

*San Francisco Daily Journal, 1/23/03.  
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## **NOCALL Update**

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**Thanks!** Daily Journal readers will notice that since the NOCALL Update last appeared (in November 2002) it has had a "change of address," moving from the Classifieds to the Op-Ed section. In journalism, as in real estate, a prominent location improves visibility and contributes to an enterprise's success; so NOCALL thanks the Daily Journal's editors for enabling our columns on information retrieval to supplement the first-rate legal analysis presented elsewhere on these pages.

**In Retrospect ...** Everyone knows the adage, "two heads are better than one." In classical mythology, great status was bestowed upon the Roman god Janus because he himself had two heads, using the backward-looking head to gain wisdom from the past and to guide him as he approached the future.

For several years, the NOCALL Update has proceeded in a Janus-like manner, giving Daily Journal readers both historical perspective on their legal research endeavors and useful techniques for handling their current information retrieval challenges.

For example, the summer 2000 series by Mark Linneman entitled, "The California State (Law) Library at 150" and the December 2000 piece by Marcia Bell, "San Francisco Law Library at a Cross-roads" were like book-ends that reminded us whence we came -- and warned us where we may be heading. In three separate articles, reference librarian Vincent Moyer provided an invaluable guide to hard-bound resources in Northern California law libraries -- as well as an on-line research primer.

Not surprisingly, on-line resources received much attention in past columns. To name but a couple, Paula Lichtenberg introduced readers to Hein-On-Line: an image-based collection of legal periodicals and Maryanne Gerber wrote "Westlaw, Lexis-Nexis & Beyond." Until the "paperless economy" gets closer to reality, however, it is clear that bound volumes will continue to be important, as Susan Campbell showed in "Doing It the Old-Fashioned Way: with Books."

Perhaps someday these earlier columns will be collected into a bound volume for both library schools and law schools to use in their legal research courses. Until then, there's much to be gained from checking out past Update articles on the NOCALL website: <http://www.nocall.org>.

**Looking Prospectively ...** While each previous NOCALL Update has been "on point" about a particular topic or issue, perhaps none captured an imminent -- and eminent -- research trend as well as Shirley David's June 23, 2002 column, "Catching the 24/7 Reference Wave." With round-the-clock business transactions tracking Greenwich Mean Time, legal research questions inevitably arise outside the

local 9-to-5 workday. Increasingly, laypersons are looking for answers to their legal questions on the internet. That's why David wrote about a pilot project in which eleven California public law libraries would provide real time legal reference services via the internet. David will give an initial report on the assistance that the

"Ask a Law Librarian" program has been able to provide persons unfamiliar with legal research. Meantime, why not try it yourself? On the websites for the Northern California public law libraries in Butte, Placer, Sacramento and San Francisco counties, you can click on the icon with the scales of justice that says "Connect with a Law Librarian." You will also find the same service available from the Judicial Council of California at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov). From the home page, click on to "Self Help Center." In the Self Help Center, either click on "Free Legal Help" or "Ask a Law Librarian." Forthcoming NOCALL Updates also will (1) introduce Daily Journal readers to law librarians themselves; (2) provide guided tours to the reference sources the various libraries can offer; and (3) will even visit bar associations and university legal research courses to bring attention to new information retrieval services and techniques that are being made available by these entities.

**Book Review.** US-Canadian exchange (be it business or cultural) is important on both sides of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel, accounting for over 75 percent of each nation's imports and exports. California-Canadian trade comprises a significant -- and growing -- part of the overall total. So, where to start if one of your firm's clients needs to do business in the land of the maple leaf? For both its analysis and organization, Update brings your attention to **The 2003 Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada** ("The Guide"), just published by American Lawyer Media (345 Park Avenue South, NY, NY 10010, tel: 212.779.9200, [www.americanlawyermedia.com](http://www.americanlawyermedia.com)). For starters, The Guide offers 5-6 page feature articles that succinctly summarize the current status of Canada-US legal business in 16 critical areas (capital markets, transfer pricing, et al.). Then The Guide breaks down the legal field into 40 categories (arbitration, anti-trust, et al.) and identifies the lawyers it regards as the leading individual practitioners within each category. Finally, The Guide looks at each geographical market (Toronto, Vancouver, et al.) and ranks the firms within it. [Note: Don't miss the feature article on "Federal Privacy Legislation," especially for the similarities these Canadian laws bear to the challenges the USA-Patriot Act presents to information specialists.]

**Author! Author!** NOCALL believes the value of its updates is due as much to the diversity of its columnists as it is to the technical contributions made by the columns themselves. In the past, law librarians and attorneys from private firms, government and universities -- not to mention, industry vendors -- have served as guest columnists, enabling Daily Journal readers to benefit from their expertise and experience. To become a guest columnist; to comment on Updates; or to suggest topics for future columns, email NOCALL Public Relations Committee members at [kabins99@yahoo.com](mailto:kabins99@yahoo.com) and [Library@KVN.com](mailto:Library@KVN.com).

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