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LAW LIBRARY BRIEFS

The College of William and Mary
Marshall-Wythe Law Library



Volume 1, Number 3

January, 1990

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LIBRARY RENOVATION

The new circulation/reserve area and reference/administrative office area is finished. All that remains is a bit of "touch up" work by the contractor.

The area contains the circulation office and reserve room, the reference collection, and the offices of the Library Director, the Library Secretary, the Associate Law Librarian, and the Reference Librarians. There is a copy room available for those using the reference collection. A list of the major sets now housed in the reference area is located elsewhere in the newsletter.

The area is available for use during all hours that the circulation desk is open. We think you will find the reference staff more visible and the reference collection more accessible in this new area. Please feel free to browse the reference collection and ask any questions you might have concerning the new area.
....MR

EVENING/WEEKEND REFERENCE ASSISTANCE

This semester, third year law student Linda Brakeall will study the need for evening/weekend professional reference service in the Law Library. Linda soon will complete all requirements for an MLS degree at Florida State University, and has served as a summer intern at the Library of the Supreme Court of the United States.

As part of the study Linda will provide reference assistance on selected evenings and weekends for a two-month period. She will use Mary Grace Hune's office in the reference area on the main floor.

Linda will work the following evenings from 6pm - 9pm:

Feb. 5-7	(Mon.-Wed.)
Feb. 13-15	(Tues.-Thurs.)
Feb. 19-21	(Mon.-Wed.)
Feb. 27-Mar. 1	(Tues.-Thurs.)

She will be available the following weekends from noon - 4pm:

March 10-11	(Sat. & Sun.)	
March 24-25	(Sat. & Sun.)	
March 31-Apr. 1	(Sat. & Sun.)	
April 7-Apr. 8	(Sat. & Sun.)	...JSH

LOOK IT UP

Materials of the Supreme Court of the United States

Part I: Cases

A decision of the Supreme Court of the United States can instantly change the case law on a federal or U.S. Constitutional topic. Researchers, therefore, need to know how to find U.S. Supreme Court opinions as quickly

as they are rendered and published. The first part of this article will discuss the various sources where U.S. Supreme Court cases may be found, and generally how quickly cases are published in each source. The second part, to be published in the March issue of Law Library Briefs, will discuss case finders, how to locate records and briefs, and where to find commentary on case law and on the Court and the Justices.

Case Reporters

The Law Library has all three reporters of U.S. Supreme Court Cases: United States Reports (U.S.) (the official reporter for the Court); the Supreme Court Reporter (S.Ct.) (published by the West Publishing Company); and United States Supreme Court Reports, Lawyer's Edition (L.Ed.) and United States Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition, Second Series (L.Ed.2d) (both published by the Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company), as well as the advance sheets for each set. All of these reporters are located on the main floor of the Law Library at the beginning of the REPORTERS section. An extra set of L.Ed.2d is shelved in the Reference Room, and there is another set for faculty use in the Faculty Library.

Cases are usually available in the L.Ed.2d advance sheets earlier than in those for the Supreme Court Reporter; and much faster than in the advance sheets for U.S. Reports, which are distributed by the Government Printing Office at erratic intervals. U.S. Supreme Court Slip Opinions are printed by the Government Printing Office and sent to depository libraries within three to six weeks from the date of the opinion.

Most researchers prefer to use U.S. Reports since it is the official reporter, and because A Uniform System of Citation (otherwise known as the Blue Book) requires a citation to it if possible. Both of the other reporters are arguably more useful, however, since both contain head notes which are designed to be used with other publications by the same publisher. The Supreme Court Reporter, for example, uses the same key number system as other West reporters, including

the Federal Reporter, the Federal Supplement, and West's regional and state reporters. Both series of United States Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition also contain headnotes and cross references to other publications by the Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company, using a numerical subject index different from the one used by West.

More to the point, cases in both of the "unofficial" reporters are arranged in the same order as cases which are published in United States Reports. Volume 1 of L.Ed. contains volumes 1-4 U.S., while L.Ed.2d begins with volumes 352 - 354 U.S. The S.Ct volumes are arranged the same way, with each volume containing several volumes of U.S. Reports.

The pagination of the unofficial reporters differs from cases in U.S., but the original U.S. pagination is included in brackets ([]) within each case in S.Ct., L.Ed. and L.Ed.2d. The text of each opinion is, of course, identical to its counterpart in United States Reports. If the official reporter is unavailable, therefore, the U.S. citation can easily be extracted from either of the unofficial reporters.

