

CHECK IT OUT

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



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Some Helpful Advice in Using the Law Library

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Depending upon your study habits, the Law Library may be seen as that quiet oasis for getting productive law school work completed, or as academic castor oil that must be swallowed on occasion, but otherwise avoided whenever possible. In any event, the Law Library will play a role in your law school career. Here are some tips on making your life easier when visiting the Law Library:

1. Your Samford I.D. card is your key to services in the Law Library. Additionally, it must be shown upon request to desk attendants who do not recognize you as a Cumberland student when entering the Library. Translation: at the beginning of your freshman year, you may need to show your I.D. card on a regular basis until you are recognized as a Cumberland law student by all the desk attendants. You also present it to check out books or folders placed on reserve by your professors. Also, using your Samford I.D. at WEPA print stations will speed up check-in before receiving your print job.

2. The bookstore sells numerous study aids that vary in usefulness, and are, also, quite expensive. Before deciding to buy, you may want to check out the study aids available on reserve at the Circulation Desk. [The Guide to Study Aids](#), which has been distributed to all first year law students and is available on the web, is an excellent resource for determining what student aids are available for check out from the Reserve section. These items on Reserve are almost always the latest edition and are available for use in the library for three hours at a time (and, also, can be checked out overnight three hours before the library's closing).

3. The Library requests that you reshelve all books that you use from the First Floor and in the periodical collection shelved on the Lower Level. Over the years, there have been many first year students unable to finish their assignments, victimized by thoughtless classmates who refuse to take the time to reshelve needed materials.

4. Cell phones should not be used in the Law Library reading rooms. If you bring one into the reading rooms, you must put it on vibration mode. When you receive or place a call, you must go to the photocopy room, west staircase, or outside the Law Library.

5. Conference room keys are available for three hour checkout at the Circulation Desk by student study groups. We urge students carrying on discussions within the library to use conference rooms or the Lower Level reading room in order to avoid disturbing other patrons. Even in the conference rooms, groups holding conversations should keep their voices down to avoid disturbing patrons in nearby study areas.

In This Issue:

Programming Your Samford	
I.D.....	2
Librarian Activity.....	3
Law Library Tech	
Reminders.....	3
Permissible Use of Law Library	
Study Carrels.....	4
Recent Acquisitions.....	4
HeinOnline Update.....	4
Reserve Material	4
Law Library Display.....	5
Guide to Study Aids.....	5
Books-Reading Lounge.....	5
Selecting a Research Topic.....	6
Director's Briefs.....	7

See *Advice*, Page 2

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**

*** Circulation Desk
opens at 7:30 A.M.**

*Advice from Page 1*

6. With the exception of Saturday, librarians are generally available most hours that the library is open. Do not feel embarrassed to ask a librarian for help finding materials. Often, freshmen law students believe that they are the “only student” who cannot find needed materials; in most cases, many students cannot locate them, but do not want to admit it to their classmates. At the same time, do not hesitate to let your Caruthers Fellow from LLR know when you do not understand an assignment.

7. Ignoring Law Library due dates can do more than empty your pocket of change. Fines at the Law Library are as follows: \$1.00 per day per book for non-reserve items; \$3.00 per HOUR for reserve items (including conference room keys).

8. Some food and drink is permitted within the Law Library. Drinks with secure lids are permitted as well as “non-messy” food items (no fried chicken, pizza, gyros, etc.) Food and drink are NOT allowed in the

computer labs nor at or near other computers, microform readers or other similar equipment in the Law Library.

9. The First - Third Floor Law Library reading rooms should be used for research and study purposes; they should not become a meeting point for law student social groups. The Lower Level reading room is reserved for patrons who wish to talk amongst themselves. The noise problem is one which is being constantly brought to our attention by law students. Please consider classmates who, for various reasons, cannot study at home. This library is their only refuge for quiet study. If you wish to socialize, there are numerous places in the Law School, including the Great Room of the Law School, where ample space is available. Please reserve the library facilities for your research and study needs only. We urge you to report violations of this policy to the circulation desk or a librarian as it is occurring.

