Interlibrary Loan: Obtaining Books and Articles Not Held by the Law Library

By Ed Craig, Reference Librarian elcraig@samford.edu

Even in the case of the nation’s largest libraries, maintaining a collection that will meet every patron’s needs is impossible. As a result, libraries cooperate to share their resources through a process called interlibrary loan. Many times, this involves mailing the physical book through the mail or a courier service; other times, it involves faxing or emailing an article to the requesting library. The hub of interlibrary loan activity occurs through a database called OCLC which includes in its data most of the holdings of major and medium-sized libraries nationwide, and to some extent, worldwide. With this database’s holdings information, the interlibrary loan librarian is able to find out which libraries have the resource that a library patron is requesting. Sometimes, the item can be found on the other side of town using this process—other times, it may be a world away. As the name implies, the service is defined strictly as a “library to library” lending process where the ultimate user obtains the item indirectly after the borrowing library has had an opportunity to process and record the loaned item, before handing it over to the patron. As a result, patrons who request interlibrary loans only work with the borrowing (local) library’s interlibrary loan office in receiving, as well as, returning the book.

While Beeson Law Library does not charge for its interlibrary loan services, the service is not without cost. Typically, the lending library will always pay for the return shipping fees, the labor involved in processing, as well as any borrowing fee (commonly charged by out-of-state libraries which are not part of the lending library’s cooperative network agreements). At this institution, these costs are paid by Beeson Law Library’s budget. The Beeson Law Library interlibrary loan policies provide for free lending services for faculty and students to support Cumberland academic classroom and research activities.

Before requesting an interlibrary loan, it is incumbent upon the patron to consult the Law Library’s online catalog to see if either Samford library has the item available for use. If the item is not found in the online catalog, you can make a request for an interlibrary loan to Ed Craig (elcraig@samford.edu) or Brenda Jones (bljones@samford.edu). In the request, the patron should provide the following information:

1) Specify the purpose of the research. Is the material needed for a class paper? In aid of a faculty member’s academic research?

2) If the item requested is a journal article, the patron should provide as much of the following as possible: article title, journal title, volume and issue number, as well as page numbers of the article. Hint: If the researcher has partial information, they can try an online search with that information--the results of that search will, hopefully, complete the citation needed.

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LAW LIBRARY
SCHEDULE

MONDAY-THURSDAY
7:30 A.M.-12 MIDNIGHT
FRIDAY
7:30 A.M.-10:00 P.M.
SATURDAY
9:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.
SUNDAY
1:00 P.M.-12 MIDNIGHT

Loans

3) If the item requested is a monograph, the patron should state the title, author, edition (if there are multiple editions) and date of publication. If the item is a multi-volume resource, the patron will need to know the volumes or section numbers needed; unless the set includes only 2-3 volumes, it is highly unlikely that the borrowing library will be able to find a willing lender for an entire set.

Patrons should plan ahead for use of the materials requested. Interlibrary loan requests take an average of 7-10 days to arrive (sometimes more, sometimes less). If the item is an immediate necessity, interlibrary loan is probably not the best method of obtaining the item; a reference librarian can help a patron locate the nearest library that has the item (quite possibly in the Birmingham area) so that they can travel to that institution to borrow or otherwise use it. At the same time, a patron should be prepared to use the material when it arrives. Checkout periods for interlibrary loans usually run from 2-4 weeks, without the option of renewal, in some circumstances; if the item cannot be used within that period of time, the library’s time and money has been essentially wasted.

When receiving the services of interlibrary loan, it is important to return materials in a timely manner. Beeson Law Library does not set due dates of materials obtained for Cumberland students and faculty; this is at the sole discretion of the lending institution, and as a result, these dates can vary widely.

If you have any questions concerning the interlibrary loan services of Beeson Law Library, please contact a reference librarian.

Easter holiday and exam hours will be posted on the kiosk and the wall mounted letterboard outside the Law Library and on the Law Library Hours web site.

Update on Writing Competitions: 2012

By Brenda Jones,
Reference Librarian
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The January 2012 issue of Check It Out contains an article on writing competitions for law students. Since then, additional contests are open for entry.

Notre Dame Law School’s Smith-Doheny Writing Competition seeks papers on any issue of legal ethics. A cash award of $2500 goes to the single winning entry. The deadline is April 27, 2012.

The International Association of Defense Counsel is sponsoring a writing contest on a subject of practical concern to lawyers engaged in the defense of civil litigation. For example, papers may cover relevant aspects of tort law, insurance law, civil procedure, evidence, damages, alternative dispute resolution procedures, or professional ethics. Winners receive $2000 for first place, $1000 for second, and $500 for third. The deadline is May 18, 2012.

For more information, on these and other contests, check the bulletin board outside office 224 in the Cumberland law school. Since deadlines and criteria may change, be sure to confirm matters with the sponsoring organization.
**Apps for Law Students and Lawyers:**  
**Alabama Ethics and Directories**

by Brenda Jones,  
Reference Librarian  
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Embracing the use of mobile devices, many attorneys perform work-related tasks in hotels and airports, in offices of clients or co-counsel, in the courthouse, and other locations. According to a recent survey, almost 88% of the responding lawyers use a smart phone, and 15% use an iPad or other tablet device for working on-the-go. The most popular uses for tablets are internet access, email, calendars, contacts, maps or GPS, and research. See the American Bar Association’s 2011 Legal Technology Survey Report (Volume VI, Mobile Lawyers).