Cases Online

Cases will be on WESTLAW and LEXIS within one or two days of the date an opinion is rendered (both services reportedly receive the full text of cases the same day they are decided). Both WESTLAW and LEXIS use a "star paging" system which provides the page breaks from the original U.S. citations. Consult the research manual for each service to find the database identifiers and the best search strategies to use in each one, or ask your librarian.

Looseleaf Case Reporters

Print copies of recent cases will be published most quickly in looseleaf services, generally within one or two weeks, though without any U.S. page references. The Law Library subscribes to the following looseleaf services which cover U.S. Supreme Court cases:

The United States Law Week. (Bureau of National Affairs 1933 -).
KF8805.A15 U65 [REFERENCE]. This publication is also on WESTLAW, database

IN BRIEF

identifier: BNA-USLW, or BNA-USLWD (daily edition); and on LEXIS, GENFED library, USLW and USLWD (daily edition) files.

United States Supreme Court Bulletin.
(Commerce Clearing House, Inc. 1936-).
KF101.U64 [REFERENCE]....RB

INTERLIBRARY LOAN

We have been doing a roaring trade in the interlibrary loan department, and hope that both faculty and students are satisfied with our efforts. Patrons could, however, assist us to expedite their requests by doing the following:

1. Give as full a cite as possible--an incomplete cite prolongs the time it takes to process the request.
2. Search the VTLS terminal to see whether either Law or Swem possess the material.
3. If you actually go to Swem, be sure to look both in the terminal and in the **old card catalog** as this is the key to locating older material. Indeed, this same procedure should be pursued when searching at the Law Library.
4. Try to give us sufficient notice to send for the books or photocopies you require. Bear in mind that it could take a week, ten days, or more depending upon the distance of the library from which we order. We will, of course, do our best to find the material close at hand but this is not always possible.
5. And be patient with the poor Interlibrary Loan Library Assistant. Remember that a pat-on-the back can work wonders on the morale and create the incentive to achieve miracles....JP

New Head of Circulation: On February 1st, Audrey Flock joined the library staff as the new Head of Circulation. Audrey comes to Marshall-Wythe from Old Dominion University where she supervised the music library. Feel free to stop by and introduce yourself as Audrey acquaints herself with our circulation/reserve procedures.MR

Reference Area Copy Machine: Remember that a Sharp copy machine is located in the new reference area. Those using reference materials have priority, but any student may use the Sharp when the three other public access machines are in use.MR

LION Terminals: The library recently received additional public access LION terminals for the second floor and basement. We plan to place the second floor terminal in the hallway across from the faculty display case. The basement terminal will be located on the right immediately as you enter the stack area. Both terminals will be operational in the near future.MR

Law School Catalogs: The library maintains other law school catalogs in the new reference area. The catalogs are shelved on the index table in file holders and may be used in the reference area. We try to obtain current catalogs if possible, but not all law schools maintain mailing lists. If you do not find the catalog you need, please let us know and we will try to obtain one for the files.MR

Reference Collection: Reference materials must be used in the Reference Room. Please do not remove them.MR

Microform and CALR Rooms: There are now two LEXIS and two WESTLAW terminals located in Room 129 (the old circulation office) for student use. We plan to move the microfiche collection and the reader/printers into room 128 (the old reserve room) in the near future. Until then the microfiche collection and reader/printers are located in the basement stack area..MR

BITS & BYTES

CALR Terminals The library has received ten new LEXIS 2000 terminals. The new terminals operate like any PC.

To log on to LEXIS, follow the system prompts and enter information in **BOLD** typeface (Press the **RETURN** key after each step).

1. C:>**LEXIS** (if the C: prompt is not on the screen, type <**Control**>**Q**)
2. "Welcome to LEXIS. Please type your personal identification number and press transmit": -----
3. "Please type your school assigned identification code and press transmit": -----
4. Enter your name, the professor's name, and course name or research project and press the transmit key before commencing your research.

To print from the new LEXIS terminals, simultaneously press the following keys: <**shift**> <**print screen**>. Our contract with Mead Data Central does not allow students to download or print documents using the "Print Doc" or <**shift**> <**F5**> key or the **.pr** dot command.

If you have a question or need assistance with LEXIS terminals or LEXIS communications, see Christie Adams in carrel 63 or Mary Grace Hune in the Reference Department.