10. Your best option for photocopying an item is to use equipment called Scannx that is found in the First Floor photocopy room as well as two other locations in the building (Second Floor east end, between the Lexis and Westlaw computer labs and the Lower Level west wall). This equipment allows patrons to scan documents and save them to a USB drive or email them at no charge. If you desire a hard copy, printers in the computer labs as well as the WEPA stations are available.



**Special welcome to
all first year law
students and
welcome back to all
2nd and 3rd year law
students!!**

Programming Your Samford I.D. With Money

There are two kinds of “money” that can be added to your Samford I.D. card; one is Bulldog Bucks and the other is Dining Dollars.

Dining Dollars will be added when you purchase a meal plan at Samford. That money is “use or lose” by the end of each semester. You may also add more Dining Dollars outside a meal plan to your card, getting a 10% bonus for amounts over \$100. These additional Dining Dollars expire at the end of the Summer semester in the year that the dollars were added. The other significant limitation to this program is that the money can only be used at Samford Dining facilities (including food trucks).

Bulldog Bucks allow cardholders to purchase food, goods and services anywhere the Samford Card is accepted on Campus. There is no expiration of cash added using this option; however, there is no bonus when adding money to your account. Samford has made it very easy to add money to your card online using a credit card. Simply go to [Samford's GET site](#), log in with your Samford computer I.D. and password and set up an account with a credit card number. You can add a small or large amount. Another option is to add money to your card at the bookstore.



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

Librarian Activity

Ed Craig, Leigh Jones and Greg Laughlin attended the national convention of the American Association of Law Libraries held July 13-16, 2019, in Washington, D.C. Attendees were given the opportunity to see the latest research products available to the legal community as well as attend sessions addressing specific contemporary issues involving law libraries, academic as well as in law firms.

The Law Libraries Association of Alabama spring meeting was held at Samford University, Law Library, June 7, 2019. Ed Craig, Della Darby, Keta Harmon, Becky Hutto, Leigh Jones, and Greg Laughlin attended. The guest speaker was Jonathan Bass, Samford history professor. He discussed his new book - *He Calls Me by Lightning: The Life of Caliph Washington and the Forgotten Saga of Jim Crow, Southern Justice, and the Death Penalty*. The Law Library has a copy of this book in the 2nd floor reading lounge, E185.93.A3 B37 2017.

Della H. Darby, Metadata Librarian and Keta Harmon, Acquisitions Librarian, both attended the Innovative Users Group meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, May 5-8, 2019. At the meeting, Darby presented a poster entitled "Archives, Alumni, and Access." The poster described the indexing activities of the metadata department and the resulting database of Cumberland alumni. The database can be found at: <https://library3.samford.edu:447/search~S13>.

In addition to the convention of the American Association of Law Libraries, Leigh Jones attended WordCamp Birmingham 2019, which was held at Rosewood Hall

(at Homewood City Hall), August 10-11. The workshops focused on creating WordPress websites, content creation, and content management. Here's the link to conference information:

<https://2019.birmingham.wordcamp.org>.

Jones also attended the following Samford conference: 2019 Healthcare Ethics and Law Conference (Theme: Medical Marijuana: Its Benefits and Risks to Society), September 6, 2019, Regions Community Room, Cooney Hall at Samford University.

On August 19, 2019, Jones and Darby both attended Samford University Faculty Connect: Mini-Conference on Teaching and Learning. The sessions attended included Formative Assessment: Feedback to Guide Learning and Learners, Best Practices for Providing Accommodation to Students with Disabilities, The Digital Humanities and Religion in Birmingham, and The Holy and the Teaching of Moral Character at Samford.

Grace Simms, Information Technology Librarian, did a presentation for the Alumni Relations on May 9, 2019. The title was Every Good Lawyer Needs a Great Law Library for Alumni Relations. It was held in the Friendship Room, Beeson Law Library.

Simms was also a speaker at an AALS Webinar, June 5, 2019. The title was Teaching Tech to Law Students.

Ed Craig is currently serving on Samford's Faculty Senate as one of the two representatives of Samford librarians; Della Darby is Chair of the Elections Committee and member of

the Academic Technology & Learning Committee; Keta Harmon is on the Samford Diversity Committee; and Leigh Jones is on the Academic Affairs Committee.

