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CHOOSING AN INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER

by Juliet Casper

All you third years out there who are addicted to e-mail and ESPN’s web site may soon need to find a new way to connect to the Internet. After the graduation ceremonies, University Computing will begin to purge and extinguish the accounts of graduates, making dial-in access to the Internet from home no longer available. While an increasing number of law firms and government offices provide Internet access to their employees, such access is usually restricted to the work environment. In order to gain access from home, you will need to sign up with a local Internet service provider (ISP) or a national commercial online service. The local provider gives its customer a direct connection to the Internet, while the commercial services control that connection and the content of the Internet. Before selecting a provider, you should consider cost, support, stability, and reputation.

Connecting to the Internet via the commercial online services, such as America Online or Prodigy, is generally more expensive than through a dedicated ISP, such as Bloomington’s Blue Marble and Kiva. According to a comparison study done by Internet World (March 1996, p. 55), “While online services tend to have lower monthly minimum charges than ISPs, they usually provide fewer hours for that minimum charge and a higher per hour cost.” Commercial services make connecting to their service easy for the user by offering free software that configures the computer and modem. ISPs may help configure machines, but generally expect the user to be comfortable with IP addresses, names of servers, and dialer programs. Every computer connected to the Internet must have a unique number which is called the IP address. Generally with a commercial service, your computer does not receive its own IP address. Instead your computer connects to one of the service’s computers that has an IP address which can then connect to the Internet. While this may all sound a bit too complicated for you, the bottom line on the cost issue is to think about how often you want to connect to the Internet and for what purpose. At the very least, look for a provider or service with a dial-in number that is a local phone call. Otherwise, in addition to the hourly charge, you’ll have a huge long distance bill at the end of the month. The provider or service should also offer 28.8 kbps access (modem speed) and a low ratio of customers to phone lines (5:1 is great, 10:1 looks grim). You want to be able to connect to the Internet as fast as you can if you are being charged for time online.

Besides cost, consider the amount and level of support available from the provider or service. Support should be available at convenient hours from competent people. Twenty-four hour support is meaningless if you are on
hold for twenty minutes then get someone on the phone that doesn’t have a clue about trouble-shooting the service or connection. “Any provider who insists that you must send in support questions by e-mail to some anonymous address is an immediate blacklist candidate. E-mail is a nice option, but making it a requirement is a sign that the smart employees are in hiding and the confused ones get sent to the phones.” (Internet World, March 1996, p. 104)

The stability and reputation of the ISP or commercial service is the last consideration. What kind of equipment is supporting the infrastructure? Are back-up systems in place? How professional and experienced are its employees? Are other businesses in town using this provider or service? What provider or service does the local bar association recommend? The Indiana Bar Association currently has a pretty sweet deal for its members with I-Quest (120 hours/month for only $7.50).

To find Internet service providers in your area, go to http://www.thelist.com which features more than 1,500 providers. If you want to go the commercial online service route, Internet World ranks CompuServe as the best right now. The Library subscribes to Internet World, so feel free to check out the current issues. Happy Surfing!

NEW & NOTEWORTHY:
THE KING IS DEAD - LONG LIVE THE KING

The legal publishing world's EKG reading jumped drastically a few weeks ago when it was announced that the Thomson Corporation (Thomson) and the West Publishing Company (West) had reached “an agreement for West to join Thomson.” The sale of West to Thomson is currently facing Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission scrutiny, but many industry insiders anticipate the sale's completion by early summer.

The known facts of the sale are as follows. Thomson will purchase West for $3.425 billion - cash. Thomson's Andrew Mills will become CEO of West while Brian Hall, current CEO of Thomson Legal Publishing, will assume the additional responsibilities as President of West. Former West President, Vance Opperman, will become Chairman of West, while former West Chairman and CEO Dwight Opperman, will become Chairman Emeritus. The West publishing name will continue to be used and all West publishing activities will remain headquartered in Egan, Minnesota.

West, a privately owned business founded in 1872, posted annual revenues of $827 million in 1995, with operating profits of $206 million. Last fall, West announced that it was looking at growth options that included the possibility of a sale. Known primarily for its National Reporter System titles and the WESTLAW legal database, West has been the premier publisher of legal documents in the United States for the past 100 years. Thomson, whose annual revenues have been reported at over $7 billion, is a Canadian-based company with a diverse portfolio of worldwide businesses ranging from newspapers to travel agencies. The company currently employs more than 40,000 people, 25,000 in the U.S. Over the past seven years, Thomson has been quietly acquiring several smaller legal publishers and incorporating them under their Thomson Legal Publishing umbrella. Among the legal publishers now housed in the Thomson stable are: Clark Boardman Callaghan, Lawyers Cooperative Publishing, Bancroft-Whitney, Warren Gorham Lamont, the Research Institute of America, and Carswell.

