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Bits & Bytes

Fall 2005

Nota Bene



The Newsletter of Rutgers Law Library

Library Basics

Web page

<http://law-library.rutgers.edu/>

On the library's Web site you will find our online catalog, electronic course reserves, a database of past law school exams, links to many legal and non-legal database, subject specific pathfinders and the Internet Law Guide, an excellent portal to New Jersey law, federal law and much more...

Hours:

Mon—Fri:	7:30 a.m. to Midnight
Saturday:	10:00 a.m. to Midnight
Sunday:	10:00 a.m. to Midnight

Contact us:

- Reference.....(973) 353-5676
Got a question? We can help.
- Circulation(973) 353-5677
Contact us for information about inter library loans, study rooms, and renewing your library books.

CONNECTIVITY PROBLEMS?

We are working to improve wireless access in all areas of the library. Please let the Circulation staff know if you are having any difficulty connecting to the Internet with your laptop. Thanks!

Internet and Information Technology Workshops Fall 2005 Schedule

The faculty of the Rutgers Law Library - Newark is pleased to offer the following Internet and Information Technology Workshops for students, faculty and staff.

Registration is recommended but not required.

For registration please email Suzanna Polhemus at spolhamus@kinoy.rutgers.edu or call (973) 353-5677. Please provide your full name, email address, and specify the name and date of the workshop you would like to attend. All workshops will be held in **Room 387, the Weintraub computer lab** on the third floor of the library.

E-Journals and Indexes and Databases on the RUL Website (Instructor: Brian Blaho)

The Rutgers University Libraries (RUL) homepage (<http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu>) offers access to hundreds of Electronic Journals. These include both academic journals (the Journal of the American Medical Association) and popular periodicals (Life, Newsweek). This workshop will show you how to find an E-journal, and then how to search it and deliver your results. This workshop will also provide an introduction to the Indexes and Databases available on the RUL homepage. It will show you how to find the best index for your topic and how to search the database. These indexes can only be used on campus unless you configure your computer for remote access. Instructions for setting up remote access will be provided at the workshop.

Dates: Wed., Sept. 14th at 12:35 - 1:05 PM
Wed., Sept. 21st at 5:15 - 5:45 PM

Federal Legislative History Information on the Internet (Instructor: Susan Lyons)

Begin your legislative history research on the Web! This workshop will show you how to locate bills, reports, and hearings online and find bill summaries and status reports for recent federal legislation.

Dates: Tues., Sept. 13th at 12:35 - 1:05 PM
Tues., Sept. 13th at 5:15 - 5:45 PM

Introduction to RSS and Blogs (Instructor: Kevin Reiss)

Blogs are emerging as important news and information source. There are a large number of blogs or "blawgs" devoted to a wide variety of legal topics and issues. In this workshop you will learn what a blog is and how to find them on the web. You will also learn about software called "aggregators" or "feed readers" that enable one to easily track and read selected blogs. In the workshop you will learn how to use a free web-based aggregator for tracking and reading blogs. Most of the example blogs shown will be taken from the world of legal blogs.

Dates: Tuesday, Sept 6th 12:35- 1:05 PM
Thursday, Sept.15th 5:15- 5:45 PM

New Jersey Legislative History Information on the Internet (Instructor: Paul Axel-Lute)

Obtain tips on finding sponsor's statements, committee statements, and hearing transcripts through the Legislature and the State Library web sites.

Dates: Thur., Sept. 8th at 12:35 - 1:05 PM
Thur., Sept. 8th at 5:15 - 5:45 PM

Law Library Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) (Instructor: Carol Roehrenbeck)

The Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) is a Web-based catalog. This workshop will teach users how to access and remotely browse the library's catalog with internet access from anywhere at any time. This session will also demonstrate and teach users how to construct search queries to maximize retrieval of information resources using author, title, Library of Congress Subject Headings, and the advanced searching functionality--keyword searches, adjacency searches, proximity searches, and relevance ranking.

