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

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December 2021 Library Blogs

Legal Beagle's Post

December 2, 2021

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

December 2, 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 actually do all day long? This year we will be featuring content on our blog which uses that format to describe what your law librarians here at RWU Law Library do all day long. Today we are talking about instructional services.

A lot of what librarians do is teach. We teach in one on one interactions at the reference desk. We teach in drop in sessions on Zoom. We teach in small group classes in the LP program. Several of the librarians teach for credit classes. Every day is a school day in the law library.

As part of the school's Legal Practice program, the law library staff teaches about 4 weeks per semester in the Fall and Spring. We believe that legal research teaching is best done in small groups and using hands-on pedagogical tools. We teach basic legal research instruction and those four weeks are very busy here at the library! We teach several class sessions a day during these teaching weeks and run around trying to make sure reference questions are answered when we

are not actually in class. Outside of the classroom, we spend hours as a team meeting and writing hypotheticals and preparing assessments and hands-on exercises for these weeks. These weeks are busy but also challenging and fun.

The teaching librarians are also asked to come in and do research presentations in seminars and experiential classes and programs throughout the curriculum. You might see us in international business transactions or in the corporate counsel externship seminar or in the immigration clinic. These are great opportunities for us to teach the students about specialized databases related to the class topic or about more advanced legal research strategies. We also find ourselves often teaching about administrative law and researching regulations since that type of research doesn't usually make it into the first-year classrooms.

In addition to this formal instruction as part of the curriculum, we also provide hours of research and technology instruction to new members of the RWU Law Review, Moot Court, and the Journal of Maritime Law & Commerce. We also provide other specialized research instruction by student request, usually from a student organization.

During the day librarians might be doing a lot of different activities, but we are always teaching as we go. Every reference interaction and every research class session is another opportunity to share our excitement and knowledge about legal research.

December 10, 2021

Take a Nature Break - Aquarium Webcams

December 10, 2021



The Legal Beagle, a Bristol resident who enjoys all that Mount Hope Bay has to offer during the summer, does not enjoy sitting by the bay in the chilly winter months. But the Beagle is a huge fan of ocean creatures and has clued us in to a few wonderful aquarium webcams to get a bit of a nature break within the comfort of our homes.

The Monterey Bay Aquarium offers nine different live [webcams](#) daily. Each camera has slightly different hours of operation, but most are open from 7am to 7pm Pacific Time. In addition to sea creatures, you can watch their aviary, Monterey Bay, and an open sea camera. What makes their webcams unique is that each has sound that goes well with the subjects on camera. If you maximize the window on your computer, the [Monterey Bay webcam](#) might just fool you for a few minutes into thinking that you are right there by the bay.

Next on our list of great aquarium webcams are the ones at the Georgia Aquarium. If you prefer to just watch the animals, this is the place to go. The [Georgia Aquarium's eleven webcams](#) offer views of scary animals like sharks, piranhas, and jelly fish, but also cute animals like sea otters, puffins, and penguins. You can also virtually travel as far as the [Indo-Pacific Barrier Reef](#) and watch fish navigating this magnificent coral reef. Two great offerings by this aquarium include "ocean-inspired" Spotify playlists that you can use to "let the (sound)waves crash over you" and [over 30 digital wallpapers](#) featuring some of the aquarium's beautiful creatures.

Lastly, the [California Academy of Sciences](#) webcams show spectacular sea creatures and underwater ecosystems, with a side of educational content in the form of information about the animals and habitats in each webcam view. They also offer two webcams that you can watch on your mobile phone! Download their Stingrays Live or Pocket Penguins apps to watch these on your iPhone or Android phone. Want to control a bit of the action? The Academy's [Farallon Islands webcam](#) allows you to get in a queue to choose which view the camera will show while you're in charge.

We hope that these webcams help you de-stress a bit during exams!

December 17, 2021

Holiday Lights

December 17, 2021



As we head into the holiday break, let us look at a cultural obsession this time of year: holiday lights.

The advent of electric lights came as an answer to a problem: putting candles in Christmas trees. A fire hazard was averted when in 1882 Edward Hibberd Johnson had the [idea to take some red, white and blue light bulbs and string them together for his tree](#) that he placed right in front of a window for those passing by.

Today there are an estimated [150 million light sets sold in America each year](#), they light up 80 million homes and consume 6 percent of the national's electrical load each December.

With so many holiday lights shining around the country, chances are you are close to an amazing light display. In the New England area, you can find dozens of [public light displays](#), including one at [Roger Williams Park Zoo](#).

Of course, holiday lights are not just for professionals; neighborhoods across the country are filled with houses decorated in Christmas lights, some understated and some extravagant. These are some of the [best in Rhode Island](#).

Perhaps your favorite display is the simplest. Your favorite might be the lights that hang on a tree, over a fireplace, or outside the front door. The lights you see in the place where you will spend the holiday break with friends, family, good food, and a good night's rest as you recover from a semester of hard work.

No matter where you are, whether the lights shine bright or glimmer peacefully, Happy Holidays and Have a Wonderful Break!