ONLINE

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Nexis changes

Mead Data Central have reduced confusion in the Nexis service by changing the name of the former NEXIS library to NEWS. This is in response to customer advice and is part of an ongoing project of remodeling the whole service MDC have stated that their objective in redesigning NEXIS is to improve consistency, search precision and definition/documentation.

In the NEWS library the file names CURRNT, ARCHIV and OMNI have been renamed CURNWS, ARCNWS and ALLNWS respectively Regardless of which topical library is being searched, if that library contains news the same three file names will be used : CURNS, ARCNS and ALLNWS.

The definition of currency has changed in the distinction between current and archived news. CURNWS files now contain a rolling two-year window of information If the information is older than two years from the day of searching it is transferred into the ARCNWS file in that library rather than at the end of the current year as was previously the practice

More than 750 full text sources from Information Access Company have been added to the Nexis service as of 1 February 1994 They include Trade and Industry ASAP, Magazine ASAP and Computer ASAP These IAC sources join another 180 grouped together in the ASAPII file in the NEWS library which is updated daily Many people will know the IAC files from DIALOG searching Information Access Company offers a free *1994 Guide to Online Sources* describing all their files in detail Their address is 362 Lakeside Drive, Foster City, California, 94404.

Internet Law Resources

LEXIS discussion list

The Washburn University School of Law Library recently introduced a new electronic discussion list : LEXISUSER-L The list owners are Edward Garcia (zzgarc@acc wuacc edu) and Jeff Hewett (zzlexs@acc wuacc edu). The stated aims of the list are to "provide users with a forum for discussing problems and sharing solutions and tips concerning Lexis"

To subscribe, send a message to listserv@acc.wuacc.edu In the body of the message type the command :

> subscribe LEXISUSER-L your firstname lastname
>
> (example : subscribe LEXISUSER-L mary smith)

To unsubscribe, send a message to listserv@acc wuacc edu with the body of the message containing the command:

> unsubscribe LEXISUSER-L

Hints for interacting with this list :

- Do not send command messages to LEXISUSER-L but to the computer which controls the list : listserv@acc wuacc.edu

- Send email messages and postings to LEXISUSER-L

Switch off your email signature (if you use one for Internet messages) when sending command messages to the listserv This type of software does not cope with personal email signatures

There has already been quite a bit of interesting discussion on this list and participants include academic staff of North American Law Schools as well as many law librarians. Current discussion has centred on desirable enhancements to the search software and database records in both Lexis and Nexis Another advantage of this list is as a source of helpful advice on features of Lexis which less experienced users may be unaware of

WASHLAW

The better known law services on the Internet such as those offered by Washington and Lee and Cornell Law Schools may have overshadowed the efforts of Washburn University School of Law Library Their service is called WASHLAW and has a particularly well-structured menu which is constantly evolving. Washburn has also been the sponsor of several new discussion lists such as LEXIS-L and a new law librarians' list, LAWLIBREF-L as well as lists for discussion of health law and bioethics law topics

Some of the more interesting sources on the WASHLAW menu include topical pathfinders and research guides which searchers may email to themselves very simply and easily, TELEJURIST, an electronic communications law journal, the "Virtual" Law Reference Desk and the Clinical Legal Education Information System from the American Association of Legal Services WASHLAW also offers many of the services which can also be accessed through Cornell or Washington and Lee such as Foreign Law and United Nations Materials, US Law and US Federal Government Information

Access is also provided to LAWNET, the Internet Information Service of the American Association of Law Libraries This features (among many other items) a wide range of email directories including AALL members, Law Schools-Faculty/Staff (US) and a world email directory; and also phone/address directories for a number of groups such as AALL Headquarters, US Federal Government agencies and Congress, US Judges and United Nations addresses and US Law School staff

To access WASHLAW, take the following steps :
1) Telnet to acc.wuacc edu
2) Login as washlaw and press <cr>

To access LAWNET directly :
1) Telnet to acc wuacc edu
2) Login as LAWNET and press <cr>

CBANet

The phone number for CBANet access to QL and Infomart Law (CANLAW) changed at the beginning of April 1994 to **0302087100900**

SUE MILNE
High Court of Australia