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Legal Beagle Blog (November 2012)

Roger Williams University School of Law Library

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Legal Beagle's Blog

ResearchFest 2012: Knowledge, Food and PRIZES!

Posted by Library Blog on 11/02/2012 at 01:06 PM

On Tuesday, October 23 from 10am to 4pm, over 60 students, law faculty, University librarians, and 2 University deans stopped by the library's ResearchFest to learn about resources licensed by the law library. Six vendor representatives from **Bloomberg/BNA, Ebrary, EBSCO, Oxford University Press, ProQuest and Thomson Reuters Checkpoint**, showed how their resources can be used by law students for class preparation, review, exam preparation, and even to research potential employers. Products covered a range of materials including research databases, electronic newsletters, litigation materials, transactional resources, ebooks, reference books, tax research, and Congressional materials. For a full list of digital resources licensed by the law library, visit our [Digital Resources](#) page.

The Law Librarians also offered demonstrations of HeinOnline, and law school helpers such as CALI, CVN Law School, LawGuides and the Study Room Reservation system. Due to the unprecedented demand, the eight scheduled librarian demonstrations were offered continuously until 4pm. One vendor even stayed until 4:30pm to finish a presentation for three eager students!

Throughout the day attendees were treated to breakfast snacks, lunch, afternoon snacks, and many giveaways by vendors including pens, notepads, sticky notes, stress balls, shopping bags, and lunch bags.

At the end of the day, 26 students won prizes including candy corn, gift cards, a cooler, an iHome MP3 player speaker, and books. Three grand prizes were awarded to Peter Espinal (Kindle Fire HD), Troy Shuman (Kindle Fire), and Valerie Leon (Kindle). Food and prizes were contributed by the library and vendors. Here's the [full list of winners](#).

ReelichFest

Because Knowledge IS Power

Ask me how to get one of these!

Or a snack...



Or how to win one of these...





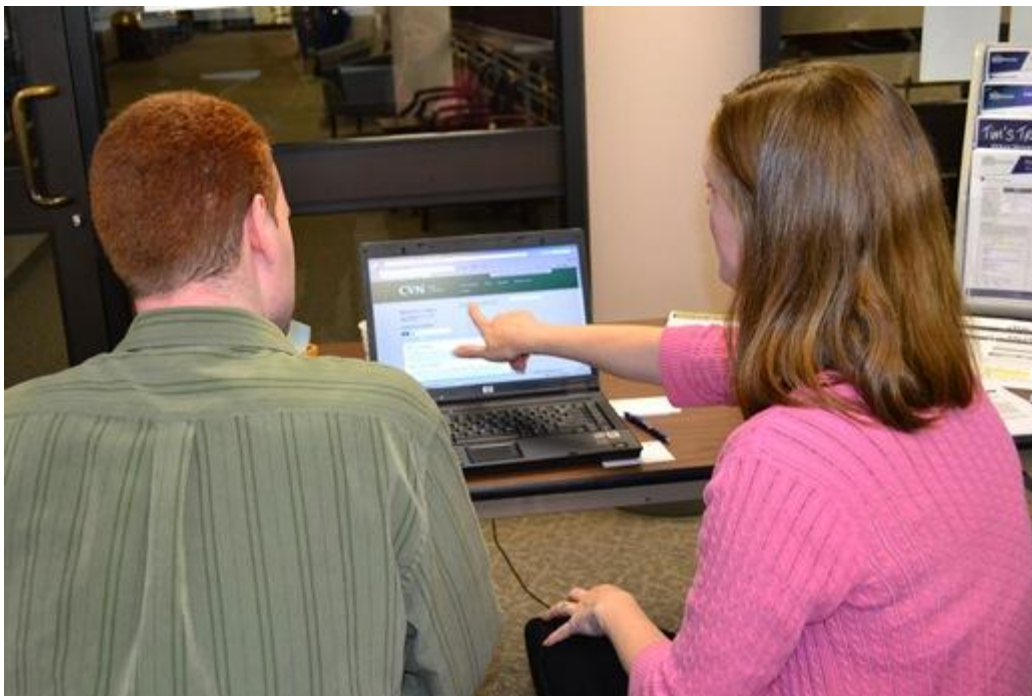












Law Library Resources for Polishing Your Course Papers

Posted by Library Blog on 11/08/2012 at 10:11 AM

As you are writing a paper for a seminar class, Legal Methods or possibly law review, you may be wondering if there are any resources in the Law Library that you can consult for tips on polishing your paper.

Well, stop wondering and wander the Law Library's Reference Collection that includes general and subject-specific dictionaries, regular and legal thesauri, grammar handbooks, and style manuals. The Reference Collection is shelved on the bookcases to the right as you enter the law library. To the left as you enter the law library is a dictionary stand containing general dictionaries and a *Black's Law Dictionary* (9th ed. 2009) ([KF156 .B53 2009](#)).

