There’s More in the Library Than Meets the Eye
by J. Denny Haythorn, Associate Dean and Library Director

The Whittier Law School Library subscribes to several services that provide law and law-related titles online. Hein Online contains selected law journals and some historical documents. JSTOR contains law related journals, although by contract, the most recent volumes are about a year old. You can learn more about these services by going to their websites: http://heinonline.org/front/front-index and http://www.jstor.org/.

If you search for a title or subject on WOLLFPAC our online catalog, the titles to these resources will appear as a highlighted URL or web link. If you are searching from the Law School campus, you can directly link to the title through the catalog or search on the service’s website. If you are not on campus, you can link to the webpages through my.whittier in the Law Library section. From off-campus you must log into the service a second time using your my.whittier ID and password. The first time you log in from a particular computer, you must download a small program, then follow the instructions. We are working with Info Technology Supply Ltd., the supplier of OneLog login software, to eliminate the second login requirement.

Soon you will be able to reach the Library’s collection titled The Making of Modern Law directly through WOLLFPAC or by going to the company’s website. This collection of 22,000 titles is from the Harvard and Oxford Law Libraries, printed between 1800 and 1926.

In the next few years we expect that more information will be available online rather than in print as various trends push us in that direction. Our intention is to make access to these titles nearly as easy as opening a book, perhaps easier if you don’t have to actually visit the Library.

An example of this trend is the recent notice we received from the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO). As you know, the Library is a selective federal (and state) depository; we receive law and law-related materials from the government. Since 1981 we have received print copies of Reproducible Federal Tax Forms With Instructions. Recently, the GPO informed us that, beginning with the 2005 federal tax forms available early next year, they will stop printing and distributing these forms in paper format and will instead make them available only through the Internal Revenue Service website. We expect that the California state tax forms we had been receiving in paper format will soon be available only on the web.
Whittier Law School Library began its barcoding project in August 2004. Its purpose is to provide inventory control, usage statistics, and automated circulation of Library materials. So far, WLS Library student assistants and staff have barcoded over 20,000 of the 380,000 volumes in the collection. Once completed, the barcoding project will permit automated circulation using Innovative Interfaces’ Millennium system.

Definition of a Barcode

What is a barcode? Wikipedia Encyclopedia defines a barcode as a machine-readable representation of information in a visual format on a surface. Data is stored in the varying widths and spacings of printed parallel lines that represent numbers, symbols or letters to track items. They are read by optical scanners called barcode scanners or readers. Barcoding is an expensive, lengthy and labor intensive process that entails assignment of a unique number to each piece that can circulate and linking that item number to an item record, which in turn is linked to a bibliographic record found in our online catalog.

“Smart” vs. “Dumb” Barcodes

There are two types of barcode labels used in library automation: “smart” and “dumb” barcodes. Smart barcodes have detailed information such as author, title, and call number printed on them. Item numbers are preassigned by the computer and are linked to specific items in the database, thus eliminating the tedious process of manually linking the barcode number to the item record. Since proper arrangement of library materials is critical, a shelf-reading project needs to be done prior to application of smart barcode labels. Although smart barcodes have the added advantage of providing an inventory of the collection during their application and alerting a library of potential database problems, they are more expensive in terms of processing and in label production.

On the other hand, dumb barcodes are less expensive to produce and are used for future items that will be added to a library’s collection. However, they may be more costly when one factors the time spent to link the barcode number manually to the item record. Unlike smart barcodes, dumb barcodes do not reveal database problems until the linking step occurs. Nevertheless, cleanup and correction processes between the two are similar. For this project, the WLS Library has been using dumb barcodes.

Universal Product Code, Codabar, and Code 39

Lastly, there are many different barcode schemes. The most widely used barcoding symbology is the Universal Product Code (UPC). The UPC is used in business and industry, most familiarly by supermarkets, to control inventory and pricing. Two additional barcode symbologies commonly used in libraries are Codabar and Code 39. In library applications, Codabar generally consists of a 14-digit string, while Code 39 may contain fewer than 14 characters. The first digit in the Codabar is either a 2 or a 3—a label prefix number that represents either a patron or an item that does not change. The next four digits represent the library’s institution code. The last nine digits—called the check digit—represent the item numbers in numerical sequence. Each copy of a book, tape, disk, etc., is assigned its own unique item number.
Sample Law Examinations
by J. Denny Haythorn
Associate Dean and Director of the Law Library

Whittier Law School Library keeps a file of old examinations available for students to use to prepare for finals. We collect at least two samples of past exam questions for each professor for each course taught by him or her. Some professors have also included sample answers with their questions. Ask at the Circulation counter for paper copies by course or professor. We will soon be putting these online, available through the http://my.whittier Library pages.

