THE LAW LIBRARY PERMANENT LEARNING CENTER: AN EVOLVING REALITY

by Mitch Counts

The Law Library is happy to announce that the six workstations that comprise the Lexis contribution to the Permanent Learning Center (PLC) were recently installed. Sign-up sheets and keys are available at the Circulation Desk and Law Students may reserve a specific Lexis terminal in the PLC for a specific time period.

It should be remembered that usage of the PLC may have to be limited when actual training is scheduled either by the on-site Lexis student representatives or by the Lexis national trainers. It is also important to note that the PLC will not affect the availability of the two existing Lexis terminals in the Library itself.

The Westlaw PLC contract is in its final stages of negotiation and the six Walt II terminals will be delivered approximately 2 weeks after the contract terms are approved by West in St. Paul, Minnesota. The target date for terminal installation is March 1st.

LEXIS/WESTLAW TRAINING DATES SET FOR 1L's

Lexis training for first year students will be conducted February 18-March 1st. Training will be provided by national Lexis trainers. Sign-up sheets will be located at the Reference Desk in Room 105 of the Library beginning February 11th. While this valuable training is primarily for 1L's, all students are encouraged to sign-up on a space available basis.

Westlaw training will be held in a "split-week" format the week immediately after. The exact dates will be March 4 - March 8th, and March 18-March 22nd. Sign-up sheets for this training will be available in the Reference Office of the Library beginning February 28th.

Mitch Counts,
Computer Services Librarian

RECYCLING BINS LOCATED BY COPY MACHINES

There are now recycling bins located by each copy machine in the lobby of the Library. These bins have signs designating them as receptacles for the recycling of white paper only. Please put all white paper that you are throwing away in one of these bins. Also, do not forget to put aluminum soft drink cans in the recycling boxes located by the newspaper area in the Library lobby and by the elevator on the second, third, and fourth floors of the Library.
HERMES DELIVERS

The Government Printing Office has borrowed the name of the mythical messenger with winged shoes for the title of the new electronic bulletin board project that delivers Supreme Court decisions. Project Hermes is a two year experiment that will provide access to U.S. Supreme Court decisions within eight hours of their release by the Court. Most of the law school community will still use Westlaw or Lexis since they are both end-user systems while Hermes will be available only through the Reference Office. Like the other databases, Hermes provides full text opinions searchable by boolean logic, docket number, case name, and date. One advantage of Hermes is the time guarantee; Westlaw and Lexis cannot be relied upon for such rapid delivery of opinions. Since this electronic bulletin board is available to all libraries participating in the federal depository program, it is also available to those outside the law school environment.

I admit that I have assumed the namesake of this database is Hermes, the winged messenger rather than Hermes Trismegistus, the author of all mysterious doctrines. An unfortunate coincidence I’m sure.

Marianne Mason,
Documents Librarian

MY FAVORITE REFERENCE BOOKS


When I look at a new reference work, what I am secretly hoping to find is a volume crammed with fascinating yet generally useless trivia presented with a dash of wit or sarcasm. Most legal reference works, e.g., West's Legal Forms, somehow fail to satisfy these criteria, and one must search high and low for books that provide the perfect balance of entertainment and information. Every few months, I will share with you some of my favorite reference works, volumes from the Library’s shelves that will expand your legal consciousness and send you off to class with a smile on your face.

Kohn's Dictionary of Culprits and Criminals is perhaps the most concise, compact gallery of rogues ever published. Containing well over one thousand thumbnail biographies of assassins, murderers, poisoners, gangsters, racketeers, forgers, impostors, pirates and desperadoes (to name but a few subjects covered), this book is quite literally a "who's who" among evildoers throughout history. Want to find out what Sawney Bean, Karl Denke and Albert Fish all had in common? Looking for a complete survey of the gangsters of New York City during the Roaring Twenties? Need a list of train robbers? Kohn's dictionary is up to the task, providing the people, the crimes, the dates, and even details on personal quirks and habits of his notorious subjects.

When Professors Redden and Veron set about compiling the definitions contained in their Modern Legal Glossary, their goal was not only to set out important legal terms and related concepts, but to also produce a book that the reader would "even enjoy browsing through on a rainy day." To accomplish this goal, the editors have included entries on such items as federal statutes, important U.S. Supreme Court cases, useful Latin legal phrases (can you use digitus impudicus in a brief someday?), the longest trial (in Poona, India, filed in 1205, settled in 1966), and the world's best lawyer (a criminal lawyer in Guyana who, as of 1980, had obtained 229 acquittals in 229 murder cases). One of the most pleasurable aspects of Modern Legal Glossary is the authors' defiant unwillingness to provide dry, neutral definitions. Their discussions of recent American political developments are soaked in sarcasm, and their treatment of the major players in the Watergate scandal is delightfully scathing. I only hope that Professors Redden and Veron consider issuing a second edition of Modern Legal Glossary, or, at the very least, a pocket part.

