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Museletter: May 1986

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MUSELETTER

William Taylor Muse Law Library

T.C. Williams School of Law

Vol. 3, No.2

May, 1986

From all indications, the first issue of the new "Museletter" was widely read and well received. A number of readers passed along very favorable comments and we thank them for their support. We hope that those of you reading and (hopefully!) enjoying the "Museletter" will spread the word to fellow Library users.

As was the case in our inaugural issue, we believe that this month's "Museletter" contains something of interest to everyone. In our "Questions & Suggestions" column, we answer the oft repeated query: "How do I locate a citation for an opinion when all I know are the parties' names?" (Those who hesitate to ask because they know they were supposed to have learned this in first-year Legal Writing, take heart!) Highlighting the "Muse News" column is the announcement that WESTLAW IS HERE (more or less)!!! Those students and faculty members interested in WESTLAW training will want to read this column for details. Catalog Librarian Sally Hill Wambold presents a brief, yet informative, description of the Library of Congress call numbering scheme in her article "LC Classification in a Nutshell, or, What Joker Classed the Bible as 'BS 185'?" Since the UR Law Library follows the LC system of classification, anyone who cares to use our collection effectively should know at least this much about the call numbers you see on our books. DEC microcomputer users who have wished that the print quality of the Library's LA-50 dot-matrix printers could be improved will be interested in the description of the "enhanced printing macro" in this month's "Microcomputer Notes." We believe that those users trying this technique will be impressed by the results! Finally, Joyce Manna Janto again reviews a number of the latest recreational reading titles received by the Library. (Who couldn't use a little recreation at this time of the year?)

QUESTIONS & SUGGESTIONS

Our first "Questions & Answers" column was particularly well received. However, as stated in that issue, we want to do more than answer legal research questions in the "Museletter;" we hope to address user comments, suggestions, and complaints concerning the Library in this column as well. With that in mind,

we are permanently changing the name of this column to "Questions & Suggestions" (it took us a long time to think of that one!). A "Museletter Box" has been placed at the Circulation Desk (on your right as you exit the Library), in which you may deposit your legal research questions and comments, suggestions, complaints, etc. This is your forum with the Library so please take advantage of it. We look forward to hearing from you!

QUESTION

Is there any way to find a case citation when you know only the names of the parties and the jurisdiction in which the case was decided?

There are two very easy methods available to researchers attempting to find case citations when only the parties' names (or just one party's name) are known. The time-honored, conventional method involves the use of the "Tables of Cases" volumes accompanying the West Digests; the new "high-tech" method involves "segment searching" on LEXIS.

(continued on page 6)

MUSE NEWS

WESTLAW, West Publishing Company's computerized legal research system and chief competitor of LEXIS, is here! The Law Library was given approval to subscribe to WESTLAW earlier this academic year and we are now in receipt of the hardware and software needed to communicate with the system. Unlike LEXIS, which we access using "dedicated" terminals (terminals capable only of communicating with LEXIS, for those of you not up on "computerese"), the Library will access WESTLAW using a standard IBM-PC, modem, and specially-prepared communications software. Eventually, this terminal may be used to access other on-line services, such as DIALOG, when WESTLAW is not in use.

Plans are underway to make WESTLAW training a regular part of the first-year Legal Writing program beginning in the 1986-87 academic year, so that future students will be familiar with both LEXIS and WESTLAW. We also anticipate training advanced students on a demand basis starting this Fall in an effort to make WESTLAW available to all interested students.

Microcomputer Notes

When computer users think of dot-matrix printers and the quality of the printouts that they produce, they normally envision unattractive, poorly formed characters of sufficient quality to use for rough drafts only. While it is true that dot-matrix printers are designed more for speed than print quality,

few people know that most dot-matrix printers can be "programmed" to produce much higher-quality results. In fact, some dot-matrix printers can produce characters that are near enough to "letter-quality" to produce final drafts.

