

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

April 1, 2001

Volume 4 Number 9

What's New in the Library?

- Please help the Library celebrate **National Library Week**, April 1 - 7, 2001! (No, that's not an April Fool's joke!) The Library will be sponsoring the weekly College Coffee on Thursday, April 5. During the rest of the week, the Library will be offering "mini-classes" on such topics as finding government documents online, finding documents in print, and a re-run of "Finding A Job With Westlaw and LEXIS." Look for sign-up sheets at the Circulation Desk.
- The Library has been dealing with some thorny issues (that infamous "Bramble Bush" strikes again) over the past few weeks. Several students have complained about other students "camping out" in **study rooms**. Current policy (as defined in the Student User Guide, available at the Circulation Desk or on the Library's web site) states that study rooms are not policed by Library staff, and they are first-come, first-serve. We've had complaints before (see the October 1999 edition of this newsletter, available at the Circulation Desk or on the Library's web site), but the problems seemed to resolve themselves before any official action was taken.

We ask students to be considerate of others and not remain in study rooms for "extended periods of time." We are hesitant to enforce hourly limitations on these rooms, because we know of several study groups who want to use a study room for an entire day (or perhaps an entire weekend). If, however, we continue to hear complaints, we may institute a sign-up sheet for the study rooms next semester.

We also remind students that the Library takes no responsibility for any items left unattended in the Library, including in study rooms or on study carrels. Students may not remove other people's items from a study room; such acts may be punishable under the Honor Code.

- It appears that one student decided it was easier to rip an entire case out of a reporter, rather than photocopy the case or print it from Westlaw or LEXIS. The Library and Dean's Office are investigating. We cautiously remind all Library users that **defacing Library property** is a Class 1 misdemeanor in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and anyone caught doing so will be prosecuted.
- **Westlaw trainer** John Street will be providing classes on "Summer Associate Training on Westlaw" and "Judicial Clerkship Training on Westlaw" on April 10 and 11. Sign-up sheets will be available at the Circulation Desk.

Other News

- Last month, we told you that FindLaw had been purchased by Westlaw. Another book publisher has purchased an online legal database: Wolters Kluwer (who owns Aspen, the ones who publish the "Examples and Explanations" series) purchased **Loislaw**, a small but rapidly growing legal database. Loislaw offers access to statutes, acts, case law and administrative regulations from all fifty states and the federal government. Loislaw encourages students to use their service throughout the summer and for externships.

You must register to use this service. Access Loislaw by going to the Library's web page (<http://www.asl.edu/library/>), choose "Electronic Databases," and then select Loislaw. Click on the box labeled "Register Now!" Fill in all the required information, including law school (oddly, we're in the middle of the list of Virginia schools). The secret access code is **[NOT IN ONLINE VERSION]** (which is case sensitive, so use upper-case letters). Choose your own user ID and password, and you should be using the service within hours!

(Please do not give out this access code to anyone outside the ASL community. Only ASL faculty, staff, and students are licensed to use this database.)

- Third years who are getting ready to take the **bar exam**: don't forget about the many Library resources available to you! We have a typewriter for those bar application forms located in the "Fish Bowl." We have Library Research Guide #30 (available in the Library or on the Library's web site), detailing many of the bar examination aids -- including copies of old exams -- located in the Library and online. Finally, the ABA's student association publication Student Lawyer always runs an issue about bar exams, including deadlines, fees, and contact information (this year, it's the February issue). Also included is an article called "How I Spent My Summer Preparing For The Bar."
- We received a nice **suggestion** in the Library suggestion box. We were asked to leave a box of staples out for when the stapler runs empty during the evening hours. In the past, our staplers have tended to disappear at night -- especially when a paper is soon coming due. We will do this as a trial basis: we will leave out a box of staples in both copy areas. If, however, stapler and staples begin to disappear, we will probably keep all staplers locked up at the Circulation Desk. Please don't take the staplers!
- *Don't forget: Daylight Savings Time begins on April 1st. Set your clocks **ahead** one hour.*