Legal History: Research & Resources

February 15, 2012 3:30 p.m.

Toni Aiello, Reference Librarian

Handouts:

* Sample student Note: Kelly Elizabeth Phillips, Marriage and Redemption: Mormon Polygamy in the Congressional Imagination, 1862-1867, 95 Va. L. Rev. 435 (2009). This Note discusses a historical topic with a limited focus, anti-polygamy legislation during the Civil War Period, and includes social and political factors that may have influenced this legislation as well as primary source legislative documents. Footnotes for Congressional debates, bills, reports and Acts; other document collections; archived papers; books; journal articles; and newspaper articles may be helpful for citation purposes.
* Legal History: Research & Resources (selected key sources and sample searches)

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* **Getting Started: Law Library web site**
* Research Guides: “LibGuide on “Legal History and Historical Research”—Getting started and tabs
* Online Resources by Subject: History/Legal History
* In LibGuide, under “Selected Books” tab, select: Cambridge History of Law in America (2008); Contents
* Online catalog (LEXICAT)—finding a background source, a good book on your topic, and more
  + Search: exclusionary rule (click on subject)
  + Search: women violence (click on subject: women—violence against—United States)
* **Finding Other Primary and Secondary Sources for a Research Paper**
* Congressional documents: ProQuest Congressional (legislative histories; specific documents)
  + Helpful features: Sessions of Congress; glossary; explanation of terms
  + Individual documents back to 1790; legislative histories from 1970 –
  + Search: legislative histories; “judicial conduct and disability”—link to documents
  + Another good source: HeinOnline (Congressional documents and legislative history libraries)
* Supreme Court case records and briefs: Making of Modern Law: Supreme Court Records and Briefs, 1832-1978
  + Loving v. Virginia, 388 U.S. 1 (1967)
  + Search: Loving; could also search by citation
* Multidisciplinary scholarly articles on historical topics: JSTOR
* Select: Advanced search
* Check: History, Law, American Studies, or nothing
* Search: women (in abstract)[and] jury (in abstract) [and—add a field] rights (full text) : 12 articles
* History web sites: Famous Trials, History Matters
  + Sample: Famous Trials—Other Trials—Dred Scott Trial

*Meetings with Toni can be arranged by appointment: email:* [*toni.aiello@hofstra.edu*](mailto:toni.aiello@hofstra.edu) *(Room 100G)*