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Law Librarian's Journal over 10 Years Later

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Law Librarian's Journal: Over 10 Years Later

Joseph A. Custer

ABSTRACT. Jim Bouton's book *Ball Four* chronicled the day-to-day experiences of a baseball pitcher for one season. *Ball Four* inspired Fritz Snyder in 1988 to chronicle his life as a reference librarian at the University of Kansas School of Law Library for a period of one month. The author holds a position very much the same as Fritz's in the same library. This article is a description of the author's work at the reference desk for the month of June, 1999. It provides interesting insights into the ways the profession has changed and how it has stayed the same. [Article copies available for a fee from The Haworth Document Delivery Service: 1-800-342-9678. E-mail address: <getinfo@haworthpressinc.com> Website: <<http://www.HaworthPress.com>> © 2001 by The Haworth Press, Inc. All rights reserved.]

INTRODUCTION

A friend and mentor, Peter Schanck, Director of Law Library and Professor of Law at Marquette University, suggested that I update a 1988 *LRSQ* article by Fritz Snyder, "Law Librarian's Journal."¹ Fritz's article chronicled his activities (for a period of one month) as Associate Director for Public Services at Kansas University School of Law Library. I agreed with Peter that the article might prove to be interesting due to changes in technology and concomitant changes in librarian work patterns.

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The author would like to thank Joyce A. McCray Pearson, Peter C. Schanck, and Fritz Snyder for reading this journal and helping him delete the expletives.

While I do not hold the same exact job as Fritz Snyder did at Kansas in 1988, our job duties are very similar. Like Fritz in 1988, I am the Collection Development Librarian, and, like Fritz in 1988, I am the primary Reference Librarian.²

Monday, June 14

Today, our Automation/Technical Services Librarian gave an overview of the acquisitions and serials module for our new automation system which will be implemented this summer. We still run on a manual system, and the switch to an automated system is really a big change. After our meeting, I feel maybe we will be able to make the plunge to automation.

Our Circulation Manager passed on a reference request from a prisoner's fiancée to me. The prisoner, a Kansas resident, is incarcerated at the Washington State Penitentiary and needs access to Kansas state law. The prisoner can request whatever information he needs from the Department of Corrections, located in Olympia, Washington, but he needs to know what to request. I e-mailed his fiancée a short list of the primary and secondary Kansas legal materials and a short explanation of the West digest system. She was very grateful . . . said it was exactly what they needed. Good.

Next came a call from a woman asking about the "little blue books." My first thought was she wanted the Harvard Blue Book, but she didn't think so. Her Blue Book originated in Kansas, she said. With this information, I backed up and conducted a traditional reference interview. I was able to find the answer through a search of the online catalog. It turns out that during the early part of this century there was a series of smaller blue books edited by E. Haldeman and published by Julius Publishing Company out of Jarad, Kansas. Although the law library did not have any of these titles, the university's Spencer Research Library had over 20 of the series. I gave her directions to the research library, and she was happily on her way. Good.

Tuesday, June 15

Tuesday is the only day that I do not work at the reference desk. That does not mean that I am free from reference questions.

A law professor appeared at my door. She wanted to know the legislative history on the "right to waive the right to a jury trial." She knew what the current law was and what the law was in 1865. She wanted to know what happened in between. She told me that she has researched this but has not yet found an answer. I tried a quick online search of the Congressional Information Service (CIS) available through Congressional Universe on the Internet. I typed in the subject search "Federal Rules of Civil Procedure" or "jury

trial”; none of the six hits was relevant. Just as I was heading for our print sources, the professor called and told me that some language she had just read mentioned a “Revision Act of 1948.” I ran the query: “Revision Act of 1948” and “jury trial” through TP-ALL on Westlaw.com and found the full cite. I retrieved the correct Statute at Large volume and placed a bookmark at 62 Stat. 869 and delivered it to the professor’s office. It was what she wanted. I really like the WESTLAW database, TP-ALL. This gigantic database, which wasn’t available to Fritz in 1988, includes law journals, law reviews, treatises, and Practising Law Institute continuing legal education materials.

This reference question made me stop and think about the growth of CALR, especially with secondary sources since 1988. Lexis, the other legal research giant, has a library similar to TP-ALL called LAWREV which also includes law journals, law reviews, and some ABA and Environmental Law Institute Treaties. Looseleaf services and forms have also been added to the two services. Even American Law Reports and American Jurisprudence 2d have been added to both services.

