GETTING THE MOST OUT OF NEXIS

Through a special arrangement with Mead Data Central, the Law Library obtained unlimited use of NEXIS for all law students, faculty and staff late last spring. While a significant number of students have searched through the NEXIS files, our usage statistics indicate that a majority of the Law School's LEXIS users have yet to take advantage of the incredible array of resources available through the NEXIS database.

Perhaps the most important thing to remember while using NEXIS is that you do not need to learn any new computer skills as long as you are already familiar with LEXIS searching. The NEXIS Libraries and Files are arranged according to the same hierarchical structure used by LEXIS, and you will be using the same connectors (such as AND, OR, WITHIN NUMBER) that you have used while searching in LEXIS. You should also be aware that you are searching the full text of newspapers, magazine articles and wire services, and that you are free to print the complete text of any materials you might retrieve during your search. Like LEXIS, the files contain exactly the same material as originally appeared in paper copy. (An important exception is the MEDIS Library-- this database contains only abstracts from medical journals.)

In combination with LEXIS, NEXIS comprises the world's largest searchable database. Thousands of business journals, law-related publications, newspapers and wire services are available for full-text searching. Law students should be particularly interested in the fact that NEXIS carries Legal Times, The American Lawyer, and The National Law Journal in the Legal News File. Materials published in The New York Times, The Washington Post, Time, and Newsweek often contain vital information on unreported cases or current developments that is not adequately indexed in standard reference sources. Special libraries such as the Government and Political News Library allow researchers to pull together both primary materials (such as bills and regulations), and commentary and news stories that describe what is happening behind the scenes.

While it is impossible to provide a brief description of all of the materials available through NEXIS, you can obtain a booklet outlining the contents of the NEXIS database in the Reference Office. Both the LEXIS student representatives (Jack Past and Jennifer Jordan) and the reference staff of the Law Library are available to assist you with information about NEXIS and formulating NEXIS search strategies.

LEXIS & WESTLAW PASSWORDS

Please remember to contact the LEXIS and WESTLAW student representatives in order to obtain your personal LEXIS and WESTLAW identifications numbers. LEXIS passwords have been assigned to all second and third-year law students, and WESTLAW passwords are immediately available. (First-year

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What’s Inside

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Using the Information Phones</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law, Lies and Videotape</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Laser Printing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Ounce of Prevention</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congressional Record</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suggestion Box</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working the Halls</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar of Events</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
students should wait until after they have received training during the Spring Semester before obtaining their passwords.) The LEXIS student representatives are Jack Past and Jennifer Jordan, who are holding regular hours for consultation in the Media Center. The WESTLAW student representative, Mitchell Counts, will be in the Reference Office on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, as well as Friday mornings.

Note on the Permanent Learning Center: the installation of the LEXIS/WESTLAW Permanent Learning Center has been delayed due to an electronics part shortage. The Library expects that the PLC will be fully operational in the very near future.

USING THE INFORMATION PHONES

Students working in the stacks of the Law Library frequently overlook a very valuable and time-saving resource - the Information Phones. With two Information Phones located on every floor, you may be able to spare yourself unnecessary trips back and forth between your materials and the Reference Desk or the Circulation Desk. During regular reference hours, you can get advice about how to use the collection, ask for additional paper for the LEXIS and WESTLAW printers or assistance on the next step in your research. You can also call the Circulation Desk and find out if a volume that is not on the shelf is checked out.

To use the Information Phones, press the numbers 13 for the Reference Desk or 12 for the Circulation Desk. Be sure to re-enter your numbers if there is not an immediate answer. The Information Phones are located by the back stairwell and near the elevator on every floor. There are instructions on the use of the Information Phones, as well as a directory of available numbers at each phone station.

Keith Buckley,
Head Reference Librarian

LAW, LIES, AND VIDEOTAPE

Need a refresher course on the hearsay rule and its exceptions? You missed the award-winning documentary series, "Eyes on the Prize?" Haven't caught the showdown between Paul Newman and James Mason in "The Verdict?" Want to review your performance in Trial Techniques? Perhaps you might want to investigate the Law Library's rapidly growing collection of videotapes. Over the last few years, the Library has made every effort to acquire a wide range of educational and entertaining videotapes dealing with all aspects of the law and legal practice. All of these tapes can be viewed in the Library's Audiovisual Viewing Rooms, and a number of them can also be checked out for home use.

