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8-2021

Law Library Blog (August 2021): Legal Beagle's Blog Archive

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Recommended Citation

Roger Williams University School of Law, "Law Library Blog (August 2021): Legal Beagle's Blog Archive" (2021). *Law Library Newsletters/Blog*. 204.
https://docs.rwu.edu/law_lib_newsblog/204

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August 2021 Library Blogs

Legal Beagle's Post

August 6, 2021

Welcome (Back) Students, Faculty, and Staff!

August 6, 2021



The [RWU Law Library staff](#) warmly welcomes our incoming 1Ls and returning 2Ls and 3Ls. We are excited to have students back in the building with us! We also welcome back our colleagues back on campus this fall.

The library staff is here to help you! We offer a collection and services that harmonize with study, research and scholarship, practice skills education, and all aspects of intellectual life at RWU Law. To stay on top of developments at the law library, be sure to check out our [website](#), [blog](#), [Facebook page](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). Follow us to be the first in the know!

The knowledgeable, friendly, and fun library staff members are here to help you have a successful academic year. They will assist you in using our various resources:

- Legal and non-legal research assistance in-person, via [Ask a Librarian](#) (email or chat), or by calling 401-254-4547;
- [RWU LawGuides](#) -- librarian-curated research starters covering a wide variety of topics;
- Print and digital [Study Aids](#) for the 1L and upper-class curriculum;
- [Interlibrary loan service](#) to obtain items not held by the [RWU libraries](#);
- [Printing, copying, and scanning](#), as well as [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 programming dates and times).

If you have any questions or just need a helping hand, please stop by and say hi. We can't wait to meet or see you!

August 12, 2021

“Roger That”

August 12, 2021



“[Roger That](#)” might sound familiar to you. You may have heard or read this phrase watching or reading something concerning World War II. During World War II, the main form of communication was through two-way radio. Military and aviation personnel used the [phonetic](#)

[alphabet](#) to communicate in a clear way with no room for misinterpretation. “[Roger](#)” was used to indicate a message had been received.

The Library staff often receives questions which require a quick explanation to start someone on the path to acquiring what they need. Sometimes staff members are unavailable when answers to these questions are wanted or needed. The staff have come up with a video series giving quick answers to some often-asked questions. The series is called “[Roger That: research instruction in about a minute.](#)”

So far these are the topics covered:

- [Introduction to the Law Library Website](#)
- [Study Aid Guides: How They Can Help You!](#)
- [What is Single Sign-On?](#)
- [How to Use Digital Resources @ RWU Law](#)
- [Off-Campus Access to Digital Resources](#)

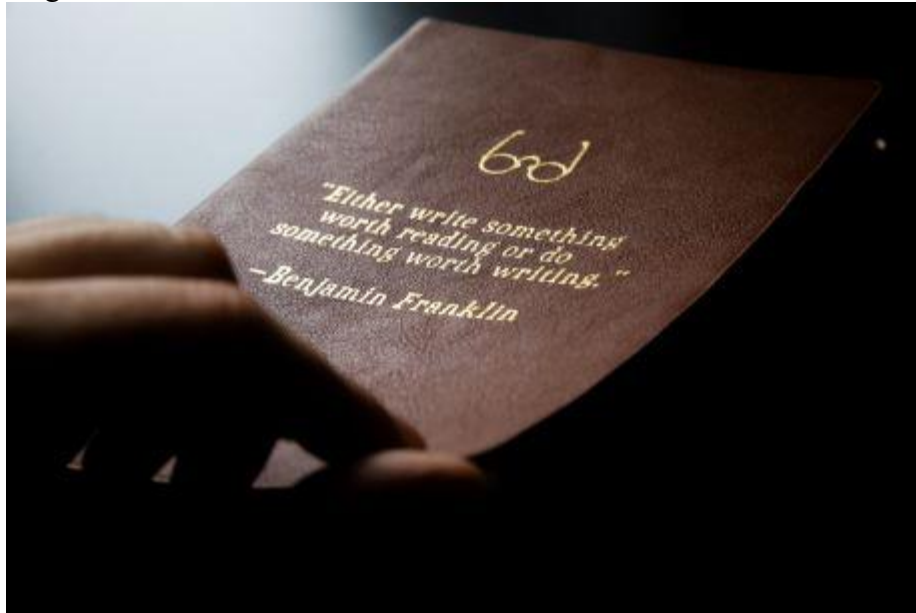
Each of these videos is designed to quickly introduce you to a resource, answer the basic questions, and give you the tools to get started. They are available anytime you need them, wherever you are, as often as you want to view them.

More topics are planned. New “Roger That” videos will be released on the library’s [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) accounts. If you have suggestions for additional topics, please let us know. We are happy to hear which tool you think should be next. Email us at lawlibraryhelp@rwu.edu.

August 20, 2021

Formalized Legal Curiosity

August 20, 2021



The book *Dust Tracks on a Road* ([ebook](#) available at the University Library) is the autobiography of Black female American thinker and writer Zora Neale Hurston. In this 1942 work the author states, "Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose." This is the exact spirit with which the library encourages you to go forward with your directed research papers this semester--formalized legal curiosity.

