DON'T FORGET WILSONDISC!

by Keith Buckley

In this, the final installment of a three-part series on periodical indexes, I want to briefly describe what I'm afraid is the most underused of the law journal indexes, the WILSONDISC system. Along with the other public service librarians, I've noticed that a number of researchers tend to ignore WILSONDISC, preferring LegalTrac. This is indeed unfortunate because while WILSONDISC does index fewer journals than LegalTrac and only covers articles published after late 1982, WILSONDISC includes several unique features that make it a superior tool for quickly locating the most valuable scholarly articles. Because WILSONDISC limits its coverage to articles that are at least five pages long appearing in the academic law journals and major commercial periodicals, a WILSONDISC search will always produce in-depth, critical analysis of your legal issue rather than a mixture of substantive and news-related stories. More importantly, WILSONDISC's assignment of subject headings is far more predictable than LegalTrac. Unlike LegalTrac, WILSONDISC does not make use of extensive and often confusing subheadings, all of which must be searched in order to find relevant articles. Finally, WILSONDISC offers a special mode of searching called WILSEARCH, which provides additional points of access unavailable on LegalTrac.

After you've loaded the WILSONDISC CD-ROM (available at the Circulation Desk) into the non-LegalTrac workstation in the periodicals index area, select the WILSONDISC option from the initial onscreen menu. After the computer has loaded the contents of the CD-ROM, you will be offered several searching options. Choose Option Number 2, the WILSEARCH option, because this form of searching offers you the widest possible searching methods. You will then press the Number 1 key, telling the system you are ready to enter a new search, after which you will see a blank search form. Upon examining the search form, you'll discover that WILSONDISC allows you to search up to three different subject headings or words, words that appear in the title of the article, the author's name, and the name of the journal. You may now search any one of these article segments separately, or combine several segments for more finely tailored research results.

Perhaps the most effective way to take advantage of WILSONDISC's flexible searching capabilities is to perform a combination subject heading/title search. When entering your search terms, remember that you don't have to provide complete title phrases-- you need only choose one or two words. If you use more than one word, you can insert the search connectors AND or OR between them for a LEXIS/WESTLAW-style Boolean search. If you are not sure about which subject terms to use, consult a bound copy of the Index to Legal Periodicals and examine the list of assigned subject headings.
headings in the front of the volume. If you want to add a case name to your search, you will enter the names of the known party or parties in the subject segment search. Should you decide you only want articles that have appeared in a specific law journal, please be sure to enter the journal’s complete name in the journal segment search. Once you have entered your search, moving from segment to segment using the ENTER key, hit the END key then the ENTER key to initiate your search.

As I've stated in the two previous articles on legal periodical indexes, you should always remember to search both WILSONDISC and LegalTrac whenever your research requires an exhaustive study of all available journal articles on your subject. Using both systems is a fairly simple task, and also reduces the chances you've missed a crucial article. As always, if you have any questions about using these or any other reference materials, be sure to see one of the Reference Librarians.

NEW REFERENCE SOURCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH

Researchers who contemplate undertaking a project in public international law should keep in mind the wealth of reference materials shelved in the Library’s first floor reference collection. Oftentimes these materials provide an excellent source of background information, or even provide citations to sources that would otherwise require much time to locate.

A good example of this type of material is the Encyclopedia of Human Rights, which the Library recently acquired. This one volume encyclopedia, which was published with the co-operation of the United Nations’ World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, provides a wealth of information in a very easy-to-use format. Entries are organized alphabetically, are often several pages in length, and include extensive cross-references. The articles deal principally with international instruments, several hundred of which are reprinted in full, international organizations (governmental and non-governmental), and "practical ways by which international, regional, and national bodies promote, monitor, and supervise the implementation of... rights and freedoms." There are also 165 articles describing the human rights situation in nations around the world. Articles provide practical, detailed information. For example, those describing international organizations provide current addresses as well as background material. In addition, many articles include extensive excerpts from United Nations documentation, always accompanied by a full U.N. document citation.

In addition to the main entries, the Encyclopedia includes a number of useful appendices. These include a lengthy bibliography, arranged by country and subject, a chronological list of international instruments concerned with human rights, a list of United Nations studies and reports on human rights issues, and a variety of other useful lists. The Encyclopedia also has a fairly good subject index, which offers assistance to those who can’t find their topic of interest by using the main entries and cross-references. The Encyclopedia's only real drawback is that it covers only the years from 1945 to 1990. Nevertheless, it should be of assistance to those contemplating research in the area of post-World War II human rights.