If you are unfamiliar with the scope of the Library's videotape collection, there is a directory of available tapes at the Circulation Desk. The tapes are classified according to their content. The clinical tapes include analysis of evidence, trial and appellate practice, and are useful adjuncts to lectures and exam preparation. The documentaries include such noted PBS productions as "Eyes on the Prize" and "The Constitution, That Delicate Balance." The motion pictures include major studio productions in which the law or courtroom scenes have played a prominent role. "To Kill A Mockingbird," "Twelve Angry Men," and "The Jagged Edge," are just a few of the movies the Library has obtained for your viewing. Finally, the Library also keeps copies of videorecordings of all filmed classes, such as Trial Techniques, Appellate Advocacy and special lectures.

Please see the Circulation Desk Attendant if you wish to check out a tape or if you need to get a key to one of the three Audiovisual Viewing Rooms. Only the motion pictures circulate outside of the Library; the clinical tapes and the documentaries must be viewed in the Library. Be sure and speak to a Reference Librarian if you have any suggestions for additions to the Videotape Collection.

Keith Buckley,
Head Reference Librarian

ACCESS TO LASER PRINTING MADE AVAILABLE

The laser printer for the Student Computing Center is now directly attached to six workstations inside the cluster. Users can now print directly to the laser printer without having to copy their file onto diskette or leave the cluster. Printing directly to the laser printer is very easy. There is a quick guide available as well. As usual, any questions you may have can always be answered by one of the consultants.

We are currently ironing out some bugs in the system, but eventually all of the same fonts that were previously available will be available again. I realize that not having a consultant available to print for you is a slight inconvenience, but it is hoped that the six direct print connections will promote not only more understanding of laser printing, but that it will also allow the consultants more time for problem solving, and less time spent simply printing documents. In the interim there are a variety of free and low-cost printers on campus for student use that have access to a variety of fonts and typefaces. Inquire at the Computing Cluster for more specific information.

Short classes will be arranged in the next few weeks for individuals wishing to learn more about how to laser print. You may sign up for these classes at the consultant's desk in the Computing Cluster.

Will Sadler,
Systems Coordinator
AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

We have received two reports of personal books missing from carrels. These reports occurred several weeks ago, and since that time we have not heard of further incidents. In past years, we have had incidents of lost or stolen books, personal items and even class notes. These incidents happen more frequently as the semester draws to a close. Please be prudent about leaving items on your carrel. The exam period is tense enough without having to deal with missing class notes.

If you have something taken from your carrel, or hear of such an incident, please notify one of the Reference Librarians immediately.

The Strange Tale of the Congressional Record

Those of you who are seasoned researchers of legislative materials may well wonder what the HECK is going on with the venerable Congressional Record of late. It seems to waiver between a temporary and a more permanent life expectancy of shabby daily editions and steadfast bound editions. Here begins the sorrowful and strange story of the CR whose very life is at the mercy of our legislators in our capitol city of Washington, D.C.

As the only source of congressional debates issued on a daily basis the Congressional Record has become one of the primary research tools used to determine the intent of our legislators when bills are considered during the legislative process. The Record serves as an invaluable historical record of debates and other congressional activity of both houses of Congress. There is no other source that contains this information in such complete form. The daily edition is printed cheaply on newsprint and is not published with permanance in mind. When a volume is complete (one volume per congressional year) it is recompiled and reindexed in a permanent bound edition. The pagination is different for each form making the index of one version useless with the other. As with other official publications, the printing of the permanent edition is slow...incredibly slow. Under normal circumstances the permanent edition of the CR may be issued four to five years after the release of the daily edition. But, alas, there is now a seven year distance between the two printed versions. Funding for the printing of the permanent edition is granted from Congress and paper is considered too expensive to distribute through the Federal Depository Program. Microfiche was then the medium of choice (Congress' choice). As time went by the roar from libraries was too great for Congress to ignore. Slight concessions were made by funding permanent editions for 1983 and 1984. However, too much time had passed to give 1983 and '84 top priority so 1985 and 1986 were printed first and made available for libraries to purchase. 1984 CR's are trickling onto our shelves as are '85 and '86 volumes. As the result we have a veritable patchwork of formats on the CR shelves. Funding has not been approved for any future permanent editions of CR in paper for the depository program. In November of this year an experimental version on CD/ROM will be distributed to Depository Libraries as the 1985 permanent edition. This brings us to the edge, but surely not the end of the macabre story of the Congressional Record and an example of your government at work.

