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Museletter: September/October 2003

John R. Barden
University of Richmond

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Museletter

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A REQUEST FOR HELP FROM FELLOW LAW STUDENTS

The unusually high level of noise in the Law Library has been brought to the attention of the SBA. In an effort to be responsive to suggestions and recommendations from you and your fellow students, the SBA is working with the Student Library Advisory Committee and the library staff on this problem of noise in the Law Library. We want your help.

Recently, the library staff have received numerous complaints from your fellow students about excessive talking and noise in certain portions of the library. The library staff recognize that there are times when talking is required in the library; group teaching, law skills courses, and the need for staff to converse with users to provide assistance may all require acceptable library noise. However, users of the library expect to find, and should be provided with, a quiet area to study, research, or read.

You've probably seen the new "quiet please" signs on the tables at the front portion of the library, in the reference hallway, and in the Virginia room. Remember to talk quietly when you are using the library; others working in the Law Library likely will be bothered by loud talking. Others using the library (attorneys, pro se litigants, medical students, etc) will be told to speak quietly as well, and the library and technology staff will adhere to the same rule. Additionally, please remember that cell phone use is prohibited in the Law Library. When a library staff member asks you to talk quieter, he or she is only trying to make the library a better place for you to study.

The library staff and I thank you for your help and cooperation.

Melissa Lykins,
SBA President

Fall 2003 Regular Library Hours

Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Midnight
Mon.-Thurs.
7:30 a.m. - Midnight
Friday
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Fall Break (Oct. 10-14)

Friday Oct. 10
7:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Sat & Sun. Oct. 11-12
8:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Monday Oct. 13
7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Tuesday Oct. 14
Resume regular hours

“BANNED BOOKS WEEK” — SEPTEMBER 20-27, 2003

Know what books as diverse as the Harry Potter series, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, and Julie of the Wolves have in common (take a guess from the title of this article!)? These books are some of the “Top Ten” most frequently challenged books of 2002.

Each year the American Library Association’s Office of Intellectual Freedom sponsors Banned Books Week in libraries throughout the country. This year’s celebration, “Open Your Mind to a Banned Book,” is scheduled for September 20-27. Library activities during Banned Books Week in libraries vary, but many are designed to commemorate one of the basic freedoms in a democratic society – the freedom to read freely. Since 1990 the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom has recorded more than 7,000 books challenges, including a total of 515 in 2002. A challenge as viewed by the ALA is a formal, written complaint by an individual requesting that a book be removed from library shelves or from a school’s curriculum. About three-fourths of all challenges are to material in schools or school libraries, and one-fourth is to material in public libraries. ALA says, however, that less than one-quarter of challenges are reported and recorded.

Other challenged books making the “Top Ten” list in 2002 (in addition to the ones listed above) are the Alice series by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier, Taming the Star Runner by S. E. Hinton, Captain Underpants by Dav Pilkey, Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson, and Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor. A few classic novels challenged in 2002 were Of Mice and Men, Slaughterhouse Five, The Catcher in the Rye, To Kill a Mockingbird, Fahrenheit 451, The Color Purple, and Gulliver’s Travels. Julie Blume, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Alvin Schwartz, and John Steinbeck are among the authors whose works were among the most challenged in 2002.

Celebrate “Banned Books Week” by picking up a challenged book and reading (or re-reading) it.

Timothy L. Coggins
Director of the Law Library
and Professor of Law

Editor’s note: Due to the delay in publication of this issue, “Banned Books Week” will be past by the time you see this. However, pick up a banned book and read it anytime.

WESTLAW OFFERS REAL-TIME COVERAGE OF THE *WALL STREET JOURNAL*

A recent request to put the *Wall Street Journal* on reserve for required student reading provided an instructional opportunity for us to offer an option to the paper edition. Our university Westlaw accounts include real-time access to the *Journal*. You'll be able to see today's articles online. Like most online services, graphics and tables will be missing, but to read the articles, Westlaw provides a good alternative.

A sample search follows:

- Sign onto lawschool.westlaw.com
- Enter your password
- In the box "Search these databases," enter WSJ and click Go
- Or, under "News Sources," select Wall Street Journal from the drop-down menu and click Go
- If you want to see today's articles, in the search box type: wall & da(is 9/3/2003) and click on search (The strategy is this: a search string needs more in it than a date restriction, and "wall" (for Wall Street Journal) will appear in all articles; 9/3/2003 is the day these instructions were written; Westlaw encourages a four-character year, since many of their databases cross multiple centuries.)

Although the vendor literature promotes the database to be comprehensive (with the exceptions noted above), this librarian needed to make a print/online comparison to satisfy her curiosity. An initial glance at the cite list showed some possible gaps (A1, A2, A3. . .A6), but those pages were either full-page advertising, or continuations from page one. Any article divided in the print edition will appear complete with the page reference where the article began (a *Bluebook* preference, by the way, see Rule 16.5(a)(ii)).

So, for newspaper junkies who still like to flip through the paper with their favorite Starbucks blend, disregard what you've just read. The graphics do add a lot of visual value to the publication. For the wireless generation, Westlaw offers an option to waiting for your turn at the Reserves desk.

— Gail F. Zwirner

*Muse
Library
Facts*

*The Law Library
got its start in
1890 with a gift
of 700 law books
from the library
of the Hon.
Henry Heaton.*

*By 2003, the
Law Library
collection reached
more than
325,000 volumes
and volume
equivalents, plus
online resources.*

Remember This Location!

Looking for something? Maybe something not in the Law Library? Statistics, perhaps, or historical data, or whether another library has a book that you want? Remember this location: <http://oncampus.richmond.edu/is/library/>.

This resource page provides links to a number of online resources maintained by the University Libraries. There are dictionaries and encyclopedias, access resources for online journals, and research guides that let you explore both online and print resources by topic. By far the most popular of these pages at the Law Library Reference Desk is the list of online databases. Mixed in with MLA Bibliography and Grove's Dictionary of Music is a vast array of political and legal databases, many of which are not directly referenced on the Law Library's own web pages: Almanac of Virginia Politics, CQ Weekly, Environmental Universe, Federal Information Index, and Political Science Abstracts are just a few.

Spend time with some of our favorites:

- (1) WorldCat—a catalog of catalogs, WorldCat tells where materials are found in the collections of over 45,000 libraries around the world. Look up the work by author, title, or keyword; then click on the link provided to discover whether the item is held by VCU or the University of Hong Kong. (P.S. Use WorldCat *after* checking UR's own online catalog, of course.)
- (2) NYT Historical Newspapers—yes, you can get the *New York Times* on Lexis or Westlaw, but only for a few years back. What about that 1963 article on civil rights? NYT Historical Newspapers gives you coverage back to 1857, along with full-text searchability and an image of the article you want..

We'll review some more of these databases in future issues. In the meantime, explore on your own.



John R. Barden, Interim Editor
Museletter
Law Library, School of Law
University of Richmond
Richmond, VA 23173

The Museletter is the official newsletter of the William Taylor Muse Law Library at the School of Law of the University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173.

Interim Editor: John R. Barden
Contributors: Melissa Lykins, Timothy Coggins,
Gail Zwimer