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Museletter: April 1988

Muse Law Library Staff

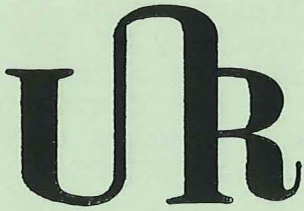
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William Taylor Muse Law Library

MUSELETTER

University of Richmond
Volume 5, No. 1

T.C. Williams School of Law
April, 1988

THE HOME STRETCH

What happened to the 1987-88 academic year? The last time that we looked, it was August, and everyone was gearing up for another session. Now the calendar says it is mid-April and final exams are here! Although this has been an exciting year in the Law Library, and in the Law School in general, things have been so hectic that we have been unable to get around to publishing a single issue of the Museletter. As a consequence, there have been a number of changes and developments around the Library this year that you, our patrons, have not understood, and there are more changes on the way in the coming year. Just what is going on around here? Inquiring minds want to know!!! So be it! With this issue of the Museletter we will attempt to catch you up on some of the things that have taken place this year, and clue you in on some others that you can expect in the near future. We think after reading this issue that you will agree that the next few years will be exciting ones for the Law Library, with many of the changes described relating to new and improved services and

collections that should benefit our users.

In addition to a look at what's new and what's just around the corner, we will present several of our regular features: our "Questions & Suggestions" column in which we tackle some of your questions and suggestions (hence, the clever name!), and Joyce Janto's "Recreational Reading" reviews (for those of you who think that there is nothing better than reading a good "law-related" book at the beach!) So, take a few seconds away from "exam hysteria" and let the Museletter fill you in about your Library.

COMPUTER ROOM IMPROVEMENTS

Arrival of More Terminals;
IBM Compatibility; Laser
Printer Set for Early May

Students returning to classes in January were shocked to see that the Library's time-honored monument to local jurisprudence, the "Virginia Alcove," had been replaced by an unidentified room that had been built on the very spot that been the home of the Virginia collection. Some poor souls, totally befuddled by

this sudden change, were observed during the first few weeks of the semester, entering the darkened room and staying there for several minutes before realizing that the Virginia materials were no longer there! Contrary to the initial rumors that the Virginia materials had been stolen or given away, most Library users have come to realize that the Northeast Basement now houses the Virginia collection. In addition, it is now obvious that the new room located across from the Circulation Desk is the Library's new and improved computer lab. The three existing DEC Rainbows and printers have been operational in the new room for several months, and although it is exciting enough that computer users no longer have to work in such a confined space as the old computer room, the most exciting news is yet to come!

Conversion to IBM-Compatibility

Immediately after the end of the Spring semester, the Law Library will be trading in its old DEC computers (many of us will be happy to see them go!) for eight, fully IBM-compatible AT&T 6300 micros. Four of these machines will be used primarily for LEXIS and WESTLAW access (the current LEXIS/WESTLAW room will be closed and the "dedicated" LEXIS terminals will be taken out of service), and the remaining four will generally be available for student computing. In addition, the computers will share a Hewlett Packard laser printer, capable of printing up to eight pages per minute at near typeset

quality. The improvement in the speed and quality of the new hardware will be immediately obvious to our regular users who have struggled along with us to use the DEC PCs!

Use As a Teaching Lab

Although LEXIS/WESTLAW searching and word processing will be the most frequent uses of the new lab, the room was specifically designed, and equipped, to make it usable as a teaching lab. All future 1st-year LEXIS and WESTLAW training will be done in this room, and it is anticipated that professors teaching classes with computer applications (such as, Legal Drafting) will reserve the room occasionally to conduct instructional sessions and writing labs. This use is likely to increase as more law-related educational software becomes available.

Following the changeover to the AT&T PCs, computer room users who have created and stored documents on the present DEC equipment will have to convert the files that they want to continue to use to the IBM format (since DEC and IBM use different and incompatible operating systems). There are several ways to do this, and they will be clearly announced after the new machines arrive. We will continue to use WordPerfect word processing software which operates basically the same way on the AT&Ts as it does on the DEC's. The Library will provide users with complete instructions and assistance to help smooth out the transition.