Dates: Thur., Sept 1st 12:45- 1:45 PM
Wed., Sept.15th 5:15- 5:45 PM

PowerPoint Presentation Technology (Instructor: Brian Blaho)

Microsoft PowerPoint is a popular program used to create outlines, notes, and visual aids for lectures and presentations. This workshop gives an introduction on how to construct PowerPoint presentations that include both textual notes and multimedia content. We will go over how to use PowerPoint's template library to create the visual style for your presentation and how to include images and charts in presentations. We will also cover how to convert your presentation to HTML for display on the Internet.

Dates: Tuesday, Sept. 20th 12:35-1:05 PM
Tuesday, Sept. 20th 12:35-1:05 PM

Workshop Schedule — September 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Catalogs</i> 12:35	2	3
4	5	6 <i>RSS/Blogs</i> 12:35	7 <i>Catalogs</i> 5:15	8 <i>NJ Leg History</i> 12:35 & 5:15	9	10
11	12	13 <i>Fed Leg History</i> 12:35 & 5:15	14 <i>E-Journals</i> 12:35	15 <i>RSS/Blogs</i> 5:15	16	17
18	19	20 <i>Powerpoint</i> 12:35 & 5:15	21 <i>E-Journals</i> 5:15	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Choosing the Right Study Aids for First Year Courses

By Brian Blaho, Reference Librarian

There is no substitution for attending class and being well prepared to fully participate in the Socratic exchange. However, there are a number of places to turn when you're unsure how tight your grasp on those sticks from that ubiquitous bundle actually is. I'm talking about study aids, of course, and if you're like most 1Ls you've been talking about them too. Here is a brief description of many of the study aids available to you from within the library and from other sources as well.

Hornbooks. Treatises on a given subject written by preeminent scholars. The books themselves are well indexed, easy to navigate and thoroughly referenced. As a rule they are as complete a summary of a given area of law as can be found outside of a Restatement. For these reasons hornbooks are likely to be the first place, outside of your course materials, your professor will recommend you turn when you need help with your course work. Current editions of many hornbooks are on reserve at the circulation desk.

Nutshells. A series of books, published by Thomson West, which lay out an area of law "in a nutshell." They provide a succinct exposition of the law and are great for coming to terms with broad concepts. A keyword search for the word "nutshell" in the library catalog will turn up a list of the nutshells the library owns. Most current editions are on reserve at the circulation desk, but older editions are located throughout the library and usually circulate.

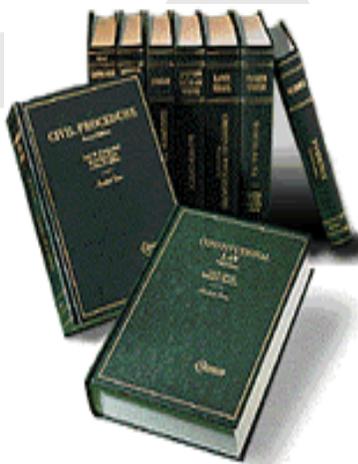
Examples and Explanations. A series of study aids by Aspen Publishing that many students find particularly useful because they incorporate an element of the Socratic method into their structure. After each exposition of the law a series of hypothetical questions are posed for the student to think about. The answers to the questions and detailed explanations of the answers allowing student to follow the reasoning behind a given result are found a few pages following. We own a few of these volumes and keep the current editions on reserve behind the circulation desk. Many more are available commercially.

Gilberts, Emmanuels, and Other Commercial Outlines. Commercial outlines are very tempting and upon entering the bookstore it is practically impossible for new law students to avoid noticing them. The library does not maintain a collection of commercial outlines. However LexisNexis does make capsule summaries of commercial outlines available for first year courses free of charge at <http://www.lawschool.lexis.com>. Just click on "study aids" in the upper left hand corner of the page.

