

Student Services Question a Week Discussions – April 2018

Week 1:

Law school is stressful and the legal profession has a history of mental health and substance abuse issues, often starting in law school. Many libraries have started hosting stress relief activities during exams and at other times during the year (therapy dogs, coloring sessions, etc.). Does your library offer any health or wellness services or collaborate with any campus or community organizations to provide these programs?

- My law library offers weekly mindfulness sessions in the library classrooms. We meet once a week for 15 minutes of mindfulness practice on Wednesdays right after lunch. At the beginning of the semester, or if we have new people, we do guided sessions, but mostly just use an app that rings a bell every 5 minutes. We have a small core group of people who attend regularly and are looking for ways to encourage more students, staff, and faculty to attend. -----

Heather Simmons

Chair, Legal Information Service to the Public-SIS

Assistant Teaching Professor, Law Library

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Thanks for sharing this, Heather. I think it's a great service you do for students. I could use it too.

Faye Jones

Director, Albert E. Jenner, Jr. Memorial Law Library

Clinical Professor of Law

University of Illinois College of Law

- Hi Heather, One of our professors at Pitt Law offers mindfulness sessions almost weekly for students, faculty and staff. The size of the group, which meets in a general gathering room, ranges from about 6-12. She does send out email announcements before the sessions are held and has included information on them in our Law School announcements newsletter. Perhaps you're already doing this as well.

A few ideas I have on how to increase attendance, possibly, are 1) to reassure people that they don't need to be present for every session and that newbies are welcomed; 2) have some who attend share a few words (for the email or newsletter) about why they take time to practice mindfulness and/or include a quote from some "famous" folks

who practice and value it; and 3) possibly share information on a favorite litany that will be used (or has been).

Schedule conflicts are often an issue, as you likely know. Perhaps 4) having a different day or time once a month would enable more to attend. Since we all know that food is a good draw for crowds, perhaps 5) having a special session on mindful eating/snacking or offering a treat afterwards would work.

Just a few thoughts on what may generate some additional interest.
Best wishes to you and your group!

Karen Shephard
Information Services Librarian
University of Pittsburgh
Barco Law Library

- We also have coloring and therapy dogs. We put out jigsaw puzzles as well, throughout the semester, for students to work on any time. Then during exams we have a peanut butter and jelly bar for students who are too engrossed in their studying to go out and get food.

Wanita Scroggs, JD, MLIS
International Law Librarian & Adjunct Professor
Stetson University College of Law
Dolly and Homer Hand Law Library

- FIU Law Library offer Guided Preksha Meditation for Relaxation. We meet for one-hour sessions every month Fall and Spring semesters. The instructors are from the Religious Department at FIU. We send email reminders before the sessions.

Pushyamitra Veeramachaneni
Outreach & Library Services Law Librarian
Florida International University
College of Law Library

- We set up a table of stress relief activities, which includes stress balls, Sudoku puzzles, crossword puzzles, and coloring books and pencils.

Jennifer S. Prilliman

Interim Director and Law Library Professor
Chickasaw Nation Law Library
Oklahoma City University School of Law

- Dear all,
At BC Law, the Law Library's services include therapy dogs at reading periods, coloring materials and ear plugs all the time, healthy snacks at exam times (or sometimes candy), and a meditation/contemplation room. We run guided meditation sits twice a week (30 minutes) during the semester.

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Filippa Marullo Anzalone  
Professor of Law  
Associate Dean for Library & Technology Services  
Boston College Law School

- We have coloring station, free coffee (24/7 during exam period), and not so healthy snacks at exam times. We do fun displays on rotation throughout the year, such as March Madness bracket, sports law display, Valentine's month display, etc. We also have a wellness wall and books display. Here is a picture of our coloring station (photo by SLS office of student affairs).



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Alex Zhang  
Head of Public Services and Lecturer in Law  
Stanford University

- Yes, at UNT Dallas College of Law we offer several wellness/stress-relief activities:
  - 1) Once a year, usually during a testing period, we collaborate w/ a local non-profit to bring in therapy dogs;
  - 2) We rent out under-the-desk stationary bikes for students to check out at any time. Also, we have had competitions for most miles in a given period on a stationary bike;
  - 3) We keep puzzles & board games out, and we often have coloring materials out as well;
  - 4) We leave out snacks & candy during testing periods; and
  - 5) We make available for check out some non-legal reading materials such as new, popular reading books and graphic novels.