Whittier also includes a series of past California Bar Examination questions. From Fall 1981 through July 2002, the past examinations are available in print in the Reserve collection beginning at call number KF 303 .E77. After 2002 the California State Bar began to post past examinations and selected answers on their website. You can reach it via the following URL: http://www.calbar.ca.gov/.

From the left menu, pick: “About the Bar” button
From the left drop-down menu, pick: “Bar Exam”
From that drop-down menu, pick: “Examinations/Statistics”
From the center sub-menu, pick: “Examination Results/Statistics”

Move down to the lists to view individual questions:

- Examination Questions
  July 2002-February 2005
- Essay Questions and Selected Answers
  July 2001-February 2005
- Performance Tests and Selected Answers
  July 2001-February 2005

Finally, in addition to several books on how to prepare for and take law school examinations, you may want to look at other materials that we have in our Reserve collection. Ballantine’s Problems in Law, a West hornbook found at KF388 .B3 1975. Harvard Law School Annual Examinations is a collection of older examinations that we have on Reserve at KF292 .H3A2 1993-1994.

Donations Made and Received
by J. Denny Haythorn
Associate Dean and Director of the Law Library

From time to time the Library accepts donations for the collection. Recently, for example, a 1972 graduate made a donation of law and medicine books from his collection when he realigned his practice. Most all inquiries we receive, however, are for titles or volumes we already have in the collection, and so we cannot accept them. When this happens, we work with donors to suggest other organizations that can use the books.

Whittier Law School Library also makes occasional donations we have removed from the collection to benefit other organizations. John O’Donnell, Public Services Librarian, has developed contacts with the Native Peoples Law Caucus. This summer the Library sent many books to the Caucus to support various tribal libraries. John was recognized for his efforts at the American Association of Law Libraries annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas during the session on “Creating a Native American Surplus Book Bank.”

Whittier has also sent surplus books to libraries in China, Israel, and Spain to support collections there. We plan to continue sending books to support other libraries. Of course, the books are in English, but the local librarians and law faculty members assure us the books are going to a good use.
Legal History: Can the President Do That?

On August 1, 2005, President George W. Bush appointed his nominee, John R. Bolton, to the post of United States Ambassador to the United Nations by recess appointment, the U.S. Senate not having voted on the controversial nomination before it recessed. Whether or not the President will suffer serious political consequences by appointing Mr. Bolton during the Senate’s summer recess remains to be seen and will be the stuff for political scientists and journalistic pundits to consider. If history is any guide, the answer is probably no. More important to legal scholars and law students is the question whether the President may make recess appointments following adjournment of the Senate. Paraphrased here, Article II, Sec. 2, cl. 2 of the U.S. Constitution states the President is empowered to appoint ambassadors with the advice and consent of the Senate; cl. 3 further states the President may fill “all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the Senate,” but all such “commissions” expire at the end of the Senate’s next session. One recent appointment or commission that expired was President George W. Bush’s appointment that elevated U.S. District Court Judge Charles W. Pickering to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. Historically, the recess appointment has been heavily exercised, particularly in the past 25 years. President Ronald W. Reagan made 240 such appointments in his two terms of office; George H. W. Bush used his power to make recess appointments 77 times in his single term as President. President Bill Clinton made 140 recess appointments in his 8-year stay in the White House. During his first term as President, George W. Bush made 110 such recess appointments. When was the first recess appointment made and by whom? President George Washington appointed South Carolina Judge John Rutledge as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1795.

Library Staff News of Note

WLS librarians Hugh Treacy, Margot McLaren, and John O’Donnell attended the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, July 16-20, 2005. This year’s theme was Strategize! Values, Visions, Vis tas.

Associate Dean and Library Director J. Denny Haythorn taught Aviation Law during Whittier Law School’s 2005 Summer Abroad program in Santander, Spain.

On his own initiative, Reference Assistant Chris Osborne is receiving private training in web page design using Macro media™ Dreamweaver. Chris has long been interested in web page design and he’ll be able to apply his new knowledge and skills to projects at home and in the workplace.

In July four recent Whittier Law School graduates who worked as Library Student Assistants were notified they had passed the February 2005 California Bar Examination: Fred Tong, Johnathon Hewko, Euketa Oliver, and April Molin. Congratulations to all and well done!

Library Hours

Summer 2005

Monday—Thursday
8:00 am—11:00 pm

Friday
8:00 am—6:00 pm

Saturday
10:00 am—6:00 pm

Sunday
10:00 am—11:00 pm

Someone wise once said…. 

A constitution states or ought to state not rules for the passing hour, but principles for an expanding future. In so far as it deviates from that standard, and descends into details and particulars it loses its flexibility, the scope of interpretation contracts, the meaning hardens.

— Benjamin N. Cardozo, Nature of the Judicial Process 83 (1921).