

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- Our "Get REAL!" legal research classes continue during November. The remaining Research and Electronic Assisted Learning (REAL) sessions will discuss how to find law review articles and how to effectively use Westlaw and LEXIS. These classes are scheduled for November 6 (law reviews) and November 13 (Westlaw/LEXIS). Classes begin at 5:30 pm and should only last about a half-hour. Because these sessions will be held in the Library's Seminar Room, that room will not be available for general computer use at those times.
- The Library's "Lost and Found" collection is growing. We've got an odd assortment of books and clothing. If you're missing something, describe it to the person at the Circulation Desk, and we might be able to return your valuable possessions. Any items unclaimed after finals will be donated to charity.
- Our suggestion box was quite full this past month. Many of the comments related to fixing the computers in the Library, or purchasing better equipment. We've passed these comments along to the Dean, since the Library's budget is spent on books and electronic databases, but not on equipment. If you have a suggestion to make the Library a better place to work and study, please tell one of the Library staff members, or leave an anonymous message in the upstairs suggestion box (nestled in between the upstairs printer and the print station).
- The Library operates on modified hours near the Thanksgiving holiday. On Wednesday, November 21, the Library will only be staffed from 9 am to 5 pm. No staff members work on Thursday, November 22, and Friday, November 23. We keep the doors to the Library locked on Saturday, November 23, and Sunday, November 24, although we'll be staffed our normal hours (9 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 1 pm to midnight on Sunday). During these days, all students will have regular 6 am to midnight access to the Library using their ID cards.
- Then, right after Thanksgiving, the Library will be extending access privileges. Starting Sunday, November 24, you will be able to enter the Library 24 hours a day with your ID card. Remember that our staffing schedule does not change during this time; Reserve materials will only be available during staffed hours. The 24 hour access will end when exams do on December 14.

Other News

- Winter is fast approaching -- and that means exams will be here soon. The Library is a great place to find essential study aids -- like Hornbooks, Nutshells, and even audiocassettes. Check out a CALI CD-ROM for three days and be tutored on several different law school subjects before your exams.
- While you're in the Library printing that last paper or studying for finals, please remember to speak quietly. Although we're very excited that so many students enjoy the Library's status as "the center of campus," we really are here for people to do research and to study. We also remind everyone to bring books back to the Circulation Desk or to the shelving carts when you're done with them so that we can return the books to their proper location. Several books have been "missing" for several days, and we're hoping that they were just misfiled....
- A new computer law may be on the books if one organization has its way. The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws had great success encouraging states to adopt its products like the Uniform Commercial Code and the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act. But over the last few years, only two states (Maryland and Virginia) have adopted the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA). Opponents of this act claim that it gives computer companies too much power -- potentially allowing them to disable software after a certain amount of time. UCITA supporters promote the idea of a national standard for computer software leases. The Commissioners will be meeting in Washington DC from November 16-18 to discuss changes that will be acceptable to both sides. For more information, look at the Commissioners' web site at **<http://www.nccusl.org/>** If you're interested in UCITA -- or any of the Commissioners' uniform acts -- we have the Uniform Laws Annotated set in Reference (KF165 .A5; UCITA is in the pocket part for volume 7 part 2).
- There may be new changes coming to our beloved Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The Administrative Office of the US Courts has announced several proposed changes, most concerning Rule 23 (class action lawsuits). Other federal rules that could be changed are bankruptcy, evidence, and criminal rules. For the text of the rule changes, as well as a way to provide your input on these changes, visit the Administrative Office's web site at **<http://www.uscourts.gov/rules/newrules1.html>** But don't worry about having to memorize new stuff for your Civil Procedure exam: even if these changes are adopted, they won't go into effect until December 2003!

The ASL Library News (ISSN 1535-539X) is published monthly during the academic year by the Appalachian School of Law Library, Grundy VA 24614. Uncredited stories are written by Chris King, Public Services Librarian. If you would like to respond to any story in this newsletter, please contact Chris or leave a message in the upstairs suggestion box.