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 Stewart Caton  
 Reference Librarian  
 University of North Texas- Dallas

- At Barry, we have a de-stress station that includes coloring pages with markers and colored pencils, crosswords and word games, jigsaw puzzles and board games like chess and Scrabble. We give out candy and earplugs, and will be setting up one of the study rooms with peanut butter and jelly during exams.

Diana Botluk  
 Reference Librarian & Associate Professor, Law Library  
 Barry University Law Library

- We host therapy dogs in our law student lounge during every finals period (usually twice during finals week). We also provide ear plugs all the time, candy, free coffee, free coloring pages and pens/pencils at various times too.

Earlier this year we paid a mindfulness teacher to lead two meditation sessions during finals. We invited everyone-students, faculty, staff and while we got a lot of positive feedback about offering them, attendance was sparse.

Not sure if we will do them again. We also stuck sticky notes with motivational quotes on each course reserve book as students checked them out. They were goofy but people loved them and I got them from Amazon for less than \$10. We are also developing a research guide with wellness resources.

Anna L. Endter, J.D., M.L.I.S.  
Head of Research Services  
Gallagher Law Library  
University of Washington School of Law

- Are the mindfulness/meditation offerings in addition to things offered by the law school, or is it because it is not offered elsewhere?

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Dana Rubin  
Reference/Educational Services Librarian  
New York University Law Library

- The law school doesn't offer mindfulness sessions so it was an attempt to fill a perceived need. The larger UW campus does offer quite a few mindfulness resources including special quarterly passes to unlimited yoga/meditation classes. This is a new effort though and not widely used yet.

Anna

- I love the sticky notes with motivational quotes--thank you, Anna!

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Filippa Marullo Anzalone
Professor of Law
Associate Dean for Library & Technology Services
Boston College Law School

- I do too! I found a place that will print your own design (vistaprint.com) and I may make some up with custom sayings. I'm just trying to think of what to put on them right now. Anyone have ideas?

Lorelle Anderson
Assistant Director for Public Services
FAMU College of Law Library

- In addition to some of the items/events already mentioned by others, we run wellness-related campaigns on our digital sign that is mounted in the Forum, just outside the door to the Library.

The wellness campaigns on the sign are in addition to faculty & student publications, closure announcements, etc. Below is a list of what we displayed in 2017 (the list doesn't include the publications):

Campaign Series	Month	Slide	Date Up	Date Down
Hours / Holiday	January	Hours - MLK Closure		
Hours / Holiday	Jan-June	Hours - Spring Hours + Closures	Tues., Jan. 3, 2017	
Social Awareness	Jan/Feb	Each of us defines all of us		
Social Awareness	February	Black History Month		
Hours / Holiday	February	Valentines		
Hours / Holiday	March	Spring Break Hours		
Social Awareness	March/April	#YouAreWelcomeHere		
Event	March	Sunshine Week March 12-18, 2017	March	
Event	March/April	National Library Week	April	
Student Support/ Motivation	April / May	End-of-Semester Support	Fri., April 14, 2017	Fri., May 12, 2017
Event	May	Graduation Slide	Thurs., May 11, 2017	Thur., June 15, 2017
Hours / Holiday	May	Memorial Day Closed (May 29)	Mon., May 15, 2017	Tue., May 30, 2017
Hours / Holiday	June-Aug	Hours - Summer Hours + Closures		
Event	June/July	Summer Research Series. Sjek	June	
Hours / Holiday	July	Hours - July 4th Closed	Mon., June 19, 2017	Wed., July 5, 2017
Event	Aug/Sept	Welcome Back/ to 1Ls and New Services	Mon., Aug. 14, 2017	Wed., Sept. 6, 2017
Hours / Holiday	September	Labor Day (Closed Sept 4th)	September	
Student Support/ Motivation	September	New Services & Lobo Community	Wed., Sept. 6, 2017	Mon., Sept. 18, 2017
Hours / Holiday	Aug-Dec	Library Hours - Fall Hours + Closures	Tue., Aug. 1, 2017	
Event	Sept/Oct	Banned Books Week, Sept 24-30	Mon., Sept. 18, 2017	Mon., Oct. 2, 2017
Social Awareness	October	Indigenous Peoples' Day (10/9/2017)	Mon., Oct. 02, 2017	Tue., Oct. 10, 2017
Event	October	National Archives Month & Digital Commons	Tue., Oct. 10, 2017	Mon., Oct. 23, 2017
Hours / Holiday	Oct/Nov	Halloween / Day of Dead	Mon., Oct. 23, 2017	Mon., Nov. 6, 2017
Social Awareness	November	Veterans Day	Mon., Nov. 6, 2017	Fri., Nov. 10, 2017
Hours / Holiday	November	Thanksgiving Theme and Closed	Thur., Nov. 16, 2017	Mon., Nov. 27, 2017
Student Support/ Motivation	November	Wildcard / Lobo Community	Mon., Nov. 27, 2017	Mon., Dec. 4, 2017
Student Support/ Motivation	December	End-of-Semester Support	Mon., Dec. 4, 2017	
Hours / Holiday	December	Hours Slides Only		
Student Support/ Motivation	January	Welcome Back and New Services		

