11-1993

Vol. 04, No. 03 (November 1993)

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GETTING THE MOST OUT OF LEGALTRAC

by Keith Buckley

The LegalTrac CD-ROM-based index is the most comprehensive computer-assisted research system currently available for legal periodicals. Covering all law-related titles from scholarly journals, commercial publications, bar journals and legal newspapers published since January, 1980, the index is an incredibly powerful research tool and is indispensable whenever you need to do a thorough literature survey. Like all other automated research systems, however, LegalTrac is not without its quirks and eccentricities. In order to maximize the use of the many features of this database, it is important to remember the following searching hints if you want to find all of the relevant research on your particular law-related topic.

Perhaps the most important fact to bear in mind is that LegalTrac uses standard Library of Congress subject headings when indexing periodical titles. While the Library of Congress makes every effort to adopt legal terminology and terms of art in preparing its subject headings, law students, scholars and lawyers often find that headings do not include materials covered by other standard indexing terms, such as the West Digest Topic Names. LegalTrac users should therefore search all of the "See Also" references listed beneath their original subject headings. It is extremely important to go back and check all relevant subject headings if you wish to locate every article discussing your issue.

The reference librarians have noticed that LegalTrac users frequently neglect to check all of the subheadings under a subject heading. This omission in the search process frequently results in missed scholarly articles. For example—while the subheadings "Evaluation" and "Law and Legislation" would seem to be the most logical locations for in-depth scholarly analysis of a topic, the titles listed here could be almost exclusively drawn from legal newspapers and bar journals. Be sure to always check the subheading "Cases," which refers to casenotes, and "Analysis," which will invariably lead you to substantive articles in the law school reviews.

My own personal favorite LegalTrac searching tool is the recent "Headings" feature. Let's say you are searching through the publications of noted criminal procedure author Yale Kamisar. Looking at the individual titles on the screen, you will notice the word "headings" beneath each article. If you hit the "Enter" key, LegalTrac will then present you with a screen listing all of the subject headings assigned to the title at which you were looking, as well as the names of any co-author and, if applicable, the names of major cases or statutes addressed in that particular article. At this point in your research, you could use the arrow keys to move the cursor to one of these headings, press "Enter" again, and search any one of those subject headings, case names, etc. In order to return to Professor Kamisar's...
articles, all you have to do is press the "Esc" key. This new software development greatly increases LegalTrac’s flexibility.

While you should always include LegalTrac in your search strategy when you wish to locate scholarly criticism and commentary, you should also remember to consult WILSONDISC CD-ROM and the Index to Legal Periodicals for a truly comprehensive literature survey. With its emphasis on the scholarly law journals, WILSONDISC/Index to Legal Periodicals compliments LegalTrac’s legal newspaper and bar publication orientation. Next month, I will close out this three part series on periodical indexes with an examination of WILSONDISC/Index to Legal Periodicals.

As always, if you have any questions about the periodical indexes, please contact a reference librarian.

CORRECTION: In last month’s guide to using periodical databases on LEXIS and WESTLAW, I stated that many of the full-text files are incomplete because many lead article authors have not released copyright for the purposes of electronic transmission. In conversations with both companies, I have since learned that this problem has now been corrected, and that the full-text journal files should contain complete holdings going back to the date of initial coverage.

STOPWORDS ADDED TO INCREASE RESPONSE TIME

This past August, over 825,000 records were added to IUCAT, the online catalog. These records will provide much-needed access to materials published by the U.S. Government Printing Office since 1976. Publications from federal agencies and departments as well as Congressional documents are included. While the Law Library’s government documents have been available through IUCAT for quite some time, this marks the first time the Main Library’s substantial collection will be accessible online.

As you might expect, the down-side of loading so many records at once has resulted in noticeably slower response time, particularly during keyword searches. To alleviate this problem, a number of "stopwords" have been added when doing a keyword search. Using one of the following stopwords in a keyword search will result in a "No Entries Found" response.

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*Do not include periods in keyword searches except as qualifiers. For instance, "k=un" will work but "k=u.n." will not.

IMPORTANT: These new stopwords only apply to keyword (K=) searches. They do not affect A=, T=, or S= searches.

If you would like further information, type EXPlain GOV DOCS at any OPAC terminal. As with any type of online searching, please see a reference librarian if you encounter difficulties.

