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Law Library Illuminations

Roger Williams University School of Law Library

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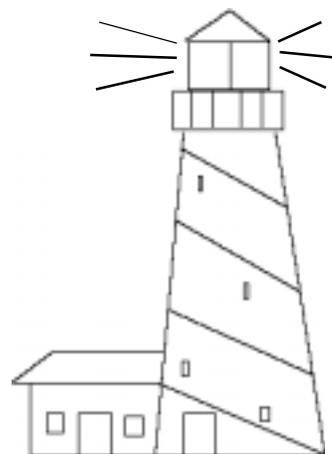
Roger Williams University

Law Library

Illuminations

Issue No.6

Fall, 2000



Welcome

Over the summer there have been some major changes in the library and there are more to come.

☞ The biggest change is that Donna Miller who had been with the library since 1993 has left to take a position with a court library in her Massachusetts hometown. Thelma Dzialo joined the library staff on August 14th, filling the Circulation / Interlibrary Loan Assistant position. She will be hiring and training our student library assistants for the Circulation Desk and handling interlibrary loan requests among other duties. She previously held circulation and interlibrary loan positions at the University library. Please stop by to greet her and help us welcome her.

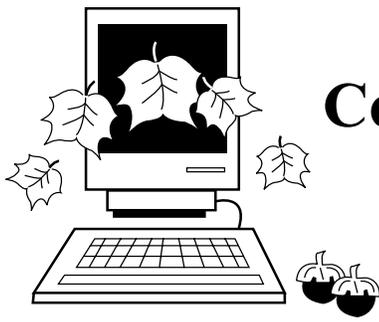
☞ Important computer hardware changes include the installation of new computers in the two training labs and the upgrading of the computers at the hexagons, including the WebCatalog terminals. The new computers, in addition to being more powerful, have zip drives for saving larger files and wonderful new monitors. The computers at the hexagons now all have Pentium processors. Of interest to your budgets, a WESTLAW printer was installed in the Main Computer Lab providing free WESTLAW printing. This printer joins the LEXIS printers in the Main Computer Lab and Training Lab 1 in providing students with free printing.

☞ *Law Office Information Systems (L.O.I.S.)* is now providing access to our law students. Watch your email for sign-up information and the access code. L.O.I.S. is a web-based full-text database providing access to comprehensive legal resources for all 50 states and for 18 selected federal libraries. While training will be offered in October, the search interface is very straight-forward and easy to use. If you would like to attend a training session, sign-up sheets will be at the Reference Desk towards the end of September. A reminder about training will be emailed to all students.

☞ New online services of interest include *HeinOnline* and the *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly Archives*. *HeinOnline* provides searchable access to

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Computer TIPS

Here are some generally useful tips to consider when using any computer.

1. **Haste makes waste.** Always try to allow enough time to learn a new program instead of trying to use the program when you are facing a deadline. Never wait until a few minutes before the paper is due to print it. There might be a line and there is no time to do a final proofing.

2. **When in doubt, go to the right.** The right mouse button can show you a new world of tools and context specific help. Most modern programs are designed to use the right button for shortcuts and many otherwise hidden features.

3. **A save in time, saves nine.** If you do not want to waste time recreating work you have already completed, save your documents to a diskette frequently. You may even wish to save your file under alternating names. That way you force it to save on different parts of your disk and can decrease the chances that the file has been saved in a faulty part of the disk. You can never save too often.

When using a public or lab computer, the following are sensible.

1. **Start with a freshly booted computer.** It may take a few extra seconds to wait while it boots, but can save you hours of grief.