Michelle Rigual
 Law Library Director
 Professor of Law Librarianship
 Research Professor of Law
 University of New Mexico School of Law

- Hello everyone, at Georgia State we have a pretty active Mindfulness in Law Society that we partner with. This past semester they organized weekly health challenges where students had to submit pictures of themselves engaged in some predetermined healthy activity for prizes. For instance, the Student Health Law Society requested pictures of students engaging in healthy activities on Atlanta's Beltline Trail. Participants emailed their pictures to the library, and then we posted the weekly submissions and winners on one of our big library screens.

Patrick Parsons
Research Instructional Services Librarian
Georgia State University Law Library

- We did a motivational style poster with an astronaut in space that says "Legal Research -- It's out of this world!" (Photo attached in case it's helpful.)



Kristina J. Alayan, JD, MLIS
Head of Reference & Adjunct Professor of Law
Georgetown Law Library

- Hello all, I'm enjoying reading the ideas that others have shared; thanks for them. The custom sayings, sticky notes, signage, etc is an intriguing idea. When I visited another law school library (University of Alberta) a couple of weeks ago, I saw a whiteboard prompting students to write one thing they could do to make someone else's day happier. I liked that-building wellness by invoking empathy.

At UVic Law Library today is the first day of availability this year of our wellness companion dog, Echo (the black lab of one of our profs). She is hosted in the professor's office with two backup locations in the faculty offices, and library staff handle the bookings: Students check out Echo's care guidelines booklet (call number K9 ECHO 2017), can spend up to 30 minutes at time with her, and are permitted to take her outside in the local building surroundings (which is quiet and forested). We obtained a temporary exception to the "no animals" buildings policy from UVic admin because Echo is not a trained service animal. Last year she stayed in the library but allergy challenges prompted us to come up with a new system.

Year-round, we have a Relaxation Station with activities similar to what others have described: colouring pages, Sudoku, crosswords and mazes, jigsaw puzzles, knitting. I especially enjoy seeing students continue knitting and puzzles other students have begun, or join others to collaborate on a jigsaw puzzle. This station is located at an area of sofas right in front of a window that looks out to the forest.

The Law faculty operates a year-round program called Amicus, which offers counselling, cultural, and academic support to all law students. The Amicus offices are located in the law library near the Relaxation Station. The registered psychology counsellor who is a member of the Amicus team offers weekly mindful meditation sessions throughout the term.

Kim Nayyer, LLB MLIS
Associate University Librarian, Law
University of Victoria Libraries
Adjunct Associate Professor, Faculty of Law

Week 2:

The needs of our patrons are constantly evolving, and some libraries now provide items like power cables, chargers, webcams, and portable dry erase boards to their students. What new or non-traditional items do you offer to your patrons or wish you could offer?

- We have for a while been loaning a large array of chargers. We recently started loaning white noise machines.