Such is the case with the LA-50 dot-matrix printers connected to each of the Law Library's DEC Rainbow microcomputers. Academic Computing has installed a seldom-used "macro" (a series of functions or keystrokes that can be stored on the WordPerfect disk under one name and "played back" exactly as they were recorded) on our WordPerfect software. This macro can be used to "program" the dot-matrix printers to produce printouts enhanced well beyond the quality of normal dot-matrix printing. This macro, which resides on each WordPerfect disk, is named simply "enhance," and it is very easy to use.

To program the LA-50 dot-matrix printers to perform an "enhanced" printout:

- (1) Place the cursor at the beginning of the document (or section of the document) that you want to print;
- (2) Press the macro key (the fifth key from the right in the keyboard's top row -- the key is marked "Do");
- (3) The words "name of macro" will appear at the bottom of the screen. Type the word "enhance" (without quotation marks used above);
- (4) Press the enter key;
- (5) Proceed with normal printing commands.

These simple steps will produce "enhanced printing." Characters produced will not only appear bolder, they will literally be more like letter-quality in their detail and style than those produced with conventional dot-matrix printing.

Caution: The printer will continue enhanced printing until it receives a command to do otherwise or is turned off. For simplicity's sake, it is easiest to clear the enhanced print command by turning the printer off and on again if you wish to continue conventional dot-matrix printing.

Try this macro and use it whenever possible - especially when the letter-quality printer is in heavy demand. You may find that the enhanced print quality is sufficiently high to use instead of the letter-quality printer for many projects. If you have any questions concerning enhanced printing, please see Steve Hinckley.

LC Classification in a Nutshell
or
What Joker Classed the Bible "BS 185?"

by Sally Hill Wambold
Catalog Librarian

Next time you see the King James Authorized Version (1611) of the Bible on the shelves of a Library using the Library of Congress (LC) classification (call numbering) system and notice the number "BS 185" on the spine, don't be offended! The number is not a commentary on the content of the book; rather, it is the legitimate LC classification number assigned to that version of the Bible. (If there was a joke involved, the joker might have been Clarence W. Perley, Chief of the LC Classification Division for years and the classifier who probably assigned the letters "BS" to the Bible. Unfortunately, Mr. Perley is no longer around to ask!)

As the above trivia indicates, call numbers originate in the classification schedules developed by LC. What many of you probably don't know is that these schedules occupy over two shelves in that little-known area of the Library called Technical Services. As if that were not bad enough, LC schedules are still under development. For example, the LAW OF THE AMERICAS (other than the U.S. and Canada) schedule was just completed in 1984. Many other law schedules have not yet been printed. The Soviet law schedule is among those presently unavailable. With these complexities in mind, you may wonder how the call numbers assigned to library books get there and what they mean.

The letters at the beginning of an LC call number indicate the general "class" and geographic coverage of the book in question. All "law" materials fall into "Class K." The letter or letters following the "K" denote a particular country or state. Perhaps a few examples will help clarify the point:

K = General Law
KD = English Law
KE = Canadian Law
KF = U.S. Law
KFV 2400-2999 = Virginia Law

The numbers immediately following these initial letters represent the subject of the book. These are either chosen from completed classification schedules or constructed using other LC tables and guidelines.

To illustrate the construction of an entire call number, let us assume that the Law Library has just received a hypothetical book on Soviet Legal History, published in 1985, by Henry Kissinger. LC has assigned the letters "KM" to indicate a book on Soviet law. Another schedule indicates that ".L27" is the "subject number" for legal history. A "book number" is then constructed using the first letter of the author's last name, or title in some cases (to complicate matters!), and a number from another LC table. Finally, the call number ends with the year of publication (in most cases). Thus the full call number for Dr. Kissinger's book would be:

KM ----- (LC Class)
.L27 ----- (subject number)
.K57 ----- (book number)
1985 ----- (year of publication)

To summarize, call numbers do not appear on the spines of books by chance; they are elements of a complex, yet highly efficient scheme of organizing library materials by class, subject, author, and publication date. While patrons need not understand all of the intricacies of call numbers, (and there are many), a basic appreciation of the classification system used in the Law Library can only improve one's ability to find relevant materials in our card catalog and on our shelves.

