Newsletters

Law Library

8-1996

Notes From the Underground, August, 1996

Recommended Citation

FREE LASER PRINTING, ADDITIONAL WORKSTATIONS FOR COMPUTER LAB

by Mike Daw,
Computer Services Law Librarian

Responding to longstanding suggestions from our students, we are pleased to announce the availability of free laser printing in our computer lab, as well as the installation of additional workstations.

The free printing was made possible through the law school administration's attainment of an agreement with the University administration to designate a portion of the law students' Technology Fee to directly support our lab, and through the

(See *COMPUTER LAB,* page 2)

THE COLOR ORANGE, BUZZING LIGHTS ALMOST BID ADIEU FROM LIBRARY

The ubiquitous dual annoyances of the color orange and dim, buzzing lights have each been dealt a mortal blow. The law library has recently undergone its most significant physical upgrade since it moved into its present space at 536 Mission nearly 20 years ago.

Law School funds and the cooperation and oversight of the Facilities Department enabled the re-upholstering of the sound-absorbing ceiling baffles throughout the library. The new lighter

(See *ORANGE OUT,* page 2)

NETWORKABLE LAPTOPS FOR LOAN; PUBLIC NETWORK ACCESS ACTIVATED

Four new, powerful 486 laptop computers have been added to the supply of portable workstations available to law students for overnight lending. All are equipped with network cards. This enables users to plug them into the data jacks in any of the glassed carrels on either end of the Plaza level and access all public law library network resources. These resources include LEXIS, Westlaw, CALI, the Internet, *GGU Online!,* various CD-ROM

(See *LAPTOPS,* page 2)

SOME USEFUL LISTS:
LEGAL INFO IN CYBERSPACE

by John Adkins,
Asst. Director/Head of Public Services

"Lists" or "listservs" are electronic mailing lists which include discussion groups, announcements, newsletters or news digests, etc., for a particular group and/or a particular topic. The people who participate in sending and receiving messages on discussion lists are called "subscribers." Many lists keep subscribers informed about important events in a certain profession, or provide a dialogue for people with similar questions and interests.

Below are some lists related to law and law teaching on the Internet that I find very useful. I found out about them from fellow librarian Lyo

(See *CYBERSPACE,* page 3)

ELECTRONIC BNA TAX PORTFOLIOS ADDED TO NETWORK; PRINT SCRAPPED

The law library has taken another step toward the future by acquiring the *BNA Tax Portfolios* on CD-ROM and substituting this networked electronic format for its print subscription. OIT staff are working with Systems Administration Librarian Joyce McLean to mount the databases on the network and get the bugs worked out so that we and

(See *ELECTRONIC FORMATS,* page 3)

KRISTINA HANSEN PROMOTED

Kristina Hansen has been promoted from Library Assistant II (Serials) to Senior Law Library Assistant (Acquisitions). She replaces **Georgiane Lansing**, who recently left us to join the law library staff of the University of San Francisco.

Kristina is now in charge of placing, tracking, verifying and reconciling orders for all law library materials and electronic services--areas in which we spend in excess of $600,000 each year. With her background in accounting and strong organizational and interpersonal skills, we are confident Kristina will meet the challenge.

COMPUTER LAB

cooperation of OIT. Funds received from the Technology Fee will pay for lab supplies, staffing by student assistants, and, possibly, additional software and hardware.

The law library has recently acquired and installed three new printers, specifically, two Apple LaserWriter Selects and one Hewlett-Packard LaserJet V. With these additions to the HP LaserJet IIIs already in place (which no longer charge for printing), LaserJet printing is available from our three Macintosh and seven personal computers.

One DeskJet printer continues to be designated for laptop printing. Laptop users are welcome to connect their machine to the DeskJet to print documents.

Three PCs Added

In addition, three more personal computers are scheduled for installation by the beginning of the fall term, increasing the number of lab workstations to 13 (seven PCs and three Macs). DeskJet printers will be attached to them for local printing, but each will also have the option of sending print jobs to the LaserJet V.

