United Nations Treaty Series Now Online

The Library recently subscribed to the web-based version of the United Nations Treaty Series. The U.N.T.S. contains all treaties registered with the Secretary General of the United Nations by member states, in accordance with Article 102 of the U.N. Charter. Although the U.N.T.S. by no means includes all international agreements concluded by U.N. member states, it does nevertheless constitute the most comprehensive collection of treaties ever compiled. Commencing publication in 1945, the set today contains more than 40,000 agreements, many of them non-U.S. bilateral treaties that are not readily available in any other source.

The web-based version of U.N.T.S. provides a convenient method of gaining access to this mass of primary source material. The interface provides both basic and advanced search functions, which work rather well, given that this database represents the U.N.’s first foray into electronic publishing. The basic search permits the researcher to submit a request based either on title, keyword, or popular name. Unfortunately, it is not possible to search the full text of the agreements. The advanced search utility provides additional search criteria that can be combined, including subject terms, state parties, type of treaty (i.e., multilateral or bilateral, original or supplemental), and date of signature and adoption. Retrieved treaties are listed by title, with a link that provides access to a slightly more detailed description. From this page the researcher links to the full text of the selected treaty. The text is always available in both French and English, and will also be available in the authentic language or languages, if other than French or English. For the most part, treaties are reproduced in PDF format, but some are available in TIFF format only. All can be downloaded in text format.

The web-based version of the U.N.T.S. provides several advantages in comparison to the printed version, which the Library also owns (General Collection KZ172.T74). First, the electronic version provides a direct link to current status information contained in Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary General, which can also be searched separately. Here the researcher can determine which states are parties to a given multilateral treaty, and will also find the full text of all reservations, declarations, objections, etc.

Second, the electronic version currently includes English language versions of some 40 treaties not yet included in the printed version of U.N.T.S., which is chronically slow to publish. These treaties are listed in chronological order in a separate (article continued on next page)
LAW LIBRARY HIRES ELECTRONIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN

I am pleased to announce that Peter Hook will be joining the Law Library staff as the new Electronic Services Librarian, effective October 8, 2001. Peter comes to us from the University of Illinois Law Library, where he was a reference librarian. He received his JD from the University of Kansas School of Law and his MLS from the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

Peter’s responsibilities as Electronic Services Librarian will include providing training and assistance with the use LEXIS and WESTLAW, as well as other databases owned by the Library. He will also provide assistance in the use of the Internet as a research tool. Peter will be responsible for maintaining the WWW Virtual Library for Law, which is part of the Law School’s website. Additionally, as part of the reference staff, Peter will be available to assist with general reference questions.

Please stop by and welcome Peter to the Law School. His office is in the reference area (room 105E).

Linda K. Fariss
Associate Director

FAMOUS SPEECHES WEBSITE

It is hard for me to describe the shock that I felt on Tuesday, September 11th. As someone who is interested in history, my immediate thoughts went back to what the country experienced during the days and weeks after December 7, 1941. The History Channel’s website has an archive of famous speeches or famous people making speeches, including President Roosevelt’s address to Congress on December 8, 1941. If you are interested in hearing President Roosevelt’s unmistakable cadence and ability in delivering one of the most well-known speeches in America history, go to www.historychannel.com/speeches/index.html and listen to it (the speech lasts less than 8 minutes).

There are many other famous speeches in this archives, including Martin Luther King’s “I have a dream” speech, Lou Gehrig’s “Luckiest man on the face of the earth” speech, and Prime Minister Winston Churchill’s “Battle of Britain” speech.

Michael Maben,
Cataloging Librarian
NEW & NOTEWORTHY:
CENSORED MATERIALS

Charms, Alexander (ed.)
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Over the summer the Law Library added a few new microform sets to our collection. Among those added was the Federal Bureau of Investigation Confidential Files: The U.S. Supreme Court and Federal Judges Subject File.