Keith Buckley,
Reference Librarian

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

The 4th edition of A Treatise on the Law of Contracts or, as it is more commonly known, Williston on Contracts has begun to be published by the Lawyers Cooperative Publishing Company. Volume 1 of the anticipated 25-30 volume set has been received by the Library (RESERVE KF 801 .W53 1990). Updated by pocket parts, the publication is expected to be completed within the next few years.

The 1st edition, which one scholar called "the greatest law book of our time", was written by Samuel Williston (1861-1963). Published in 5 volumes between 1920 and 1922, Williston's book quickly became a standard text in the field. In 1936, at age 75, Williston began a revision of his work and in two years time completed the 9 volume 2nd edition.

Although still alive in 1957, Williston stepped down as editor and handed over the reins to Walter H.E. Jaeger of Georgetown University. Jaeger’s revision was completed in 1959 and consisted of 22 volumes. In his preface to the 3rd edition, Jaeger praised his predecessor and admitted that he had felt compelled to "continue in the true WILLISTON tradition" as he edited the work.
The new 4th edition is being edited by Richard A. Lord of the Campbell University School of Law. Despite 70 years between the 1st and 4th editions, Williston's influence is still noted in this edition's preface where Lord writes "my goal, in under-taking this latest revision, is to continue the tradition established by my predecessors."

Samuel Williston went on to live to be 102 years old, surviving to be Harvard's oldest living alumnus. He held a B.A (1882) and a L.L.B. (1888) from Harvard. In 1889 he served as a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Horace Gray. In 1890 he began a 48 year career as a law professor at Harvard. From 1919 to his retirement in 1938 he held the title Dane Professor of Law. Additionally, Williston served as the Massachusetts Commissioner for Uniform State Laws from 1910-1929 and as a reporter for the American Law Institute's project on the restatement of the common law. In 1929, the ABA awarded Williston the organization's first gold medal "for conspicuous service to American Jurisprudence".


Dick Vaughan,
Acquisitions Librarian

LEGAL RESEARCH AND THE NON-LAW STUDENT

Every academic year, between 2500 and 3000 students from outside of the Law School are assigned research projects that require some use of the Law Library. With little to no training in the substance and research methods of legal materials, this substantial body of users presents a wide range of special challenges to the Library's Public Services staff. Through ONPOINT, a formalized outreach program, the Public Services librarians provide tours, in-class lectures and presentations on periodical indexes, legal encyclopedias and using the reporter systems. In some classes, the librarians also prepare research outlines for assigned research topics, guiding students through the intricacies of looseleaf reporters and legislative history.

At present, the Public Services staff expects to be instructing the students of some two dozen undergraduate and graduate classes. The largest classes typically come from the School of Journalism, Business, SPEA, Telecommunications and Political Sciences, although the Library has assisted students from nearly every department, from Home Economics to the School of Optometry. This wide range of academic patrons demonstrates the vital role both the Library and the Law School play in the Indiana University Community.

Library tours and orientation seminars for non-law students started at the beginning of the semester, and
Res Ipsa Loquitur

will continue until late February. In an attempt to make the in-Library tours less disruptive to students studying in the Reading Room and on the First Floor, the Library staff will be posting notices of upcoming tours so that students can seek other study areas in the Library during those times.

Keith Buckley,
Reference Librarian

POPULATION EXPLOSION AT LAW SCHOOL

In the last two months, the Law School has experienced an unprecedented population explosion. Nonie Watt,

WORKING THE HALLS

We are pleased to note some of the recent activities and appointments of the faculty:

Professor Pat Baude has been appointed as a Counsel to the Office of the Governor of Indiana.

Professor Fred Cate was a co-convener of the Cable Television Workshop for Communications Faculty in Washington D.C. during January.

Professor Ann Gellis addressed the Women Lawyers Division of the Indianapolis Bar Association in January, discussing the report of the Indiana State Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession.

Professor Joe Hoffmann gave a seminar on "U.S. Supreme Court Practice", to the National Association of Attorneys General in Washington D.C. during January.

Watch for forthcoming articles written by our faculty:


Belated Birthday Greetings to Those with January Birthdays:

Professor Ed Greenebaum on the 1st of January;
Professor Lisa Bingham on the 4th;
Professor Lynne Henderson on the 13th;
Professor Roger Dworkin on the 19th;
Professor Alex Tanford on the 23rd;
Library Director Colleen Pauwels on the 25th.

And Happy Birthday to . . .

Pat Clark, in Admissions, on February 1st;
Nonie Watt, in the Library, on the 7th;
Kevin Butterfield, in the Library, on the 15th;
Naomi Pardue, in the Library, on the 20th;
and Professor Julia Lamber, on the 27th.

