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LAW LIBRARY BRIEFS

The College of William and Mary
Marshall-Wythe Law Library



Volume 8, Number 1

August, 1996

CONTENTS

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME	1
FIRST YEAR LEXIS/WESTLAW TRAINING	2
IN BRIEF	2
NEW FOOD AND DRINK POLICY	2
RECLASSIFICATION OF FOREIGN LAW MATERIALS	3-4
MARSHALL-WYTHE LAW LIBRARY HOURS	4

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

To new students, welcome, and to returning students, welcome back. Thankfully school begins this year on the 3rd Monday in August, rather than the 2nd Monday as happened last year. Tho' it will be hot outside, it's usually quite cool inside - you may even need a sweater. (Not surprisingly, some students opt to wear shorts in the library during the winter months, as the temperature is often in the upper 70's). So much for former President Carter's energy-saving initiatives.

Our library offers a pleasant -- if not always quiet -- place to study and conduct research. We have a talented staff that includes six individuals who have both a law degree and a masters degree in library science who are eager to help you.

The newest change from last May is a new security system that is designed to provide greater security for our stuff (such as books) and hopefully yours (such as notebook computers and purses). Although the building doesn't open until 7:30 a.m. weekday mornings (and later on weekends), you will be able to

enter the building and library at 6 a.m. with your ID card. And though we will lock the doors to the building around 10:30 p.m. Sunday thru Thursday, and by 7:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, you will be able to enter the building until midnight, and the library until 1:00 a.m. Take a look at the answers to frequently asked questions about the new security system that's posted on the bulletin board across from the circulation desk. Don't hesitate to ask if you have other questions about the security system.

Our collection includes about 340,000 volumes and volume equivalents (like microforms), but we also have numerous CD-Rom titles, online legal databases, and other nonbook materials such as audio and video cassettes. The video collection includes more than 100 popular films dealing with the law or lawyers. It includes classics (such as "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "Ten Angry Men"), drama ("Philadelphia" and "The Fugitive") and comedy ("The Philadelphia Story" and "War of the Roses"). Please let me know about any law-related films you think we should have that aren't in the collection.

And don't forget the "Popular Reading" collection. These shelves are just past the circulation desk as you enter the administrative/reference area. This collection includes both fiction (Cornwall and Grisham) and nonfiction (Richard Delgado and Christopher Darden). The popular reading collection rotates every three to four months, so only our newest books are shelved in this area. You can find other similar materials -- they're the books in the collection that include the fancy covers -- in the second floor stacks.

Have a great year!

Jim Heller, Director

FIRST YEAR LEXIS/WESTLAW TRAINING

First year students should watch for upcoming LEXIS and WESTLAW introductory sessions and basic searching sessions. Computer/AV Services will place a notice of scheduled dates on the Library News Network in the library lobby, post signs, and place sheets in the Computer Services sign-up notebook at the circulation desk. Don't miss out on these informative sessions designed especially for first year students.

IN BRIEF

New Friday/Saturday Circulation Hours. Beginning this fall, the library circulation desk and reference area will close at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings. Hours are posted on the library marques in the law school lobby.

New Security System. The new security system should be working by September 9. When operational, doors leading into the law school building and the library front doors will be locked when the library circulation desk closes each evening. Students and faculty with valid ID's permitting law school access will be able to enter the building until midnight and the library until 1:00 a.m. Campus police will continue to clear and lock the building at 1:30 a.m. Building/library access hours are posted on the library bulletin board across from the circulation desk.

Note: Marked doors will be alarmed and WILL RING if opened without an authorized I.D. card.

Carrel Policies. 2 and 3L's requesting a carrel must register at the circulation desk. All books left in a carrel must be properly charged and receive carrel slips at the circulation desk. This includes circulating books (both Swem and Law), non-circulating books (both unclassified and classified), interlibrary loan materials, and personal books. You may leave photocopies,

computer printouts, and notes associated with a research project in file folders on the top shelf of reserved carrels.

When unoccupied, other patrons may use the carrel. Therefore, please do not leave personal items in a carrel and keep the desk portion free of materials.

Marshall-Wythe Photocopy Cards: As the library photocopiers are owned by the Law Foundation, patrons must purchase a special Marshall-Wythe copycard to use the copiers. College I.D. cards will not operate our photocopy equipment. Please check with the circulation desk concerning the purchase of library copycards.

Swem Library Photocopies. The College of William and Mary Library (Swem Library) recently installed copycard readers on their photocopy equipment. Students who have a College Debit Account may use their College ID's on this equipment. A box to add value to an ID card, or dispense a Swem copy card, is located in the Swem Library lobby. Please remember that Swem photocopy readers will NOT operate with the Marshall-Wythe Photocopy Card.

NEW FOOD AND DRINK POLICY

Most returning students by now have probably noticed the library's new food and drink policy. Students may now bring beverages into the library in bottles, cans, or spill proof containers. However, we request that students do not consume beverages in the library from open topped cups because of the risk of spillage.

Students may eat vending machine snacks (such as candy bars, but not sandwiches) in the library. However, students should respect others' right to study in an quiet, odor free environment and not consume food that would disturb others' concentration or possibly leave a sticky residue on books, carrels or tables. Please dispose of all trash in appropriate containers.

