This question was addressed in St. Louis at the 2006 American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) convention, giving attendees an opportunity to hear law firm librarians speak on where improvements could be made in preparing students for their first law firm jobs. Terry Psarras, Manager of Litigation Support and Library Services at Carlton Fields in Tampa, drew some laughs by suggesting she would address the topic directly by focusing on “what law students wish they knew if they knew to wish it.”

Psarras had noticed that those out of law school were overly reliant on inefficient searching because of their “Google” approach to legal research, a dangerous method when coupled with the lack of restrictions placed on them in law firms. Her sense was that law students develop an addictive mindset created by unlimited free WESTLAW and LEXIS while in school. As a result, there is a general lack of understanding by students of the true costs involved in conducting electronic legal research. She suggested that this might be due to the difficulty encountered by academic and law firm librarians trying to determine the costs of online legal research. Psarras addressed the need for a new hire to understand the billing policy of the firm where she works before involving herself in research. If she knows in advance the firm’s policy on billable and non-billable hours and how hourly and transactional charges work in the firm, she will be more likely to think in terms of costs. Psarras emphasized that the place to plan legal research is not after a researcher goes online, but before.

Jennifer Murray, Librarian at Greenberg Traurig LLP in Phoenix, stated that a researcher’s inability to do cost-effective research makes him a liability rather than an asset to a team; this could destroy the internal market for his work. Murray stressed the importance of the new hire to know the client’s view of legal research—what they will pay for and what they will not. The law firm itself may differentiate between client research and business development research, and a new hire should know the difference between the two. Murray believes that legal research is best taught after students have developed the ability to evaluate what they find; for this reason, she concludes that most research instruction is given before this ability has been reached. Other law firm librarians believe law schools are limited by what can be done with legal research methods courses within law schools. Still others feel quite strongly that there remains much that academia can do to improve the situation. Murray offered a heads up that might benefit new hires in some law firm environments, when she said that she had received emails from partners wanting to know which students had been to the library and which had not.

You can order an audiotape recording of this program at the following address:

My Southern Civil Rights Journey
by Chris Osborne, Reference Assistant

As my first master's degree and all my earlier college degrees were in the field of history, I often take annual vacations that reflect this interest. During the second half of July I had the distinct pleasure of taking a history vacation in the Deep South that centered upon a civil rights theme. The great majority of the sites that I visited are found in the states of Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia—although I also took a one-day side trip to the city of Memphis. One major source that I used to find these sites is the “Traveler's Guide to the Civil Rights Movement” by Jim Carrier.

The Civil Rights Movement drew substantially upon African-American churches in the region—both their pastors as a Movement leadership class and their laypeople as activists. The very first of many church sanctuaries that I visited was Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. This congregation was the premier activist church in that city; and perhaps for this reason drew the particular ire of racial segregationists. Thus the church is primarily remembered as the site where four girls were murdered by a terrorist bomb blast after the morning Sunday School hour on September 15, 1963. Today the congregation, a National Historic Site, has a film about the murders and a commemorative nook in its basement floor. Tourists may also see the kitchen on this same floor where the girls suffered their martyrdom.

The main civil rights history church of interest in the city of Memphis is the Masonic Temple where Dr. King gave his final speech, “I've Been to the Mountaintop,” the evening before his assassination. (I likewise saw the Lorraine Motel—now the National Civil Rights Museum—in the city that was the site of his assassination on April 4, 1968.) Today the Temple is no longer an active congregation but is a Church of God in Christ headquarters. Churches that also have historical markers include the Turner Chapel AME Church of Greenwood, Mississippi and Brown Chapel AME Church of Selma, Alabama.

Two congregations in the town of Philadelphia, Mississippi commemorate the murders of the civil rights workers Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner on the night of June 21, 1964. Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church has erected an outdoor monument to the three young men; and the now rebuilt Mt. Zion Church just east of the town is a congregation that was burnt down by Klansmen. Goodman, Chaney, and Schwerner traveled to the site to investigate; and this set in motion the chain of events leading to their deaths.

