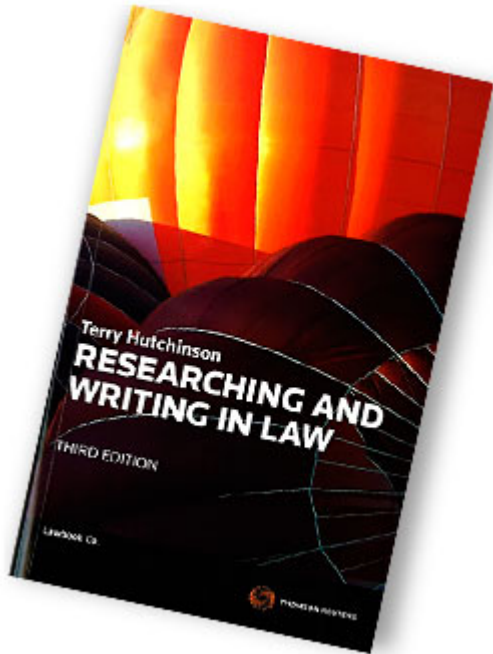**Book Review: Researching and Writing in Law**

3rd Edition

By Terry Hutchinson[1]
Published by Thomson Reuters
Reviewed by Matt Black

Dr Terry Hutchinson's *Researching and Writing in Law* was first published in 2002 and is now in its third edition. The book consists of two parts. Part 1 is called *Formulating and Writing Your Legal Research Project*. Part 2 is called *Checklists for Locating and Validating the Law*.

As its name suggests, Part 1 of the book is primarily targeted at those undertaking academic research projects. Earlier editions of the book received good reviews. This edition retains the previously existing helpful material. However, it expands the material on the process of formulating a research proposal, on writing project abstracts and undertaking literature reviews. Dr Hutchinson's discussion of both doctrinal research and social science research methodologies should be useful to those beginning or contemplating a research degree.

Those in practice might also find some aspects of Part 1 beneficial. For example, Chapter 4 provides a useful overview of electronic research techniques for those not already familiar with positional operators and Boolean logic. Chapter 8 deals with "legal writing basics" and, although it certainly addresses the "basics", the chapter does have useful suggestions and reminders.

Part 2 of Dr Hutchinson's book has a more practical orientation. It contains a series of 16 checklists setting out details of how to find particular types of legal material in the various Australian jurisdictions. It also addresses a number of selected international jurisdictions. The checklists focus on legal material that is available on the internet, noting freely available sources where possible.

The checklists are potentially useful to both students and practitioners. The Queensland checklist will no doubt be familiar but the checklists make it easy to find material quickly in the other States and Territories when the need arises. For example, the checklists provide a quick reference for finding interstate parliamentary documents, legislative histories, and legislative updates.

This book was originally developed out of a postgraduate research unit taught by Dr Hutchinson. It will be of primary interest to students, particularly those undertaking research projects or degrees, but also has some value for practitioners.

Dr Hutchinson's *Researching and Writing in Law* retails for $92.00 directly from the publisher.

Matt Black

Footnote

1. Dr. Hutchinson's QUT web page may be found here.