

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is almost here. We will have more limited hours during that holiday break. On Wednesday, November 23, the Library will only be open from 9 am to noon. We'll be completely closed – no card access – on Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 24). We will offer card-access entry only (no staff at the Circulation/Reserve Desk) on Friday, November 25, and Saturday, November 26, from 10 am to 7 pm both days. We will return to our usual schedule on Sunday, November 27.
- This semester's "Get REAL!" (Research and Electronic-Assisted Learning) tutorials may be just what you need before gobbling up that turkey (or a vegetarian substitute). On November 2, learn how to find statutory provisions via several different sources. Then on November 9, we'll cover how to find those helpful law review articles. Finally, on November 16, learn the dark art of using citators to find updates to your research. Each of these classes runs only about 15 minutes, so they're quick and relatively painless. Join us at the Reference Desk at 1:30 pm on each of these dates. If you aren't able to attend, we'll be offering other classes next semester.
- Every year, exam time brings a whole lot of stress on campus. Please be courteous to your fellow students – and Library users – by remembering to keep your voices low throughout the building. Even in the group study rooms, conversations tend to get loud and can be heard quite a distance away. Please also consider stepping outside when your cell phone rings to take the call.

Reference Notes

by Nick Stump, Reference Librarian

Many 1Ls ask about natural language vs. terms & connectors searches on Westlaw/LexisNexis; specifically, they'd like to know when it's best to use each method. I find that natural language searches are better when you are starting with a "broad search" (i.e., you do not yet have any key terms for your research query). Also, natural language searches are helpful when researching conceptual topics generally, and for double-checking to ensure that your terms & connectors search was comprehensive. On the other hand, terms & connectors searches are better when you are starting with a "narrow search" in which you *do have key terms* for your research query (e.g., "malpractice" w/p "res ipsa loquitur"). Note that terms & connectors searches give the researcher more control over the results yielded than natural language; for this reason, I use terms & connectors searches whenever possible.

Other News

- Daylight Savings Time ends on November 6, the first Sunday in November. Change your clock to "fall back" one hour the night before for one more hour of sleep!
- If you're still current with voter registration, don't forget to vote on November 8. Here in Virginia, most of our constitutional officers will be up for election (the Commonwealth Attorney, Commissioner of Revenue, and Sheriff) and all the state senators and representatives. Virginia voters can check out the State Board of Elections' web site at <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/> while others going to the voting booth can see what's going on in their state at <http://ballotpedia.org/>
- While we can't guarantee you can bring your iPad or Kindle or Nook in to any exam, you might still be interested in the "Federal Rules Ebooks" that the Legal Information Institute has just published. If you're in a "federal rules" class – Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, or Evidence – download the .epub or .mobi formatted books at <http://elanguard.cali.org/content/federal-rules-ebooks-legal-information-institute> which contain not only the text of the rules (you know, the important part) but also the notes of the advisory committee, which sometimes can help with interpreting the reason for the rule. Next month, we'll highlight a few new rule changes that will be taking effect in December.
- We sometimes hear grumblings about ASL's attendance policy, but a recent big case suggests we're just training you properly. In the trial of Michael Jackson's doctor Conrad Murray, prosecutors arrived to work one morning a few minutes late. The judge asked for an explanation, but the answer was "[w]e were just running late, your honor." Since this was apparently their second offense – they may have been caught in a slow elevator the time before – the judge fined each of them \$60, \$10 for each minute they were late. (The original CNN story on October 14 neglected to mention that the judge agreed to defer and reconsider the fine at a later date.)
- If you pass a police speed trap, what's the first thing you think of doing? If you thought about flashing your headlights to warn other drivers, you'd better hope you're not driving through Florida. Over the last few years, a number of drivers have been stopped by the Florida Highway Patrol, who are using Florida Statute 316.2397(7) ("Flashing lights are prohibited on vehicles" except for very limited purposes) to write the \$100 tickets. In an interesting argument, one frustrated driver suggested this was a free speech issue. There's a class action lawsuit pending in Leon County (37 2011 CA 002327); the proceedings just started within the last few months. The Highway Patrol has agreed to stop enforcement while the suit is pending.

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