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS TEST
WESTLAW OFFLINE TRAINING
PROGRAM

UR Joins UVa as Southeastern
Test Sites

As librarians and law students alike will attest, there is nothing worse than having a first-year LEXIS hands-on training session disrupted by an interruption in the telecommunications link between the database and the library. At an hour and one-half per session, and a minimum of forty-five sessions per system required to assure that everyone is trained, it is critical for both the trainer and trainee that LEXIS/WESTLAW sessions stay on schedule. Unfortunately, since training sessions have always been conducted online (in actual communication with the system's mainframe computers), these interruptions have become commonplace. As a result, many sessions have been severely disrupted, and all concerned have shared a great deal of frustration. There must be a better way to train a large group of students efficiently and expediently without worrying about the possibility of phone line problems!

Enter "DISCourse"

The people at WESTLAW agree that there is a better way, and they believe that it is "DISCourse", an offline training program that accurately simulates actual communication with WESTLAW without ever going online. During the recently-completed first-year WESTLAW training sessions, the Library joined UVa's law library as Southeastern test sites for the new

program, and from all indications, students and trainers at both institutions were extremely pleased with the program's performance. Even experienced WESTLAW users could not tell that they were not in actual contact with the system. Best of all, the offline format, in which the entire training program is loaded on hard disk drives in the IBM/PS-2 computers supplied by West for the duration of the sessions, completely eliminated the communications problems that plague conventional training sessions.

The Library has sent a highly-favorable evaluation of "DISCourse" to West, and has strongly recommended that it be made available to law schools on a year-round basis so that students and faculty members could "brush up" on their WESTLAW skills at any time. We would like to thank the first-year class for participating in this test, and sharing your evaluations of the program with us.

NEW MICROFICHE/FILM READER-
PRINTERS IN SERVICE

Although many library users continue to have a deep-seated aversion to anything on microfilm or microfiche, much of that feeling can be pinned directly on one or more bad experiences with a film or fiche printer. Until recently, the state-of-the-art in film and fiche printers was not a very sophisticated product: they were noisy, smelly, and generally produced copies that were impossible to read.

As with all sorts of technology these days, however, microfilm/fiche reader printers have improved dramatically in

the last few years, and the Library now has several of these "new generation" machines. If you have not had an occasion to use either of the Minolta RP 503's (1st floor for fiche and 2nd floor for film), we urge you to give them a try. Both are equipped to accept vendacards for printing, and the copy per cost is \$.15. The machines set print exposure automatically, and for most film, this setting will provide good results. If, however, the print is underexposed or overexposed, you simply open the small door on the front, left of the machine (which covers the controls), and press the button marked "exposure" to change from "auto" to "manual." This activates the sliding "darker/lighter" exposure control which can be moved to adjust the print as you see fit.

We think you will agree that microfilm/fiche printing was never so easy! You may even start to like using the stuff (???) If you have any questions or problems with either machine, please notify Nancy Martin or Tim Edwards at the Circulation Desk.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are proud to say that one of the things that people visiting the Law School always mention is how clean and neat the Library is kept. Visit any number of other academic law libraries and you will see what a messy library can be like! Both our patrons and staff deserve a great deal of credit for making a cooperative effort to keep the Library in great shape most of the time.

Unfortunately, there are always a few people, many of

whom are not our students, who insist on being sloppy and/or violating rules designed to protect the Library and its contents, and they make things bad for everyone.

We are currently battling several "environmental" problems that simply must be controlled, and we need the help and cooperation of our regular users, particularly our law students, to find solutions to these problems. Remember: this is your Law Library, and we want you to be proud of it! Please let us know if you see any of the following activities in the Library so that we can take the necessary action:

1) Chewing Tobacco

Let's forget for a moment that many people find this to be one of the most repulsive and vile habits known to man. Let's forget that any of us have ever read that the "little pinch between your cheek and gums" may someday rot half of your face off. Let's talk instead about things that you do not do in a public facility like a library. Like this library. The Library's policy regarding the use of tobacco is clear: SMOKING is allowed only in the Southwest Basement. We have ashtrays in that area for those individuals who must smoke while working in the Library. You will notice, however, that we do not have spittoons anywhere in the Library, and never will have. That is because chewing tobacco in the Law Library is not allowed. We think that the reasons for this, aside from good taste and proper public behavior, are obvious. (Those individuals with weak stomachs may want to stop reading now).

