

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- Fines. There has been some confusion over the Library's policy of collecting fines that started at the beginning of this semester. If you return – or renew – materials late, then you will be assessed a fine. The fine depends on the material that you have checked out. Reserve materials – that includes faculty reserve, hornbooks, nutshells, and the ever-popular Gilberts cassette tapes – are charged fifty cents for every hour they are overdue. Interlibrary Loan (ILL) materials have a fine of one dollar per day. We charge one dollar per day for overdue treatises and other “regular” books.

The Library's policy states that students who have unpaid fines at the end of a semester will not be able to receive grades or register for classes until the Library has been paid. Also, our computerized catalog (SIRSI) will block you from checking out materials if you have overdue fines.

All fines that are collected will be used to offset any damaged items or to pay for items that need to be replaced. Any extra money will be used to purchase more materials for the Library. If you have questions about the Library's policy, please speak to June Stewart, Director of the Law Library.

- This news story is dedicated to all 2Ls, who have valiantly struggled with Microsoft Word and getting 27 lines on a page. The Seventh Circuit (Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin) has held that Microsoft Word 97 has a problem with legal briefs: it ignores footnotes when doing a word count. The attorneys claimed that their 13,824 words in their brief were just under the court's 14,000 word limit. When the footnotes were included, the brief was over 15,000 words long. Although sanctions were not imposed, the court warned law firms not to try anything sneaky: “Counsel who use Word are not entitled to a litigating advantage over those who use WordPerfect.”

To read DeSilva v. DeLeonardi, 99-1754A (CA7), find it on FindLaw.com at <http://caselaw.findlaw.com/cgi-bin/getcase.pl?court=7th&navby=case&no=991754A&exact=1>

Microsoft has provided a fix for the footnote counting problem. Download the program at:
<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/2000/downloadDetails/swcmacro.htm?s=/downloadCatalog/dldWord.htm>

Other Library News

- We couldn't resist a Y2K news article. Students and faculty members who have Westlaw or LEXIS software need to check to ensure that those proprietary programs will run in the new year. Here is a list of Y2K compliant software:

Westlaw		LEXIS
WestMate 7.1 and above	Win 95	Research Software 7.1 and above
WestMate 6.31 and above, or WestMate 5.29	Win 3.1	Research Software 7.1 and above, or Research Software 6.2.1 or Research Software 4.2.1
WestMate 6.2 or above	Mac	Research Software 2.9.2
no Y2K compliant version	DOS	Research Software 4.1.1
http://lawschool.westlaw.com	online	http://lawschool.lexis.com

Both services are strongly suggesting that instead of keeping up with incremental changes in the software programs, you can use the online services, which are Y2K compliant and automatically provide upgrades whenever they are issued.

If you have questions, see the competitors' web sites:

<http://www.lexis-nexis.com/y2k/Choices/Retired.asp>
<http://www.westgroup.com/newsinfo/year2000/complcht.htm>

- The big date rollover won't be the only thing changing on January 1, 2000. Virginia is switching from the older Code of Professional Responsibility to the new Rules of Professional Conduct. We have a copy of the old, the new, and a chart of the changes on Reserve in the Library. You can also find this information on the Virginia State Bar's web page in the following locations:

old Code: <http://www.vsb.org/profguides/codeprof.html>
 new Rules: <http://www.vsb.org/profguides/modrules.html>
 comparison chart: <http://www.vsb.org/profguides/chart.html>

- The Library has begun two more online subscriptions beginning November 1. They are "Statistical Universe" and "State Capital Universe," both from Congressional Information Service (CIS). Statistical Universe collects and tabulates numbers from just about anything that can be quantified. State Capital Universe gathers information about laws and pending legislation from all 50 states. These two services can be accessed via the Library's "Electronic Databases" page, at <http://www.asl.edu/library/network.htm>. You must be using an ASL computer or be connected to the ASL network to gain access to either service.