

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- Welcome back! While you've been away, we've been very busy. We had a professional carpet cleaner come in to "deep clean" the entire Library. We've also cleaned the Seminar Room (thanks to the work-study students who tied up all the wires) and hung a TV/VCR in there for instructional classroom videos. And we've moved the periodicals around a bit to make space for new titles. Be sure to ask us if you can't find something.
- The Circulation/Reserve Desk will have limited hours on Monday, January 17 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day). We will only be staffed from 1 pm until 6 pm. You will still be able to access the Library with a valid ID card from 6 am until midnight.
- Although it hasn't seemed like winter recently, inclement weather may be on its way during the early part of the Spring Semester. If classes are cancelled, the Library may operate on a modified schedule – we might open later than usual, or we might close early. ID card access will not be affected. Please don't wait until the last minute to use any Reserve items, especially if you see the snow flying outside!
- We will be posting Lexis and Westlaw student rep hours sometime before the end of the month. Check at the Circulation Desk and on the bulletin board over the downstairs photocopier/printer. We also plan to offer certification classes for both services very soon (watch for sign-up sheets at the Circulation Desk).

Who's New In The Library?

Tonya Jackson, our new Interlibrary Loan Clerk, is a graduate of Hurley High School. She is attending SVCC to receive her AA&S in Education. Once she receives that, she plans to continue her studies by transferring to Virginia Intermont or Old Dominion University to obtain her Bachelor's/Master's in Education. If you need a book that the ASL Library doesn't have, you can get it through Interlibrary Loan (ILL) by e-mailing Tonya at ill@asl.edu. Tonya, who had been working at the Circulation Desk, replaces Pam Edwards, who has left ASL to finish her education.

For short biographies of other Library staff members, check out our web site at <http://www.asl.edu/library/>

Other News

- **Off The Shelves:** We'd like to start a new "column" highlighting some of our electronic collections that you might not know about. Since social security reform will be a big topic in Congress this year (see next story), you might want to track current social security news by using CCH Human Resources Internet Research Network (the link is on our web page at <http://www.asl.edu/library/databases.php>). This massive database covers hundreds of sources, from employment safety decisions to food and drug reports, essentially everything dealing with employment and pension law. You can search for current news or past decisions and regulations. There is even a payroll calculation hidden inside for figuring out additional tax deductions. We will be putting together a "quick start guide" and a "Get REAL!" [Research and Electronic-Assisted Learning] class on this and other databases this semester. But if you want a head start, ask for help at the Reference Desk.
- The 109th Congress has just begun work in Washington DC, and the new Representatives and Senators plan on tackling a number of issues, including reforming social security, possibly venturing into tort reform, and there may even be a Supreme Court vacancy to fill. If you would like to stay up-to-date with all the latest happenings inside the Capitol, be sure to look at such resources as *Congressional Index* (a listing of committees and bill status, among other things) and *CQ Weekly* (a magazine that discusses people and legislative topics), both in Reference.
- You might have missed this early-January story: US Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer appeared in a Massachusetts court recently, responding to a jury duty summons. There were two possible cases, but one defense attorney eventually asked that Breyer not be put on the jury, allegedly saying, "The last thing I need is two judges on the case." The district court judge was impressed with Breyer: "He really wanted to sit on the case. That might put some other people to shame who were planning to try to get out of jury duty." (quotations from the AP news wire).

Had Breyer been from Virginia, he would automatically have been exempted from jury duty. Virginia law allows "judge[s] of any court" and "licensed practicing attorneys" to be excused from serving on juries (see VA Code §8.01-341). But this is not the law in every state; some states do not automatically excuse practicing attorneys from jury service. If you need help finding the law in the state in which you intend to practice, ask at the Reference Desk.

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