

Hopper Headlines

Back to School Edition

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Welcome

from Tim Kearley, Library Director

On behalf of the library staff, I welcome all of you new students and welcome back you veterans. I hope you had a profitable summer and are ready to begin the new school year with enthusiasm. It was a quiet summer here in the library, with no major projects afoot. There is one big event on the horizon, however—the site inspection that’s part of the College of Law’s ABA reaccreditation process.

The site team will be here October 6-9, looking around, talking with students, faculty and staff, visiting classes, and generally taking the pulse of the school. Most of our visitors—including the last site inspection team—have noted with surprise how informal we are, how students feel comfortable customizing their carrels with many personal effects, and how the library has no electronic security system. My response to their surprise has been that trust and enlightened self-interest can be extremely effective in creating a comfortable and secure environment.

Self-regulation is essential for creating the kind of library we all want. I was happy to see my bias toward few formal rules, and in favor of relying on people’s inherent good sense, verified by recent neuroeconomic research.

According to the Times of London, “one neuroeconomist thinks our moral code is so ingrained that substituting it with formal regulation can lead to worse behavior.”

According to Prof. Paul Zak (Claremont Graduate University) “penalties and regulations may crowd out the good behavior that most people, most of the time, follow.” In the library context, this means we lay down a few basic rules for its use—our “skeleton of formal regulation,” as Prof. Zak puts it—“to stop the sociopaths taking advantage, fleshed out with plenty of self-regulation.” Our formal regulations deal with health and safety, the protection of property, and ensuring that everyone enjoys equal access to library resources.

You can see where this is leading: to a reminder for you to refresh your memory about library policies in general and about carrel use and our appliance policies in particular. The latter are as follows: 1) all electrical devices not plugged directly into a wall socket must be plugged into surge protectors that meet the UW residence hall standards;¹ 2) space heaters must be Underwriters Listed or Factory Mutual approved and have a tip-over automatic shut-down feature; 3) no large-amp appliances (over 800 watts) are allowed; 4) no appliances with open heating elements (e.g., toasters) are allowed. We want to be relaxed and comfortable, but also safe and professional.

The philosopher Robert Nozick in Anarchy, State, and Utopia claims only a “minimal state” is morally defensible. Whatever the truth of that, we in the library certainly prefer the “minimal bureaucracy” we operate. We would rather depend mostly on your common sense and common courtesy than a fat Code of Library Regulations to keep the place operating effectively. Besides, as Lao-Tsu said ages ago (and lawyers know well): “When weights and measures were invented, people learned to steal by weights and measures.” So, again, I welcome you to what we hope will be your home away from home and I invite you to help us keep it a comfortable place in which to work.

¹ “Please purchase surge protectors that are designed to detect cord damage, disconnect powering 25/1000 of a second, and that prevent cord fires and shock hazards. One such product is made by the Tech Research Corporation. [It is] called Fire Shield and can be found at many stores, such as Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Lowes, etc. and will be available through the UW Bookstore.... The recommended models are: Model 90502, 90514, 90585, and 90513.” <http://www.uwyo.edu/reslife-dining/faq/index.html>

Quick Library Reminders

As we begin a new semester, please review this list of library services that help to make our environment as comfortable as possible for all users.

-  The building has key card entrance on the disabled doors on the southwest end of the building, and your card works on the main library doors by the circulation desk.
-  Copiers for student printing accounts, Westlaw, and Lexis are maintained on the first and second floors of the library, and a scanner is available in the PLC computer room.
-  Please leave library furniture where it is placed. The comfortable new chairs in the PLC computer room were purchased from student computer fees and are intended to stay in the computer room.
-  The library provides assistance with materials fulfillment for items that are not in our library. There are several options: interlibrary loan, Request It, and Prospector. See a reference librarian or the circulation manager for assistance.
-  Library databases are available offsite through our proxy server using your university username and password.
-  Carrels are distributed by the Potter Law Club, but they are housed in the library. Please maintain your space so that you do not intrude on neighboring carrels or library areas.
-  There are five study rooms to reserve for group study throughout the three floors of the library.
-  Please take phone calls and conversations out of the library to preserve the study environment.
-  Food in the library should be cleaned up appropriately to forestall instances of pests and odor. Maintenance staff may not be available to empty individual garbage receptacles daily.

QR Codes in the Library

This year, as you use the library's print resources, watch for our new online tutorials. QR code labels such as this are situated throughout the library, mostly among the reference area resources. These codes link to brief audio/visual tutorials on how to use the print resources. The tutorials are accessible on computers, laptops, tablets, ipads, iphones, and smart phones.



Library Budget

Tim Kearley, Library Director

There's bad news and good news on the library acquisitions budget front. The bad news is that the UW was hit with a 6% budget cut for this 2013-14 fiscal year, as most of you probably are aware. The good news is that the legislature had previously increased our acquisitions budget very substantially and that our budget operates on a biennium. Therefore, we were relatively conservative on spending last year, carried over money into this year and still have a healthy acquisitions budget despite the cuts.

So, feel free to suggest books, databases, journals, etc. for us to purchase. You can make your suggestion to any of the librarians or go to the library web page at <http://www.uwyo.edu/lawlib> "Student Services>Materials Request Purchase" to use our online form. In response to the opinions you expressed on the self-study survey you filled out last spring, we've already purchased additional copies of study aids for reserve. (We also added three more wireless receivers to improve web access in the library.)