Nonie Watt,  
Head of Technical Services

NEW & NOTEWORTHY: CROSSING BOUNDARIES

Atlas of the World. New York,  

Today’s World: A New World Atlas from the Cartographers of Rand McNally. Chicago, IL:  

Anyone who knows me, knows I love maps. Just drop by my office and you’ll find a 1927 (pre-TVA dams) map of the state of Tennessee that stretches 5 feet across one wall. At home I have an 1865 map of the American West and an 1876 map of the African continent. Like Joseph Conrad’s Marlow in Heart of Darkness, "When
I was a little chap I had a passion for maps. I would look for hours at South America, or Africa, or Australia, and lose myself in all the glories of exploration.

So what does my interest in maps have to do with the Law Library? The recent acquisitions of these two atlases are the first additions to the Library’s atlas collection in several years. While major geopolitical events, like the breakup of the Soviet Union, remind us just how fragile international borders can be, we often overlook shifting national boundaries when the consequences seem less earth shattering.

Both of these atlases (shelved on the Atlas Stand in the Library’s lobby area) reflect the major changes that have evolved over the past few years. Gone are place names like the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, replaced by new/old names like Russia, Croatia, Latvia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The updated borders of these countries place these reference sources ahead of other atlases in the Library.

While both atlases will supply you with the basic maps needed to answer most geographic questions, the Oxford atlas goes far beyond the basics. Twice the size (in terms of pages) of the Rand McNally atlas, the Oxford atlas’ maps are preceded by approximately 75 pages of information ranging from spreadsheets of world statistical data to short essays on world geography (climate, geology, the oceans, atmosphere, landscape, environment, demography, etc.). One particular section that law students may find interesting is an essay entitled "People: Conflict & Cooperation". This section includes a world map of wars since 1945 as well as a series of maps depicting world political and economic organizations (OPEC, COMECON, OAS, NATO, etc.). The Oxford atlas also has a section containing maps of 66 major cities of the world, all in a large 1:200,000 scale.

In addition to the extras, the maps in the Oxford atlas are much more detailed than those found in the Rand McNally atlas. As a random test I studied both atlas’ maps of one of my old stomping grounds, northeastern Nigeria. While the Rand McNally map shows no settlements between Yola and Maiduguri, the Oxford map shows no less than 25. Additionally, the Oxford maps use many more variations in color to show topographical and agricultural changes in the landscape. The detail that the Oxford maps offer can create problems for those wanting to photocopy maps. Because the maps are larger, they often take up more than one page. If you are interested in basic maps contained on one page, the Rand McNally atlas may provide you with what you need. If, on the other hand, you need detailed maps to locate small communities, rivers, or mountain ranges, check out the Oxford atlas.

One final note, if you’re like me and you can spend hours looking at maps, you might want to look at the publication Boundary and Security Bulletin (periodicals collection). The Bulletin, published by the International Boundaries Research Unit in England, is published quarterly and documents boundary disputes throughout the world. In each issue you can find detailed descriptions and maps of recent, and often ongoing, border disputes. The July 1993 issue features an article documenting the 40 year old Finnish-Russian border dispute, as well as other articles on the militarized enclave of Kaliningrad (located between Poland and Lithuania) and the UN’s settlement of the Iraq-Kuwait border.

Richard Vaughan,
Acquisitions & Serials Control Librarian

COPY CARD DISPENSER FOUND

I reported in the September Suggestion Box column that the copy card dispenser located in the Law School lounge had been stolen during the summer. Well, it has been found!!! Unfortunately, it was mutilated and thrown in the bottom of a quarry, and is beyond resuscitation. The perpetrators have not been apprehended. At this time it appears that a replacement will not be funded by the University and you will have to get your copy cards from one of the other locations on campus–Jordan Hall (on Third Street, the greenhouse is attached to it), the Main Library or the School of Business.

Linda Fariss,
Associate Director

HOT DOCS AND E-MAIL

The Law Library has received some government publications that report on topics receiving national attention of late. These documents reflect major political trends, proposals that impact heavily on the U.S. economy, and reports that deal with important aspects of our society.
The following is a briefly annotated list of these government publications. All of the documents may be found in the Documents Collection on the 4th floor of our Library. These titles are arranged in order of their receipt in the Library, most recently received are listed first.

