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The College of William and Mary
Marshall-Wythe Law Library

Volume 7, Number 5

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APRIL FOOL'S

On Monday April 1, the library will host a keg party on the patio. All faculty, staff and students are welcomed to join the library staff for fun and silly games. Petra Klemmack, circulation supervisor, with a small student contingent (to select the munchies), is in charge of games, so leave your inhibitions at home and come prepared to participate. Prizes will be awarded. Check the library bulletin board for further details as the "BIG DAY" approaches.

...MWR

THE INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN LAW COLLECTION

There exists a wealth of information and records on international and foreign law at the Marshall-Wythe Law Library although the kind of materials we have and the extent of our collection in this area is often under-estimated. The truth is that given the size of the library's overall collection and the kind of curriculum offered at the Law School, our international and foreign law collection is considerably extensive. This essay is intended to provide a brief account of our collection in this area and to show how this material can be an asset to your study or research.

I. General Reference

The library's general reference materials for international and foreign law are pretty extensive. To name a few, the library holds Encyclopedias (e.g., Modern Legal Systems Cyclopedia, and Encyclopedia of Public and International Law); Digests (e.g., European Current Law: Monthly Digest, and Martindale-Hubbell International Law Digest); Dictionaries (e.g., The International Law Dictionary, and Dictionary of International and Comparative Law); Yearbooks (e.g., The Europa World Year Book, and Yearbook of the United Nations); Indexes (e.g., World Treaty Index, and Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals); Directories (e.g., Martindale-Hubbell International Law Directory, and International Organizations: A Dictionary and Directory); and Handbooks and guides (e.g., Germain's Transnational Legal Research, and Guide to International Legal Research). These reference sources will be helpful for various research purposes.

II. Jurisdictional Materials

In addition to the reference collection, the library possesses a significant collection of materials for certain jurisdictions. The following description is a brief account of what is available regarding specific countries.

(a) **United States:** There is a wide range of information and materials on international practice of the U.S. government. For treaty sources, the library has a number of treaty series, in hardcopy or microform, which contain the international obligations of the U.S. For example, the library holds United States Treaties and Other International Agreements

(UST) and Treaties and Other International Acts Series (TIAS). For decisional law involving international or foreign law issues, the library holds a number of case reporters, of which one is American International Law Cases. Moreover, the library has an abundance of treatises and commentaries which offer scholarly discourse of the American perspective on international and comparative law.

(b) **Commonwealth Countries:** The library holds a substantial collection of materials on Great Britain, Canada, Australia, and other Commonwealth countries. Typically, you may find statutes, regulations, and judicial decisions from these countries, along with encyclopedias, digests, treatises, and commentaries dealing with these legal systems.

(c) **Other Countries:** In addition to the Commonwealth countries, the library has a good number of treatises and commentaries on countries such as Russia, France, Germany, South Africa, Japan, and so forth.

(d) **International Organizations:** The library owns an extensive collection of primary materials, in the form of treaty series, case reports, and official records, for international bodies such as the United Nations, International Court of Justice, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, European Community, and League of Nations. Besides primary authority materials, the library collects a considerable amount of commentaries and treatises which address legal and political issues involving these organizations.

III. Subjects Covered

As for the subject areas covered by the library's materials, the extensiveness of our collection embraces the whole spectrum of international and comparative law teaching and research. The library is particularly strong in the areas of public international law, comparative law, international relations, environmental law, trade law, commercial transactions, human rights, and Roman law.

IV. Ten Sources You Should Know

There are a small number of sources which I use often and would recommend to you. These are just to get you started, and you surely will develop your own list of most favorite sources later on.

(1) International Legal Materials. This bimonthly journal reprints the text of international treaties and conventions, court decisions, United Nations documents, and much more. A wonderful source of information for international and foreign law research, particularly for those hard-to-find materials. Available on LEXIS.

(CURRENT AND BOUND PERIODICALS)

(2) Multilateral Treaties : Index and Current Status. A list of major multilateral treaties and agreements with indication of their initial date of entry, names of parties, current status, and bibliographic citation.

(BASEMENT JX171.M79; JX171.M79 Suppl.)

