

## LIBRARY HOURS

SPRING  
INTER-  
SESSION

For the remainder of the spring intersession, through Sunday June 10, the library will be open from 8:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M. seven days a week. For the rest of the month, the library's hours will be 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.

For details, check the Legal Research Center web site at <http://www.sandiego.edu/lrc/about/hours.php>.

## CIVIL PROCEDURE IN PLAIN ENGLISH



The Burton Awards has named the project to clarify the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure as the winner of its 2007 "Reform in Law" award. The newly rewritten rules are the product of an intensive four-year effort by federal judges, practicing lawyers, law professors, and a drafting consultant. The new rules are scheduled to take effect on December 1, 2007. The awards will be given to three recipients: the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules, which carried out the project; the Standing Committee on Rules of the Judicial Conference of the United States, which supervised the project; and Professor Joseph Kimble from Thomas Cooley Law School, who served as the drafting consultant. The difference between the old and the new rules is striking. Here, for example, is an old rule:

When two or more statements are made in the alternative and one of them if made independently would be sufficient, the pleading is not made insufficient by the insufficiency of one or more of the alternative statements.

Here is the new version:

If a party makes alternative statements, the pleading is sufficient if any one of them is sufficient.

Press Release, "*Reform in Law*" Awarded for First Plain-Language Rewrite of Federal Civil Court Rules in 70 Years, Business Wire (May 31, 2007), <http://home.businesswire.com>.

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**ARCHIVAL  
RESEARCH  
WITHOUT THE  
DUST!**



The California State Archives is a treasure house of historical documents. Within its walls can be found records relating to the state's first constitutional convention in 1849, land grant records of the Spanish and Mexican eras, campaign contribution statements, legislative committee files, original laws, and personal papers of many of the state's leading politicians. A catalog of the vast archives collections is now available online, making research for historical documents and artifacts a much more streamlined process. The catalog describes each record, including maps, videotapes, photographs, appellate and state supreme court cases, and documents from the legislature and executive agencies. The computerized system is dubbed "Minerva," after the Roman goddess of wisdom who is featured on the official California State Seal, and can be accessed at <http://minerva.sos.ca.gov>. *Suggested by Sushila Selness, Head of Collection Services.*

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**A WORLD OF  
CONSTITUTIONS  
AT YOUR  
FINGERTIPS**



The 20-volume set CONSTITUTIONS OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD/ K3157.A2 B58 has long been valued by researchers for the depth and breadth of its content. It contains the full text for the constitutions of 187 countries. Constitutional scholars who are familiar with the legal system, judicial language, and official language of each foreign jurisdiction provide authoritative translations into English. Now, LRC patrons using on-campus computers can search these materials and Introductory and Comparative Notes that examine recent amendments and highlights of pertinent historical, political and economic information online.

To access this subscription database, do a title search in the online catalog SALLY (<http://sally.sandiego.edu/search>) for "CCW Online." In the SALLY record, click on "Connect to electronic version." This will take you to the publisher Oceana's site. On the left side, under "Oceana Online," click on "Connect via IP Access." Selecting "Constitutions of the Countries of the World" will give you a search template that offers many search options, allowing you to search by concepts as well as by nations and to select current or historic versions of constitutions. *Suggested by Sushila Selness, Head of Collection Services.*

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**LAW SCHOOL  
ACCREDITATION**



The General Accounting Office report, HIGHER EDUCATION: ISSUES RELATED TO LAW SCHOOL ACCREDITATION, concerning continuation of the American Bar Association as the accrediting agency for U.S. law schools, is available at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07314.pdf>. Online access is also available directly via SALLY. *Suggested by Margaret McDonald, Technical Services Librarian.*

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The newsletter section of OBITER DICTUM may be found at <http://www.sandiego.edu/lrc/catalogs/news.php>

