

CHECK IT OUT

Lucille Stewart Beeson Law Library Newsletter
Cumberland School of Law of Samford University



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Finding Free Primary Law Access

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On a somewhat regular basis, the Law Library has contact with patrons who need online access to primary law (case decisions, statutes and regulations) but do not have access to the Lexis, Westlaw and Bloomberg Law subscriptions that law students have. These patrons come from different circumstances and needs; they can range from solo law practitioners to undergraduate students. This article addresses this particular need.

If an individual has access to Beeson Law Library (i.e., lawyers and Samford students), they may use the computer work stations on the west wall of First Floor. One terminal provides free access to Lexis and the other to Westlaw. Both database subscriptions on these terminals provide only limited access to the respective services; namely, they provide access to primary law of the federal branch and all 50 states. Though there will be a few

secondary sources available, narrative commentary on the law is minimal to say the least.

Case Decisions

Google Scholar (scholar.google.com) is a very good resource for finding appellate court decisions, so long as the researcher understands its limitations. The coverage of this database service is considerable, but has some limitations:

U.S. Supreme Court 1791 - present
Lower Federal Courts 1923 - present
State Supreme and Appellate Courts 1950 - present

The presentation of the decision text provided by Google Scholar is very clean. Clear pagination is given to the left of the text in large characters. A smaller page number and an asterisk is also positioned by the first word of the page in the text.

At the top left side of the court decision screen, you will notice

a clickable link entitled "How cited." If you click on this, you will be given several lists providing other later cases and journal articles that have cited the original court decision searched. This can be a starting point for "updating" your case. This service should not be your final stop in determining whether your case is still good law, however.

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Samford University

**LAW LIBRARY
SCHEDULE
MONDAY-THURSDAY
7:00 A.M.-12 MIDNIGHT
FRIDAY
7:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.
SATURDAY
9:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.
SUNDAY
1:00 P.M.-12 MIDNIGHT**



Primary Law from Page 1

Federal and State Codes and Session Laws

Beyond court decisions, another area of primary law where free access can be found are the laws created by federal and state legislative processes. A code is a collection of the current laws of a jurisdiction organized in subject order arrangement. The current federal code can be found at: <http://uscode.house.gov>.

A full list of links to free access state codes can be found at: <http://www.llsdc.org/state-legislation>

Administrative Law

While high profile laws are usually authored by Congress

and the state legislatures, there are laws also created by government agencies. This happens when legislative bodies pass enabling legislation creating regulatory bodies that have been given rule making powers by those acts. Why are such agencies given these powers by Congress? Because Congress understands that they do not have the technical knowledge or background to create law and regulations for these topical areas on their own. These agencies' regulations have the force of law so long as they are crafted within the limits of the enabling act creating them.

The Code of Federal Regulations, a GPO publication, is produced annually (different titles on different dates) and provides the in-effect regulations of the federal agencies as of the date of publication. There are daily updates of these regulations published in the Federal Register.

To search by citation in the Code of Federal Regulations, you must have the title and part (section) number.

Example: 20 CFR 653.111

In either service presented below, you may also perform a Boolean search of keywords.

CFR -- Free Electronic Version (Government Printing Office)
<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/ECFR>

Federal Register -- Free Version
<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR>

Not only do federal agencies create regulatory law, they also often provide an initial forum for adjudication of topical issues the agencies control. Currently, there is no uniform system of reporting (publishing) federal administrative decisions online; unfortunately, finding agency decisions that have been released is somewhat like trying to find a needle in a haystack. Your best bet is to find the homepage of the agency covering the topic that you are concerned with and try to find a clickable tab for such decisions there; even then, finding such decisions can be a challenge.

If you have any questions on how to access any area of primary law, please consult a reference librarian.



Recent Acquisitions



ELEVENTH
CIRCUIT
CRIMINAL
HANDBOOK.

KF9656/.E45/2017.

Flamm, Richard E. JUDICIAL
DISQUALIFICATION :
RECUSAL AND DISQUAL-
IFICATION OF JUDGES. 3rd
ed. KF8861/.F62/2017.

A GUIDE TO SPECIAL
EDUCATION LAW.
KF4209.3/.G85/2017.

Ruhland, Christopher S.
ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIV-
ILEGE ANSWER BOOK.
KF8959/.A7/R84/2018.

Weissenberger, Glen.
WEISSENBERGER'S ALABAMA
EVIDENCE : 2017 COURTROOM
MANUAL. KFA540/.W45/2017
/Reference.