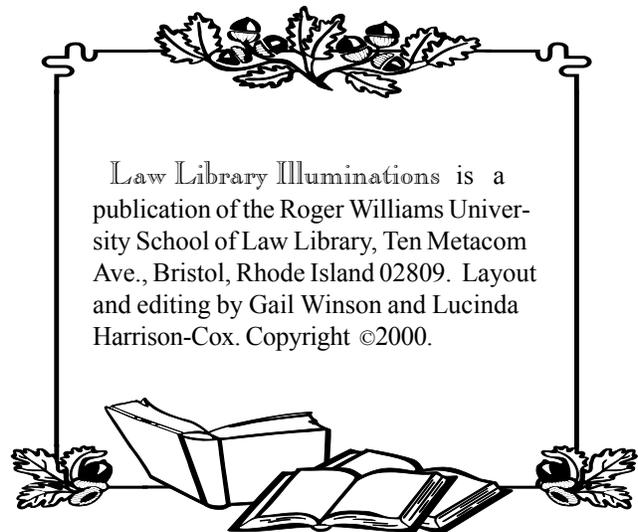
2. **Remember that these are shared resources.** Properly exiting programs and avoiding websites that are better suited to the privacy of your own home are good manners and good sense.

If you are trying to use an uncooperative computer, here are some tips that should help.

1. **If at first it doesn't work, try, try again.** Sometimes the computer gets confused. Clicking too fast or too slowly could have a result that is not what you wanted. Some websites work better with a particular browser. Sometimes the Internet gets busy. Trying a web address again may well help you past a busy signal.

2. **If the computer is still confused, try rebooting it, i.e. turn it off.** Click on "Start" at the bottom of the screen, select "Shutdown" and then "Shutdown" again. This will completely turn off the computer. Count to ten and turn the computer on. By turning off the computer, you will clear its memory of any lingering commands from software programs used by another patron. A freshly rebooted computer is always the most likely to behave.

3. **If you still receive an error message, write it down and ask for assistance.** The more specific information you have, the easier it is for someone to help you. There are lab monitors on duty at various times during the day and library staff who will be happy to assist. Moreover despite the temptation to simply walk away in disgust, report the problem to the lab monitor, reference librarian, or person at the Circulation Desk. If the problem is not reported, it will never be fixed. If the problem cannot be fixed by the monitor or library staff, we will report it to the experts in the Information Technology department.



Welcome from p.1

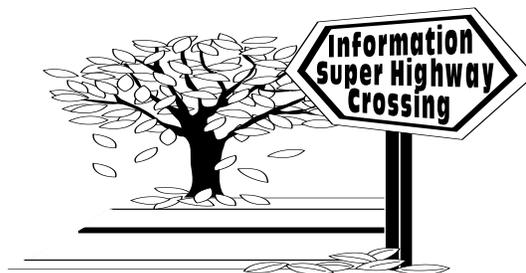
a constantly growing collection of law review and other legal periodicals with the ability to see and print articles as they exist in print. The *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly Archives* provides faculty and students searchable access to their archives for all articles and case digests since 1993.

☞ Links to both of these services are available on the Library's "Legal Web Sites" page under "Consortium & Subscription Sites" [<http://law.rwu.edu/LawLib/LegalWS.htm>]. Instructions for using the Library's proxy service to access these sites are provided from a link at the beginning of the "Consortium & Subscription Sites" section of the page. Simply click on **instructions**.

☞ From the computers in the library, a shortcut entitled "Web Databases" provides quick access to links for all of the web-based resources available through library subscriptions.



Coming Attractions

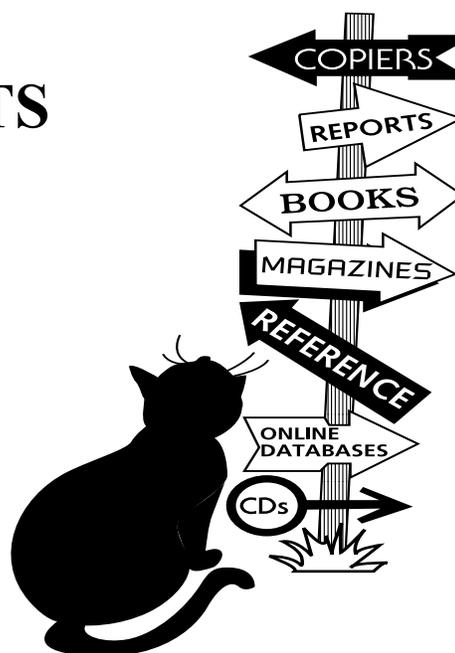


By the middle of the Fall semester, access to the Internet will be available at the carrels in the library. You may see personnel from the Information Technology Department installing wiring and making needed connections. Please bear with any disturbance created by the installation process. As soon as the wiring and all of the supporting equipment are in place, you will be notified by email. The notification will include instructions on how to access the Internet from the carrels.