People who chew usually spit into an open cup which they leave on their carrel or table until they are finished studying. Obviously, the whole mess has the potential to spill on books, carpets, carrels, and tables. Worse yet, when "chewers" leave the Library, they are dumping their unsavory spit cups directly into the wastebaskets inside the Library. Think about what you are doing, folks! Think about the custodians who empty wastebaskets that they assume contain paper, only to have your repulsive drool spill out on their hands. PLEASE "couth up" a bit and save your tobacco chewing for a more appropriate place than the Law Library!

2) Food and Drinks

We have said it before, and we will say it again: our policy on drinks is as liberal as you can get in a library. You can enjoy a drink while studying if you use a library-approved, spill-proof cup. If you do not know what those are by now, please stop by the Circulation Desk and we will show you. At the present time, there are no more T.C. Williams cups for sale - P.A.D. sold them last year and is out of them. The Library is planning to reorder cups soon, and they should go on sale again in July. "Big Gulp" or similar cups with plastic lids do not meet our definition of spill-proof.

As for food, we simply cannot allow patrons to eat anywhere in the Library. Insects and other pests that love to attack the paper in books are often attracted, initially, to the crumbs left by people who eat in the

Library. If you get hungry, go to the Down Under, or just leave - Don't bring food into the Library.

3) Graffiti in the Carrels

We have been pretty lucky in this regard, but it is not unheard of. Please be on the lookout for these budding "artists" and turn them in. The books and furnishings in the Library will be here for a long time, and it's tragic when someone defaces them.

LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE

As most Library users have already noticed, a lighted display case was built into the front, outside wall of the new computer lab, and for the last several weeks, we have been using it to display the T.C. Williams Law Faculty's 1987 publications. The display has been well-received, and it is anticipated that it will remain is the case for another month.

The Library plans to change displays at least every three months. Although specific topics have not been chosen for future displays, it is anticipated that they will center around themes and events of general interest to the Law School community.

QUESTIONS & SUGGESTIONS

Q: While doing LEXIS and WESTLAW research recently, I noticed several citations that I have never seen before. For example, on LEXIS, I saw the following cite: 1988 USApp LEXIS 123. On WESTLAW, the cite was 1988 WL 2130. What is the significance of these cites, and how do they work?

A: The cites that you are asking about are relatively new to both LEXIS and WESTLAW, and each represent a major advance for researchers who want to use the systems to find and cite recent slip opinions or unpublished decisions quickly and easily.

"LEXIS Cites"

"LEXIS Cites" refer to the year of decision, the jurisdiction and forum in which the case was decided, and the unique LEXIS document number assigned to that opinion. These cites are assigned to the decisions reported on LEXIS within 24-72 hours of release (far in advance of their availability in any printed source) giving researchers an immediate citation with which to refer to the latest cases. To retrieve a case by its LEXIS cite, one need only type "lexsee" followed by the cite itself (e.g., "lexsee 1988 USApp LEXIS 123"). Once retrieved, researchers will note that pin-point citing of LEXIS cited cases is possible because LEXIS has "star-paginated" each opinion. As a result, something found on page three of the opinion cited above could be cited as follows: "1988 USApp LEXIS 123, 3 (4th Cir.)," and thereafter anyone with access to LEXIS could find the cited page by typing "lexsee 1988 USApp LEXIS 123; p*3."

"WESTLAW Cites"

The example of the WESTLAW citation in your question indicates some similarities and some differences between LEXIS and WESTLAW cites. As with the LEXIS cite explained above, a

"WESTLAW Cite" is assigned to each new case as it becomes available on WESTLAW. By using WESTLAW's "find" feature (the equivalent of LEXIS' "lexsee"), a researcher, armed with a WESTLAW cite, can access a slip opinion directly (for example, typing: "find 1988 WL 2130" would retrieve the case cited in your question). However, unlike LEXIS cites, WESTLAW cites are not intended to be permanent, and are removed from each opinion when it is published in a West (hard-copy) reporter, and given its permanent citation. Following the removal of WESTLAW citations, opinions must then be retrieved using their permanent citation (e.g., "find 323 S.E.2d 432"). Retrieval of a specific West reporter page is then possible by typing "star," followed by the page number in question. Unfortunately, until permanent West reporter pagination is assigned to an opinion there is no way to access or cite a particular page within a WESTLAW opinion since WESTLAW slip opinions are not star-paginated.