All workstations can access the Internet, *GGU Online!*, LEXIS, Westlaw, the library's CD-ROM databases and online catalog, and the Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) exercises. This is in addition to Word, WordPerfect and Excel.

The computer lab will be staffed during peak periods and currently registered law students will have priority use weekdays, 8 a.m to 4 p.m.

ORANGE OUT

color provides a much more aesthetic look and engenders a soothing peacefulness, rather than aggression and hostility. The only orange remaining is the basement carpet, which we hope to replace this fiscal year.

Lighting Improved, Quieted

In addition, the formerly dark colors of the baffles used to exacerbate the poor lighting of the library by "soaking up" the available light. This gave rise to long-standing complaints to that effect from our students. The new materials seems to reflect the light, noticeably brightening things up.

Also almost gone is the buzzing sound which has annoyed law students for years. As part of the Facilities Department's relamping project of 536 Mission, the law library has been the recipient of new lighting fixtures. These give off brighter light but less heat and no noise. Thus, the long-standing twin student complaints of poor lighting and buzzing ballasts have all but been rectified.

The law library staff is extremely pleased to see these improvements realized and hopes that they will make for a much more hospitable environment, one conducive to long hours of study.

Ceiling baffles in the staff area were removed and replaced by a drop ceiling. This change vastly improves the lighting in this area and makes for a much more professional appearance.

LAPTOPS

databases, the library's online catalog, and word processing and spreadsheet software.

Network cards were also added to two existing laptops. This brings to six the number of laptops capable of accessing law library network resources. A DeskJet printer in the computer lab is designated for laptop users.

Network Resources for Private Laptops

Law students who own a laptop may also access law library network resources from any of the glassed carrels. Their laptops will need to meet certain specifications in order to function on the network. Those interested should contact Computer Services Law Librarian Mike Daw or pick up a copy of *Guide to GGU Computers and Laptop Buying Guide* available among the Law Library's *Guide Series* located near the Circulation Desk.

CYBERSPACE

Louis-Jacques, an Internet expert at the University of Chicago School of Law Library. I have annotated this list by describing how much user "traffic" there is, who the majority of the subscribers are, etc. At the end of this article I have included very brief and general instructions on how to subscribe to an electronic list. If you have any questions or problems, please give Mike Daw, or Cathy Hardy or me a call. We will be happy to get you started.

Useful Lists

LAWPROF on *LISTSERV@CHICAGOKENT .KENTLAW.EDU* -- This is an important resource for law professors to share information about teaching, scholarship and research. This is one of the best lists around, having very little irrelevant information and lots of great discussions. There are about 5-10 messages a day, and there are perhaps 500-1000 subscribers, mostly from United States law schools.

Also, law school administrative matters are covered dealing with everything from tenure to student discipline. I think it is great.

LAWSCH-L on *LISTSERV@AMERICAN.EDU* -- This list is used mainly by law students and folks interested in attending law school to share information about law schools, commiserate about wait lists, ask legal research questions, debate the benefits of Macs versus PCs in law school, ask about special areas of practice, special groups (such as older law students), etc. It is quite interesting to see some of the comments about legal research and writing and some of the responses to reference questions from student to student. Recommended for those interested in these and related topics.

LAWSRC-L on *LISTSERV@LISTSERV.LAW .CORNELL.EDU* -- This list is for discussing legal resources on the Internet. It is good for keeping up with and asking questions about law-related resources on the Internet. I find it very useful and not that time-consuming to read pertinent postings.

NET-LAWYERS on *LISTPROC@LAWLIB .WUACC.EDU* -- This is a list with over 2,000 subscribers for the exchange of information on lawyers and the Internet. It is very busy, with an incredible amount of information being shared by folks in all legal sectors. It is good for getting advice on Internet access and resources, etc.

How to Subscribe

To subscribe to a list, you must first access cc:Mail, then follow these steps. (I've used LAWPROF as an example.)

1. Type **Internet** in the "TO" line, then press the **ENTER** key.

2. Next, a sub-menu for inputting Internet addresses will appear. Type the list address (e.g., for LAWPROF, type: **listserv@chicagokent .kentlaw.edu** then press the **ENTER** key.