While the business community seems to anticipate the sale clearing all government hurdles without problems, legal information consumer groups are not so confident. The Taxpayer Assets Project, a Washington-based consumer organization associated with Ralph Nader, has formally filed opposition to the sale with the Justice Department. Other groups, including the American Association of Law Libraries, are cautiously following the governmental review process. Consumer concerns primarily center upon the sale's potential elimination of any competition for the publication of U.S. Supreme Court opinions and the case laws of several states.

Check future issues of Res Ipsa Loquitur to find out if the sale was approved.

Dick Vaughan,
Acquisitions & Serials Control Librarian

WANTED!

Wanted: Current 1Ls and 2Ls for employment as Law Library desk attendants, beginning May 4th. Student must be willing to work at least 8 hours per week and through finals. Benefits include: nice people to work with! Interested applicants please see Lisa or Jennifer in the Circulation Office.

Jennifer Bryan,
Head of Circulation and Patron Services
MARTINDALE-HUBBELL
INTERNATIONAL LAW DIGEST ON
LEXIS

Virtually all law students are aware that the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory is available on LEXIS. However, it is likely that very few will have noticed that the International Law Digest volume has now been added to the MARHUB library, as the INTDIG file.

The International Law Digest is a key reference tool in the area of foreign law. It provides summaries of laws for over 60 countries, written primarily by local practitioners working in the various jurisdictions covered. The Australian and Canadian digests also provide coverage of state and provincial law. All major areas of law are covered, including, among others, contracts and commercial law, foreign trade and investment, insolvency, marriage and family law, property, immigration and nationality, trusts and estates, intellectual property, employment, insolvency, and taxation. Digests also include information about the legal system and treaty obligations.

The national digests are a useful place to start one’s research on the law of a foreign country because citations are provided to the statutes summarized. In some cases, the digests themselves may fully answer the question at hand. The researcher will find it quite simple to search the digests because LEXIS has loaded the country name and topic as searchable segments. Thus, for example, one could enter the following search to find out about the foreign investment law of Uruguay: COUNTRY(URUGUAY) AND TOPIC(FOREIGN INVESTMENT).

All in all, the International Law Digest is a welcome addition to LEXIS’ foreign legal materials.

Ralph Gaebler,
Foreign and International Librarian

SUMMER TRAVELS

For most of you, your summer activities will take you out of Bloomington. Whether your travels are job related or purely for recreation, here are some publications that could provide information to make your trip more enjoyable.

For the international traveler:

Background Notes on the Countries of the World. These factual pamphlets contain information on the country’s land, people, history, government, political conditions, economy, and foreign relations. Our library has this group of publications on CD-ROM through NTDB and in paper format. (Doc. S 1.123:)

Tips for Travelers Series. This series provides information regarding what to bring and what not to bring into the country of destination, travel warnings, customs and currency regulations, and a wealth of practical information for the traveler. This series includes the following regions: The Caribbean; Eastern Europe; Mexico; Middle East and North Africa; People’s Republic of China; Russia and other former Soviet republics; South Asia; and Sub-Saharan Africa.

For those exploring regions of the U.S.:

Register of National Recreation Trails. Lists by state, scenic, historic, recreational, and side and connecting trails designated as national recreational trails. Provides information on types of trails, use, surface, length, and seasons open to the public. Also lists regional offices of the National Park Service.

On the off chance that you get into trouble...

Survival. Among the subjects covered are: survival medicine; water procurement; building a fire; finding wildlife and wild plants for food; desert survival; sea survival; and Arctic survival. Includes color photos of edible plants as well as poisonous plants and snakes.

The first of these publications is available in our Library, while the others are available through other libraries on campus or for purchase from the U.S. Government Bookstore in Chicago (312) 353-5133.

Marianne Mason,
Documents Librarian
WE WAS ROBBED (AGAIN!)

In our never-ending quest for fame, fortune and a literate moderator, the Law Library again sponsored a team in the Monroe County Public Library’s VITAL Quizbowl. This annual event features teams from a variety of local organizations and raises much of the revenue needed to support the library’s adult literacy program. Perry and the Masons (sometimes known as Jennifer Bryan, Keith Buckley, Dick Vaughan and Nonie Watt) were the heavy favorites against The Quick-Sticks, a team making their first appearance in “The Big Quiz”. We assumed (mistakenly) they would be a group of nervous lab techs with a propensity for silly rhymes. Alas, they were more like sand-bagging chemical engineers who watch obscure movies and read Greek mythology in their spare time.

The Quick-Sticks got off to a fast start, probably because our buzzers seemed to be malfunctioning (or so we told our friends). Our opponents led by 25 points with only five minutes remaining. But Perry and Company came back with a vengeance and pulled ahead by 5 points. And then, it came down to the last question—worth ten points. (In 1929, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia combined to form what country?) That’s when the real trouble began.

The moderator, apparently flustered after having to read all those foreign names, called on the Quick-Sticks when we *know* Keith’s light was on. Confusion reigned and the judges ultimately allowed them to respond. Answering his only question of the evening, Quick-Stick #4 mumbled “Yugoslavia” and well, the rest is history. Now you tell us how a team can score 130 points and STILL LOSE!