The library has print and digital resources for research and writing. The library also provides individualized research consultations for students who are working with faculty on a directed research paper. These sessions are available in person or via Zoom and are focused on developing research strategies based on your individual needs.

Furthermore, we encourage students to contact the RWU Law Writing Center for additional writing support.

Here are other helpful resources:

- Basic information on selecting a topic can be found on our page [TimeSaver: Selecting a Topic](#).
- Information on legal research and writing can be found on our page [TimeSaver: Legal Research and Writing](#).
- Information on topic development and preemption can be found in our [LawGuide for Law Review](#).

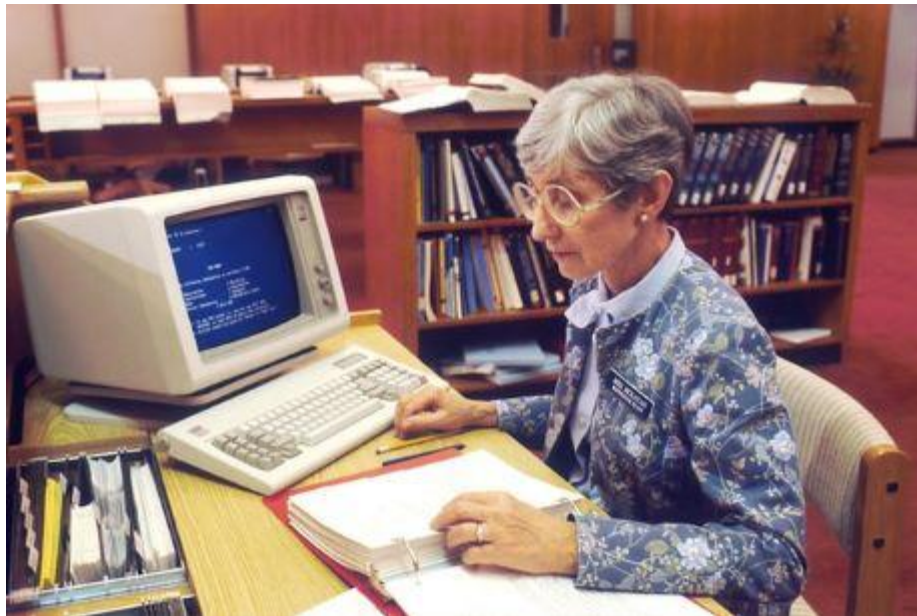
- To schedule a research consultation with a law librarian, contact us via [Ask a Librarian](#), or by email to LawLibraryHelp@rwu.edu.

If you have any questions about locating library resources or if you want to set up a topic selection meeting, please email us at lawlibraryhelp@rwu.edu.

August 27, 2021

Reference: What People Think I Do vs. What I Actually Do

August 27, 2021



Have you seen that meme/graphic widely shared on the internet which depicts what other people think of your profession as opposed to what you do all day long? This year we will be featuring content on our blog using that format to describe what the RWU Law Librarians do all day long. Today we are talking about reference services.

The stereotype of a reference librarian, or what people think we do all day, is that we sit around reading books. People think librarians are quiet people who love books. While librarians may have gotten into this profession because they love to sit quietly and read, the realities of law librarianship are such that reference librarian work is filled with stressed out people, endless questions, and multi-tasking. There is no sitting around quietly reading books in our day!

Whether you call it reference or research, the basic service our library provides is help to students, faculty, research assistants, teaching assistants, staff, clinicians, externs, interns, and administration. Every weekday from about 8:30 am to about 5:00 pm one of the library staff members who hold both a JD and an MLIS sit at the reference desk or are available online to help our patrons. Some people prefer to stop by and get help in person. Some people prefer to chat using our [Ask A Librarian](#) chat service. Some people prefer to call us on the phone. Some people prefer to send us emails. We answer a variety of questions in a variety of ways.

We get patron questions about technology (like how to redact a document in Adobe), about physical library resources (like how to find a book on franchise law), about library research databases (how do I locate federal legislative history resources in HeinOnline), about legal research citations (how do I Bluebook an NPR story), about study aids (how do I find example property law essay questions), and about researching real world issues (how do I find this case my boss thinks is out there but no one else can find). Beyond just answering questions while sitting at the desk, the reference department works on larger research questions for faculty and administration that may take hours, days, or even weeks. This might be to support faculty scholarship or research legal education innovations the school may be considering.

Reference librarians also support student events and programming. We work closely with law review, moot court, the Marine Affairs fellows, student leaders, and student groups in a variety of ways. We plan training sessions, support scholarship, and help support the academic and social life of our community where possible.

Finally, members of the reference staff are also active in outreach activities. We host giveaways, fun events, holiday celebrations, and we help keep the library active on social media. (Check out our [blog](#) and [FB page](#) and [Insta page](#) and [Twitter!](#)).

Overall, librarians who work in the reference department are busy! We might be sitting around reading a book...but it is probably a book we are reading to support faculty research while waiting for our computers to update.