Brittany Persson
Seton Hall Law Library

- Our umbrellas get a lot of circulation! We also circulate power cords/chargers and sets of whiteboard markers and erasers. We have a foam bolster used for yoga available for circulation but I don't think it gets much use (this item was donated by a student who wanted it available while at school but didn't want to carry it around. We didn't want to take responsibility for storing it on her behalf, so she donated it, we made it a circulating item, and then she could check it out when she wanted it for a few hours). We also have desk cycles, but right now they are just scattered in the library rather than being circulating items. We did try making them circulating items but they were just too heavy and unwieldy to work well.

We also circulate more standard tech items like headphones and tablets (Microsoft Surface works best for us/our students).

Great question! I look forward to getting ideas from others.

Sibyl Marshall
Head of Public Services & Associate Professor
Joel A. Katz Law Library
University of Tennessee

- We circulate USB drives, power cords and phone charges but our most popular non-traditional item is a book easel. We were surprised at how much our students liked/used them.

Joyce Manna Janto
Deputy Director of the Law Library
University of Richmond School of Law

- I had several people email me separately about the book easels so I'm answering on the list.

We ordered the ones we have from Amazon. The company is Actto and they are labelled as "Portable Read Stand/Book Stand Document Holder. They cost \$9.98 and are incredibly durable. We've been using them for a year and we haven't had a single one break.

As to how we check things out – we have everything bar-coded. The chargers and power cords are in plastic boxes and the bar code is on the box. The book stands are individually barcoded. They all have a 4 hour loan period. The only fines we charge are for items with a 4 hour loan so people are careful to bring them back on time.

Joyce

- Since we have a city park directly across the street from the law school, we check out some sports equipment. The soccer ball and Frisbee are popular.

Edward T. Hart
Assistant Dean for Law Library
UNT | Dallas College of Law

- In addition to various chargers and adapters for laptops and cell phones, we also lend bike locks, clip on lamps, headphones, and calculators since cell phones may not be used during exams.?? And our complimentary ear plugs are very popular.

Iris Lee
Head of Collection Services
Burns Law Library
George Washington University

- We circulate Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) lights. We limit this circulation to in-library use for just one hour at a time because the product is only supposed to be used for up to 45 minutes.

Linda Tashbook, Esq.
Foreign International Comparative Law Librarian
Barco Law Library – University of Pittsburgh School of Law

- In addition to many of the wonderful items already mentioned, I can add one of our favorites... a bike pump.

Cynthia Lewis
Library Director & Associate Professor of Law
Vermont Law School

- Hi Everyone, Our library gets very chilly, especially during the summer when the AC is on full blast (Arizona gets a tad warm in the summer!) so we have five blankets that we check out to students. It does require keeping up with cleaning them!

Cynthia Condit, J.D., M.L.I.S.
Reference & Circulation Librarian & Professor of Practice
Daniel F. Cracchiolo Law Library
The University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law

- We recently added portable standing desks to our collection of non-traditional items that we circulate.

Sangeeta Pal
Access Services Librarian
UCLA School of Law

- We check out clickers, voice recorders and laptops. In addition we check out Umbrellas for a day which are popular. We also give out ear plugs, and they are popular as well.

Hi Sangeeta Pal, standing desks sound interesting. Would you please provide some more information about that? Thank you!

Pushyamitra Veeramachaneni
Outreach & Library Services Law Librarian
Florida International University

- Some of our students prefer alternating between sitting and standing while they study. Our portable standing desks offer them this solution. We wanted an option that was portable and lightweight so that it could be checked out and taken to a table in the library or a classroom in the school. It also needed to be sturdy, wide enough to hold a laptop, and have adjustable table angle and height. We tried

three different options and found that the Adjustable Laptop Table made by Avantree fit our needs best.

I hope this helps! Feel free to contact me directly if you have additional questions.

Sangeeta

- Hello All, We carry chargers, cords, bookstands, and umbrellas like many of the other responses have mentioned. In addition, since we're in snowy New England we also have ice scrapers and snow shovels available for checkout.

Artie Berns

Research/Emerging Technologies Librarian
Western New England University School of Law Library

- We circulate noise-cancelling headphones and they're quite popular. We also have a supply of freebie earplugs. We circulate chargers and cables but have found it challenging to keep up with the latest device editions.

