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Law Library Illuminations

Roger Williams University School of Law Library

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PRESIDENTIAL IMPEACHMENT

Prior to the current controversy involving President Clinton, only President Andrew Johnson and President Richard Nixon faced the possibility of removal from the Oval Office through the process of impeachment. In Andrew Johnson’s 1868 impeachment proceedings, the vote in the Senate was less than the two-thirds required to convict. Richard Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974, before the House of Representatives could vote on the House Judiciary Committee’s Articles of Impeachment. Now that President William Jefferson Clinton faces the possibility of impeachment proceedings, the library staff brings to your attention some of the available sources in the law library and through the Internet dealing with the presidential impeachment process.

Major relevant provisions in the United States Constitution pertaining to impeachment are: 1) Article II, Section 4 “The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.” 2) Article I, Section 2, Clause 5 “The House of Representatives...shall have the sole power of impeachment.” and 3) Article I, Section 3, Clause 6 “The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two thirds of the members present.” Following the constitutional provisions in the United States Code Annotated and the United States Code Service are annotations to relevant cases, texts and treatises, and law review articles. An annotated version of the U.S. Constitution prepared by the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress is The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation: Annotations of Cases Decided by the Supreme Court of The United States to June 29, 1992 (KF4527 .U54 1996).

New and Improved Law Library Web Site

If you have not visited the Law Library web site recently, our new look may surprise you. As part of a campus-wide effort to improve the University web sites, the pages have been redesigned. Some of the basic changes include updated information and a new look. The link to the library’s online catalog is still present, as is the Library Guide and the “Library Staff” page.

Other changes significantly improve how a pre-existing service is provided. For instance, a different software package is being used to provide our TimeSavers series through the “Research Guides” page. Using Adobe Acrobat Reader allows the TimeSavers to display exactly the way they appear in print and to be updated quickly when the print version is updated. A link for obtaining the free Adobe Acrobat software is available for those who do not already have it installed.

The most noticeable changes are on the “Legal Web Sites” page. Links to additional sites are now available and the layout has been redesigned to help patrons find sources by particular types of documents, by reliable general sources of legal information, or by easy access to the sites available as a result of Law Library memberships and subscriptions.

Bar Association Members

Among the patrons of the law library are members of the bench and bar, who are welcome to use the library’s collection of over 225,000 volumes during our normal hours of operation. In addition to the print and microform collections, this includes use of the computers located at the hexagons in the library. These computers can be used for accessing Internet legal resources, our online catalog, and those CD-ROM products not specifically limited by the publisher to students and faculty.

The recent change in the card reader system for the photocopiers allows attorneys the benefits of having a copy card. The old system limited availability to individuals with law school ID cards. Now a print/copy card can be purchased from the dispenser located in Training Lab 1 and can be used both at the photocopiers and to pay for print jobs sent from the hexagon computers. Copying using the microform reader/printers will still require change. The charge for all printing and copying is $0.10 per page.
The RWU law library belongs to several library consortia. As a result of the law library’s membership in these consortia, law students and faculty receive several benefits from the member libraries, such as onsite access, borrowing privileges, and inter-library loans. The following is a description of two library consortia: the Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries (CRIARL) and the New England Law Library Consortium (NELLCO). Also included is a description of the Higher Education Library Information Network (HELIN). Although the law library is not a member of HELIN, the RWU undergraduate library is a member, and our affiliation with the Roger Williams University entitles law students and faculty to borrowing privileges at some HELIN libraries. If you need help with locating an item that is not in the law library’s collection, please ask the Librarian at the Reference Desk for assistance.

CRIARL

The Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries (CRIARL) consists of fifteen public and private libraries. If the law library does not have a particular item that you need, by searching the various library online catalogs, you may be able to locate a CRIARL library that does own the item. With a letter of referral from a Reference Librarian here, students are allowed access to that library to look at the item. Before going to the library, it is advisable to call ahead and check on the status of the desired item (the item may already be checked out) as well as that library’s borrowing policy. Some CRIARL libraries will not let you check out books from their collection. If you are unable to check out the item and need it for a course, you may request the item through inter-library loan. Forms for inter-library loan are available at the Circulation Desk and are to be returned to Donna Miller, Circulation Coordinator.