Ralph Gaebler,
Foreign & International Librarian

BOOK OF THE MONTH


At the conclusion of the Second World War in 1945, two trials were held for major Axis war criminals captured by the Allies. One was held in Nuremberg for the German war criminals, the other was held in Tokyo for the Japanese war criminals. Much has been written and published concerning Nuremberg, while almost no scholarly or popular work has been done concerning the Tokyo trial. In his introduction the author, Arnold Brackman, states that in a bibliography published in 1979 that covers war crimes trials, there are 1,290 entries for Nuremberg, while Tokyo has 231 entries. Brackman states that "This [bibliography] also contains 143 entries on the Vietnam War, chiefly on My Lai. At the IMTFE [International Military Tribunal for the Far East], a thousand My Lais emerged." (p. 9) Thus, Brackman’s stated goal in writing this book was to fill in
this gap and provide a definitive history of the Tokyo war crimes trial.

Brackman begins by discussing the end of the war in the Pacific with the surrender of Japan. Almost immediately after the formal surrender, Allied forces began arresting major Japanese military and civilian leaders, with some committing suicide prior to being apprehended, and others botching suicide attempts (such as former Premier Hideki Tojo). This followed with the decision to proceed with a trial, the selection of a prosecuting team, and the nomination of the judges from the various countries. Eleven countries participated in the trial (Australia, Canada, China, France, Great Britain, India, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Soviet Union, and the United States), and most sent men well known for their judicial standing. Sir William Webb, the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland, Australia, was chosen as the presiding judge. Brackman also devotes a significant amount of pages to discussing the composition of the prosecution and defense teams.

From this point on, Brackman discusses the trial at great length, concerning the testimony of people from natives and privates to the former emperor of China. He details problems with both the prosecution and defense cases, and Japan’s aggression and expansion, beginning in Manchuria in 1931. The atrocities committed by the Japanese army in China, including the Rape of Nanking in 1937, are documented, although Brackman shows how the court skirted the charges that Japan did bacteriological experiments on prisoners of war and civilians. The stories that were revealed in court are incredible to read even today with the passage of 50 years since the events occurred.

Brackman then discusses the Pearl Harbor phase of the trial and another extremely gruesome phase, the Philippines. Here again, the atrocities committed by the Japanese army are nothing short of inhuman, and yet virtually unknown. Finally, Brackman then examines the final phases of the trial, including the defendants taking the stand and testifying in their own behalf. At the end, 207 verdicts were announced for the 25 defendants, with 7 defendants (including Tojo) receiving the death sentence. Those 7 defendants were hanged for their crimes on December 23, 1948. By 1956, all the remaining surviving defendants had been paroled from prison.

The Other Nuremberg is a book that definitely fills a void in our understanding of the post-war period in Japan, and the conduct of the Japanese military during World War II. This book is not pleasant reading, but it is necessary if an individual wants to know what happened and why at the Tokyo war crimes trial.

Michael Maben, Cataloging Librarian

NEW & NOTEWORTHY: THE SOUNDS OF JUSTICE

May It Please the Court . . . .

Few publications live up to their pre-publication hype. The recent release of Peter Irons’ tapes and transcripts of the oral arguments of 23 Supreme Court cases is an interesting example.

Irons, professor of political science at the University of California - San Diego, is the first individual to release the tapes to the public since the Court began taping arguments in 1955. Once recorded, the tapes are placed in the National Archives where they are made available to researchers. In order to obtain the tapes, each researcher must sign a statement indicating that tapes will be used for private purposes only. In addition, although not advertised, law professors have been allowed to purchase copies of the tapes for classroom use. As a result, the tapes have only been heard by the few scholars who knew of their existence. Enter Professor Irons.

Irons, who previously used the tapes in researching his last book The Courage of Their Convictions (Free Press, 1988, KF 4749 .I76 1988), decided that the tapes themselves, not just transcripts, should be made more accessible. Thus, he selected 23 Bill of Rights cases, signed the agreement required by the National Archives, made copies of relevant tapes, and has now released them in a boxed tape/book set. The project was jointly sponsored by the Earl Warren Bill of Rights Project of the University of California - San Diego, and the Northwest Public Affairs Network of Seattle, Washington.

As word of Irons’ plans began to be made public, the hype started to build. When National Archive officials
heard of the proposed publication they threatened "unspecific legal remedies" against Mr. Irons if the publication was not stopped. The Archives argued that Irons clearly violated the signed agreement by publishing the tapes. Irons, who has never denied that he violated the agreement, shot back that the agreement violated his First Amendment rights and that the only way one is allowed to listen to the tapes is by signing the agreement. Across the country, newspaper editorials began appearing demanding that the tapes be released. Many of the editorials inaccurately implied that the tapes had previously never been heard and that the Court itself was now trying to coverup their existence.

As the publication date drew near, and continued threats to stop publication grew louder, the Law Library placed an order for two sets of the tapes. To date, no actions have been taken against Irons and the boxed set was released for sale to the public in October. Late in October, the Library received its copies (available at the Circulation Desk).

Was it worth the wait? Yes and no. The tapes are fascinating to listen to. Hearing the voices of the justices, as well as the attorneys, debate these cases allows the listener to hear verbal nuances and sarcasm that transcripts often fail to express. Unfortunately, the recordings of the actual court sessions are very brief. Irons narrates the tape, jumping in and out like a 1960 audio/film-strip production for elementary school students. A recent New York Times review of the set summarized the tapes as "flawed and amateurish" with "sloppy work and dubious judgement in editing." Other critics of the project have claimed that numerous justices and attorneys are misidentified in the narration and, in fact, an Errata sheet in the bound volume points out 10 misidentifications.

