

Westminster Law Library
University of Denver College of Law

Hearsay

Spring 2003

FROM THE DIRECTOR
1

NEW LIBRARY PERSONNEL
LIBRARY WEBSITE
REDESIGN
2

ADVANCED LEGAL
RESEARCH CLASS
LIBRARY FAST FACTS
3

ETC

WHAT ARE PRACTICE
MATERIALS?
4

LEGAL RESEARCH CORNER
5

READ ALL ABOUT IT

LEGAL RESEARCH ON THE
INTERNET
6

CONTRIBUTORS

Gary Alexander
Library Director

Debra Austin
Library Instruction Coordinator

Theresa Baker
Web / Systems Librarian

Diane Burkhardt
Faculty Services Liaison

Goldie Burton
Reference Librarian

Sheila Green
Reference Librarian

Martha Keister
Foreign, Comparative &
International Law Librarian

Caryl Shipley
Acquisitions / Special Projects

Editor
Patty Wellinger
Reference Services Coordinator

From the Director

Gary Alexander

Less is more... more or less. The other day, I stopped to talk with two law students who were at a table outside the library handing out copies of the March 20, 2003, issue of The Writ. Teasingly, I asked whether there was 'anything' on the library.

So happens that there was; a short piece on page 4 offering an update on the new library. Paragraph five begins with a reference to "all the rumors floating around about the new library." Whoa, I don't think I have heard even one of these rumors. Still, I can appreciate that there may be some 'mis-information' out on the street; after all, I don't recall that we have spoken with the press. But our turn may be coming up soon.

One of the students commented that she thought that The Writ was planning to do a piece on the library for an upcoming issue. I hope I will get to hear – and comment on - the rumors. Until then, it would be mere speculation on my part to imagine what some of these rumors might be about. But I can – preemptively - provide some verifiable, if not verified, information about the new library.

I remember an interview with the Dean that appeared in the October 25, 2002, issue of The Writ. I think the Dean's comment on the size of the new library may have been misquoted. Rather than the 40,000 square feet reported, our new library will be closer to 35,000 square feet. So there will be 'less' library.

A point of clarification: the new library will "take up" SOME of "three floors of the new building." The library space will be south of the main east-west concourse, and west of the north-south corridor. The library entrance will be on the second floor, and there will be an internal stairway for access to the first and third floors of the library. This three-story stairway will be inside a five-story light well. The effect should be stunning.

The new library will "truly ... be a beautiful ... space." On each floor, the southern wall is an expanse of glass through which the natural light will flood the interior of the space. Each floor should have a different 'feel.' I am no architect, but I think an architect would say that each floor will possess its own distinct 'character.' I offer the second floor as a case in point.

Continued on page 2

From the Director

Continued from page 1

Upon entering the new library, the custom-made Circulation Desk is directly in front of you. To your immediate left, is the library stairway. Further to your left, is the entrance to the Hughes Room. I doubt that you are aware of the history of the Hughes Room, but in one of its previous incarnations, when we were located downtown, it was in the library. The newly-appointed room with its book collection should be an exceptional space. To the left of the Circulation Desk, is a space intended for instructional purposes, eg, Lawyering Process, library brownbags, etc. The Microform collection will be in the far left corner. Faculty Reserve and the library's Audio-Visual collection will be directly behind the Circulation Desk. The Index collection will be shelved on special tables between these materials and the southern wall.

Current Periodicals will be shelved beside the index tables. Library OPACs are to the right of the Circulation Desk. A copier, fax, Westlaw and Lexis printers, and a network printer are in a separate room over in the far right corner.

Wait, there's more on this floor. Fact, not rumor: the Dean is working on a plan that would put up to 40 computers in the library. We have suggested that the second floor would be the optimal location for all (40?) of these computers.

Here's another fact: there are now 14 study rooms in the library; in the new library, there will be only 6 (all located on the third floor). But there are many other study rooms located throughout the building, and don't forget, there will also be wireless capability throughout the building.