Another benefit of membership in CRIARL is our access to the CRIARL Union List of Serials online catalog. About fifty thousand titles owned by member libraries are searchable in this union catalog. You can access the union catalog from the law library online catalog or on the Internet at http://library.brown.edu:81. A link to the web site is also available from the Law Library web page at http://www.rwu.edu/law. To access the union catalog from the law library catalog, select <L> connect to another library. Then select 6>CRIARL Union List of Serials. You can search this online catalog by title; by subject; by words from the subjects, titles, and names; and by names of organizations, editors, and conferences. Select <H> to display the libraries that have the particular journal title you desire. A help feature is available at the union catalog site. The journals generally do not circulate out of these libraries. You can either go to that library and photocopy the article you need or request the article through inter-library loan.

HELIN

The Higher Education Library Information Network (HELIN) is a consortium of several academic libraries in Rhode Island. Member libraries include Roger Williams University, Rhode Island College, Community College of Rhode Island, Providence College, the University of Rhode Island, and most recently Johnson & Wales University. Because the RWU library is a member of HELIN, you are able to access the HELIN online catalog from the law library’s online catalog. From the main menu, type <L> to connect to another library. Select 1> HELIN Consortium Online Catalog. You can search the HELIN online catalog by author, title, subject, and words in a title or subject. To exit the HELIN online catalog, enter <D> to disconnect. Enter <R> to return to the previous screen. You will be back at the law library online catalog main menu.
With your law school ID card, you may borrow materials from the RWU library. Staff at the RWU library Circulation Desk will enter your barcode into the HELIN circulation system. After your barcode has been entered into the HELIN circulation system, you are considered a special borrower which will enable you to borrow materials from Providence College and the University of Rhode Island in addition to the RWU library. You may do this at the individual libraries or by accessing the HELIN catalog at the RWU library.

NELLCO

The New England Law Library Consortium (NELLCO) consists of ABA-accredited academic law libraries, private non-profit, and government law libraries throughout New England. Member libraries participate in inter-library loan and allow law students and faculty onsite access. Consult the Student Access Directory available at the Reference Desk for details on an individual library’s access.

NELLCO has set up an intranet web site at http://www.nellco.org. From there you can search member library web sites and online catalogs. To search available databases, select "Databases...Licensed" and then select the database of your choice. Click on the SearchBank icon to search the LegalTrac database for cites to articles published in legal periodicals from 1980 to present. Use L.O.I.S. (Law Office Information Systems, Inc.) to search for case law, statutes, administrative codes, court rules, jury instructions, attorney general opinions, etc. from 32 state and federal jurisdictions. As L.O.I.S. requires a login and password for access, you will need to ask a reference librarian for assistance. If you are researching pending or enacted federal legislation, click on Congressional Universe for access to congressional publications. Click on the Current Index to Legal Periodicals icon to search weekly issues of CILP for cites to recently published and forthcoming law review articles. If you are interested in locating treatises on a particular subject, try searching IndexMaster. IndexMaster lets you search by keyword(s) in the title, index, and table of contents of individual treatises. You can limit your search to the publications of a particular publisher. In addition to the contents mentioned, there are numerous links to state and federal web sites for legal information. If you need assistance in searching the NELLCO web site, please do not hesitate to ask a librarian.

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**Library Hours**

The regular semester hours of the Law Library are:

- Monday-Thursday: 7:30 a.m. to Midnight
- Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to Midnight

*Thanksgiving / Reading Days Hours:*

The Law Library will be closed Thanksgiving Day.

The hours for the rest of the week, from Wednesday, November 25, through Sunday, November 29, will be as close to normal as the availability of staffing will permit. As soon as a schedule can be determined, the hours will be posted at the entrance to the Law Library on the hours sign board.
Computer Tips

There have been problems with converting Microsoft Word 97 or MS Works documents to a format compatible with WordPerfect.

The problem with Microsoft Word 97 documents should now be resolved. A patch to the WordPerfect program has been installed to allow Word 97 documents to be retrieved into WordPerfect and to provide Word 97 as a format option under “save as.”