Law Library Tech Reminders

by Grace Simms,
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Welcome back!

If you don't know the lab door code, ask for it at the circulation desk. Please don't share with any non-law students. The labs, computers and more are just for law students.

We have data projectors, screens, and a camera all available for use for class projects or weddings/rehearsal dinners.

Forgot your power adapter or the puppy chewed it? There is a wide selection to borrow from in my office. iPhone/iPad chargers as well as an Apple watch charger are available.

Don't purchase Microsoft Office! Samford offers it for free at: <http://office.com/getoffice365>.

Also, you don't have to purchase virus protection. Very good options (AVG, Avast, Panda, and Sophos) are all available for free at www.download.com.

Cleaning materials for your laptop are also available in my office. Broken laptop? Please ask for help before purchasing a new computer. I might be able to repair it inexpensively for you. And I have loaner Macs and Dells in case your laptop is need of repair.

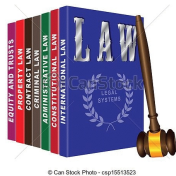
Any other questions? Contact Grace Simms (Information Technology Librarian) at glsimms@samford.edu.

Permissible Use of Law Library Study Carrels

A great way to block out unwanted distractions is to use a Law Library study carrel, found on each of the four floors of the Law Library. Usually, patrons will use them for a few hours and then leave, taking everything with them. Then there are patrons who "set up" in a carrel for the long term. This is permissible under certain conditions:

1. They must be a currently enrolled Cumberland student, or they must get written permission from the Law Library Director.
2. All food containers must be closed and sealed. Drinks must have a top. Open food in unattended carrels will be removed by library employees.
3. Any library books not checked out will be removed from the carrel by library employees if the carrel is unattended.
4. Library books which are checked out will be temporarily removed and returned to the carrel after verifying checkout.
5. Rules as to noise for that floor apply to carrel users.
6. Checked out library books which are stolen out of a carrel are still the responsibility of the patron circulating the book. Personal books, computers, and other property stolen out of a carrel are not the responsibility of the Law Library.
7. Carrels must be vacated after the last final exam at the end of a semester.

Recent Acquisitions



Listed below are new books written by our own Cumberland professors.

Bishop, Thomas Brad. *The Prosecution and Defense of DUI Cases : a Practitioner's Handbook*. 2nd ed. Birmingham, Ala. : Samford University Press, 2018. KFA297.8 .B56 2018 (2 copies shelved in Reference, 1 copy shelved in the display case)

Wills, Trusts, and Estates in Focus. Co authored by: Naomi R. Cahn, Alyssa A. DiRusso, Susan N. Gary. New York : Wolters Kluwer, 2019. KF730 .C29 2019 (3 copies shelved on Reserve, 1 copy shelved in the display case)

Denning, Brannon P. *The Glannon Guide to Constitutional Law : Powers and Liberties : Learning Constitutional Law Through Multiple-choice Questions and Analysis*. 3rd ed. New York : Wolters Kluwer Law & Business, 2019. KF4750 .D46 2019 (2 copies shelved on Reserve)

"Common sense often makes a good law." ~ William O. Douglas, Supreme Court Justice

HeinOnline Update

On the anniversary of 9/11, HeinOnline highlighted documents in their collections that can be used to understand and research the terrorist attack and its impact on the U.S.

See: [Remembering the Fallen: Researching the Tragedy of 9/11.](#)



Reserve Material

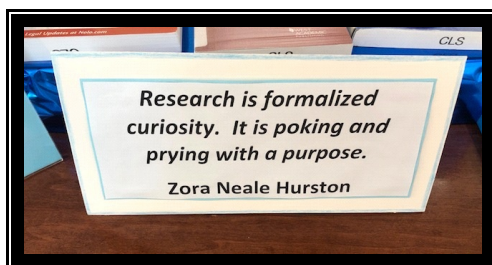
Does your professor have material on Reserve for this semester? Click [here](#) for complete information.



Law Library Display



During each semester, our Evening and Weekend Reference Librarian, Leigh Jones, creates displays of books and information that law students might find of interest. The current display features information on legal research, a topic that all law students should find helpful. And, while reviewing the display, enjoy the quote she has posted!