The city of Montgomery is host to a number of churches prominent in the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. King's first congregation, Dexter Avenue Baptist, still stands next to the Alabama State Capitol and offers public tours. A more recently opened site in connection with the church is its parsonage, where Dr. King resided with his wife Coretta and two older children. The parsonage was firebombed on the night of January 31, 1956, as Dr. King rushed back from a night meeting at

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the church to urge an angry crowd to go home and practice nonviolence. The Holt Street Baptist Church in the city was the site of Dr. King's very first speech inspiring the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955-1956. First Baptist Church, pastored by his best friend Rev. Ralph Abernathy, actively supported the Freedom Rides of May 1961 and saw a mass meeting besieged one evening by an angry, segregationist mob.

Dr. King's second and final congregation, Ebenezer Baptist in Atlanta, is part of the King Historic District on Auburn Avenue. The old church where he preached is open for touring, although the congregation has built a new worship sanctuary since Dr. King's assassination. The District also incorporates Dr. King's birth home, his grave, and the grave of his recently deceased widow.

Many sites commemorating major events of the Movement have been developed in recent years. In 2003 the Alabama Bar Association erected a marker just outside the Jackson County Courthouse in Scottsboro to commemorate the Scottsboro Boys. The Scottsboro Boys were nine young men between ages 13 and 20 falsely accused of perpetrating a gang rape against two white women in March 1931; and their first trials were held inside the courthouse. The older defendants wound up serving stiff prison terms for a crime they did not commit, one of them for 19 years. Kelly Ingram Park in Birmingham was the site of square offs between civil rights demonstrators and Commissioner of Public Safety Eugene "Bull" Conner's troopers in April 1963. A variety of statuary remembering these confrontations was erected in 1990. One statue of a police officer and his attack dog assaulting a demonstrator actually marks the exact spot where Conner's canine units literally tore off the clothes of a number of demonstrators.

The town of Oxford, Mississippi is home to the campus of the University of Mississippi, familiarly known as “Ole Miss.” James Meredith integrated this school on September 30, 1962 against the massive resistance of the Mississippi state government. The registrar's building on campus, the Lyceum, has an historical marker commemorating where lines of Federal marshals and National Guardmen stood that evening attempting to hold off a White supremacist mob. A French journalist and a bystander from the town were killed that evening. The riot, that lasted two days, spilled into the town of Oxford itself, including a confrontation with the National Guard at the city courthouse square.

Tougaloo College now owns the home of the former Mississippi NAACP Field Secretary, Medgar Evers, in the city of Jackson. Evers and his wife Myrlie bought the home in 1952; and Evers was assassinated on his own driveway the night of June 12, 1963. The city of Selma, Alabama now hosts a Voting Rights Museum and has a monument to Rev. Hosea Williams and now-Congressman John Lewis on the opposite side of the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The bridge marks the spot where civil rights marchers were beaten and gassed by the state troopers of Dallas County Sheriff Jim Clark on “Bloody Sunday,” March 7, 1965.

Besides its numerous churches that played such a prominent role in the Movement, Montgomery now has a marker at the exact spot where Rosa Parks boarded a segregated bus on December 1, 1955. Within just feet of the marker is the Rosa Parks Museum. The Southern Poverty Law Center, that operates the Klanwatch project monitoring hate groups, has its own civil rights history museum and a martyrs' fountain, upon which are carved the names of all 55 persons who lost their lives for the Movement from 1955-1968.

The college founded by Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University), is now a National Historic Site. Tours are available of Washington's residence as chancellor, “The Oaks.” Graves of the Washington family are also on campus; and the campus bookstore sells copies of agricultural science pamphlets written by Dr. George Washington Carver. The town of Tuskegee has recently developed a monument at Moton Airfield, where the Tuskegee Airmen trained as African-American army air corps pilots during World War II.