The best solution to the problem with MS Works at the moment is to save the documents as an RTF file, “rich text format” file. This will allow the document to be retrieved into WordPerfect. If this format is not used when the file is initially saved, the Reference Librarian on duty at the Reference Desk can assist with saving the document as an RTF file.

Staff Changes and Activities

During the summer, several personnel changes have taken place in Public Services. Lucinda Harrison-Cox is now Public Services/Electronic Resources Librarian. In addition to overall supervision of Public Services operations and staff, Lucinda will provide computer user support services. She will be offering instruction to law students and faculty in using the Internet, CD-ROMs, WESTLAW, and LEXIS-NEXIS. She will continue to assist at the Reference Desk.

Nan Kelley Balliot (Nan was married in June) is now Readers Services Librarian. Nan will continue to provide reference assistance in addition to supervising public services operations such as circulation, reserve, and inter-library loan.

Emilie Benoit, who worked part-time at the Reference Desk during the 1998 spring semester, has been appointed as a part-time Reference Librarian. Emilie is now a permanent member of the library staff. She is a graduate of Brown University and Suffolk University School of Law. She also has an LLM in taxation from Boston University School of Law and is currently enrolled in the Masters program at URI’s School of Library and Information Studies. Emilie is a member of the Rhode Island and Massachusetts Bar Associations. She was employed in both corporate and law firm environments. She was a law clerk for United States District Court Judge Francis Boyle and was a member of the staff of Senator Claiborne Pell. During the 1998 fall semester, Emilie will be available to assist library patrons on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

As part of the library’s participation in the Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries (CRIARL), the library hosted a continuing education workshop, “Exploring Legal Information: Rhode Island and Beyond,” for the staffs of the member libraries on June 16, 1998. Professor Gail Winson, Director of the RWU Law Library, conducted a “virtual tour” of selected Internet web sites which provide legal information. Web sites for locating federal materials such as court decisions, legislation, and administrative regulations were highlighted. Also mentioned were web sites for locating state and municipal materials and legal information by topic. Professor Winson prepared a handout describing the various web sites and a diskette containing embedded links to web sites in a file of bookmarked “favorites” for loading onto desktop computers. (Note, these favorites are available using Microsoft Internet Explorer available on the computers in all three labs. Click on the “Favorites” folder icon. The “Favorites” are organized by Federal Sources, General Sources, Massachusetts Sources, Rhode Island Sources, Search Engines, and State General Sources). After the “tour” concluded, Professor Winson guided participants’ exploration of the web sites in the law library’s main computer lab. Lucinda Harrison-Cox, Public Services/Electronic Resources Librarian, assisted Professor Winson with her presentation and the “hands-on” portion of the workshop.
Many of you are aware of the Law School’s Study in London program. Some may want to know more about the English legal system before considering the program. If you are interested in this program or generally in the functioning of the legal profession in England, the Library has some books that will be of interest to you.


For a “good read,” I recommend this work of fiction set in a barrister’s chambers. It is a wonderful mystery that fully lives up to the author’s previous works. James’ knowledge of the courts and chambers comes from her work in the British Home Office and her time spent with lawyers and judges, in chambers, attending trials, and “wander[ing] around the Middle Temple, where the book is mostly set.” Aside from the real plot of this work, the author skillfully crafts an image of the interplay of personalities in chambers and of the role of different personnel in the normal flow of work in chambers. This said, the book is still a work of fiction and undoubtedly not the most accurate image of life in chambers.

In fact, a review of the book in the *Times* by David Pannick, QC, took issue with James’ view of life in chambers. While he describes the book as a biting study of the legal profession and acknowledges James’ interest in the professional ethics of the defense lawyer, Pannick, a practicing barrister, finds her presentation to be “a uniformly unflattering picture of selfish barristers” to which he states the “Bar pleads not guilty....”


For a more definitive description of the organization of the legal profession in England, chapter three of this work is recommended. Not only does this work present detailed descriptions of the roles and functions of barristers and solicitors, it provides information on the regulation of lawyers, the methods for dealing with complaints against them, and limited information on other staffing in chambers. This reference work is also an excellent source of information on all aspects of the English legal system.


