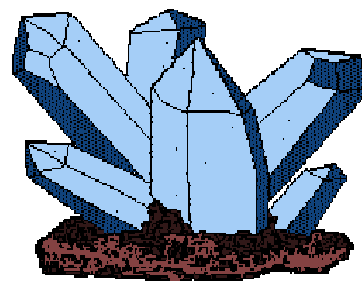


OPLL's GEMS

A RESEARCH AIDE FROM
OMER POOOS LAW LIBRARY

February, 2005



Five More Laws To Add To Your Collection

By David Kullman



Information is power. As simple as that statement is to write and as simplistic as it looks in print, understand that this rule is the foundation upon which this university is built, it is the engine that drives this law school and it is the hard, cold truth by which lawyers live. The problem, of course, is that not all information is created equal. That should come as no surprise to anyone, particularly lawyers. Understanding which facts are relevant and which are not is the business we are in. And how successful we are at that business is dependent to a great degree on how quickly and how well we learn to tell the difference.

Three decades after the creation of the internet, the intellectual equivalent of the Big Bang, which in turn begat the explosion of raw data available to anyone equipped with a modem and telephone line, separating the wheat of relevant information from the chaff of white noise generated by the information super highway is an increasingly difficult task. And whether you feel secure about it or not, the burden of turning that millstone has largely been assumed by libraries.

Over the last several months the law library has been developing a new collection development policy. At its core the policy is a statement of what the library is and a declaration of what it wishes to be. It is also an acknowledgment of the reality that economic resources available to libraries seem always to be inversely proportional to the rate of growth of information resources. What goes unstated, at least explicitly, is the fact that at a very basic level, as selector of the materials made accessible to them, the library acts as a gatekeeper to what faculty can teach and what students can learn.

One of the most interesting aspects of the creation of our law library's 21st century collection development policy is that its inspiration comes from a 19th century Hindu mathematician born in Madras, India. S.R. Ranganathan believed that a library and its collection should be governed by what he called the Five Laws of Library Science. Those laws are:

1. "Books are for use."
2. "Every reader his book."
3. "Every book its reader."
4. "Save the time of the reader."
5. "The library is a growing organism."

Like "information is power" these laws seem overly simplistic, perhaps even trite. But read them closely and consider their power to shape an institution through their application. Think how when finished the selection process spelled out in the collection development policy may affect your access to entire disciplines of the law. The collection development policy of the library - the declaration of what it wishes to be - is one of the most important documents *in* the library. If you would like to have input into its creation and ensure that Ranganathan's Second Law, "every reader his book" is applied to you, talk to the librarians and tell them what *your* book is.



United States Congressional Serial Set – The Old is New

The Law Library, Pius XII Library, and the Health Sciences Center Library recently subscribed to a digital version of the *Congressional Serial Set* from Readex, a division of NewsBank. The *Serial Set* contains Reports, Documents, and the Journals of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. At this time the database covers the period from 1817 to 1860. When completed the database will cover from 1817 to 1980, and will also include *The American State Papers*, a collection of legislative and executive documents from 1789 through 1838. The collection includes documents and reports of interest to scholars in virtually every field. In addition to its value as a legislative history resource, areas of interest to the legal researcher include international relations, cultural history, and business and industrial development. When you search the collection you will find digital images of everything in the bound set including maps and color plates.

The Digital Serial Set has two search options. The “Simple Search” permits the user to search one field such as the text of the citation, title, subject, author, or bill / resolution number. The “Advanced Search” lets the user search multiple fields using Boolean connectors such as AND, OR, and NOT. Special features include the ability to select documents to appear in “Your Collection.” You may then have the links in “Your Collection” emailed to you. An alternative would be to download documents in either PDF or TIFF format. To get to this valuable resource go to the library’s homepage <http://law.slu.edu/library> and under “Databases and Indexes” select “U.S. Congressional Serial Set.” Watch the collection grow to more than 12 million pages as more documents are added each month.

OPLL’s Zirconium

by Kathleen E. Casey

Thomas (<http://thomas.loc.gov>)

Thomas, the legislative website sponsored by the Library of Congress now offers bill text searching across multiple congresses. Full text of all released versions of bills begins with 101st Congress, 1989. Bill summary and status along with the full text search options have moved from front page. They are now one click away under Search Bills and Resolutions.



Federal Advisory Committees

According to a recent GAO report * “Federal advisory committees play an important role in shaping public policy by providing advice on a wide array of issues, such as stem cell research, drinking water standards, space exploration, drug approvals, and federal land management. About 950 advisory committees perform peer reviews of scientific research, offer advice on policy issues, identify long-range issues, and evaluate grant proposals, among other functions.”

