



Law Library E-Newsletter The Book Docket

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Carol Yecies, Editor
Associate Law Library Director, Information Services and Administration

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Article of the Month

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Meg Kribble

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Are You 2.0?

Meg Kribble, Reference Librarian

Ever since Tim O'Reilly coined it in 2004, Web 2.0 has been one of the hottest buzzwords around. So what is Web 2.0? And, more importantly, what can it do for legal professionals?

If you ask ten people what Web 2.0 is, you'll likely get ten different answers, including a few confused looks. The numerical suffix makes it sound as if a new version of the web was released like a major software upgrade. However, for the most part, Web 2.0 simply uses the existing architecture of the Internet to build on the web's potential for enabling communication, collaboration, and user-created content. Blogs, wikis, social bookmarking and social networking sites, online word processors and databases, and sites that allow users to tag content are all Web 2.0. All of these services use the web as their platform; there is no software required beyond a web browser.

Although many people defining Web 2.0 would say that it's more about state of mind than a specific technology, there are a few technical terms you'll hear in conjunction with 2.0. Asynchronous JavaScript And XML (AJAX) is a blend of several technologies that allows browsers to dynamically update small portions of a webpage, so the entire page doesn't have to reload when a user makes a change. Gmail and Flickr both use AJAX. Application Programming Interface (API) is a key bit of code essential to mashups, which are applications that combine data from two or more sources. The API key of Google Maps is the most popular, because displaying data geographically is so useful. Finally, Really Simple Syndication (RSS) is the tool that makes it possible for blogs, news services, and any other regularly updated websites to push new content to subscribers. If you use Bloglines or Google Reader, you're using RSS.

Web 2.0 applications are known for being in "perpetual beta," no matter how long they've been around. In the world of Web 2.0, beta doesn't mean "not

ready for prime time,” rather it signifies that the service or application is being continually improved.

Communication, collaboration, content, continuous improvement. Web 2.0 sounds like a great development for educators. So many librarians have embraced Web 2.0 that they’ve created a new buzzword: search for “Library 2.0,” on Google, and you’ll get nearly a million hits. Law librarians have been blogging for years. How else are we using 2.0 to help improve our patron services? Here’s a quick overview of some Law Library 2.0 projects to give you a taste:

Civil Law Dictionary Project wiki

For practitioners and researchers used to common law, working with civil law concepts can be challenging. Vicenç Feliú, Foreign, Comparative and International Law Librarian at Louisiana State University, seeks to make it easier by enabling librarians, researchers, and practitioners to share their understanding through a wiki. The Civil Law Dictionary Project wiki uses the free wiki service, pbwiki.com. Feliú began by posting terms from a 1994 glossary article. Participants—who must be approved—can then edit and update existing entries, and create new ones.

(<http://civillawdictionary.pbwiki.com/>)

The del.icio.us Law Library

Because they can be classified with multiple tags, social bookmarking sites like del.icio.us and furl.net are a great way of sharing new articles and resources in specific subject areas. Because these services use RSS feeds, you can use a blog reader to subscribe to accounts. A firm librarian could use del.icio.us to tag new content she comes across, making sure that lawyers in different practice areas are subscribed to the feeds for the appropriate tags on her del.icio.us account. The University of Baltimore and Widener University law libraries both use del.icio.us as another means of sharing interesting websites they find. (<http://del.icio.us/reflaw>) and

(<http://del.icio.us/WidenerLawLibrary>)

GovDoc Covers pool on Flickr—and YouTube!

Seen any good government documents publications lately? Daniel Cornwall, Government Publications/Technical Services Librarian at the Alaska State Library, has. He created a Flickr pool, a tool for people to share pictures on a similar theme, to show off the good, the bad, the ugly, and the just plain hilarious in government documents titles. He then uses pictures posted in the pool to create themed “Documents on Parade” videos, which he shares on YouTube. (<http://www.flickr.com/groups/govdoccovers/>) and

(<http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=AlaskanLibrarian>)

NSU Law Library @ MySpace (and Facebook!)

Social networking sites enable users to visually map out their networks of friends, friends of friends, and sometimes professional contacts. The sites then help users with staying current on the latest news in their social circles and

making new contacts. Because these services are popular with students, the NSU Law Library recently developed a group on Facebook and a page on MySpace. We plan to use these services as another way to communicate about resources, services, and news as well as providing another way to access the library's research databases, recommended websites, NovaCat, Second Life virtual branch, and technology guides.

(<http://www.myspace.com/nsulawlibrary>) (On Facebook, search for "NSU Law Library.")

Does use of one of these tools intrigue you? Are you interested in using some of these new tools to facilitate communication, collaboration, and interaction within your classes or with colleagues? As always, feel free to drop by the library if you have questions or need assistance.

