

## **Interlibrary Loan Policy for Electronic Equivalents**

**1-10-2014**

In order to maximize the library budget, the following interlibrary loan policy will go into effect when the 2014-15 editorial board begins working (approximately April 2014):

If a source is available electronically via a Law Library subscription or a governmental website and a Bluebook provision provides for citing that source electronically, an interlibrary loan will not be initiated for the print equivalent, even when the print appears to be the preferred Bluebook source.

The library has long followed this with regard to accepting PDF copies (as noted in rule 18.2); here are some examples of additional material types to which this policy will apply:

- Statutes (see rule 12.2.1(a), which provides for citing to an electronic database or an Internet source)
- Regulations (see rule 14.4(d), referring to 18.8)
- Books (see rule 15.9)

In addition, the library asks the editorial boards to weigh the limitations of interlibrary loan during the article selection process. To ensure that necessary cited documents are available when preparing an article for publication, the library suggests considering the types of documents the article is citing as submissions are reviewed. When an article cites obscure or difficult to obtain documents, such as cases or laws from foreign jurisdictions, or documents generated by state agencies or court committees, it is extremely unlikely the Law Library will be able to obtain such items through ILL. Few libraries own them, and it is unlikely they will be willing to lend something rare. When these types of obscure citations are found in a submission, it may be appropriate to advise the author that copies of the underlying documents the author used will be needed to complete the editing process. If an author is citing a publication, s/he should have it in his/her possession. Feel free to consult with a reference librarian prior to acceptance of a submitted article if guidance is needed on whether a document that is being cited is unlikely to be available through ILL.