Law library will cut the ribbon on state-of-the-art reading room

by Mary Persyn, Associate Dean for Library Services

Imagine it is late August. You’ve returned to the law school and you’re touring the law library. Your walk downstairs feels brighter somehow, and you notice the gleaming white textured wallpaper in the stairwell. As you enter the lower level, you place your feet on all new carpeting and observe the fresh paint on all the walls: eggshell, terra cotta, and mauve. The government documents shelves are still there, but now there are fewer of them; and beyond these, where you’d expect to see the bound journals, you behold a sight you’ve been longing to see: four rows of new study tables, each with built-in lamps and electrical outlets, flanked by new chairs adding 114 seats to the library. Study carrels line the windowed wall. Against the back wall are shelves of law reviews published by Indiana schools. Opposite these are the USCCAN volumes that students learn to use in their 1-L Legal Research class.

The above scenario will become reality by the time classes begin; but at present, it’s a work in progress. The wiring for the study tables is installed and the walls have been painted, but certain areas of the floor are still waiting for carpet. When completed, the new reading room will be reserved for quiet study. Students who wish to talk to colleagues while they work may use the first and second floors of the library.

The second floor of the library is undergoing transformation, too. Space has been taken from the back of the library for construction of new offices for faculty and secretaries. To make room, the librarians busied themselves last April weeding the second floor collection. This brought the total number of volumes in the ASRS at CCLIR to just under 47,000. For you new students, CCLIR is the Christopher Center for Information

You Can Read It Here . . .

The Reporter

The Reporter, a newsletter written and produced by the Valpo Law library staff, begins its 18th 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.
Resources—the main library on campus. The ASRS is their Automated Storage and Retrieval System. 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.

Most of the bound law reviews that once occupied so much space on the library lower level are now shelved in order in basement storage; they are available by request at the circulation desk. Because so many students now use LexisNexis, Westlaw, and HeinOnline to locate law review articles, the bound law reviews have not been getting much use. We determined that they no longer need a spot in the library limelight and the space they occupied will serve students much better as a quiet study area.

Last but not least of our summer changes: we’re adding two new photocopiers. Whether you’re a new or returning student, we’re looking forward to enjoying with you our “new” library.

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**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 fellow law students; 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 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.

**Acquisitions Aide**

If you like office work and paying attention to details, consider a flexible schedule of three to four hours per week helping the acquisitions and serials librarian. Tasks include checking Galileo, the library’s online catalog, for titles on lists sent by vendors; finding out if specific items are on the library shelves; using Millennium, the library’s program for updating Galileo, to enter notes in order records; and filing. This is an excellent opportunity to become more familiar with the law library and Galileo while receiving an introduction to law library acquisitions. For more information, please contact Gail Hartzell at 219-465-7836 or gail.hartzell@valpo.edu.