

ASL LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

August 15, 1997

Yes, Virginia, there is a Library

This week you might have asked where is the library. On Monday, instead of the shelf after shelf of books you are accustomed to seeing in a library, you saw empty shelves. However, do not be misled. We do indeed have a library. It is just that it is now in the process of being created and we had to start at the beginning. The beginning is shelving. We would have been further along, but the first shelving we received just wouldn't do. We had to wait for new shelving to be delivered. Great news, it came last week. It was installed over the weekend. You know what this means. Now we can have books.

Books, Books, and More Books

Check it out. The books are coming! As you may have already noticed, starting Tuesday, we began to put books on the shelves. The Library is starting with a core collection of around 60,000 volumes. Some of these have been purchased from National Law Resources. Others are donations from several different donors, including IBM and the University of Virginia. Most of these volumes are being delivered over the next three to four weeks. As soon as they are delivered we will place them on the shelves. You may have seen all the activity going on earlier this week as we worked with the first sets to be delivered. The first items to be delivered included the Federal Supplement, the regional reporters and digests and California and New York reporters and digests. These titles may not mean anything to you now. But rest assured, by next May you will be well acquainted with all of them.

Obviously, we don't have everything on the shelves yet, but we soon will.* By the time we are done, we will have those primary materials you will need to do legal research. We will also have WESTLAW available for your use. In addition, we have joined CALI, the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction, which provides us with computer-based legal learning materials.

Stay tuned for more. We will keep you posted about new developments. Over the next few weeks, as new materials come in, we will post a list of the new titles by the desk in the circulation area.

Places and Spaces

Now that you know what we have, you need to know where to find it. Most of the books, including the National Reporter System, are in the "Stacks", the area located directly below the Appellate Court Room. Besides shelves of books, this area will soon contain four tables and 16 chairs. On the Main Floor, off of the hall adjacent to the "Circulation Hall", are two additional rooms, the "East Reading Room" and the "West Reading Room". Both of these rooms will eventually contain books and study tables. The East Room currently has tables and chairs. The West Room has some books but no tables. We will have tables in this room once we can reclaim them from the Trial Court Room after orientation is completed.

* Really, we will never have everything on the shelves. We will always be adding new materials. What we want to accomplish this year is to have enough material in the Library to support your educational needs and the research needs of our faculty and the local bar.

The “Circulation Hall”, the area where the cookies are now located will have all of the really important items, including Virginia state legal materials, a copy machine, a printer, and several computers. Also the “Faculty Reserve” will be housed behind the Circulation Desk. In addition, this is where a real person will sit. If you have problems using the Library, during posted Library Hours, you can go to this area and get personal help.

Please know that even if all these items are not currently set up, they soon will be. In the meantime, we invite and encourage you to use this space, for research, for studying, and as a place to meet your friends. Remember Bill Clinton met Hilary in the Law Library. Look what that led to.

When and How

Now that I have told you about all the good things, I am sure you are asking, “How can I take advantage of this great service?” Well it is easy. Once, school starts, you will have access to the Law School building 24 hours a day. Each of you will be given your own personal key to the building. All the hours you have access to the Law School building you will have access to the Library. However, as you can imagine, the Library will not be staffed all of those hours. If you need someone to help you, you will need to come to the Library during those times staff is available. So you will know when someone is available, we have attached a handout, suitable for framing, listing Library Staff hours.

Responsibility

Whenever we talk about privileges, the next topic is always responsibility. There can not be privilege without responsibility. Because we are allowing 24 hours access to the Library, we are betting that you can and will accept the responsibility that goes with this privilege. Obviously, library resources are available for everyone to use. For this plan to work everyone has to cooperate in guaranteeing the availability of these resources to all users. Therefore, we ask that all library materials be used in the Library at all times, including those times when no Library Staff is on duty.

Student Library Jobs

The bottom-line for us, there is a lot of work to do. Thankfully, we don’t have to do it all; we can have help. That’s where some of you come in. We have 6 jobs available in the Library for law students. These jobs range from providing research support for the faculty to covering the Circulation Desk, to doing loose-leaf filing and other library related tasks. A handout with the job descriptions is available on the Circulation Desk. If you are interested in any of the jobs, leave a resume with Lisa Peters, the Public Services Librarian or Glenna Owens, the Technical Services Librarian. Don’t worry, the resume doesn’t have to be fancy. We just need a little information about who you are and any work experience you have had. We are particularly interested in whether you have had library experience or research experience. Either type of experience will be helpful in these jobs. We will be hiring people to fill these jobs next week, so drop off your resume by next Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. in order to be considered for a job.