



Bits & Bytes

August 2006

Nota Bene

The Newsletter of the Rutgers Law Library

Letter from the Library Director

Dear Colleagues, Students and Friends of the Law Library,

Welcome back to a new academic year! I wish you success in the coming months. This year there are many challenges for the library but also some good news to tell you about.



During the summer Governor Corzine worked to balance the State budget. Part of his program resulted in significant “belt tightening” for all of us and particularly for the law library. Since our budget has been flat for more than ten years, meeting the cuts has been a difficult and painful process. Thanks to the efforts of Dean Deutsch, Provost Diner, the Alumni Association, the Class of 2006 and the Friends of the Law Library, our cuts have not been as devastating as they might have been without their support. We have also taken steps of our own to mitigate the impact. We formed a consortium with two schools to avoid cancellation of some titles and to expand some services. In addition, we participated in telethons, letter writing campaigns, grant initiatives and special programs to help expand our resources.

(Continued on page 3)

Library Hours:

Mon—Thu: 8:00 a.m.— 11:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. — 10:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m.— 8:00 p.m.
Sunday: Noon — 11:00 p.m.

Contact us:

- Reference.....(973) 353-5676
- Circulation(973) 353-5677
- Web.....<http://law-library.rutgers.edu>

INSIDE

- Hot Sites for Legal Research p. 2
- vLex Database p. 2
- Director’s Letter p.3
- New Library Staff p. 4

vLex: A New Database for Foreign and Comparative Legal Research

The Rutgers Law Library is very pleased to be one of a handful of trial sites for North American access to vLex, an exciting new database that offers complete access to the laws and legal literature of Spain. With coverage of more than two million Spanish and EU documents, vLex provides the most comprehensive online access to Iberian jurisprudence and secondary legal materials. While the substantive materials are in Spanish, the vLex interface allows researchers to access materials through a multilingual search interface currently offering search commands and guidance in English, Spanish, Catalan, and French, with plans to expand language access to vLex searching to even more European languages.

Coverage of primary legal materials through vLex includes access to the Official Journal of the European Union from as far back as 1968, but many of the Spanish primary and secondary materials are searchable back through the mid-1970s. You can find a complete set of materials from the Boletín Oficial del Estado dating from 1979, as well as the official regional journals from all Spanish autonomous regions, including Catalonia, the Basque country, and the Balearic Islands. The vLex database also includes more than 1.2 million cases the Tribunal Supremo, Tribunal Constitucional, and the Tribunales Superiores de Justicia. The vLex databases also include access to more than 8000 distinct forms and contracts, as well as a comprehensive collection of law journals, economics reviews, and newspapers.

vLex offers documents in pdf or html formats, and also offers RSS feeds. Users can store documents on their local hard drives or on the vLex host. The search engine uses familiar Boolean searching with wildcard, truncation, and automatic error correction features; and the interface is structured around a tabbed content guidelines that should be quite familiar to researchers comfortable

with both the Lexis and Westlaw interfaces. Students and faculty with a reading knowledge of Spanish and an interest in Spanish or EU law will be quite eager to access the vLex database. You can find the vLex portal under the subheading “Spain” at

<http://law-library.rutgers.edu/ilg/foriegn.php>.

For more information, contact librarian Dennis Kim-Prieto at dprieto@kinoy.rutgers.edu.

Hot Sites for Legal Research

We would like to recommend a starting point for legal research and exploring the library’s resources and services: our Web site, located at:



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

On our Web site you will find links to all of the following:

- The Law Library Catalog
- The Rutgers Libraries Catalog
- Legal databases including Lexis and Westlaw
- CALI lessons
- Past law school exams
- Links to Blackboard and TWEN Blackboard
- Maps of the library
- The Rutgers Internet Law Guide
- Electronic reserves
- Rutgers Web Mail
- Law Student Research Portal
- New Jersey Digital Legal Library
- Library policies

Letter from the Library Director

(continued from Page 1)

Despite all these steps, we have been forced to make some changes. These include cancellation of certain titles including selected journals and annotated state codes, most Shepard's citations and reductions in our hours. In each instance we have tried to keep your needs in mind. We limited the cancellations to items that are available to you in an electronic format. We tried to limit the changes in our hours to times when our statistics demonstrate that there are few law users in the library. Our new closing times are 11:00 P.M. Sunday through Thursday, 10:00 P.M. on Friday and 8:00 P.M. on Saturday. We hope to extend our hours during the study and final exam period.

There is also good news that I want to share. We have added two new librarians and several new electronic and hard copy offerings. Please read the articles elsewhere in the newsletter that introduce Molly Brownfield, our new reference librarian, and Wei Fang, our new digital services librarian. As to our new offerings, through dona-

tions we are adding a subscription to the BNA Core-Plus Package of electronic materials. Some of the titles in this suite include the Antitrust, Criminal, Family, Electronic Commerce, Environment, International Trade, Health, and Labor Relations reporters, and Manual on Professional Conduct.



For one year we will have a complimentary subscription to vLex, a database of primary and secondary sources for the law of Spain. See article elsewhere in the newsletter. We will enhance our catalog by adding electronic links (URLs) to more items and particu-

larly to the Lexis and Westlaw files. Thanks to the Class of 2006, we will add a subscription to the Financial Times. Finally, though a previously announced donation from the Foosaner Foundation, we continue to expand our taxation and estate planning holdings.

I welcome your comments and feedback.

Carol A. Roehrenbeck
Associate Dean for Information Resources

New Staff Members at the Law Library



Molly Brownfield
Reference Librarian

Molly Brownfield joined the Library on July 31st as a Reference Librarian. Molly comes to us from Austin, Texas where she received her M.S.I.S. from the University of Texas School of Information and worked as a reference librarian at UT's Tarlton Law Library. Molly is a 2004 graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, and clerked at the Minnesota Attorney General's office while attending law school. She is admitted to practice in Illinois.

Molly's scholarly interests include foreign, international, and comparative law. At Texas, she created a legal research outline on French law. Molly enjoys horseback riding and relishes any opportunity to travel with her husband, Andy.

Wei Fang is the new Digital Services Librarian. Wei received his Masters in Library and Information Science from Rutgers, where he specialized in digital libraries and information retrieval theory. While studying for his masters, he was awarded a grant to design and build a high resolution scanner useful for digitizing books and microform images.

He also holds a Bachelors of Science degree from Kean University where he majored in computer science and minored in mathematics. While attending library school, Wei worked as a programmer for the Rutgers Center for Molecular and Behavioral Science.



Wei Fang
Digital Services Librarian



Stan Sniecikowski
Library Circulation Assistant

Stanislaw (Stan) Sniecikowski is the new Evening and Weekend Library Circulation Assistant. Stan is a graduate of the University of Science and Technology in Cracow, Poland, where he majored in economics. His professional career in Europe focused mainly on international trade and cooperation and he worked in Germany and Spain as well as Poland. Before joining the Rutgers Law Library, Stan worked for seven year as a paralegal at a U.S. law firm specializing in intellectual property law.

When Stan has some free time, he enjoys visiting the Sandy Hook National Recreation Area year round, and exploring its seven miles of ocean beaches, salt marshes, hiking trails and maritime holly forest.