

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- Due to the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday, we will have more limited hours on Monday, January 20. ID card access will be available from noon to midnight, but the Circulation/Reserve Desk will be closed all day. The prior weekend hours remain the same (Saturday, January 18: card access 9 am to midnight with Circulation/Reserve Desk open from 9 am to 5 pm; Sunday, January 19: card access noon to midnight with desk hours from noon to 8 pm).
- We want to remind everyone that winter weather might change our January and February schedule, either by opening later or closing earlier when bad weather hits Buchanan County. While we try to keep to our school year schedule (which, incidentally, is posted at <http://www.asl.edu/Library/Library-Hours.html>), please don't wait to use (or return) Library materials until the last minute if snow or ice is in the forecast!
- Every two years, we ask students for input about the Library – the condition of our facility and the quality of the services we provide. We'll be stuffing mailboxes with the paper-based survey in early February. Please give us your ideas for improvement!
- We'll be posting the "office hours" for our Lexis and Westlaw student representatives at the end of January when their schedules have settled. If you have problems with either service before then, you can e-mail the student reps or check with Chris.
- Our "lost and found" collection from last semester wasn't as full as it usually gets, but we've picked up some random notebooks and assorted pieces of clothing. If you're missing something, check with us at the Circulation/Reserve Desk. Anything not claimed before January 17 will be thrown out or donated.
- With cold winter weather upon us, you may not want to leave the house or apartment on the weekend. Consider borrowing one of our "popular movies," many of which are legally-themed so you don't have to feel guilty about not studying. For example, what better way to remember how important jury selection is than by watching *12 Angry Men*? Spot the family law issues in *Kramer vs Kramer*. Learn about criminal procedure and trial practice – and a Positraction rear differential – with *My Cousin Vinny*. To see what movies we have, go to our online catalog at <http://catalog.asl.edu/> and click on "Library Featured Collections" on the right-hand side, then "Popular Movies." Ask for them at the Circulation/Reserve Desk for a three-day checkout. You'll have to get your own popcorn, though.

Other News

- If you received small but important items over the holidays, like USB thumb drives or even media players like iPods, please put your name or some identifying mark on those devices so they can be returned to you if they wander off.
- English law courts used to be held at different times of the year; these sessions were known as "terms." If you're doing some historical case law research, you might see notations to a court sitting during "Trinity term" or "Michaelmas term." The Hilary term – named after the (male) Hilary of Poitiers, a bishop in the third century – usually begins on January 11, even though Hilary's feast day is January 13, our first day of classes this semester. (Hilary is considered one of the many patron saints of lawyers.) Although the original Hilary term only lasted until January 31, it later covered any court proceedings that occurred through mid-April. Other terms of court included Easter term (mid-April to May), Trinity Term (June and July), and after a summer vacation, Michaelmas term (October to December). Even today, the new UK Supreme Court follows this basic term structure (see their schedule at <http://www.supremecourt.gov.uk/visiting/term-dates.html>). The United States Supreme Court generally only has one term ("October Term") each "year" which begins in October and runs to the end of June of the following year. Most state and federal courts have done away with the term system. For more on the legal year, Wikipedia has a fair write-up at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legal_year
- Have you ever thought about putting US Supreme Court opinions to music? Well, we haven't either, but one recent Maryland law school graduate heard soaring arias when reading the opinions of Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Antonin Scalia. In fact, he decided to write an opera, called (fittingly) *Scalia/Ginsburg*, which has some quotations from cases those two jurists have written, but also considers their legal philosophies. Here's just a small portion:

Scalia: *The justices are blind – how can they possibly spout this?
The Constitution says absolutely nothing about this!
This right that they've enshrined – when did the document sprout this?
The Framers wrote and signed words that endured without this;
The Constitution says absolutely nothing about this!*

Ginsburg: *How many times must I tell you, dear Mister Justice Scalia,
You'd spare us such pain if you'd just entertain this idea.
You are searching in vain for a bright-line solution,
To a problem that isn't easy to solve.
But the beautiful thing about our Constitution is that
Like our society, it can evolve.*

The opera is expected to be finished sometime in the spring, although a preview was already held for the justices (who seemed to love it). There's an NPR segment which contains some audio snippets at <http://www.npr.org/2013/07/10/200137481/scalia-v-ginsburg-supreme-court-sparring-put-to-music>

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