JUMP START RETURNS!

The extremely popular "Jump Start" research program will return to the Law Library later on this spring. The program, designed by the Reference Librarians, will again work towards preparing law students for summer clerkships and the first year of practice. In addition to sessions on traditional legal research, there will also be sessions dealing specifically with the Internet and Web applications. During last year's sessions, nearly 180 students learned the necessary research skills for dealing with materials such as legislative history, administrative law and the regulatory process, and computer-assisted legal research.

Designed to address students' individual needs and prospective practice goals, the "Jump Start" classes are informal, small-group, research refresher and information sessions. The research sessions will begin meeting in the Public Services Conference Room during the first two weeks in April, while the Internet/Web sessions will meet in the Computer Center. Students will be able to sign up for both types of sessions in the Reference Office during the first week after spring break. Notice of the "Jump Start" sessions will be posted around the Law School.

Following the formula established in previous years, each of the "Jump Start" sessions will begin with a brief review of the basic legal resources so that every student has a complete grasp of the legal research process. The librarians will also provide information about more specialized types of reference books, including practice aids and form books, which are not covered in the First Year Writing and Research classes. The "Jump Start" sessions will then focus on individual student problems and questions about legal research, with an emphasis on the type of practice student participants will be seeing in the summer. The Reference Librarians will also describe how the Law Library can continue to serve alumni through research assistance and the copying of hard-to-locate cases, briefs, articles, documents, etc.

During the Internet/Web sessions, Juliet Casper, the Electronic Services Librarian, will discuss applications and uses of these extraordinary computer sources in the law office and on the job. The Internet/Web sessions will include hands-on exploration of the various Web sources.

If you have any questions about the "Jump Start" programs, be sure to drop by the Reference Office and speak to a Reference Librarian. We'd especially like to hear from those of you who already know in what jurisdiction you'll be working this summer and any special areas of law with which you'll be dealing. We plan to tailor the "Jump Start" sessions to your particular needs in order to make the program a continuing success.

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CANADIAN ABRIDGMENT ON
CD-ROM

For many years, American students have found Canada's case law digest, the Canadian Abridgment, difficult to use. As a result, students have tended to confine their research to areas of Canadian law that are highly statutory, in order to avoid the Abridgment altogether. Annotated codes provide access to case law for many important federal statutes. In the last two years, the publisher has simplified the Abridgment considerably, which now functions much more like a typical West digest. However, at the same time, the publisher has transferred the entire digest to CD-ROM format, in order to make it still more approachable.

The Library has purchased the CD-ROM version of the database, which currently is accessible from two of the computers located next to the online catalog. Unlike most of the other networked CD-ROMS, the Abridgment runs under Windows, so it is necessary to select "Windows Apps" from the main DOS menu, and then select the appropriate icon within the Windows environment.

The CD-ROM permits three types of searches. First, Boolean "query" searches permit the researcher to look for words or word combinations in the text of the digests, using standard connectors, such as AND, OR, and proximity. By searching particular fields, the researcher may also stipulate a specific jurisdiction, period of time, etc. Second, "contents" searches permit the researcher to scan the entire outline classification of the digest. The researcher can expand or collapse parts of the digest as he or she chooses, or jump to cross-references. Finally, combined searching permits the researcher to do a query search, and then see where his or her hits are distributed throughout the outline classification. This is a particularly interesting way to search, and provides the only novel capability that does not merely mimic the printed Abridgment.

All in all, this new CD-ROM is a flexible and approachable index to case law, especially for those who are uncomfortable with printed digests. The Library continues to subscribe to the Canadian Abridgment in print as well, and would welcome comments from patrons on the comparative usefulness of the two formats.

Ralph Gaebler,
Foreign & International Librarian

DOCUMENT ON TRIAL
IN U.S. SUPREME COURT

If you've listened to NPR's All Things Considered during the last week, you may have heard the report by Nina Totenberg which outlined three cases which will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court in the coming weeks challenging lower court rulings in federal courts that have or have not adhered to the Federal Sentencing Guidelines issued by Congress. The most notable of these cases is that involving Stacey Koon and Laurence Powell, the two officers who were acquitted on criminal charges in the brutal arrest of Rodney King. These two were later indicted and convicted on federal charges of violating Mr. King's civil rights for which they received reduced sentences of 30 months instead of the 5 to 7 years usually mandated for these offenses under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. If the Supreme Court agrees that their December release was premature, Koon and Powell could serve another 57 months—almost five years. At issue in this case is whether the trial judge exceeded his authority in reducing their sentences contrary to the Guidelines.

You may find the Guidelines in four separate publications within the Library's collection:


Marianne Mason, Documents Librarian

BOOK OF THE MONTH


This book is a fascinating collection of letters that Abraham Lincoln received when he was President of the United States. In addition, it gives an insight as to what the general day-to-day clerical activity was like in the White House during the 19th century, and specifically during the Civil War. Harold Holzer has assembled a representative sampling of letters from many different collections (including the Lilly Library here on the Indiana University, Bloomington campus).

