

11-1996

Notes From the Underground, November, 1996

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Notes from Underground . . .

Golden Gate University Law Library's New Acquisitions List & News
November 1996

Law Library Schedule of Operation November 27 - January 12

Wednesday, November 27	7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday/Friday, Nov. 28-29	CLOSED
Saturday, Nov. 30	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 1	10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday, Dec. 2-6	7:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Saturday/Sunday, Dec. 7-8	10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday, Dec. 9-13	7:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Saturday/Sunday, Dec. 14-15	10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 16-18	7:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 19	7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 20	7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat, Dec. 21- Wed, Jan. 1	CLOSED
Thursday/Friday, Jan. 2-3	7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday/Sunday, Jan. 4-5	Noon to 5 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 6 - Friday, Jan. 10	7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 11	Noon to 5 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 12	Noon to 10:30 p.m.

**FACULTY CURRENT AWARENESS
SERVICE CHANGES EXPLAINED**

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

Over the past year, faculty requests have dwindled to almost nothing in response to the tables of contents we have been photocopying, reviewing for subjects in your academic research, and then sending to you for your information. We suspect this is due in large part to the success of the technological esprit d'corps that has managed to bring us all in step with the information retrieval sources now available online. Our thanks to Joyce McLean, Mike Daw, Terri Shultis, Pete Fenno and all the wonderful OIT people who have brought us this far so quickly. Since this was a very active and much-used service in the past, we figured you all must be getting the information you need somewhere else!

This has meant a reevaluation of the Current Awareness Service for faculty. The labor-intensive review of tables of contents has been discontinued in favor of what we think will be a more dynamic and helpful method of providing you with what you need information-wise: the reference librarians will each be
(See *CURRENT AWARENESS*, page 4)

**LEXIS-NEXIS MAKES MAJOR CHANGES
TO LAW SCHOOL PROGRAM**

by Brent Bernau,
Law Library Director

LEXIS-NEXIS is getting out of the hardware and phone line businesses. Effective this month, the company is transferring ownership of its computers and attached printers to the law schools where the equipment resides. Law schools must agree to maintain the same number of access points for two years. As of July 1, LEXIS-NEXIS will stop providing ink cartridges and paper for the attached printers and will no longer provide phone lines at law schools to access their databases.

The effect of the transfer is to force law schools to use an Internet gateway service to access the databases. It also shifts the financial burden of providing paper and ink directly to the libraries' supplies budget. This expense could be very significant, as LEXIS-NEXIS has been unable or unwilling to institute a limit on the amount of printing law students are permitted to do, and
(See *LEXIS-NEXIS*, page 5)

by Joyce McLean,
Systems Administration Librarian

The library staff have been working with OIT to bring you some new online resources and to update and expand existing ones. Our Matthew Bender databases are now available in the new Folio Views format and may be accessed in the Law Library Lab and on faculty computers in the Law School. *Employment Law*, *Environmental Law* and *Federal Practice* databases have been added. *The California Law* database has been expanded to include *Business Law*, *Torts/Personal Injury*, *Real Estate Law*, *Family Law* and *Trusts and Estates*. All of these resources may be accessed through a Windows icon labeled **Authority from Matthew Bender**. Michael Daw will be providing training for the Law Faculty at noon on Thursday, November 14 in the former Faculty Library.

Updated Windows versions of *Westmate 6.1* and *LEXIS/NEXIS Research* software have also been installed on the Law server of the Novell network and may be accessed through the **Legal Resources**. OIT staff have also installed *Netscape 3.0* on all Law Library public access and staff computers. This will increase the speed of access to World Wide Web resources.

As many of you already know, INNOPAC, GGU's online library catalog is also available for use in faculty offices and the Law Lab. If anyone needs assistance with access accounts or passwords, you may contact Joyce McLean (x6695 or e-mail: jmclean@ggu.edu or via cc:Mail or GGU Online).

Questions concerning searching should be referred to the Reference staff at x6692. In addition to the many resources already available on INNOPAC, there are two new additions: California State Library Catalog and IAC's INFOTRAC 2000 databases (which include the General Business File ASAP, the National Newspaper Index and F and S Index Plus Text). The General Library staff provide training on the INFOTRAC databases for interested faculty and students. For more information, contact Janice Carter (x7248).

