

9-1990

## Museletter: September 1990

Muse Law Library Staff

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William Taylor Muse Law Library

# MUSELETTER

University of Richmond

T.C. Williams School of Law

Volume 8, No. 1

September, 1990

## University Libraries Online !!

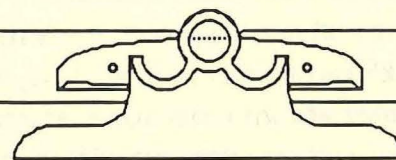
The University of Richmond Libraries have further joined the computer age. The public catalog (the old card catalog), circulation, acquisitions, and cataloging have been automated using the Dynix system.

A great deal of work has gone into implementing this new system. Barcoding books began late last fall and continues today. Cataloging on the system began in October, 1989. Acquisitions starting using the system in February, 1990. The online public catalog and circulation systems were first brought into use on June 11th. Since then we have experienced many growing pains as we trained personnel, cleaned up book and patron databases, loaded an updated version of the system, and started our first full semester using the system.

Many of you have unfortunately experienced some of the glitches and problems with the system. As the first law school in the world to use this system, we have had to work with the Dynix people to iron out problems created by the unique characteristics of academic law libraries. There have also been challenges with the internal communications between the various libraries on campus and between the libraries and the Administrative Computing department which is See ONLINE ... p.2

### Where did you move it to now?

As you have probably noticed, over the summer the Library's North East Basement became the DownUnder. That meant moving all the library materials out of there and into new quarters. Many of the items when into storage See WHERE ... p.5



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responsible for the maintenance of the hardware and main computer operations. All these difficulties are being dealt with and as time progresses, the system should operate much more smoothly.

With the various problems, you may not have noticed or may have forgotten the advantages of this system. Let me draw your attention to why it is worth the effort to automate:

A unified online catalog -- From any public catalog on campus, you can now tell if any library in the system owns a particular book and if it should be on the shelf. No more walking to Boatwright in the rain or snow on the off-chance that they own something the Law Library does not.

-- You can also search in ways a card catalog would never allow. Keyword Title and Subject entry searching are options that increase your ability to find the materials you need and want.

-- You will also see if a book is on order or just received and in processing. If it is a law book in processing, let us know that you need it and we can speed up its progress through processing and get it to you.

Quicker and easier checkouts -- No more filling out lengthy paper cards with the book's call number, author, title, and copy number and with your name, address, and phone number. Once everything and everyone is barcoded, it is a simple matter of wandling each barcode and you are done. No more mistakes because someone's writing cannot be read.

Fairer, more uniform policy enforcement -- All patrons of the same



patron type (law students, law faculty, etc.) will be treated the same because the computer knows what the rules for that patron type are. This should result in more equitable policy enforcement for all patrons.

Admittedly, the computer is less forgiving of human error and does not have a fudge factor on fines. Typing and spelling can be important when trying to find an item. Fines accumulate when an item is one minute late and the computer's clock is not flexible.

However, the system allows improved access to the collection and makes it more usable. It allows faster, more accurate checkouts. And most important, as we use it, Dynix will help us improve the system for academic law library use to make it work better, quicker, and without as many glitches in the future.

In addition, the future holds the potential for dial-up access from home computers, for direct information on journal and law review availability, and for circulation of journals and law reviews.

Please bear with us; the benefits and future improvements are worth the wait.

The Museletter is published quarterly by the William Taylor Muse Law Library, T. C. Williams School of Law, University of Richmond.  
Lucinda D. Harrison, Reference Librarian, Editor.



**Announcing:**

## **A New Director for the Law Library**

by Allen Moye, Reference Librarian

Many of you returning as students or faculty from summer hiatus, have undoubtedly noticed some changes in the library. The addition of the online system DYNIX, for checking materials out, and the closing of the northeast basement to make a more spacious DownUnder, are two of the most visible examples of recent changes in the Library. Some may also have noticed an important new addition to our staff. After searching the galaxies for the past 7 months, we are delighted to introduce Steve Hinckley as the new director of the Law Library.