Now, for that one rumor noted in the March 20th issue of The Writ; namely, that "there will likely be less books" in the new library. There may well be **fewer** books in the new law library, but there will be a ton **more** books available in our close-in storage facility just across the street, a/k/a Penrose Library. 📖

Proctors Needed for LSAT & MPRE Exams

Tests offered throughout the year. For information on dates and to put your name on the list to be a proctor, contact Goldie Burton, Reference Librarian at 303-871-6386 or gburton@law.du.edu.

Note - for security reasons you cannot proctor the MPRE if you are planning to take it, but have not already done so.

New Library Personnel

Goldie Burton

Reference Librarian

Please welcome our newest staff member, Elena Kelty. Elena comes to Colorado from Mexico City, Mexico by way of Columbia, Missouri, where she worked in collection management at the University of Missouri Law Library and supervised shelving at the Ellis Library, the main library for the University of Missouri. Since coming to Colorado, Elena has worked in circulation at the Denison Memorial Library (CU Health Sciences) and now works here in technical services.

In preparation for our move, Elena currently processes materials to store in PASCAL (which, incidentally, her husband manages) as well as incoming mail. Once we move, however, Elena's duties will shift to checking in serials, processing incoming mail and assisting with interlibrary loan. Elena and her husband Michael have three kids, John, Janet and Bennito, ranging in age from 17 to 6. Elena's extended family live in Milpa Alta, Mexico, just south of Mexico City. Elena plans to continue taking classes toward a bachelor's degree at the main campus. Last year, Elena and Michael ran the Bolder—Boulder. 📖

Library Website Gets a New Look

Theresa Baker

Web / Systems Librarian

The Library's website is in the process of being redesigned. Our goals for the new site include:

- More user focused
- Clean, uncluttered design
- Comply with DU web standards
- Integrate library instruction
- Comply with accessibility guidelines
- Use current web development technologies

We are currently performing usability tests and have received some very positive feedback. We think the new design will allow you to quickly find the information you need. Watch for the unveiling of the site just prior to our move to the new building. 📖

Five Years of Advanced Legal Research

Debra Austin

Library Instruction Coordinator

The Advanced Legal Research Course, offered at the University of Denver for five years, has enhanced the legal research, technology, and analytical skills of 621 law students. ALR is uniquely positioned to provide a number of critical skills necessary for success in law practice: information literacy, digital literacy, and critical thinking skills.

Information literacy

Prior to any argument made in a brief or before the court, a lawyer must first find all the mandatory and persuasive authority that exists on the issue at hand. Information currently resides in a number of formats: print, commercial online services, and free Internet sites. A cost-effective legal researcher learns to appreciate the relative benefits of information in each of these formats and possesses the skills to work easily in each and blend the results seamlessly into his/her argument. ALR covers in greater detail and depth the resources introduced in the LP program, as well as additional crucial legal research sources.


Digital literacy

Today's law students grew up immersed in digital media for entertainment, communication, and commerce. Tomorrow's lawyers will work in a powerful information culture. The ALR course is taught in a technology-rich learning environment. The ALR E-Curriculum is innovative, interactive, and paperless. Students work in an Internet environment during each class session. They produce projects in both PowerPoint and FrontPage. In law practice today, presentation software skills are critical for presentations to juries, boards of directors, and potential clients. Web authoring skills are highly valued. Most legal employers maintain at least one web site for marketing their business. Lawyers who understand web authoring can either create and maintain their own sites or work more easily with those they hire to do the work. The course results in each student creating an Internet-based portfolio web page of their legal work that can be used to market themselves to legal employers.

Critical thinking skills

For each research problem they encounter, lawyers need to create a research strategy for completion of that project. Research strategy includes selection of the appropriate research tools to find an answer, an understanding of the time it will take to do the work, and a clear idea of the cost involved with the research. Comprehensive coverage of legal research resources, strong focus on developing research strategies, and exposure to legal publishers and pricing are

contained exclusively in ALR.

The new law building contains a larger computer learning center, accommodating up to 32 students. ALR will be offered in the summer as well as fall and spring semesters. If you have any questions about ALR, please contact me at daustin@law.du.edu. 