Law Library staff are already reviewing new resources that they hope to make available in the next few months. Plans are under way to test load an additional Matthew Bender database on hard disk to study the access speed and feasibility of loading future reference databases on hard disk. We will also be investigating with OIT the new generation of CD-ROM hardware to see if it can deliver the increased speed and greater number of simultaneous users equipment manufacturers claim.

Laptop Stolen

STUDENT VICTIM MUST NOW PAY \$1,000

Another laptop was stolen from a student in the law library last month. Though the laptop was unattended, it was hidden from view. Unfortunately, a thief found it in the short time the student was away.

Students who borrow laptops must remember to never ever, ever, ever, leave it unattended for any time whatsoever! If you do and it's stolen, you're responsible for its replacement. And just as with all other circulating law library materials, if an item isn't returned, the borrower is responsible for the replacement cost of each item.

Individuals with a criminal bent sometimes justify their lawless escapades by rationalizing that "the university rips me off, so I'll rip it off." Little did the thief know, that the student he/she he ripped off now must come up with \$1,000--the deductible on the university's insurance coverage. This huge, unexpected expense is a tremendous burden for anyone to bear, let alone a student with limited income.

If the thief happens to read this and has a shred of conscience, please consider returning the laptop in a plain brown wrapper. Just address the wrapper to "Brent Bernau, Law Library Director" and drop it off at our Circulation Desk or the Information Desk in the main lobby.

If anyone has any information concerning the whereabouts of the laptop, please contact the Director in confidence at x6685.

Research made easier!

LAW LIBRARIANS GET LAW ENACTED

by *Cathy Hardy*,
Government Documents/Reference Law Librarian

It became a little easier to do California legislative history research and California regulatory history research thanks to the passage of a bill sponsored by the Northern California Association of Law Libraries (NOCALL). Senate Bill 1507, introduced by Senator Petris on behalf of NOCALL, was written and shepherded through the legislative land mines to passage and the governor's signature by the NOCALL Government Relations Committee, chaired by GGU law librarian Cathy Hardy.

The bill requires that California legislative committees keep a permanent record of all documents related to bills before the committee. Legislative

committees may elect to keep the records themselves or transfer them to State Archives, but they must be maintained permanently. State agencies must permanently keep rulemaking files or transfer the files to the State Archives. The original bill called for all documents to reside at State Archives, but had to be amended or face defeat.

In a related issue, the NOCALL Government Relations Committee was able to get funding added to the State Law Library's budget for the filming of the historical collection of California Notice Registers. If you have ever tried to trace the history of a California Regulation you know the importance of these documents. This year the committee will be attending the Law Revision Commission Meetings examining the Administrative Rulemaking Procedures. The committee is particularly concerned with the lack of records indicating the history of regulations. We would like to see notes maintained similar to the historical notes in the California Codes.

Netting Election Results:

WEBSITES WORTH NOTING FOR POLITICAL JUNKIES

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

This was the first election that I followed using a netbrowser instead of just the TV, radio, and newspaper. This time I could add my computer, too! It was quite a different experience finding websites that gave voter information and analysis, as well as those that covered the election results. Overall, I was impressed with the amount of information I could retrieve -- from national issues to purely local controversies -- and how quickly results were available after the polls closed.

Here are a few of the addresses you might want to take a look at:

CampaignNet:
<http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/election/index.htm>

SFOnline
Voterguide: <http://sf95.election.digital.com/>

CAVoter
Foundation: <http://www.webcom.com/crf/>

CQ's AmericanVoter96: <http://voter96.cgalert.com/>

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PoliticsUSA: <http://www.PoliticsUSA.com/>

PoliticsNow: <http://www.politicsnow.com/>

AllPolitics: <http://cnn.com/elections/returns.html>

The last two are excellent sources for vote totals, although sources say you need creativity in using the latter because some of its Congressional District links are off. Both provide detailed vote total by individual district with a projection of winners. For election news coverage, poll tracking and political analysis, I really liked PoliticsNow, which is put together by ABC News, along with the National Journal, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times and Newsweek. The other networks and CNN have their own websites as well.