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS LIBRARY TOURS

Library tours for first-year students will be conducted September 5th through September 9th. You will receive a memo in your mailbox informing you of your scheduled date and time.

If there is a scheduling conflict or you did not receive a memo, please contact Nan Balliot in the Law Library at 4542 or ngk@rwulaw.rwu.edu.





Selected Sources for Current Information On the United States Supreme Court

For those of you who plan to follow the activities of the United States Supreme Court during its upcoming term, there are a variety of sources that may be of interest to you. Items contained in these sources may include full-text opinions, case briefs, summaries or full-text transcripts of oral arguments, Court rules, biographical information on the Justices, and news coverage about the Court. This article will focus on selected sources for information on the Court's current term.

Presently, there are various web sites for information on the U.S. Supreme Court. Some of these web sites are linked from the Law Library's Legal Web Sites page. Among them are the Court's official web site, the Supreme Court collection at the Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute ("LII") web site, FindLaw, and the OYEZ Project at Northwestern University.

The Court's official web site (<http://supremecourtus.gov>) provides access to slip opinions, orders, argument calendar, schedules, special notices, and press releases starting with the 1999 Term of the Court. General information about the Court is also included at the web site.

At LII's Supreme Court collection (<http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct>) are decisions from 1990 to the present searchable by topic and by party name.

Information for the current term includes highlights of the completed term; decisions arrayed by date; orders granting and denying cert. and rulings on procedural matters in pending cases; a searchable database of orders in pending cases; a court calendar; oral argument schedule; and questions presented in cases to be heard. Also linked from this page are sites for retrieving decisions prior to 1990 and other items of interest about the Court. You can receive syllabi via email of the Court's decision on the date it is decided by subscribing to a current awareness service offered by LII.

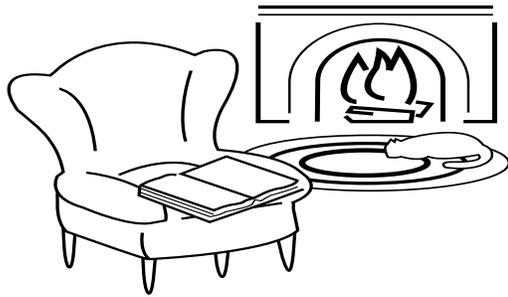
FindLaw's United States Supreme Court page (http://www.findlaw.com/10fedgov/judicial/supreme_court/index.html) has links to web sites for biographies, calendar, news resources (ABC, CNN, New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today), opinions, and rules. FindLaw's Supreme Court Center (http://supreme.findlaw.com/Supreme_Court/Resources) features current term docket, decisions, orders, briefs, rules, and calendar.



For recordings of oral arguments, check out the OYEZ Project at Northwestern University (<http://oyez.nwu.edu>). This web site contains more than 900 hours of audio materials. New audio materials of oral arguments are made available on the web site

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Check It Out



Book Reviews

Wise, Steven M., *Rattling the Cage: Toward Legal Rights for Animals*. Cambridge, Mass.: Perseus Books, 2000. HV4708 .W57 2000. Foreword by Jane Goodall.

According to Jane Goodall, *Rattling the Cage: Toward Legal Rights for Animals* could be considered the animals' Magna Carta, Declaration of Independence, and Universal Declaration of Rights all in one. Noted animal-rights lawyer Steven Wise makes his case for extending legal rights to chimpanzees and bonobos in this fascinating book. He questions why a chimpanzee who can communicate with language, count, understand the minds of others, feel complex emotions, live in a complex society, and makes and uses tools has no rights at all while a human in a permanent vegetative state still has some legal rights.

The author first gives a historical overview of various laws pertaining to animals, covering the past 4,000 years of the human experience with animals. He next examines the legal principles of equality and liberty and how they should be granted to certain animal species. He then describes the work of primatologists with chimpanzees and bonobos, concluding that the cognitive, emotional, and social capacities of these apes should entitle them to freedom from imprisonment and abuse.