Recreational Reading Reviews - by Joyce Manna Janto, Acquisitions Librarian.

To Breathe Freely: Risk, Consent, and Air, edited by Mary Gibson. KF/3812/.A75/T6/1985.

A collection of essays that present a survey of the nature and magnitude of the risks associated with most commonly encountered sources of pollution. A discussion of individual consent focuses on its moral significance and its role in the creation of public policy and the law.

Crime and Madness: The Origins and Evolution of the Insanity Defense, by Thomas Maeder. KF/9242/.M28/1985.

A comprehensive study of the insanity defense and its long history; the emotional and intellectual justification for the defense; and the difficulties of its administration.

Protecting the Best Men: An Interpretive History of the Law of Libel, by Norman Rosenberg. KF/1266/.R67/1985.

Political defamation cases have always attracted considerable attention. In this book, Rosenberg presents an interpretive history of American political libel from the colonial period to the 1980's.

(Questions & Suggestions continued from p. 2):

Conventional Method:

The ubiquitous West Publishing Company publishes dozens of case digests of varying jurisdictional breadth. Individuals searching for all relevant cases from all jurisdictions can use the Decennial and General Digests; those focusing on one region, state, or court can use West's "narrower" digests such as South Eastern Digest, Virginia & West Virginia Digest, or U.S. Supreme Court Digest. Regardless of the West Digest used, all of them utilize the same format, indexing, and finding aids. Among the most important finding aids accompanying the Digests are the "Tables of Cases" volumes. These volumes alphabetically list the name of every case appearing in the digest to which the table belongs. The "Tables of Cases" volumes are alphabetized by the Plaintiff's (Appellant's) last name only, meaning that a researcher looking for the citation for Harrison v. Palmer would initially look in the Table of Cases under the first listed name (Harrison). If the case does not appear under the first party's name, the researcher should then reverse the process and look under the second listed party's name (Palmer) in case the names as cited have been "flip-flopped" (as often happens on appeal). Assuming that the name searched is correctly spelled, that the case was reported, and that the correct Digest is being searched (for example, New York Digest is not being used to find a Virginia case), the researcher should find the case name listed followed by a reporter citation. Most West Digests also include a "Defendant-Plaintiff" table in addition to the regular table of cases. These volumes alphabetize cases by the Defendant's (Respondent's) last name. All West case tables are periodically supplemented with pocket parts and/or free-standing paper supplements to include very recent cases.

LEXIS Method:

Although the conventional method is relatively fool proof, some people prefer to search for case citations using LEXIS. The method for finding case citations from party names on LEXIS is as follows:

1) Choose the most specific LEXIS Library and File Possible:

Example: If you know the case was decided in the U.S. Supreme Court, choose the GENFED Library and the U.S. file. If, on the other hand, all you know are the parties' names and that the case was decided in some federal court, choose the GENFED Library and the COURTS file (the most general selection possible in the GENFED Library);

- 2) Once in the appropriate Library and File, merely type the following (again using the Harrison v. Palmer example):

name (Harrison and Palmer)

Whenever you are searching for a case using only the parties' names you must follow the form above exactly. You must type in the word "name" followed by a parenthesis. Within the parentheses, type in the parties' names separated by a LEXIS connector (such as the "and" used above);

- 3) Remember- For lengthy party names, (Sony Corporation of America or Universal City Studios), you need only enter key words from each name to find the case:

Example: name (Sony and Universal)

QUESTION:

I am looking for the official state citation for the 1982 Alabama Supreme Court's opinion in Thrasher v. Bartlett. The case was published long ago in Southern Reporter 2d (424 So. 2d 605) but there is no parallel cite listed in Shepard's Southern Reporter Citations nor on LEXIS. Why can't I find the parallel cite?

