FAREWELL TO SHEPARD'S IN PRINT . . . THE END OF AN ERA

by Jennifer Bryan, Government Documents Librarian Technical Services

Some changes happened in the building over the summer. Classrooms look different and there are new faces . . . but something is missing, some old friends are gone. Budget cuts led to serial cancellations, and prompted a recent rearrangement of library materials. Walk into the Library's 1st floor reference collection and you might not immediately locate the CFR (where did all the state digests go?), but don't fear, the CFR is still there. What's gone is Shepard's Citations in print.

For those unfamiliar with the tools of legal research (yes, you 1L's and amnesic 2L's) Shepard's is a citator, an index of cases that tells how cases are treated in subsequent actions. Citators also tell you every time a legal authority (case, statute, regulation) has been mentioned in another document. This is important because the law is not a fixed object, it is constantly changing. Every time you cite a case, for example, you must consider whether it is still good law. Lawyers use citators to monitor the life of cases, to update and validate the law. If you don't use a citator, you could cite a case that was nullified by a subsequent decision. While embarrassing, if you cite bad law, you run the risk of committing malpractice and losing your license. Citators are also useful for finding parallel citations, for use as a case locator, and for finding secondary sources (like law review articles) that cite your authority.

Shepard's, a fundamental legal research tool for over 130 years, has been available electronically since the early 1980s, but the printed volumes have remained a popular format with local attorneys and pro se patrons who use our library. Recently, the reference librarians stopped teaching the use of printed Shepard's in the first-year Legal Research and Writing course. Instead we focus on teaching the two major online citator systems (Shepard's on Lexis, and Westlaw's KeyCite) as the most reliable tool for verifying the validity of legal authority. Printed research tools can often achieve results faster and with greater accuracy than online research, but Shepard's in print can never be as current as the electronic citators because the sets are updated only biweekly or monthly. Whereas, new cases are added to the electronic citator systems within hours or days.

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With the cancellation of our subscription to Shepard's Citations, the Library has purchased subscriptions to versions of Shepard's and KeyCite for public use on our research workstations. Now the IU public, attorneys, and pro se patrons have access to more current and comprehensive citator systems. Law students and faculty continue to have access to Shepard's and KeyCite through their Lexis and Westlaw accounts.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY: SERIAL KILLER

I usually try to feature a new title in this column; in hopes of bringing a valuable resource to the attention of the reader. This time however, I'd like to let you know about some of the titles the Law Library is no longer receiving. Reduced funding, rising publication costs, and general restructured priorities by the University and the Law School have reduced the amount of money the library has to purchase materials. As a result, the Law Library made some tough decisions this summer to insure that we continue receiving the most important materials. No cancellations were made without considerable thought and consultation with law school faculty members. Should you discover a cancellation was made to a title that you feel is critical to the Library collection, don't hesitate in bringing it to the attention of the library staff.

Many of the cancellations were duplicate subscriptions. For instance, we reduced the number of copies we receive of the commercially produced versions of the Indiana Code. Likewise, many titles that are available electronically have been cancelled in paper. Some of our lesser used microform subscriptions (Briefs from the 2nd, 9th, and D.C. Circuits for example) were cancelled, as were several looseleaf sets that we identified as containing information available elsewhere in the collection. We also cancelled several online databases that we determined to be not essential to the collection.

Perhaps the most noticeable cancellation was our subscription to the paper version of Shepard's Citations (see article in this issue). Since these volumes are quickly out of date, the entire set (approximately 300 volumes) has been removed from the collection. Shepard's remains available to all patrons in electronic format, and the two citators not available electronically (Shepard's Intellectual Property Law Citations and Shepard's Acts and Cases by Popular Name) were continued in paper and are now shelved in the classified Reference Collection.

Also removed from the collection were the State Digests from 20 states. Again, the Library thought long and hard in trying to identify which digest cancellations would create the least problems for our patrons. Other reference sets cancelled include the U.S. Supreme Court Digests, West's Bankruptcy Digest, American Jurisprudence Proof of Facts, and American Jurisprudence Trials.

We hope that these cancellations will be a one-time event and that the growth pattern of the collection will rebound to the level that has helped make it the premier law library it is. If this is not the case however, rest assured that we will do everything in our power to maintain a library collection that meets the needs of the Indiana University School of Law community.

Dick Vaughan
Acquisitions & Serials Control Librarian

EVALUATING JUMPSTART

During the last few weeks of the 2004 Spring Semester, the Law Library conducted the Jumpstart Legal Research Program, providing concentrated remedial research skills training for law students who were either beginning their professional careers or working as summer associates and clerks. In order to expand the program and better prepare next summer's body of graduates and clerks, the Reference Staff would like to invite all returning Jumpstart students to drop by the Reference Office during the first few weeks of the semester and tell them about your work-related research experiences. We are especially interested in whether or not you felt adequately prepared for most of your research tasks, how the Jumpstart sessions helped you and, most importantly, what else we could have told you or what we should be telling you about research in the practicing environment. If you don't have time to sit down with us during this hectic period of the semester, we would appreciate it if you could jot down your ideas and leave your notes at the Reference Desk. Your comments will help us in structuring next spring's Jumpstart Program and find new ways of making IU law students better researchers, better lawyers, and better prospects in an extremely competitive job market.