(3) Treaties in Force : A List of Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States in Force as of January 1, 199 -. A master index to U.S. treaties and agreements effective as of January 1 of any particular year. Especially valuable for checking the status of treaties and agreements to which the U.S. is a party.

(BASEMENT JX236.5 .T7 1995)

(4) CCH's Congressional Index. An index to congressional activities including those concerning U.S. treaties and foreign nominations. Particularly useful for tracking treaties pending before Congress.

(REF/KF49.C6 104th Senate 1995-1996)

(5) Dictionary of International & Comparative Law. Explains legal terms frequently used in international and comparative studies. Also provides citations to many international treaties, agreements, and cases included in the publication.

(REF/JX1226.F69 1992)

REFERENCE RESOURCE REVIEW

(6) Martindale-Hubbell International Law Digest. Provides a digest of the legal system of about seventy countries in the world, with information broken down by subject. A good source for a brief introduction to a foreign legal system in a hurry.
(REF/KF190.M32 1995)

(7) LEXIS/NEXIS. There is a tremendous amount of international and foreign law information, both primary and secondary authority, on LEXIS/NEXIS. In particular, the International Law Library (INTLAW) is a gold mine of information and materials. Check the LEXIS-NEXIS Directory of Online Services for specific databases available.

(8) WESTLAW. A lot of information, including primary and secondary authority, is available from WESTLAW. What is special about WESTLAW is that it has the database which contains all decisions by the International Court of Justice since the Court's inception. Look at the WESTLAW Database List for particular databases of interest.

(9) Internet. More and more international and foreign law information (both primary and secondary materials) is available on the Internet. Internet web pages are particularly helpful because they often are the only place where you can find the hard-to-track or most up-to-date information. A favorite site of mine is The Electronic Embassy (it's address is <http://www.embassy.org>). This site offers detailed information and contacts for all foreign embassies in Washington, DC, and provides Internet links to other places where information associated with a given country can be found. To access information on the Internet, you can use Netscape, a web browser software, available from the CD-Rom network stations in the Reference Room.

(10) Your Librarians. Remember that the librarians are your best resource for international and foreign law information, as well as for any other information, and that you should always ask them for assistance if necessary.
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The Oxford Dictionary of American Legal Quotations, by Fred R. Shapiro
REF/KF159.S53 1993

Despite the thousands of dull and poorly written decisions from the courts of the United States, American law does contain some colorful prose and witty rhetoric. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Benjamin Cardozo, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, and John Marshall are among the most quoted citizens who shaped American legal history.

The Oxford Dictionary of American Legal Quotations is a comprehensive volume containing over 3500 quotations. The editor defines an "American legal quotation" as a quotation by Americans about law or by a foreigner about American law. Sources of quotations are judicial opinions, legal treatises, law review articles, arguments before courts, constitutions, statutes, legislative materials, ethics rules, presidential documents, and speeches. Nonlegal sources range from fiction to folklore to film.

All quotations were verified from their original source or if necessary, from a reliable secondary source. Precise citations in legal citation form follow each quotation. This feature (not found in most quotation books) adds to the research value of this collection of quotations. The volume is organized alphabetically by topic from "Abortion" to "Yale Law School." An author index, a keyword index and cross references provide additional access to the quotations.

Representative examples under the heading "Words" include:

A word is not a crystal, transparent and unchanged, it is the skin of a living thought and may vary greatly in color and content according to the circumstances and the time in which it is used. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Towne v. Eisner, 245 U.S. 418, 425 (1918).

Weasel words will not avail to defeat the triumph of intention when once the words are read in the setting of the whole transaction. Benjamin N. Cardozo, Holyoke Water Power Co. v. American Writing Paper Co., 300 U.S. 324, 336 (1937).

Words are chameleons, which reflect the color of their environment. Learned Hand, Commissioner v. National Carbide Corp., 167 F.2d 304, 306 (2d Cir. 1948).

So if you want to add some color to your paper or brief, consult American Legal Quotations. A well-chosen quotation may help ensure that your writing will not be described as "one of those rare creatures, like the rat and the cockroach, that would attract little sympathy even as an endangered species." Richard Hyland, "A Defense of Legal Writing," 134 University of Pennsylvania Law Review 599, 600 (1986).

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