The Mississippi Delta region contains a number of civil rights history sites amidst its many small towns. On the more grim side, a few of these are from the most notorious Lynchings in U.S. history. The town of Duck Hill witnessed the blowtorch torture and lynching of two local men, Boot Jack McDaniels and Roosevelt Townes, in April 1937. A staffer of Life magazine photographed McDaniels' body the following morning; this photo served as impetus for an anti-lynching bill effort that ultimately failed in the U.S. Senate. Tourists will find the disintegrating remains of Bryant's General Store in the town of Money. This was where 14-year old Emmett Till apparently whistled at the wife of the storeowner who led to his lynching on August 28, 1955. The town of Doddsville also witnessed what many historians consider the most obscene and barbaric lynching in U.S. history, that of the sharecropper Luther Holbert and his wife, on February 7, 1904. This lynching is recounted in a text we have in the library, “Worse Than Slavery” by David Oshinsky.

This past spring I did an exchange of e-mails with the mayor of Grenada, Mississippi, Dianna Freelon-Foster. Mayor Freelon-Foster helped me locate the school in town (continued on page 6)
St. Louis Gateway Frames Law Librarians’ Centennial

by Curtis Jones, Reader’s Services Librarian

The centennial celebration of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) was held in St. Louis this year from July 8-12. To my mind, it seemed a significant place to celebrate 100 years of law librarianship, since the area around St. Louis has played a significant role in the formation of the United States.

Even before the arrival of Europeans, Cahokia—the largest Indian settlement in North America—developed just across and up river from St. Louis. It seems the lay of the land and human needs made this area a significant site especially because of its proximity to the junction of the Missouri and Mississippi River systems.

In a time of rapid transport by plane, truck, automobile and rail, it is difficult to imagine a time when river arteries dominated commerce and made cities like St. Louis a hub of commerce. One notes that the Mississippi River itself marks a division in the geography of the country that came to form a significant boundary line between French and English territories, between Catholic and Anglican spheres of influence. It was only after the Louisiana Purchase that these areas could be welded together into a whole, from east to west.

The AALL convention here also made it possible for me to visit St. Louis’ historic Old Courthouse. It is located on high ground overlooking the Mississippi River, as close to the river as commerce would allow. It was at this historic court building that the first two trials of the pivotal Dred Scott case were held in 1847 and 1850.

Though this building has echoed with hundreds of suits for freedom, this case in particular—one that granted a husband and his wife their freedom from slavery and ended up in the Supreme Court—has split the country and nearly led to its ruin. Dred Scott and his wife Harriet had sued for and were granted their freedom; the case moved slowly through Missouri courts from judgment through appeal. Finally, the case was drawn into the United States Supreme Court and national focus.

Chief Justice Roger B. Taney’s majority opinion held that slaves were in fact property, and as such, had no right to sue. Taney’s declaration invalidated the 1820 Missouri Compromise because the case held that all blacks, slave or free, could never be citizens of the United States. Thus, the uneasy state of affairs existing between northern and southern interests had been significantly undermined by this decision that made slavery legal in all states and territories.

The building that was intended to be “used forever as the site on which the courthouse of the County of St. Louis” stood has been altered a great deal over the intervening 150 years. It has not served as a courthouse since 1930. The portion of the courthouse where the original Dred Scott case had been heard is now largely empty and unused, altered by a hallway installed to hold up a ceiling that began to sag a few years after the Dred Scott trial occurred. Ironically, one might conclude that the courtroom itself had been divided into two parts, north and south.

The courthouse is now part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial that celebrates the opening of the West marked by the Lewis and Clark expedition. It seems even more ironic that the courthouse is now part of a national park that celebrates the joining of the West with the East, when the building’s most notable case nearly led to the nation’s division along northern and southern spheres of influence.

It is difficult to fathom how Dred Scott and his wife must have felt at the end of eleven years of litigation, knowing that they were known as nothing more than property. Mr. Scott died only nine months after the Supreme Court decision; but, fortunately, he died a free man. Sons of his original master had purchased both Scott and his wife and then set them free. As childhood friends of Scott’s, they had helped cover his legal fees over the eleven years of litigation. They were ultimately moved to buy freedom for Dred Scott and his wife when legal fees could not.

