

OPLL's Gems

O M E R P O O S L A W L I B R A R Y N E W S L E T T E R



The Director's Welcome

By Mark Bernstein

August, 2006

Welcome (and welcome back) to Saint Louis University and the Omer Poos Law Library. Our staff of 20 is excited about some of the changes that have taken place over the summer, several of which are discussed in this issue of OPLL's GEMS.

Among the big changes you will notice are the improvements to the reading room on the 2nd floor of the library. We have replaced several of the carrels with tables, creating a more open and brighter area in which to study. As part of that renovation, electric power was installed to the tables so that those of you wishing to plug in your laptops, rather than relying on batteries or wireless, may do so. You'll also notice that the room is freshly painted as well.

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SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY

During those long hours at the library, you need other breaks, and we are pleased that the four restrooms inside the library along with the two immediately outside have been totally gutted and renovated. While these changes may seem minor, the comfort level you feel in the library is an important part of what enables us to meet your research needs.

We've also made some changes in staffing responsibilities. Richard Amelung, has returned to the law library as Associate Director. Richard served the past two years as the Interim University Librarian, and prior to that was Head of Technical Services at the law library for over 20 years. In his new role, Richard is responsible for most day-to-day operations of the library. His office is in room 170. Margaret Smith has assumed the role of Head of Technical Services, being promoted from Senior Cataloger.

Liz Glankler has taken on a new role as Web and Technology Services Librarian. Liz will continue to be responsible for the library web page and work with all of our staff on integrating technology into our academic programs and library services.

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Jean Stalhood who began as our temporary stack maintenance staff member in May is now a permanent member of the circulation staff. You'll see her in the stacks as well at the circulation desk.

Other columns will address some of the changes to the research databases and collections that are now part of Saint Louis University Libraries. I invite you to come visit me with any suggestions you might have on ways we can help you or ways you think the library can be even better.

This library is your library, and it is critical to all of our staff that you receive the service one expects of any quality service organization. Please feel free to stop by my office, room 167, in the northeast corner of the 1st floor, or email me at bernstm2@slu.edu

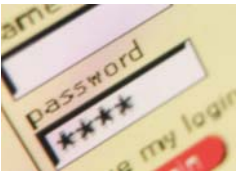
On behalf of the entire staff, we wish you a successful year at Saint Louis University School of Law and look forward to seeing you in the library. And remember, we're here for you; never hesitate to ask for help from any member of our staff.

Mark P. Bernstein
Director and Assistant Professor of Law

Westlaw & LexisNexis Access

By Lynn Hartke

Incoming students will receive their LexisNexis access codes and Westlaw passwords during orientation. Please register the access code and password with both online services. The LexisNexis access code is required to create your custom ID and password. Please select an ID and password you will remember. The Westlaw number is your password. You have the option of using the password given to you or creating your own username and password. Once again, please select a username and password you will remember. You must register with both services. Failing to do so will result in your access being cut off. When you register you will fill out a short form. You will be asked for an email address. Please select an email address you use as information will be sent to you. Both LexisNexis and Westlaw web courses use the email for delivery of class information.



If you do not get a LexisNexis access code or Westlaw password, please see Lynn Hartke or send an email to hartkelk@slu.edu
If you have difficulty with your password or ID please let me know as well.

Returning Students if you can't remember, or your cat ate your id or password, please see Lynn Hartke or send an email to hartkelk@slu.edu
Please let me know if your graduation date has changed, so I can ensure your continued access to LexisNexis and Westlaw.

Please remember that your LexisNexis ID and Westlaw passwords are **yours for academic use only** and are not to be shared.

We're From the Library and We're Here to Help Reference and Research Services Dial 977-1447

By Peggy McDermott and David Kullman

Walk into the Law Library and look straight ahead. In front of you, just beyond the electronic catalog computer terminals is the Reference Desk. Four of the librarians who staff the Reference Desk are full-time "dual-degreed" law librarians. In addition to advanced library science degrees Peggy McDermott, Lynn Hartke, Kathleen Casey and David Kullman also have their J.D.'s. All four teach Advanced Legal Research. Three other highly experienced law librarians cover some of the weekend reference hours: Chris Tighe, the Librarian for the Library of the U.S. Courts in East St. Louis, Illinois, Valerie Rohrbaugh, a librarian at Bryan Cave, and Helen Capdevielle, the Librarian for Lewis, Rice & Fingersh.

Together these seven reference librarians have spent over 100 years answering the kinds of questions that come up every day. Take advantage of their expertise! They can be an invaluable source of information regarding all aspects of legal research. During the school year Reference Librarians are available Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m., and Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. On weekends a Reference Librarian is available Saturday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon until 6 p.m.

Reference Librarians can:

- Offer tips on the efficient use of the Law Library's print materials
- Provide instruction in using various electronic resources such as HeinOnline, Loislaw, and the CALI lessons
- Provide training in the use of specialized resources such as the web versions of the BNA services
- Decipher unfamiliar legal citations
- Assist students in locating multidisciplinary materials.

Please stop by the Reference Desk and let us know how we can help.

Searching the Blogosphere

By Kathleen Casey

If you want to search within blog postings, track trends, or check for links to blogs; try these sites. For example, www.blogpulse.com will create a graph that compares the usage frequency of words or phrases enabling you to track trends within postings. Icerocket (www.icerocket.com) and Bloglines (www.bloglines.com) select highprofile topics and then group relevant postings by subject. Feedster (www.feedster.com) not only searches blogs and other RSS feeds but will also search the tags associated with podcasts.



Law and ...(History, Economics, Health & Medicine ...)

