

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- The Library will have limited access on Monday, January 18 (Martin Luther King, Jr., Day). Card access will begin at 2 pm and continue through midnight. The Circulation Desk will only be available from 2 pm to 6 pm. We will have our ordinary operating hours on the preceding weekend (Saturday access, 9 am to midnight; Sunday access, 11 am to midnight).
- We also want to remind our frequent users that winter weather will soon be here, which brings the possibility of unanticipated changes in our schedule. We'll try to post information as soon as we can, of course. But we encourage you not to wait until the last minute to photocopy any materials on Reserve, just in case!
- Watch for signs that give the "office hours" for the Lexis and Westlaw student representatives soon. We didn't have that information at press time.
- As you may have noticed, the law school updated its web site during Winter Break. We've tried to keep the Library's pages all in the same place, but the file extension has changed (from **.php** to **.aspx**). So, for example, our legal research guides and copies of the *ASL Library News* can now be found at **<http://www.asl.edu/library/publications.aspx>** and the links to our electronic databases are at **<http://www.asl.edu/library/databases.aspx>** If you can't find a page from the old web site, let Chris know.

Reference Notes

by Ethan Atwood, Reference Librarian

If you're a little hazy on your legal research skills following the break, you might want to check out our "Get REAL!" (Research and Electronic-Assisted Learning) research tutorials over in the Library. This month we'll be demonstrating the different types of secondary sources available. On January 12 we'll begin with treatises and encyclopedias, then on January 19 we'll demonstrate ALRs, and on January 26 we'll demonstrate law reviews. Each "Get REAL!" refresher session lasts about 15 minutes so it won't take up too much of your time. If you're interested, just stop by the Library's Reference Desk on Tuesdays at noon!

Other News

- In early February, we'll be distributing our biennial survey, asking you what you like and don't like about the Library. The anonymous survey will be placed in student mailboxes, and can be returned to the Circulation Desk. We'll report the results in our April/May newsletter.
- If you're a fan of CALI (Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction) lessons, there's good news for those who are thinking about bar preparation. CALI will now extend your access for at least six months after graduation. You'll use the same CALI username and password you used during law school. If you haven't created an account – what are you waiting for? Go to <http://www.cali.org/> and sign up with the authorization code **[not in online version]** (which is case-sensitive). Or, if your Internet access is poor, stop by the Reference Desk and ask for the CALI lessons on DVD.
- Google Scholar has now jumped into the legal database field, as it now provides thousands of federal and state judicial opinions. Go to <http://scholar.google.com/> and click on the button that says "Legal opinions and journals." Then type in the name of a case or some words you want to search for. Google will then provide the case, if available, plus links to a number of documents – sometimes other cases, sometimes law review articles or treatises that cite that case. While we were impressed that it had some odd random cases we threw at it, it doesn't contain opinions from the *Federal Rules Decisions*, so we couldn't get the text of one of our favorite cases, *United States ex rel. Mayo v. Satan and His Staff*, 54 F.R.D. 282 (W.D.Pa.1971). Even so, this is a nice resource for finding basic legal information, mirroring what's available through Findlaw and LexisONE. We'd still recommend starting with the books, Lexis, Westlaw, or HeinOnline, for most in-depth research assignments. (For Hein's take on Google Scholar, see their post at <http://heinonline.blogspot.com/2009/11/heinonline-or-google-scholar-why-you.html>)
- In a little-noticed event last year, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) began enforcing the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act. While the law was actually signed in May 2008, the agency had to promulgate regulations before the employment section's November 2009 effective date. In general, this law prohibits the use of genetic information during employment decisions (like hiring, firing, or promotion), and restricts the collection of genetic information by employers. While those regulations haven't been finalized yet, you can find out more about this law (and the final rules, when they're approved) at the EEOC's web site at <http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/genetic.cfm>