

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- The ASL Library begins another round of 24-hour access on Friday, November 21. Starting that night (and running throughout the exam period), students with a valid ASL Library ID card will be able to remain in the Library past midnight. Please note that we will be "carding" people at midnight; if you don't have an ID card, you'll need someone to "vouch" for you, or you will be asked to leave.
- The Library also has some modified hours during the Thanksgiving holiday. On Wednesday, November 26, we'll only be staffed from 9 am to 5 pm. No staff members work on Thursday, November 27; Friday, November 28; or Saturday, November 29. We'll go back to normal hours on Sunday, November 30. Even though the Library will have limited staff hours, the Library will be accessible 24-hours to any ASL student with a valid ID. For a complete list of hours, visit our web page at <http://www.asl.edu/library/hours.htm> or pick up a copy of our hours at the Circulation Desk.
- Our "Get REAL!" [Research and Electronic Assisted Learning] classes continue through the first part of November. Watch and learn as the Library staff leads you through Shepards and legislative histories. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings; check the posters in the Library for a complete schedule. If you missed any of these refreshers, we plan to re-run them during Spring Semester.
- Westlaw will be offering more "Westlaw Certification" classes during November. If you're planning on doing some job searching during Winter Break, make sure you sit in on these two important classes, so that you can add "Westlaw Certified" to your resume! Although the classes are mainly geared towards 2Ls and 3Ls, all eager 1Ls who are interested are also invited to attend. We'll post the sign-up sheets at the Circulation Desk at the beginning of November.
- A big "thank you" to LexisNexis, which has donated one new computer to the Library for electronic research. For the rest of the semester, it will be located on the first floor; we're planning on rearranging some of the computers upstairs so that we can have a small "electronic research" study area.
- If you're planning on using Thanksgiving as a long study weekend, be sure you stock up on the Library's study guides and other resources. We've got Nutshells and Hornbooks in Reserve just waiting to be used; we've also got a dozen CALI CD-ROMs for extra help! Stop by the Circulation Desk for these items.

Other News

- The audiotapes that we keep on Reserve are probably our most-used items. We've been noticing that many of them are coming back broken – or in a few isolated cases, completely recorded over. Please be careful with these items, as they are fairly delicate.

We've also gotten several notes that say, "This material is out of date." Every year, just before school starts, we check the publishers' catalogs to see if there are newer editions available. If there are, we buy them; if not, we're stuck with the same old ones. We have no control over the content. Sorry. We're also looking at purchasing CDs instead of cassettes, but the publishers have been slow to embrace this "new" technology.

- Now that it's close to finals, we're going to repeat our rule on study rooms: these are group study rooms for short-term study sessions. Do not leave your items unattended in these rooms to "save" them. Depending upon the number of complaints, we may start patrolling and seizing unattended items.
- If there's something on the Library web site that you can't find, let Chris know. After the big ASL web site conversion, several pages turned up missing, and some links got inadvertently changed. Most of these have been fixed, but Chris will be attempting to catch them all before the end of the semester.
- In our December 2002 issue (all our prior issues are on our web site at <http://www.asl.edu/library/> under "Publications"), we mentioned a site that offered prizes to lawyers who could correctly guess the outcomes of Supreme Court decisions. A couple of professors (mostly at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis) have attempted to come up with a statistical method of predicting how the Supremes would decide any particular case. There are links to the statistical model, but most interesting is their pull-down "forecast engine" which generates a guess for any case that hasn't made it to the Supreme Court docket. With all the math involved, it's hard to think that this is just a "friendly interdisciplinary competition"! Check out the site at <http://wusct.wustl.edu/> [PS – The original article discussed <http://www.fantasycourt.com/> which is still up, but it doesn't look like it is being updated. The contest was only open to licensed attorneys, though.]

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