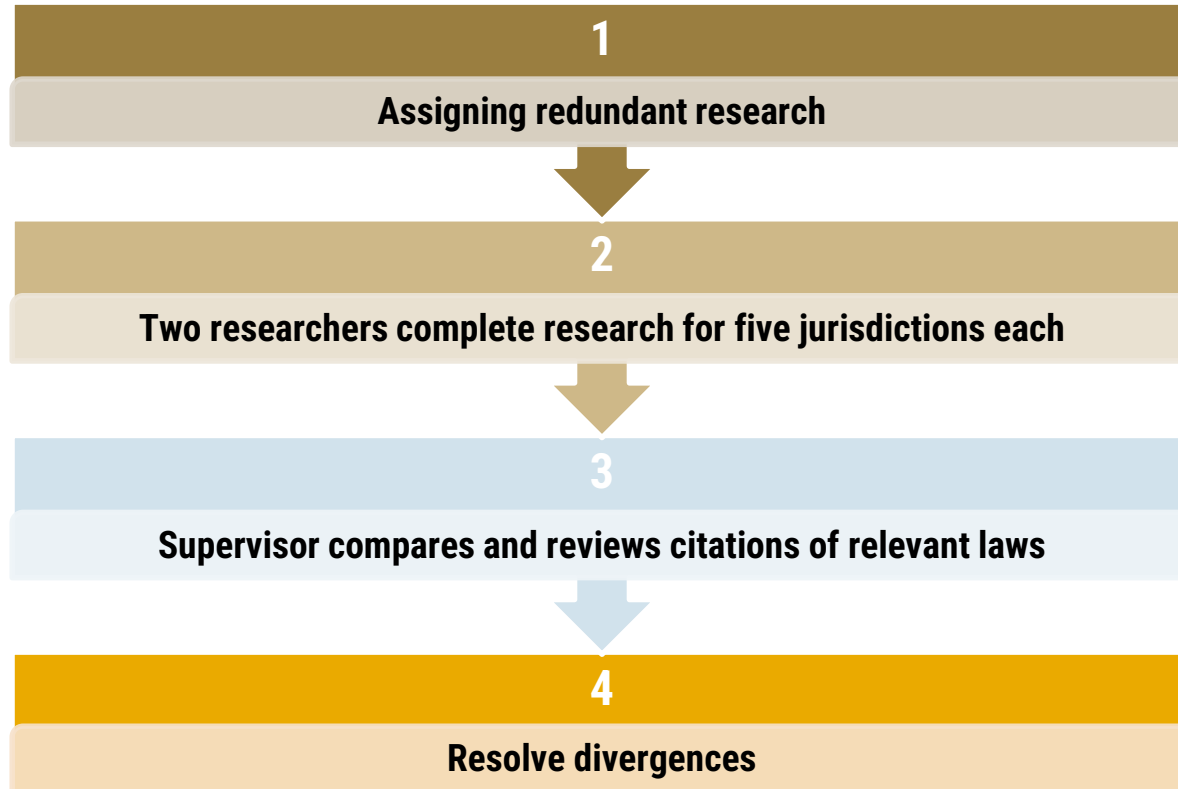


Goals of redundant research

- Develop and refine a research strategy
 - Establish set of search terms
 - Identify secondary sources to verify research
 - Identify chapters in the law that should be checked
 - E.g., for a project on distracted driving, chapters on motor vehicles should be checked
- Identify errors in original research
- Ensure all relevant law is identified
 - Laws can be included or excluded based on scope



Steps in redundant research





1. Assigning redundant research

- The supervisor assigns 100% redundant research for the first 10 jurisdictions
 - When the rate of divergence goes below 5%, the supervisor assigns 20% redundant research
 - The supervisor may assign additional redundant research as needed