Westlaw and Lexis have added well over 50 full text law reviews and law journals since Fritz’s article in 1988. State statutes, legislative services, and administrative rules and regulations have also been added to both services since 1988. The Congressional Record has been added to both services in addition to non-West products like selected BNA and CCH publications. In Fritz Snyder’s article, he made reference to showing a law student the BNA Labor Relations Reporter on the shelves. He now would have the option of directing the student online to Westlaw, which contains that particular speciality reporter.

The dean came to my office and wanted to know if we can make a photocopy from microfilm. We can, of course, the old-fashioned way—by sitting in front of the screen and hitting the print button.

Wednesday, June 16th

I had the morning shift today. A student told me he couldn’t find much of anything under land transactions in our law library catalog. I suggested he look under real estate. Together we searched under real estate. We found what he was looking for under conveyancing.

A patron (I don’t know if it was an attorney or layperson) called and asked for a 1974 Practising Law Institute handbook. Our online catalog said we had the 1974 title. I checked the shelves to see if it was truly there. It wasn’t. I called her back and gave her the bad news. Since she was not a student, faculty member, corporation, or law firm, I couldn’t conduct an Interlibrary Loan for her. I gave her the phone number for Practising Law Institute. Our library is one of the few libraries in the region that collects PLI’s. I think PLI’s don’t necessarily warrant their cost for our particular law school library

today. When Fritz wrote his article in 1988, the handbooks were not yet online on Westlaw. Our law library has recently dropped our PLI subscription. In defense of the PLI handbooks, they do sometimes have information on new legal topics that may not yet have any legal treatise coverage.

Another student, working for a law professor, asked if we had the Joint Tax Committee Report on the Tax Reform Act of 1986. I knew we had it and found the call number in the computer catalog.

Another patron asked for books on nonprofit organizations. I returned to the university catalog and found several books on nonprofit organizations at our main library. I copied off the screens with call numbers for her and asked if she knew where the main library was. She did. I also pointed the student to the Encyclopedia of Associations, which she perused for quite some time before she took off for the main library.

Thursday, June 17th

A student studying for the Bar asked where the bar review courses were being held. I didn't know and sent him to the Administration Office. I vaguely recalled being asked that question a few years back. Maybe we should make that information available in the library. Hmmmm. . . .

Another patron asked me where the Shepards were.³ I think he was a summer starter (at least I hope so). Sarcastically, I thought to myself that maybe he should look at the behemoth set of red books to my left. Without facial expression, I took the student three short steps to the behemoth set of red books and spent an additional five minutes explaining the Shepard's print system. (I didn't recognize the student and prayed that he was just a first-year summer starter who had not yet experienced the magical powers of legal research.)

After taking three steps back to the reference desk, I tried to log back on to my e-mail account. I was down, not necessarily a bad thing except for the fact that the library has set up a law library e-mail reference service and I was in the process of answering an e-mail reference question. I report my problem to our able-bodied tech support person, who promptly jumps out of his chair and comes to take a look.

Friday, June 18th

In the morning, I met with the collection development librarian at Watson, our main campus library. Shortly after I started this job in 1995, the library entered into an agreement with Watson to buy all available academic law books from Yankee Book Peddler at a savings of 18% per book. Entering into this agreement lessened the amount of duplication between the two libraries,

and, concomitantly, saved money. The main campus collection development librarian and I have periodic wrestling matches for a particular title or two. This morning proved to be no different. We ended up rolling on the floor for two titles and split the difference. We get the free speech title, and he gets the laws of the post-colonist period. He likes to get all the historical legal titles. The system breaks down a little bit when both libraries want to own a particular title. There can be duplication, but we avoid it if at all possible.

Monday, June 21st

I was in a meeting this morning regarding the new automation system being implemented next July (hopefully). The new system closely ties Serials and Acquisitions, and it is important to talk about work flow between the two departments. We discussed the inputting of records for current serials and how new items will be added. This is quite an undertaking for a law library on a manual system. There is still a lot of planning to be done for the new system. I think that things will start to fall into place for everyone after we start seeing the results of the new system. Right now it is very theoretical and hard to visualize.

