

3-2008

Museletter: March 2008

Suzanne Corriell
University of Richmond

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/museletter>

 Part of the [Other Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Corriell, Suzanne, "Museletter: March 2008" (2008). *Museletter*. Book 102.
<http://scholarship.richmond.edu/museletter/102>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Muse Law Library at UR Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Museletter by an authorized administrator of UR Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu.

Museletter

THIS ISSUE:

<i>Bridge the Gap</i>	1
<i>The OPAC</i>	2
<i>Law at the Movies</i>	3
<i>Trading Spaces</i>	4

Remember to register for the Bridge the Gap seminar to be held on Friday, April 4.



Sign up at the Reference Desk.

Be Prepared for Employment this Summer

By Joyce Manna Janto

On Friday, April 4th, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., the Law Library is sponsoring a program called "Bridge the Gap Between Law School and Employment." The purpose of this program is to prepare students for the work they will be doing this summer.

The program will provide a review of research skills, both in print and online, plus some tips on practice-oriented materials. The program features two outside speakers. The first is Gretchen Byrd, a 2006 graduate, who currently is employed at LeClairRyan. She will offer advice to students on what to look for when considering a firm, as well as what she wishes she had known before arriving for her first day on the job. Elizabeth Fuchs, recruitment director for Williams Mullen, will advise students on what behaviors will maximize the chances of an offer.

This year a new track has been added to the program, "Bridge the Gap Between Law School and a Judicial Clerkship." Since more Richmond students are taking the clerkship route, this program is designed to help students understand the differences between being an associate and being a clerk. The two speakers for this program are Sandy Hausrath, a 2007 graduate who clerks for Judge Henry Hudson of the Eastern District of Virginia, and the Honorable Elizabeth Lacey, Senior Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court.

Both programs will conclude with a session designed to refresh research skills. Suzanne Corriell, Reference and Research Services Librarian, will present a program that reminds students where to find legal and business information either in print or on the web. Students will also be presented with a bibliography of useful sources in various subjects.

While we have never done a formal evaluation of the program, the feedback we receive is generally positive. I will always treasure an e-mail I received from one of my students. In it he wrote, "Thanks for making me sign up for your program. I would have been in trouble this summer without it."

Because pizza and refreshments will be provided, students must sign up for these programs in advance. The sign up notebooks are located on the Reference Desk.

The OPAC: What's in it for You?

By Sally Wambold

The OPAC is an Online Public Access Catalog, the successor to the card catalog. It has considerable information in it that is untapped. For generations, folks have bypassed the catalog and browsed the shelves, with mixed results.

So what can the OPAC offer you? Have you ever wanted to know how large a book is to determine whether or not you have time to read it? The Description tag in the brief record gives the number of pages. Are you considering whether the work is a DVD or videocassette? Do you have time to watch it? Again, the Description tag will list the number of minutes and whether it is a videocassette or a DVD.

Did you know that you can find the birth dates of many (not all!) authors in the catalog? Librarians work diligently to find this information and to make sure that authors are correctly identified. I, for one, have even emailed an author in Finland to determine his birth date. Without birth dates, a book could be wrongly attributed to another author with the same name.

The size is listed in centimeters and has been done so for decades. For Americans, this is less than helpful. It helps to remember that 28 centimeters is 11 inches tall, like a sheet of paper.

Searching for a title can be a challenge. Often we do not remember the exact title, and it is important to remember that main titles are not alphabetized by initial articles (a, an or the). "Keyword Anywhere" searches for all the search words in the entire bibliographic record; this can be helpful if you are qualifying title words with other information, like an author, a publisher or a series title. Needless to say, title keyword searches look only at titles. The titles retrieved by a search are alphabetized by all the words in each title (except initial articles), including subtitles. This means that the searcher might need to scroll through the hits to find the book sought. Obviously, the more a searcher knows about a book and the more specific a search, the easier it will be to retrieve the work sought. With generic titles, or titles that have many words in common, this is particularly important. Use the "Advanced Search" feature if you have lots of information that won't fit into a Basic Search. If possible, write down as much as you can about a book you would like to locate before going to the OPAC. Memory can be faulty!

Maybe you find a title that sounds promising, but you aren't sure that it will really be helpful. This is where Tables of Contents (TOCs) can assist you. TOCs are available for many titles, and this library tries especially to provide them for Virginia legal materials. There are variations in the way TOCs appear, and the titles and authors in them can be retrieved through keyword searches. Authors are not standardized in TOCs as they are standardized in the author tags; this can be troublesome. Initial articles are part of a search, unlike searching a main title. Some TOCs are available through hyperlinks that you double click in the OPAC.

