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Inside This Issue
1 Oklahoma Centennial
2 The Making of Modern Law
3 Enhanced Access to Lexis
   and Westlaw Databases
4 Free Westlaw Access
5 Landmark Briefs and Arguments Set

The State of Oklahoma Turns 100
By Darin K. Fox and Marilyn K. Nicely

In 2007, the State of Oklahoma will celebrate its centennial. In anticipation of this milestone, the Law Library has intentionally examined its collections and resources with the goal of drawing upon the past while advancing into the future. Common law builds upon the past as it deals with issues of the present which in turn impact the future. The Law Library’s role is to mediate between past, present, and future. Recognizing the importance of being a resource for faculty, students, scholars, and researchers seeking the bounty of the past and the promise of the future, the Law Library has initiated several projects which both celebrate the past and also look to the future. In this newsletter, you can read about important new resources at the Law Library which provide access to legal history. You can also read about resources which provide new opportunities for scholarship and research.

The Making of Modern Law
By Darin K. Fox, Director of the Law Library

This summer, the Law Library purchased a major new scholarly database called The Making of Modern Law. The database contains the full-text of more than 22,000 legal treatises, practice manuals, form books, letters, and speeches dating from 1800-1926. The collection contains important works by notable authors like Bentham, Coke, Locke, and many others. These works cover all areas of law—99 different subject areas from Administrative Law to Trusts. To give you an idea of the size of this collection, if you consider all of the titles that the Law Library makes available in our 50,000 square foot space, this one database increased the total titles by about one-third. The Making of Modern Law can be accessed from any computer connected to the Internet using your OU 4x4 login. Members of the Bar and other patrons can access this resource from any of the computers in the information commons near the Circulation and Reference desks.
Historic Papers Digitized
The Law Library is pleased to announce the loan of a unique collection of papers dating from the American Revolutionary era. These papers are the records of the Illinois Wabash Land Company, a post-Revolutionary group of land speculators, and were collected over a fifty-year period by John Hill Brinton, the last secretary of the company. The collection includes minutes, correspondence, lists of shareholders, miscellaneous documents and receipts, and several hand-drawn maps of the company's land purchases of 1773 and 1775. Professor Lindsay Robertson used the collection in his recent book Conquest by Law (Oxford University Press, 2005), which describes the dispossession of the lands belonging to the Indians using legal means and focuses on the landmark Supreme Court decision Johnson v. M'Intosh in 1823. The papers remained in the Brinton family for more than 200 years and have been loaned to the University of Oklahoma Law Library by Jasper Brinton, the great-great-great grandson of John Hill Brinton. The Library plans a cooperative digitization project this fall with the University of Oklahoma Libraries, utilizing state-of-the-art equipment. The resulting high-resolution scans will be mounted on the University Libraries' Digital Collections website and will be available nationwide to researchers and scholars.

New International Law Database
International Law in Domestic Courts is a new online case reporting service that brings you the most important public international law issues being decided in domestic courts around the world today. Legal experts in more than 60 countries identify the most significant cases and thoroughly analyze the decisions in those cases. Full text judgments are included, as are authoritative English translations of key passages. This fully searchable database—by country, key word, or topic—will be a valuable tool for lawyers, legal scholars, and anyone interested in the development of international law. This fully searchable database—by country, keyword, or topic—will be a valuable tool for lawyers, legal scholars, and anyone interested in the development of international law.

Strickland Memorial Collection and Gift
Former University of Oklahoma College of Law Professor Rennard Strickland has made a significant gift to the Donald E. Pray Law Library to support the Strickland Memorial Collection. This Collection, part of the Law Library’s Native Peoples Collection, is one of the nation’s largest collections of legal, historical, and cultural materials relating to Native Peoples. The Law Library wishes to thank Professor Strickland for his ongoing generosity and support of the Law Library collections. Professor Strickland will be returning to the College of Law in the spring of 2007 as an emeritus faculty member. He will have an office in emeritus wing of the Law Library.
Enhanced Access to Lexis and Westlaw Databases for Students and Faculty
By Marilyn K. Nicely, Technical Services Librarian

As the legal publishing world continues to transition from print to online formats, it is increasingly important for researchers to be able to find databases which are relevant to them. Along these lines, the law library has acquired a new subscription which provides enhanced access to the treatise publications in Lexis and Westlaw using the library’s online catalog as a gateway. Whenever a patron performs a search for books and journals in the online catalog, they will also be directed to databases in Lexis and Westlaw which match their search terms. An author, title, or subject search in the catalog retrieves resources with a hotlink to Westlaw and Lexis for OU Law students and faculty. In addition, members of the Bar whose subscription includes the publication in question are able to hotlink and to log in with their own password. This new feature of the online library catalog will be very helpful to faculty and students who no doubt will find important resources that they would have otherwise overlooked in the massive databases of these two online legal publishers.

Free Westlaw Access for Alumni
By Darin K. Fox, Director of the Law Library

In the fall of 2005, the Law Library subscribed to a “public access” version of the popular Westlaw database. In the past, Westlaw access had been limited to law students and faculty only. Under this new subscription, all OU Law alumni can now access the full-text of case law, statutes, regulations, and many important practice aids. Westlaw can be accessed from three terminals located in the Law Library near the reference desk. Patrons must use their OU 4x4 login or obtain a login from the Circulation Desk to access this service.

Landmark Briefs and Arguments of the Supreme Court of the United States: Constitutional Law 1793-1973
By Marilyn K. Nicely, Technical Services Librarian

The Law Library has purchased a major set of materials called Landmark Briefs and Arguments Before the Supreme Court of the United States. This set is an 80-volume collection of documents on significant topics of law brought before the Supreme Court during almost two centuries. It contains briefs which are facsimile reproductions of the briefs that were filed at the Supreme Court and the plaintiffs’ and respondents’ main arguments, plus amicus curiae briefs. The cases have been selected by distinguished legal scholars. The arguments included show the court as a forum for debate on a multitude of divisive issues. The set is a basic research source which provides insight into the jurisprudence of the Supreme Court and offers a historic perspective on the Court’s role in American government and society.
New Law Library Guide Available

The Law Library has produced a new Library Guide which describes the Library’s collections, services, and policies. Copies are available in the Library at the Reference Desk. If you would like a copy sent to you, contact the Law Library Administrative Office at (405) 325-4311. The Guide also is available in PDF format on the Law Library web site: http://www.law.ou.edu/library/

In Memoriam – Shelly Clement

The Law Library recently suffered the loss of our Acquisitions Librarian, Shelly Clement. Shelly passed away after an extended illness. She has worked in the Law Library since 1988. Her dedication to the work of the library and to the Law School has been unflagging, even during the later stages of her illness. Shelly did the behind-the-scenes work of library book purchasing and record keeping. She put the library at the top of her life’s priorities and her example has been an inspiration to other staff members. She will be greatly missed.