3. Leave the subject line blank by pressing the **ENTER** key again.

4. With the cursor blinking on the blank message screen, type the following request: **subscribe lawprof [Your Name]** (Replace "Your Name," "firstname lastname," etc., with your real name.)

The body of the message must consist ONLY of the single line subscription request specified in step #4, above. DO NOT include any other information in the message, not even your signature, signoff, institution, etc., unless otherwise instructed. If your setup automatically generates this (or anything else), delete it.

For some lists, subscribing is not automatic. LAWPROF is one example, requiring approval by the owner in order to subscribe. In the case of LAWPROF, they want to verify your status as a law prof, as it were. And many times list addresses change, so if you have trouble and your message is returned to you, let me know.

I hope this helps you get started in the exciting world of Internet legal information discussion lists. I know that other librarians and I have really benefitted from reading and interacting with others involved in legal education. Be sure to contact us with any questions, comments or concerns -- we are here to help!

ELECTRONIC FORMATS

our users have a smooth transition to the electronic format when our print subscriptions end on September 15.

The move to the electronic format should provide enhanced access for our faculty and students, as well as solve the chronic looseleaf transmittal filing problems we have had with this particular set.

Enhanced access is expected in that neither faculty nor students should never again have their

research brought to a halt because the particular portfolio they need is being used by someone else or is missing. Further, faculty will have the full text of the portfolios on their desktops, obviating the need to make a trip to the law library.

In addition to replacing all three series (*U.S. Income; Foreign Income;* and *Estates, Gifts, and Trusts*), the library was also able to add a subscription to the Multistate service, without increasing its total subscription cost.

Electronic Treaty Indexes

Also acquired in CD-ROM format are United States and United Nations treaty indexes published by Hein. While not replacing any print products, faculty and students will find a much more user-friendly product which is also more complete than the print product.

Matthew Bender Databases

The Hein and BNA products join the library's Matthew Bender CD-ROM databases which were mounted on the network last year. These include Matthew Bender's California, Bankruptcy and Immigration libraries.

These databases include a wealth of materials. For example, the California Library includes such resources as the California codes, *Code of Regulations, Points and Authorities*, Supreme Court civil cases from 1883 to the present and appellate cases from 1944 to the present, *Legal Forms-Transaction Guide, Forms of Pleading and Practice, Opinions of the Attorney General* and *Forms of Jury Instructions*, to name a few. The Bankruptcy Library contains bankruptcy cases from 1979 to the present, *Collier on Bankruptcy*, and several other notable resources.

Those of you who have used these databases and are familiar with the *SearchMaster* search engine they employed will be happy to know that Matthew Bender is migrating to a Folio-based Windows search engine in the very near future.

Anyone desiring assistance for learning how to access these electronic resources should contact any of our Reference staff.

****

Notes from Underground . . .
**Written and edited by Brent Bernau,
Law Library Director**
****

THIS MONTH'S SUBJECT HEADINGS
FOR NEW ACQUISITIONS

Abortion
Administrative Law
Alternative Dispute Resolution
Antitrust
Bankruptcy
Banks & Banking
Business Organizations
Capital Punishment
Church & State
Civil Law
Civil Procedure
Civil Rights
Commercial Transactions
Comparative Law
Conflict of Laws
Constitutional Law
Contracts
Corporations
Courts
Criminal Justice
Criminal Law
Criminal Procedure
Critical Legal Studies
Drugs
Educational Law
Environmental Law & Policy
Estate Planning
Evidence
Family Law
Freedom of Speech
Health Law
Human Rights
Immigration Law
Insurance Law
Intellectual Property
International Law
Judicial Opinions
Jurisprudence
Labor Law
Land Use
Law & Ethics
Law & the Social Sciences
Law & Literature
Law Reviews
Legal Research & Writing
Libraries
Malpractice (Physicians)
Philosophy of Law
Practice of Law
Products Liability
Professional Responsibility
Real Property
Securities
Social Justice
Study & Teaching of Law
Supreme Court
Taxation
Telecommunications Law
Torts
Trial Practice
Women