Subject access is available through the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH). These headings are part of a thesaurus, a controlled vocabulary, and they are standardized with the goal of ensuring that like materials will have the same subject headings. Using these headings is one way to build a bibliography. LCSH is constantly being reviewed and revised. Recently, I revised over 200 bibliographic records that had obsolete subject headings. The Library of Congress also accepts proposals for new subject headings.

Continued on page 3

Law at the Movies (New on DVD): *American Gangster*

By Gail Zwirner

Anyone squeamish about needles and violence need not bother checking out this movie. From the first scene to the end, it is packed with gruesome scenes of murder and hard core drug use. The movie is based on a true story of Frank Lucas (played by Denzel Washington), a Harlem drug lord in the 1960s, and Richie Roberts (played by Russell Crowe), one honest cop (a la Serpico), who attempted to clean up the pushers and his many crooked police colleagues.

Frankly, there is little “lawyering” in this movie, but enough to qualify it for inclusion in our collection. There were a few priceless lines of interest, such as one officer’s instruction to his new partner on service of process—“just throw it in and it will count.” In another scene, Richie Roberts had just finished law school and was studying for the Bar exam. After a grueling day of counting thousands of dollars he found in a suspect’s trunk—and he turned it in (much to the surprise of his colleagues)—he decided he’d skip Evidence in the Bar review course. This legal research instructor was delighted to see one of his textbooks in plain view among many—*Legal Research in a Nutshell*.

It’s hard to beat the talent of Washington and Crowe. Both of their characters were very creative. Lucas developed his “business” by eliminating the middleman. His direct contacts with the heroin suppliers provided beautiful scenes of Thailand. His method for using government planes to bring the product to the states was a stomach-turner. He also managed to stay “under the radar” of the cops for a long time. The scene where Lucas’ status came to Roberts’ attention was interesting as well. Roberts was smart, determined and creative in his methodology for succeeding in bringing down the criminals, crossing jurisdictions to gather all the information he needed.

The movie ended with only one scene of the development of Lucas’ and Roberts’ post-conviction relationship when Lucas decided to cooperate with the police for a reduced sentence. It was delightful to see two brilliant minds working together successfully. According to articles written about them, this unlikely duo apparently developed a strong friendship. Roberts is the godfather to Lucas’ son and employed Lucas in his law office when Lucas left prison.

Despite the Oscar nominations (and the violence), this regular movie-goer preferred *American Gangster* to *Michael Clayton*. The latter was an *Erin Brockovich* spin-off and not as well done in my humble opinion. Both are available in the Law Library’s recreational video collection.

Continued from page 2

The OPAC has links to websites. For instance, BNA Tax Management Portfolio titles are also available online. Be aware that these links often change and keeping them up to date is a serious challenge for catalogers.

Users and catalogers know that the OPAC is far from perfect. This is where the users themselves can contribute. Bring problems of any kind to the attention of the librarian at the Reference Desk, who will pass the information along to cataloging. Kudos go to Dr. Bryson who has generously done this through the years and also to the other librarians here at the University of Richmond.

Don’t forget the OPAC. It has even more to offer you than I have described!

Trading Spaces: Spring Carrel Swap

April 7–9 is the Spring Carrel Swap. Students have the option of remaining in their carrel for all three years of Law School, with the exception of students enrolled in a clinic. Students registered for a clinic are assigned a carrel in the clinic for that semester and must relinquish their carrel until the next semester.

On Friday, April 4, the list of available carrels will be posted on the front doors of the Law Library. Vacant carrels and carrels of December and May graduates are included in the swap. The list will be updated daily during the swap process. In order to sign up for a new carrel you must go to the Administrative Office in the Law Library (L17). If you would like to switch carrels, the following are the dates and times when you may request a new carrel:

Monday, April 7, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.—Current clinic students only;

Tuesday, April 8, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.—Rising third year students;

Wednesday, April 9, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.—Rising second year students.

Contact Ms. Barlett at dbarlett@richmond.edu if you require any additional information.

Suzanne B. Corriell, Editor
Museletter
Law Library, School of Law
University of Richmond
Richmond, VA 23173

The **Museletter** is the official
newsletter of the William Taylor Muse
Law Library at the School of Law of
the University of Richmond,
Richmond, VA 23173.
