

# UGA AMICUS BRIEFS

October 2001

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA LAW LIBRARY

## **Library Circulation and Security Systems Planned**

*by Carol Watson, Reference and Computer Services Librarian*

Nothing can be more frustrating to a law student trying to do legal research than discovering that an essential book resource is not on the shelf. As you well know, the UGA Law Library not only lacks a security system, but we also still check out books using an antiquated paper system. Currently, it's nearly impossible for us to keep track of what's on the shelves, what's checked out and what's missing.



Luckily, change is on the way! With the recent state legislative appropriation of \$3.2 million specifically earmarked to upgrade law school technology, we will upgrade the library's systems and, in turn, significantly enhance your legal research options and law school experience. We have chosen to leapfrog over current technology and instead will implement a state-of-the-art library and security system.

The Library has just ordered the Innovative Interfaces, Inc. circulation system Millenium to replace our manual system. Collection Management Librarian Maureen Cahill recently commented, "The whole notion of checking out materials will change. Students will be able to look at our online catalog to determine how many copies of an item we own, whether the book has been checked out, and when the book is due to be returned. One of the many exciting upgrade features is that students will be able to self-check out library materials."

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Our library security system will utilize Radio Frequency Identification (RFID). RFID has been used in warehouses for quite some time, but is just recently being used in libraries. Most libraries have magnetic security systems that sound an alarm when an item is improperly removed. RFID technology identifies each book individually by reading its adhesive tag emitting radio frequency. When a book passes through our security gates, we will be able to determine precisely which item is being removed from the library.

Radio frequency technology will allow us to manage and inventory our collection in ways that we've never been able to do before. With a portable wand, we will be able to inventory our entire collection in approximately two weeks. We'll also be able to easily search for lost or misplaced items.

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Much of this capability is still some months in the future, but with a well-organized collection and greater accountability for our materials, we hope to significantly improve your legal research capabilities.

## **COUNTDOWN TO LIBRARY SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Calendar of Events to Date**

#### ***April – September***

Library staff researched library and security system options including site visits to libraries using RFID technology.

#### ***September - October***

The lengthy procurement process is currently underway. Board of Regents approval has been granted and paperwork is now headed to each vendor.

#### ***January 2002***

Library hardware is scheduled for upgrade (tentative).

**Stay tuned for more details!**

### **Computer Labs Renamed**

If you're as tired as we are of the confusion about the Law Library computer labs, here's good news: they all have new names. Now, instead of referring to the labs in ways that sound like "the one in the back with the blue carpet, the big one," we will now call them by room numbers. So the lab near the Circulation Desk in the main building of the Library will henceforth be known as "Lab 274." Back in the Annex are "Lab A211" (the large lab where the Help Desk and printer are) and "Lab A212" (the smaller lab in the corner of that floor). From now on computer research sessions and other activities scheduled for these rooms will be announced using these new lab names.

### **New Arrivals**

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The Law Library is pleased to welcome our newest family member, River McBride. The first child of Serials Assistant Lisa McBride and her husband Geoff, little River weighed eight pounds, fifteen ounces when she was born very early on August 29.

River's mother Lisa grew up in Conyers, Georgia and finished her B.S. degree in Sociology here at Georgia in 1999. She joined the Acquisitions Department staff in December, 2000. Geoff is a musician who's working on a new album.

Though she's not quite so young, we're equally excited that Kate Billings became our new Cataloging Assistant in August. Kate, who grew up in Lilburn, Georgia, finished a degree in French and English in 1998, and later worked in Serials at the Main Library before joining our staff. She's been married to husband Matt, a web designer, for two years. Kate continues to take courses in French and plans to study International Communications at the graduate level.

## **Come to the Reference Desk for Assistance**

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When you have a question about legal research – come to the Reference Desk!

For those of you who've never stopped at a reference desk in your life, think of the Reference Desk as an *information* desk. Of course you can find works in the Library's collection in our online catalog GAVEL, or find law review articles in Legaltrac, and it's worth your time to learn about these. But for any questions you can't answer yourself, the Reference Desk may be able to help you find what you're looking for.

What other kinds of information can you get at the Reference Desk? Here's where we can look up your forgotten Westlaw or Lexis password for you, find the phone number for a federal judge, or make suggestions about where to begin research for a paper. We can show you how to use the numerous databases we make available to the law school community, or log you in to those that require it. We can even help find a misplaced book or track down a particular citation.

The Law Library offers you the services of six reference librarians: Sally AsKew, Anne Burnett, Maureen Cahill, Fran Norton, Jim Sherwood and Carol Watson. All of them have law degrees – five of them, indeed, from UGA — so they are likely to know what sorts of materials you're looking for. And while each of them actually staffs the Reference Desk only occasionally, you can ask questions of them any time – just call or e-mail them in their offices (for contact information look to the Law Library Guide on the Library's webpage).

No question is too “stupid” to ask at the Reference Desk – we understand that first-year students have to learn the library from scratch and that the most experienced library user cannot find everything in our collection. And please don't apologize for your questions – even if we are working on something else when you stop by the desk, your questions are our first priority!

There's a lot to remember about law school, but if you forget everything else, remember to ask us at the Reference Desk!

### **Network Cards for Christmas?**

As you know by now, the Computing Services department is currently in the process of installing the equipment necessary to connect the entire law school complex to a wireless computer network. But to access to the law school's network you'll need a network card for your laptop. In case you want to do some year-end budgeting or need to send Santa your list, the network cards will likely run about \$150. Computing Services is evaluating card vendors now for the best deal available on network cards and will contact you soon with more specific details.

## Watchable Websites

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### **Google changes** -- <http://www.google.com>

The popular search engine Google has added some new features. Acclaimed for its simplicity and good results, the search engine has now added the 'OR' feature to its modified Boolean search. Too, Google, now searches some previously unsearchable sites; its 'Image' search finds images labeled with the search terms, while its 'Usenet' search looks for information in the archives of Usenet discussion groups.

### **Federal Legislative History Research** -- <http://www.llsdc.org/sourcebook/fed-leg-hist.htm>

Maintained by the Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C., Inc., this site is a comprehensive primer on finding and compiling Federal legislative history (even the outline is almost four pages!). Bookmark this website, and the next time you're stumped you can look at it for hints on how to find specific documents or testimony.

## Library Hours

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### **Regular Hours:**

*Monday - Friday*

**7:30 a.m. - Midnight**

*Saturday - Sunday*

**8:00 a.m. - Midnight**

### **Fall Semester: Through December 12, 2001**

August 13 - September 2

Regular Hours

Monday, September 3 (Labor Day)

6:00 p.m. - Midnight

September 4 - November 12

Regular Hours

November 13 - 19

Regular Opening Hours  
Closing Hours: 1:00 a.m.

November 20 - 21

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

November 22 (Thanksgiving Day)

CLOSED

November 23 - December 11

Regular Opening Hours  
Closing Hours: 1:00 a.m.

December 12

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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*This newsletter is a publication of the University of Georgia School of Law Library. Read it on the Web at <http://www.lawsch.uga.edu/newsletter/index.html>. Please send all comments and contributions to:*

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