

RESEARCH GUIDE SERIES 5 – NAVIGATING THE LAW LIBRARY



Guide #5A – COMPUTER ACCESS & PURCHASE GUIDE

The Law Library provides a variety of computer access capabilities designed for student convenience.

Computer Labs:

All Law Library Computer Labs are open during library hours. While we have PCs in all labs, we also provide three Macs in the Basement Level Room B2. The B-4 lab is open for general use and Lexis/Westlaw student representative support. Our Computer Training Lab in Room P-29 is frequently open for approved student use.

Study Carrels:

Most of the study carrels and some of the tables in the Law Library are wired for laptop Internet access. Laptops must have an Ethernet connection and a CAT 5 cable, which is available at the GGU Book Store, but may also be purchased from any other computer supply retailer.

Laptop Access-Classrooms:

Power for laptop computers is provided at every desk in most classrooms. Several classrooms are also equipped with data ports for Internet access. Wireless is available in some classrooms.

Wireless Network:

We have a wireless network in the Law Library for laptop Internet access. Laptops must have a wireless card (std.: 802.11b) and be registered. Register your wireless card through GGU4U at www.ggu.edu/. An approved wireless PCMCIA card is available at the Bookstore, if your laptop does not have built-in wireless. Recommended brands:

- D-Link, Netgear, 3Com, Intel
- Apple Airport Card (for Mac users only)

Printing:

Printing is available for the PCs and Macs in the computer labs. When the labs are not on heavy load, students are welcome to print resumes. Lab printing is otherwise not for personal use.

PURCHASE

Recommended vendors for laptop purchase are: Dell, IBM, HP, Toshiba. GGU uses Dell computers throughout the school for its desktop computing needs.

Here are some tips to follow for purchasing a laptop:

Processor:

It is strongly recommended that a student buying a laptop should buy the FASTEST processor they can afford. Currently, the fastest processor is the 2.5 Gigahertz Intel Pentium 4M processor. The Pentium 3 or Celeron processors are specifically NOT recommended.

Memory:

RAM memory should be a minimum of 1G with XP, or 2G with Vista.

Storage:

Most laptops now come with at least 20 gigabytes of storage, which is more than adequate if you do not download music. Given that the typical word file is 250 kilobytes (and often smaller), a 1 gigabyte hard drive can hold 4000 Word files.

Operating System:

For PC-based systems we recommend Windows XP. For Apple systems we recommend OSX Tiger or Panther.

ExamSoft:

Examsoft is the exam software used by GGU law school for students taking their exams on their laptops. Exams can only be taken on PC-based systems running Windows XP or 2000. ExamSoft does not support Macintosh. More information on the Exam software is available at <http://www.examsoft.com>

Virus Protection:

You **MUST** purchase a full subscription to a standard virus protection program if you wish support from our lab assistants. We cannot help you if you do not have this software installed. Most new laptops only come with a limited trial version, leaving your computer vulnerable unless renewed.

Wireless Setup:

The Law Library currently has an 802.11b wireless network system setup. In addition, all of the 2nd floor lecture halls and two of the classrooms on the 3rd floor have jacks to connect to the Internet. You should therefore, at a minimum, consider a laptop with a built-in Network Interface Card (NIC). This will allow you to plug into the network jacks on the 2nd and 3rd floor classrooms. You will, however, need to purchase a Category 5 (Cat 5) cable. Because the Law Library offers wireless access, you may also want to purchase a wireless card. Make sure the card is 802.11b compatible (most cards on the market are). Most laptops may already come with the wireless network card built in.

Monitor/Screen:

Monitor/Screen size is a personal preference. Since almost all systems on the market now use the same technology, there is no real difference other than size.

Weight:

Finally, remember that you will be taking some courses that require heavy textbooks, so you may want a computer that is both durable and light.

Warranty:

We highly recommend that you make sure your laptop comes with a 3 year warranty. Most laptops come standard with only a one year service contract. Please add the additional warranty when you purchase your laptop. Law school is a three-year adventure, and it may not be fiscally smart to purchase another computer in the middle of your journey. Therefore, consider a three-year warranty.

For Further Information Consult a Librarian

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