Kim Nayyer

Associate University Librarian, Law
University of Victoria

- Hi, Brian, My supervisor, Ed Hart, already responded by mentioning the sports equipment that we rent out.

Like I mentioned in the question last week, we rent out under-the-desk stationary bikes, which I don't think I have seen in another law library.

Also, we keep portable standing desks in the library, but we don't require a checkout for them - they mostly just float around the library.

We do have laptops, iPads, chargers, HDMI cables for checkout, and those are mostly checked out for testing or video recording purposes.

Best,

Stewart Caton

Reference Librarian

University of North Texas- Dallas

- That's really cool, Stewart! I have been thinking about asking for stationary bikes and portable standing desks here at UB for a while now. In fact, after receiving feedback in one of our focus groups, we had a couple of tables converted to standing height in our "law students only" area, but I suspect they would be popular elsewhere in our library as well.

Also, would you mind letting me know what brand of stationary bikes you guys have? I bought a cheaper model from Amazon a few years ago and was going to bring it in to work, but it was kind of noisy and seemed like it would disturb other people if it was used in a quiet study environment.

Thanks very much,

Brian Detweiler
Student Services Librarian
University at Buffalo Law Library

- No problem, Brian. Here is an Amazon link to the model we purchased: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00QIM5CMA/>. We bought two of them. The popularity waned a bit after their initial introduction and a contest we held (who could get the most miles in the month). But they make for good marketing at a pretty low cost, and if they're popular, all the better.

Stewart

- Thanks to everyone for sharing! For those of you that do circulate non-traditional items – could you give us more details about the process you came up with for circulating? Have you bar coded the chargers and umbrellas? Is it all based on the honors system? What steps have you put in place to make sure the items are returned and available for all to use?

Diane D'Angelo
Assistant Director for Public Services
Suffolk University Law Library

- At Stanford, we check out bikes (and accessories) in addition to basketball, baseball, binoculars, games, puzzles, and all the computer related stuff! A comprehensive list of non-traditional items we routinely check out to students is available here: <http://liblog.law.stanford.edu/gadgets/>.

As to the process to check them out, most of the items are checked out through the normal circulation procedure. We are trying LibCal equipment module to manage the circulation of some of the items such as bikes. Here is a picture of our newly purchased bikes, featuring Pablo and Julian :)



(Photo credit to Katie Ott, Reference Librarian at Stanford Law Library).

Alex Zhang
Head of Public Services and Lecturer in Law
Stanford University

- At BerkeleyLaw we check out various computer and phone chargers as well as book stands. Barcoding the chargers is a bit of a chore and I haven't found the best way to handle it quite yet. Also, this collection is the bane of my existence! Lost, damaged and severely overdue chargers are a lot of work for the Circulation Supervisor (ahem, me.)

And I'm interested to hear about the plastic boxes used at U of Richmond. I'm pretty sure the "loss" rate would go way up if we used that method. Unfortunately, we are unable to charge fines here. (Long story ... many bureaucratic reasons.) Also unfortunately (IMHO) this collection is super popular with the students.

The books stands are all barcoded and don't cause any headaches.

Finally, we lend umbrellas on an honor-system basis.

Thanks for the discussion.

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Ramona C. Collins, Librarian
Berkeley Law Library
University of California

- At UC Hastings, we check out laser pointers, chargers, headphones, power adapters and cables, thumb drives, bike lights, umbrellas, external DVD drives, games, and puzzles. And because of our location, mini personal alarms with safety whistles! All are barcoded.

Hilary Hardecastle
Deputy Director
University of California

- Here at NCCU Law Library we lend charging cables, adapters, bookstands, headphones, rolling whiteboards and marker/eraser kits: <http://ncculaw.libguides.nccu.edu/libraryservices/equip-accessories>. These are our initial offerings for "non-traditional" items, a collection we added this semester, and so far things are going well. We did barcode each item, with the multi-piece cords, etc. being put in small clear boxes. The boxes contain the barcode and a note about the number of pieces (for students and circulation staff).

