Law Library Blog (April 2018): Legal Beagle's Blog Archive

Roger Williams University School of Law

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The week of April 8-14 is National Library Week! 

National Library Week is the one week a year that we stop and appreciate all things library-related. Here at the RWU Law Library we will be taking time out to express gratitude to our dedicated student library workers, our amazing full-time library staff, and our awesome patrons. Thank you all!

To celebrate National Library Week 2018, the RWU Law Library hopes you all take time to stop by and enjoy the following festivities:

- Monday, April 9th is Law Library Student Worker Appreciation Day! If you see a student worker, be sure to thank them for all that they do.
- Wednesday, April 11th is Go Fish! Stop by the Circulation Desk and go fishing in the RWU Law Library pond for a chance to win a prize! This fun event is sponsored in part by Lexis Advance.
- On Thursday, April 12th, Lexis Representatives will be around in the middle of the day to demonstrate how to use eBooks on the RWU Law Digital Library platform.

Happy National Library Week!
April 13, 2018

True Crime

Have you ever heard of the website Websleuths? It is a forum-based (think: reddit) internet community which uses swarm intelligence to crowd source true crime detective work. While many of (if not all of) the sleuthing is armchair sleuthing, the contributors to the forums are dedicated internet detectives and sometimes successful internet detectives!

One of the cases that the Websleuths website discusses at length is the case (or cases, depending on who you talk to) of the Long Island Serial Killer (sometimes referred to as LISK). In fact, A&E broadcasted a multi-part documentary about the murders called The Killing Season which discusses the Websleuths website.

Because of how popular true crime podcasts are, one may conclude that it is a new and trendy phenomenon. However, it seems to have been of interest pretty much throughout U.S. history. For example, we have a book in our collection called United States Criminal History: Being a True Account of the Most Horrid Murders, Piracies, High-way Robberies, &c..: Together With the Lives, Trials, Confessions and Executions of the Criminals: Compiled From the Criminal Records of the Counties from 1836. Another interesting true crime gem from our collection is a document on the trial of Dr. John W. Hughes. Dr. Hughes, also a bigamist, murdered 17 year old Tamzen Parsons in 1865. He was later hanged for his crime.
If you are interested in historical or modern day true crime, the librarians are a great resource for finding books, news, documentary, and podcast recommendations. Stop by the reference desk or chat with us online!

April 20, 2018

Tips for Finals

Good news: the semester is almost over and summer is just around the corner!

Bad news: that means it is exam time.

The end of the semester is always filled with studying and outlining and stress. The Law Library has several suggestions for ways to cope with the end of the semester crunch time:

1. **Use the Library’s Study Resources:**
   The Law Library’s staff has prepared [study aids guides](#) to the major study aids in the library’s collection. These guides are organized by class subject, including guides for all 1L classes and many of the 2L and 3L classes. In these guides you will find links to the Law Library’s popular print and eBook study aids; audio and visual resources (such as the Sum & Substance Audio series & LexisNexis Courtroom Cast); and online, print, and eBook resources you can use to test yourself on concepts from class.

2. **Reserve a Study Room:**
   There are twelve small rooms which can be used for study and/or audio/video review.
Three of the rooms are equipped for audio/visual use. Use of these rooms is governed by a room reservation policy which covers advance reservations, room renewals, cancellations, and consequences of the misuse of rooms. More information about reserving a study room can be found on the Library’s website.

3. **Find a Reflective Space on Campus:**
   RWU has many areas (indoor and outdoor) which can be used as a study space or a study break space for quiet reflection. Before you venture outside your comfort zone, you can take a [virtual tour](#) of these places.

4. **Take an Exercise Break:**
   The [RWU Campus Recreation Center](#) offers exercise equipment and a variety of group exercise classes to engage your body. Exercise, including walking, sports, and other fun physical activities, can help you maintain a healthy mind body balance. You can ever rent a [kayak or paddleboard](#) if you want to spend some time exercising outside.

5. **Check out our Stress Management, Mindfulness and Wellness LawGuide:**
   The library’s guide for Stress Management, Mindfulness and Wellness provides information and links to help you manage stress in serious ways and not-so-serious ways.

Breathe deeply, think positive thoughts, and good luck on exams!

April 27, 2018

**Summer Access to Materials**

April 27, 2018
Need to do research this summer? Have no fear, Bloomberg Law, Lexis, and Westlaw offer summer access to continuing students!

Our LawGuide, Bloomberg/Lexis/Westlaw @ RWU Law: Summer Access, explains the details of continuing your use of the databases over the summer months.

In addition, most digital resources will be available to continuing students who are working remotely this summer. Just use your RWU ID card to log in from wherever you are working.

Your friendly RWU Law Librarians are also here to help! If you have any questions about our databases and services or need some help on a tough research question, please don’t hesitate to contact us by phone, email, chat, or in person.

Have a wonderful summer!