RECLASSIFICATION OF FOREIGN LAW MATERIALS

If you are a frequent user of the foreign and international law materials in our library, you may have noticed some changes to the library's collection of foreign law materials. While certain call numbers (for example, KJ100) have disappeared altogether from the collection, some books have been shifted to new locations. This is the result of a reclassification project that the library undertook two years ago and just completed this past summer. The project reclassified foreign law materials for a large number of jurisdictions (for example, Mexico, China, and Russia), requiring a physical rearrangement of books concerning those countries. This article will give you a brief explanation about this project.

Why Was Reclassification Necessary? Our library's classification scheme, upon which a call number is based and constructed, follows the principles and practices of the Library of Congress (LC) classification system. The major advantage of following LC practice is that our collection is compatible with the collections of LC and the majority of law and research libraries around the country, which benefits library management and resource-sharing. However, there is a drawback along with the benefit. Since we follow LC's practice, when LC decides to adopt changes in its classification scheme, our library must do so to our collection. For example, for many years LC used the KJ number for European law without a particular number designed for the emerging European Community (EC) law. Later, however, LC established a KJE number for European Community/European Union (EU) law. As a result, our collection on EC/EU law was separated into two classes: KJ100 and KJE. Separation in classifications also meant separation in physical arrangement, which caused confusion and difficulty in accessing the complete collection of the same subject by shelf reading or online browsing. And the problem of separation also existed with collections of other jurisdictions, such as Japan, Italy, and

Australia. In order to provide better access to the foreign law materials for the patron, the library decided to undertake a major effort to reclassify its collection in this area.

How Was Reclassification Conducted? At first, the library staff had to remove the books from the shelf to take them to the Technical Services Department (TSD) for reclassifying. If for a brief period of time you had difficulty locating a foreign law book you had identified from the online catalog, it probably was because that item was taken off the shelf temporarily by library staff for a call number change. Each item, once moved to TSD, was examined carefully to see where it fit under the new LC class schedule describing that particular jurisdiction. This involved searching both the local catalog and a national database called OCLC, and using a variety of reference sources. After the correct class number was selected, it was written onto the item to replace the old call number. Changes were then entered into the online catalog to reflect the new call number on LION.

Over the years, the world's political geography was constantly changing (for example, the two Germanies became one, whereas the Soviet Union broke into fifteen countries), and some countries/governments freely changed names (for example, while Tanganyika changed its name to Tanzania, the European Economic Community first changed its name to European Community then to European Union). For this reason, certain subject terms designed by LC to describe foreign law were revised to reflect the changed realities. During the reclassification, while the call number of an item was being corrected, the subject term(s) used to describe the item, including country names, were also checked against currently effective LC subject headings to see if they were still valid. If not, the old terms were replaced by the new ones, and the online catalog was updated accordingly. After all necessary steps were performed, the item was relabeled manually and returned to the shelf for use.

How Are Things After the Reclassification?

Throughout this project, several hundred volumes in our foreign law collection were reclassified. Now many jurisdictions have a new class number, and all material on the same jurisdiction is shelved together. For example, Austria was classified under KKL, but is now under KJJ; Japan was classified under the KQP number, but is now under the KNX-KNY class range; and Russia was classified under the KM class, but is now under the KLN class. Among the changes, the most prominent was made to the EU. The library's EU collection was under three separate classes, KJ100, KJC and KJE, which resulted in a split of the collection. After reclassification, all the EU collection is now classed together under the KJE number, whereas the collection which compares laws of individual European countries is classed under the KJC number. For a complete listing of the new classification of foreign law materials in the library, please refer to the chart(s) posted on the side of each shelf in the basement where the foreign law collection is located.

If You Have Questions. This article gives you only a brief idea about the reclassification of the library's foreign law collection. If you wish to learn more about this topic or have specific questions as to using the collection, please ask a reference librarian for assistance. ...HH

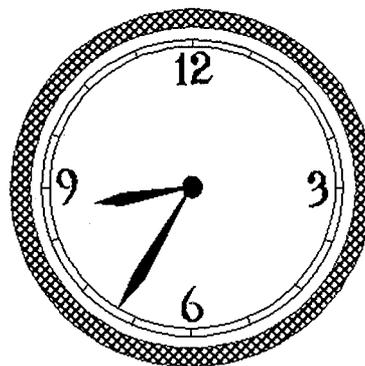
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MARSHALL-WYTHE LAW LIBRARY HOURS

The law library circulation desk hours for the Fall 1996 semester are indicated below. Via the new security system (See Jim Heller's Article on page one), law faculty, staff and students who have valid ID's will have access after hours. The building and library front doors will be opened at the times designated below, to allow patrons to enter without using their I.D. card.

SUNDAY	10:00 a.m. - - 11:00 p.m.
MON-THURS	7:30 a.m. - - 11:00 p.m.
FRIDAY	7:30 a.m. - - 7:00 p.m.
SATURDAY	9:00 a.m. - - 7:00 p.m.

Both the building and the Library are closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Interim hours go into effect following the examination period in December. Evening/weekend hours during interims, fall and spring breaks are scheduled according to the availability of staff and students. When required shortened hours are posted. During interims and breaks it is best to call 221-3260 to determine exact evening/weekend desk hours.