10-1997

Vol. 08, No. 02 (October 1997)
COMPUTER BYTES

When you use a password to access a computer or an account in a student lab (i.e. the computer labs 208 B and 208 D in the Law Library), remember to log out before you leave! If you don't, you leave your account open to abuse by others and you may lose your computing privileges. You may also be unable to log into another computer until you go back and log out of the first one. If you receive the error "Already logged on," it means you're still logged into the last student computing lab workstation you used.

Having trouble installing the PPP software on your home computer? Want to know more about Netscape Navigator? Or Word Perfect? Confused by First Class? Go to the UCS "How To Guides" located at this web address: <http://www.indiana.edu/~ucspubs/>

Also at this site, you'll find the UCS Monitor and CS Times Online, two newsletters to keep you up to date on computing at Indiana University.

From July 1996 through June 1997, I.U.

Law students searched Lexis for a total of 4,349 hours. During that same time period, Westlaw was searched a total of 10,279 hours.

Just imagine what a law firm (or its clients) would have paid for 14,628 hours of electronic research!

Want to include colorful images in your documents? Find images on the World Wide Web using Netscape or Internet Explorer. Point your mouse on the image and click on the right side button of the mouse. You'll get a menu of choices; one of which is "Save Image As". Choose this and the image may be saved to diskette or your locker account.

WELL, IT CAME OUT OF THE SKY....

....and landed just a little northwest of Roswell, New Mexico. Two publications issued by the Air Force earlier this year have attempted to explain the "incident" involving the reported crash of an alien spacecraft and the untimely demise of its occupants in the New Mexico desert during summer of 1947. Curious lag in time, wouldn't you say?

These government publications can be found in the Library in the 4th floor documents collection:

The Roswell Report: Fact or Fiction in the New Mexico Desert. (D 301.82/7:R 73)
The Roswell Report: Case Closed. (D 301.2:R 73)

Get out your pencil and test your knowledge by
matching the terms listed below in the LEFT column with the appropriate (or most interesting) terms in the RIGHT column.

| alien corpse | unidentified pediatrician |
| hot air      | big red-headed captain   |
| debris       | extraterrestrial vehicle |
| two mysterious doctors | Air Force |
| featureless dummies | autopsies |
| missing nurse | balloon |
| threat       | research specimen         |

Significant quote from *Case Closed*, "They was using dummies in those damned things."

If these reports conclude the investigation of the Roswell Incident, what can be the explanation of the repeated disappearance of these reports from the Library’s shelves and the mysterious re-appearance of these documents in a certain reference librarian’s office? Case closed? I don’t think so.

*Marianne Mason
Documents Librarian

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**BOOK OF THE MONTH**


In numerous polls of historians, political scientists, and presidential experts taken since 1948, one president has consistently been ranked at the very bottom—Warren G. Harding, the 29th President of the United States. This is interesting due to the fact that Harding was held in high esteem during his lifetime, but his reputation quickly sank after his death. The public and scholarly opinion of many presidents has changed after they left office, usually for the better (just look at Harry Truman), but Harding’s went the other way, for a variety of reasons. That is the purpose of this book, written by Indiana University Professor of History, Robert H. Ferrell. Professor Ferrell states in the introduction that while Harding does not deserve to be ranked among the great or near-great presidents, he certainly does not deserve to be ranked at the bottom. Thus, Professor Ferrell examines the reasons for this fall in Harding’s reputation.

In Professor Ferrell’s opinion, there are three reasons for this decline in the reputation of President Harding. One concerns the manner of his death and the rumors which surrounded it. Harding died in a San Francisco hotel room while on a trip from Washington, D.C. to Alaska. Looking back on it with today’s medical knowledge, it is clear that the President was suffering from cardiovascular disease, and that what killed him was a massive heart attack. The President had extremely high blood pressure, and the duties of the Presidency only aggravated his condition. The understanding of cardiovascular disease was in its infancy in the 1920’s, which did not help the situation. The stress of the long train ride from Washington, D.C. to Seattle for the Alaska trip, and the resulting public appearances caused even more difficulty for the President, to the point that by the time he arrived in San Francisco, he was completely exhausted. He spent five days in the hotel, attended by doctors, nurses, his wife, and various aides and cabinet officers. When he expired, the witnesses stated that the President had a terrible seizure, shook the bed violently, he quivered, and the color left his face. As quickly as it started, the seizure ceased and the President was dead. Ferrell points out that this string of events has all the markings of a massive heart attack. However, the official death certificate, signed by the five doctors present gave the official cause of death as apoplexy, which today would mean a stroke. However, it had been suggested to the press and public that prior to this, the President was suffering from food poisoning. Ferrell states that the conflict between the "official" cause of death (which was wrong), along with the suggestion of food poisoning caused the poison theory to take on a life of its own. In addition, Mrs. Harding did not permit an autopsy, which could have disproved the poison theory. And finally two popular and widely read books appeared several years after the President’s death which popularized this theory. As news about the scandals in the Harding administration began to be known, this theory that Harding was killed to keep him quiet, or that he committed suicide took hold, with the obvious effect on his reputation.

