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

Roger Williams University School of Law

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October 2021 Library Blogs

Legal Beagle's Post

October 1, 2021

Mental Health in Law School

October 1, 2021



October 10th is Law Student Mental Health Day. This day coincides with [World Mental Health Day](#) and it is a day that recognizes the stress, anxiety, mental and substance abuse issues among law students, lawyers, and others in the legal profession. On this day, law schools and legal employers promote and educate about programs and events available to students and lawyers who facing are mental health or substance use issues. Lastly, on this day we aim to break the stigma associated with mental health and substance abuse issues.

The law school provides a [Student Support page](#). This page contains information on: how to access counseling services on campus, how to contact the Dean of Students Office, fitness and recreational services on campus, upcoming wellness-related events, and more!

One of the resources highlighted on the Student Wellness page is a Law Library LawGuide titled: [Stress Management, Mindfulness and Wellness](#), created to help you find ways to manage the always-present stress of law school in serious and not-so-serious ways. The guide includes information on [wellness and the law](#) generally, the various [reflective spaces](#) at RWU, and ways to bring [some fun](#) into your life while in law school.

If you are interested in learning more about how mental health and substance abuse issues impact the legal community and general resources available to law students, explore the following resources:

- [Substance Abuse & Mental Health Toolkit for Law School Students and Those Who Care About Them](#) - this resource discusses signs and risk factors related to mental health and substance abuse and provides suggestions and resources for addressing these health concerns. The ABA Law Student Division, the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs, and the Dave Nee Foundation collaborated to create this resource.
- [ABA Mental Health Resources for the Legal Profession](#). Throughout the country, Lawyer Assistance Programs provide confidential services and support to law students, lawyers, and judges facing substance use or mental health issues. The [Directory of Lawyer Assistance Programs](#) provides resources by state.
- [Lawyers Depression Project](#) is a grassroots organization that provides peer support and resources surrounding mental health issues for legal professionals.
- [Voices of Recovery podcast](#) - this series features lawyers who tell their stories about overcoming substance abuse disorders, mental health issues, and addiction.
- [The Besden Redemption](#) – the story of Laurie Besden, a lawyer who battled addiction.

The message from all of these resources is you are not alone. There are many resources available to assist you to better your mental health and wellness as you navigate the stressful years of law school and beyond.

October 8, 2021

Cataloging: What people think I do vs. what I actually do.

October 8, 2021



For most library patrons, the people they meet at the circulation desk or reference desk are the only library staff they see. These frontline library staff deal with the day-to-day operations of the forward-facing library. However, there are other library staff members that most people rarely see because they work behind the scenes making sure there are materials on the shelves and research databases for library patrons to use.

Patrons don't know about these important library staff members, but they are essential for access to information. And no, they also don't get to read all day!

One of those behind-the-scenes staff is called the cataloger. The cataloger organizes the collection and strives to keep it organized. This enables library patrons to locate materials on the shelf or online easily and efficiently. Some people might think that this is an easy or mechanical process, but cataloging is highly intellectual work that requires specialized librarian training, an understanding of how legal materials are published and updated, and how they are used. In the RWU Law Library, the cataloger holds the title of Cataloging, Metadata, and Archives Librarian.

As the cataloger of this library, I (Kathleen MacAndrew) study books and research databases that the library acquires and provide a useful online record that correctly describes the item purchased. The records for all materials in the RWU Library require "access points" to enable searching in the library's online catalog. Book records require a call number based on the Library of Congress Classification System that is placed on a label on the book's spine to indicate where it will be shelved in the library.

The call number is determined by the subject matter within the book. This leads to the next type of access point that should be found in a record...subject headings. These special headings help the library patron find all the items the library has on a particular subject. An example would be Constitutional Law. By applying the appropriate subject heading, I enable patrons to easily find all the call numbers and locations (e.g. reserve, stacks, online) for constitutional law resources in the library.

Other access points found in catalog records make it possible to search using other criteria: title, authors, editors, etc. All these access points can be searched at once with a keyword search! Because of this, I try to think of different ways that patrons might look for an item. I add helpful notes about the item, such as the table of contents information and alternate forms of the main title to ensure all possible access points are available to the patron.

