

ACC Europe 18th Annual Conference

Session 109

Using Free Legal Resources – Risks and Benefits

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SKIING THE AVALANCHE

Effectively Dealing with the Information
Overload on the Web

Too Much of A Good Thing?

First Hand Sources

- Statutes, Judgments, Regulatory Opinions
- Text to be Verified (“We said “x” in 2007”)

Treatises/Articles/Newsletters

- Grade your sources (Law Review Articles beat “People Magazine”) but also more subtle distinctions.
- Forward looking can be useful (this is what we expect MiFID 2 to do”) but be aware that they aren’t as good as primary source material.

Blogs, Chat rooms, “Examples”

- Everybody’s got an opinion – but increased volume = decreased value.
- Beware relying on “what someone else did” – they could be wrong – appearance on the internet is no guaranty of validity.

As a User - Establish a Protocol

- Distrust but Verify
- Find your “Favorites”
- Understand your Counterparty
- Print and save – especially e-mails
- NO IM!
- Be Security Conscious

Be Aware – You May Be A “Supplier”

- Be Careful What You Put on the Internet
 - (You’d Be Surprised What Can End Up There)
- Establish a workplace policy for Internet Content
- Put in place regular reviews
- Be security conscious (Playstation)

“Unauthorized Practice of Law”

- The new coming thing.
- Aggressively being pursued in the U.S. Courts (Massachusetts Real Estate Lawyers)
- Wouldn't think of this as impacting In-House world in the ordinary course...
 - But – do you always know what your staff are doing?
 - Do you always know what products your sales department is flogging?
 - Could be a problem for other professions as well – medicine springs to mind for pharma field.