Marianne Mason, Government Documents Librarian

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The Suggestion Box

(Each month in this space Associate Director Linda Fariss replies to suggestions received by the Library)

Suggestion: Put the Indiana Materials back where the other [state] materials are - or at least put a sign up telling people where they are - whose idea was it to move them in the first place?

Response: The Indiana materials were moved last summer when the Library purchased all the state digests and had to shift the area in order to integrate the digests with the state codes. Since the Indiana materials are used so much more frequently than the other state material, we thought it would be helpful to have the Indiana material on a counter height shelf. To make this possible we had to pull Indiana out of the alphabetical arrangement. Your suggestion of a sign telling patrons where the materials for Indiana are located is a good one and it will be in place within the next few days.

Suggestion: I've noticed that much of the looseleaf material that is replaced in the Reading Room is thrown in the garbage. Why not recycle it?

Response: The Library does recycle much of the paper it throws away back in the office area. We have spoken to all the filers and in the future, they will bring the old pages back to the recycling containers in the Library.

Suggestion: Fix the paper punch!

Response: We submitted a work order to the University electrician several weeks ago. Apparently, they are very busy right now. We have called to ask them to expedite the repair. In the interim, there is a manual paper punch available in the same location.
WORKING THE HALLS

Faculty Activities:

Joe Hoffmann has just returned from the National Judicial College seminar where he spoke on "Handling Capital Cases".

Bob Heidt will be delivering a lecture at the University of Pennsylvania Law School on November 16th. The title of his colloquium is "Fifth Amendment Pleas in Civil Litigation."

Watch for forthcoming articles written by our faculty:


Happy Birthday to You!!

Professor Jost Delbruck on the 3rd of November
Professor Dan Conkle on the 10th
Professors Doug Boshkoff and Reed Dickerson on the 11th
Dick Vaughan in the Library on the 12th
Professor Tom Schornhorst on the 18th
Visiting Professor Diana Mitchell Moor on the 20th
Professor Cathy Crosson on the 21st
Professor Rebecca Rudnick and Dodie Bowman, in the 3d Floor Secretarial Pool, on the 26th

Hope it's a happy one for all!!!

Calendar of Events

| November 2-3 | Board of Visitors |
| November 3  | Law School Barn Dance |
| November 5  | Spring Registration for 3d year students |
| November 6  | "Risk Management in Sports: A Panel Discussion" (sponsored by the Law and Sports Society) 7 pm, Moot Court Room |
| November 7  | "Overview of the Job Market, Summer Jobs and Hiring Criteria of Employers" (for 1st year students) 12 noon, Room 123 |
| November 8  | "Nuts and Bolts of the Job Search: Resumes, Letters and Interviews", 12 noon, Room 123 |
| November 8  | Spring Registration for 2d year students |
| November 12 | Spring Registration for 1st year students |

We hope you all have a great Turkey day!!
IO TRAINING

Several months ago the reference staff conducted IO (the online catalog) training sessions for any faculty member interested in access to the online catalog from his/her office computer. Some of you decided to postpone training until a later date. If you would like to be trained (or have a refresher session) now on how to search the online catalog from your office, please call Linda Fariss and a time will be scheduled.

FACULTY ARE INCREASING USE OF LEXIS AND WESTLAW

We recently completed our annual ABA questionnaire for fiscal year 1989-90 and thought you might be interested in knowing that it shows a significant increase in the use of LEXIS and WESTLAW by the faculty. In 1988-89 a total of 241 searches were conducted by the faculty, and in 1989-90 that number jumped to 467. It is not surprising to note that most of the searches, 379, were done on LEXIS since it is now available from your network menu. With the increased hours of availability from both systems, we expect to see even more growth in use next year.