Report on the ATF Investigation of Vernon Wayne Howell aka David Koresh. (T70.2.K84) This report of the Department of the Treasury's Waco Administrative Review is the product of the Department's investigation of the events leading to the loss of lives near Waco, Texas on February 28, 1993.

The NAFTA. (PrExl.2:T67/v.1 and v.2/993-2) This is the full text of the North American Free Trade Agreement between the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Health Security Preliminary Plan Summary. (PrExl.2:H34/2/sum.) This is a summary of President Clinton's national health care proposal. The full text of the plan will be available in print and in the Library's collection in the near future. It is currently available on LEXIS.

From Red Tape to Results: Creating a Government That Works Better & Costs Less, Report of the National Performance Review. (PrVp42.2:G74) This is the report issued by the committee chaired by Vice President Al Gore that prescribes "reinventing government". This is the first of a forty part report. Yes, that's forty (40) parts.

Tailhook '91, Part 1: Review of the Navy Investigations. (D1.2:T13/pt.1) This is a review of the methods used by the Navy during the investigations of the sexual harassment charges filed in conjunction with the Tailhook Convention in 1991. This report concludes that the initial investigation was seriously flawed.

Tailhook '91, Part 2: Events at the 35th Annual Tailhook Symposium. (D1.2:T13/pt.2) This report indicates that misconduct at the Tailhook Convention was more widespread than originally reported with 90 victims of assault and improprieties by Navy and Marine Corps officers. The report established that more than 50 officers made false statements regarding these events during the investigation.

If you want to give President Clinton or Vice President Gore a piece of your mind, go ahead. You can send them your thoughts through e-mail.

PRESIDENT@WHITEHOUSE.GOV
VICE.PRESIDENT@WHITEHOUSE.GOV

Marianne Mason,
Documents Librarian

BOOK OF THE MONTH


The Suggestion Box

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

Suggestion: Pencil Sharpener. The pencil sharpener needs: a) sharpened; or if that is not possible, b) replaced (the pencil sharpener on the circulation desk).

Response: Perhaps you have not tried the pencil sharpener lately. We recently put two new electric pencil sharpeners on the circulation desk (one by each pillar). I agree that the old one was quite dull, but I think you will find the new ones satisfactory. For those of you who do not want to walk to the circulation desk to sharpen your pencils, there are manual pencil sharpeners on each floor of the library in the back stairwell. Thanks for your suggestion.

Suggestion: Dearth of movies on JAG Corps. Buy movie "A Few Good Men".

Response: As you obviously know, the Library keeps a small collection of movies available for check-out (24 hour reserve) on topics involving the law. Each year we try to add a few to the collection. We have recently purchased several new titles. "A Few Good Men" is on our list of movies to purchase. However it is our policy to wait until the price of the movie drops to a reasonable amount before making a purchase. This movie is still quite expensive, so we will wait until the price goes down, probably next fiscal year. If you are interested in knowing what movies are owned by the Law Library, there is a list in the notebook at the circulation desk. Thanks for your suggestion.
Of all American presidents since the end of World War II, Lyndon Johnson is probably the least understood. He was the dominant politician for the majority of the 1960’s with an unequaled legislative record, and yet there has been a general lack of interest in documenting his career. Compared to what has been written about other presidents, such as Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Nixon, LBJ has had a minuscule amount of scholarly work completed. There are many reasons for this, not the least of which is that Johnson is still viewed negatively by the American public, even though he left political office nearly 25 years ago, and he has been dead for over 20 years. Dallek’s book Lone Star Rising is an attempt to fill the gap and provide a scholarly assessment of the life and career of Lyndon Baines Johnson.

This initial volume of Dallek covers Johnson’s life and career from his birth in 1908 to the election of John F. Kennedy as President and LBJ as Vice-President in 1960. Dallek discusses Johnson’s childhood and his family history, including his early career as a school teacher. However, fate would take its course when he was offered the job of secretary for a newly elected congressman from Texas, in whose campaign he had helped. The opportunity it presented pushed LBJ’s already strong ambition into overdrive. After a stint in a federal appointment running the National Youth Administration in Texas, he then seized the opportunity to run for the House of Representatives from Texas, winning his first political office. His strong support of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the power of the Texas delegation led to his swift rise in political power. In 1941 he ran in a special election for the U.S. Senate, but was defeated. With the onset of World War II his focus changed, but following the war his strong political ambition returned. In 1948 he ran for the U.S. Senate in one of the most controversial congressional races of all time.