LEXIS and WESTLAW Training This month the library will offer LEXIS and WESTLAW training in the Temporary Learning Center next to the computer lab. From February 5 through February 16 we will offer training on LEXIS for all 1st year students. WESTLAW training for all 1st year students will take place from February 19 through March 2. Sign up sheets will be posted outside the CALR Room (Room 129). Learning to use online legal databases efficiently is an important part of your legal skills program. Most law firms now expect

their new associates to be proficient in the use of online databases.

Associate Training Program Law students planning to clerk in law firms this summer can attend LEXIS and WESTLAW associate training programs at Marshall-Wythe Law Library. Since the private use of online databases bears a substantial cost to clients, firms expect their new associates to be efficient users of online systems.

If you are clerking for a firm which requires you to attend an Associate Training session you will receive a letter directly from your firm's management. The library will offer a WESTLAW session from March 5 through March 16. A LEXIS session will be held from March 19 through April 13. Schedules and signup sheets will be posted. All training sessions will be held in the Temporary Learning Center next to the computer lab.

New Faces on the CALR Team West Services recently hired two Marshall-Wythe students as WESTLAW student representatives. The new representatives are Sue Trask, 2L, and Gail Weber, 2L. Sue and Gail will provide WESTLAW training and search assistance. They can also help if you are having hardware or telecommunications problems. Both Sue and Gail have posted office hours and can be reached at those times in Carrel 61.

Christie Adams is continuing as the LEXIS student representative. She will also provide LEXIS training, search assistance, and equipment troubleshooting. Christie can be reached in Carrel 63 during her posted office hours.

In addition to the three student representatives, Mary Grace Hune and Rick Buchanan as well as Jim Heller and Marty Rush are available to assist with questions concerning computer assisted legal research. You can report problems or request assistance on LEXIS or WESTLAW by leaving a message in the appropriate carrel or on the bulletin board in Mary Grace Hune's office.

...MGH

REFERENCE COLLECTION

Following is a list of the major sets and general reference materials now shelved in the new reference area:

General reference materials: Atlases, dictionaries, directories, encyclopedias, thesauri, etc.

CCH Congressional Index KF/49/C6

U.S. Code Service KF/62/1972/L38

U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Ed.
KF/101/A313

A.L.R. 3d, 4th and Federal KF/132/A--

AmJur 2d KF/154/A42

Corpus Juris Secundum KF/154/C672

Uniform Laws Annotated KF/165/A5/1968

General Form Books

Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory KF/190/M3

United States Law Week KF/8805/A15U65

General Federal practice and procedure materials

Am Jur Trials KF/8915/A74

Proof of Facts KF/8933/A42

Virginia Register of Regulations
KFV/2436/V57

Code of Virginia 1950 KFV/2430/1950/A3

Virginia Reports KFV/2445/A2

Virginia Reports Annotated KFV/2445/A4V45

Virginia Court of Appeals Reports KFV/2448/A2

Virginia Circuit Court Reports
KFV/2451/1957/V57

Virginia and West Virginia Digest KFV/2460/V5

Michie's Jurisprudence of Virginia and
West Virginia KFV/2465/M5

Unbound Journals, Periodical Indexes, Law School Catalogs

Infotrac

....MR

LEGAL ABBREVIATIONS

Law students and faculty often run across obscure abbreviations in their research

and are baffled as to how to locate the source for that abbreviation. Law librarians themselves often find obscure abbreviations difficult to decipher. Although abbreviation tables are found in most legal research treatises, they usually list only the basic abbreviations and hit and miss searching through legal treatises for a seldom used abbreviation can be tiresome.

A one volume source, first published in 1978 and now in its third edition is available for just such dilemmas. The title of this book which lists thousands of legal abbreviations is: Bieber's Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations/Reference Guide for Attorneys, Legal Secretaries, Paralegals and Law Students.

The "Bieber" book is my first reference when trying to track down an obscure citation. It is classified under the call number: KF 246 B46 1988 and shelved on permanent reserve. So next time you locate a citation to a source you must have to complete your research, and it is cited by an undecipherable abbreviation, remember that the "Bieber" Book exists. Hopefully you will find this source capable of deciphering the abbreviation given.
....MR

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

LEXIS Student Representative

The Law Library is searching for a responsible individual to serve as an additional student representative for LEXIS Services. The student representative will work with the Online Services/Reference Librarian and the LEXIS Academic Representative to provide assistance to the Marshall-Wythe students in the use of LEXIS. The successful applicant must have proficiency in the use of the LEXIS online research services and excellent communication skills. Interested individuals should submit a resume to Mary Grace Hune in the Reference Department.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

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