Roger Williams University
DOCS@RWU

Law Library Newsletters/Blog | Law Library

9-2003

Law Library Briefs

Roger Williams University School of Law Library

Follow this and additional works at: https://docs.rwu.edu/law_lib_newsblog

Part of the Law Commons

Recommended Citation

Roger Williams University School of Law Library, "Law Library Briefs" (2003). *Law Library Newsletters/Blog*. 13.
https://docs.rwu.edu/law_lib_newsblog/13

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Library at DOCS@RWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Law Library Newsletters/Blog by an authorized administrator of DOCS@RWU. For more information, please contact mwu@rwu.edu.

Law Library Briefs

Roger Williams University School of Law Library

No. 8, September, 2003

NELLCO DATABASES

The law library is a member of the New England Law Library Consortium (NELLCO). This membership enables the law library to provide law faculty and students with physical access to other member libraries, access to numerous electronic databases, and free access to interlibrary loan from other members.

This issue focuses on the Social Law Library's Massachusetts Administrative Law and Substantive Law databases, Bernan's Government Information on the Internet, Indexmaster, Index to Legal Periodicals and Books, and Legal Resource Index. They are among the electronic databases to which the law library subscribes through NELLCO membership.

To access these databases from law school PCs, go to the law library's home page (**http://law.rwu.edu/Law+Library**) and click on the "Research Links" button. You can either select a database from the pull-down menu under the heading "Consortium and Subscription Sites" and click on the "Go" button or you can click on the text of the heading to retrieve an annotated listing with links to these and other databases subscribed to by the law library.

As access to these databases is controlled by IP address, you will need to set up a proxy server on your home PC for off-campus access. The instructions are located at the bottom of the "Research Links" page and near the top of the "Consortium and Subscription Sites" page. The librarian on duty at the Reference Desk is available to provide assistance in using these and other electronic databases subscribed to by the law library.

Of particular usefulness to those needing electronic access to various Massachusetts' primary legal materials is the **Social Law Library's Massachusetts Administrative Law and Substantive Law** databases. The Boston-based Social Law Library makes available a variety of legal materials. The databases include state agency regulations and decisions, court opinions and rules, and laws by session or codification. These databases can be searched using the templates provided. In addition, several of the databases contain a table of contents for browsing. Coverage for each database varies.

One can search over 5,000 selected local, state, federal, and intergovernmental government websites in **Bernan's Government Information on the Internet** database. You can conduct a basic keyword search or an advanced search of the database using the template provided. An option to browse a broad list of topics is provided. The retrieved results will have a link to the website, a brief description and evaluation of it, and links to available publications on the website.

Indexmaster is a useful database for library patrons looking for books published on a particular topic. **Indexmaster** is a compilation of the indices and/or table of contents of 10,000 legal titles available for over 90 legal publishers (big and small). You can search the Indexmaster database by title, keywords, publisher, or author. The indices and table of contents are in *.pdf* format for easy browsing and printing.

Index to Legal Periodicals and Books (ILP) and **Legal Resource Index (LRI)** are both excellent sources of finding law review, bar journal, and other legal periodical articles. Both are electronic versions of print publications. In addition to periodical articles, **ILP** provides indexing for selected books on legal topics. **LRI** in print

is *Current Law Index*. It is also known as "LegalTrac." The online version of **ILP** begins coverage with 1981. **LRI** begins coverage with 1980.

One other major database available through our NELLCO membership is LexisNexis Congressional. It will be the focus of a future issue of *Law Library Briefs* dealing with legislative history research.

Recent Acquisitions

The law library's Collection Services staff brings to your attention the following new books.

- For students desiring to maximize their law school experience, check out *The Practice of Law School: Getting In and Making the Most of Your Legal Education* by Christen Civiletto Carey and Professor Kristen David Adams (Reserve, KF297 .C37 2003). A myriad of topics for first-year as well as second and third-year students is discussed in this book.

- Among the numerous books to assist you with various types of legal writing are *Academic Legal Writing: Law Review Articles, Student Notes, and Seminar Papers* by UCLA School of Law Professor Eugene Volokh (Reserve, KF250 .V6 2003) and *The Elements of Contract Drafting: With Questions and Clauses for Consideration* by George W. Kuney (Reserve and Stacks, KF807 K86 2003).

- Readers interested in how the U.S. war on terrorism is affecting their civil liberties might want to check out two titles in the law library's collection. *The War on Our Freedoms: Civil Liberties in an Age of Terrorism* (JC599 .W37 2003) is a compilation of essays by scholars, journalists, and historians. In *Terrorism and the Constitution: Sacrificing Civil Liberties in the Name of National Security* (KF4558 1st .D45 2002), the authors David Cole and James X. Dempsey compare law enforcement abuses of the past with recent anti-terrorism legislation making the case that current anti-terrorism activity greatly expands the powers of the F.B.I. and other federal agencies in ways that are neither desirable or productive in the U.S. war on terrorism.

Barb's Computer Advice

In this issue, Barb provides information on software available on the library PCs and login information for RWU email, Campus Cruiser, and Blackboard programs (all of the law library PCs have shortcuts on the desktop to these three websites).

- E-mail at RWU can be accessed at **http://email.rwu.edu**

USER: first initial of first name, the last name, 4th digit of birth date [example: 5 from 01/05/79], last digit of student ID, last digit of social security number

PASSWORD: first initial of first name, first initial of last name, last 4 digits of social security number

**** Free Software ****

In light of recent computer virus and worm problems, the University has made available free copies of Norton' s Symantec AntiVirus Solution Software (for Windows 2000, NT & XP). Please ask at the Circulation Desk for assistance.

- Campus Cruiser can be accessed at **http://prod.campuscruiser.com/rwu**

USER and PASSWORD: Must be obtained from RWU Information Technology (IT) department; if you did not receive a letter from IT with your Campus Cruiser ID, call the IT help desk at #5200

- Blackboard can be accessed at **http://blackboard.rwu.edu**

USER: Same as Campus Cruiser ID

PASSWORD: 1st initial of first name, first initial of last name, last 4 digits of social security number

Barb is, as always, available to assist you with computer and printing problems. Barb can be contacted in the Library, at 401-254-4536 or by email at bpahlow@law.rwu.edu.

Copyright ©2003
by The Law Library
Roger Williams University
Ralph R. Papitto School of Law