Edited by Alexander Charms, this eight reel microfilm set grew out of Charms’ 1992 book, Cloak and Gavel: FBI Wiretaps, Bugs, Informers, and the Supreme Court [KF8742 .C45 1992]. As part of his research, Charms filed a Freedom of Information request for the Federal Judges Subject File. The request yielded one file and a denial that there were any files pertaining to the Supreme Court. Charms continued investigating and upon requesting his own FBI file, he discovered it contained references to the Supreme Court files he had been told did not exist. Six months after instituting a court action on this basis, he obtained the Supreme Court files.

Although the files have been heavily edited, with “sensitive” information blacked out, the files span more than fifty years (1932-1985). Included are records on the conduct of the 1953 Rosenberg trial, loyalty cases, reaction to the 1966 Miranda decision, assessments of prospective justices, relations with Supreme Court employees, policy and research statements made by justices, and favors done for justices and their spouses. The Federal Judges Subject File spans the years 1939 to 1989. Approximately 80% of the entire file is contained in this collection, half of which are the field reports on the backgrounds of federal judges sitting in 1939 (when a comprehensive report was ordered by the Attorney General). Also, included are statistical studies of judicial vacancies and FBI prosecutions. As noted, the files are incomplete and heavily edited, but they still offer a glimpse into the often troubled relationship between the FBI and the judicial branch.

The set can be found in the library’s Microforms Collection on the 2nd floor (behind the elevator) in drawer number 40. Microfilm readers can be found in the Media Center (room 208). A guide to the collection (KF8775 .F42 1991) is also available and is shelved in the bookshelves next to the microform cabinets

Dick Vaughan
Acquisitions & Serials Control Librarian

SUGGESTION BOX
(Every month in this space Associate Director Linda Fariss responds to a suggestion)

Suggestion: The books on display in the lobby. How do I check them out? Post a procedure on checking out the books.

Response: That’s an excellent idea! I will find a place to post the procedure. For your information now, just stop by the reference office or circulation office and ask a staff member to retrieve a book for you from the display case. We always keep a few extra books to replace those requested from the case. Thanks for the suggestion.

Suggestion: Legal Thesaurus. Buy some for Library. The Main Library has several and so does the Law Library in Indianapolis. Why don’t we have at least one on reserve?

Response: In checking IUCAT, I found that we have two on our reference shelf - Burton’s Legal Thesaurus (1998) and West’s Legal Thesaurus (1985). These appear to be the same as those held by the Main Library and the Indianapolis Law Library. We generally put works such as these on the reference shelf instead of reserve. If I missed one that we should have, please let me know. Thanks for the suggestion.
WORKING THE HALLS

Happy October Birthdays to:

- Prof. Earl Singleton on the 5th
- Prof. Bill Oliver on the 6th
- Prof. Bob Heidt on the 10th
- Randy Sparks on the 11th
- Prof. Ken Dau-Schmidt on the 12th
- Prof. Kevin Brown on the 13th
- Dave Lankford on the 15th
- Associate Dean Rachel Kearney on the 22nd
- Prof. Bill Hicks on the 26th and
- Prof. Bill Popkin on the 28th

A NEW REPORTER!

West Publishing Company recently released Volume 1 of a new case reporter. The newest element of the National Reporter System, Federal Appendix, contains all of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals’ decisions that are not released for publication in Federal Reporter, 3d. (Rough estimates are that 65% of the Court of Appeals decisions are published in Federal Reporter.) Federal Appendix will be shelved immediately after Federal Reporter, 3d and before Federal Rules Decisions. The reporter’s official abbreviation for citation purposes is F. Appx..

Users should take note of several features when using cases published in Federal Appendix. West plans only to issue bound volumes of this reporter, so there will be no advance sheets. There will be four to five volumes published every year. West will, however, be preparing cases synopses, headnotes and will assign Key Numbers for every case. This also means that, from now on, these materials can be searched in Westlaw for all U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals cases. (Note: you still will be unable to search synopsis, headnote text or Key Numbers for unpublished cases from the U.S. District Courts and the state courts.) Finally, as West specifically states on the title page of Federal Appendix, users need to consult local court rules to determine when and under what circumstances cases not selected for publication in Federal Reporter may be cited.

Keith Buckley
Collection Development Librarian