Library Fast Facts

- Items sent to PASCAL in the past year—an off-site storage facility that DU Law shares with four other academic libraries: **9,340**
- Number of electronic databases (besides Lexis & Westlaw) to which the library subscribes : **25**
- Number of hours of Westlaw & Lexis usage from DU faculty, students & staff in 2000-2001: **50,728**
- Average number of monthly hits on the law library's website: **5,600**
- Number of classes taught by the Reference Librarians in 2001-2002: **115**
- Number of items borrowed or lent via nationwide interlibrary loan in 2001: **3,483**
- Number of items borrowed or lent via Prospector (cooperative agreement among 14 Colorado libraries) in 2001: **1,127**
- Number of full and part-time library employees: **24**
- Number of research handouts created by the Reference Librarians and available via the library's website: **45**
- Number of items the library owns that were published prior to 1800: **50**
- Proud recipient of the 2000 Quality Department Award given by the Staff Advisory Council of the University of Denver: **The Westminster Law Library**

This list is also published in the January, 2003 issue of the University of Denver College of Law Alumni Magazine.

ETC.:

Or What We Do Outside the Library

Diane Burkhardt

Faculty Liaison

Theresa Baker bought a new house last fall and spent the winter settling into it. It's less than two miles from the main campus. She's looking forward to a short commute when the College of Law moves.

Sheila Green taught a workshop on "Internet Legal Research for Non-Law Librarians" at Colorado College in September. She also participated in legal research training for twenty-five public librarians in Colorado Springs in February. The training was sponsored by the Colorado Association of Law Libraries and included practical tips on finding and using federal statutes, legal encyclopedias, and the American Law Reports series. Sheila has volunteered to do an additional training session for Colorado Springs librarians in April. Sounds like Sheila needs to open a branch office!

Patty Wellinger, inveterate basketball fan, attended the Big 10 Men's Basketball tournament in Chicago during the law school's spring break. Also an inveterate committee member, she will soon finish a four-year term as editor of the Committee News column for the AALL (American Association of Law Libraries) *Spectrum* and a two-year term on the AALL Awards Committee.

Some of us missed the advertisements about cheap air fares from Denver to London, but not **Carol Perkins** and **Martha Keister**. Carol and her sister traveled to London in December, enjoying several plays, the British Museum, and side trips to Bath, Stonehenge, Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon. Martha and her husband enjoyed a sunny week there in February, attending the opera, the symphony, and "Bombay Dreams," a musical in the Bollywood fashion. They took several walking tours, including "Legal London" and "The Haunted City of London," and indulged in tasty culinary adventures (Bakewell Tarts anyone?).

Diane Burkhardt spent many days this winter skiing the bumps and bowls at Copper Mountain. She is sad to see spring arrive.

Barbara Allen and her Welsh Corgi, Pippin, are training hard to participate in obedience competitions. You'll be impressed if you see them practicing on the sidewalks around the law school. Barb reports that Pippin is eager to try agility training next.

Etc. has heard from a reliable source that **Madeline Kriescher** and her dog, Pandora, and **Theresa Baker** and her dog, Dax, are planning to participate in the Furry Scurry, the

annual run/walk fundraiser for the Denver Dumb Friends' League in Washington Park on May 3. **Goldie Burton** may join them with Hester and Prudence, if she can take a break from her studies in the Grad Tax program.

Caryl Shipley is dazzling the library staff with the bead bracelets she has been making in her spare time. She is always on the lookout for new bead shops and unique beads.

Rayna Wandel, the library's resident artist, is creating a web site to display her paintings. Her biographical information and some of her art are currently posted on the web site through the Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado. (http://www.ajfcolorado.org/content_display.html?ArticleID=40103&page=8) Way to go, Rayna!



What are Practice Materials?

Goldie Burton, Reference Librarian

Have the routines of law school dealt severely with your free time? Especially if you're crazy or ambitious enough to work outside law school, you have to be pretty ruthless (your stomach lining or another cup of Starbucks?) By the third week of class, most students have chosen between their fitness regimens and sleep.

