



University of San Diego

SCHOOL OF LAW

Pardee Legal Research Center

PATRON SUGGESTION

I really think you should have 1 copy of course text books on reserve. Sometimes people forget books, or they are late in arriving and it really puts students in a bind. I don't think it encourages people not to buy their own books.

LIBRARY RESPONSE

March 5, 2008

Here is the section of the LRC Collection Policy that deals with casebooks:

The LRC receives many casebooks as gifts. One copy of each donated edition of a casebook is added to the collection, but duplication is avoided.

Generally, LRC materials funds are not used to purchase casebooks, although rare exceptions are made when the casebook is a highly regarded out-of-print edition, authored by a USD Law faculty member, or if the casebook relates to a new or emerging area of law not well covered in other sources.

Currently assigned law school texts are not purchased for the following reasons:

(a) to encourage student purchase of course texts;

The LRC is avoiding a policy that would detract from the benefit of every student having available for study a personal copy of the assigned course text.

(b) to direct funds to collection building;

With limited funds and an emphasis on building the monograph collection, the LRC does not purchase casebooks or other assigned texts for the 50 or more classes offered each year by the law school. The high cost of this many texts would drain the budget, especially since a single copy would not satisfy the demand that Reserve Room availability would create.

(c) inadequate space to house current texts;

The Reserve Room is too crowded to house an extra block of materials.

While you may disagree with subsection (a), you can see that it is only one of several bases for the current policy. I would add that law school is a good time to encourage future attorneys to discipline themselves to come to class/court/appointments fully prepared with all necessary materials at hand.

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