Dallek devotes a great deal of the book to discussing the 1948 Senate race. At that time, winning the Democratic primary was tantamount to being elected in Texas. However, Texas law required a runoff between the top two votegetters if no one received a majority. Governor Coke Stevenson and LBJ were pitted against each other in a political race that is hard to top for its corruption and incredible political outcome. The final result, certified by the state, gave LBJ the winning margin of 87 votes out of approximately 1 million cast. The charges of corruption and vote-stealing went on for several months, and Johnson was never able to totally escape from the accusation that he did not legitimately win the election. In any event, he found himself in the United States Senate.

The rest of the book covers LBJ’s career as a United States Senator, with his election to Majority Leader in 1954, his campaign for the Democratic nomination for President, and his election to Vice-President in 1960. The book particularly shows Johnson’s influence as the Majority Leader and his effectiveness in leading the Senate. Also, his contribution to the 1960 Presidential campaign is well detailed.

Lone Star Rising reveals a great deal about Lyndon Baines Johnson. LBJ was ambitious, motivated, and ruthless, and yet his accomplishments were significant. This is an excellent biography of a very influential man. When the second volume of the series is published, it should stand as the definitive work on the life and career of the 36th President of the United States.

Michael Maben, Cataloging Librarian

NEW FOREIGN MATERIALS ON LEXIS

The heart of any foreign law collection is comprised of primary source material- statutes, regulations, and in common law jurisdictions, case law. Therefore, it is always welcome news to hear that the electronic databases have chosen to expand their offerings of foreign primary source material. In this case it is LEXIS that has recently announced its intention to add greatly to its collection of Australian law. LEXIS has also recently added materials to its Canadian library. Together, these new electronic sources should be quite useful to those wishing to do research in the law of these two jurisdictions.

Until recently, Ontario appeals court decisions were the only Canadian materials LEXIS contained. Several months ago they expanded their case law to include the Dominion Law Reports, the single most comprehensive series of case reports published in Canada (including both federal and provincial decisions), as well as Canadian Criminal Cases, Canadian Patent Reporter, and Labour Arbitration Cases. The Canada library now also includes weekly case summaries, as well as weekly bulletins on criminal law and labor arbitration. Finally, in addition to case law, the Canada library includes three files that contain news stories about Canada, as well as
LEXIS has also recently purchased rights to reproduce the Australian SCALE database. This is a database that was developed by the office of the Australian Attorney General. Currently it includes High Court decisions back to 1903, the date of Australia's founding, together with decisions of the Family Court and Federal Court. It also includes recent state supreme court decisions. The High Court reports will provide LEXIS cites, as well as citations to the Commonwealth Law Reports, together with star pagination. At the beginning, High Court decisions will be in summary form up to 1945, and full text thereafter.

LEXIS has announced that it will make the case law portion of the SCALE database available some time this fall. In the spring, LEXIS will also make available the legislative portion of the database. This will include the Commonwealth Acts Consolidated (the Australian version of our Statutes At Large) and the current edition of revised statutes, which dates from 1973.

It is probable that the LEXIS Australia library will grow in time. For example, one might expect to find High Court decisions in full text back to 1903 at some time in the future, as well as earlier state supreme court decisions. In the meantime, this new Australia library will already provide fairly comprehensive access to primary law. Together with the new Canadian law collection, it will soon provide a great boost to those doing research in the law of two of the foreign jurisdictions most popular among our patrons.

Ralph Gaebler,
Foreign & International Librarian

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LAW LIBRARY THANKSGIVING HOURS
NOVEMBER 23 - 28, 1993

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<td>NOVEMBER 28</td>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>RESUME REGULAR HOURS</td>
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WORKING THE HALLS

Welcome to Bill Gouveia who joins the Law School staff November 15th as the Computer Support Technician. Bill was previously employed at University Computing Services.

Recent Faculty Publications


Happy November Birthday to:

Professor Jost Delbrück on November 3rd;
Professor Dan Conkle on the 10th;
Professor Doug Boshkoff on the 11th;
Professor Carol Parker and Dick Vaughan in the Library on the 12th;
Professor Tom Schornhorst on the 18th;
Professor Cathy Crosson on the 21st;
Dodie Bowman on the 3rd floor and Professor Rebecca Rudnick on the 26th; and
Angela Lieurance in the Development Office on the 28th.

Hope you all have a great day!!!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!