On Monday, I served on afternoon reference. A patron with a traffic ticket called and wondered what he should do. I told him that he should talk to an attorney. He said he could not afford and did not want an attorney. I told him he could look at the laws himself if he wanted. I asked where he was from, and he said Lawrence. I asked if it was a traffic ticket he received on campus. No, it was the Lawrence police. We have the current Lawrence Traffic Ordinances on reserve, so I gave him the library hours and directions to the library.

A law student asked me if we kept research papers in the library. He wanted student treatment of patent law. I told him no and showed him the Index to Legal Periodicals (both print and CD-ROM) and Current Law Index for possible sources of law student notes on the subject. As we talked, he started to remember these indices from his first year. I reminded him that they are available online. Fritz Snyder used the Legal Resource Index (LRI) in 1988. Since then, the law reviews and law journal databases on Westlaw and Lexis contain a lot more journals than they did in the 1980s. A full-text search in these comprehensive databases seems to be a lot more helpful than a simple bibliographic entry. LRI still exists and is available now on both Lexis and Westlaw. A note of caution to those using LRI on Lexis: the hits are not always in chronological order.

A journalist called asking how to cite a chapter of the CFR. I told him.

Tuesday, June 23rd

On Tuesday, I am not at the Reference Desk.

Wednesday, June 23rd

A former student now practicing in Chicago called to talk about becoming a law librarian. I remember him well. As the primary reference librarian, I serve as the online vendor liaison. Three years ago, he was a KU law student associate for one of the online vendors for a couple years. Since that short time many things have changed. We had a 4-room Computer lab then. Now we only have a 1-room Computer lab. The school has gone the route of some other schools by wiring library carrels and classrooms and de-emphasizing the Computer lab. The idea is that technology is accessible everywhere in the building and not just crammed into a Computer lab. The former student is a very bright kid who doesn't like practicing law . . . imagine that. For about 45 minutes, I answered his questions about our profession. When asked if I would be a reference for his library school admission process, I gladly complied.

At the reference desk, I answered a couple batting practice gimmis . . . directional questions like "Where is this?" A patron called about the Uniform Building Code; I knew we had it, but wanted to check the shelf. It was available. I look forward to the new automated system; it will let the reference staff check the status of our library holdings to see if an item is checked out or if it has been received by the library, but not catalogued yet, etc.

I checked the reference e-mail, which I do everyday I am on reference. Today was the second day since starting this daily journal that I had a question to answer. The request came via a link on our law library homepage. "Can you get for me a website address or contact information for the Kansas Workers Compensation Board?" The answer could be found by going to one of several directories, but I quickly garnered it from our law library homepage under Kansas Organizations. The Kansas Department of Human Resources homepage lists the telephone number and Website for the department. I typed the response to the request, hit enter, and hoped that I answered the question. This question was pretty straightforward and didn't have a lot of room for interpretation. One of the big drawbacks to an electronic reference system is that it bypasses the reference interview. You have to hope that enough information has been given to you to correctly answer the question.

Thursday, June 24th

My desk was piled up with books when I arrived today. I momentarily forgot that I was in the middle of updating one of our Legal Research Guides.

As the head reference librarian, I update and create all the legal research guides available in our library. I have been working on a guide on and off for over a week now. For some reason I didn't mention it in the journal until today . . . oh well. I have updated all the guides that were here before I got to the University of Kansas Law Library, and, since arriving, I also have created some new ones from ground zero. I am now on round 2 . . . that of updating the guides I updated or created in 1995 and 1996. I added Lexis, Westlaw, and Internet sites to the guides in 1995. I think this definitely made them more useful. I think the Internet is very valuable for reference service in this day and age. I look over the Internet sites in the 1995 taxation legal research guide and realize that a lot of tax law Internet sites have been added over the last 3 1/2 years. Some legal researchers seem to think that the Internet is the true panacea. While I do believe it is very powerful, it needs to be put in perspective. There are about 320 million Web pages compared to a billion pages of text on Westlaw and Lexis.⁴ This is not even addressing quality, which can be very suspect on the Internet.

A 10:00 a.m. library staff meeting is immediately followed by a Librarian meeting. The lion's share of both meetings deals with planning for the upcoming automation implementation.

During the Librarian meeting, the Circulation Desk personnel monitor my shift at the reference desk. After the meeting, I returned and found a patron waiting for me who wanted the legislative background of the "Kansas Vehicular Homicide Statute." Legislative history is a tricky thing in Kansas; little is reported. Sometimes, however, you get lucky. In the annotations of the state statutes I found a Washburn law review article written in 1983 that laid out the legislative history of the statute. Although the article was written in 1983, this was not a problem because the patron was mainly concerned with what the statute looked like in the 1960s.