Need study material?
Don't forget to check
the [Guide to Study](#)
[Aids](#) for the latest
material on Reserve!



Books - Reading Lounge

The Reading Lounge, located on the Second Floor, Room 250, is filled with a variety of titles, the majority being part of the Legal Classics Library reprint series. There are, however, other titles that have been chosen by members of the library staff. One of the new books shelved there is:

Rydell, Anders. the Book Thieves : the Nazi Looting of Europe's Libraries and the Race to Return a Literary Inheritance. New York, New York : Viking, 2017. (D810.L53 R94413 2017)

Chosen by a library staff member, of course!

Selecting A Research Topic: Using Library Resources to Identify the Perfect Subject

Leigh A. Jones
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Sometimes, it can be difficult to decide on a topic for a law review article, a final paper for a class, or any other type of research piece. However, with a bit of reflection and use of the Law Library's resources, you can discover a topic that you feel will be worthy of your effort.

Before digging through the Law Library's resources to find a subject about which to write, take some time to reflect on the following:

Who is your audience, and what do they want to read?

Your intended audience should weigh heavily on your topic selection. Academicians, practitioners, and non-attorneys will have different perspectives. For which group are you writing, and what do you think they would want to know?

What plans do you have for your future?

Are your plans to go into a specific area of practice once

you graduate from law school? If so, selecting a topic from that area can help you to learn more about the field. Also, publishing an article about a specific topic can help to establish you as a subject expert.

What are your passions?

Write about something that creates excitement within you. It is difficult to produce quality work when you have no interest in the work. When selecting a research topic for your paper, make sure that it is something that you truly want to explore and discuss.

After your audience evaluation and self-reflection, it is time to dig through the Law Library's resources to find the perfect research topic. Here are four tips that will help you do that:

1. Explore the works of others.

If you are targeting a specific publication for your article, make sure to explore the archives of that publication to find out what people have written about in the past. By doing this, it is quite possible to find an article for which you want to write a response. Also, this type of exploration gives you a solid idea of the types of topics that are accepted for the publication. The Beeson Law Library provides access to law reviews from every American law

school. HeinOnline (in addition to Lexis, Westlaw, etc.) is an excellent resource for finding law reviews and journals.

2. Set up news and search alerts.

If there is a topic in the news that you would like to monitor, many research platforms, such as Bloomberg Law, allow you to set up alerts to let you know when new information is released on that topic. In fact, most of the major legal research databases will allow you to set up search alerts that notify you when new information is available. By setting up alerts, you might be inspired to write about something that has a current effect on a specific population, or you might be encouraged to write about an exciting new aspect of a specific area of law.

3. Deep dive into analytics tools.

Many research platforms have analytics tools that allow you to recognize and evaluate trends that are taking place in the legal system. Lexis Advance, for example, provides several analytics tools, which include Verdict & Settlement Analyzer and Litigation Profile Suite. Westlaw Edge provides a tool called Litigation Analytics, while Bloomberg provides a tool called Litigation Intelligence Center. By exploring these tools, you might discover a research topic

by recognizing a trend or data set that might warrant more attention.

4. Perform random searches within various platforms.

Spend a little time performing random searches in various databases. In addition to the major legal databases, take time to explore interdisciplinary databases. Also, use the Law Library's online catalog to find out what comes up with various searches. This can lead you to information that you might not have even suspected existed. When selecting a research topic, always remain open to the possibility of finding the unexpected. Look for unexpected connections among ideas. Remember that, through the use of Law Library resources, you can find that perfect topic in which you can find value in writing.

Director's Briefs

From Greg Laughlin

glaughlin@samford.edu

The law school year is off to a good start. I hope you are finding Law Library services meet your needs. If not, let us know. Again, early next semester, we will take our annual survey, but if you have concerns now, please don't wait until then to let us know.

Continued Migration from Print to Online

Over the past year, the Law Library has continued its

migration from print to online resources, with a focus on eliminating unnecessary redundancy. By relying more on online subscriptions, we have been able to save subscription costs, while expanding the number of titles available to our patrons.