Book of the Month: THE SUPREME COURT: THE PERSONALITIES AND RIVALRIES THAT DEFINED AMERICA by Jeffrey Rosen, Thirteen, WNET, PBS Staff (Editor)

(From the Barnes & Noble website)

Kirkus Reviews

Authoritative analysis of how the justices' "quirks of personality and temperament" have shaped American law and made the Court one of our strongest institutions. Rosen (Law/George Washington Univ.; *The Naked Crowd*, 2004, etc.) traces the Court's evolution through the stories of four pairs of personalities and their clashes over important issues. The most successful justices, he argues, have been "institutionalists": effective leaders and consensus-builders who are modest, likable, able to find common ground and more concerned about the legitimacy of the Court than their own interests and agendas. The least successful justices have been insecure, heavy-handed "loners" more interested in personal glory than in quietly getting things done. Specialists will appreciate Rosen's examinations of these conflicting judicial temperaments at play during different periods in history; general readers without a solid grounding in constitutional issues may feel lost. The basic differences animating these clashing duos are made clear. Crafty and appealing Chief Justice John Marshall managed time after time to outfox his introverted, thin-skinned political opponent, Thomas Jefferson. Gregarious Justice John Marshall Harlan won out on the issue of majority rule over darker, more ideological Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. The persuasive Hugo Black, deeply devoted to the institution of the Court, proved far more influential on key issues than undisciplined, self-destructive William O. Douglas. Of modern conservative justices, Rosen finds that the pragmatic William H. Rehnquist was much more respected within the Court than Antonin Scalia, a rigid purist. A concluding chapter based on an interview with Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. suggests that he may have the temperament of his successful predecessors. An illuminating look at the human side of the highest court.

Author Description

Jeffrey Rosen is a professor of law at George Washington University and the legal affairs editor of *The New Republic*. He is the author of *The Most Democratic Branch*, *The Naked Crowd*, and *The Unwanted Gaze*. His articles have appeared in many publications, including *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and *The New Yorker*. He is a frequent contributor to National Public Radio and lives in Washington, D.C.

This month's suggestion courtesy of Angie Stramiello, Reference Librarian

URL/Website of the Month:

<http://www.worldlii.org/>

World Legal Information Institute

Free, independent and non-profit access to worldwide law

865 databases from 123 countries and territories via the **Free Access to Law Movement**

This month's suggestion courtesy of Rob Hudson, Head of Public Services

Tech Tip of the Month:

Text Too Small?

If the text you're trying to read on a website is too small, it's easy to enlarge. On Internet Explorer 7 or any version of Firefox, simply hold down the control key and press the + key to enlarge the text. Do this as many times as you need to make the text a comfortable size. You can shrink the text back to its original size or smaller by holding control and pressing the – key.

This month's suggestion courtesy of Meg Kribble, Reference Librarian

Faculty & Staff Publications:

Phyllis Coleman: *Ranking Law Reviews by Author Prominence—Ten Years Later*, 99 *LIBRARY LAW JOURNAL* 573 (2007) (co-author).

Bob Jarvis: *Ranking Law Reviews by Author Prominence—Ten Years Later*, 99 *LIBRARY LAW JOURNAL* 573 (2007) (co-author).

Kimberly Hausbeck: *The Sound and Flurry of Words* (an essay), *THE SECOND DRAFT* (a bulletin of the Legal Writing Institute) (September 2007)

Forthcoming Works:

Stephanie Aleong: *Green Medicine: Using Lessons from Tort and Environmental Law to Hold Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Distributors Liable for Injury Caused by Counterfeit Drugs* will appear in Volume 69 of the UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH LAW REVIEW, with an expected publication date of February 2008

Olympia Duhart: *Evaluating Katrina: A Snapshot of Renters' Rights Following Disasters*, NOVA LAW REVIEW (co-author).

Legislation and Criminalization Impacting Renters Displaced by Katrina, in RE-DEVELOPMENT AFTER A MAJOR DISASTER, in the Law, Property, and Society book series of Ashgate Publishing (co-author).

Kimberly Hausbeck: *The Little Engine That Could – The Success of the Stewardship Contracting Authority* will appear in Volume 32, Issue 1, in the WILLIAM AND MARY ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY REVIEW in January 2008.

Eloisa Rodriguez-Dod: *Evaluating Katrina: A Snapshot of Renters' Rights Following Disasters*, NOVA LAW REVIEW (co-author).

Legislation and Criminalization Impacting Renters Displaced by Katrina, in RE-DEVELOPMENT AFTER A MAJOR DISASTER, in the Law, Property, and Society book series of Ashgate Publishing (co-author).

Fran Tetunic: *Demystifying Florida Mediation Ethics: The Good, The Bad, and The Unseemly* will appear in Volume 32, Book 1 of the NOVA LAW REVIEW.