So there you have it. Of course, being the gracious losers that we are, Perry and at least some of the Masons will return next year. At least, we’re not bitter...

Nonie Watt (a.k.a. Perry),
Head of Technical Services

LOST YOUR MARBLES?

Have you lost something and can’t find it? Then check the Law School lost-and-found, located at the Circulation Desk in the Library.

Current contents of the lost-and-found include: jewelry, clothing, text books, notebooks, dishes, keys, umbrellas, glasses and sunglasses, etc., but not your marbles.

All items found in the Library or Law School by custodians or staff are turned in at the Circulation Desk. Found computer disks are kept in the Library Media Center.

For those who have dared to venture out of the Law School building and have misplaced something, all is not lost. The campus lost-and-found is located in Ballantine Hall 031, and their telephone number is 855-7372.

Jennifer Bryan,
Head of Circulation and Patron Services

LAW SCHOOL SAYS FAREWELL AT GRADUATION PARTY

The Law Library will again host the Law School’s annual Graduation Party, the place to be on Friday, May 3rd from 8:00 p.m. until midnight. The graduating class and their families are invited to celebrate with a casual evening of live jazz, good food and cool drinks.
LIBRARY SEMESTER BREAK HOURS
MAY 4 - 12, 1996

May 4  Saturday  10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
May 5  Sunday  11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
May 6-10  Mon.-Fri.  9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
May 11  Saturday  Closed
May 12  Sunday  1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS
MAY 13 - JULY 31, 1996

Sunday  1:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight
Mon.-Thurs.  8:00 a.m. - 12:00 midnight
Friday  8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Saturday  8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

EXCEPTIONS:
Monday, 5/27  9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, 7/4  9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

WORKING THE HALLS

Welcome to Karen Miller, who joined our staff in March as Senior Secretary in the Associate Dean's office and for the Federal Communications Law Journal and the Indiana Journal for Global Legal Studies.

Welcome, also, to Amy Cheek, who became the Library’s new Senior Government Documents Assistant in March.

New Faculty Publications:


Happy Belated April Birthday to:

Professor Pat Baude on April 7th;
Kim Bunge in the Business Office on the 8th;
Linda Fariss in the Library on the 13th;
Professor Rob Fischman on the 17th;
Juliet Casper in the Library on the 23rd;
Jan Turner in the Dean’s Office and Professor David Williams on the 25th; and
Professor Val Nolan on the 28th.

Happy May Birthday to:

Rebecca Jones in the Library on May 2nd;
Ralph Gaebler in the Library and Assistant Dean Art Lotz on the 3rd;
Assistant Dean Kelly Townes on the 5th;
Professor Alysa Rollock on the 10th;
Christina Shellin Garber in the Capital Campaign Office on the 13th;
Jeanne Brown in the Recorder's Office on the 19th;
Professor Fred Cate on the 20th; and
Professor Don Gjerdingen on the 22nd.

New Babies!

Congratulations to Mike and Sheila Maben. Elizabeth Claire, 7 lbs., 11 oz., was born on April 16th. Mike and Sheila also have a son, Andy.

Congratulations, also, to Kathy Abrams and Bill Kell. Maya was born on April 18th, weighing 6 lbs., 6 oz. Kathy and Bill also have a son, Eli.
Happy Birthday to all those born in June:

Kathy McCarnes in the Business Office on June 3rd;
Anthony Warner in the 3rd floor Secretarial Suite on the 7th;
Ellen Ravens-Seger in the Library on the 12th;
Jennifer Bryan in the Library on the 22nd;
Professor Sarah Hughes on the 26th;
Jean Janisse in the Community Legal Clinic on the 27th; and
Jane Truax in the Development Office on the 30th.

Happy July Birthday to:

Professor Lisa Farnsworth on July 1st;
Amy Cheek in the Library on the 2nd;
Dean Fred Aman on the 7th;
Ann Likes in the Library on the 9th;
Professor Sophia Goodman, Professor Susan Williams and Mary Michelle Yager in the 3rd floor Secretarial Suite on the 12th;
Professor Perry Hodges and Professor John Scanlan on the 18th;
Marianne Mason in the Library on the 25th;
Ken Dunn, Computer Support Technician, on the 26th; and
Professor Steve Johnson on the 27th.

Happy Birthday to all those born in August:

Professor Gene Shreve on August 6th;
Assistant Dean Len Fromm on the 15th;
Professor Steve Conrad on the 16th;
Professor Seth Lahn on the 17th;
Dale Calabrese in the Student Affairs Office, Professor Ed Greenebaum and Professor Jeff Stake on the 19th;
Sherrilyn Lawrence in the Recorder’s Office, Professor Harry Pratter and Professor Cynthia Reichard on the 27th; and
Karen Miller in the Associate Dean’s Office on the 29th.

Hope you all have (or had) a great day!!!

TO ALL THE GRADUATING STUDENTS:
We wish you the best in your futures. Come back and visit us sometime.
Congratulations!