The Internet has helped a lot in legislation research. THOMAS, a Website developed by the Library of Congress, has provided legislative histories going back to 1973 in summary form. THOMAS and other Internet sites like it (GPO Access, for example) provide powerful search options. A researcher can find legislation online through means that were only accessible through Westlaw and Lexis when Fritz wrote his article in 1988. Searches can be conducted by bill number, public law number, sponsor, keyword, subject, or date. The Internet, while helping in legislative research, still leaves much to be desired in this area. The Internet has a lot of recent governmental legal information on it, both state and federal. It also has some historical legal informational sources, but you are not going to find the stuff in the middle. For example, the Kansas statute over this period of the 1960s through 1983 was not on the Internet. However, the most current statute dealing with the subject was.

Friday, June 25th

I arrived at the reference desk late. Our electronic services/documents librarian staffed the reference desk this morning until I got back from a meeting. She told me things were very quiet with the exception of a professor who checked out a reference stool for the weekend. She did not ask why he needed it (probably wise). He offered to fill out a check-out card for the stool but she told him not to sweat it. I wonder if we will need to bar code our chairs with the incoming new automation system?

A patron called asking the difference between expunged and annulled? I grabbed Black's Dictionary and read the two definitions to the patron over the phone. The patron asked questions about the definitions I read. In response, I grabbed the more traditional Ballentine Dictionary and read those definitions. He said he felt comfortable with the definitions.

After reference, I worked on the legal research guide on taxation again, doing my best to decipher what the most useful Web sites are for tax law. The first time I worked on the tax legal research guide was in 1995. At that time, I was happy just to find Internet tax sites. Now there are a lot of Internet tax sites, and they all need to be carefully evaluated. The criteria I look at most when evaluating are: (1) who is producing the Website; (2) how current is the Website; (3) how often is the Website updated? I tend to stay away from many of the privately maintained sites just because many of them have a political slant or some sort of special agenda.

Monday, June 28th

Reference was pretty quiet today. An Albany, New York, law firm called for a copy of 1999 Kansas Senate Bill #301. I told the caller that she could get a copy with just a Web browser. She was very excited to get the URL. To give the patron a Website and be done with the reference query is nice. There are no possible thorny interpretations or questions involved in passing on a Website. You must, however, be certain that the Website is appropriate, reputable, and kept-up-to-date.

Tuesday, June 29th

Not on reference today.

The Dean introduced me to a visiting British scholar who needed library services during the summer.

I obtained a Westlaw number for a student who was inadvertently dropped from the service. I just called Westlaw, gave them my Westlaw Rapid Password Manager number, and asked them to reactivate the student's number. No problem.

Wednesday, June 30th

A law student wants to see how a statute looked in the statute books prior to today. I took her up to the 5th floor to our superceded collection and showed her how to retrospectively follow her statute through the years.

A law student who is a summer associate at an out-of-state law firm called. He wants a sample form operating agreement. There are a ton of form sites on the Internet . . . some good . . . some not so good. I go to the Web page our Electronic Services/Documents Librarian created for my Advanced Legal Research class. I know we include links to 4 or 5 good form Websites, and I quickly find a standard "form operating agreement." I give the URL to the student.

I start work on another legal reference guide—the UCC.

Thursday, July 1st

A public librarian called the reference desk from Leavenworth, Kansas. She said that she needed the statute of limitations for battery. I faxed the statute to her. No problem.

A public patron strolled to the reference desk and asked, "What is competency in Kansas?" I asked: "For attorneys?" She gave me a quizzical look and said, "No." I then asked, "You mean competency in general?" (wondering whether I had the needed competency to complete this reference interview). She paused, took a breath and muttered . . . "wills." (Bingo—I was finally with her.) I took her over to the Kansas Statutes. Under the annotations of one of the statutes was a bar journal article: "What is Competency for Wills in Kansas?" While she looked at the statute, I ran to get the article.