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WLS Library bid farewell to a number of outstanding law student assistants when they graduated in May. More student workers will be leaving in December, so we’ve been hiring over the past few months! We are delighted to welcome eight new student assistants to the Library; they are assisting the librarians at the Public Services counter and behind the scenes in our Serials department:

Christien Bathe

Christien is a second-year student at Whittier and a native of Solvang, California. He earned a degree from Westmont College in political science, with a pre-law emphasis. After earning his J.D. from Whittier, he plans to work in a small firm or start his own business. In his spare time, Christien enjoys socializing and target shooting.

Mary Boktour

Mary is an LLM student and an attorney who has practiced litigation and civil law for ten years in her native Egypt. She came to the States 17 years ago, and has spent the last 15 here in California. She is earning her criminal law certificate from Whittier Law School. Mary assists librarian Margot McLaren in the Serials department; she enjoys the busy pace and learning about library work here. When she isn’t working or studying, Mary enjoys volunteer work at her church.

Nazly Hajjarian

Nazly is a third-year student who hails from northern California. She attended U. C. Davis and majored in political science. She worked as a research intern at a semiconductor company before coming to Whittier. She is studying civil law, and is also working for a judge in the Unlimited Civil Division in Santa Ana. Nazly sees working at the library as an opportunity to become familiar with the materials available for research here. While shelf-reading, she discovered an entire section of books related to her interests that she wouldn’t have known to look for, were it not for her duties as a student assistant. Because her studies make it necessary to sit for extended periods of time, Nazly likes to spend her spare time surfing and biking.

Rich Isaacs

Also a third-year student, Rich hails from parts north, not far from Yosemite. He earned a bachelor’s degree at Concordia University in Irvine and spent a few years working in construction before choosing to attend Whittier Law School. His favorite classes so far have had an environmental or international law focus. The best thing about working at the Library, he says, is learning about the Library itself and improving his legal research skills. In his spare time, Rich enjoys camping.

Lisa Kim

Lisa is a second-year student and a native of Irvine. She attended university at U.C. Santa Barbara, with a double major in law and film studies. Before coming to law school, she also spent some time working at the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office. She is taking international studies here at Whittier, and hopes to work in the fields of international or entertainment law. The best part about working in the Law Library, she says, is learning where all the research materials are located. In her spare time, Lisa enjoys socializing with friends.

Jerome Marty

Jerome is an LLM student who hails from Paris, France. He spent four years at the University of Paris, where he specialized in international public law and human rights. His favorite classes here at Whittier are Public Law, International Law, and Human Rights Law. After he leaves Whittier, Jerome plans to return to France, finish his studies, and work for the United Nations. In his spare time, he likes to read, play soccer and football, and watch movies with friends.

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My Civil Rights Journey (cont.)
(continued from page 3)

where African-American children of all ages were viciously assaulted by a Klan mob while trying to integrate two schools on September 12, 1966. Mayor Freelon-Foster, then a high school girl, was one of the young people attacked.

The small town of Greenwood has an entire list of civil rights history sites. Broad Street Park witnessed the symbolic beginning of the Black Power movement the night of June 12, 1966. The old Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) headquarters in town still stands. The Greenwood City Hall and the Leflore County Courthouse in town witnessed voting rights demonstrations and assaults by state troopers during the summer of 1962.

Likewise, I paid a visit to the Sunflower County Courthouse in Indianola, Mississippi that witnessed voting rights demonstrations led by the former sharecropper Fannie Lou Hamer in the summer of 1962. Mrs. Hamer, who was a member of the SNCC Board of Directors, has a grave in the town of Ruleville; and the home of the great Delta voting rights leader Amzie Moore is found in the town of Cleveland. The stories behind many of these sites are detailed in two books in our library: “Local People” by John Dittmer and “I’ve Got the Light of Freedom” by Charles Payne.

