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SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

HEAFY HEADNOTES

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FIRST STAGE OF LAW LIBRARY AUTOMATION BEGINS THIS SUMMER

by Aquinas Tambimuttu

The first stage of the law library automation project gets under way this summer with the bar-coding of library materials.

Regina Wallen, Director of Technical Services in the law library who is coordinating the bar-coding project, said this task involves placing a bar-code, similar to the codes found on grocery items, in each of the more than 120,000 hard-bound volumes and videos in the library.

Heafy Law Library



Sample Barcode

Each student's and professor's library card will also have a bar-code that will be linked to a particular book's bar-code when the item is checked out, said Wallen, adding that this linkage will be made when a light-pen is used to read the bar-codes on the patron's library card and on the book.

Wallen hopes to bar-code about 70,000 hard-bound volumes and videos, out of
(Continued on page 2.)

LAW LIBRARY TO CLOSE May 20-24

To facilitate the bar-coding project, the law library will be closed from Monday May 20 through Friday May 24 -- the week following graduation.

Regular hours will resume on Saturday May 25.

Mary Hood, Associate Director of the law library said the week of May 20-25 is the ideal period to shut down the library as it is not an intense study period even for those preparing for the Bar Exam.

The bulk of the barcoding will be done during the shut-down. But the project will continue through the summer until completed.

"It is possible the library will be closed for one week after the Bar in July to facilitate completion of this major project," said Hood, adding that this possibility is remote.

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a total of about 120,000 hard-bound volumes, during the 5 day shut-down of the library in May. (See Law Library to close..., p.1 col. 2.)

This summer Wallen hopes to have all titles in the library loaded into the on-line public access catalog (OPAC) to facilitate the automation process.

Mary Hood, Associate Director of the law library, said library staff have been working on automation plans since 1985. "This was well before construction began on the new addition to the library in 1987," she added.

Hood projects on-line catalog access availability in Fall 1991 and the automation of circulation procedures by Spring Semester 1992.

The on-line catalog eventually will revolutionize catalog searches in the law library, permitting patrons to search the catalogs of all the libraries on campus from one location. "Ultimately students and faculty will be able to dial into the catalog from a computer at home via a modem - even at 2:00 a.m.," said Hood, adding that students and faculty who have the necessary hardware and IDs are currently able to log onto WESTLAW and LEXIS from home.

Wallen said, "Eventually, professors will also be able to access the on-line catalog from their faculty offices."

The automation of the law library is linked to the automation of the undergraduate and science libraries on campus. Recently the University hired Fred Gertler, a systems implementation librarian, who is coordinating the automation process in all three libraries. The automation of the three libraries "Eventually will be followed by the

accessing of all university academic resources" such as Archives and the Media Lab, said Hood.

Barbara Friedrich, Public Services Librarian at Heafey, said that the impending automation of the library will streamline the circulation department.

Friedrich listed some of the positive aspects of automation:

- Faster check-out of books; elimination of book check-out cards.
- Automatic generation of notices for overdue books, fines, holds, and book in-demand requests.
- The system will prevent the inadvertent check-out of books with a "Hold" on them.
- Automatic generation of circulation statistics which can be used to determine when additional copies of items need to be ordered.

All California Books Move to California Room

This summer, all books pertaining to California law now shelved in the Reserve Room will be shifted into the California Room on the first floor of the library.

This move will make the California collection "current and dynamic," said Regina Wallen, Director of Technical Services, adding that most of the non-current California material and treatises will be shelved in the compact shelving area on the first floor.

LAW LIBRARY ASSISTS PRISONERS WHO CLAIM THEY'RE INNOCENT

by Aquinas Tambimuttu

It's not unusual for the law library's Norman Davidson to receive letters that begin with a flourish and an interesting use of metaphor as in, "I hope this letter finds you in high spirits under an umbrella of prosperity."

These letters to Davidson are from prisoners in various states requesting copies of legal materials. For over fifteen years, the staff of Heafey Law Library has been involved in a program that assists convicted felons most of whom feel they have been wrongly and illegally incarcerated.



For a minimal fee, this program provides photocopies of legal materials the prisoners think can be used as a precedent to prove their incarceration is unconstitutional.

Davidson, a library specialist in the Circulation Department, is the current coordinator of the prisoner request program.

Mary Emery, Law Library Director and Associate Dean of the Law School who initiated this program at Heafey almost two decades ago, said that this program was a response to a need felt in the early '70's. Following the *Miranda* decision there was a general concern about the rights of prisoners which prompted several law libraries nationwide

to make available their resources to any prisoner who felt unjustly convicted, she said.

The *Miranda* rule requires that prior to any questioning by law enforcement officers, the person taken into custody must be told that he/she has the right to remain silent, and the right to have an attorney present during questioning.

In their requests, the prisoners are required to provide the exact cite -- volume, title, and page numbers -- of the materials they require. The prisons make available to their inmates the necessary information needed to decide on which cases to request, said Davidson, adding that "prisons in the U.S. are required to have a minimal law library accessible to prisoners."

Emery said these minimal facilities are extremely limited and in many instances the material is so out-of-date that the prisoners depend heavily on county and university law libraries to get the material they need.

The Heafey Law Library will provide any prisoner in any of the 50 states the first 25 pages free of charge. Each additional page costs 20 cents. Davidson said Heafey's policies in this regard are unique because it is probably the only library in this program to provide the first 25 pages copied free of charge. (One law library in Davidson's home state of North Dakota, for example, charges \$5 for each case photocopied.) Also, Heafey probably is one of the few law libraries in the nation to make

available this service to prisoners in all 50 states, asserted Davidson.

Most cases requested, naturally, involve habeas corpus. Lately, however, Davidson has observed a sharp increase in requests for cases involving incompetent legal representation.

Some prisoners avail themselves of this service provided by the library to fight for certain personal rights they think are denied to them by the prison system. Davidson remembers a prisoner belonging to the Rastafarian religious sect who wanted to prove to the courts that the prison administration could not deny him his right to adhere to the practices of his religious sect and wear his hair long.

Last fiscal year 45,000 pages of photocopies were sent to prisoners in New York, Georgia, Washington, Oregon, Virginia, Arizona, Alaska, and Louisiana. Davidson has observed that a majority of requests for case materials is from Louisiana. "At least 80% of the annual requests are from this state," he said, adding that this was a conservative estimate.

Mary Hood, Associate Director for the law library said the disproportionate number of requests from particular states tend to be cyclical. "Several years ago, the majority of requests was from New York," she said.

Quite often it is the relatives of the prisoners who cover the cost of the photocopying and for Davidson, this has provided contacts with relatives of convicts. He said the grandmother of one convict assured him in writing, "My grandson certainly enjoys the material you send."

The correspondence with prisoners has caused Davidson some concerns, too, since the letters reveal that many of them are semi-literate. "How they are able to read and digest the cases is a mystery," he said.

"Each prison probably has at least one jail-house lawyer who helps the semi-literate," speculates Davidson who feels there is a strong need for the photocopying program which is now well established.

As Dean Emery puts it, "From a local ad hoc program in the Heafey Law Library we have gone forward to join a network of libraries which provides a nationwide response" to meet the needs of those who feel they have been wrongly incarcerated.

HEAFEY HEADNOTES

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This newsletter will be published periodically.