Some thesauri and style manuals are:

- *Burton's Legal Thesaurus* (4th ed. 2007), [KF156 .B856 2007](#)
- *Roget's II: The New Thesaurus* (1995), [PE1591 .R715 1995](#)
- *Roget's International Thesaurus* (2001), [PE1591 .R73 2001](#)

- *Chicago Manual of Style* (16th ed. 2010 and [online](#)), [Reference, Z253 .U69 2010](#)
- *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* (3d ed. 2008), [Reference, PN147 .G53 2008](#)
- *The Modern Rules of Style* (2007), [Reference, KF250 .M37 2007](#)

If you are unable to wander the Reference Collection, you can access the Law Library's subscription to [Oxford Dictionaries Pro](#) from the comfort of your home or study area in the law school. *Oxford Dictionaries Pro* offers fully searchable content from their world-renowned modern English dictionaries and thesauri and other aids for the writer.

For guidance on organizing, revising, and editing your paper as well as avoiding plagiarism, consult:

- *Academic Legal Writing: Law Review Articles, Student Notes, Seminar Papers, and Getting on Law Review* (4th ed. 2010), [KF250 .V6 2010](#)
- *Scholarly Writing for Law Students: Seminar Papers, Law Review Notes and Law Review Competition Papers* (4th ed. 2011), [KF250 .F34 2011](#)

If you are interested in improving the appearance of your document, take a look at *Typography for Lawyers* (2010), [Z246 .B98 2010](#).

In addition to the above publications, do not hesitate to call on the expertise of the law school's Writing Specialist, Professor [Kim Baker](#)!

Need to Study? There's a Study Aid for That!

Posted by Library Blog on 11/15/2012 at 03:57 PM

In addition to the excellent resources of the Academic Success Program, here's a review of the various study aids offered by the Law Library.

For reviewing legal concepts:

The Law Library's collection contains **hornbooks** and **nutshells** on almost every legal subject. There are also titles from the *Examples and Explanations* and *Understanding series*. Current editions of the study aids are shelved on Reserve and circulate for either two or forty-eight hours. Older editions are shelved in the stacks and circulate for four weeks. Look at the [Study Aids Law Guides](#) to determine the study aids for your course. If your course is not represented, search the [WebCatalog](#) by keywords using the name of your course and type of study aid or series.

In addition to the books, there are hundreds of [CALI lessons](#) on numerous legal topics. Since the lessons are interactive, you will get feedback on how well you understand the concepts! Email LawLibraryHelp@rwu.edu for the RWU School of Law authorization code to create your individual login. Need a copy of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure or Evidence? Check out [CALI's eLangdell Press](#) for free access to the rules and other texts.

There are **bar review materials** on Reserve (two- hour circulation). Two that you might find useful are *Barbri Bar Review: First Year Review* ([KF388 .B372](#)) and *Barbri Bar Review: Upper Level Review* ([KF388 .B37](#)). An outline of each subject area is followed by questions and answers to the questions.

For tips on studying for and taking law exams:

- *Law School Exams: A Guide to Better Grades* (2012). Stacks, [KF283 .S35 2012](#)
- *Open Book: Succeeding on Exams from the First Day of Law School* (2011). Stacks, [KF283 .F75 2011](#)
- *The Zen of Law School Success* (2011). Stacks, [KF283 .N67 2011](#)

*Browse the stacks in the call number area of KF283 for more books on studying for and writing law school exam essays.

For sample exam questions and answers:

- *Law School Success in a Nutshell: A Guide to Studying Law and Taking Law School Exams* (2d ed. 2008). Reserve, [KF283 .B87 2008](#)
- *Law School Exams: Preparing and Writing to Win* (2007). Stacks, [KF283 .C35 2007](#)
- *Mastering the Law School Exam: A Practical Blueprint for Preparing and Taking Law School Exams* (2007). Stacks, [KF283 .D37 2007](#) - there are several essay questions with either an evaluation sheet or a sample answer for Business Organizations, Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, Evidence, Property, and Torts.
- *Writing Essay Exams to Succeed in Law School (Not Just to Survive)* (3d ed. 2010). Stacks, [KF283 .D47 2010](#) - in the Appendix are two essay questions with three sample answers to each and an analysis of each answer to illustrate common mistakes made by law students in writing answers to essay questions.

If you need assistance with locating a study aid, please do not hesitate to ask the Librarian staffing the Reference Desk, call 401-254-4547, email LawLibraryHelp@rwu.edu or chat via [“Ask a Librarian.”](#)