

Library Notes *from* Broadway

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Online Research Made Easy

Every media outlet today is comparing our current economic situation to the events following the crash in 1929. Every pundit now seems an expert on Roosevelt-era programs. But, how do we rediscover the past? Medical research has proven that the paper in books can cause skin lesions, which makes book research more dangerous than a trip to Machu Picchu.

HeinOnline has come to the rescue. Every law student knows that HeinOnline is an excellent resource for finding and viewing copies of old law review articles, as well as U.S. Statutes at Large, and English Reports, Full Reprint (1220-1865). But, did you know that they recently added new libraries to the collection?

One new library is the United States Code. Most law students know that the United States Code has been published every six years, since 1926. In between those editions, annual cumulative supplements are published in order to present the most current information. This new library goes back to the 1925-1926 Edition, and even has earlier codifications of federal law from 1875 and 1878.

But, back to the past. Here is the beginning of the Federal Emergency Relief Act of 1933, which could just as easily have been passed yesterday:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress hereby declares that the present economic depression has created a serious emergency, due to widespread unemployment and increasing inadequacy of State and local relief funds, resulting in the existing or threatened deprivation of a considerable number of families and individuals of the necessities of life,

and making it imperative that the Federal Government cooperate more effectively with the several States and Territories and the District of Columbia in furnishing relief to their needy and distressed people.

I retrieved those words from HeinOnline's U.S. Statutes at Large Library. If I then move over to HeinOnline's U.S. Code Library, I find some interesting supplemental legislation to that Act:

(f) No alien, no Communist, and no member of any Nazi Bund Organization shall be given employment or continued in employment on any work project prosecuted under the appropriations contained in this joint resolution and no part of the money appropriated in this joint resolution shall be available to pay any person who has not made or who does not make affidavit as to United States citizenship and to the effect that he is not a Communist and not a member of any Nazi Bund Organization, such affidavit to be considered prima facie evidence of such citizenship, and that he is not a Communist, and not a member of any Nazi Bund Organization

Obviously, while we do have similar economic concerns, we face very different non-economic threats.

Just like all other HeinOnline products, this information may be printed out in PDF format. However, this is the "cut 'n paste" generation, so PDF may not be desirable for grabbing block quotes like these. (Imagine all of that typing!) Fortunately, the software allows you to download the information as plain text, which makes cutting and pasting possible.

This is an invaluable resource. But, remember, the text has been optically scanned from real pages; it is not a digital transcription. Therefore, there can be some problems. Hei-

nOnline does list a caveat as to its accuracy: "Citations are generated automatically from uncorrected OCR'd text. Due to OCR errors and text variations, some citations may not be listed or listed correctly. Citations which are identifiable in HeinOnline are presented as links."

Another new library is that of the National Moot Court Competition. Here one can find summaries of each year's competition, the competition guidelines, rules, the transcript of record, and, of course, all of the briefs that were filed.

HeinOnline keeps adding new libraries: be sure to keep an eye on them.

Free Candy:

Find each of those block quotes listed above, then bring the citation to the reference desk.

Bonus Question:

Who were the Blue Star Mothers of America? Why are they in the United States Code? (try the 1958 Edition, Supplement 5 v. 2 1914 (1959-1964)

Exams

The law library keeps copies of past law exams in different formats, and in different places. There is a reason for this, and it has nothing to do with cataloging. Faculty members decide if they want students to see their older exams, and they also decide if the exams will be in paper or electronic.

The library maintains exams in three different locations. On the second floor, in the copy room, is a large collection of older bound

exams. A second set of exams may be found on Reserve, at the front desk. Some exams may be found online, through our catalog.

Be sure to check each location to make sure that you have all available copies of any old exams.

Leaping Laptops

Folks, as I walk around the library, I see a staggering number of laptops that are simply sitting on a table, desk, or even the floor, without an owner in sight. This is simply an invitation to theft.

If your laptop were to disappear, what else might you lose? Class notes from the entire semester? Outlines? Study guides? As finals approach, your information saved in that laptop

becomes ever more precious. Chances are that it is not backed up on a separate storage drive.

Save yourselves from an unnecessary nervous breakdown. Please secure your laptops and other valuables, including all stored information.

Policies

We ask that all Library patrons follow these rules. Many people use this library, and we must all be considerate.

- Drinks must be in safety cups; water bottles with a screw top are permitted.
- Snack food is permitted in first floor reading room. All other food is forbidden.
- No tobacco products of any kind.
- Cell phones should be switched to silent or vibrate mode. You may use them near the Ad-

ministrative area on the second floor, and the Circulation Desk area on the first floor.

- Please re-shelve your books.
- Please keep noise levels low—many students are trying to study. Remember, the third floor is for Silent Study —this means that no talking is permitted.
- On second floor, please use low voices.

Millenium Update

The law library has begun upgrading its computer system to a menu-based environment for our technical services and circulation functions. You may have experienced some system down time in order to do this, but the change will result in a more stable, functional system that we can build on in the future.

This past February and March, library staff received training on using the new system for ordering, receiving, and cataloging all new library materials. Circulation is also changing, in order to provide new and improved functionality for reserving group study rooms electronically and e-mail reminders for fines and holds.

You may not have noticed changes to

the public catalog yet. By the end of April, or early May, we should have a new look for the catalog. It will allow for improved searching of the library's collection and electronic content. We will be able to link to many other electronic services including WorldCat, for example, which connects users to the collections and services of more than 10,000 libraries worldwide.

Here at the law library, we are always looking for ways to improve service to you, our patrons.

Escorts

As we approach the end of the semester, more students are going to the law library. They seek quiet study as well as group study rooms, and are busy asking for old exams at the circulation desk.

To better serve the influx of students, the law library will be open until 1:00 a.m. during finals. Please don't hesitate to take advantage of this opportunity.

If you do not like being out at night, escorts are available. The Law Walkers are available to walk you to your car. They are on duty until 9:00 p.m. However, because they are students, this service will be discontinued during Finals. However, you may call University Police for an escort to your car, at 3434. If you are off campus, you may reach them at (504) 865-3434.

Library Hours

Please call the Circulation Department at 861-5545 if you have any questions regarding the hours of operation...

May 11 (Monday) - Last Day of exam hours - 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.

May 12 (Tuesday) - Break hours begin -

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

May 31 (Sunday) - Regular hours resume

Regular hours will resume Sunday, May 31 and Summer session begins Monday, June 1.