Alabama is one of a number of states that has discontinued publication of official state reporters and adopted (expressly or implicitly) the West Regional Reporters as their "official" case reporter. As a consequence, there will be no Alabama Reports cite for Thrasher v. Bartlett since it was decided after 1976, the year in which Alabama ceased publishing a state reporter of its own.

The list of states that have discontinued the publication of their own state reporters (along with the date and volume number of the last "official" state volume published) is as follows:

Alabama (1976; v. 295)	Mississippi (1966; v. 254)
Alaska (1958; v. 17)	Missouri (1956; v. 365)
Colorado (1968; v. 200)	North Dakota (1953; v. 79)
Delaware (1966; v. 59)	Oklahoma (1953; v. 208)
Florida (1948; v. 160)	South Dakota (1976; v. 90)
Iowa (1968; v. 261)	Tennessee (1972; v. 225)
Kentucky (1951; v. 314)	Texas (1961; v. 163)
Louisiana (1972; v. 263)	Utah (1974; v. 30 2d)
Maine (1965; v. 161)	*West Virginia (1973-74; v. 157)
Minnesota (1977; v. 312)	Wyoming (1959; v. 80)

* West Virginia has not officially discontinued publication of its state reporter; however, the last West Virginia Reports was published in 1973-74.

When citing a case in any of the listed states (after the date of discontinuation), the full and proper citation is to the regional reporter alone. Using the questioner's example, the correct cite is Thrasher v. Bartlett, 424 So. 2d 605 (Ala. 1982). It would not be correct to include Ala., since this case will never appear in an official Alabama reporter.

QUESTION:

I would like some biographical information concerning Judge Harold H. Greene. I believe that he sits on the bench of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and had something to do with the AT&T divestiture.

The Law Library has several excellent sources containing biographical information on federal and, to a lesser extent, state court judges. The three best sources are the Almanac of the Federal Judiciary (Call # REF/KF/8700/.A19/A4/1984), The American Bench (Call # REF/KF/8700/.A19/A47); and Federal Judiciary Almanac (Call # REF/KF/8700/.A19/D67/1984).

Of the three listed titles, the most intriguing and informative may be the Almanac of the Federal Judiciary. Published in looseleaf form to accommodate frequent supplementation, the Almanac is comprised of two volumes; volume one provides information concerning U.S. District Court judges and volume two lists U.S. Court of Appeals judges. Tab dividers separate each volume by federal circuits. While the biographical information published is incredibly detailed, the special appeal in these volumes lies in the sections of each judge's biography entitled "Noteworthy Rulings," "Media Coverage," "Lawyer's Comments," and "Miscellany," in which, for want of a more descriptive (and less colorful) phrase, the "juicy details" about a particular judge can be found. The authors spent more than half a year contacting lawyers who practice before the listed judges and gathered some truly revealing comments concerning the judges' intelligence, fairness, and courtesy on the bench. Martindale-Hubbell it is not!!!

The best source available for biographical information concerning state court judges is The American Bench. Although the listings are not incredibly detailed, this volume does provide some insight into the personal and career histories of over 18,000 judges.

Note: These titles (and all books with call numbers designated "REF") are shelved in the REFERENCE section located on the first floor between the computer room and LEXIS room doors.

LAW LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS

May 18 through July 12:

Sunday	12 noon - 10:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday	7:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

July 13 through August 8:

Sunday	12 noon - 10:00 p.m.
Monday - Thursday	7:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Friday	7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	CLOSED

August 9 through August 24:

Monday - Friday	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday	CLOSED

Boatwright Memorial Library Summer Hours

May 12 through August 15:

Monday - Thursday	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 16	CLOSED
Sunday, Aug. 17	CLOSED

August 18 through August 22:

Monday - Friday	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 23	CLOSED
Sunday, Aug. 24	CLOSED

August 25 through August 27:

Monday - Wednesday	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
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