For some of you, Steve needs no introduction. If you had occasion to use the Library between 1984 and 1989, you undoubtedly have already met him. A smooth and easygoing demeanor, coupled with a reassuring smile, Steve will quickly place the most stressed out student/attorney/faculty member at ease. Respected as a professional, Steve is also personable and well liked.

Steve returns to us after a year at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., where he was the Associate Law Librarian for Public Services. In this capacity he managed 6 departments, with a total of 35 employees. Georgetown's library has over 540,000 volumes, and the Law Center serves a diverse user population including 2600 full and part-time J.D. and graduate students and 75 full-time faculty members. While he enjoyed working in such a stimulating environment, Steve says he is pleased to be

back at Richmond.

"I had five rewarding years here, and really liked the student body, staff and administration. The school is the right size to accomplish things, and is currently on the verge of making some great changes." Steve admits that ever since he made the decision 11 years ago to pursue Law Librarianship, after earning his J.D. from the University of Toledo in Ohio, his goal has been an academic directorship. With only 175 such directorships in the country, the opportunity does not present itself very often. Although he had not been in the position at Georgetown very long, the vacancy left by the departure of Susan English, our former director, presented an opportunity too attractive to pass up.

Steve sees the library as a positive oasis in the midst of the confusion and pressure typical of the law school environment. He acknowledges the magnitude of the challenge of a directorship, particularly in a law school where so much growth and expansion is taking place. Steve, however, is more than ready to take on that challenge. He feels that society in general is in the midst of an information processing explosion, and that libraries, law libraries in particular, will have to position themselves to transmit and receive information and data by way of the most up-to-date means available. "As technology advances to the point where the exchange of information is almost instantaneous, there will be a real premium on the ability to capture that information

See NEW DIRECTOR ... p.4

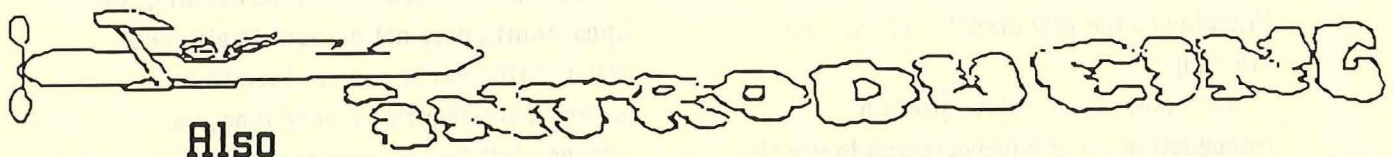
NEW DIRECTOR from ... p.3

the fastest." Hinckley says he will work hard to achieve this, and wants to see the library holdings expand not just in traditional book collections but network sharing and CD-ROMS as well.

Although he is returning in a new capacity with additional administrative responsibilities, Steve welcomes contact with patrons. He would like to maintain an "open door" policy toward problems and concerns and intends to remain accessible.

He asks for patience and indulgence during the next few months as the Library and Law School undergo construction of the new facilities. Although the noise will undoubtedly present some uncomfortable moments, Steve suggests that we keep in mind that this is indicative of our school's growth and progress and will only be for a short time. The end result will be a library that is capable of dramatically increasing the information resources and services available to our students and faculty."

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## Also INTRODUCING

Our new Director is not the Law Library's only new face. Since the last Museletter, two other new people have joined the Library Staff, both in Public Services.



Allen Moye, Reference Librarian -- The author of the preceding piece on Steve Hinckley has joined the Reference staff to help us this Fall while Joyce Janto is on leave. In addition to providing all patrons with research assistance, Mr. Moye will be teaching one section of the First-Year Legal Research

class. Currently his position is authorized only for the Fall semester.



Donna Abbott, Library Clerk -- Ms. Abbott joined the Library staff in May. Her primary duty is filing of looseleaf services. When the filing is caught up, she also helps with other services in the Library.

We welcome them to our staff and we are certain that the Law School community joins us in extending that welcome.



