

Episode 9: Return to Campus – Part 2

Nicole Thomas

Welcome to the second episode of our Fall 2021 Return to Campus Series, I'm your host, Nicole Thomas, Undergraduate Education Librarian here at UB. All right and welcome. I have with me today, Brian Detweiler, Associate Director of the Charles B Sears Law Library. Hi Brian!

Brian Detweiler

Hi Nicole, Good Morning.

Nicole Thomas

Can you tell me what's new this year in the Law Library?

Brian Detweiler

Sure. Well, I guess I'll start out with the first thing, which is that we're open again so that's definitely new. Our hours this semester are going to be 7:30 to 9:00 Monday through Thursday and 7:30 to 5:00 on Fridays. We will also have in-person reference again. We've been remote since the pandemic started, so our Reference hours will be 10 a.m. to six p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to five on Fridays. And of course, we still are available remotely should anyone need legal research assistance but can't come in. Just give our desk a call at 645-2047 or you can email us to asklaw@buffalo.edu any time, and we'll address your question once we're back to the desk.

Nicole Thomas

All right, that sounds fantastic.

Brian Detweiler

Yeah, And just in terms of, I guess, you know, things that are changed are things that folks might be interested in across campus. I think we've definitely increased our reliance even more so on providing students with electronic access to our resources just because, you know, folks have not been able to come in. So, we're now entering the second year of our LexisNexis Digital Library subscription, which has allowed the Library to purchase unlimited electronic access to assigned course materials from certain publishers, which allows our law students greater access to their materials. They can be pretty expensive sometimes for some of those casebooks. And also, I think some of the undergrad classes are on there as well. We also

have a course reserve collection for certain other textbooks in the Library. Also, in partnership with Lockwood for our undergrad law classes, I know that program's really been growing by leaps and bounds, so I'm really happy to continue supporting them as they're growing. We also purchased, I think, largely with the undergrad law population in mind is a subscription to West Law Campus, and that's available to anyone with UB credentials, not just to our JD and LM students here in the Law School. Westlaw Campus is a legal research database that's available to everyone here at UB. It's, I guess, a slightly scaled back version of the West Law Legal Research database that our law students would use, and faculty and judges and paralegals and practicing attorneys. It has just scaled back a little bit in terms of the secondary or analytical sources available on it, but the primary law, the cases, the statutes, the regulations are exactly the same as would be utilized by judges and lawyers and law students and faculty. So, if anyone wants to, to conduct some legal research on there, you know, it's definitely worth giving it a shot because you get a feel for what it's like to be an attorney or law student. If you have an issue you want to research, or if you just want to get a sense of what, what that's like, it's definitely a great resource, and I reference librarians are happy to show anyone around who wants kind of a little tour on that. I think it's kind of a fun database to play around in. It's definitely different than some of the other databases you get exposed to here at UB. We also have a study aids collection that anyone can access on campus. It's called West Study Aids, and that's basically just geared towards preparation for law school exams. But they can also provide anyone with a concise overview of a particular area of law or sort of any specific legal concept within one of those broader areas so they can get a starting point for their own research or something. So those are both, I think, definitely worth a look if anyone's interested in either going to law school or just kind of having an overview of some legal topics, those are accessible to anyone here at UB. So the West Study Aids and Westlaw Campus are both, I think, something I would like to highlight for folks.

Nicole Thomas

Excellent resources. Definitely. Everyone should check that out. What are your thoughts on returning to campus after working virtually or, you know, interacting with the UB community virtually for the past year and a half due to the COVID 19 pandemic?

Brian Detweiler

I've been coming to campus pretty regularly throughout, and it was definitely eerily quiet after the shutdown in the spring. It was kind of like a ghost town I was. It was just super surreal. I thought last year was a lot better, just going to a hybrid model. But of course, our Library was still basically closed to the public. So, I'm definitely just looking forward to getting back to this as close to a pre-pandemic normal as much as possible. In terms of students working and studying in Libraries and just being on campus. I just I miss the energy that our students bring. And it's just been so nice to have it just for this past week as things ramp up. And I'm sure it's going to kind of even get better moving forward as the undergrads move in this week and we start classes next week. You know, it's just been strange here with the library being so quiet because libraries, you know, to me are just more than just a quiet study space. They should be really places of learning for our students, places of discovery and collaboration. And, you know, sometimes that stuff just happens serendipitously because, you know, you pull a book from a

shelf and you notice another one right next to it. That turns out to be exactly the one you're looking for. And how many times that's happened to me or, you know, we walk by the reference desk and you remember that it was a project you need to work on. So you stop and ask some questions and get a jumpstart on that or just bumping into a classmate in the elevator. All these all these things that we've lost out on this past year and a half or so as we can get back to that. And I think that's going to be great for our students and for all of us. So, I think that's definitely the thing I'm looking forward to most.

Nicole Thomas

Thank you. And I appreciate you sharing your perspective. And it's all very valuable, and I thank you for joining us today.

Brian Detweiler

Well, thanks for having me, Nicole. My pleasure.

Nicole Thomas

Please join us for the next episode in our Return to Campus Series, which will focus on Library spaces and some of the many services that we offer the UB community.