Commercial Case Briefs. These contain short summaries of the major cases from many popular case books. They also seem to be particularly enticing to first year students looking for an edge in class. The library does not have these materials in our collection. Heavy reliance on these materials is particularly expensive in terms of the value they actually provide. Using commercial briefs instead of reading the assigned material slows down the development of your analytical skill and will make your final exam that much more difficult. Use these sparingly if at all.

Finally a word of exam advice. There are many other commercial aids available to assist you in preparing. Flash cards, flow charts, taped lectures, more. Law school is very rigorous and is different from school work you've had before. But just because the work you're asked to do is more challenging and the school environment has changed somewhat, it doesn't mean that you have changed. You have all succeeded in earning degrees and you know what it takes for you to learn the material well and be prepared for your exams. Remember what study techniques have worked for you in the past, they're probably the same ones you should be relying on now.

Good luck, ask lots of questions, and when you feel behind don't forget to visit the library. We can help.



Hot Web Sites for Fall

Bankruptcy

This October a major revision of the bankruptcy law goes into effect. The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 was signed by the President on April 20, 2005. This law affects thousands of personal and other bankruptcy actions. The *Internet Law Researcher* has compiled "The Internet Guide to Bankruptcy Law" in the June 2005 issue. This journal is available in the library. Below are several sites of interest but check out the complete article.

Edited version of the new Code

<http://www.dpw.com/practice/code.blackline.pdf>

Davis, Polk and Wardwell have provided this edited version. They also update the site.

Text of House Report 109-031

[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/R?cp109:FLD10:@1\(hr031\)http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/R?cp109:FLD10:@1(hr031)http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery)

Select the second item.

Portal for the Federal Bankruptcy Code

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/topics/bankruptcy.html>

If you don't have Lexis or Westlaw or you want to cut your bill, try the Cornell Legal Information Institute site. In addition to the U.S. Code sections, you will also find case law, CFR provisions, links to state statutes, and other internet resources.

Business-General

Association Information

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0004878.html>

Need information about the National Legal Aid and Defender Assn., American Society of International Law, Association of Certified Public Accountants? This site offers information about some of the associations that are included in the Encyclopedia of Associations. It is part of a larger site, The Information Please Almanac.

Business Plans

<http://businessplanarchive.org/>

Register at this site if you are interested in checking plans from failed Dot-Com era companies. You need to register to use the site.

Exchange Rates

http://corporate.vias.com/pd/comsumer_ex_rates.jsp

Going on a trip? Have a Visa card? Try the currency conversion web site from Visa International.

Recent Book Acquisitions in the Rutgers Law Library

Electing justice : fixing the Supreme Court nomination process / Richard Davis (Oxford Univ. Press, 2005). KF 8742.D383 2005
Proposes ways to institutionalize wider public participation in selection of Justices.

Insincere promises : the law of misrepresented intent / Ian Ayres & Gregory Klass (Yale Univ. Press, 2005) K 830.A99 2005 A study of promissory fraud.

Pro bono in principle and in practice : public service and the professions / Deborah L. Rhode (Stanford Univ. Press, 2005) KF336 .R486 2005
Includes sections on the moral and practical objections to mandatory pro bono, the rationale for law school pro bono programs, and the implications of altruism research for pro bono programs.

