

**Secondary Sources in 140 Characters or Less:
Blawgs, Twitter, and the Free Access to Law Movement**

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Abstract

This paper addresses how the Free Access to Law Movement (“FALM”) is being enriched by legal scholars who are utilizing free web platforms to write about law and how law librarians can contribute to the movement by recognizing the strengths of these platforms and making them accessible to users. The outlined analysis is as follows: (1) introduction; (2) brief history of the FALM in the US, the movement toward free primary sources; (3) open access journals and collective expertise, the movement toward secondary materials that are Read/Only¹; (4) adoption of platforms offering public engagement including blogs and Twitter, secondary materials that are Read/Write; (5) the new role of the legal expert; (6) and efforts that can be and have been taken by law librarians to embrace the new forms of legal information.

¹ Lawrence Lessig, *Remix: Making Art and Commerce Thrive in the Hybrid Economy*. 28 (2008). Lessig explains RO and RW: “The analogy is to the permission that might attach to a particular file on a computer. If the user has ‘[Read/Write]’ permissions, then he is allowed to both read the file and make changes to it. If he has ‘Read/Only’ permission, he is allowed only to read the file.”