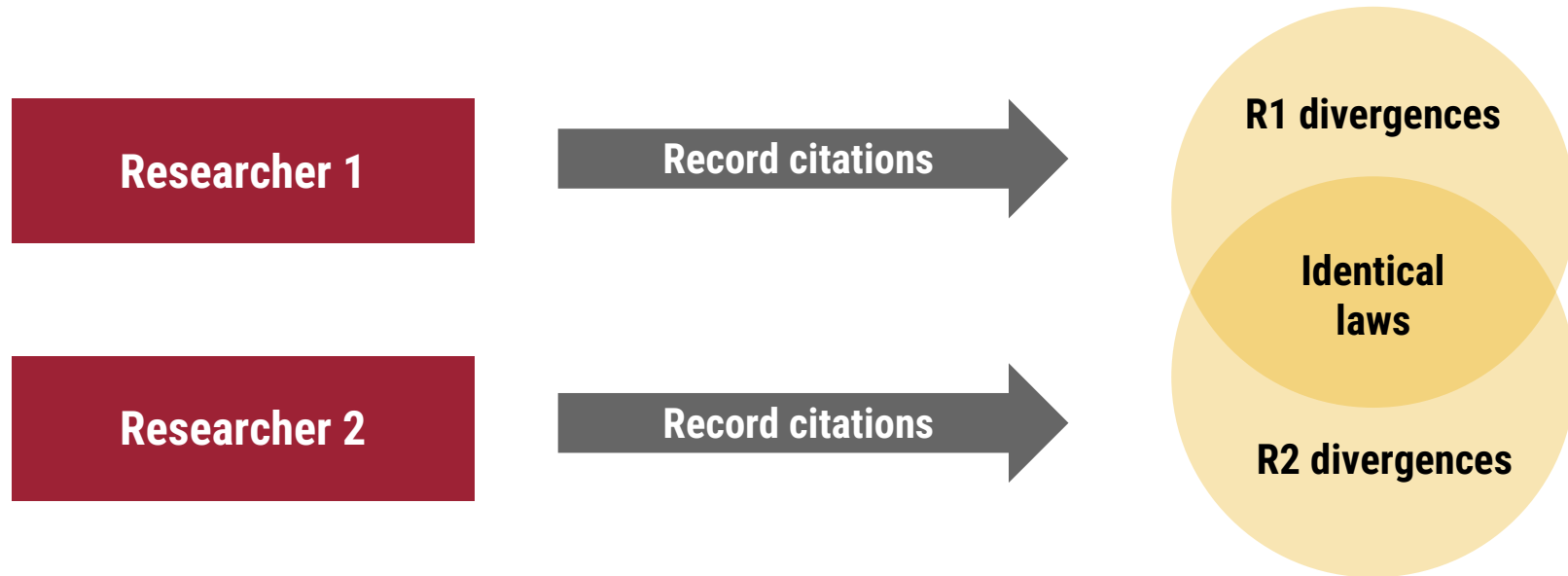
Calculating the rate of divergence

In order to determine the rate of divergence, the supervisor should add the total number of laws that were collected by both researchers (X) for a batch of jurisdictions, and divide it by the total number of laws collected for a batch of jurisdictions (Y)

- Rate of divergence = X/Y
- For example, if the researchers collected the same 96 laws for 10 jurisdictions, and both researchers collected a total of 100 laws for those 10 jurisdictions (4 unique laws collected by one researcher and not the other), the rate of divergence is $4/100$, or 4%



2. Two researchers complete research for five jurisdictions each





3. Supervisor compares and reviews citations of relevant laws

RESEARCHER 1 CITATIONS

Ala. Code § 32-5A-350 Definitions; prohibited activities; fines; exceptions

Act 2012-291, p. 585, § 1
Effective August 1, 2012

Ala. Code § 32-5A-351 Violations

Act 2012-291, p. 585, § 2
Effective August 1, 2012

Ala. Code § 32-6-7.2 Restrictions on issuance to persons under 18 years of age

Act 2010-735, p. 1850, §§ 1, 2
Effective July 1, 2010

Ala. Code § 32-6-18. Penalties -- Violations in general; disposition of funds.

