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Museletter: February/March 2002

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Museletter

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REFERENCE SOURCE OF THE MONTH: *HEIN ONLINE*

One frequently-asked question that we address regularly at the Reference Desk is "why am I not finding a certain law-review article in Lexis or Westlaw?" Even seasoned searchers of legal databases often encounter this problem.

There are two answers to this question. First, it's possible that the journal is not included in the database options from the vendor. Most law reviews are represented, but specialty law review and bar journals frequently are missing from database options. The other possibility is the lack of database coverage. When you search LAW-REV;ALLREV in Lexis or TP-ALL in Westlaw, you are searching a huge database of periodicals, but not a comprehensive one. Coverage rarely includes articles prior to the early 1980s. Or, if one of these vendors includes the journal as a database option, the coverage may be "selected," in this case meaning that the vendor did not receive copyright clearance from the author. To illustrate this point, let's look at the journals for Virginia's law schools.

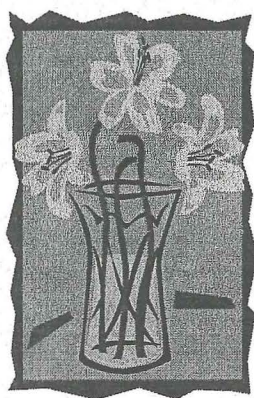
<u>Journal</u>	<u>Lexis Coverage</u>	<u>Westlaw Coverage</u>
University of Richmond Law Review	1994-	Selected, 1983-Full, 1993-
Virginia Law Review	Nov. 1982-	Selected, 1981-Full, 1983-
William & Mary Law Review	Fall 1982-	1981-
Regent University Law Review	Fall 1996-	1994-
George Mason Law Review	1993-	Selected, 1986 Full, 1992-

We are pleased to be able to offer a possible solution to the coverage problem of the databases — *Hein Online*. This service offers pre-database coverage of many law reviews in pdf format, making pinpoint pagination a non-issue. *Hein Online* still is a fairly new product, so don't be disappointed if you do not find the journal you want. Hein claims to be adding 150,000 pages a month to the service.

Recently Hein improved search options for the service. A patron can "browse" by authors or article titles, can do full text searching, or retrieve an article by citation at a convenient search box on the first screen. The list of available journals on the first page provides coverage information.

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**Enjoy
Your
Spring
Break!**



(Hein, continued from page 1)

A recent survey published on the listserv of the American Association of Law Libraries outlined the advantages and disadvantages of *Hein Online*. All librarians commenting mentioned that this service is long overdue.

Now that the search engine is more flexible to include searching, *Hein Online* will soon be a substitute (or near substitute) for the print indexes. (Currently all journals indexed in the *Index to Legal Periodicals* are not covered in *Hein Online*, but the company's lofty goals should soon create a very valuable product.

Other positive comments include the visual appeal of pdf documents. Unlike the online versions in Lexis and Westlaw, the printed product looks as it appears in print, thus providing actual page references. This should improve law review spading projects and please interlibrary loan librarians greatly.

The constructive criticisms focused on the speed of printing, or the lack of speed. One person commenting provided a good example. If a law review article is 50 pages, the entire article is about 100 MB. This can be difficult to print, depending on the speed of your internet connection and your computer and printer specifications.

Give *Hein Online* a try, and let us know your results.
—G.F.Z.

Spring 2002 Library Hours

Regular Hours (Sunday, Jan. 6 to Thurs. April 18)

Sunday:	10:00 am to Midnight
Monday to Thursday:	7:30 am to Midnight
Friday:	7:30 am to 9:00 pm
Saturday:	9:00 am to 9:00 pm

Exceptions:

Spring Break (Fri., Mar. 1 to Sat., Mar. 9)

Fri., Mar. 1:	7:30 am to 6:00 pm
Sat., Mar. 2 & Sun., Mar. 3:	CLOSED
Mon., Mar. 4 to Fri., Mar. 8:	7:30 am to 6:00 pm
Sat., Mar. 9:	1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Spring Exam Period (Fri., Apr. 19 to Thurs., May 2)

Sun.:	10:00 am to Midnight
Mon. to Thursday:	7:30 am to 1:00 am
Fri.:	7:30 am to Midnight
Sat.:	9:00 am to Midnight

Spring Inter-Session (Fri., May 3 to Sun., May 5)

Fri., May 3:	7:30 am to 6:00 pm
Sat., May 4:	9:30 am to Noon
Sun., May 5:	CLOSED

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