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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By Joint Resolution, Congress designated February, 1986 as "National Black (Afro-American) History Month," see P.L. 99-244, 100 Stat. 6 (1986). I thought it might be interesting to list several sources and search techniques you might use to locate pertinent information. On LION, search the Keyword/Subject menu option under the terms: afro-americans--history; afro-americans legal status; or civil rights United States periodicals. The number of entries will change as new materials are added to the collection.

Relevant videos located on reserve include:

The Road to Brown: the Untold Story of "The Man Who Killed Jim Crow"
(KF4155.R62/1989/video)

Thirty years after *Plessy v. Ferguson*, "Charles Hamilton Huston took over Howard University's run-down segregated law school

with the idea of training a cadre of elite African-American lawyers who would wipe out the legal basis for segregation once and for all." Houston, "the Man who killed Jim Crow," did not live to see his dream fulfilled. Thurgood Marshall, his brilliant student, would "finish the work that Houston began."

Separate But Equal (KF4155.S43/1991/video)

"The year is 1950... America is divided between black and white... the tension has reached a breaking point for the blacks of Clarendon County, South Carolina. When their request for a single school bus is denied by white school officials, a bitter, violent and courageous battle for justice and equality begins...."

Simple Justice (KF4155.S44/1993/video)

"Recounts the remarkable legal strategy and social struggle that resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*."

You might also wish to access several World-Wide Web sites on the Internet.

Events and People in Black History

(<http://www.ai.mit.edu/~isbell/HFh/black/bhist.html>). Significant dates; biographical information; Maya Angelou's 1993 Presidential Inaugural poem; etc.

Black History Month Page

(<http://www.bethel.hampton.k12.va.us/history.africa.html>). Administered by Bethel High School in Hampton, VA. Wealth of information on Africa, African history, etc.

You might also use Lycos (<http://lycos.cs.cmu.edu/>) or Yahoo (<http://www.yahoo.com/>) to locate other interesting Internet sites. Search "black history month" or "African American."

Check with a reference librarian for additional sources. ...MWR

CODIFICATION AND REVISION OF UNITED STATES STATUTES

By the 1860's lawyers were frustrated by the difficulty of locating federal statutes using the Statutes at Large. There was no combined index covering more than a single year of legislation.

In order to be sure what the law on a particular point was, one would have to review all of the years, potentially scores of years, during which the legislation could have been adopted. In response to this perceived need, the Congress adopted the Revised Statutes of the United States . . . embracing the Statues of the United States, General and Permanent in Their Nature, in Force on [December 1, 1873], on June 22, 1874. This is the only complete revision of federal laws that has occurred. That is, the Revised Statutes expressly repealed all of the provisions in the Statutes at Large in force on 12/1/1873 and replaced them with a subject arrangement that was itself the positive law. The Revised Statutes is the authoritative text for laws predating its publication that remain in force now.

With supplements, the Revised Statutes remained the law, as updated by later Statutes at Large, until the 1920's. On June 30, 1926, The Code of the Laws of the United States in Force December 7, 1925 was enacted, and has come to be known as the United States Code and cited as U.S.C. The laws then in force were arranged into 50 titles loosely in alphabetical order, each title devoted to a

particular subject matter. The primary goal was to provide some rational arrangement of the laws.

The U. S. Code does not repeal the Statutes at Large, however. The underlying Public Law which adopted the particular language now in use is legal evidence of the law unless it is codified in a title of the U. S. Code that has been reenacted into positive law. As a further refinement, when there is a conflict between the Statutes at Large language and the meaning of the codified provision, unless it is arguable that the revisers preparing the language of the Code intended a substantive change, the language of the statute will govern. This preference for the substantive intentions of the original statute also applies to the scope of definitions given in the statute: where the definitions may apply to provisions in the Code that did not derive from the statute in which the definitions were enacted, the provisions are not controlled by the definition.

The process of Code revision in preparation for such reenactment was assigned to the Office of the Law Revision Counsel, by 2 U.S.C. § 285b(1). This section requires the "Revision Counsel" . . . to prepare . . . one title at a time, a complete compilation, restatement, and revision of the general and permanent laws of the United States" The titles thus revised are reenacted as positive law. There were 24 titles so reenacted at the end of the 103rd Congress. A list of the titles currently reenacted can be found in the front of each volume of the U. S. Code and in notes following 1 U.S.C. § 204(e) in both official and unofficial Codes.