The grim introduction aside, my intention is to pitch to you library resources known as "practice materials." Lawyers use these materials to organize and focus relevant primary sources, thus saving their own time and clients' money. In the same way West's Headnotes or Lexis' Core Concepts become indispensable once adopted, practice materials are habit-forming. If you haven't needed to use practice materials yet, don't rule out the future possibility, especially in non-academic work.

Typically, a practice manual or "loose-leaf" treats an area of law or a jurisdiction, lays out the procedural steps for particular actions and provides forms. If you're interested in getting a job in an employment law firm, you might look at the Library's loose leaves on employment discrimination, sexual harassment or any other subtopics of employment law. Familiarity with these sources is an advantage in competing for jobs and enhances your efficiency and versatility once hired.

Strategies to succeed in law school are a dime a dozen and the subject of many arguments, e.g., whether making and using your own outline is better than collaborating with a study partner. Some people analyze or debate study methods with the zeal of the recently converted. But be advised, fascination with study technique goes hand-in-glove with work avoidance. A safer habit may be to ask a librarian for help locating practice materials suited to your problem. 📖

Legal Research Corner @

The Colorado Lawyer


Martha Keister, FCIL Librarian

The idea of a legal research column, written by law librarians, for the Colorado Bar Association's monthly publication, The Colorado Lawyer, arose in the Spring 2002. The Colorado Association of Law Librarians (CoALL) had considered this idea several times in the past, but it was not until Fall 2002 that the organization was able to begin the project. During the summer, Mariann Storck, Library Manager at the U.S. Attorney's Office, asked for volunteers to discuss the name, format, coverage and frequency for such a reference column. The volunteers, who have become the authors, include Shannon Vicic, Reference Librarian at Holland and Hart, Wanda McDavid of Access/ Information, Ms. Storck mentioned above, and me.

This group of law librarians, including government, law firm, academic and special, is an especially nice one as the needs of each vary somewhat according to constituency. As we worked together it seemed our only problem has been the length of the articles: we want everyone to know everything and so we are wordy! We committed ourselves to writing a column every other month, or 6 times a year. We try to cover topics of special interest to Colorado attorneys, assisting them with common legal research problems. Questions from readers are welcomed.

The column, titled "The Legal Research Corner", debuted in the November 2003 issue of The Colorado Lawyer. Our first column covered Colorado regulations, our second column discussed Colorado legislative history and our next article will discuss locating information about people in Colorado. We have had some good feedback from colleagues and attorneys who refer to the articles for the specific information we have provided.

Our collaborative writing efforts vary: we have divided information about a topic with several of us writing a portion and one person collating the contributions. We have also had a single person write an article and the others contribute information and editing. I'm sure the process will vary as we fall into a routine. Needless to say, the wonderful editors at The Colorado Lawyer take us in hand, letting us know when we need more information or less.

Readers can access the column in various ways. The print issues are 31 Colorado Lawyer 51, and 32 Colorado Lawyer 47. If you are a member of the Colorado Bar Association, you can read the articles on line at <http://www.cobar.org/tcl/index.cfm>. Articles are also available on the CoALL webpage at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/coall/>. In addition, Colorado Lawyer articles are posted on Westlaw. 

Summer Westlaw & Lexis Access:

Students will be able to extend their passwords for use during the summer by following the directions posted on the Westlaw & Lexis websites for summer registration. Please note that DU students have an educational password - summer usage is limited to those students who are enrolled in classes, doing internships or externships for credit, journal members or are working as faculty RA's.

Loislaw

All students can register for a password for access year-round to Loislaw at <http://www.law.du.edu/library/elecdb/loislaw.htm>. The library subscribes to this full-text legal database that covers federal cases, statutes & regulations as well as Colorado cases, statutes, regulations and jury instructions. There are no usage restrictions for students using Loislaw.

Law Libraries in the Metro Area

The Westminster Law Library may be closed during part of the summer due to our move to the main campus. Other area law libraries include:

Colorado Supreme Court Library – 2 East 14th Ave Room B112, Denver, 303-837-3720, open 8am-5pm M-F (materials do not circulate). <http://www.state.co.us/courts/sctlib/>

U.S. Courts 10th Circuit Library – 1961 Stout St., Room 280, Denver, 303-844-3591, open 8am-4:30pm M-F (materials do not circulate).