For convenient research and contact information, the Alabama State Bar offers a free app for ethics opinions and directories of Alabama lawyers or elected officials. To access the app, go to [www.alabar.org/mobile](http://www.alabar.org/mobile). The ethics database covers formal opinions from 1981 to date issued by the Alabama Bar’s Office of General Counsel. Users may scroll through the opinions or search by keyword. Search the Member Directory to find basic information on all active Alabama state bar members. The directory for Elected Officials provides names, addresses, and phone numbers for elected officials such as circuit clerks or district judges. Users may search by county, position, or circuit. This free web-based app works on all mobile devices and provides helpful information for lawyers and law students alike.

**Director’s Briefs:**  
**From Greg Laughlin**  
glaughlin@samford.edu

**Food and Beverages in the Law Library**

Beginning on the Monday following Spring Break, any food or beverages (including the containers for such food and beverages) left in the public areas of the Law Library (e.g., reading rooms, study rooms, carrels, tables, and stacks) will be thrown away by the cleaning staff.

Since 2008, the Law Library has significantly relaxed its policies to permit students and other patrons to drink beverages and eat food in the Law Library. This has worked very well for everyone. However, this academic year, we have begun to have a problem with patrons leaving food and beverages in the Law Library, rather than throwing away such items or taking them when they leave. Food and beverages attract insects and also add to the cleaning needed.

Please remove any food or beverages which you have been consuming in the Law Library when you leave. Thank you for your help in keeping the Law Library clean and a pleasant place in which to work.

**Law Library Not Responsible for Items Left Unattended**

The Law Library and Samford University, in general, have an enviable and well-earned reputation of having very little crime. While that is a very good reputation to have, it sometimes lulls those of us who work and study on the campus to become lax in the ordinary precautions needed to protect our property. In recent weeks, Law Library staff have noted, on more than one occasion, valuables left unattended for significant periods of time, even overnight, including notebook computers and other digital devices. This is not a good practice to follow and is simply tempting fate. Just as it would be unwise to leave $1,000 in cash lying unattended in a public place, so it is unwise to leave a computer worth $1,000 or more lying unattended for hours at a time and even overnight in the public places of the Law Library. The Law Library cannot assume responsibility for items that are stolen, and we urge patrons to take common and practical steps to protect their valuables.

**Carrels and Tables May Not be Reserved**

As a reminder, the carrels and tables in the Law Library may not be reserved. Library books and other library property found on unoccupied carrels and tables will be removed. Personal property will not be removed by Law Library staff. Notes left on carrels and tables indicating that those spaces have been reserved are not endorsed or recognized by the Law Library and will be removed. Patrons finding such notes are free to remove such notes and use the carrel or table space as needed or desired.

**Mail**

The Law Library is not responsible for posting or delivering mail for students. Samford University has a post office located on the first floor of the Beeson University Center and provides services Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Students needing to mail any items may utilize those services. The Law Library will not accept mail for posting from any patron.

**Please Dispose of Paper Towels in Proper Receptacles**

On repeated occasions, used paper towels have been left on the floor of the Law Library’s men’s rooms
between the inner and outer doors. As a courtesy to your fellow students, please dispose of any trash in proper receptacles. Trash receptacles are available inside every restroom and outside each restroom, within a few feet of the restroom doors.

Best of luck with finals!!

Periodicals - Helpful Hints

by
Della Darby,
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If you search LegalTrac, Index to Legal Periodicals & Books, or Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals, you may not retrieve full-text at first effort. But help is just a click away. Click the Search for Article link or button to jump to a page that will link you to the full-text available in a Samford database. HeinOnline will take you directly to the article. LexisNexis and Westlaw link to the journal title, or more accurately a search of the title. If none of the e-text links are available, you can search the library catalog with one click to determine if we have the journal in print.
How To Locate Your iPhone or iPad

By Grace Simms,
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Here’s how to locate your iPhone or iPad should it be misplaced or stolen and how to locate friends and family members.

If you want to find the location of a friend, family member, etc. -- download the Find My Friends app:


iCloud needs to be enabled for this to work. You’ll have to send a request to your friend in order to view their location.

To find your own iPhone or iPad, download the Find My iPhone app:


Find My iPhone will allow you to locate, erase, and/or lock your iPhone should it be stolen. I highly recommend keeping your device’s serial number in case it ever is stolen.

In Find My iPhone, you can also view the location of other iPhones and/or iPads – if they all use the same iTunes account.
Recent Acquisitions


LABOR LAW SOURCEBOOK: A COMPREHENSIVE COMPENDIUM OF LABOR-RELATED LAWS AND POLICY DOCUMENTS. KF3356/2012.

Lefstein, Norman. SECURING REASONABLE CASELOADS: ETHICS AND LAW IN PUBLIC DEFENSE. KF9646/.L44.


This is the last issue of CHECK IT OUT for this semester. Three issues will be published during the Fall Semester beginning in August 2012. If you have any ideas or suggestions as to ways we can improve, contact Becky Hutto via e-mail, rmhutto@samford.edu. We look forward to the Fall Semester and new issues of the newsletter.