After reference duty, a professor came to my office and asked if I could get her Senate Bill #775 on Y2K legislation and the final Act as soon as it became available. It sounded like a good project for the Internet site THOMAS. About 5 years ago, Congress directed the Library of Congress to make federal legislative documents available over the Internet for free. Thus THOMAS was conceived. THOMAS and other sites like it get public documents out really fast. For example, we all know about the Starr Report and how it was available first over the Internet before it was released to any other distribution source. I go to THOMAS and find the passed Senate Bill #775 waiting for the President's signature. I make a copy of the bill and run it to the professor.

While we all know about the new speed and ease of access of the Internet, what we may not realize is how this impacts the way we provide service. In 1988, before the onslaught of the Internet, there was the general thought that librarians provided information that could not be garnered elsewhere. Today, libraries need to realize that patrons will go elsewhere to obtain needed

information. Patrons think that most of what they are asking for is readily available online. Patrons do not realize the limitations. For example, not all information available on the Internet is current or valid. The expectation held today by most law faculty and law firm partners is that law librarians will keep up with the explosion of commercial databases and Internet sites and will make this information accessible very quickly to them. I can't count the number of times I have conducted reference interviews that involve the following statement or something very close: "I'm sure you can pull that right off the Internet . . . right?"

Friday, July 2nd

Vacation day.

Monday, July 5th

The 4th observed. (I imagine that the scholar from Britain has been rummaging our law library all weekend long.)

Tuesday, July 6th

Today is my first day back from vacation, and I'm tired. I'm guzzling coffee and packing in sugar from the vending machines. At least this is my day off from reference.

A professor e-mailed me asking if one of his more current law review articles has been cited by anyone. I quickly checked Westlaw, and it had been cited twice.

A professor came and asked where a book is that she requested for the library to purchase. I ask our Acquisition Manager and she tracks it.

Another professor wanted me to order a book for him. I did a preliminary check to see if we had the book already before I passed the order on to our acquisitions manager. We indeed do have the book. I gathered the book off the shelf, checked it out to the professor, desensitized the book, and walked it over to his mailbox.

Wednesday, July 7th

Reference desk was very quiet today. Most people must be taking the week off since Monday was a holiday. I used the time to catch up on my professional reading. I came across an interesting article on automated acquisitions. It was a timely article to read, since we are going to start automating our library later this month. The automation process is going to be a big learning and doing project for everyone in the library, like it or not.

Toward the end of my reference duty, an upper-level law student asked me the following: “I have a cite to an FRD. What is an FRD and where are they?” This question from an upper-level student was disappointing, of course, but it is better to learn now rather than after starting their first professional job. I explained what the FRD reporters were and where they were located. After 5 minutes, the student came back and said the books were not where I told him they were. I tried to smile and said politely, “Let me take you to the reporters.” I creaked out of the reference chair and took the stairs to the 3rd floor. Somebody must have moved them back to their true nesting spot in the previous 5 minutes because *poof* they were there. The student just sort of scratched his head and mumbled. I think this student will make a fine attorney. During my four years working at a law firm, I saw an exceedingly large number of attorneys constantly scratching their heads and mumbling. Never in front of a client, of course.

Thursday, July 8th

While working on the UCC Legal Reference Guide at the reference desk, I received a call from a patron for a source that we do not have. It sounded like something a public library would have. I asked the patron if she lived in Lawrence. Her response was affirmative, so I checked the Lawrence Public Library holdings over the Net and found the book. She knew where Lawrence Public was. That made me happy because I’m not the best at giving directions.

A law student came to the reference desk and asked me about a title that was cited as a source in an ABA Journal article. The cite sounded like a government document, so I checked OCLC, found that it was a government document, and that our library held it. I gave her the Sudoc number and took her to get the book. The student got a quick tutorial on the Sudoc number system—free of charge.

I had to leave the reference desk for awhile for a librarian’s birthday party in our library break room. I told the circulation student where he could find me. Good food . . . good company. After about 25 to 30 minutes, in a sticky sort of voice, I told the staff that I must go back to the reference desk. I then waddled in that direction.

Friday, July 9th

As soon as I arrived at the reference desk, the phone rang. A patron asked, “Can you do a prenuptial after you get married?” Immediately I thought, “No.” The patron explained that she and her husband had children and assets from previous marriages. She didn’t want her “money going to his bratty

kids." I thought, "They should have made a premarital agreement before getting married." I told her that they should really talk to an attorney, or perhaps each might want to hire an attorney to assure that both of their separate interests are protected. Whew . . . I'm glad I'm not a family law practitioner.

Reference was pretty slow again today, so I worked on more book selections for our acquisitions manager to order.