University of Colorado Law Library – 402 UCB, Boulder, 303-492-3522, hours vary (some items circulate with a CO ID). <http://www.colorado.edu/Law/lawlib/>

New Databases

The Westminster Law Library has purchased the following new databases which are available via the library's homepage at http://www.law.du.edu/library/electronic_databases.htm.

Bradford Legal Forms - Current Colorado legal forms.

Environmental Law Reporter - Federal, state, and international materials on environmental law, natural resources, energy, toxic tort, and land use law.

Environmental Policy Index - Abstract/index information for environmental policy and studies journals.

Codes of Ethics Online - Ethical codes for a variety of professions.

Read All About It: New Books in Your Library Caryl Shipley

Acquisitions / Special Projects

Ark of the Broken Covenant: Protecting the World's Biodiversity Hotspots

John Charles Kunich
K3585 .K86 2003

Carefully mixing scientific and legal expertise, John Kunich demonstrates that an ecologically devastating global crisis is imminent or may even be underway already. Contributing largely to that tragedy is the fact that conservation law has yet to catch up with biological science, which compounds the damage. He challenges readers with a "hotspots wager," in which he argues that we have so much more to gain than to lose if we would legally protect these biological hotspots. Bypassing them, as is the current practice in favor of the "band aid" repair approach (which fixes relatively minor ills, but does produce swift results) is both foolish and, ultimately, dangerous.

Kunich claims that legal consideration lags behind modern science in focusing on and setting priorities for global conservation. Many scientists argue that an extinction "seizure" is approaching because of the ongoing global destruction of biologically hazardous locales. These contentious environmental areas have already lost 88 percent of their primary vegetation and are likely to lose much more, yet few legal measures exist to protect them. The few laws, which are in force, include environmental legal protections that are often not comprehensive and rarely enforced. Even worse, 62% of all hotspots are completely unprotected.

In summary, Kunich provides a brief history and scientific synopsis of extinction and the expiration of our natural resources. He discusses the importance of saving species from extinction and analyzes the legal measures directed toward preserving biodiversity in nations that harbor, wittingly or not, hotspots.

Adapted from remarks supplied by the publisher.

Additional new titles are posted on the Library's webpage at <http://www.law.du.edu/library/newacq/Default.htm>.

Legal Research on the Internet Sheila Green & Patty Wellinger Reference Librarians

How do online researchers find exactly what they need from the billions of pieces of information floating in an uncharted Internet ocean? Don't waste time scrolling through irrelevant hits from your Google search ...

Instead use "Research Links" on the Westminster Law Library's user-friendly homepage (http://www.law.du.edu/library/research_links/research_links.htm) to access reliable primary and secondary legal resources on the Internet. The law librarians have provided links to a variety of legal information websites to save you time and frustration.

Click on federal links for cases from appellate and special courts. These links also lead to other federal materials such as statutes, public laws, bills, congressional debates, the U.S. Constitution, Code of Federal Regulations, Federal Register, presidential documents, and agency resources.

Click on Colorado links to begin your research in Colorado resources such as cases, court rules, regulations, statutes and the CO. Colorado local government links provide full-text searching of 50 Colorado city and county municipal codes.

Secondary sources assist researchers by explaining and providing background information on primary sources. Use Westminster Law Library's homepage links to find legal dictionaries, directories, encyclopedias, periodicals, and a wide selection of free legal forms. (Fee-based form links are marked with a \$.)

Check Rules 18-2-18.2.9 for Internet citing instructions in [The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation](#), 17th edition.

Questions? Contact the Reference Librarians at the Westminster Law Library at (303) 871-6206 or refdesk@law.du.edu.

Using Legal Internet Sites

- Currency – In legal research it is critical to have the most current information, so be sure to check when the site was last updated.
- Authority - Does the website come from a reputable source? If possible – look for information provided by courts, government agencies or legal organizations. Portals organized by law librarians or law school websites often bring together trustworthy legal research web links.