Jefferson County Law Library

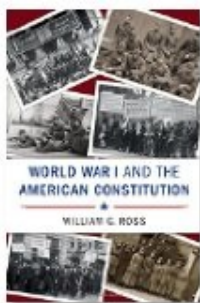
The Jefferson County Law
Library has a new and
updated web site -
<http://lawlib.jccal.org/>.



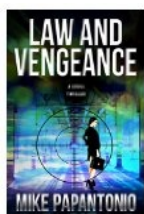
JEFFERSON COUNTY LAW LIBRARY
SERVING THE COURTS, ATTORNEYS, AND PUBLIC SINCE 1885

Professor In Print

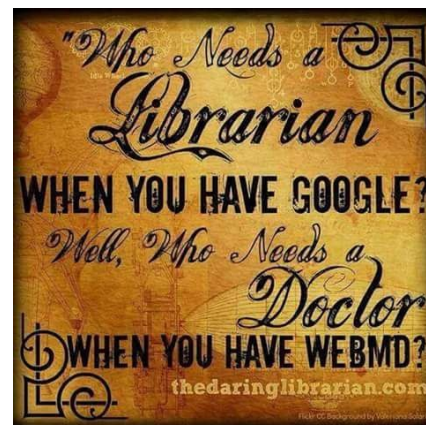
William G. Ross, Lucille
Stewart Beeson Professor of
Law, has written a book
entitled World War I and the
American Constitution. It
was published by Cambridge
University Press, 2017. The
Law Library has a copy in
the Law Library display case
and an additional copy in the
treatise section, Second
Floor - KF4550 .R5973 2017.



Book by Cumberland Alum



The Law Library
has a copy of the
legal thriller, Law
and Vengeance.
This new book of
fiction was
written by Mike
Papantonio, Cumberland
graduate, 1981. The Law
Library has other books
written by Mr. Papantonio and
all are listed in our online
catalog and can be found in
the treatise section, Second
Floor. The call number for his
new book is PS3616/.A587.



Knowing when to count on
professionals is vital in
your professional and
personal life!

If you have a question
about the right person to
contact, a list of our
services is available on our
[Law Library web site](#). The
Law Library staff is
available to help you!



**Don't miss the
November issue of
Check it Out!**

Instructional Design and Law Librarianship: A Focus on the Task Analysis

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Learning about the instructional design process can be of great benefit to law librarians who seek to create effective learning experiences for the patrons of their libraries. According to the book *Designing Effective Instruction* (written by Gary R. Morrison, Steven M. Ross, Howard K. Kalman, and Jerrold E. Kemp), instructional design is, simply, designing instruction that is based on sound practices that have been established through research.

A critical phase of the design process is to analyze the task that needs to be accomplished through instruction. For example, if a law librarian wants to teach library patrons how to use print resources to locate case law, the librarian would examine that task in order to understand how that task should be completed. According to *Designing Effective Instruction*, there are several ways to complete a task analysis. Those methods include the topic analysis and the procedural analysis.

1. Topic Analysis – A topic analysis is used to identify the content that should be the focus of the instruction. A law librarian who wishes to teach students how to use print resources to locate case law will determine that the content for instruction should include information about reporters and digests.

2. Procedural Analysis – A procedural analysis is used when a librarian wishes to identify the specific steps that are needed to complete a process. Two steps in using print resources to locate case law may include (1) using a case in a reporter to locate a key number and (2) using that key number to identify a relevant case in a digest. A law librarian would analyze those steps in order to determine what a student would need to know in order to complete those steps. For example, the student would need to know what a key number is.

The two task analysis methods that have been discussed can be great tools for determining the information that needs to be conveyed to students. The task analysis should be given a great deal of attention when a law librarian is designing any type of instruction.

There are many resources available to librarians who wish to learn more about instructional design. One resource is *Instructional Design for Librarians*, a course offered by the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) of the American Library Association (<http://www.ala.org/rusa/online/instructional-design-for-librarians>). It utilizes *Designing Effective Instruction* as the textbook for the course. *Designing Effective Instruction* (Wiley, 2012) is in its seventh edition and can be obtained through the Law Library's interlibrary loan service.

Director's Briefs
From Greg Laughlin
glaughlin@samford.edu

At the beginning of each academic year, I have the pleasure of meeting with our incoming first year law students at small orientation sessions. During my brief time with you, I discuss the law library's commitment to serving out students' needs as best we can. To that end, I ask that you let us know when we are failing to do so, and I also ask that you participate in our annual law library survey.

Less than a month into this academic year, you took me up on my request, letting me know that you were not happy with the new printing system which the law library adopted.

You expressed both disagreement with the law library charging for printing and with the insufficiencies of the system we adopted. And we responded. We have re-installed printers in the computer labs which the law students may use for free.