Monday, July 12th

When I arrived at the reference desk at 12:30 p.m., our Electronic Services/Documents Librarian had just fielded an interesting question. A patron wanted to know if there was any law on sex education in public schools, preferably statutory law? The Electronic Services/Documents Librarian and I went over to the *United States Code Service* (USCS) and checked the index and Popular Names Table. We found nothing on point . . . an early indication that there is nothing statutory in existence. The Library Director happened by on another matter and asked what we were up to. We told her, and she suggested another good source, *Shepards in Print*. While the Library Director checked *Shepards*, the Electronic Services/Documents Librarian checked *The Encyclopedia of Associations* and I searched Westlaw's TP-ALL database. The Electronic Services/Documents Librarian came across some useful information. *The Encyclopedia of Associations* listed the Sexuality Information and Education Council for the United States, and the organization has a Webpage. While I perused the titles of law review and journal articles and the articles themselves on Westlaw, the Library Director checked the *Current Legal Index to Periodicals*. She mentioned a title that I also found on Westlaw: a *Rutgers Law Journal* article dealing with parents' roles in sexual education. It sounded like a good article. There were some other titles too that I thought were good, but the Electronic Services/Documents Librarian said she had enough to pass on to the patron at this point. Reference is interesting work and sometimes contagious.

Something somewhat amusing happened today. A man came to the desk and asked me to research Oregon foreclosure law and give him a 10- to 20-page report. I thought to myself . . . "What in the Wide Wide World of Sports is a goin' on here?"⁵ I said we didn't do that sort of thing at the library. He said he would pay well. As I walked him toward the steps leading to the first floor, I told him we had the Oregon Statutes Annotated and UCC materials. He told me it would take him the rest of the day and into the evening to research his question by searching through the Oregon Statutes and the UCC. I thought to myself, "Welcome sir, to legal research." I told him that if he needed assistance using the index to the Oregon Statutes or the UCC Digest/Reporter to come see me. He assured me he knew how to search the statutes.

At the end of my reference slot, a couple of hours later, I peeked his way. He was spread out in the stacks with a number of Oregon statute volumes.

The last hour of the day, I worked on corrections to the UCC Legal Research Guide.

Tuesday, July 13th

My every-two-week meeting with the collection development librarian at Watson (the main university library) was this morning. Together we go over the Yankee Book Peddler (YBP) books sent on approval. Only about a dozen books were on the shelves when I arrived there. They were pretty straightforward titles—all destined for the law library with the exception of two books on pre-18th century legal topics.

A former student who now practices in Minnesota called and asked if the Kansas Board of Tax Appeals orders are available online. I asked if she had Lexis, because they are available on Lexis. She asked if they were available free on the Internet? I told her I didn't think so, but I would double check. There really are a ton of law sources available on the Internet. Current primary law documents available on the Internet at no cost include: the *United States Code*, recent public laws, the *Federal Register*, and the *Code of Federal Regulations*. There are also many U.S. government documents, for example, the *US Government Manual*. Address and phone number sources are also prevalent on the Internet. Even *Martindale-Hubble* is available on the Internet. Although a lot of information is on the Internet, I don't find Kansas Board of Tax Appeals orders available for free. For a fee, the Information Network of Kansas provides information on the court dockets before the Kansas Board of Tax Appeals. I call her back with the information.

A professor asked the director to order 2 books for him. The library owns both books he requested. As a matter of fact, one of the books was currently checked out to him. This had happened before. I let the professor know by what I hope is a friendly note. When you are using as many sources as our professors use in their teaching and scholarship, it is very easy to lose track of exactly what you have before you.

Wednesday, July 14th

Hurrah. . . . this is the last day to track my daily activities from June 14th to July 14th, 1999. I'm happy that I wasn't sick or unavailable this month. I usually am not sick, but last week a couple people on our staff contracted the bug. I was close to finishing, and I thought it would be a shame to get sick so late in the game. Anyway, I made it.

The Automation/Technical Services Librarian came to talk about the bar-

coding process. We have started to barcode our holdings, and she wants everyone to pitch in 4 hours a week. We are a small staff, and I think this is a very reasonable request. Everybody needs to pitch in. At tomorrow's meeting discussing the new automation and barcoding system, she is going to suggest the 4-hour idea. The director and I are 100 percent behind her.

