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Roger Williams University School of Law

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Dean Logan's Blog

Students Prepare for Practice through Experiential Learning in the Library

Posted by David Logan on 02/11/2014 at 09:25 AM

In "A Study of the Newly Licensed Lawyer," conducted by the National Conference of Bar Examiners, survey participants ranked Research Methodology as one of the most important knowledge domains. The same survey found that over 90% of new attorneys still conduct research in the books but recognize that they must also learn cost-effective online research.

To help RWU Law students prepare for "research in the real world", the RWU Law Librarians developed the Prepare for Practice program: nine librarian-led classes supplemented by four online training classes. Classes cover legal research using the books and online sources, advanced research skills such as finding and updating regulations, practice specific research for litigation and transactional work, and cost effective legal research using Lexis, Westlaw, the Internet, and low or no cost legal research databases.

Through the Prepare for Practice classes, students review and learn new research methods, participate in hands-on exercises, and have the opportunity to apply their skills in research exercises with ample feedback from the librarians.

Students that complete all of the requirements of the program receive a Certificate in Legal Research Skills for Practice. This certification, along with certifications from Lexis and Westlaw, help students demonstrate their research competence and practice-readiness to prospective employers.

This is just another example of how Roger Williams University works to make our graduates "practice ready."



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