Mr. Wise has practiced animal protection law for twenty years and teaches "Animal Rights Law" at Harvard, Vermont, and John Marshall law schools. He is founder and president of the Center for the Expansion of Fundamental Rights. Founded in 1995, this non-profit organization's primary mission is to obtain fundamental legal rights for nonhuman animals. For more information about the CEFR, visit its web site at <http://www.cefr.org>.

*Reviewed by Nan Kelley Balliot,
Reader Services Librarian.*



Perlin, Michael L., *The Hidden Prejudice: Mental Disability on Trial*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2000. KF 480 .P474 2000.

The author is a full-time professor and has taught numerous mental disability law courses over a span of fifteen years. Invariably, at the very beginning of the first mental health law class of every semester, students immediately pepper him with questions such as :

"Professor, I heard this story on TV the other day—about some guy who was driving his neighbors crazy, and whose family wanted to send him to the hospital, but the police were saying their 'hands were tied' because he 'hadn't hurt anyone yet'—is that really true?"

"Professor, can we talk about how everyone seems to be pleading insanity in criminal cases these days—and they are all getting off?"

"Professor, is it so that if you go to a therapist and tell him what's on your mind, he's gotta go to the cops if you say anything scary?"

The author notes that he never gets such questions in the other law classes he teaches. For example in civil procedure, he has never started to discuss subject matter and in personam jurisdiction on the first day of

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approximately ten months after the completion of the Court's term.

A useful looseleaf service for information on the Court's current term is *U.S. Law Week*. (Reference, KF175 .U54). Published by the Bureau of National Affairs, *U.S. Law Week* tracks all cases brought before the Court from the initial docketing of the case until its conclusion. Orders in pending cases, orders granting or denying review, the schedule for argument, excerpts of oral arguments, and full-text opinions are all published in *U. S. Law Week*. The "Table of Cases-Case Status Report" provides references to volume and page of the *U.S. Law Week* enabling the reader to track information about a case by its name or docket number. The "Supreme Court Index-Summary" provides subject access to the cases. A daily edition of *U.S. Law Week* is available on WESTLAW database **BNA-USLWD** with coverage from March, 1987 to present and on *lexis.com* path: All Sources: Federal Legal - U.S.: Supreme Court Cases and Materials with coverage from June, 1987 to present.

Another source for information about the Court's current term is *Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases* (Reserve, 4547.8 .P7). This publication contains essays written by legal scholars on selected cases pending before the Court, but which have not yet been argued. Each essay contains a description of the issues and facts of the case, an analysis of the case, and a discussion of the significance of the case. A publication of the American Bar Association's Division of Public Education, there are monthly issues for September through April with a special eighth issue offering a perspective on the recently completed term. *Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases* is available on WESTLAW database **SCT-PREVIEW** with coverage from the 1989-90 term to present and on *lexis.com* path All Sources: Federal Legal - U.S.: Supreme Court Cases and Materials with coverage from January, 1991 to present.

In addition to their cases for *U. S. Law Week* and *Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases*, WESTLAW and *lexis.com* have other databases for

Court materials such as opinions, case briefs, and oral argument transcripts. WESTLAW coverage of U.S. Supreme Court opinions is from 1790 to present. WESTLAW database **SCT-OLD** contains opinions from 1790 to 1944 while WESTLAW database **SCT** has opinions from 1945 to present. An opinion of a recently decided case is made available online within 30 minutes of its release by the Court. Path on *lexis.com* for opinions is All Sources: Federal Legal - U.S.: Supreme Court Cases and Materials. Coverage is from January, 1790 to present. A recently decided case is added to the database within an hour of its release by the Court. Case briefs are available on WESTLAW database **SCT-BRIEF** with coverage from the 1990-91 term to present and on *lexis.com* path All Sources: Federal Legal - U.S.: Supreme Court Cases and Materials with coverage from January, 1979 to present. Case briefs are made available online within six weeks of publication, after filing. As an aside, the Law Library's collection contains *United States Records and Briefs*, a microfiche collection of briefs from the 1922/23 term to the 1998/99 term.