Finally, for those seeking an authoritative but interesting and readable view of the legal profession, this work should be satisfying. Written by the same author that found James’ description of the legal profession too unflattering, this work has the express purpose of exploring and defending the role of the advocate. Presented in narrative form and filled with references to real events, and occasionally to works of fiction, this work sheds a different, more flattering, light on the role of the advocate in the English legal system.


A survey of the incoming first-year class showed that 99% came to law school with some computer experience. While we only asked about the types of experience that could reasonably be linked with the law school experience, no doubt using the computer for playing games would be a common link. What if the “game” is an interactive computer-based lesson and “playing” helps to survive law school?

One of the organizations the Law Library belongs to provides law students at member schools with lessons which can provide an engaging form of study. The Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction is the source of over 100 interactive lessons available on compact disk and through the Internet. A sampling of the twenty-seven subject areas represented includes: Civil Procedure, Contracts, Evidence, Legal Writing and Research, and Professional Responsibility. For first-year students, the “Citation Form for Briefs and Legal Memoranda” and “Legal Research 101: The Tools of the Trade” lessons may be of particular interest. Perennial second- and third-year favorites include the exercises on the Code of Professional Responsibility, the Model Rules of Professional Conduct, and hearsay.

The immediate feedback provided by the lessons can be a valuable self-testing tool.

To try these lessons, students may use the CD-ROM version which is available in the student labs through the network, or may download the lessons from either the CD or from the CALI web site at http://www.cali.org for use on personal computers. The password needed to download lessons from the web site can be obtained from any Reference Librarian.

The time needed to complete a lesson varies. The average is one to two hours, with a few taking as much as five hours. However, the lessons may be stopped and resumed at will, thus allowing the student to take advantage of short periods of time available without having to make one huge commitment of time. Of course, as with any learning aid, the ultimate value of the lessons will depend on the individual student’s learning style. If “playing” the “game” helps, who cares if it also provides an entertaining change of pace from reading casebooks and hornbooks.

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Copy Cards for the Photocopiers

The law school has recently changed the card reader system used with the photocopiers. The same card that has been used for printing in the labs can now be used to photocopy. This should provide a simpler, more reliable system for copying. Only the microform reader/printers do not use this system.

A card may be purchased from the dispenser located in Training Lab 1. The initial cost is $5.00 including $.50 for the card and $4.50 worth of prints/copies. The card may be upgraded using the same dispenser in amounts of $1, $5, $10, or $20. To upgrade a card, insert the card in the dispenser first, then insert the appropriate amount of money. All printing/copying is $0.10 per page.

Please note that a line is provided on the card for your name. Please clearly write your name on this line. If the card is accidently left in the Library and the name is legible, we will return the card to your law school mail box.

E-mail Access

Students desiring an e-mail account will find the green application forms in the bin next to the bulletin board in the Main Computer Lab. Please leave the completed form with the Lab Monitor on duty. The Lab Monitor will forward the form to the appropriate person in the Information Technology Department for processing. When your e-mail account has been established, the Lab Monitor will notify you by placing your account information in your Law School mail box. The process will take approximately two weeks.

There are other sources that have compiled information on impeachment. Two sources of note are a web site and a pathfinder. The web site maintained by Cornell Law School’s Legal Information Institute (LII) has background information on the impeachment process. The LII Backgrounder on Impeachment is at http://www.law.cornell.edu/background/impeach/impeach.htm. From the LII web site, there are links to web sites maintained by the White House, the House of Representatives, and the Senate, and links to a variety of official documents pertinent to the investigation of President Clinton. The LII web site also has links to Richard Nixon’s Articles of Impeachment and Andrew Johnson’s Impeachment Ordeal. In addition, the LII web site has a listing of textual sources and of particular note, a link to the full text of Thomas Kingsley’s The Federal Impeachment Process: A Bibliographic Guide to English and American Precedent, Historical and Procedural Development, and Scholarly Commentary (Cornell University Libraries, 1974). This bibliography has been updated to include post-Watergate law review articles, cases, and Internet sites. A direct link to the bibliography is http://www.law.cornell.edu/library/subjects/fedimp/fedimptc.html#TOP. A pathfinder titled Presidential Impeachment: A Research Guide, prepared by the librarians at the William M. Rains Law Library at Loyola Law School, is available at the Reference Desk in the law library.