Be sure to remember that these addresses will certainly change over time, but they will undoubtedly be replaced with another resource to inform us all!

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CURRENT AWARENESS

assigned to a faculty member and act as your individual information liaison in terms of searching and retrieving information and materials in your academic research.

Individual Faculty Interviews

The project is only being developed, but we hope that by the beginning of next semester you will have been contacted by one of the Law Library's reference staff, interviewed about your research needs, and a plan of action will be in full swing. This can include setting up LEXIS or Westlaw searches, ongoing searches in other databases or through Internet sources, and other options that you might find useful. We hope this kind of one-on-one relationship will foster a better understanding of your changing research needs and help get you what you really need in a timely fashion.

Common E-mail Address for All Requests

We are also developing an e-mail address specifically for faculty research requests. This address will allow any library staff member to access it and retrieve the materials you are seeking. Look for news on this exciting new development in the near future.

We are all very enthusiastic about this new plan of action and look forward to working with each of you! In this transitional time period, please do not hesitate to call me at x6681 or send me e-mail at jadkins@ggu.edu if you need specific research help.

Gerry Ventanilla assumed the duties of Library Assistant II (Serials) in August. Among other duties, he is in charge of maintaining the whereabouts of our over 3,200 subscriptions.

Gerry comes to us from the firm of Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro, where he had over seven years of experience in serials control and acquisitions. He majored in Advertising at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. Welcome, Gerry!

A TALE OF ABRAHAM

*by Donna Hughes-Oldenburg,
Head of Technical Services*

I read a story the other day about Abraham Lincoln. Whether it's apocryphal or not, I don't know, but I'd like to share it with you. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. With thanks to Rabbi Burton L. Visozky, who related it in his *The Genesis of Ethics* (Crown Publishers, 1996):

A criminal came to Mr. Lincoln in the days before he was president but already a lawyer of some repute in Illinois.

"I'd like you to represent me, Mr. Lincoln," the fellow said.

Lincoln, who had some inkling of the man and his activities, asked, "Are you guilty, sir?"

"Of course I'm guilty," the criminal replied. "That's why I want to hire you to get me off."

"If you admit your guilt to me," Lincoln explained, "then I cannot represent you."

"But you don't understand," the man replied. "I'm offering you one thousand dollars for your services."

Even though one thousand dollars was a lot of money back then, Lincoln declined. The man said, "Mr. Lincoln, I'll offer you two thousand dollars to represent me."

Again, Lincoln demurred. "Mr. Lincoln, I came to your office to hire your services, for it is said you are the best attorney in Illinois. I will give you four thousand dollars as a retainer."

At that, Lincoln unfolded himself from his chair, grabbed the criminal by his jacket, marched him to the door, and threw him out of the office. As the man rose and brushed himself off, he asked Lincoln, "Sir, why did you throw me out when I said four thousand dollars? Why not one thousand, or two thousand, or why not when I first came into your office and admitted my guilt?"

Lincoln replied, "You were getting close to my price."

WHAT OTHERS ARE READING

by Cathy Hardy
Reference Librarian

I recommend *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales*, by Oliver Sacks, c.1985. This one has been around for a while, and has made it on to most best-seller lists. The author is an accomplished neurologist who offers an unusual insight into our own lives by presenting excerpts from his casebook. He touches on the nature of spirituality, the soul, and what is "normal." I found it very thought-provoking.

Currently I am reading *A Civil Action* by Jonathan Haar. The non-fiction "inside story" of a toxic litigation case that reads like a novel. The case involves contaminated well water in Woburn, Massachusetts, a "cluster" of childhood leukemia victims and Beatrice Foods and W.R. Grace Corp. The author was allowed to observe the development of the case from "within" and has tried to provide insights from all parties involved. This title is part of our McDaniel Law and Literature collection and can be found in the stacks at: KF 228 A7 H37 1995.

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LEXIS-NEXIS

our experience has been that many law students seem to print just about everything they find online. The problem is further exacerbated for us because just this fiscal year we moved to offering free printing in our computer lab.