RECALLS FROM THE LIBRARY

We appreciate how prompt most of the faculty have been in responding to recall requests from the Law Library. There has been a significant improvement in recent months. There are still a few of you that are really terrible about responding to the recall notices. Please remember that other patrons need the material as well. If you can’t do without the item, call us. We can usually xerox the section the student needs. Ignoring the notices hurts our credibility and yours as well.

BLACK’S LAW DICTIONARY AVAILABLE FOR FACULTY OFFICES

With this summer’s publication of the 6th edition of Black’s Law Dictionary (KF 156 .B53 1990), the Library is pleased to announce that our old copies of the 5th edition are available for faculty offices. If you would like a copy of the 5th edition (1979) for your office contact Dick Vaughan at extension 5-4199.

Copies will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis, so please request your copy as soon as possible - Quod non legitur, non creditur.

ADDITIONAL LAW REVIEWS FOR FACULTY LIBRARY

In response to a recent request, the Faculty Library will soon be receiving additional subscriptions to several heavily-used law reviews. These subscriptions will be in addition to copies already in the library and will include the following:

- Harvard Law Review
- Yale Law Journal
- Michigan Law Review
- Columbia Law Review
- Stanford Law Review

In order to ensure a copy will always be available for use in the Faculty Library, the new subscriptions will be non-circulating. Besides the current subscriptions, we have also acquired five years’ worth of backfiles for each of the titles. These copies will be labeled ”Does Not Circulate” on their spines. Please honor the policy and use these non-circulating copies in the Faculty Library. Depending upon the success of the new policy, additional non-circulating journals may also be acquired in future months.
LAN News

NEW STAFF AT THE FACULTY HELPDESK

The Library recently hired a new employee to staff the Helpdesk. His name is Brian Boyer and he comes to us by way of the Computer Science Department. The Faculty Helpdesk is an "on call" service for all faculty members who need help with any computing problem. The Helpdesk can currently be reached at 5-6059 between 10 and 2 daily. Or you can send WPOffice email to HELPDESK.

CHANGES IN THE CAMPUS NETWORK LEAD TO PROBLEMS LOGGING ONTO THE VAXES

Many of you with personal modems may have had problems recently logging into the Vaxes from home using Procomm and the command files (*.cmd) that Ledger gave you. Because of a recent change in the Vax network many of those command files will no longer work. In addition, the Gold vax no longer has its own "call" number. If you have experienced any problems using your modem from home please call or mail the Helpdesk (5-6059 or HELPDESK) and we can give you updated files.

SAVING YOUR WORK - WHEN AND WHERE TO BACKUP YOUR DATA

Backups are probably the most important element of utilizing the computer in an office or research environment. Most computer data is stored on some form of magnetic media, whether it is a piece of magnetic tape like you find in a floppy disk, or a magnetized metal plate as in a hard drive. The very nature of magnetic media makes it an imperfect form of storage. It is, therefore, very important that you should be aware of a few guidelines for storing your important computerized work. Following what I have outlined below will make using your computer a far more enjoyable experience.

1) Always have two copies on different disks of everything you create. I recommend keeping one copy on a floppy disk and another on the network or a local hard disk. If you are unsure of how to copy a file or a disk, please call me or the Helpdesk. We will be glad to show you how.

2) Do not use the same floppy disk for all of your work. Disks wear out a little bit each time they are read, but they are relatively inexpensive, do not occupy a lot of space, and are easy to catalog. I tend to use one disk per project, or per paper. When I am finished with the paper, I can then store the disk until I need it again.

3) There is no known documentation of proof for this fact, but I can attest truthfully that every floppy disk contains a special sensor that can tell exactly the level of importance of each file on your disk. As you near a deadline this sensor will go off and promptly destroy all of your files. I like to save my documents and data more and more often as I near completion of any project. It is also important to make sure there is a backup on another disk.

If you have any questions about how to make backups please do not hesitate to call or email either me or the Helpdesk. On a side note, the LAN is a great place to store your backups, but when you are finished with a project it is best to copy it onto a floppy for safekeeping and store that floppy in a clean, dry, fairly stable environment out of direct sunlight. Old files tend to accumulate quickly on hard disks, and because everybody shares the disk space on the LAN we can run out of room very quickly. It is always a good idea to go through and delete files that you no longer need from any disk, especially the LAN.

Will Sadler,
Systems Coordinator 5-2870 or WILLSADLER