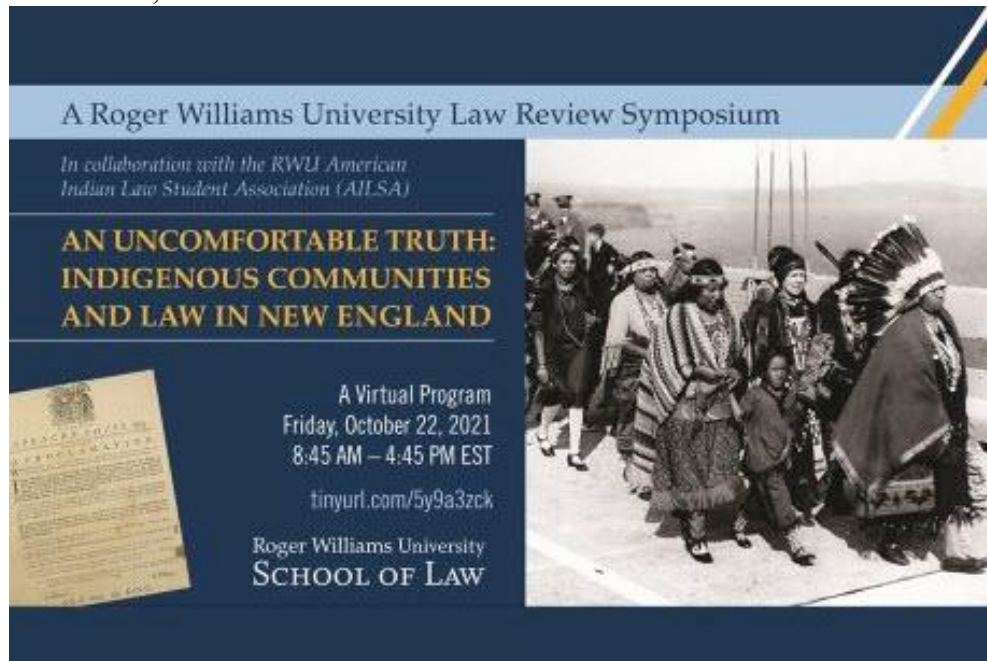
Cataloging begins by locating a record from a bibliographic database called OCLC. I edit the record and export it to the library's online catalog. After the record is exported, I barcode the book and create an item record that provides the location in the library where the item can be found. This item record also includes the circulation status, copy number, and volume information or notes to help identify the exact item for updates, etc. For print items, the next step is to add a label with the call number and place that label carefully so that it does not obstruct information the patron might need, such as a volume number or sections covered in a multivolume set. Electronic resources records include the URL and information about any access restrictions.

Cataloging is exacting and detailed work, but it is rewarding work. By providing helpful and accurate information in the library's catalog, I enable library patrons to locate the items they need for study and research. When people meet me and learn what I do, they often ask whether I get summers off. The answer is no. The Beagle added: Books and databases are always being added to the collection and Kathleen's expertise makes it possible for patrons to find and use the materials they need!

October 15, 2021

An Uncomfortable Truth: Indigenous Communities and Law in New England Symposium Resource Guide Now Available

October 15, 2021



To support this year's virtual Roger Williams University Law Review Symposium, *An Uncomfortable Truth: Indigenous Communities and Law in New England*, the law library has created [this guide showcasing books and online resources](#) on this topic.

The guide features content in the law library's collection and beyond, with special attention given to resources written and edited by the symposium speakers. Register [here](#) for the law review symposium, presented in collaboration with the RWU Law American Indian Law Student Association (AILSAs). See the symposium program [here](#).

This educational and engaging virtual event may be of particular interest to RWU Law students because one of the speakers is Dr. Taino Palermo, a RWU Law 3L. Dr. Palermo had the opportunity to participate in an independent research project focusing on a Legal Framework for Federally Non-Recognized Tribal Nations acquiring ancestral lands and he will be presenting his research paper and answering questions on the topic. Come support your fellow student and learn from these well-known and highly regarded scholars!

October 22, 2021

Audio Study Aids

October 22, 2021



Did you know that there are audiobooks available to help with law school? Both the Wolters Kluwer Online Study Aids Library and West Academic Online Study Aids have audiobooks available to help you. The law library also has several audiobooks on CD.

Wolters Kluwer Online Study Aids Library

Here you can find the In Other Words Audio series. This series consists of twenty-two titles. Topics covered include 1L courses, UCC, international law, tax law, and many others. To access the audio-books available through this platform, go to <https://ebooks.aspenlaw.com/bookshelf> then select the Audio tab to see what they have available.

West Academic Online Study Aids

The West Academic platform has several audio series available. This includes several audio versions of the popular Short & Happy Guide series, High Court Case Summaries, Law School Legends, Office Hours, and Sum and Substance Audio. Their collection includes 82 titles

covering the most common law school topics. This platform also has an audio app available through the Apple app store and Google Play, which allows users to download and listen to audio books offline. To access audio books available through West Academic, go to <https://subscription.westacademic.com/> and select Audio from the Content Type dropdown menu.

Law Library

The Law Library also has several audiobooks on CD which you can check out. To see if the Law Library has an audiobook on the topic you need, search the library catalog for that topic and then set the format filter for Audio. This will also give you listings for items available online.

Using audiobooks can help you learn while you multitask with less intense things such as cooking, working out, or doing laundry.

October 29, 2021

Happy Halloween!

October 29, 2021



What would Halloween be without costumes? The [National Retail Foundation](#) estimates that Americans will spend 3.3 billion dollars on costumes this Halloween. Where did this love for costumes come from that has fueled a multi-billion dollar industry?

Historians consider the Celtic Pagan festival of Samhain which dates back over 2,000 years ago as the [precursor to Halloween](#). During this festival, people “[would wear disguises -- such as animal skins and heads](#)” to trick the spirits into thinking they were one of them.

There is record from the 16th century of “All Hallows’ Eve” including the practice of ‘[guising](#)’. This included children dressing up and pretending to be spirits, they would perform tricks or songs and receive a gift in return.

With the [arrival of Irish and Scottish immigrants](#) into the U.S. in the 18th century, Halloween customs quickly spread throughout the country. By the 1930s, companies like [Ben Cooper, Inc.](#) were mass producing costumes, even producing Disney character costumes like Snow White & Mickey Mouse.

Even the law community closely follows costume trends as evidenced by the [Above the Law’s Legally Themed Halloween Costume contest](#).

Today, the top 10 [most popular costumes](#) are filled with a variety of new and old, so whether you go for a premade costume or make your own have a Happy Halloween...oh, and don’t forget [your pet](#)!