By Peggy McDermott

If you are taking a seminar this semester which involves writing a paper on a multidisciplinary topic, you are in luck. You have access to many databases which will expand your research beyond legal materials. Go to the library's homepage (<http://lawlib.slu.edu/library>). Under "Databases and Indexes" choose "Databases available to SLU Users." Here you will find a list of databases arranged under subjects such as history, philosophy, business, and health & medicine. Depending on the database you choose, you will find a selection of resources that provide either summaries or the full-text of articles and papers. You are able to search by keywords and to limit your search to a specific part of the document such as title, abstract, or the full-text. Be sure to ask one of the Reference Librarians for recommendations and assistance in searching these non-law resources which will broaden your research.

E-Reserves have Arrived!

By Mary Wescovich

After a semester pilot program testing E-reserves, the Law Library is fully implementing E-reserves for the fall semester. This method of reserves is recommended by five out of six university professors. More importantly, it is recommended by six out of six law students.

In the traditional course reserve model, photocopies are assigned brief bibliographic records and filed in the lateral files behind the Circulation Desk so the students can check the materials out for a 2 hour time limit. In the E-reserve model, the same photocopied materials are scanned into PDF files and can be retrieved online by the students 24 hours a day every day from home or from their laptops.

The professor brings the photocopied material to the Circulation Desk with name, course name and number. Then, the professor chooses a password which he/she announces in class. The students can access the material by going to the Law Library homepage and clicking on *Electronic Reserves*. The instructions on the screens are straightforward and the Reference Librarians and Circulation Desk staff can be of assistance to new users. For more information on this library service, contact Mary Wescovich at 977-3314, wescovme@slu.edu



If there is a topic you would like to see covered in Opll's Gems, please submit it to e-ref@law.slu.edu

Off-Campus Access to Electronic Databases

By David Kullman

Even though you're off campus, you're never far from many of your favorite electronic indexes and databases. In addition to those such as Westlaw, LexisNexis and Loislaw which are available directly through the providers' websites, a host of other resources are accessible by using "SLU Proxy Access". Detailed directions on how to access the databases are provided at <http://www.slu.edu/libraries/pius/libinfo/offcamp.html>. You'll need your SLU (VMS) email account username and password. If you have questions about how to search any of the databases contact one of the reference librarians. If you have connectivity questions call the Law School ITS Help Desk at 977-7283.



Saint Louis University Libraries Information Network to Knowledge

SLULINK is your gateway to the information resources of Saint Louis University Libraries. It connects you to general and specialized collections and resources in the support of the teaching, research and service endeavors of students, faculty and staff. Visit us on the web: <http://slulink.slu.edu/>

GlobaLex from NYU

Peggy McDermott

GlobaLex (<http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/>) is an electronic legal publication which gathers together international, foreign, and comparative legal research guides. If you are doing comparative research there are excellent country-specific guides to online resources for A (Albania) to V (Vietnam). Each guide describes the legal system of the country and contains links to relevant websites. The *Overview of Polish Law*, for example, links you to an electronic version of the Polish Constitution in English, decisions of the Polish Supreme Court in English, and the homepages of various ministries and government agencies. There are also regional guides such as *Sources of Online Legal Information for African Countries*.

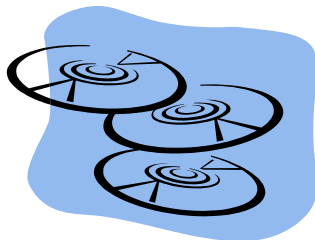
Going beyond comparative law you will find the guides to the United Nations and the European Union particularly helpful in locating publications from these organizations. Under international law you will find guides in such subject areas as international commercial law, international criminal law, and international trade. If you are taking the Comparative Law course this semester you will find *Religious Legal Systems: A Brief Guide to Research and its Role in Comparative Law* a good starting point to begin your research.



**Saint Louis University Law
Library**

3700 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, Mo 63108
Phone: 314-977-3081
Fax: 314-977-3966

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
LAW.SLU.EDU/LIBRARY



Please turn in unneeded
CD-Rom's.

We send them to a recycling
plant in Indiana.
Help us help the earth!

Reference Hours:

Mon—Thursday 9 a.m.—9 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m.—5 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m.—5 p.m.
Sunday Noon—6 p.m.

Law Library Hours, Fall, 2006

Regular Hours

Monday – Thursday	7:30 a.m. – Midnight
Friday	7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sunday	10:00 a.m. – Midnight

Orientation Weekend, August 19 - 20, 2006

Saturday, August 19	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 20	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Labor Day, September 2 - 4, 2006

Saturday, September 2	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 3	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Monday, September 4	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Fall Break, October 20 - 24, 2006

Friday, October 20	7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday – Sunday, October 21 – 22	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Monday – Tuesday, October 23 – 24	8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving, November 22 - 26, 2006

Wednesday, November 22	7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 23 (Thanksgiving)	CLOSED
Friday, November 24 (University Holiday)	CLOSED
Saturday – Sunday, November 25 – 26	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Extended Hours, Monday, November 27 - Wednesday, December 20, 2006

Monday – Friday	7:30 a.m. – Midnight
Saturday	9:00 a.m. – Midnight
Sunday	10:00 a.m. – Midnight

Holiday Break, Thursday, December 21, 2006 - January 15, 2007

Thursday, December 21	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday, December 22	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 23 through Tuesday January 1	CLOSED
Tuesday - Friday, January 2 – 5	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday, January 6 – 7	CLOSED
Monday - Friday, January 8 – 12	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday, January 13 – 14	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Monday, January 15 MLK Holiday	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 16	Resume Spring Hours

Phone 977-2755 for hours or go to <http://law.slu.edu/library/>