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Faculty Newsletter (September 2012)

Roger Williams University School of Law Library

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September 2012

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New Library Resources



The University Library has recently licensed for campus-wide use the [ebrary Academic Complete](#) collection of over 75,000 electronic books in areas including Law, Business & Economics, Education, History, Psychology and Social Sciences. The law collection consists of over 2200 books from university presses, think tanks such as the Cato Institute and Brookings Institution, and international publishers including World Bank Publications, Brill, and Palgrave-MacMillan. Major topics covered by these books as well as over 4000 other law related books in Academic Complete include Constitutional law and history, court systems, human rights, international relations, jurisprudence, and public policy.

Find books of interest by browsing by topic or searching by title, author, or keywords. Read the books on your computer or mobile device using the free apps for Android, iPad, or iOS devices. Create a free account using the "Sign-In" link to add books to a personal "Bookshelf" and to highlight or make notes on those books. You may also download a chapter or a range of pages in PDF format, or the entire book using Adobe Digital Editions, a free download from the Adobe site.

For off-campus access use the link provided here or access from the University library list of databases; both will allow you to authenticate as an RWU user.

The ebrary collection adds to our existing ebook collections [Cambridge Books Online](#), [Making of Modern Law: Legal Treatises, 1800-1926](#), and [Oxford Scholarship Online](#).

Current Awareness

Blawgs!

So many blawgs, so little time! How to choose? Here are some resources for finding a blawg devoted to your area of interest or



scholarship.

The ABA Journal's [Blawg Directory](#) is intended to be a comprehensive directory of continually updated law blogs. Search by topic, author type, region or law school.

[BLAWG.com](#) promotes itself as “Your source for legal blogs, podcasts and news feeds.”

There are links to thousands of blawgs by category, state, country or law school in [Justia.com's Blawg Directory](#). You can also read the most [popular posts](#) of the day, week, month or all time.

For a trip down memory lane, check out the [Legal Blawg Archive](#) maintained by the [Law Library of Congress](#). This archive of blawg posts goes back to 2007. Although the archive is selective, it does cover a wide variety of topics. Blawgs can be retrieved by [keywords](#) or browsed by [subject](#), [name](#), or [title](#).

If the traffic to a blawg is indicative of its quality, you do not want to overlook Paul Caron's [Tax Prof Blog's](#) quarterly traffic [rankings](#) (page views and visitors) of the Top 35 blogs edited by law professors with publicly available SiteMeters.

Research

ResearchFest

The library's second ResearchFest will take place on **Tuesday, October 23, 10am-4pm in the Bay View Room**. Representatives from research database vendors will be demonstrating and answering questions about their products. Stop by as your time permits to ask questions or to see a demo. Demos confirmed to date include Bloomberg BNA, BloombergLaw, Oxford Scholarship Online, ProQuest Congressional, and Thomson Reuters Checkpoint. Librarians will also be scheduled to demonstrate HeinOnline databases, CALI lessons, CVN Law School, and other resources.

We hope to see you there! Please help us promote this program to students by announcing it in your classes, encouraging your research assistants to attend (proof of attendance will be available for RAs), mentioning it to students conducting directed research or writing seminar papers, and suggesting to law review members that they stop by to learn more about the many digital resources offered by the law library. Snacks will be served throughout the day.

Bloomberg
BNA

Bloomberg
LAW

**HEINONLINE**

Oxford Scholarship Online



THOMSON REUTERS
CHECKPOINT

Point of View

Nan Balliot: Student Services Librarian



Nan authors topical law guides and the Law Library's [Legal Beagle blog](#) in addition to providing reference assistance to students and faculty. Her law guides include the [Study Aids](#) and [TimeSavers](#) series as well as those for various [student organizations](#). If you have an idea for a law guide or blog post, please be sure to [email Nan](#) about it.

In conjunction with the Legal Methods curriculum, Nan organizes library tours and Lexis/Westlaw training for the first-year students. Through the almost twenty-years that she has been at the School of Law, Nan has taught Advanced Legal Research and Specialized Legal Research: Environmental Law. She also participates in librarian-led legal research presentations and organized ResearchFest in the spring of 2012.

Nan wears another very important hat in the library: she collects materials for the RWU School of Law [Archives](#) and knows the collection better than anyone else (NB. That last bit comes from the editor -- she would never brag about it). Nan is currently using this archives expertise by serving on the law school's 20th Anniversary planning committee. She is always on the lookout for materials to add to the archives and is available to determine if your "trash" could be an archival "treasure."

When Nan is not at work, she hangs out with husband Robert and their miniature American Eskimo dog “Soosie.” She is originally from Maine (although technically not a Maine native as she was born in Boston) and has never met a potato she did not like.

Nan has a J.D. from the University of Maine School of Law and her Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Rhode Island.

TechTip

Working in the Cloud



Using a flash drive to access your documents anywhere you are? Like any portable media, flash drives pose inherent risks beyond the limited space: the drive may be lost, damaged, or destroyed. Enter cloud based services: unlike portable media, all you need to access your files in the cloud is a computer or mobile device. Cloud services are also great tools for collaboration, allowing you to share files with colleagues and to collaboratively edit shared files.

[Dropbox](#) is our library favorite and also a favorite among academics, at least according to the Chronicle of Higher Education's [ProfHacker](#) blog, which has over 130 articles on using Dropbox. It offers 2 GB free and powerful features that include syncing across computers and mobile devices, file sharing, versioning, and deleted file recovery. Add Dropbox to your computers and you will be able to upload files of any size, up to your account size. There is a 300MB file size limit if you upload via the website. Our favorite feature: even if you don't have your own computer with you, files are always accessible via their website. Dropbox also offers many ways to [get extra free space](#).

Other cloud storage services that we have used in the library include [Google Drive](#), [Box.net](#), [Microsoft SkyDrive](#), and [SugarSync](#). With the basic free accounts on these services, one can accumulate over 20GB of free cloud storage! Users with multiple Apple devices can use [iCloud](#), which goes beyond storage to include app sharing and more.

To learn more about cloud storage services, consult these articles provided by tech sites on the web:

- [2012 Best Online Storage Service Comparisons and Reviews](#) (TopTenREVIEWS): provides an excellent comparison across 5 different categories including storage space, features, file access and support, security, and ease of use. All of the top products are individually reviewed in great detail and provide specifications, images, and links to other stories about the services.
- [Dropbox, Google Drive, SkyDrive and Others: Pricing Per GB and More Compared in Convenient Charts](#) (Lifehacker): Provides detailed information on free storage space and pricing for additional storage. Lifehacker regularly covers cloud services and is your best source for up to date news on new features. For example, Box.net, GoogleDrive, and Microsoft SkyDrive all recently launched file syncing.