The WESTLAW database **SCT-ORALARG** contains oral argument transcripts with coverage from the 1990-91 term to present. Coverage of oral argument transcripts on LEXIS is from October, 1979 with transcripts available online within two weeks after oral argument. The path on *lexis.com* is All Sources: Federal Legal - U.S.: Supreme Court Cases and Materials.

For more information about these judicial materials on LEXIS and WESTLAW, consult the "Guide" and "Scope" features respectively.

For assistance in using any of the sources described in this article, please ask the Librarian at the Reference Desk.



E-Mail Notes

The WEBMAIL program can be reached at <http://webmail.rwu.edu>. Please remember that the password is case sensitive.

class only to receive a comment from a student such as: "Professor, I really think the 'stream of commerce' rule in the *Asahi* case is silly." Nor have professors who teach contract law ever reported that a student has, on the first day of class, asked: "Gee, Professor, what do you think about the Uniform Commercial Code?"

These examples are used by the author to illustrate that there is an irrational prejudice associated with mental disability law, which affects the litigation, fact finding and appellate process. The author posits that this stigma negatively affects all participants in the mental disability law process, including witnesses, judges, litigants, attorneys, the media and the public.

The author reviews the history and development of mental disability law, focusing not only on the case law, but also on how society stigmatizes mental disability law and how this stigma drives the law. Sanism and pretextuality are discussed. Important areas of mental disability law are considered, including civil commitment, the right to treatment, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the insanity defense.

This book is an excellent resource for law students and lawyers who are concerned that those with mental disabilities be treated fairly. It will forever change the

reader's perception of the law and legal developments in this area.

*Reviewed by Emilie Benoit,
Reference Librarian*



Gordon, Karen Elizabeth. *The Deluxe Transitive Vampire: The Ultimate Handbook of Grammar for the Innocent, the Eager, and the Doomed*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1993. Reference PE 1112 .G578 1993.

Need help with a grammar question? Afraid of dying of boredom seeking the answer? Try this grammar book.

Using an unorthodox approach, the author attempts to make English grammar understandable and fun by creating an "opulent, rapturous, vamped-up grammar drama." The rules of English grammar are illustrated in such an unusual manner as to be memorable in an odd, even interesting, sort of way.

*Reviewed by Emilie Benoit,
Reference Librarian*



Information



View Your Patron Record

Have you ever wanted to know what you have checked-out?

When it was due?

If you have any fines?

You can obtain the answers to these questions from the WebCatalog.

Using the shortcuts on the lab computers or using the address <http://lawlib.rwu.edu>, logon to the WebCatalog. On the opening screen is an option: View Your Patron Record. Select this option. Type in your name and the barcode number from your Law School ID, and click on "Display record for person named above." The display provides you with information on checked-out items, fines, holds, etc.



True or False?

Everything is on LEXIS, or WESTLAW - Print is Dead.

False! Many novice, and some intermediate, researchers make the assumption that once they have access to LEXIS and WESTLAW, they have every research resource they will ever need. A recent study showed that this is clearly false. *