Hope you all have (or had) a great day!
WASHINGTON LIST NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH LAN

The Current Index to Legal Periodicals compiled by the University of Washington Law Library (the "Washington List") is now available through the LAN. Although the Library will continue sending it to each faculty member in paper format, at least for the rest of this year, we are also offering you the option of accessing it through your office computer. The big advantage to receiving the Washington List electronically is that it arrives at least two weeks earlier than the paper copy and you can "capture" citations to articles you wish to see and send them directly to the Library through e-mail. At the present time you may choose to receive the Washington List through the LAN in one of two ways. We can make it a menu item on the LAN and you simply retrieve it as you do any menu item. The advantage to this method is that it is very simple to access and send requests to the Library. The disadvantage is that sending these requests to the Library may be very slow with the current equipment. The second way we can make it available is as a message in your Law School e-mail. Retrieving and sending citations to the Library is somewhat faster using this method. However, the disadvantage is that it is more complicated because capturing citations and sending them to the Library requires more keystrokes.

Although we realize that neither method is perfect at the current time, we hope that many of you will be willing to experiment with receiving the Washington List through the LAN and give us your feedback. If you are interested, please call Will Sadler and let him know which method you would prefer to use. After Will has set it up on your computer, Mitch Counts will schedule a time at your convenience when he can show you how to retrieve the Washington List and send requests to the Library.

CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE EXPANDS

For many years the Library has provided a current awareness service to the Law School faculty in which we automatically send to you new material received by the Library that we feel would be of interest to you in your research. In order to expand the scope of our current awareness service, all of the Public Service Librarians are now participating in this service. Although each librarian will concentrate on looking at incoming items in his or her area of specialization, they will also scan all new general material as soon as it is processed. Keith Buckley, Ralph Gaebler or Marianne Mason will be contacting you soon about updating your current awareness profile. In addition, Mitch Counts will be stopping by to see each of you about any database searching that would be helpful in facilitating your research.

TIME FOR THE GRADUATION DISPLAY AGAIN

We are again planning to have a graduation display in the lobby. We have sent the 3d year students a memo describing the details of our plans. As most of you remember, the display has included a wide range of items — pictures, memorabilia, clippings and so forth — that review the past three years of law school for the graduating class.

Many of you provided some great things last year, and we hope that you might again have some items that would be appropriate for the display. When considering this, think broadly. Do you have pictures of current third year students at your home having dinner, playing poker, at baseball games or other sporting events? Do you have any classroom awards or anecdotes that might be fun to include?
The Slippery Slope

We will return all items after graduation. You should call Colleen or Linda and we will come up and get the items to insure that each is properly identified. If you have any suggestions or comments about the display give us a call.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Thank you for all your help with the reports we put together for the budget document last week. I know that it came at a busy time for most of you. The information was very well received, however, and I believe it was worth the effort.

Several of you expressed interest in seeing the final product. There are two documents: Faculty Publications, 1989-90 and Faculty Activities and Accomplishments, 1989-90. I will put a copy of each in the faculty lounge. If anyone wants to have a copy, call my secretary, Tina (5-9666), and she will send one to you. Thanks again for your effort.

Colleen Pauwels

LAN News

NEW STAFF AT THE FACULTY HELPDESK

The Library recently hired a new employee to staff the Helpdesk. His name is Mike Osborne and he comes to us by way of the Mathematics and Sociology Departments. 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 1-5 MWF and 9-1 TTR, or you can send WPOffice e-mail to HELPDESK. If you call the Helpdesk and get a modem tone, please feel free to call the Systems Coordinator at 5-2870.

LAW LAN GETS NEW EQUIPMENT

The Law School is now connected to the campus ethernet network via a fiber optic cable. The new fiber optic backbone should increase the speed of connection to the campus vax system, but, unfortunately, you probably will not notice an increase in performance on the vaxes due to other system loads. More importantly, the higher rates of data transmission will allow the Law School significant room for expansion in the future.

The Law School's LAN server has been upgraded from an 8 mhz IBM AT to a 25 mhz 386. We hope that you will notice significant increases in some applications on the network as a result of this upgrade. The new server should go into place at the beginning of next week.

DIAL IN ACCESS TO THE NETWORK AVAILABLE SOON

It will soon be possible for anyone with a computer and a modem to dial into the network and use some network applications. The software that allows us to connect to the LAN via modem works best at 2400 baud. Even at 2400 baud it is still not fast enough to run applications like WordPerfect efficiently, but the system is very effective for reading WordPerfect Office electronic mail or running smaller applications such as the Calendar program.

The software we have purchased also allows for the transfer of files from the LAN to your home computer via modem. So, if you need to work on a document and you accidentally left it at the office, it is possible to log into the network from home and download the file to your home machine.

If you would like more information about this service please contact myself or Mike Osborne at the Helpdesk. If you do not have a modem at home or would like to upgrade to a 2400 baud modem I have information on where to purchase a new modem. Currently, 2400 baud modems are selling for $75 to $80.

Will Sadler,
Systems Coordinator 5-2870 or WILLSADLER