The House Office of the Law Revision Counsel develops and updates an official classification of U.S. laws. The office prepares and publishes a new edition of the U. S. Code every five years, including annual cumulative supplements of newly enacted laws. Though these updates do not come out for a few years, they should be consulted for the Official version of a statute when possible.

Another statutory duty of the Law Revision Counsel is to periodically review the public laws and submit to the House Judiciary Committee recommendations on particular laws that should be repealed due to obsolescence, superfluity or because the provision has been superseded by later legislation. Such statutes, including some that have not been explicitly repealed, are listed in the U. S. Code as omitted (either intentionally never included or withdrawn by the Law Revision Counsel). The public law remains on the books in Statutes at Large. Recently a library patron asked what became of it. We asked the Law Revision Counsel and learned that if the statute is omitted from a title enacted into positive law, of course, it is gone for all purposes. If not, it remains in effect unless, by its terms, it has become ineffective. Typically, statutes omitted have a natural or explicit sunset provision, or there has been an amendment of various statutes as a result of which the subject matter of the "omitted" section is recodified elsewhere while not being explicitly transferred from the original place in the code to another.

Section 204 of Title I of the U. S. Code discusses the codification process. The case annotations in the annotated codes make interesting reading on the complexities of the relationship between the codified law and the original Public Laws on which they are based.
...WLC

NEW FACES AT THE CIRCULATION DESK

On January 2, two new part-time circulation employees joined the library staff. Our new afternoon desk assistant, John Vajda, works 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., and recently retired as Director of the Navy Department Library in Washington, D.C. John wanted to renew his contact with the public, so decided to seek part-time library employment.

Our new evening desk assistant, Genny Ostertag, works 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Sunday

- Thursday, and recently graduated from William and Mary with a degree in comparative literature. Genny hopes to enter the field of publishing, most likely in New York, so spends much of her time during the day pursuing this objective.

Please stop by and welcome John and Genny to Marshall-Wythe. Their addition to the library staff will help us maintain excellent circulation service.
...MWR

IN BRIEF

Inclement Weather. When the College and/or Law School closes due to snow or ice, campus police will open the law building and library for student use. Although circulation and reference services will be unavailable, students may use the computer lab and law materials. Security will close the building at the normal closing time of 1:30 a.m.

New Look To INFOTRAC. Mike Phillips, Computer/AV technician, recently loaded new Infotrac CD-ROM software. This version contains several new features which should make searching the law review index easier and more efficient. Check the plastic holders in the Reference area for instructions on using the new Infotrac database.

Messages. The library bulletin board (across from the circulation desk) is used by library staff to post messages received by phone for students/attorneys working in the library. Although we can not look for you or use the public address system to notify you of a message, you may check the bulletin board on your way out for messages. Please submit messages to the assistant on duty for posting.
...MWR

ONLINE PURCHASE REQUESTS

Many students may not know that the law library suggestion form (located in an acrylic holder beside the circulation department door) contains a section you may use to suggest purchases for the collection. Most previous student purchase requests have been filled and the title added to our collection, so feel free to suggest purchases for our collection.

Now you may also use the new automated catalog to suggest materials for purchase. LION provides a SUGGESTION BOX where patrons may not only make suggestions concerning library issues, but also request library purchases. Keep in mind when making both general suggestions and purchase requests that all suggestions go to Swem for determination.

You may want to signify "for law" if you wish us to consider the request. We're unsure of the turn around time provided by this new online request feature, so continue to fill out the law library suggested acquisition form for immediate response.

It is important to note that newly ordered books often take eight weeks to arrive. If you need to use the book quickly for a law review cite check or research paper, your best bet is to request that we borrow the book from another library via interlibrary loan. Books requested via Interlibrary Loan normally take 10-12 days to arrive. Check with Joan Pearlstein concerning ILL requests.

LION PURCHASE REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS:

Click REQUEST from the menu bar at the top of the screen

Select PURCHASE REQUEST

Type in your purchase request.

Please include as much information as possible to help staff locate the exact title you wish purchased.

We hope you will try the new online purchase request form and let us know what you think of this new LION feature. ...MWR

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