A professor stopped by the reference desk to ask what I know about Jurisnet publishers. I know something about Juris Publishers, but not Jurisnet. I searched Acqweb on the Internet. Nothing. I went to AltaVista and typed in Jurisnet. I received over 100 hits and found Jurisnet Publishing rather quickly while scrolling down. They listed an address, phone number, and Webpage site. Unfortunately, the Webpage was temporarily unavailable. The professor was happy with the address and phone number.

Since I finished the UCC legal reference guide, I started to work on updating the research guide on Native American Law. In 1988, there was less of a need for a research guide in this area. However, in 1995, our law school partnered with Haskell Indian Nations University, located in Lawrence, Kansas, to create the Haskell Indian Nation University/University of Kansas Tribal Lawyer training program which allows Haskell undergraduates to begin preparing for legal careers representing nations and tribes. Thus, we are selecting more in the indigenous law area, and we need something for our patrons to reference.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

In looking over Fritz's journal from 1988 and thinking about what changes have occurred over the past 12 years, I see the biggest, most obvious change is the Internet.

Unlike the Internet, Lexis and Westlaw were both firmly established in 1988. Nonetheless, there has been a notable increase in databases available on Lexis and Westlaw since 1988.⁶ For example, in 1988, Fritz suggested to a patron that she call the Kansas Attorney General's office to get an opinion interpreting a Kansas statute. The Kansas Attorney General Opinions are now available on both Westlaw and Lexis back to 1977. In regard to another patron question, Fritz bemoaned the fact that in 1988 there was no special directory which listed attorneys specializing in environmental law. Today, of course, both Westlaw (Westlaw Legal Directory) and Lexis (Martindale-Hubbell) have online directories listing legal specialties, including environmental law. There have also been print publications popping up since 1988 that list specialties in law. The Directory of Environmental Attorneys was first published by Prentice Hall in 1991. In 1988, Fritz was helping a patron search the Federal Register on Westlaw. He was amazed that the Federal Register was available on Westlaw just three days after publication. Today a patron can obtain the Federal Register free from GPO Access the day of publication.

It seems to me that research strategies are the same as in 1988. What has changed is the source of the information, be it print, CD-ROM, Westlaw, Lexis, or the Internet. You still need a plan. There just happen to be more tools to choose from than there were in 1988. Of course the tricky part is discerning which of these tools to choose from for the particular research problem. Many considerations come into play today when a librarian makes the determination as to what tools she/he uses. Considerations of speed, validity, economics, and logistics will frequently enter the equation.

In 1988, the law library was still using a subject card catalog. Today, the law library is using a CD-ROM driven card catalog. Next month the law library's catalog will be totally automated and available on the Web through Endeavor.

In 1988, the law library did not have a computer lab. In 1999, it does have a computer lab but not a very big one. The lab consisted of 4 rooms, when I arrived in 1995, with over 25 computers. It now consists of 1 room with 8 computers for the reasons stated earlier—mainly the idea that technology is available almost everywhere in the law building (with wired carrels and laptops available to be checked out at the circulation desk). In 1988, Fritz worried that a computer lab in the law library would become a glorified word processing center. I think he was clairvoyant to some extent. The lab was and is being used for word processing. What he couldn't predict was what else the lab was going to become: an e-mail and Web surfer room. The only real problem with a small computer lab is that it doesn't meet our computer instruction needs. It is difficult scheduling 190 1L's for computer-assisted legal research instruction in an eight-PC computer lab in late January and early February to learn both Westlaw and Lexis. It makes my job as library liaison to Lexis and Westlaw very interesting.

NOTES

1. 8 Leg. Ref. Serv. Q. 253 (No. 2 1988).

2. At the time of this writing, I was the primary Reference Librarian. These duties now fall under the aegis of the newly-created position of Faculty Services/Research Attorney.

3. The patron specifically asked for *Shepards* as opposed to a citator in general. If he had asked for a citator, I would have instructed him on how to KeyCiteerize [KeyCite] too. Of course, *Shepards* is synonymous with citator in many instances, so KeyCiting should always be considered.

4. Sabrina Pacifica, "Team Searcher," In *Law of the Super Searchers* 40 (T. R. Halvorson, ed. CyberAge Books, 2000).

5. Exclamation from Slim Pickins to his hired help in trying to get a little track laid in the Mel Brook's 1974 movie *Blazing Saddles*.

6. See *supra* text accompanying note 1.