Jonathan Beeker
Access Services Librarian
North Carolina Central University School of Law Library

- When I was at St. Thomas University, we didn't (and weren't going to start) charge fines, but had a similar problem with loaner equipment and reserve books. We ended up instituting a demerits system. The

way it worked was, if you were late bringing back any items, you would accrue demerits instead of fines. After a threshold number of demerits, the patron is blocked from checking out any materials. Once the item is returned, the demerits go away over time and the account is unblocked.

Once students realized they weren't going to be allowed to check out reserve materials around finals, things started coming back when they were due. The threat of not being allowed to check out materials was probably more effective than fines would have been.

That system was initially set up on Voyager, but when we moved to a new ILS, we used the fines feature to replicate the system as much as was possible. Instead of the unblocking of accounts being automatic, the patrons would have to see the access services librarian (me) to have their account unblocked. I would just mark the fines paid and take off the block.

John Beatty
Faculty Scholarship Outreach Librarian
University at Buffalo Law Library

- I was initially thinking that I didn't have anything to add to this conversation, but I just sent an email to our students about our Professional Clothing Closet and realized that we do, indeed, have at least one non-traditional offering. Our curriculum has many simulated assignments throughout that require students to wear professional clothing: client interviews, oral arguments, mock trials (Trial Practice is required), business negotiations (also required), clinical court appearances (not simulated) etc. For students who are on a budget, the wardrobe part of those assignments can be a hurdle so we have a Professional Clothing Closet where students can go "shopping." All the clothing is donated by attorneys, judges and other professionals in the community so we don't actually check it out-we allow students to take what they want. It's all neatly organized on clothing racks by size, just like a thrift shop-we even have a dressing room. In addition to suits, dresses, slacks, blouses, skirts, etc., we have shoes (there is a former judge in Montana who had great shoes!), purses, and ties, and even a box of men's dress socks donated by a local business. Usually the room is locked and can be unlocked by any library staff member on request, but a couple times a year (e.g., right before Interview Day), we have an open house.

Stacey Gordon Sterling
Director of the William J. Jameson Law Library
Alexander Blewett III School of Law
University of Montana

- Drake's page of items is at <http://libguides.law.drake.edu/equipment>

What we offer that I don't think has been mentioned are laptop locks and footrests. We also have some "legacy" equipment such as tape recorders and typewriters. These still see some use, especially since they are not easy to find elsewhere.

John Edwards
Associate Dean for Information Resources and Technology
and Professor of Law
Drake University Law School

Week 3:

This week's question asks about another integral part of our public services: how we provide research assistance and training. In fact, it seems legal information professionals are constantly reinventing ways to provide access to these kinds of services (i.e. Skype reference, online training, services to non-traditional patrons, interesting or unique presentations, new learning opportunities or partnerships). Is your library or organization providing any new or alternative reference or research service?

- We have a large number of graduate research assistants here at GSU. We've always done mandatory training sessions for them at the beginning of each semester. In the past year or so, we've started to make these mandatory for only the first time GRAs and replaced the sessions for returners with short, individual or small group research consultations. The response has been really positive – the general session isn't as crowded, the returners get to learn something new, and the faculty get GRAs that know about the sources relevant to the area they're researching. The students seem to really appreciate having a point person in the library and will often follow up with more questions as they have them.

Patrick Parsons
Research Instructional Services Librarian

- Hi again, everyone, I thought I would share what we have been doing here at UB to prepare our students for their summer internships. We used to provide various general legal research workshops late in the Spring Semester or over the first week of Summer Break on topics like "Researching Statutes," "Researching Caselaw," and "How to use Shepard's and KeyCite," but these sessions were sparsely attended, at best. As a result, we came up with a two-pronged approach that has been a lot more successful.

First, we purchased several hundred foam cell phone holders with the contact information for our Reference Desk printed on them:

www.4imprint.com/product/120995/Cloud-Phone-Stand. We hand these out towards the end of the Spring Semester along with paper "cell phone" flyers listing our summer hours, and tell students to call us whenever they get stumped while conducting research over the summer:



I do not believe we have compared our summer reference statistics for the past two summers against prior years, but speaking anecdotally, I know the cell phone holders have been effective because students have mentioned them

when calling with questions. Additionally, I have been surprised at the number of students who told me they did not realize they could call us with reference questions over the summer(!) when they stopped by the desk to pick up their cell phone holders.

In addition to our cell phone holder giveaway, we offer individual reference appointments that we tailor directly to each student's internship. Since a student who will be clerking for a Bankruptcy judge will need to be familiar with different resources than a student interning at the Public Defender's Office, etc., we ask each student to let us know where they will be spending their summer or working after graduation when they make their appointment. That way, we can spend a few minutes brushing up on subject-specific resources before they arrive if we need to.

Here is our poster advertising our summer research appointments featuring our famous spring weather in Buffalo:

**SUMMER
IS
COMING**

Wherever you are heading, we can help!
Make an appointment to speak with a
reference librarian about sources and
strategies tailored directly to *your* post-
graduation or summer position.
*Spend 15 minutes with us and
save time when it counts!*
Register at: <http://bit.ly/refappt1>
Be sure to include your name and employer and/or
practice area(s) of interest in the name field!

University at Buffalo
Charles B. Sears Law Library

Brian Detweiler
Student Services Librarian
Charles B. Sears Law Library

University at Buffalo School of Law

- Brian,
This is genius!

Joyce Manna Janto
Deputy Director of the Law Library
University of Richmond

- At Stanford, in addition to the typical/traditional services such as research consultations, reference desk services, and in-class big or small group instructions to students, we also provide quite hands-on and frequent help with our student body working in clinics and policy labs. We have a clinic liaison system where each reference librarian is assigned to two or three clinics and that allows us to provide quite regular and hands-on assistance to students in the clinics. The Law School also has a policy lab, where students can enroll to work on different practical issues from real clients nationally and internationally under the supervision of a faculty member. The issues are law-related but also heavily policy-oriented. We work with the policy lab director to provide practical legal research skills workshops and also work closely with students enrolled in the policy lab on their research assignment on demand. We also do our own getting ready for summer legal research workshops, where we try to provide resources from different angles to meet diverse needs of our student body. We have a regular display spot for introducing research resources/services in the library to students.

Some other, I think, interesting services we provide to students that are not directly about research/reference but are definitely helpful to take us closer to the students are: we participate in Stanford Law Student Association's annual auction live, for example, we will "donate" a naming right to a library bike, our super popular librarian Marion's homemade cookies, an exclusive right to use a study carrel for a year in the library, etc. This year, we are actually participating in the live auction! Exciting and nerve-breaking! We also work closely with other Law School offices to get involved with different law student events. Our reference librarians deeply care about students' interests (besides legal research) and things students value the most here besides law, such as equality, justice, and diversity. We have found many different ways to show our sincere care and passion and I think that really goes a long way.

I hope you would enjoy a picture highlighting the famous librarian Marion's gluten-free chocolate chips cookies and librarian Katie's brownies! (Photo credit to Ryan Tamares, Head of Collection Services of SLS, who actually read a poem on Library at this recent Stanford Law School Valentines Day Love Event.)



Alex Zhang
Head of Public Services and Lecturer in Law
Stanford University

Week 4:

Libraries have become more than just a place to study or get help with research, and many of us as librarians are trying to become more active in the social lives and activism of our law schools and communities. Has your library hosted any fun or non-traditional programs (movie nights, parties or special events) or started any other innovative initiatives (charity drives, free food or coffee) aimed at reaching out to your students?

- For over 15 years, we have hosted a picnic for the 1Ls. This started out with the library doing everything from ordering and picking up food from off campus to grilling and serving. Because we are a dual division school, we do this twice – at lunchtime for the day students and dinner for the evening students. The picnic happens during their pre-fall semester Legal Analysis

and Problem Solving (LAPS) class. For the past two years, due to construction issues nearby, the unwillingness of the campus food service provider to look the other way when we brought outside food in, and a shrinking staff, we have done this indoors. Catering sets up in the lobby outside the library entrance. The students can eat in the library or go outside to benches if weather permits. It's a good opportunity to get students into the library and socialize with them. Faculty are also invited to attend and some years the alumni association has come and given out T-shirts. Moving everything indoors does have the advantage of not being dependent on the weather (we had to move inside at the last minute once and barely got everything cleaned up once when we did this outside; also, weather in August can be stifling). It has cost more to use campus food service, but all the deans we've had during these years felt it was an important event.

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