

# ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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## What's New in the Library?

- The Library will have limited access on Monday, January 17 (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, 1 pm to midnight).
- Our group study room checkout time has been changed: groups will now have rooms for two hours with one renewal allowed. We hope this will allow more students to use the rooms, as they were extremely popular during exams last semester. Individual students may use the rooms if they are available, but those individual students may be "bumped" out of the rooms by a group.

We also want to remind students that we have two "priority" rooms for audiovisual requests (Rooms 202 and 210). Students using those rooms may be "bumped" out by other students who need to watch or listen to materials from Reserve. As always, we are trying to make the rules as fair as we can for everyone.

- We generally remind our frequent users that winter weather will soon be here. Our staffed schedule may change unexpectedly due to poor weather conditions. We'll try to post information as soon as we can, of course. Please don't wait until the last minute for finally reading the materials your professor has on Reserve!
- Our "Get REAL!" (Research and Electronic-Assisted Learning) classes will begin again in late January (our first class will be on finding treatises). We'll post our entire schedule on our web site, as well as on signs throughout the Library.
- Watch for signs that give the "office hours" for the Lexis and Westlaw student representatives soon. Due to the earliest start-of-semester ever, we didn't have that information at press time.
- We've updated our "Electronic Databases" page to reflect the change of name of the venerable "GPO Access." The Government Printing Office – the birthplace of so many legal documents – is now calling their web site "FDsys" (for Federal Digital system). Find a link to it and our other databases at <http://www.asl.edu/library/databases.aspx>

## Other News

- We promote CALI (Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction) lessons heavily during the beginning of the school year, but if you somehow missed the news, these tutorials may help you with your law school classes. If you haven't created an account, 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 (they check out for three days).
- After the 2010 elections, Republicans won a majority in the House of Representatives. What is on their legislative agenda? Follow all the Congressional stories by reading our copy of *CQ Weekly* (it used to stand for "Congressional Quarterly" but times have changed) and then get information about legislation via the *Congressional Index* (in our Reference collection) or just searching online at <http://thomas.loc.gov/> If you're truly fanatical, try "stalking" your Congressperson or Senator by using the slightly-frightening service at <http://legistalker.org/> which watches Twitter posts and newspaper articles about legislators. Of course, if you're looking for older Congressional materials, your best bet is HeinOnline while on the Internet, and our CIS Congressional collection in microfiche while on campus. If you need help with legislative research, stop by the Reference Desk.
- For those of you interested in electronic documents, the federal court system is making a subtle change that could impact thousands of law firms. An attorney will have to submit to PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records) specially-formatted PDF documents (PDF/A). The "/A" means that the document is "archival-ready" – all fonts must be embedded within the document, while audio and video content and any scripting is prohibited. One drawback of the PDF/A format is that encryption is not allowed. That means law firms may have to keep two different formats of certain PDF documents: one for filing with the federal courts, and one that can be password-protected. It should be noted that PDF/A has been accepted by PACER for several years, but in the future it will be the sole format. Watch for more information directly at <http://www.pacer.gov/announcements/general/pdfa.html>  
The folks at Adobe have already written instructions on ensuring compliance with the not-yet-formalized rule.  
<http://blogs.adobe.com/acrolaw/2010/11/ready-for-cmecf-changes-conforming-existing-pdf-files-to-pdf/>

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