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Law Library Blog (January 2019): Legal Beagle's Blog Archive

Roger Williams University School of Law

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January 2019 Library Blogs

Legal Beagle's Post

January 4, 2019

Welcome Back! Pizza & Westlaw Edge

WESTLAW EDGE **Introduction and Training**

Learn about Westlaw's **NEW** Platform -
Westlaw Edge

Pizza will be served

Date: January 9, 2019

Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Where: Room 283



Sign up to attend at:

<https://lawstudyrooms.rwu.edu/event/4915081>

Questions: email Nicole at ndyszlawski@rwu.edu

Welcome Back!

Ready to start fresh in the Spring semester? Why not kick things off with a tutorial on the new Westlaw Edge platform. On January 9th from 12 pm to 1 pm in Room 283, our Westlaw vendor representative Holly Rush will offer a training session on all the new features available with Westlaw Edge. Need another reason to attend? Pizza will be served!

Don't forget, there are many ways in which the RWU School of Law Library can help you have a successful semester. Our knowledgeable, friendly, service-oriented staff are available to assist you in using our various services and resources that include:

- Legal and non-legal research assistance in-person, [by appointment](#), via [Ask a Librarian](#), by [email](#), or by calling 401-254-4547;
- [RWU LawGuides](#) covering a wide-variety of topics;
- [Guides on Study Aids](#) for the 1L and upper-class curriculum;
- The [interlibrary loan](#) service to obtain an item not held at the [RWU libraries](#);
- [Study rooms](#);
- [Printing and copying](#);

- [Wireless printing](#);
- The [WebCatalog](#) to locate items in our collection and online;
- Access to [digital resources on](#) and [off](#) campus;
- Instruction on legal research and technology by our librarians; and
- Westlaw, Lexis Advance, and Bloomberg training. (Check the [Law Library Computer Classroom/Events Schedule](#) for program dates and times).

The library is a great place to research and study. It is also a great place to chill out and de-stress. If you have any questions or just need a helping hand in the first few weeks of the semester, stop by and say hi!!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the reference librarians at lawlibraryhelp@rwu.edu.

January 11, 2019

Animal Law



The [Animal Legal Defense Fund](#) defines animal law as “the combination of statutory and case law that relates to or has an impact on nonhuman animals. It encompasses companion animals and wildlife and animals used in entertainment, research and ones raised for food.” The Library’s new book display highlights many interesting and important resources on animal law available through the RWU Law Library. You can see the display on the low shelves to the right as you walk into the library and [online](#).

Animal law is a fast growing legal discipline that can be a part of many traditional areas of law, including environmental, administrative, family, constitutional, criminal, contract, and tort law. Issues can range from The Endangered Species Act to animals held in captivity to animal custody disputes.

Here are some animal jokes to lighten up your day:

Q: What do you call a sleeping bull?

A: A bulldozer!

Q: Why do fish live in salt water?

A: Because pepper makes them sneeze!

And last, but not least:

Q: What's the difference between a lawyer and a herd of buffalo?

A: The lawyer charges more.

January 18, 2019

Government Shutdown



Effective midnight December 21, 2018, the federal government began a partial shutdown of government operations which will continue until a budget is passed into law. Not exactly sure what a government shutdown is? This [video](#) could help explain why shutdowns generally happen.

This government shutdown is officially the longest shutdown in U.S. history. There are many side effects of the government shutdown, such as [380,000](#) non-critical federal employees furloughed without pay until a budget agreement happens between Congress and the President.

Another side effect of the shutdown, which could impact research capabilities, is that some websites are not being maintained. If the responsible agency is closed or functioning in a limited capacity, the website may be impacted. A couple of websites currently impacted include:

- [The Department of Justice](#) - This website states that "Department of Justice websites will not be regularly updated."
- [National Archives and Records Administration](#) - NARA is closed. Portions of the website, including [Federalregister.gov](#) and [e-CFR](#), are not being updated during the shutdown. Instead, use [GovInfo.gov](#).

Thanks to a [Legislative Branch appropriations bill](#) passed prior to the October 1 fiscal year, some offices still have funding and their websites are currently being maintained. These include:

- [Library of Congress](#)
- [Law Library of Congress](#)
- [GovInfo.gov from Government Publishing Office](#)

The [Congress.gov](#) website is also still available, since it is provided by the Library of Congress.

Every online researcher knows the importance of using secure website. An additional problem presented by the continuing government shutdown is presented by website security certificates which expire and cannot be renewed. Some websites will cease to be available as the [security certificates expire](#). For others only portions of the sites will cease to function. As of January 11, over [80 government websites](#) were being reported down as a result of this problem.

For more information about navigating your research during the government shutdown, don't hesitate to talk to a librarian by stopping by the reference desk, or contacting us via [Ask a Librarian](#). We are also available by email to LawLibraryHelp@rwu.edu, or by calling 401-254-4547.

January 25, 2019

Keeping Current



News information is ubiquitous in 2019—whether you use Facebook, news apps, Twitter, news websites, radio, TV, friends, or a combination of all of the above. In fact, there are [statistics on news watching preferences](#) that indicate the way you get your current events information may be different depending on your age. While this is unsurprising, it is surprising that TV continues to be the most widely used news platform. Today we are talking about different tools for news gathering online.

One quick way to get your news, especially your local hometown news, is through [the Newseum](#) website. This [site presents the front pages](#) of more than 2,000 newspapers worldwide on its site including papers as big as *The New York Times* and as small as South Dakota's *Yankton Press*.

Another way to get news, especially legal news, is by signing up for a current awareness service through Lexis, Westlaw, or Bloomberg Law. Information can be found on the library's website [on how to sign up to get news delivered to your inbox!](#)

Still further, a great way to get your news delivered is through an app. There are several great news delivery apps, but one you should definitely check out is [Flipboard](#). To read more about the design philosophy of the app, [see this article!](#)

Finally, there is [Twitter!](#) While Twitter is not the best tool for a deep dive into research about current events, it is a great resource for identifying news that is happening now. For some of the best law tweets, check out the [ABA's Web 100: Best Law Twitter](#). And while you are there, don't forget to check out the law library's latest news at [@RWULawLibrary!](#)