Finally, remember that if you discover that you've forgotten some of your newly acquired research skills by the end of the school year, we'll be more than happy to see you at next spring's Jumpstart sessions.

Keith Buckley
Collection Development Librarian
MINING PERIODICALS FOR TRANSLATIONS OF STATUTES AND DECISIONS

One of the greatest difficulties in doing foreign law research is finding authoritative translations of recent statutes and court decisions. Unfortunately, websites often yield only original language versions, and many loose-leaf print publications do not include recent material. Perhaps surprisingly, there are a number of periodical titles that specialize in providing authoritative translations of recent legislation and decisions. But these sources tend to be under-utilized, because researchers do not think of looking for translations in journals. Here are examples of a few.

Commercial Laws of Europe (KJC2044.3 .C65) is a monthly periodical that contains extremely high-quality translations of statutes adopted within the past year. For example, the June 2004 issue contains the French Immigration Act of November 2003. Each issue includes at least one full translation, together with a very useful list of recent legislation adopted in all European jurisdictions. Individual issues are replaced at the end of the year by two bound volumes, one containing all translations published, the other containing the statutes in their original languages.

China Law and Practice is another monthly publication, which provides access to very recent statutes and regulations of the People's Republic of China. Each issue focuses on a theme, and contains several translations. In addition, there are short, but helpful analyses of recent legislation. Best of all, each issue contains a digest of recent legislation. Subscribers are entitled to receive three full-text translations of digested statutes per month free of charge. Translations arrive very quickly and have proved to be quite satisfactory. Anyone contemplating research in recent Chinese law is warmly encouraged to take advantage of this free service.

East European Case Reporter of Constitutional Law is an example of periodicals that publish translations of case reports. Each issue contains translations of constitutional court decisions from several east European jurisdictions. Of course, the translations are very selective; nevertheless, several hundred decisions have been published to date.

The Library subscribes to many other journals that are similar to the three mentioned above. Unfortunately, they are difficult to locate by subject using IUCAT. Nor are these journals well indexed in the various law journal indexes. Therefore, researchers requiring access to English language translations of recent statutes and decisions should seek the help of a reference librarian before concluding that the information they need is unavailable.

Ralph Goeble
Foreign & International Librarian

JOURNEY TO BAKU

In late May and early June, I spent three weeks in Baku, Azerbaijan as a consultant for the ABA-CEELI's (the American Bar Association's Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative) Legal Education Reform Program. The stated goal of the program, which is funded by a grant from USAID, is "to equip the next generation of Azeri attorneys with an enhanced understanding of substantive law and practical lawyering skills." I was one of three specialists brought in to make recommendations; the other two were both American law professors: one proposed a new curriculum for the two law schools involved in the program, while the other led a series of workshops on teaching methodology for the schools' faculty members.

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THE SUGGESTION BOX

Every month in this space Associate Director Linda Fariss responds to a suggestion from the Suggestion Box.

Suggestion: I would like to see at least one station for charging my copy card. Petition the library system and/or the AV people. This is a great idea!

Response: You are right—this is a great idea! However, it is not a new idea. We actually used to have a machine but the University took it out because of low use! That was before it cost less to use a card than to put coins in the copy machine. The last time I made a request for a Value Transfer Station (that's what the machines are called), I was told that the machines were very expensive and that there were no plans to add any in the near future. However, I will be happy to again make the request. Maybe they will be more sympathetic this time. Thanks for the suggestion.
The people I met in Azerbaijan were all very friendly and made me feel welcome. Because Azerbaijan is an oil-rich, pro-American, Muslim country, the U.S. State Department is eager to fund projects that facilitate interaction between Americans and Azeris. It's possible that our law school will someday participate in a faculty exchange with an Azeri law school or that a number of our graduates will find themselves working over there in some capacity, whether on a long- or short-term basis. Those who do will not be sorry!

Liz Goldberg.
Reference Librarian

PARDON OUR TOURS

Everything in the Law School shifts into high gear with the beginning of another academic year, and the Law Library's Public Services staff is no exception. Starting with orientation tours for the entire incoming first-year class, the Public Services librarians expect to provide lectures, tours, bibliographic and computer instruction to well over 2000 students this semester. In-library discussions and demonstrations for first-year writing and research classes begin this month and will continue for the following four weeks. The librarians will also be guiding a substantial number of non-law students in the use of the Law Library and its collection. Students from a wide range of disciplines, such as Journalism, Business, SPEA, Telecommunications and Political Science will be receiving training in the use of periodicals indexes, legal encyclopedias and the reporter systems during the months of September and October.

In order to make tours of the Library less disruptive to students studying in the Reading Room and on the First Floor, the Public Services staff will post notices of upcoming tours so that students can seek other study areas as during those times.

Keith Buckley
Collection Development Librarian

WORKING THE HALLS

Belated Happy Birthday to all of our summer birthdays.

Happy September Birthday to:

Mike Maben on the 12th
Keith Buckley on the 15th
Deborah Westerfield on the 17th
Professor Terry Bethel on the 18th