



Law Library E-Newsletter The Book Docket

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Lisa Smith-Butler

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Blog Readers & RSS Feeds: What Are They and Why Should I Care?

Lisa Smith-Butler

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Blog readers are also known as software aggregators. An aggregator allows you to go to one place and receive your RSS feeds. Why would you care about readers or RSS feeds? Two words suffice: current awareness. Meg Kribble added another reason: the “ability to read more content faster is also a big draw.”

With a reader, you can go to your favorite web sites and blogs. You can then add the site’s RSS feed to your reader. Every time something new is published on the web site or blog, the RSS feed ensures that the new publication is automatically delivered to your reader. You can then check your reader on an hourly, daily, or weekly basis and remain current on news and other information. Readers and RSS feeds are simply convenient. Instead of clicking through and checking numerous sites for information, you can go to one site, your reader, and receive news pouring in from many different sites.

What sites have RSS feeds? Many web sites now have RSS feeds. By definition, blogs must have RSS feeds. How do you know if a web site has an RSS feed? Look for the orange box with two circular white lines. The box indicates that an RSS feed is available for that particular site.

As an example, the [New York Times](#) has RSS feeds for many categories, including world news, national news, New York news, the magazine, the book

review, theater, and travel. There are also RSS feeds for [Supreme Court News](#). Is there an RSS Feed directory? Yes there is. Check out [RSS Feeds Directory](#) at <http://www.rss-feeds-directory.com/> . It categorizes feeds into several subject categories. Click on the appropriate category and you will then be able to learn what feeds are available in a subject area.

What are blogs? [Blogs](#) are web logs, i.e. online journals with hyper links, while [blawgs](#) are law related web logs. Several blogs, accompanied by their RSS feeds that might be of interest to law professors, readily come to mind. These include:

[Jurist](#): [The Law Professor's Network](#), [Law School Innovation](#), [Brian Leiter's Law School Reports](#), [Law.com News](#), [PrawfsBlawg](#), and the [Faculty Lounge](#). Subject specific blogs can also be found at the [Law Professor Blogs](#) site. Yes there are blawg directories as well. Some blawg directories include [Blawg](#) and the [ABA Blawg Directory](#). Both directories categorize blawgs by subject.

Now that you know what readers and RSS feeds are, how do you go about acquiring one? Next month, Meg Kribble will answer those questions. My personal favorite is the [Google Reader](#). Ray Andrade is working on the [intranet](#) to deliver RSS feeds from a variety of blogs, allowing everyone to log onto the [intranet](#) and choose from several blogs, such as [Abstract Appeal](#), the [Chronicle](#), [How Appealing](#), [Law.Com News](#), the [New York Times](#), [Novalawcity](#), [TaxProfs](#), and the [Wall Street Journal](#). Happy reading!

Book of the Month:

New Acquisition: Eight O'clock Ferry to the Windward Side: Seeking Justice in Guantanamo Bay

By Clive Stafford Smith

KF7661. S65 2007

A Summary from Novacat: A human rights lawyer who has had independent access to the prisoners at Guantanamo documents the realities of their experiences while citing the near-absurdities that mark their incarceration, from an absence of security at the local airport to the army's order to protect iguanas on the roads.

URL/Website of the Month:

<http://www.nsulaw.nova.edu/intranet/>

This site is the Shepard Broad Law Center Faculty and Staff Intranet. Our Intranet, a work in progress, is a one stop, password protected, location for (links to) information that the faculty and staff use on a continuing basis. Jason Rosenberg and Ray Andrade are responsible for building and maintaining this site. If there are links or information you wish added to the Intranet, please contact either one of them.

Tech Tip of the Month: Reboot (restart).

For many of us, the inner workings of computer technology are incomprehensible, and we are confused when our computers do not function according to our expectations, frequently when we are repeating an oft-used sequence of instructions. One often successful solution is to reboot (restart) the computer. Just remember to save and close open files first!

Faculty & Staff Publications:

Angela Gilmore: *Using the Private Attorney General Theory to Protect Florida Charitable Corporations*, 31 NOVA LAW REVIEW 27 (2006).

Meg Kribble: *Social Networks for Law Librarians and Law Libraries, or How We Learned to Love Friending* in LLRX.com at <http://www.llrx.com/features/socialnetworks.htm>.

Forthcoming Works

Jane Cross: Entry on Caribbean Law for ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LEGAL HISTORY (Oxford University Press).

The Mandatory Death Penalty in the Commonwealth Caribbean in the Caribbean Court of Justice – work in progress.

Jim Levy: *A Schema Walks into a Bar: How Humor Makes Us Better Teachers*, PERSPECTIVES: TEACHING LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING.

It's Both What You Say and How You Say It. LAW TEACHER.

The Blind Leading the Blind: What if They're Not All Visual Learners, THE SECOND DRAFT: BULLETIN OF THE LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE (CO-AUTHOR).

JOEL MINTZ: *Few Changes and Little Progress: U.S. Hazardous Waste Management and Sustainable Development in the Past Five Years*, book chapter to be published in a book on U.S. environmental policies and sustainable development to be published by Island Press.