Congress recognized the importance of advisory bodies to democratic process and passed the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463) in 1972 (codified in 5 USC Appx.). In 1976, Executive Order 12024 delegated to the administrator of GSA all responsibilities of the President for implementing the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

The GSA Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) website offers links to the Act, FACA

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regulations, and a database of FACA committees. This database which is used by Congress to monitor the activities of FACA bodies has a public access search. The public access search can reveal committee membership information including names and occupation or affiliation, committee expenditures, and links to agency and committee websites. The FACA website is <http://www.gsa.gov/Portal/gsa/ep/channelView.do?pageTypeId=8203&channelId=-13170>

* GAO Highlights of GAO-04-328, FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES: Additional Guidance Could Help Agencies Better Ensure Independence and Balance. A U. S. General Accounting Office Report to Congressional Requesters April 2004.
<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04328.pdf> - 2831.7KB - GAO Reports

EISIL: Electronic Information System for International Law

By Peggy McDermott

Last Fall the American Society of International Law (ASIL) announced a new web resource that serves as a gateway to materials in all areas of international law. EISIL: The Electronic Information System for International Law (<http://www.eisil.org/>) is a free database containing links to primary documents, recommended websites, and research guides. This web-based database also provides added information such as a detailed description of the content of each resource, dates when laws or treaties were concluded, and at least one reliable citation for the document. When you are directed to a web version of a document you can be assured ASIL considers it a reputable and stable web version of the document.

The first screen of EISIL breaks international law into 13 categories and sub-categories. For example under *International Criminal Law* you will find categories such as *Terrorism* , *Cybercrime* , *Money Laundering* , and *International Criminal Court*. The subheading *International Criminal Court* leads you to primary documents such as the *Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the International Criminal Court* as well as links to relevant web sites like the “Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.”

The user is able to perform both simple and more advanced searches of the entire database or just one category. You are able to customize your search by numerous options such as date, resource type, and keywords. EISIL permits you to save records to be printed, downloaded, or emailed.

EISIL can be helpful when writing seminar papers, selecting a topic for an article in any area of international law, or cite checking international legal materials. A cite checker will be provided with multiple authoritative citations. In the case of a treaty you will be given the entry into force and conclusion dates as well as a summary. This comprehensive resource is an excellent place to start any type of international legal research.



Diamond in the Rough – The Law Library Home Page

By Lynn Hartke

The Law Library's home page contains a wealth of information. You can find books, videos, journals, and really cool websites – if you know where to look.

Two of my favorite links to websites can be found by looking in the section Government/Federal/Judicial of the library home page.

The curiae (Supreme Court Records and Briefs) - <http://curiae.law.yale.edu/>
The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals - <http://www.ca8.uscourts.gov/index.html>

Both of these sites provide useful information – FREE. You can get briefs from the United States Supreme Court from curiae. Curiae is its formative stages but growing. The page is hosted by Yale Law School, a reputable source. The page has a search function.

The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals has briefs, opinions, and orders all FREE. Granted the search function is a little clunky, but it works.

Law Library Hours:

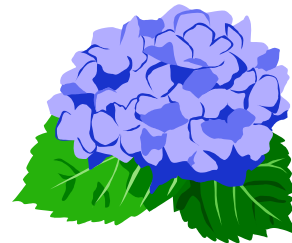
Monday-Thursday 7 a.m. - Midnight
Friday 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. - Midnight

Easter Weekend, March 25 – March 27, 2005

Friday, March 25 – GOOD FRIDAY CLOSED
Saturday, March 26 CLOSED
Sunday, March 27 – EASTER SUNDAY CLOSED

Spring Break, March 4 – March 12, 2005

Friday, March 4 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sat. - Sun., March 5–6 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Mon. – Thurs., March 7-10 8:00 a.m.– 8:00 p.m.
Friday, March 11 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 12 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 13 10:00 a.m. – Midnight



NEED HELP? DIAL 977-1447

When you walk into the Law Library and look straight ahead you will see the Reference Desk. This desk is staffed by Reference Librarians who are there to help you locate the information and materials you need. Please stop by and get to know us. We want to get to know you and help you learn to use the library.

Reference Hours

Monday- Thursday 9 a.m.- 9 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Sunday Noon - 6 p.m.

Please help us save the Earth and keep a few things out of our landfills!

Recycle old Cd's at the library desk. We collect them and send them to a recycling plant in Indiana.