The book is arranged by different topics, with Holzer writing an introduction to each one. In addition, there is a long essay at the beginning of the book, describing the different secretaries hired by Lincoln to handle his letters and correspondence. What I found particularly interesting was the youth of Lincoln's two main secretaries. John George Nicolay was Lincoln's chief of staff all through his Presidency, and yet he was only 29 years old when Lincoln was inaugurated. He was a journalist in Pittsfield, Illinois, and then in 1857 he became chief clerk to Ozias M. Hatch, the Illinois Secretary of State (and a friend and political ally of Lincoln). When he was hired by Lincoln as his chief of staff, Nicolay then hired an acquaintance from Springfield as his assistant, John Milton Hay. Hay was even younger than Nicolay, just 23 years old when Lincoln became President. In addition, several other secretaries were hired during the course of Lincoln's Presidency, but they were officially on the Interior Department's payroll and on loan from Interior to the President.

The different topics of letters covered by Holzer include advice and instruction, requests and demands, compliments and congratulations, complaints and criticism, inventions and innovations, gifts and honors, official business, Presidential invitations, family matters, and threats and warnings. Most letters include helpful notes from Holzer, and if Lincoln is known to have replied to the letter, usually his response is included. Holzer has also used the original language, form, and spelling to give the reader the feel for what Lincoln and his secretaries were seeing.

In conclusion, I found this book to be a fascinating collection of letters. Anyone interested in Abraham Lincoln will be captivated by this book, and I highly recommend it.

Michael Maben, Cataloging Librarian

The Suggestion Box

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

Suggestion: Chairs at carrels and tables are too short. I sit too low to do my work effectively.

Response: We are aware that some of the chairs are now too short for the tables. They did not start out this way, but over time some of the chair frames have bent. We have requested funding to replace the chairs in the Library, but as there are over 700 chairs, this will take time. We do have a few chair parts in storage and we are trying to put together new chairs from these parts. If you know of a location in the Library where a chair is particularly low, please let us know and we will try to find a replacement.

Suggestion: Why don't we have Information Online terminals on every floor of the Library? Have at least one terminal on each floor like the other IU libraries.

Response: We have requested wiring for terminals on each floor from the Library Automation Office. Unfortunately, the libraries are currently investigating the possibility of a new automated library system, and all such requests have been placed on hold. As soon as they release funding for such projects, we will have terminals on all of the floors in the Library. Thank you for the suggestion.
NEW & NOTEWORTHY: TAXING TIMES AHEAD


I have worked in three academic libraries in the past thirteen years, and without a doubt one of the books most requested by faculty, at all three institutions, has been the annual Tax Guide for College Teachers. Unfortunately, distribution of the Guide has been so poor in the past that it almost always arrives either after April 15, or just a few days before. I am happy to report that the publisher has apparently changed distributors, because this year's guide is here and available in the Library's Reserve collection. While all of the information contained in the Guide is probably available elsewhere, the Guide pulls it together in one easy-to-use reference source, useful to both faculty members and students.

Recent developments that are highlighted by this year's Guide include home computer deductions for teachers; how to give your old computer to charity; new travel deduction rules; deductions for supplies; new home office rules; professional book and magazine deductions; and sabbatical/leaves of absence deductions. Also included in this edition are the results of a recent statistical study that documents how to greatly reduce your chances of being audited.

More than 550 pages long, and containing thirty chapters, the Guide follows the same basic format as it has in the past. Among the chapters titles are the following:

Basic rules
Books, Supplies, and Equipment (including computers)
Home Offices
Household Services and Child Care
Moving Expenses
Travel (commuting, sabbatical trips, travel discounts for teachers, etc.)
Expenses of Attending School (student aid, tuition plans, etc.)
Retirement Plans (including TIAA/CREF)
Outside Business Activity (including sections for authors and consultants, lecturing fees, honorariums)
Tax-free Grants
Research Expenses of College Teachers

While the publishers do not guarantee you will find it easier to complete your tax forms by using the Guide, they do guarantee that by using their Guide you (the purchaser) will save "an extra $250.00 or more on your taxes."

Dick Vaughan,
Acquisitions & Serials Control Librarian

LIBRARY SPRING BREAK HOURS
MARCH 8 - 17, 1996

March 8            Friday   7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
March 9            Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
March 10           Sunday   1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
March 11-15        Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
March 16           Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
March 17           Sunday   Resume Regular Hours

WORKING THE HALLS

New Faculty Publications:


Happy March Birthday to:

Professor Joe Hoffmann on March 1st;
Assistant Dean Frank Motley on the 23rd;
Toni Sammy in the Library on the 26th; and
Professor David Fidler on the 29th.

Hope you all have a great day!!!