Chase Law: An Arsenal of Legal Writing Tools
by Carol Furnish, Assistant Director for Instruction and Outreach Services, Chase Law Library

A few weeks ago a Chase graduate asked for recommendations on legal writing sources. I thought I would share a few of the newer titles along with my favorite tools. Keep in mind that the Kentucky Bench & Bar and the Cincinnati Bar Association Report offer regular columns on legal writing issues.

I. General Works on Legal Writing

Darmstadter, Howard, Hereof, thereof, and Everywhereof: A Contrarian Guide to Legal Drafting. Chicago: ABA Section of Business Law, 2002. This book discusses various legal drafting issues. In addition to the chapters on sentence structure and document design, the book reviews agreements, the securities prospectus, creating the appendix, and how to insert amendments.


II. General Style Manuals


Schertzer, Margaret, The Elements of Grammar. New York: MacMillan, 1996. [Available as a Netlibrary e-book]. This guide discusses the parts of a sentence, punctuation, capitalization, and how to select the correct word. Grammar can be defined as a study as to what is preferred and what is to be avoided in effective speech and writing.


This is a sampling of the many resources available in our library. You are welcome to browse our collection and choose your own favorites. Be sure to check your local library as they may offer writing tools as e-books which can be accessed from home.