The requirement of Internet access could have been a huge financial burden to us, but for the fact that Systems Administrator Joyce McLean had the foresight to push for (and the law school administration agreed to fund) cabling both the LEXIS and Westlaw rooms at the end of the last fiscal year. We may have to spend up to an additional \$2,000 to make the switch, but at least the \$6,000 for cabling was found and the job completed during a fiscal year when it was available. Other law schools are not as fortunate.

Home Access Unaffected--For Now

The company will continue supplying a phone

line and consumables for the laser printer in the LEXIS lab and local area access phone numbers for access to the databases from the homes of law students, faculty and staff. However, it will not commit to a set time period for continuing these items, even though they're requiring that the libraries commit to maintaining the gifted hardware for two years. The company won't even commit to maintaining the customer service phone line located in the lab. The best the company can say now is that they have no plans at this time to discontinue those benefits.

The company is offering *up to* a 10% reduction in our subscription price if we direct all database access--including home access--through the Internet. While this may sound like a good deal, it isn't. LEXIS-NEXIS would save money by no longer providing local area access numbers, but that burden would be shifted to the users. Because OIT does not permit the university community to dial into its network (from which you could then use the Internet gateway), users would have to subscribe to an Internet provider at their own expense. We are unwilling to shift this expense to its patrons--and especially to our students--just to save a relative pittance within our own budget.

Internet Access is Unreliable

Furthermore, Internet access to the databases is not as reliable as the modem access we have enjoyed all these years. Currently, faculty and law library computer lab (though not the LEXIS lab) connections are using Internet access. We have encountered equipment problems at several of the Internet providers on our path to LEXIS-NEXIS, resulting in a degradation of service. For example, we lost a full day's service on one occasion and have experienced several interruptions in service of a few hours. This is a familiar problem with accessing databases that are not located in the western region. (LEXIS-NEXIS is in Ohio. Thus, an Internet connection must travel through several hubs. If it runs into a faulty one along the way, there is no connection.)

Getting 'em Hooked Used to be Worth It

LEXIS-NEXIS was recently purchased by a
(Continued on next page)

foreign multinational corporation, following the general fate of other American legal publishing companies. Apparently, the foreign corporation views as a drain on its resources the unlimited database access for a flat contract price that law schools have enjoyed since the inception of the database. The former owners believed that the investment was well worth it, since this afforded them the opportunity for hooking students and reaping the financial rewards once they graduated and started paying full price.

Originally, LEXIS-NEXIS' plan was to cut the phone lines and provision of consumables this month, after announcing it a scant few weeks before. After several law librarians pointed out that their budgets were already set for the year and it did not include funds for either cabling or printing supplies, the company relented and made the start date July 1. In some ways, it might have been nice to have been afforded the opportunity to send the corporation a strong message by cancelling subscription to the service for the remainder of the fiscal year. But their damage control folks managed to find a way to mute criticism and mitigate the negative results.

Per-Use Charging Next?

At worst, this development portends a move toward per-use charging of students and faculty, though the company is understandably silent about its future plans. Look for Westlaw to be closely following how the LEXIS-NEXIS initiative is received. The two have always been copycats.

ADKINS TO FIRST AALS MEETING; NEEDS POINTERS AND SUGGESTIONS

Assistant Director John Adkins will be participating in his first American Association of Law Schools (AALS) meeting in Washington, D.C., and would greatly appreciate suggestions for programs and activities of interest. Contact him directly at x6681 or via e-mail.

Abortion
Administrative Law
Alternative Dispute Resolution
American with Disabilities Act
Antitrust
Art Law
Bankruptcy
Business Organizations
Capital Punishment
Civil Law
Civil Procedure
Civil Rights
Computer Law
Conflict of Laws
Constitutional Law
Contracts
Corporations
Courts
Criminal Justice
Criminal Law
Criminal Procedure
Critical Legal Studies
Environmental Law & Policy
Evidence
Family Law
Freedom of Speech
Health Law
Human Rights
Immigration Law
Insurance Law
International Law
Jurisprudence
Juvenile Justice
Labor Law
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