Act 98-671, p. 1475, § 1
Effective May 6, 1998

RESEARCHER 2 CITATIONS

Ala. Code § 32-5A-350 Definitions; prohibited activities; fines; exceptions

Act 2012-291, p. 585, § 1
Effective August 1, 2012

Ala. Code § 32-5A-351 Violations

Act 2012-291, p. 585, § 2
Effective August 1, 2012

Ala. Code § 32-6-18. Penalties -- Violations in general; disposition of funds.

Act 98-671, p. 1475, § 1
Effective May 6, 1998

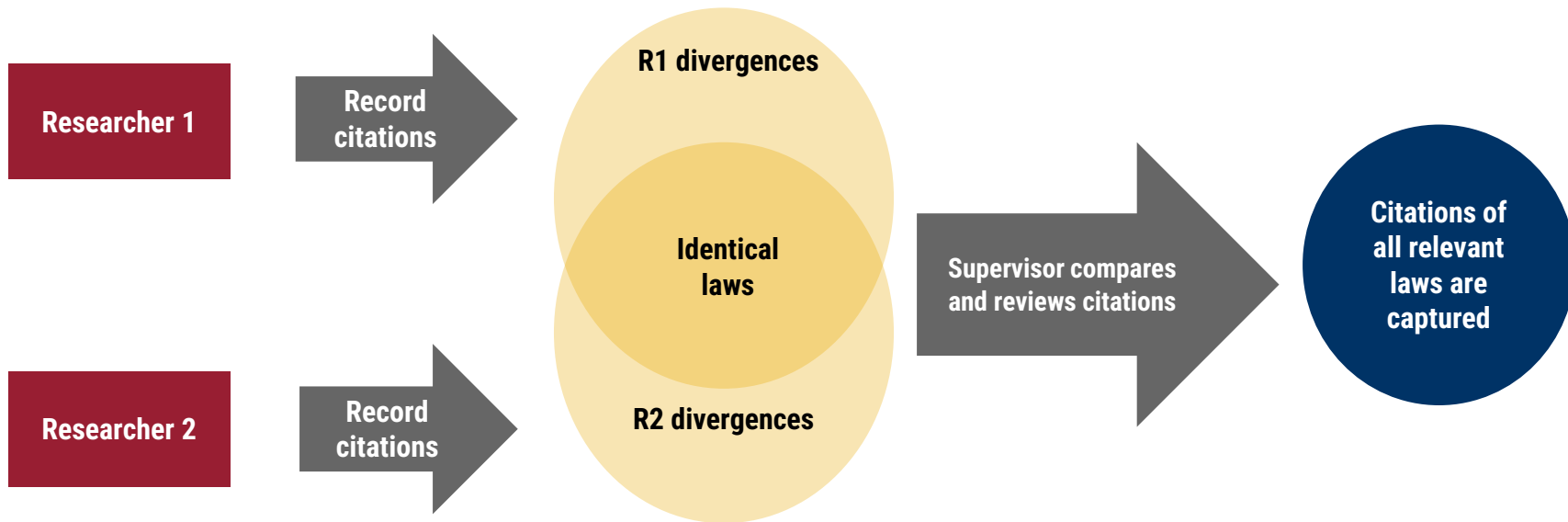


4. Resolving divergences

- Team discusses divergences
- Determine reason for divergence
 - Researcher made an error
 - If the error was due to the topic having an unusual legal structure, revise the protocol to explain this structure. If the researcher is frequently missing laws, retrain
 - Search strategy is incomplete or unclear
 - Revise search strategy to include more detail
- Resolve the error by including or excluding relevant law



Overview of the redundant research process



Summary

- “Redundant research” consists of two researchers independently identifying and recording citations of relevant laws in one jurisdiction
- The goals of redundant research are to:
 - Develop and refine a research strategy
 - Identify errors in original research
 - Ensure all relevant law is identified
- The steps used in redundant research are as follows:
 1. Assigning redundant research
 2. Two researchers complete research for five jurisdictions each
 3. Supervisor compares and reviews citations of relevant laws
 4. Resolve divergences