I believe I owe you more, however, than merely addressing the problem. I believe I owe you an explanation for what we did. This is not an excuse.

The rest of Samford University began charging for printing several years ago. The university had two reasons for making such a change. First, printing was (and is) an ever escalating cost for every organization. Second, free printing encourages more printing than is environmentally sound, while charging discourages unnecessary printing.

At the time, I tried to negotiate for more “free” initial pages for printing than the university wanted to provide. They correctly pointed out that the more free initial print jobs provided, the less beneficial charging for printing became. They had developed what they believed was a good balance. When I was unsuccessful, I opted out. We continued to provide free printing as we had in the past. As a consequence, the law library was the only place on campus where students could print for free.

However, the two justifications for ending entirely free printing did not go away. We have continued to see our cost for printing escalate since the rest of

the university adopted the system we had installed at the law library in August. It is consuming an increasing proportion of our budget. Though small in comparison to our overall budget, it still costs several thousands of dollars each year to provide printing at no per page cost to our patrons. And, the environmental impact of unrestricted, free printing remains.

Given a variety of factors, I decided at the end of the last academic year that it was time for our law library to join the rest of the Samford University campus and the approximately 90% of all ABA-accredited law schools which charge for printing. To that end, we removed the free print stations and had the private vendor who manages printing for the rest of the Samford campus install its equipment in the law library.

As you are aware, while this equipment might have been sufficient for the needs of other Samford students, it has not performed to the requirements of our law students. Efforts were made to remedy the deficiencies, but these proved to be ineffectual. While I believed the change from free to paid-for printing to be justified and still believe that is the case, any such system must meet students’ needs. This system has not done so. It is for that reason that I asked that the free printers be returned to the computer labs.

While what we tried didn’t work, I hope that law students will at least see this as an example of how the law library listens and

responds to our students. We cannot always do what our students ask, but we can always listen and try to mitigate the concerns even when we cannot completely solve them. Thank you for your input and please continue to provide it. We are listening.

Trial Journal Article Wins Acclaim

An article to be published in the Fall 2017 issue of Cumberland School of Law’s American Journal of Trial Advocacy recently received the 2017 American Association of Law Libraries/LexisNexis Call for Papers Award. The article, written by Liz McCurry Johnson, is entitled “The Practical Obscurity of the Green Screen Terminal: A Case Study on Accessing Jury Selection Data” and discusses innovative research techniques to combat challenges of acquiring historical data of jury selection outcomes and provides potential reasons as to why the government has permitted these public records to go dormant.



One more issue of **CHECK IT OUT** will be published this semester. If you have any

ideas or suggestions as to ways we can improve, contact **Becky Hutto** via e-mail at rmhutto@samford.edu.

Free Office 365!

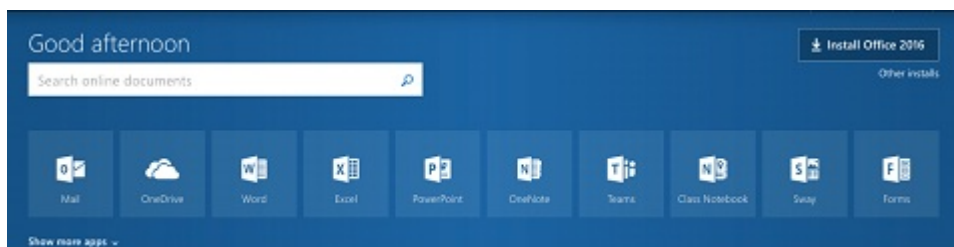
by Grace Simms,
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Samford offers Office for free to students and employees. Just go to <http://office.com/getoffice365>

Click on "Sign In" in the upper right corner. Enter your Samford email address and click the Next button. You then have to sign in with your full email address and password:

The image shows a web page for Samford University. At the top is the Samford University logo, which includes a building icon and the text "SAMFORD UNIVERSITY". Below the logo, the text "Sign in with your organizational account" is displayed. There are two input fields: the first contains the email address "glsimms@samford.edu" and the second contains a series of asterisks representing a password. Below these fields is a blue button labeled "Sign in". At the bottom of the form, there is a message: "Please sign-in with your Samford email address and password."

Once you have authenticated your account, you will then be taken to a new page. Click on the Install Office button.



Once installed, you'll need to authenticate Office with your Samford email address and password - a key is not required. You may install Office on up to five computers plus tablets/phones. For a tablet/phone - it will need to be downloaded from the app store. Access to OneDrive is included as well - a good way to back up important documents.

If you have questions or need help with this - please contact Grace L. Simms, Information Technology Librarian, at glsimms@samford.edu.