Centennial in St. Louis
(continued from page 4)

Standing at the back of the Old Courthouse and looking east toward the Mississippi River, it is difficult for me to imagine what the area looked like at the time of Dred Scott, when the region was dominated by the riverboat. Rows of warehouses that had marked the riverfront of those days have long since been swept away and replaced by the 630-foot tall Gateway Arch, the symbolic gateway to the West.

To me, it resembles a gigantic headstone marking the “burial site” of the Museum of Westward Expansion, a museum dedicated to the efforts of Thomas Jefferson to expand the United States by persuading Napoleon to sell him the Louisiana Purchase territories. As the courthouse overshadows this facility, it seems well situated because the Jeffersonian dream to develop the continental United States was overshadowed by court decisions here that nearly destroyed it.

Washington University in St. Louis Virtual Library Digital Collection makes all 85 extant records of the first case and its appeal and the second case available online for viewing at http://library.wustl.edu/vlib/dredscott/toc.html.
Before his death one year ago, former U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist was inspired to write a book about the most controversial Presidential election in the history of our nation; namely, the 1876 contest between Republican Rutherford B. Hayes and Democrat Samuel J. Tilden. He developed the idea for the book from his own role in deciding the controversial presidential race between Governor George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore in the 2000 election.

Following election night in November 1876, complete returns were very uncertain for the states of South Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, and Oregon. Rehnquist mentioned that Article II of the Constitution does not actually spell out whether the counting of electoral votes is done by the Senate or the House. Republicans controlled the Senate, Democrats the House. Regarding the three Southern states, the Democrats accused the Republicans of engaging in substantial voter fraud, while the Republicans accused local Democrats of systematic intimidation of black voters.

Because the two houses of Congress were hopelessly deadlocked, they resolved upon calling in members of the Supreme Court to resolve the dispute as a supposedly objective third party. Thus Congress appointed an electoral commission of five Senators, five representatives, and five Supreme Court justices to resolve the dispute in counting the votes of the disputed states.

Since both houses of Congress disputed the ongoing electoral count, an insoluble impasse was averted when Congressional Republican members of the commission offered a deal to Southern Democrats. Federal troops would be withdrawn from the South if the Southern Democrats allowed the electoral count to continue. Thus, the count was finished on March 2, 1877--only two days prior to Inauguration Day--and the presidency was awarded to Hayes.

Substantial portions of Rehnquist's book also provide biographies of each of the five Justices sitting on the electoral commission and details some of the debates surrounding objections raised to vote counts in the disputed states by both Democrats and Republicans alike.

Phillip Sandoval

Phillip is a second-year student from Riverside. He attended Riverside Community College, then transferred to the University of Phoenix online to earn his degree in business administration. His law studies also include a business focus, and Phillip would like to find work in the field of international business once he earns his J.D.—although he’s keeping his options open. He believes one of the most important skills he has developed from working in the Law Library is time management.

Kimberly Williams

Kim is a third-year student and an Orange County native. She earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. Kim is focusing on family law, and her favorite classes so far are evidence and criminal procedure. She enjoys working with the friendly Library staff. Between work, classes, and studying, Kim treasures her time with her young daughter.
Someone wise once said...

My fellow citizens, let no one doubt that this is a difficult and dangerous effort on which we have set out. No one can foresee precisely what course it will take or what costs or casualties will be incurred. Many months of sacrifice and self-discipline lie ahead-months in which both our patience and our will will be tested, months in which many threats and denunciations will keep us aware of our dangers. But the greatest danger of all would be to do nothing.

The path we have chosen for the present is full of hazards, as all paths are; but it is the one most consistent with our character and courage as a nation and our commitments around the world. The cost of freedom is always high-but Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender or submission. Our goal is not the victory of might but the vindication of right-not peace at the expense of freedom, but both peace and freedom....

—President John F. Kennedy—
October 22, 1962