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Law Library Briefs

Roger Williams University School of Law Library

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Law Library Briefs

Roger Williams University School of Law Library



No. 4, February, 2003

Wireless Is Here!

Wireless Internet access is now available in the Law Library, Cafeteria, and second floor common areas. It is possible to connect to the Internet using your laptop computer if your laptop is equipped with a wireless network card.

To connect, you **must register** your laptop with the Information Technology Department.

For more information or to make an appointment to register your computer, please call the IT Department Help Desk at #5200.



“Mini” Research Refreshers

The Joys of Digest Searching - Monday, February 24th.

Legal Form Sets - Monday, March 17th.

Resources of the R.I. State Law Library - Monday, March 31st.

All sessions are at 5:00 in room 014.



Research Tips From the Experts:

Selecting a Paper Topic? Need Help?

There are many print and online resources available.

 *CQ Researcher*, published by Congressional Quarterly, provides in-depth analysis of topics of a controversial nature currently in the news. Many of these topics are law-related. The *CQ Researcher* contains overview, background, chronology, current situation, pro/con debate, outlook, and bibliography of the topic. The *CQ Researcher* is available electronically from the Law Library’s “Research Links” page under the “Consortium and Subscriptions” heading (<http://law.rwu.edu/LawLib/legalws9.htm>). You can view the current issue, browse by date, or conduct a keyword search of the *CQ Researcher* database.

 Updated frequently, looseleaf services report on recent case decisions, proposed or newly enacted legislation, and general developments in that area of law. One recommended looseleaf service, *United States Law Week* (Ref.,

KF175 .U54), contains weekly summaries and analyses of federal and state cases; legal news items; and current U.S. Supreme Court opinions. A periodic feature of *U.S.L.W.* is the “Circuit Split Roundup” which summarizes conflicts among the courts of appeal on questions of federal law. You can access an electronic version of *U.S.L.W.* from the Law Library’s “Research Links” page under the “Consortium and Subscriptions” heading (<http://law.rwu.edu/LawLib/legalws9.htm>).

 Law review articles often report on developments, issues, and trends in various areas of the law. You can use the legal periodical indexes, Westlaw, or LexisNexis in your search for paper topics or in a preemptive search for potential law review article topics. For more information, see *Using Indexes to Legal Periodical Literature* (TimeSavers No. 5).

 Legal and general newspapers, newsletters, and magazines report on cases, legislation, and controversial issues. For more information, see *Newspapers in The Law Library* (TimeSavers No. 7).

For additional information on

these and other resources, consult *Selecting a Topic* (TimeSavers, No. 10).

Need a Legal Form for Class?

 Two major sets of forms for use in legal and business transactions are *American Jurisprudence Legal Forms* (KF170 .A542) and *West Legal Forms* (KF170 .M7 1990). Both publications are accessible on Westlaw in the **AMJUR-LF** and **WEST-LF** databases respectively. You can conduct a full-text keyword search of the databases or browse the tables of contents.

A useful set for motions and pleadings in civil and criminal litigation is *American Jurisprudence Pleading and Practice Forms Annotated* (KF8836 .A45 1988). This set is accessible on Westlaw in the **AMJUR-PP** database. As with the **AMJUR-LF** and **WEST-LF** databases, options to conduct a keyword search or browse a table of contents of the databases are provided.

For more information, see *Legal Forms: Selected Sources* (TimeSavers, No 13).



Barb's Computer Advice:

Computer Security: Cyberterrorism and the Home PC

Cyberterrorism threats are not just about protecting a PC against an attack. It is also important to en-

sure your PC is never used to assist a cyberterrorist. There are three primary computer security concerns:

- ① Confidentiality: Making sure data remains confidential
- ② Integrity: Making sure data doesn't get changed without your knowledge
- ③ Availability: Making sure the computer does not lose data; making sure the data is available whenever you need it.

There are also three primary ways that these facets of computer security can be compromised.

- ① Viruses and worms - these might use a home PC to send out copies of itself and perhaps initiate a denial-of-service attack on a server somewhere.
- ② Hackers - a malicious person can gain access to your confidential files, including cached credit card numbers, financial data, etc.
- ③ Disasters - spilled liquids, power problems, defective floppies, hard drive crashes, etc.

Fortunately, the things you're already doing to protect yourself from viruses, worms, hackers, and disasters are exactly the same things you should do to protect against cyberterrorism:

- ① Install an antivirus program and keep it updated. AVG (www.grisoft.com) is a reliable, free antivirus program.

① Pay attention to critical updates if you are a Windows user. Run "Windows Update" regularly.

① Consider a personal firewall if you are using an 'always on' connection to the Internet. Windows XP has a built-in firewall.

① The best way to protect yourself against hardware disasters is to remember to back up your data. A backup is simply a second copy of any data you'd have trouble reproducing. Copying data to a floppy (or two), a zip disk, or a CD is one way to make a backup.



Library News

Welcome Back Richard!

Circulation Assistant Richard Segel is back from his year of active duty in the Navy Reserves. Welcome back Richard!

Farewell Beth

Beth Robinson, who has been with the Library since 1994 as Acquisitions Assistant and, more recently, as Acquisitions Librarian, has left to accept a part-time position which will allow her to spend more time with baby Timothy Michael. A search is on to fill the position of Acquisitions Librarian. Best of Luck, Beth!

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