

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- Thanksgiving is coming up soon, and we'll have special hours during the holiday break. On Wednesday, November 24, we'll have staff here from 9 am to noon, but we'll be closing the building at noon. We'll be completely closed on Thanksgiving itself (Thursday, November 25), and we won't have staff available until Sunday (which means the Circulation and Reserve Desk will be closed for a few days). However, we will offer card access from 10 am to 7 pm on both Friday, November 26, and Saturday, November 27.
- Once you return from Thanksgiving Break, we'll be shifting to our extended exam access hours. Beginning overnight on Sunday, November 28, we'll be allowing access to the Library until 2 am each morning, instead of the normal midnight closing. Our staffed hours remain the same. The extended access will end on Friday, December 10, at 5 pm.
- We'll be wrapping up this semester's series of "Get REAL!" (Research and Electronic-Assisted Learning) tutorials in mid-November. On November 1, learn how to find law review articles for your research. Then learn the dark art (well, maybe it's not really that bad) of updating your research using citators on November 8. These classes run about 15 minutes; meet at the Reference Desk. (And, if you missed any, we'll offer more of these classes next semester.)
- With finals coming up soon, we want to remind everyone that the Library is often used for studying, so please keep conversations not much louder than a whisper. Otherwise, we'll be forced to shush you!
- We always try to remind students about the many study aids the Library offers. For a fast review of a particular topic before exams, try one of West's Nutshells. There's more in-depth discussion of legal subjects in West's Hornbooks, Lexis' Understanding series, and Carolina Press' Mastering series. If you want to test yourself, the Examples & Explanations series is quite good, but we also have some titles in West's Q&A series. All of the newest books in these series are on Reserve (which means a two-hour checkout), but we may have older editions in our main collection, which would check out for two weeks. And who could forget the CALI lessons, available online with the authorization code **[not in online version!]**, or on a DVD you can check out from the Library for three days.

Other News

- Don't forget to change your clocks on the first Sunday in November (November 7 this year). Daylight Savings Time comes to an end, so remember to "fall back" one hour. (Of course, this means you get one extra hour of sleep on Sunday!)
- Don't forget to vote on November 2. If you're a Virginia resident, there will be three constitutional amendments on the ballot (look for the link "List of Proposed constitutional amendments" on the State Board of Elections web site at <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/>). If you've gotten an absentee ballot from another state, be sure to return it before the deadline! (If you want to see what will be on another state's ballot, check out Ballotpedia at <http://ballotpedia.org>)
- Could "bureaucratese" soon become an extinct language? Congress recently passed legislation demanding that agencies write in plain English. Public Law 111-274 ("The Plain Writing Act of 2010") requires each agency to "use plain writing in every covered document of the agency that the agency issues or substantially revises." Plain writing is defined as "writing that is clear, concise, well-organized, and follows other best practices appropriate to the subject or field and intended audience." Perhaps most interesting is that the government has tried this before. President Carter, upon issuing Executive Order 12044 (March 23, 1978), asked for regulations to be "as simple and clear as possible." President Clinton issued a memo for all agency heads demanding that the "Federal Government's writing must be in plain language" ("Plain Language in Government Writing," 63 Fed. Reg. 31885, June 1, 1998).

If you're interested in learning more about the plain language movement, visit <http://www.plainlanguage.gov/> or check out one of our many books on the topic, like Kimble's *Lifting the Fog of Legalese* (KF250 .K56), Wydick's *Plain English for Lawyers* (Reserve KF250 .W95; earlier books are in the collection at KF250 .W94), and Asprey's new *Plain Language for Lawyers* (K94 .A874). Ask at the Reference Desk for other options.

- One topic making its way through many courts recently is the "punishment" known as Nutraloaf (or Nutriload – and perhaps a few other things we can't print). Some prisons use this special diet for "behavior modification." And most courts have accepted using the meal as a disciplinary tool. One court was helpful enough to publish a recipe for the nutritionally-acceptable but miserable-looking meal in both a meat-flavored and vegan version; see *Arnett v. Snyder*, 769 N.E.2d 943, 951-952 (Ill. App. 4th Dist. 2001). An online writer forced his (former?) friends to a taste-test party and almost all agreed it was pretty nasty (see "Taste-Testing Nutraloaf" at <http://www.slate.com/id/2193538/>). So if your Thanksgiving turkey doesn't come out quite as moist as you like, you might still want to be thankful!

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