# FYI



For those of you who have missed Joyce Janto and wondered how she is, we are pleased to inform you that on August 11th she gave birth to a daughter, Emily Clare. Mother and daughter are doing well. Ms. Janto will return to her normal duties in the library on October 8th.



You may have noticed that the Museletter's banner has changed. The reason for this is that the University has once again adopted a new University logo. The shield was designed to emphasize the long history of the University. The boxes in the shield reflect a portion of the architecture of many of the University buildings.



Have you ever had the need to view a videocassette for class or wanted to use audio/visual equipment in conjunction with a class presentation? If so, here is

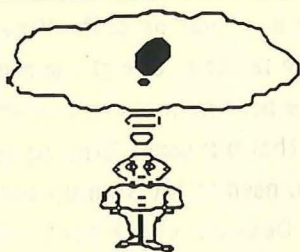
how you can do either or both. Viewing a videocassette is easy. One of the study rooms in the basement of the library is set up for just that purpose. Simply reserve the time you need in the sign up book at the Circulation Desk and check out the key to the room. An extensive collection of legal practice videos is available on Reserve for your use. Using equipment for class presentations is equally easy, but requires slightly more planning on your part. Reservations for the various pieces of equipment require a minimum of 24 hours notice and are done on a first come, first served basis. To make a reservation, see Tim Edwards at the Circulation desk. He will ascertain whether the needed equipment can be provided and take note of the time, place, and physical setup desired. Among the items available are: slide projectors, overhead projectors, viewing screens, and audio/video taping and playback setups.



## WHERE from .. p1

pending the completion of the building renovations and extensions, but most of the more heavily used materials were simply shifted. Here is a thumbnail sketch of what went where.

- Virginia materials - old digest area
- Other state codes, digests, and encyclopedias - SouthWest Basement
- Other state reporters - Storage
- Virginia Supreme Court records and briefs - Storage
- State session laws microfiche - under the old coat rack
- Superseded Virginia materials - Hall to Director's Office
- Other state superseded materials - Storage
- Century, Decennial, and General digests - Loading dock shelves
- Current regional digests - at the end of their regional reporters
- Federal digests - at the end of the Federal Supplement Reports
- Proof of Facts and Am. Jur. Trials - 3rd floor in call number order
- Foreign law materials - 3rd floor with English and Canadian materials



## Miscellaneous Stuff

by Paul Birch

*Associate Director for Public Services*

I have to admit a bit of surprise at how little response I've heard about the Library's automated catalog. Perhaps it's too early in the school year to be rooting around the third floor treatise collection. Maybe a number of you are already experienced online catalog users from your undergraduate years. Or maybe some of you are feeling a bit timid about approaching it. In case the last is true for any of you, I would like to do what I can to encourage you to try it out. Perhaps a slogan... The best I've been able to come up with is "You don't need a bar code to use it!"

Of course, there will come a point when each of you will need to locate some books in this library. To prepare for this, please feel encouraged to play around with the catalog and to avail yourself of our help in learning it. User guides kept close to the terminals should provide good basic orientation.

To whet your interest and allay your fears, I offer here some tips on using the catalog:

1. *Choose the appropriate search mode for what you are trying to do.* The opening menu gives you some choices. Essentially, you can divide these into two groups: searches for books or authors you are familiar with, and searches for unknown books in a particular subject area.

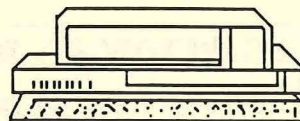
The most important techniques in the first group are the FULL TITLE and AUTHOR modes. These are quite easy to use, as long as you can spell reasonably well. Just type in the book title or the author's last name. In these modes, save yourself some typing time by just entering enough of the name or title to narrow it down for the system:

**DWOR** is enough to bring up Ronald Dworkin's name; **TAKING RI** is enough to bring up Taking Rights Seriously. You can omit the initial "A" or "The" from book titles since the system ignores them.

