How to utilize library services remotely

Me Katarina Daniels | Liaison Librarian

While the Library remains CLOSED until March 30, our services are being maintained to the best of our abilities. Your liaison librarians are available by email (sonia.smith@mcgill.ca and katarina.daniels@mcgill.ca), and we can set up virtual reference chats via Zoom.

There are specific limited-time services being offered by the Library (**one-time retrieval service**), so I suggest you look fully at the linked post.

***Items due during the next two weeks will not accumulate charges as the library is considered closed.***

Given the closure of the university announced on March 13 by the Quebec government, I thought this week’s column should focus on the various electronic resources available to you as you study and work from home.

1. Our e-collection is bigger than it looks. Not everything is catalogued, so you need to use the Law Subject Guide well, or re-read my columns about e-books from the last couple of Quid issues. To make life a little simpler, your librarians have taken the initiative to go through all the books on Reserve and indicate which books are available in electronic format, providing you with either a direct link or information about the platform where you can find that e-book. This list is located in the Law eBooks subject guide: https://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/law-ebooks (3rd tab: Electronic availability of reserve books).

   IMPORTANT: For items available via the DesLibris database on the CAIJ website, you will need to have a CAIJ membership. This is only available if you have submitted a consent form to the library. If you have not yet submitted this form and you would like electronic access to these titles, please email me at katarina.daniels@mcgill.ca. At this point, I cannot guarantee that the CAIJ offices will be open and operating as usual, but I will continue to send them new consent forms.

2. You may need a VPN to use some of our databases from home. If you have not yet set up a VPN, please visit www.mcgill.ca/it and type in VPN in the “How Do I?” search box for instructions.

3. The library offers a chat service. From the McGill Library home page, click on “Contact”, then “Chat with a librarian”. It operates from 10am – 5pm, Monday – Friday. You can also send messages to the library via our Facebook page (see point 5 below) – those go directly to me, and I have a pretty quick turn-around time.

4. Your librarians are always available to help via e-mail. Please be sure to email our personal email addresses (katarina.daniels@mcgill.ca or sonia.smith@mcgill.ca). We can always set up virtual meetings as well so that we can screen share and guide you through your reference question. Note that these options are available to you year-round! At this point, I already have a solid group of “regulars” who email me reference questions of all sorts (“Where can I find X?” “Do we have access to Y?” “Is there a database that does Z”? “I need help figuring out the proper citation for this – can you help?” etc.), so PLEASE do feel like you can always shoot us an email!

5. I will continue to post research tips and tricks and library information on our social media channels, so be sure you are following us on Facebook and on Twitter @McGillLawLibrar.

More topical news: legal databases and COVID-19

What better time to learn about legal issues surrounding pandemics? Those of you who submitted consent forms and activated your Practical Law Canada accounts will find two new toolkits on PLC: (1) Coronavirus Toolkit: Canada and (2) Global Coronavirus Toolkit. The toolkits contain information relating to coronavirus (COVID-19), pandemics and business interruption.

General, wonderful library news...

As you all know, last Wednesday was McGill24, McGill’s annual day of giving. The library was challenged to find 200 donors to support the library on that day, and I am thrilled to report that we ended up with a whopping 226 donors, allowing us to unlock a bonus $60,000 in donations!

To find out more about the impact of donations to the library, visit: https://www.mcgill.ca/library/about/donors

Upcoming library workshops

None currently slated. Note that most databases have online training videos, should you ever be looking for additional training. Depending on how things turn out with COVID-19, I might look into recording some workshops – stay tuned!

And that’s all from the Gelber! Email me at katarina.daniels@mcgill.ca if you have any questions!