Instructions for the use of both "LEXIS Cites" and "WESTLAW Cites" are posted on the bulletin boards in the computer lab to assist interested users.

Q: What is the "Maroon Book," and does the Library have it?"

A: The "Maroon Book" is the popular name for the University of Chicago Manual of Legal Citation, - that institution's answer to the traditional "Bluebook" (A Uniform System of Citation).

Appearing first as an appendix to Richard A. Posner's article "Goodbye to the Bluebook" (53 Univ. of Chicago Law Review 1343 (1986)), the "Maroon Book" shares the widespread view among law students, law faculty, and practitioners that the "Bluebook" is now too complex, and its rules too convoluted to be of much practical use to legal researchers. The "Maroon Book" provides only a brief and basic framework of citation rules, leaving the rest to the discretion and good judgment of the author. The "Maroon Book" has no quarrel with the concept that within a brief, opinion, or law journal, there should be consistency in the citation form used.

However, the editors do not feel that citation uniformity across all legal materials, as encouraged by the "Bluebook," is necessary as long as writers and editors adopt clear and sensible citation rules that fit the particular needs of their formats and intended audiences.

Although the "Maroon Book" represents a breath of fresh air for legal writers, the "Bluebook" still dominates as the accepted standard for legal citation form. Until a number of law journals and legal scholars adopt the "Maroon Book" rules and philosophy, it would be premature to throw your "Bluebook" away (as much as you would like to!). Copies of both the "Bluebook" and the "Maroon Book" are available on reserve at the Circulation Desk.

RECREATIONAL READING REVIEWS

by Joyce Manna Janto,
Acquisitions Librarian

The Socratic Method by Michael Levin (PS/3562/.S6/1987).

A satiric look at life as and legal education at a fictional, prestigious law school. McKinley Law School is about to offer tenure to its first female faculty member when she jeopardizes her chances by publishing an article attacking the very foundation of traditional legal education - the Socratic Method.

The Cult of the Court by John Brigham (KF/8742/.B73/1987).

A study of the relatively recent rise of the United States Supreme Court to the summit of the nation's legal system. The author argues that the Court has now supplanted the Constitution as the authority in our political world, and that its decisions are often influenced more by bureaucratic and institutional concerns than by concern for traditional "legal values."

Ultimate Penalties: Capital Punishment, Life Imprisonment, Physical Torture by Leon Shaskolsky Sheleff (K/5104/.S53/1987).

To understand capital punishment, the author argues that society must ask itself how it may punish its most brutal murderers, terrorists, and individuals who implement policies of genocide and still reconcile its views on human rights and the elimination of violence from society. In extreme circumstances can "ultimate penalties" be used?

LAW LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS

Intersession Hours
May 6 to May 14, 1988

Friday, May 6.....7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday, May 7 and 8.....CLOSED
Monday-Friday, May 9-13.....8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 14.....CLOSED

Summer Hours
May 15 to August 5, 1988

Sunday.....Noon to 10:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday.....7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Saturday.....9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(Note: The Law Library will be open normal hours on July 4)

Summer Intersession Hours
August 6 to August 22

Saturday & Sunday (beginning Aug. 6).....CLOSED
Monday-Friday.....8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(Note: The Law Library will resume regular hours on August 23)

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT AT THE LAW LIBRARY

There are still a few spots open on the Library's summer employment schedule. We are particularly interested in hiring law students who can work one or more evenings and/or weekend days per week. Positions in both Public Services (Circulation Dept.) and Technical Services (processing and shelving materials) are available. Law Students can earn a competitive wage without the hassle of driving and parking downtown. If you are interested, please contact Circulation Department Supervisor Nancy Martin (at the Circulation Desk) as soon as possible.