If you are looking for books in a particular subject area, choose the TITLE KEYWORD, SUBJECT KEYWORD, and SUBJECT HEADING modes, using the techniques described in the next paragraph. For the most thorough coverage of a subject, you should run all three of these. Because book titles often contain words that indicate their topics, it often works well to do a TITLE KEYWORD search first. Then, use the same words in the SUBJECT KEYWORD mode. Finally, look at the printouts of the most promising books you've found and see if there are any subject headings that look particularly useful and do a search in the SUBJECT HEADING mode by typing in the precise subject heading, as you would with

See MISCELLANEOUS ... p7

the FULL TITLE or AUTHOR modes. These steps should ensure thorough coverage.



2. *For keyword searching, use the logical operators the system provides.* Like a small-scale LEXIS or WESTLAW, the online catalog lets you combine words to produce some fairly complex searches. Instead of using "AND" or "&," simply place two or more words separated by a space to require titles or subjects containing each word. You cannot search exclusively for phrases: a search phrased **FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY** will bring titles and subjects containing that phrase but will also give you formulations like "Forensic Applications of Psychology." I suspect this will usually be more of a help than a hindrance.

Instead of "OR" (or the WESTLAW space bar), use parentheses to give the system alternative words to search: a search phrased **(CRIMINAL PENAL)** will give you all titles or subjects containing either or both of the two words. Of course you can and should combine these two techniques in a single search.

### 3. *Truncate liberally.*

You can search for all words beginning with a set of letters by ending with a question mark: **RACKET?** will give you "racket," "rackets," "racketeer," "racketeers," and "racketeering." It is particularly important to use this technique with nouns because, unlike WESTLAW and LEXIS, the catalog does not automatically pluralize. The absence of pluralization is quite unfortunate since nouns in book titles and

subject headings tend to be plural. We are hoping that we and other libraries will eventually persuade Dynix to remedy this. Until then, don't forget about the question mark.

4. *Don't try to do too much with a single search.* The catalog's search logic features are sophisticated enough to let you run fairly complex searches, "and-ing" and "or-ing" a lot of terms. As mentioned before, these techniques are worth learning and using. At the same time, the system is very fast since it has a smaller database to scan than LEXIS or WESTLAW. For this reason, it is often more efficient to run three or four individual searches and print the useful results, instead of laboring over a single search combining all possible words. Moreover, since there is no charge to search the catalog, there is no need to make the kind of cost considerations you will one day have to make with the legal databases.

Finally, remember that you can always ask for advice and assistance from any of the librarians. Happy Searching !!



## RECREATIONAL READING REVIEWS

by Joyce Manna Janto,

Associate Director for Collection Development



For those of you who have already read the F.Y.I. column, you know that Joyce Manna Janto was not available to write a Recreational Reading column. Consequently, as editor, let me give you something else interesting to read, a court opinion:

Fisher v. Lowe, 122 Mich. App. 418, 333 N.W.2d 67 (1983).

J.H. Gillis, Judge.

We thought that we would never see  
A suit to compensate a tree.

A suit whose claim in tort is prest  
Upon a mangled tree's behest;

A tree whose battered trunk was prest  
Against a Chevy's crumpled crest;

A tree that faces each new day  
With bark and limb in disarray;

A tree that may forever bear  
A lasting need for tender care.

Flora lovers though we three,  
We must uphold the court's decree.

Affirmed.



It may be of further interest to you to review the headnotes to this case which were also in verse. Moreover, if this style of opinion writing appeals to you, you can find additional pleasure in: Brown v. State, 134 Ga. App. 771, 216 S.E.2d 356 (1975); Wheat v. Fraker, 107 Ga. App. 318, 130 S.E.2d 251 (1963); One 1976 Ford F-150 Pick-Up Vin F14YUB03797, 599 F. Supp. 818 (E.D. Mo. 1984); and the granddaddy of them all, Mackensworth v. American Trading Transportation Co., 367 F. Supp. 373 (E.D. Penn. 1973). Mackensworth even inspired a brief law review note in verse which can be found at 12 Duq. L. Rev. 717 (1973-74).