

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- Thanks for your responses to our Library survey! We received some helpful comments during the process. We've put a summary of some of the findings on the back page; full results will appear on our web site in mid-March. If you missed your chance to be heard, you can either speak to a librarian, or leave an anonymous comment in our comment box upstairs in the copy area.
- As classes start to wind down, be sure to check the Library's collection of study guides. We've added several new books in the Friedman's Practice Series (we wrote about the first few books in our December issue), plus a few updated titles in the Nutshell series and the Understanding Series. We even have a research guide available on our web site that tells you which classes we have books for (it's the "Exam Preparation Resources Starting Points" guide). Ask at the Reference Desk for other study ideas.
- If you're getting ready for the bar exam this summer – or even planning ahead for next summer – be sure to check out our updated Bar Examination Resources page which provides links to all the state rules for taking the exam. The page even links to any available questions and even some answers! We've also listed the books we have in the Library for those moments in between classes (and for those who like challenges, we have some bar exam questions on microfiche). As always, if you have questions, stop by the Reference Desk.

Reference Notes

by Ethan Atwood, Reference Librarian

If your study group is developing an outline together, you might want to consider using Google Docs instead of a traditional word processor. Google Docs has sharing features that allow multiple people to edit the same document over the Internet. To set up a shared document, select "Documents" in your ASL Google e-mail account and create a new document. Then click "Share" on the top menu and select "Invite people." Enter the email addresses for your collaborators with the option "To edit" selected. Send the invitation. Once the invitation is accepted, your group members can make changes to your outline without having to email it back and forth.

Other News

- Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 14. "Spring ahead" as you move your clocks forward an hour on Saturday night or early Sunday morning. (At least we got our full Spring Break; for the last three years, we've lost the hour sometime during that week!)
- We received eighteen responses to our Library survey. Most were generally positive. Two completely unsurprising findings: Most of you love Westlaw and Lexis. And all of the respondents were happy that we had several tape/CD study guide series.

We did get a few comments asking about having textbooks on Reserve. Unfortunately, textbooks are horribly expensive – which you already know – and they're completely useless for research, as they contain heavily-edited cases or statutes. We have, however, increased the amount of study guides available – since our last survey, we've added several books in Carolina Press' "Mastering" series, and we've written in this newsletter about the new "Friedman's Practice Series" books.

Other comments dealt with our hours. Our access hours are quite comparable to other law schools. Unfortunately, it is very difficult finding staff or students to work at certain times (case in point: Sunday mornings, or this school year, New Year's Eve). It is also very expensive to keep this building heated/cooled with the lights on for only one or two students.

And to the 3L who wrote next to the "instant message reference service" question "Y'all have this?" – yes, we do! We wrote about it last February in this newsletter. We're usually watching the account Sunday through Thursday during the school year.

- We're always on the lookout for stories that are "out there" – but this time, the "out there" became "in here" to two Virginia doctors, as a meteorite crashed through their office in January. The space rock weighed about a half a pound, but amazingly didn't hit or injure anyone as it fell to Earth (thankfully, it happened just after office hours). The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History offered the doctors \$5,000 for the in-pieces meteorite fragments, which the doctors planned to donate to the Haiti earthquake relief effort. The problem is that the doctors rent that office. So the landlords are now involved and want the space rock back. And the law may be on their side, as most U.S. jurisdictions tend to favor the landowner (see, for example, *Oregon Iron Co. v. Hughes*, 81 P. 572 (Ore. 1905)). Most news reports point out that a meteorite this size could possibly bring in over \$50,000 at an auction. See one writeup at <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/02/03/tech/main6169636.shtml>

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