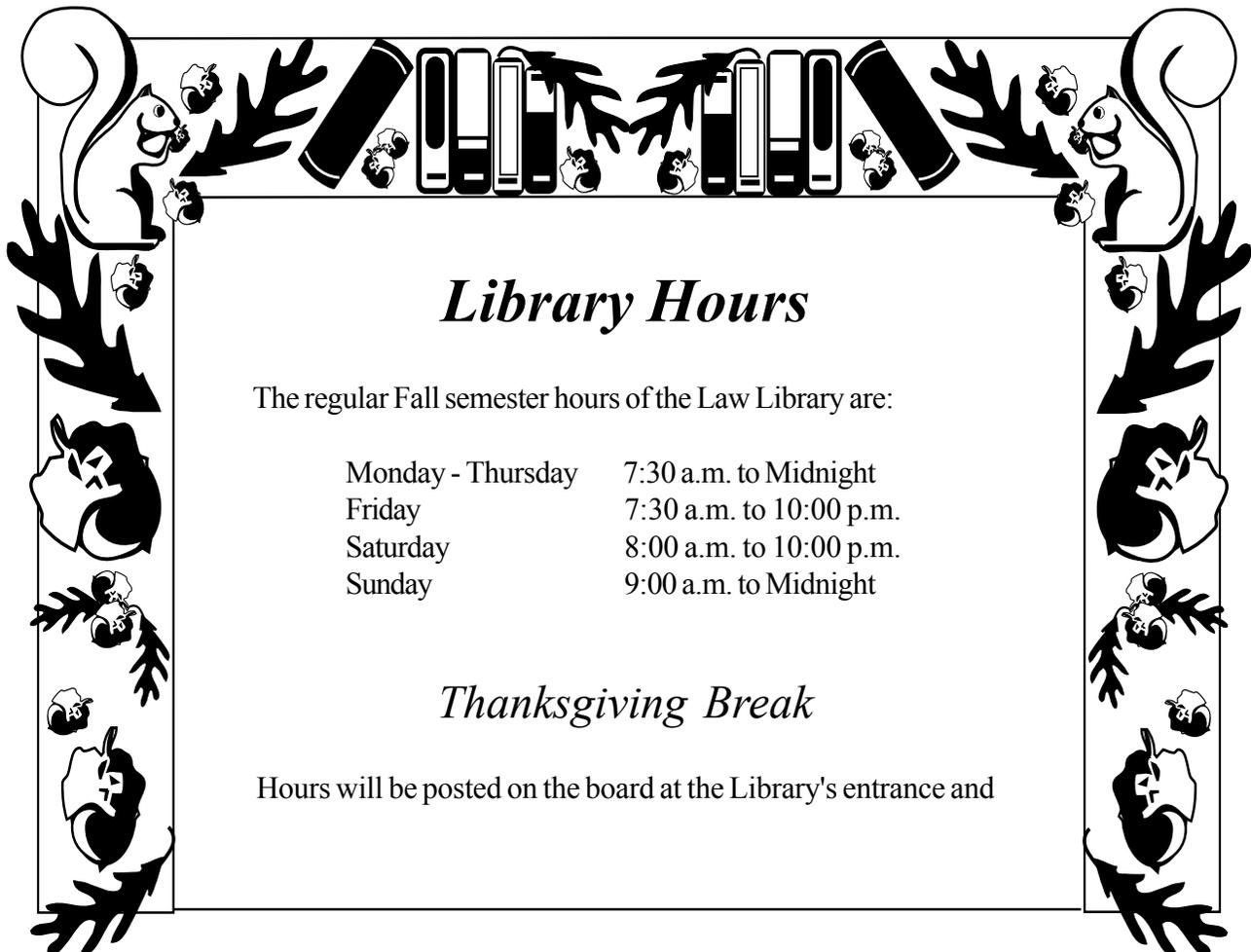
Even if all of the materials in a typical law library that are available on LEXIS or WESTLAW were eliminated from the collection, at least 87 percent of the print collection would remain. The 87 percent figure assumes that everything in the print volumes is fully duplicated and available in the online version. Graphics, tables, charts, indexes, tables of contents, and prefatory materials are often omitted. Moreover, layout and typeface choices, which can be important clues to meaning and context, are omitted.

Additionally, the content of online services like LEXIS and WESTLAW can and does change without notice. The content of a book is unchanging and reliable.

Finally, print offers greater ease of use in terms of readability and transportability. Economically it can be more cost effective. A book can be read by a great many users without incurring any additional search or connect charges.

Print is not dead.

* Hazelton, Penny A., *How Much of Your Print Collection Is Really on WESTLAW or LEXIS-NEXIS?*, 18 Legal Reference Services Quarterly 3 (1999).



Library Hours

The regular Fall semester hours of the Law Library are:

Monday - Thursday	7:30 a.m. to Midnight
Friday	7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Sunday	9:00 a.m. to Midnight

Thanksgiving Break

Hours will be posted on the board at the Library's entrance and