Lower Level for Collaborative Work and Remaining Levels for Quiet Study

We have noted heavy use of the Law Library so far this fall, which we take as a sign that students find the Law Library a conducive place to research and study. One consequence of such heavy use can be increased noise. Last spring semester, we designated the Lower Level for collaborative work and reserved the first, second, and third floors for quiet study. That seems to be working well, as we have noted a significant drop off in noise complaints since implementing this policy. Thank you all for making this policy a success. If you are being disturbed by excessive noise on the first, second, or third floors, please let me or another librarian know as soon as possible, as we can more effectively act if we receive the complaint while the disturbance is actually occurring.

Actions in Response to Survey Responses

In response to last winter's student survey, we implemented several changes, some following spring break of 2019 and some over the summer:

- New lamps were purchased and installed on all of the Law Library tables over the summer, providing two AC and two USB outlets at each lamp. This provides charging options at most tables and all carrels in the main seating areas on all floors of the Law Library.
- You may recall that seat cushions were purchased last spring. Students may move those to wherever they need them.
- The Lower Level copy room has been converted into a space for students to make their own coffee and to microwave food.
- In addition, book shelving has been installed in the Lower Level copy room for use as a student book exchange (a sort of "Little Library") where students can bring books and place them on the shelf for others to take and read. When a student is done reading a book, he or she should then return it to the shelf for someone else to read. These books will not be the property of the Law Library, but student donations. Borrowers do not check those out at the circulation desk.
- The Second Floor Reading Lounge has been stocked with a number of books and periodicals which are the property of the Law Library. Some of these are anthologies of poetry, short stories, and essays, or trade books of interest and some are nice leather bound books related to the law or legal fiction. You may use those books for relaxation in the Reading Lounge

or check them out at the circulation desk. The magazines and other periodicals in the Reading Lounge are the property of the Law Library, but do not circulate and are intended for use within the Law Library.

New York Times and Wall Street Journal Online Access

New York Times

Last spring, the University Library and the Law Library partnered to purchase a two year subscription to the digital edition of The New York Times and its archive. [NYTimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com) is a multiplatform news resource that provides unlimited access to New York Times content, including breaking news, multimedia, opinion, blogs, videos and more. The historical archives are available and searchable dating back to 1851. This has long been a resource requested and the collaboration between our libraries in negotiating reasonable and affordable pricing has resulted in access being realized.

Please follow these three steps to setup your account and access [NYTimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com):

Step 1: Navigate to <https://library.samford.edu/purl/nytimes> (while connected to a campus IP)

Step 2: Search for and click the listing for Samford University

Step 3: Click Create Account and complete registration fields

Once registered, users may access [NYTimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com) and the NYT mobile applications from any location on any web-enabled device. For those interested in suggestions and help in utilizing the NYT in their classes we recommend taking a look at The Learning Network.

Wall Street Journal

Samford University Library is, also, now offering free digital access to the Wall Street Journal to the entire Samford community. This resource is provided by our friends at BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama and the Caring Foundation. Please use the link below to access the Wall Street Journal. All you will need are your regular Samford Login and ID credentials. Go to: <https://www.samford.edu/business/undergraduate-wall-street-journal-access>, and from this point, click on the red tab, WSJOnline Access.

If you have any issues with your login or access to the site, contact Ed Cherry, Systems Librarian, at 726-2506 or at cecherry@samford.edu.

Planned Expanded Hours of Access through a Prox Card System

Finally, the Law Library is seeking to have a prox card system installed at the doors leading from the area in front of the circulation desk into the First

Floor reading room. We do not currently have a date for when such a system may be installed. However, my hope is that it will be done sometime during the fall semester. If and when that is installed, the Law Library will expand its hours of access and restricted access will be implemented through the use of the prox cards so that law students will not need to show their ID at the circulation desk during periods of restricted access. Unfortunately, I cannot guarantee that the system will be installed during the fall semester, but I am making every effort to cause that to happen.

Again, welcome and have a great year.



CHECK IT OUT is published three times a semester. Your opinion is important to us! Send your ideas and/or comments to: Becky Hutto at rmhutto@samford.edu. We welcome your new ideas!