The transcripts to each tape are followed by a summary of the case outcome and a bibliography of related readings. In addition, the first tape contains short interviews with several individuals (Sara Weddington, Donald Sullivan, Annmarie Levins) who describe the process of arguing before the Court and their memories of personal experiences before the Court.

All in all, these tapes are not the earth-shattering recordings the hype made them out to be. Still, they provide a useful format for educating people about the Court in general, as well as proving an interesting sidebar to scholars of the specific cases contained in the set. While anyone seriously interested in studying the oral arguments of a particular case will still need to seek out the original tapes at the National Archives, these condensed recordings will provide listeners with a fascinating new view of Supreme Court procedures.

Dick Vaughan,
Acquisitions & Serials Control Librarian
Here are a few famous last words intended to divert your attention from final exams. These quotes are from some of the most seasoned politicians and orators from the U.S. Congress. Enjoy.

"I'd rather be a dog and bay at the moon than stay in the Senate..." from Senator John Sharp Williams’ "mocking bird speech" on the event of his retirement in 1928.

"There is as much of a chance of repealing the eighteenth amendment as there is for a humming bird to fly to the planet Mars with the Washington Monument tied to its tail." Senator Morris Sheppard, as reported by The Washington Post, September 25, 1930.

"None of us really understands what's going on with all these numbers." David Stockman, director, Office of Management and Budget. Mr. Stockman served in Congress from 1977 to 1981.

"Ultraliberalism today translates into a whimpering isolationism in foreign policy, a mulish obstructionism in domestic policy, and a pusillanimous pussyfooting on the critical issue of law and order." Spiro T. Agnew in a speech given in Springfield, Illinois on September 10, 1970.

These quotes were lovingly selected from a government publication entitled Respectfully Quoted (Reference LC 14.2: D46).

Marianne Mason, Documents Librarian

**LITTLE-KNOWN PRESIDENTIAL FACTS**

With all the media coverage and related events surrounding the recent 30th anniversary of President Kennedy's assassination, most of us are relatively familiar with the facts surrounding his untimely and tragic death. Now, thanks to a new book in the Library entitled Facts about the Presidents, (Ref. E176.1 .K3 1993) you can learn practically everything about the deaths (and lives) of the men who have held our nation's premier office.

For example, did you know that...

*John Adams' last words were reported to have been "At least Thomas Jefferson still survives." Alas, poor guy! He had no way of knowing that Thomas Jefferson had died earlier that same day, July 4, 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.*

*Abraham Lincoln’s son Robert was present at the scene of three assassinations: his father's in 1865, at the train station in Washington when President Garfield was shot in 1881 and again, twenty years later at the assassination of William McKinley in Buffalo, New York. Now, that's pretty weird!*  

*Two Presidents (Harding and Kennedy) were survived by their fathers. Kennedy was the only President to precede both of his parents in death.*

*In 1876, a gang of thieves attempted to steal the body of Abraham Lincoln from its tomb in Springfield, Illinois. An undercover Pinkerton detective, posing as another thug, arranged to have the Secret Service show up just as they were dragging the coffin from the sarcophagus. Prior to this frightening event, body-stealing was not considered a punishable offense!*

*We've all heard how William Henry Harrison succumbed to pneumonia after attending his outdoor inauguration, but did you know Mrs. Millard Fillmore died in a similar fashion after attending the inauguration of Franklin Pierce?*

*There is only one other President beside John Kennedy buried in Arlington National Cemetery—William Howard Taft.*

*The first and only time that both a President and his wife died during the period for which the President had been elected was the term of March 1921 - March 1925. Warren Harding died in 1923 and his wife, Florence, a year later.*

I highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading about the Presidency. If, on the other hand, you just like to kill time and then bore your friends and family with useless trivial anecdotes, then this is the book for you.

Nonie Watt,  
Head of Technical Services
**LAW LIBRARY FINAL EXAM HOURS**  
**DECEMBER 4-17, 1993**

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**LAW LIBRARY SEMESTER BREAK HOURS**  
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**WORKING THE HALLS**

Congratulations to Toni Sammy, who recently celebrated her 15th anniversary as an employee of Indiana University. Toni has been the Serials Clerk in the Law Library for the last five of those years. We appreciate her many contributions to the Law School and to the University.

Happy December Birthday to:

Professor Craig Bradley on December 5th;  
Associate Dean Lauren Robel on the 8th;  
Lisa McClain on the 3rd floor on the 13th;  
Jennifer Underwood in the Admissions Office on the 14th;  
Professor Ann Gellis on the 22nd; and  
Professor Mark Adams on the 30th.

Hope you all have a great day!!!

HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY!