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CRIV Blog

crivblog.com

The CRIV Sheet

Editor's Corner

It is my pleasure to introduce the second issue of *The CRIV Sheet* for volume 38! *The CRIV Sheet* serves as a vehicle for the communication of information regarding the practices of the legal publishing industry and legal information vendors; both the dedicated team of associate editors and I hope you enjoy the varied and interesting articles published here.

In this issue we learn about Ravel, the landscape of e-books in both law firm and academic libraries, the latest from VRAG, and updates from the CRIV vendor liaisons.

Ravel is relatively new to the legal information scene and has been in the news thanks to a partnership with the library at Harvard Law School. Charles A. Pipins II from the Thurgood Marshall Law Library provides a detailed product review and overview. LLAGNY held a two-part webinar on e-books. Jim Murphy provides an in-depth review of the first part of the series, which focused on this issue from the

perspective of law firm libraries. Kathleen Darvil of Brooklyn Law School provides an in-depth review of the second part of the series, which focused on the issue from the perspective of law school libraries. And we have an update from TS-SIS Vendor Supplied Records Advisory Working Group (VRAG). This group has been working with legal information providers to provide outreach and support to vendors who supply MARC records for their products. Finally, we are pleased to offer a new section to *The CRIV Sheet* where we publish the notes from the semiannual conference calls.

If you would like to contribute to *The CRIV Sheet* or just share your ideas on improving vendor relations, please contact us. Your comments, letters, suggestions, and submissions are always appreciated. We love to hear from librarians in a variety of settings. Please email any member of *The CRIV Sheet* subcommittee with suggestions for articles: [Alexa Robertson](#), [Charles A. Pipins II](#), [Gilda Chiu](#), or [Valerie Carullo](#). [View](#) our editorial policies.

Jacob Sayward Fordham Law School

From the Chair

Welcome to the second issue of *The CRIV Sheet* for volume 38. As you read the articles in this issue, you'll see the output of some of CRIV's new responsibilities this year.

With the elimination of AALL's Vendor Liaison position, CRIV has been tasked with liaising more directly with some legal information vendors. This year CRIV has begun making semiannual conference calls with Bloomberg BNA, LexisNexis, Thomson Reuters, and Wolters Kluwer. We'll discuss any outstanding advocacy issues and new developments

from the vendor. You'll be able to read reports from these calls in *The CRIV Sheet* (beginning with this issue) and on the CRIV Blog. For more information about these new responsibilities, including which CRIV members are leading these calls and what their responsibilities are, please visit our page for [CRIV Liaisons to Vendors](#).

Please continue to submit a [Request for Assistance](#) when you need help with a vendor relations issue. You should also feel free to [email me](#) questions or feedback you have about the advocacy process or any of CRIV's other work.

Reviewing Ravel: Reveling in Data Visualization (but not much else...yet)

If you are like me, until a few months ago the name Ravel either elicited a blank stare or brought to mind the mechanical melodies of Bolero or some other orchestral piece by the famous impressionist composer Maurice Ravel. Well, move over Maurice. Ravel Law is a new legal research platform that promises to deliver data-driven legal research with an exciting suite of tools that might appeal to a broad spectrum of legal information consumers.

One of the exciting features of Ravel Law that sets it apart from other platforms is the visualization map that accompanies each list of results. Each time a user runs a case search, (9 boolean operators are supported in Ravel) a traditional results list with underlined search terms is generated. Next to that results list is a visualization map populated with circles. Ravel's map is made up of up to 75 circles that represent the 75 most relevant cases from the results list. The size of the circle increases the more times that case has been cited. You can also click on a circle to see lines connecting to other circles which illustrate how cases have cited each other. The thickness of the lines indicates depth of treatment. At the bottom of the map is a timeline to see when these cases were decided, as well as the volume of cases decided over a period of time. Data visualization has become a very fashionable way to present data and illustrate connections or "tell the story" of that data. So much so in fact, that [AALL's December 2015 webinar](#) was on that very topic. In part at least, that popularity is because people process and comprehend research results in a variety of ways and adding data visualization will provide context and allow users to see connections among cases on a particular legal issue. Appealing to a broader array of learning styles has the result of adding a good deal of value to a traditional results list.

Ravel also offers some interesting enhancements once one has found an opinion that might prove useful. There is a tool that allows you to see how many times language from a particular page has been cited, and a 5-star system to indicate just how many times a specific page has been cited by subsequent cases. The ability to copy and cite, annotate sections of an opinion, and link to a Wikipedia entry about a particular case are also features that appear in Ravel.

Ravel's coverage is extensive, but not comprehensive. You are currently able to search all U.S. Supreme

Court cases, Circuit Court cases beginning with 1925, District Court cases beginning in 1933, and all state cases back to 1950. Coverage of unpublished opinions from May 15, 2015, is comprehensive, but before that date coverage is not complete.

If the depth and breadth of Ravel's case law collection are cause for concern, then be sure to learn about their collaboration with Harvard Law to digitize and make available over 40 million pages of American cases. Once the project is completed Ravel's coverage of case law will be greatly enhanced. They are calling it the *Free the Law Partnership*. Read a [New York Times article](#) and an [AALL Members Open Forum post](#) about the project. A note of particular interest to CRIV Sheet readers about this project is that a major goal of the project is to increase the access of vital legal information to those who are unable to pay the costs associated with legal research from the large information vendors. Inmates, self-represented litigants, and anyone providing assistance to indigent clients stand to benefit from such access to primary materials.

Speaking of access, Ravel offers four different plans. The most basic plan, or the Open plan, provides access to basic case reading and annotating functions along with their search visualization. The next step up provides additional features like case analytics, and is called the Advanced plan. The Advanced plan is offered for free to law students and legal academics. In order to access Ravel's judicial analytics you will have to sign up for the third level of access called the Elite plan. The fourth and highest plan Ravel offers is the Enterprise plan that includes an array of features including a free car wash with every visit. OK, maybe a car wash is not included, but they do say that the plan will be customized to meet your needs.

Judicial analytics have long been a part of any attorney's preparation and strategic planning. Often the best option is consulting colleagues and collecting various experiences about a judge's previous actions in an effort to predict what she will do in a particular future situation. Ravel's judicial analytics product promises to streamline and shorten this process with much more accurate data-driven insight into the ways a particular federal judge reaches a conclusion. Ravel allows a researcher to search a judge's profile by a number of factors from the opinions authored to the cases they have cited, the judges they have quoted, and jurisdictions they find most persuasive. Attorneys will even be able to identify language a judge has used repeatedly when discussing a specific legal issue.

Ravel offers a number of exciting features, and will especially appeal to researchers who like the data visualization tools. In fact, some law schools like the University of Ohio Moritz College of Law have started including it and other “Next Gen” research tools into the legal research curriculum as described in a recent law review article in the *Rutgers Computer and Technology Law Journal*. (Susan Azyndar, Katrina Lee, and Ingrid Mattson, “A New Era: Integrating Today’s ‘Next Gen’ Research Tools Ravel and Casetext in the Law School Classroom,” 41 *Rutgers Computer & Tech. L.J.* [forthcoming 2015]). However, it is unlikely to replace the need for other resources for comprehensive legal research. The website indicates

that Ravel will offer statutes “very soon,” but at this point those primary materials are not available. Ravel also has a shortage of secondary source materials. Some cases are linked to reports written by “industry professionals” called Client Alerts, but reports are by no means available for every case or every issue. Users can see when cases have cited each other in Ravel, but actually updating a case with the authoritativeness of a traditional citator is not possible. Until more of these materials are added and available, Ravel will likely remain another platform on the periphery as a useful tool to enhance a researcher’s understanding or comprehension of an area of case law, but not a replacement for other widely used legal research services.

Jim Murphy WilmerHale*

LLAGNY Webinar Part 1: Turn Over a New Leaf: E-books in Law Firm Libraries

Bess Reynolds, electronic resources manager at the New York-based international law firm Debevoise & Plimpton, gave an informative experience-based overview of the decision process for introducing e-books to your law firm. Based on her personal experience, the key is to get the buy-in of your internal clients—the lawyers. Those who lack familiarity with e-books or are uncomfortable with new technology may be resistant, but persuade them to use e-books and your project will be a success.

If you have a Kindle or Nook or borrow e-books from your public library then you are familiar with the basic format of e-books offered by legal publishers. An e-book is a data file formatted to be read page by page like a print book organized with a table of contents, chapters, and hopefully an index. Ideally the e-book, as used by lawyers, can be searched, bookmarked, annotated (notes which carry over to new editions and when renewed) and printed in sections. LexisNexis and Thompson Reuters sprinkle links to useful content like primary law on Lexis Advance and Westlaw Next, respectively. Since these links require subscription access, Debevoise delayed its trial of Thompson Reuters e-books until they added WestlawNext access to the firm to prevent frustrating their lawyers by dead links.

Bess has surveyed law firm librarians three times (2012, 2013, and June 2015) as to adoption rates. She has seen the rate increase from 14% to 54% this year.

This rapid increase may be due to the realization that the physical collections and spaces of law firm libraries are shrinking. The newest associates are also likely to be more at ease using searchable digital content on a mobile device than a print loose-leaf service.

Due to the nature of the legal publishing industry, there are a couple of problems that Bess has had to deal with. First, lawyers want what they want. If they need *Colliers on Bankruptcy* and *McKinneys New York Civil Practice Law & Rules*, they may not realize that these are published in two different e-book formats by two different vendors. This can cause silos of content and access, which was exacerbated by the early Amazon.com model of access—only one lawyer per e-book with individual accounts and logins. To complicate matters, Bess noted that since she started dealing with e-books in 2011, format, platforms, and means of access have changed again and again. It is like the battle of Betamax versus VHS creating barriers for users. In addition, although there are thousands of e-books available (for example LexisNexis has more than 2,500 available, Thompson Reuters more than 1,000), not all treatises or codes will be offered in an e-book format. For example, Thompson Reuters will not publish the US Code in e-book format.

In light of these issues, Bess approached the decision to try e-books at Debevoise with the following questions:

- Will the lawyers actually use the content if offered in e-book format? Debevoise used to supply each of its litigators with a paper copy of the standard Blue-book. Once a digital copy was available, only partners and the library kept print copies.
- Cost? Can we avoid paying for the same content three times—in print, on a database, and as an e-book? Is the sales approach the Amazon.com model of one book for one lawyer (deskbook) or the library model of the book as part of the firm’s collection to be borrowed and returned by many users?
- Does the vendor offer a Library Management Tool which enables the library to set parameters like a check out period or to be able to recall a book for another urgent user?
- Does the e-book platform work with your firm’s catalog so that lawyers can easily find and access the e-book? Are there MARC records which are customizable for your catalog to make searching easier for the lawyers? If they can’t find it, it doesn’t get used.

Currently, Debevoise uses the LexisNexis Digital Library and NYLI’s e-book collection. The lawyers can search and check out e-books through the firm’s OPAC. The Lexis collection includes West Academic so Debevoise lawyers have access to the Nutshell series, which is so popular that the books have a tendency to “disappear”—except that e-books can’t disappear. The e-books can be read offline on trains and planes without internet access. The 87,000 e-books in the NYLI collection are available at no extra cost to NYLI subscribers. Most of the titles are non-legal but the accounting, international arbitration, finance, and technology titles are especially useful for a lawyer. Recently NYLI added 40 LexisNexis Digital Library titles, making it a great way to try out their e-books.

Bess’ firm is currently in the middle of a trial of West ProView. Unlike Lexis, users can search across the whole e-book collection, not volume by volume.

One or two e-books and a document can be displayed simultaneously—closer in practice to how lawyers research. If the reader uses the browser version, the e-book is updated automatically.

The Debevoise library has also bought e-books upon a lawyer’s request from other vendors like Law Journal Press (LJP). LJP has about 280 titles online or downloadable in Adobe. In order to purchase an e-book, Bess needs to reach out to their customer service which then activates the title. She gets an email with a link which is then sent to the lawyer who completes the process. The contrast between the many steps and delays of this system and the ease of searchable MARC records in the firm’s OPAC and quick checkout of Lexis and NYLI titles is an issue in persuading adoption of e-books.

The greatest success Bess has had with promoting e-books was an iPad raffle during Green Week where she emphasized how environmentally friendly e-books are. Otherwise, she has seen steady growth in acceptance with presentations by embedded librarians at practice group events. The lawyers respond better to an actual demonstration as opposed to an abstract reference in an email. Bess will also offer a one-on-one session at the partner’s desk to show how to use the catalog and e-book collections, if necessary.

Over the past four years since Bess started trials with e-books and encountered issues with changing technology and vendor policies of access, she has realized that certain things remain constant. Let the vendors know what your issues are. As a member of the LexisNexis Digital Library Users Group, she has seen improvements due to her feedback. Go directly to the lawyers to get buy-in. Lawyers are busy and do not like to spend time learning new technology. You get one shot to show that e-books work. Since the challenge is that there are so many varied platforms that look and behave differently on one device versus another, she insists that the library and a few, select lawyers test out the platforms before roll out. So, test, test, test before that one shot at introducing a new technology to your busy lawyers.

**The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and not WilmerHale.*

LLAGNY Webinar Part 2: Turn Over a New Leaf: E-books in Academic Law Libraries

This past November LLAGNY sponsored a two part online seminar on e-books in Law Libraries. The first part focused on e-books in law firms, and the second focused on e-books in law schools. Janet Sinder, the Brooklyn Law School library director, and Gilda Chiu, the collection development/acquisitions librarian at Brooklyn Law School, presented on e-books in academic law libraries. Topics covered were ways to add e-books to your collection, demand-driven acquisitions, e-book platforms for academic law libraries, and how e-books and demand-driven acquisitions affect a library's collection development plan. The program's primary focus was the demand-driven acquisitions model of e-books.

Janet Sinder led the discussion by describing three different ways to acquire e-books: purchasing them individually, subscribing to an e-book library, or using a demand-driven acquisitions (DDA) plan. DDA programs allow a library to add title records to their catalog, but to defer payment until a title is actually used. Depending on how a DDA program is implemented, users do not know that the library does not own the title they are reading. DDA allows a library to increase the number of titles in its collection without an exorbitant price tag. The library is able to save money by buying fewer books, paying only for books that are used rather than spending its budget on books that collect dust on the shelf.

Some things to think about before signing on to a particular DDA model are: what vendor to use; whether to implement a purchase model (a title is purchased upon access) or a loan model (a title is loaned [lower fee] to a library upon access); what triggers a purchase or a loan on a particular DDA plan; who is allowed to use the e-books; what are the DDA plan's printing and download restrictions; and whether or not you should purchase certain books in print as well as include them in the DDA plan. Depending on the provider, DDA plans can be customized to a library's unique needs. Janet Sinder described some of the customizations of Brooklyn

Law School's YBP DDA plan. It included a two year back file of records, excluding books previously purchased. The plan also excluded books that cost over \$250. The library also excluded casebooks or textbooks from its plan, eliminated certain publishers, and limited the e-books to the K classification. One reason why Brooklyn Law School Library chose to subscribe to the YBP model was because the library already used GOBI, YBP's online ordering database, as a collection development tool. YBP's program allows for the DDA books to be included in GOBI, streamlining the collection development process.

Gilda Chiu took over the discussion focusing on the details and mechanics of implementing a DDA program, including keeping track of short term loans and purchases, keeping current on charges to short term loans and available access models, as well as receiving MARC records and deleting duplicate MARC records. She further described the main e-book platforms, EBL, Ebrary, EBSCO e-books, LexisNexis Digital Library, and Oxford Scholarship Online. The remainder of her presentation was focused on demonstrating two e-book platforms: EBL (ProQuest) and EBSCO e-books. She discussed how to set up each platform, the content included in the two platforms, and the differing permissions and features of the two platforms, such as the access model purchase options and short term loan/purchase triggers. She also discussed the costs associated with each platform. Gilda Chiu demonstrated the patron side and staff side of both EBL and EBSCO, highlighting the OPAC view, the platform's view for the reader, the management portal, and usage reports.

The seminar concluded with suggested best practices that included: understanding what is and is not included in a plan, comparing the price of print books with e-book purchases through DDA, considering whether the library wants to have a book permanently and, if so, whether DDA is the appropriate method of obtaining the title, and lastly considering how user selection affects the collection generally.

Update from the Vendor Supplied Records Advisory Working Group (VRAG)

The TS-SIS Vendor Supplied Records Advisory Working Group (VRAG) has been working with legal information providers to provide outreach and support to vendors who supply MARC records for

their products. As a result of their efforts, VRAG reports the following:

Wolters Kluwer Law & Business: Created MARC records for their Intelliconnect collections, and several record sets which are now posted on their website.

VRAG members worked with the Wolters Kluwer developers, and offered comments on sample records provided. Customers, regardless of library type, can download records at www.wklawbusiness.com/subjects/law-schools/marc-records. Monthly updates will be posted the first week of each month.

Bloomberg BNA: VARG members worked with Bloomberg BNA to help organize their MARC record distribution methods, making it easier for catalogers to determine which package is the right one for them based on their subscription type. Customers, regardless of library type, can download records at www.bna.com/lawschool.

Cassidy Cataloguing/William S. Hein & Co., Inc.: Through a joint collaboration, Cassidy Cataloguing and William S. Hein & Co., Inc. are providing the entire backfile of MARC records for the Law Journal Library, Legal Classics Library, and the American Institute Law Library, provided that the library purchases a three-year subscription for update records. For more information about the program and pricing, email hein.promo@cassidycat.com.

Vendor Records Spreadsheet: VRAG also keeps a spreadsheet to track vendor-supplied MARC record developments and details. The information provided here changes frequently and VARG members do their

best to maintain its accuracy. View the spreadsheet at bit.ly/MARCUdates.

If you have observations, comments, or corrections regarding the spreadsheet, VRAG welcomes your feedback; contact either [Angela Jones](#) or [Caroline Walters](#).

The VRAG members are listed below. They very hard work on these projects and their efforts are greatly appreciated:

Co-chairs

Angela Jones, Southern Methodist Law School
Caroline Walters, Harvard Law School

Members

Nancy Babb, University at Buffalo
Virginia Bryant, George Washington University
Elyssa M. Gould, University of Michigan
Alan Keely, Wake Forest University
Yael Mandelstam, Fordham University
Sarah E. Morris Lin, Reed Smith LLP
Jean Pajerek, Cornell University
George Prager, New York University
Bess Reynolds, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Julie Stauffer, University of Chicago
Barbara Szalkowski, South Texas College of Law
Christopher Thomas, University of California, Irvine
Jonathan Tuttle, William & Mary
Linda Wen, American University

CRIV Liaisons to Vendors

CRIV has started holding semiannual calls with four legal vendors: Bloomberg BNA, LexisNexis, Thomson Reuters, and Wolters Kluwer. We will publish notes from the calls as they become available both here in *The CRIV Sheet* and on the [CRIV Blog](#). For this issue,

we have notes from the inaugural calls with Bloomberg BNA and LexisNexis. In the next edition of *The CRIV Sheet* we will have notes from the inaugural calls with Thomson Reuters and Wolters Kluwer.

Jacob Sayward

CRIV/LexisNexis Semiannual Call

On December 1, CRIV had its first semiannual call with LexisNexis. There were no outstanding Requests for Advocacy involving Lexis products from the membership to discuss. CRIV asked LexisNexis for clarification on who the primary contact should be for AALL members on any issues involving LexisNexis products and services outside the core Lexis.com and LexisAdvance. These include, but are not limited to, recent Lexis acquisitions (e.g., Lex Machina and Law360) and Lexis products primarily marketed overseas (e.g., JurisClasseur and LexisNexis

Africa). CRIV was advised that AALL members should contact Library Relations Manager Cindy Spohr for all of these LexisNexis products and services. CRIV will update its Vendor Contact List to reflect this.

CRIV inquired about the timing of the transition from Lexis.com to LexisAdvance for federal government libraries. On the call Lexis confirmed that only a few federal agencies were unable to transition to LexisAdvance. Subsequently, on December 9, Lexis was able to confirm that all federal government libraries were eligible to transition to LexisAdvance.

Any libraries with questions about this process should contact their LexisNexis Client Manager.

CRIV also asked for some clarification on the latest LexisNexis/ALM deal. LexisNexis has assured CRIV that the deal represents an extension of the status quo for most LexisNexis and ALM customers. Only the Am Law 200 libraries will see a significant change, which is that LexisNexis will be taking over for ALM as the sales team for ALM news products. CRIV will ensure its Vendor Contact List reflects this, as well.

LexisNexis wanted to ensure CRIV was aware of the recent LexisNexis acquisition of both MLex and

Lex Machina. LexisNexis also wanted CRIV and the AALL membership to know that its releases for LexisAdvance will be more frequent, and that there will also be more minor updates between the major releases. These include the entire news archive being released in the first quarter of 2016, as well as better deduplication of news results. Finally, LexisNexis requested CRIV remind the membership of LexisNexis's InfoPro newsletters, to keep libraries and customers up-to-date on the latest LexisNexis developments.

CRIV will hold another call with LexisNexis in Spring of 2016.

Diana Jaque

CRIV/Bloomberg BNA Semiannual Call

Present on the phone call: Michael Bernier (director of library relations, Bloomberg BNA), Kate Hagan (executive director, AALL), and Diana Jaque (CRIV liaison to Bloomberg BNA).

The semiannual phone call with Bloomberg BNA took place on November 23, 2015. As this was my first call as CRIV Liaison to Bloomberg BNA (BBNA), I wanted a status report on several topics mentioned in Margie Maes' Vendor Liaison reports: vendor supplied records, usage statistics, and the 2014 re-organization. In response to my question concerning vendor supplied records, Michael Bernier reiterated that BBNA remains committed to providing free MARC records to the library community and has been responsive to librarian comments regarding their records. At this time, available records include 859 for BBNA products (www.bna.com/marc-catalog-records-m17179934026) and 556 records for Bloomberg Law materials (www.bna.com/marc-records-bloomberg-m17179934017). BBNA provides, for law school users only, quarterly usage reports by law school packages on the Bloomberg BNA platform including statistics for page views, number of hits, and email summaries sent. If a law school customer does not currently receive these statistics, they should contact their academic BBNA representative. The Bloomberg Law Help Desk can activate client matter billing on Bloomberg Law that allows law firms to track usage by client matter. Lastly, Michael Bernier confirmed

that the 2014 reorganization is complete and no new reorganizations are on the horizon. The only upcoming change is that more engagement representatives are being added to the law firm and government markets so that more law firm and government clients may receive training on BBNA resources.

Michael Bernier provided updates on BBNA's current products and the company's focus for the immediate future. They are launching vertical slices of Bloomberg Law. This will mean that subscribers will be able to purchase specific libraries of content in areas such as privacy and data security or banking and corporate transactions. Academic customers will still receive access to all content, but other library types will be able to purchase specific content to satisfy the needs of their practice groups.

Other areas of development for BBNA will be a focus on analytics and more specifically law firm representation analytics including which firms represented which company for certain types of lawsuits. In 2016, more analytical tools are expected.

As there are no outstanding member advocacy issues with BBNA, this concluded the agenda for this call. Our next call will be scheduled for late May/early June 2016, however, should a member advocacy request arise, we will speak sooner.