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# Tydbytes NSU Law

February 2008

Law Library & Technology Center, Nova Southeastern University,  
Shepard Broad Law Center 3305 College Av., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33317  
<http://www.nsulaw.nova.edu> [referencedesk@nsu.law.nova.edu](mailto:referencedesk@nsu.law.nova.edu) (954)  
262-6202

## Director's Message

*Lisa Smith-Butler, Assistant Dean & Director, Law Library & Technology Center & Associate Professor of Law*

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Greetings,

Please join me in congratulating the December 2007 graduates and wishing them luck as they prepare to take the February Florida Bar on Feb. 26-27, 2008.

To help them prepare and to also help you begin preparing for Winter 2008 exams, please maintain quiet while in the law library. Since it is a library, quiet should prevail. It is a library which means people are here to study and work.

Please see *Director's Message* on page 2

## Law Library & Technology Center Hours

### Regular Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. - Midnight

Friday

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday

9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday

10:00 a.m. - Midnight

"Where law ends,  
tyranny begins."  
William Pitt

*Director's Message con't.*

"If you learn just a single trick Scout, you'll get along better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it."  
Atticus Finch in Harper Lee's ***To Kill a Mockingbird***.

If you need to discuss classes or issues, check out a study room. If you need to make a call or answer a call on your cell phone, please go to the copy/prINTER rooms and talk there.

Leaving shushing, we'll move onto wireless. The University's Office of Information Technology (OIT) handles the Law Center's wireless network and is working to resolve wireless issues. If you are unable to print without using an Ethernet cable, please stop by Computer Services. If you are unable to connect wirelessly to email or the Internet anywhere within the Law Center, call or stop by Computer Services. Thanks for your patience.

We will be open regular hours over the spring break. We will begin extended hours for Winter exams on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and conclude on May 9<sup>th</sup>. During those days, the Law Library & Technology Center will be open from 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 a.m. nightly. As we have in the past, we will work with the SBA to provide pizza during Crunch Time.

If you have questions or concerns, please stop by my office (L210), send me an email ([smith-butlerl@nsu.law.nova.edu](mailto:smith-butlerl@nsu.law.nova.edu)) or give me a call (954-262-6211.)

*Dean Smith-Butler*

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

Lisa Smith-Butler

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 students, readily come to mind. These include: [Jurist: The Law Professor’s Network](#), [Law School Survivor](#), [Legal Quandry](#), [Objective Justice](#), [Screaming Bean](#), [Tales of the Legally Unexpected](#), [Useless Dicta](#), and [Won L: Bar Edition](#). Yes there are blawg directories as well. Some blawg directories include [Blawg](#) and the [ABA Blawg Directory](#). Both directories categorize blawgs by subject.

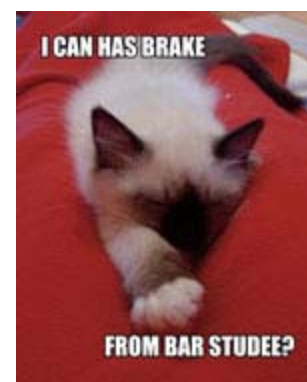
Now that you know what readers and RSS feeds are, how do you go about acquiring one? Next month, Meg Kribble will answer those questions. My personal favorite is the [Google Reader](#). Happy reading!

## LOL cats and the Law

*Meg Kribble, Emerging Technologies, Reference, & Instructional Services Librarian*

Internet memes come and go, but one that has shown particular tenacity recently is the LOLcat. Icanhascheezburger.com is the premiere site for sharing lolcats—pictures of cats (and sometimes other animals) with large, white, capital letter captions. The captions often take their spelling and grammar from text message shorthand. The gamer taunt “I’m in ur base, killin’ ur d00dz” is the template for many lolcats captions. Another popular caption is “Invisible X” for pictures of cats caught in midair who appear to be riding a bicycle or walking a tightrope.

This summer, law graduates studying for the bar turned to lolcats to blow off steam. Over six weeks, the Facebook group Bar Exam Lolcats attracted over 500 members, who contributed lolcats expressing legal concepts, their opinion of study materials, and their exhaustion. Enjoy this selection from the group!



Law Library & Technology Center  
Shepard Broad Law Center, Nova Southeastern  
University

3305 College Ave.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314

Phone:  
(954) 262-6202  
(954) 262-6201 (Reference)  
(954) 262-6199 (Help)

Fax:  
(954) 262-3839

E-mail:  
[referencedesk@nsu.law.nova.edu](mailto:referencedesk@nsu.law.nova.edu)  
[help@nsu.law.nova.edu](mailto:help@nsu.law.nova.edu)

