

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- We'll be concluding our "Get REAL!" (Research and Electronic-Assisted Learning) tutorial series in March. Right after Spring Break, we'll cover "Finding Administrative Law" – an important subject, especially for those planning agency externships this summer. Meet at the Reference Desk at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, March 14, for a short summary of a vital research skill.
- As a reminder, we will have limited hours during Spring Break. We will be closed on Sunday, March 4, and Saturday, March 10, with no access. The Circulation/Reserve Desk will be open from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday, but students will have building access from 8 am to 9 pm. Our regular hours resume on Sunday, March 11.
- It's not too late to sign up for a consultation with a librarian! We've set up certain "office hours" where we can work with you to discuss a research project or even to review the skills you might need for your summer job. You'll need to sign up for the TWEN course – "Research Tutorials by TWEN Appointment (ASL Library Reference Office)" – and then find the open time that best fits your schedule.

Reference Notes

by Nick Stump, Reference Librarian

Say you are teaching a youngster how to drive. You show her the gearshift, the pedals, etc., and she becomes a proficient operator. Do you then just turn her loose on the streets? No. More than being an operator, she must deeply understand the traffic system in which she will be driving. This is also true with legal research. You must develop basic legal research skills – *i.e.*, become a smooth operator – but, more than that, you must deeply understand the system in which you will be operating. In other words, a researcher needs to understand the intricacies of U.S. government: the functioning of the three branches and the key role of our Constitution, for starters. However, the researcher must also know the interplay between our federal and state governments (*i.e.*, U.S. federalism), the differing hierarchies of our court systems, the rapid expansion of our administrative state – the list goes on. To that end, explore the ASL Catalog to brush up on these topics. Examples include the film series *U.S. Government: How it Works* in Reserve (ask for it at the Circulation Desk) and *Just Research* (Chapter 2: "The United States Legal System") located on the first floor at KF240 .O28 2005.

Other News

- It's time to change the clocks again! Remember to "Spring Forward" and move your clocks one hour ahead early on Sunday, March 11 (or the night before).
- Thanks to all who participated in our biennial survey. We're crunching the numbers now and will have results in our next edition.

We did receive two additional suggestions in our upstairs suggestion box. One student requested that we "stop the new policy on the study rooms. It is too hard to get a study room now and it seems that one main purpose of a library is to be able to come there and study." We've heard verbal comments from a number of students, and it seems fair to say that the heaviest users of the study rooms are slightly inconvenienced by our shorter study room hours, but occasional users are happier because there's more of a chance to check out a room. We're still trying to find a balance, so please feel free to offer suggestions.

Our second suggestion was to "set printers to double-sided print." That's a great idea, and we're working with Information Services to determine the feasibility of switching over the printers during the summer.

- The Utah State Bar recently released an important ethics opinion on the use of Westlaw and Lexis. The question presented was whether it was ethical for an attorney to ask a law student to use his/her free access to Lexis or Westlaw. Under most circumstances, students cannot use their accounts during a paid summer job. But students can use their accounts during unpaid internships/externships, like the ones our 1Ls complete after their first year. (We always post instructions on how to extend Lexis and Westlaw access on our web page. If you miss the renewal process, you're stuck in "reduced mode" which limits the time you have allotted.) While the ethics opinion officially applies to Utah attorneys only, we're pretty sure other states would rule the same way. If you have questions about summer access, ask for guidance at the Reference Desk. (The opinion can be found at http://webster.utahbar.org/committees/eaoc/2011/12/opinion_no_1103.html)
- It's never easy to make jokes about politics, as it's likely you'll offend somebody somehow. But we couldn't resist noting California Governor Jerry Brown's signing statement for a recent bill. He noted, "I am signing SB 769 which allows for a dead mountain lion to be stuffed and displayed. This presumably important bill earned overwhelming support by both Republicans and Democrats. If only that same energetic bipartisan spirit could be applied to creating clean energy jobs and ending tax laws that send jobs out of state." A link to his official statement (PDF) is at <http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=17249> ; the signing statement can be found in the annotations on Westlaw at **CA FISH & G 4800** (it does not appear in Lexis).

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