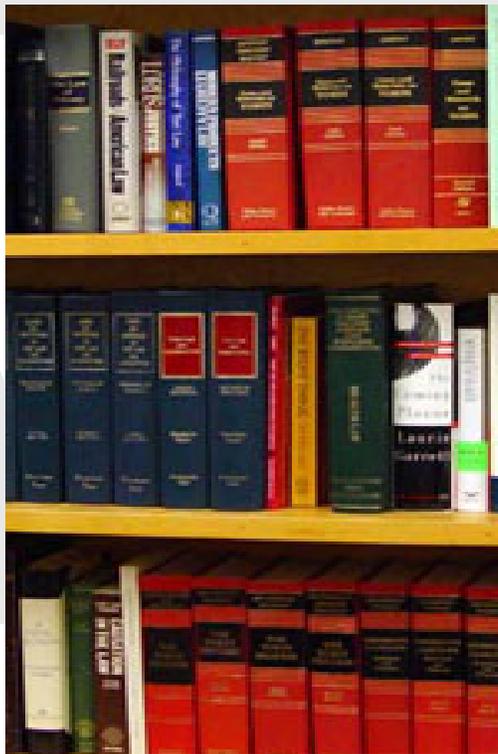
Public defenders and the American justice system / Paul B. Wice (Praeger, 2005). KF 9646.W53 A look at the experience of public defenders right here in Newark, and the possibilities of reform.

Revolution by judiciary : the structure of American constitutional law / Jed Rubenfeld (Harvard Univ. Press, 2005). KF4550 .R83 2005

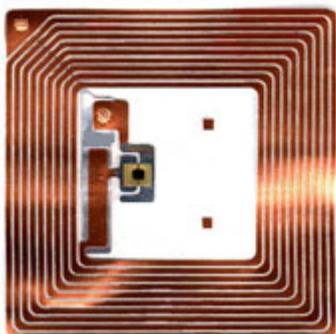
The silicon empire : law, culture, and commerce / Michael B. Likosky (Ashgate Pub. 2005). K 1005.L55 2004
Concerns high-tech industry in Malaysia, neocolonialism, and the prospects for human rights.

Suing the gun industry : a battle at the crossroads of gun control and mass torts / edited by Timothy D. Lytton (Univ. Of Michigan Press, 2005) KF 3941 .S85 2005 A collection of new essays on firearms litigation, including criminological, public health, political, and cultural perspectives.

What is life worth? : the unprecedented effort to compensate the victims of 9/11 / Kenneth R. Feinberg (Public Affairs, 2005) A personal account by the special master of the federal effort to compensate the families of those lost in the September 11 attacks.



Future and Recent Library Events



Library Conference on RFID Technology-November 4, 2005

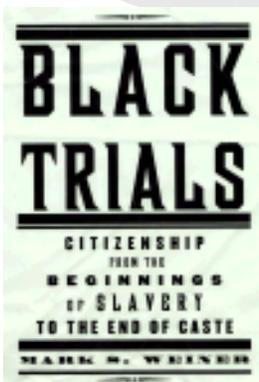
Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is a technology that uses various electronic devices, such as microchip tags, tag readers, computer servers, and software, to automate transactions. Many library users have raised concerns about the misuse of RFID technology to collect information on library users' reading habits and other activities without their consent or knowledge. Listen to a panel of experts debate the value and use of this technology. Panelists include representatives from the Electronic Freedom Foundation, the ACLU, and members of the bar.

Samual J. Foosaner Dedication

On May 20, 2005, the Law Library named the west reading gallery in honor of Samuel J. Foosaner — an alumnus, successful tax and estate planning attorney, and noted philanthropist — who died in 1988. The Foosaner Foundation, headed by his daughter Dione L. ("Dee") Negroni-Hendrick, has made a generous donation to the Rutgers Law Library in the name of Samuel J. Foosaner, Class of 1934. A luncheon and other ceremonies was held in the Law Library on Friday to honor the donor and his family.



Dean Stuart Deutsch and Mrs. Dee Negroni-Hendrick at the dedication of the Foosaner Reading Gallery



Law Library Starts Friends Group

Last Spring the Law Library started a Friends group. Members of the group will provide support to the law library and receive special benefits. In order to recognize the members and showcase the library and school, the library hosted the first reception for the members of the group on April 28, 2005. Professor Mark S. Weiner presented a reading from his new and critically acclaimed book, *Black Trials: Citizenship from the Beginnings of Slavery to the End of Caste*. A reception preceded the reading. Dean Stuart Deutsch and Library Director Carol Roehrenbeck also spoke at the event.