

THE REPORTER

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Valparaiso University School of Law Library

Law Library takes center stage—again—in Wesemann Hall renovations

by Mary Persyn, Associate Dean for Library Services

Last summer, we found room for three new offices in the Law Library. This summer, we're doing what it takes to create four more offices, including moving a few books (roughly 20,000 of them, but who's counting?) to the ASRS at CCLIR. For you new students, CCLIR is the Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources—the main library on campus. The ASRS is their Automated Storage and Retrieval System, which can be viewed in action at http://www.valpo.edu/library/circ/ASRS_Video.mpg using Windows Media Player or similar software. It's easy to request an item from the ASRS using Galileo, the online catalog for both the Law Library and CCLIR. Simply press the "Request Item" button; then indicate the library from which you'd like to pick it up. Your request sets in motion a giant crane which transports the bin containing your selection to an area where a staff member can locate your selection and check it out to you.

Although it's not hard to procure an item using the ASRS, we are retaining in the Law Library the newer and more frequently used items. To the ASRS are going some large sets, such as the official reporters from Illinois and California, and a great deal of older material (a treatise from 1892 on laws governing the manufacture and sale of "intoxicating liquors," for instance). Lucky for us, the ASRS has a 300,000-volume capacity.

Physically moving 20,000 books is only part of our job. We also have to scan the bar code inside each book to



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You Can Read It Here . . .

The Reporter

The Reporter, a newsletter written and produced by the Valpo Law Library staff, begins its 17th year with this edition. We usually publish several issues during the school year and distribute copies throughout Wesemann Hall. Recent issues can also be read on the law school's Web site at www.valpo.edu/law/: Click Law Library > Library Information > *The Reporter*. Topics for articles include new legal sources in print and online, research strategies, reviews of books and films with legal themes, human interest stories, and library news. We welcome suggestions for future articles.

change its location information in the online catalog, and we need to handwrite the bar code on top of the book so it's easy to locate in the ASRS bin. At present, books are stacked high on tables on the second floor of the Law Library, awaiting transportation to their new home.

One goal of our book-moving project is to have enough room on our shelves for ten years of growth in our collection. The other goal, mentioned earlier, is to create four new offices on the second floor of the library. An office to the right of the book elevator, where the drinking fountain used to be, will belong to James Saqui, Associate Director of Marketing Communications. The other three offices will be on the west end of the library, near the photocopier. These will be faculty offices, accessible from the faculty hallway.

It may seem that the library is giving up some much-needed study space. That is true, but only temporarily. A future stage in the renovations will give back to the library more study space than it is currently losing. An enormous storage area adjacent to the lower level of the library will be remodeled to provide new study carrels, group study rooms, casual seating, and restrooms.

The library is not the only part of Wesemann Hall undergoing change. On the main floor, the locker room is becoming the new Admissions Office. A new locker room is planned for the lower level. Hopefully, the most distracting construction will be completed before classes begin, when we'll have the pleasure of meeting new 1-Ls and seeing the familiar faces of returning students.

Student Help Wanted in the Law Library

Earn extra money during the academic year helping out in the law library. Students may work up to twenty hours per week (except first-year law students, who may work up to ten hours). Library positions are filled quickly, so if you are interested, please apply as soon as possible.

CIRCULATION DESK AIDES

Are you a "people" person who enjoys helping others? If so, please consider putting your interpersonal skills to work by becoming a student aide at the Law Library Circulation Desk. Your duties for this very important, highly visible job will include checking books in and out; answering the phone; maintaining the library's copy machines; and fielding myriad questions from your fellow law students as well as law faculty and staff and members of the general public. Previous experience in customer service or working in a library is a definite asset for this position. Since the Circulation Desk

is staffed by student aides every hour that the Law Library is open, working a minimum of two consecutive hours per assigned shift is a must. If you are interested in applying for a job as a Circulation Desk Aide, please contact Debbie Blennerhassett at 219-465-7815 or debbie.blennerhassett@valpo.edu.

BOOK SHELVING AIDES

For those who love neatness and order, this job is for you! You will be putting on the shelves not only new books that the Law Library has purchased, but also books that have been either checked out and returned, or left in the library on tables, in carrels, etc., after they

have been used. It may not be a glamorous job, but it's an important and essential one, because a book not in its proper place is as good as lost. By placing library materials where they belong, you ensure that your fellow students, your professors, and other library patrons can readily find what they are looking for. Although hours are flexible for this position, student aides must work at least two consecutive hours at a time. For more information, please contact Debbie Blennerhassett at 219-465-7815 or debbie.blennerhassett@valpo.edu.