Another reason for the decline in President Harding’s
reputation was due to the claim that he fathered a child born to his mistress. His mistress, Nan Britton wrote a book titled *The President's Daughter* detailing her claims about their affair and birth of their child. The book proved to be a bestseller and was widely read. And finally, there were the numerous scandals that came to light after Harding’s death, the most famous one being Teapot Dome. Ferrell points out how all these different events came together, and books and articles were written that ridiculed Harding, with the end result being a reputation that went from very high to as low as it could go.

I found this book to be very interesting. Professor Ferrell presents an interesting case for the reason in the decline of the reputation of President Harding. I finished the book feeling more ambivalent about Harding than when I started. What is now needed is a good, scholarly, unbiased biography of Harding, that will present the whole picture of his life. Then historians, political scientists, and others will then be able to read it and make a better judgement of President Harding.

*Michael Maben,*
*Cataloging Librarian*

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**A World of Books**

When conducting research, the scholar takes for granted that periodical indexes will provide information about articles published in a larger number of journals than that held by the library in which he or she is working. If the library does not hold the desired journal, the researcher can place an inter-library loan request for the item. Thus, periodical indexes perform the crucial service of providing access to a whole world of journals, even if the local collection is limited in its holdings.

But when it comes to books, researchers do not take such access for granted. In fact, most researchers do not realize that they can locate titles beyond those contained in the local library’s own online catalog. However, it is possible to locate books not held by the library, through use of two databases available on IO. These databases are called OCLC and RLIN, and appear as option 2 on the main IO menu screen (option 1 is IUCAT, the online catalog). OCLC and RLIN are easy to miss, and difficult to use, since they were not originally conceived as public-access databases. Their main purpose was, and remains, to provide a means through which libraries can share cataloging records. However, as libraries over the years contributed their electronic cataloging records to these databases, they became huge, and thereby acquired great reference value as well. Today, both databases contain millions of records of books and other types of material contained in the collections of numerous research libraries.

Both RLIN and OCLC have public access interfaces that make them somewhat simpler to use. Of the two, OCLC’s Worldcat is the more straightforward, but also somewhat more limited. It offers author, title, and subject searching, but the subject search is actually a keyword search of the subject, title, abstract, and note fields. Through its user interface, Eureka, RLIN offers the option of true subject searching, as well as the ability to limit search output in various ways (by language, publication year, etc.). The ability to conduct subject searches is extremely useful, because it allows the researcher to search RLIN using a subject heading associated with a relevant book found in the local online catalog. Books found in this fashion can then be obtained through inter-library loan. Title searches are also quite useful for verifying title information. This is especially important for cite-checkers.

Following on screen instructions, the researcher should not find it too difficult to search OCLC’s Worldcat. However, RLIN’s Eureka is not self-explanatory, and the researcher should ask a reference librarian for assistance before attempting a search. Both RLIN and OCLC are important reference sources that should not be overlooked by the researcher who wishes to do a comprehensive search of relevant literature.

*Ralph Gaebler,*
*Foreign and International Law Librarian*
PARDON THE NOISE

As you’ve probably noticed by now, the reference librarians are once again conducting introductory Legal Writing & Research classes on the 1st Floor of the Library. Last year’s experiment with more informal presentations and guided hands-on exercises was such a wonderful success that the librarians and Writing & Research faculty decided to continue using this format. 1st year classes began meeting in the Library during the last weeks of September, will run through the second week of October, and meet, for the most part, during the latter part of the week. Second semester research classes will last approximately three weeks. Although the librarians are trying to keep noise to a minimum, we recommend that you study on the Ground, 2nd, 3rd or 4th floors during class sessions if you wish to avoid being disturbed. We thank you for your patience during these invaluable educational sessions.

Keith Buckley
Reference Librarian

LIBRARY GOING TO THE DOGS?

Although it has always been the policy of the Library not to allow dogs (or other animals) in the Library, we have not been particularly diligent about enforcing this rule. The exception to this rule, of course, is for seeing eye dogs. However, we now have good reason to enforce the rule - fleas! Yes, the Library has fleas! We have received two reports of students being bitten by fleas while studying in the Library. On Saturday, October 4th, after the Library closes, Pest Control is going to spray all of the carpets in the Library. We will open as usual on Sunday morning. So, please, do not bring your animals to the Library! We will be monitoring this much more carefully and will ask you to remove animals from the Library if you bring them here. We appreciate your cooperation with this policy.

Linda Fariss,
Associate Director

~WORKING THE HALLS~

Happy October Birthdays to the following people:

Earl Singleton on the 5th
Bill Oliver on the 6th
Bob Heidt on the 10th
Ken Dau-Schmidt on the 12th
Kevin Brown on the 13th
Pam Kriete on the 20th
Bruce Markell on the 24th
Bill Hicks on the 26th
Leslie Jackson on the 28th
Bill Popkin on the 28th

WELCOME!

To Rebecca Bertoloni Meli, Cataloging Specialist, Law Library

The Suggestion Box

Suggestion: Chairs - they are bent and recline. Buy new chairs, fix and reshape existing chairs.

Response: We are surprised that it has taken so long for someone to complain about this! We are obviously aware of the problems with the chairs. Each summer we attempt to fix as many broken chairs as we can and remove those that cannot be repaired. We are currently investigating the possibility of purchasing new chairs for the Library. In the near future, there will be some sample chairs available for the students to test. If we do decide to replace our chairs, it will likely take several years to complete because we have over 700 chairs in the Library! Thanks for the suggestion.